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TUESDAY, MAY 4, 1943

Death Blow

It's Coming Soon in Tunisia
And the War Will Move On

Unofficially, we are given to understand, the deadline for the Axis forces in Tunisia is July 4. By that holiday, a great many experts are assuming, British and American forces will have cleared the terrible triangle of enemy troops, and the way will be quickly opened for assaults upon the Continent. Already, by the very nature of the coming offensives, the blows are being prepared. The support of our armies in Africa imposes a terrific burden upon the United Nations—but there must be gathering strength for new enterprises.

There can be no successful chase of the enemy into Italy—or to any other point—unless our weapons are ready to strike at the moment Tunisia has been cleared and the Axis solidified. To delay after the rout from Tunis and Bizerte would be suicidal. The object will be to rush into Europe's defenses before there is a new chance to strengthen them. Already, they are firm enough; the enemy has a good mood, and great, whatever successes we have in the future.

But the news that Mateur has fallen, and that Allied supremacy in the air continues to very good news. It means that German and Italian are fighting at just such a disadvantage as Britons and French and Belgians knew in the horrible days in the Low Countries. Overhead, the enemy is drenched by fire and bombs. He must be driven from his positions, and the shock of Allied artillery, and at the same time suffer losses to the never-ending flights of planes.

Now the end comes nearer, and though American and English boys are pushing for every advance with their lives, our cause comes nearer to victory. Every little compression of the triangle shortens the distance to the coast of Europe, and the coming of the end that fortress will mark the coming of the end.

Late dispatches from Germany indicate a state of nervousness. There is fear in the Axis capitals that an attempt to take Sicily and Sardinia may be underway. The enemy clings to the absence of Allied convoys from the sea, recalling that there were none to be found for a few days before the invasion of Africa. The inference is that the ships are being gathered in great strength, for some new push.

And there is the repeated news of armadas gathered at Gibraltar, just as they were before the North African coup. These stories fit together perfectly, almost too well to have been the result of propaganda attempts to discover the intent of Allied moves. This time, it appears that the enemy actually fears the coming of the end, and that he reads it in our great preparations for a drive.

The intimation that the new offensive may not even await the end of the campaign in Tunisia also puts a new light on the course of the war; with Germans and Italians having been straits in the triangle, the High Command may consider that pushing ahead toward the shores of Italy entails comparatively little risk. The time for bold, thrilling action has arrived.

Sam The Sage
Our Mr. Grafton Points Out
The GOP, Among Other Bunts

We've become rather fond of our columnist, Samuel Grafton, and so, we note, have a number of our readers. Other columnists having been Washington commentators in the same old vein for a number of years, poke fun at Sam Grafton. They crack that he is either too lazy or too uninformed to write dry, factual columns—so he just writes in little lines for a laugh here and there.

asks for more planes. The Senator smells a plot.

He wants to know whether the War Department isn't feeding a "line" to press and radio, telling the boys to "deprecate" the South Pacific War. Well, the War Department hasn't been feeding me any lines lately. Though I saw Dorothy Thompson last week and John Gunther and William Shirer one didn't even talk about the South Pacific war. Honest. We've all made up our minds on our own that the defeat of Hitler is still our aim number one.

Matter of fact, if the Senator is interested in strange manifestations of unanimity, I can give him something to get his teeth into. The other day the Senate took up the question of transferring certain U. S. Government-owned properties to the Republic of Panama. These include real estate in the city of Colon, and water and sewage systems. The latter were built by our Government. But in the era of the Good Neighbor Policy it is not considered fair ball for one sovereign power to own miscellaneous properties inside the boundaries of another sovereign power. The Senate saw the sense of this, and agreed. The vote was 37 to 19. All nineteen contrary votes were Republican.

Very next day, the House Ways and Means Committee approved the extension of our reciprocal trade treaties, by a vote of 14 to 11. But 10 of the 11 "nay" votes were Republican. In fact, all the Republican members of the committee opposed the bill.

Again, oh, sweet mystery of unanimity. How come? Is anyone feeding Congressional Republicans a "line," so that they pass resolutions in Chicago saying that isolation is dead, and then take the same old isolationist position, almost in a body, on one foreign issue after another? I think this is much more mysterious than the behavior of press and radio commentators.

For us, Sam Grafton can charge again. We'd like to know now and remembered next year, that the only responsible leadership in the Republican Party, so far as expression of intelligent world aims is concerned, is coming from Wendell Willkie—and that he is speaking as a man, and not as a Republican. To our mind, Candidate John Bricker is ruining his chance of growing into the Presidency because of his spinelessness in taking a stand for the United States in a smaller, richer, more crowded world.

No Glamour

School System Needs Help,
But It Can't Grow Votes

It is, we recognize, far too early to attempt to say grace over 1944's gubernatorial race in North Carolina, but we have a word of warning for Dr. Ralph McDonald, who seems to be drifting rapidly toward State schools as a major platform plank. Almost every citizen of the State maintains an interest of some degree in the school system, but for a political campaign, the issue will not stir the masses. They simply will not stir away from such an appeal as they were swayed by the Doctor back in '36. Furthermore, there's a danger of insuring his followers past the point of willingness to vote for him.

The Doctor, we note, is interested in a Fifth Freedom, Freedom from Ignorance. We don't know how he proposes to explain to the electorate how North Carolina might obtain such freedom, but we have a hunch he may suggest a great and general raise in the pay of school teachers. We don't think of working class which comes as close to deserving a higher salary, but neither can we think of a class which has been able to generate less political power. Somehow, the builders of public education, after the rendering of such service, are unable to convince the public of their true worth.

Management Bears A Guilt

The Crisis In The Coal Fields

By Dorothy Thompson

WASHINGTON
JOHN L. LEWIS did not call a strike of the coal miners. The miners, who are 100 per cent organized, have always refused to work without a contract. Their contract expired at midnight on Friday, April 30, and unless a new one has been negotiated before this article appears, they will have quit work automatically.

John L. Lewis has not refused to negotiate. He opened negotiations with the operators weeks ago. Unable to come to an agreement with them, he refused to submit the case to the War Labor Board. The operators, on the contrary, insisted that it be submitted to the WLB and have made no proposal or counter-proposal to the United Mine Workers. In this particular case, it is Mr. Lewis who is standing for agreement between workers and employers with no "government interference."

So together, Mr. Lewis and the operators, collaborated to bring about drastic Government intervention.

Mr. Lewis was an initiator of the War Labor Board. But later he split the UMW from the CIO and since then has considered the Board prejudiced because of CIO members on it. Mr. Lewis's hates are notorious. When the split came he expelled from the UMW Messrs. Murray, Hittner, and Brophy, all of whom are in the Board. Mr. Kennedy, secretary-treasurer of the UMW who was also on the Board resigned, as, directed by Mr. Lewis.

There is no reason to think the miners would not get a break from the WLB. Mr. Kennedy, when he sat on the

Board, often passed on cases involving rival unions, and there was no complaint. The coal miners have a case, and it is probable that an impartial Board would give them concessions.

The agreement signed in 1941, and now expired, called for a five-day week in the mines. In normal times, the problem of the miners is to distribute enough work. It is 174,000 men who are to be distributed over a five-day week. Last Fall, they asked the miners to agree to a six-day week. They did, with time and a half for the sixth day. The operators agreed, with the proviso that CIO get the ceiling price on coal to cover the increased labor costs. This was done, adding 12 1/2 cents per ton to the consumer's price in the biggest coal district.

This price increase was specifically granted for labor costs, but the miners complain that some mines are being worked six days, without the workers getting six days work through a system of shifts. This gives the increase, they say, to the operators, not the workers. The proposal for partial to partial pay has difficulties recognized by both miners and operators. Some men spend an hour or more getting to and from their work. Others do not. In some mines the time is much longer than in others.

Mr. Lewis wants the six-hour day with time and a half for the sixth put into the new contract. The operators had not accepted this—as of Friday. Apparently the operators want the matter to be settled by WLB because a ruling of WLB as an authoritative Government agency will give them

a basis to negotiate for another price rise. Maybe, also, they want the Government forced to a showdown with John L. Lewis. In fact I think this is the point. A Standing Commission, if acceptable to Mr. Lewis and the operators, might be created to keep the coal situation stabilized. There are precedents for such commissions, for instance in shipbuilding.

The basic wage of the miners is \$1.11 an hour. Some fall over or under this level. Coal mining is skilled work, and miners do not shift from one industry to another. Under the expired contract the miners' wages amounted to around \$50 a week. The miners' discontent is not wholly due to increased cost of living. Their youthful sons and daughters, without any skills, are going off to defense plants and coming home with seventy to eighty dollars weekly. They think it's a strange world where a man who has spent his life acquiring a skill, and working in a dangerous trade under bad conditions of dampness and dark cannot earn what a youngster blithely collects in another trade.

The United Miners contracts all contain a no-strike clause. They never strike during the life of a contract. They simply stop working until they get one. Between John L. Lewis's obstinacy and overweening vanity, and the operators' aloof intention to force the WLB to settle the matter, we have a menace to the whole war effort. The President, who God knows has enough on his mind, has to intervene and settle it. I am sure he will bear in mind the miners themselves, who are soldiers of industry risking their lives, even in time of peace.

Coming Events Cast Their Shadows Before

—By Dorman Smith



How Many Worlds? Everyone Is A Planner

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK
THERE is a lot of unofficial post-war planning going on. The Navy is preparing to fight all comers who might try seriously to reduce its war-torn fleet. Captain Leland P. Lovett, Navy Director of Public Relations, has just edited his staff to make ready for that argument. Check the world of the future for Navy men is a big Navy world.

But for a number of high figures in the Republican Party, the world of the future is one in which there will be a drastic return to states' rights, small Federal budgets, and local self-government. Governor Bricker, of Ohio, now leads that drive. One would like to introduce him to Captain Lovett, murmuring that you two people ought to know each other. Are local budgets going to maintain the big Navy of the future?

(Meanwhile, a number of South African thinkers are thinking unofficially about a United States of Africa. It will be an odd world of the future which sees more federalism in Africa and less federalism in America.)

Also on the postwar plan front, Senator George of Georgia, in a remarkably able address to the United States Chamber of Commerce, has warned industry that if it wants to avoid Government interference with business, it will have 600,000,000 of goods and services each year, less 55,000,000 Americans employed. Government spending during depression, he says, is not a plot, but the natural result of unemployment. This was an exceedingly realistic meeting of the Chamber, with less hoar and old poppycock than usual. It is a good basis for somebody at one of these meetings state the simple truth about the postwar period, that one man is not going to starve willingly for the sake of another man's principles.

The Chamber showed that its new, thoughtful mood was not put on, for its resolutions committee

ended its work by endorsing extension of the reciprocal trade treaty, by a vote of 24 to 11. The committee lined up with Mr. Roosevelt and against the du Ponts, who spoke for the other side.

Here, again, I find myself back to Governor Bricker, and to the leading Republicans, and to their nostalgic little unofficial postwar plans. The Chamber of Commerce of the United States has voted three to one, for the trade treaties. All the Republicans on the House Ways and Means Committee, to a man, have voted, 10 to 6, against these treaties. Will not some leading Republicans realize the danger of the present drift, which finds the Republican Party far to the right of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States?

Anyhow, the world of the future, as these I think the phrase is "hard-headed" business men, see it is a world of reciprocal trade treaties, negotiated by the President, while the world of the future as Governor Bricker and his friends see it is one in which all these problems will be solved right in their own cute little villages.

I think the Republican Party must begin to face up to the future as squarely as some of its spokesmen, such as the New York Herald Tribune, have done. Actually, its postwar planning, as outlined in its recent activity, is not planning at all. It is only a kind of mousing low. The thing Governor Bricker says he wants isn't a plan. It is a sentimental ballad. And while the Bricker idea does not show up in the party's national resolutions, it certainly shows up in the party's Congressional voting record.

Actually, the official side of the Republican Party, far more than its members or its newspapers, is wandering into a very special position. It is not at all the mirror of conservatism any longer. It is the mirror of dis-harmony. It has become the dreamiest of all the parties, for among the worlds of the future now being planned, the Bricker world of a return to the village green is the most widely improvable, the most unthinkably immature, the most starchy, if you like, of them all.

Quote, Unquote

IF, when the fighting is over, we have ex-soldiers selling apples on the streets, or masses of workers idle in present war production centers, or people starving in one part of the country while food surpluses rot in other parts, we shall have lost this war.

—National Planning Association.

When the full story of the Air Transport Command can be written, the engineering work done in building major Arctic bases, making the Arctic route of the Panama Canal look like small peanuts.

—Maj.-Gen. Harold L. George, Air Transport Command Chief.

The British Eighth Army was a piston head and the American and French forces and the British First Army formed the wall of the cylinder.

—Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson.

About my own foxhole, the truth is I have more trouble from "jitters" than from the duck to dawn Tuntian mosquitoes—than from German bombs.

—Sergeant Leonard Lindberry, in North Africa.

Our might might grow even more than that of the phenomenal growth of the last twelve months, until we can strike crushingly anywhere on the globe.

—Maj.-Gen. James H. Doolittle.

If the liberation of the people for which the fight is going on today results in imperialism and oppression to follow, this terrible war will have been in vain.

—Vice-President Henry Wallace.

It's the safest investment in the world, and it will help beat the Axis.

—Harry W. Hooford, financier who bought \$33,000,000 in war bonds.

Key To War

Sweden's Taste

By Raymond Clapper

STOCKHOLM
PERHAPS you can sense something about Sweden: as I do, from the fact that the most popular drama here is John Steinbeck's "The Moon Is Down."

The play opened seven weeks ago. It moved later to a larger theater, where it is still going strong, picturing each night to a Swedish audience the Nazi occupation of Norway. The dominant theme of the play is the impossibility of a puppet of a few free people, which makes significant its great popularity in neutral Sweden, surrounded as it is by the Axis.

I carried from America a copy of Wendell Willkie's new book, "One World," which is to be republished in a post-war edition here—which also suggests something regarding the people here. For extremely few books can be brought over for republication, owing to the difficulties of transportation, and the selections are accordingly made with extreme care to hit the popular mood.

It would be a mistake to judge the neutrality of Sweden by the so-called neutrality of America. They are two different kinds of neutrals. We usually think of Spain as merely a puppet of the Axis. Spain is run by a Fascist regime whose future existence depends on the victory. The downfall of the Nazi-Fascist Axis will mean the downfall of the Fascist idea and of Fascist regimes. Hence France's fate is wrapped up in Axis victory.

Just the opposite is true in Sweden. This is a democratic country whose way of life would be violently changed by a final Axis victory. Sweden has next door the horrible example of Norway, whose democratic institutions have been crushed under the Nazi occupation. The Swedes know from these unhappy neighbors what that means. The people of Sweden know that they can continue to have their freedom only if the United Nations win.

Americans here whose judgment is sound agree on that step-up. They describe the Swedish press as one of the freest in the world. The right of criticism is jealously guarded. The second point about Sweden is that she is determined to remain neutral. This is her traditional policy. The experience of other small nations occupied by Germany only strengthens the determination of Sweden to remain out of war.

That is where her difficulties begin. There has been considerable popular criticism of the Government's policy of allowing the Germans to send troops through Sweden into and out of the Baltic, as well as to Norway. Undoubtedly the Germans use that privilege as a means of replacing troops. Also, trainloads of German war material move in and out of Sweden. Recent student demonstrations in the capital have had their roots in the popular disapproval of the use of Sweden as a traffic route for the Germans. Pro-Ally newspapers criticize the continuation of this traffic, and recent anti-German propaganda has been one of the burdens Sweden was forced to carry.

On the way here I saw many Swedish ships tied up at the Aeores and at Lubeck. The result is beginning to be felt. The new shore ration allows one pair for eighteen months. Food is short.

Yet Sweden remains determined to find a way to stay neutral.

Are We Slackers?

Vote Or Else

Greensboro Daily News

THE People candidate defeated the Clinton candidate for mayor of Charlotte Monday by a vote of 5368 to 5042. The Charlotte News, while wishing the winner well, stresses the fact that a large number of those registered did not go to the polls.

We concede that Charlotte, not having been so selective as regards quality, has a far larger population than Greensboro; but the home town on Monday, which was by way of being a pretty general holiday and with the fishing season closed in these parts, voted only a trifle over 4,000 in a somewhat similar election.

Our Charlotte contemporary says its electorate was not stirred. It would seem that Greensboro's was hardly scratched, and yet we had the feeling there was a pretty fair showing of interest.

Maybe we are going to have to alter our admittedly now-too-well-conferred opinion that the people of Greensboro are not so well-informed as they are to their civic responsibilities. Surely if 10,000 Charlotteans are concerned for the personnel of their municipal directors, more than a commensurate number of Greensboroers should be in there voting.

To be sure there has not occurred within recent months any local disturbance of a size sufficient to justify calling out the militia; but the fact remains that the capital of Guilford is a bit too easy-going for long periods of time.

Raleigh News & Observer

CHARLOTTE had a hotly contested election this week for city officials. Forty thousand qualified voters were on the books. Only ten thousand thought enough of their citizenship and public duty to go to the polls, and Charlotte is no slimmer above Raleigh and other North Carolina towns and cities.

In Washington's day men fought for the right to govern themselves. In our day three-fourths in some places care so little of the privilege, and are so indifferent to their obligations, that they absent themselves from the polls.

The only name that fits such a person is Slacker. Absent Without Leave from the Post of Duty.

All Colors

Flashes Of Life

On Breakfast

THE time to eat breakfast is before you dress in the morning—before you bathe, shave, or comb your hair. Women know this and, whenever they can, have breakfast in bed. Men, however, in the fast for themselves generally start the coffee and then eat. In the time they've clipped the last whisker the water is boiling and they are proceed with the meal, taking in the headlines while scrambling eggs, or cutting the grapefruit.

If his wife prepares the breakfast, a man isn't allowed to come to the table in his bathrobe, so he dresses in a semicoma and is all out of sorts by the time he gets his coffee. Why can't a wife get up a few minutes earlier (as get up a few minutes earlier) and used to do and give a man some food as soon as he has washed his face? That utopian vision would send him whistling to the office, satisfied with life and oblivious of the weather.