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THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 1943

The Negro Park

Its Building Has Brought Forth Only Misunderstanding

We fear that strangers, following the story of the battle against the building of the Negro recreational park, would all come to the conclusion that the people of the City were firm against any kind of recreational facilities for the Negro population. At least on the surface, the continued protests of residents who live near the park site do not seem to weigh heavily in the balance of impartial civic progress. It has seemed to us from the first that the good to be wrought by the building of the park outweighed the disadvantages of which the property owners speak.

Now that the affair has been taken into the courts, it may be said that there will be a court fight to determine whether the 30 per cent of Charlotte population represented by Negroes shall ever be given its share of recreational facilities—if the giving of such facilities causes any number of whites any discomfort or inconvenience. And, once in the courts, all the tales should be told and straightened out.

There is the theory that the site for the park chosen by the Park Board at the behest of Chairman Charles Stone is ill-fitted, that it is not near enough the center of the Negro area. There is also the story on the other hand that sets all of the Harding Place-Greenwood Cliff residents object to the building of the park (that information from Mr. Stone).

Whatever decision is given in the courts, we think the matter might well have been settled long weeks ago, without litigation, had there been greater understanding on both sides. For our part, we are anxious to see the Negro population get its full share of City blessings (which it has not received in the past). And we have the feeling that such a policy is not to be followed in this case.

The One Word

When important Americans visit England these days, the British Ministry guards their safety very closely, and, in order to insure safety, assigns a one-word name to identify them. Mrs. Roosevelt, on her recent stay in London, was known as "Rover." One day she sought in vain to locate her son, Franklin Jr. The British flashed "Rover has lost her pup."

Red Herring

Detroit Race Riots Likely Are of Home-Grown Origins

From this great distance we cannot attempt to judge Detroit's race riots; but on at least one score, we are confident that we are able to judge. We do not believe, as leaders of both white and Negro groups say, that the trouble was Axis-inspired. We are confident in our own minds that the outbreaks were another example of native Fascist behavior, coming under the pressure of war time. The Detroit area has long been a source of unrest. The community which furnished us with Father Coughlin, the Silver Shirts, and more than one abortive Labor movement of this country, has exceedingly well prepared to render new discipline.

It has been said that the riots failed to have been brewing for three years? were not about by the presence of Southerners in the great industrial city. We think it more likely that the riots were caused simply by a lack of understanding between Negroes and their white co-workers in this war plants. Such a serious breach in national unity is of course always to be deplored, and 23 deaths and a great number of injured are vain sacrifice, but it may well be that the nation as a whole can learn a great lesson from Detroit and its travail.

That lesson seems to be that the delicate relations between races in these times feel the greatest strain, and that a great effort on the part of all men toward the preservation of these relations should and must be made. The national war effort, human dignity, the future of American Negroes, and all hope for amicable race relations depend upon the learning of this vital lesson. Let it be noted that the South, though commonly accused of trailing far behind in race relations, has as yet known no

such outbreak as Detroit's and that our own section as much as any other is feeling the heavy impact of the pressure brought by war industry. It may be that the test of these times, if nothing else, will vindicate the Southern policy of the last few years.

The Question

After All These Months, China Has One for Russia

With the general improvement of Russian relations with the Allied World (stemming, we guess, from battle successes) it seemed logical to expect a cessation of complaint concerning the Red war effort. But China, after a polite silence, has the temerity to suggest that the Soviet Union will not have fulfilled all her obligations until she turns against Japan, and completes the perfect circle around the Axis powers. China's suggestion of course, finds support in the United States. Here, men have long awaited the time when Joe Stalin felt himself strong enough on the German front to turn upon Japan. The loose link in the chain prevents an encirclement of the Jap empire, and makes the American task a great deal harder in the Pacific. There is every reason to expect Russia's help on this problem, if and when the German menace has been beaten back.

The Russians, in turn, might ask favors of the Allied nations, if the Red deal ever came to a head. A lesser favor, perhaps, but still enough of one to make a trade, involves Finland. That little nation has been, despite the recent lull, a thorn in Russian flesh, and an ever-present threat to Leningrad and the Northern route of supply. Stalin might well say to any of the United Nations pressing him for war with Japan that first the Allies must recognize his enemy, Finland, as an enemy of their own.

Such talk might not make good sense, far from the Russian scene in the U. S., but it may mean a great deal to the Soviets. Americans have not expected Russia to turn upon Japan so long as she really allied with them in trying to smash the cance in the fact that China, a great deal nearer the scene, makes bold to pose the old question again?

The Reluctant

Few Republicans Will Dare Face Wilkie and the People

Who else can understand the bashfulness of Republican presidential nominees in these days? Is there anywhere a wondering that Governor Warren of California, a likely candidate, has refused to have his name used in this connection? Is there a responsible man, outside those long in the running, who can reflect upon the acts of Republicans in Congress for the past six months, and step forth to offer leadership to such a clan? Is not this our spirit of opinion which the glowing radiance of Wendell Wilkie? Who dares challenge the Indiana giant whose breath-taking best-seller is rapidly becoming a familiar text in most American homes? Who, who, who bears the old-guard blessing, who dares hope also to gain the blessing of the common people of the country?

The answers are too easy. The coming Republican presidential nominee, he has no place to stand, and Wendell Wilkie, will be only a man of straw. He will not, it is safe to say, represent the little people of the nation—and those will be heard next year. He will not stand under inspection, this interloper, if he comes. It is easy to make those charges in the dark, without knowing who comes, because of the state of mind of the old-guard Republicans. They have nothing left to offer, only a recasting of their pre-war mutterings, with the most obvious irrelevances left out. These men are the inner corps of isolationism, and they have not changed their minds. They struggle to keep the word from passing them by, and their nominee for the presidency in '44 will be an ambassador of their will.

Worst, perhaps, of radio's inherent difficulties is that its headlines all come in one size—for the liver pill or for the fall of North Africa.

Against Ignorance

Defending Elmer Davis

By Dorothy Thompson

WASHINGTON
The attacks on Elmer Davis are unjust, misleading, and ignorant. One attack indicates that several members of Congress need an Office of War Information themselves, to inform them regarding the difference between Mr. Davis and Dr. Goebbels. Representative Joe Starnes, Democrat, of Alabama, said: "We don't need a Goebbels or a Virginia Clay in Washington."

Senator Styles Bridges, Republican, of New Hampshire, said: "I shall not stand idly by while our American press is openly scored by Elmer Davis, a man who has sought to create the first United States Government propaganda bureau of a kind used in the dictator countries." In Nazi Germany no person may write in any German newspaper, unless he is a member of the "Reichsschrifttumskammer" or "Chamber of Writers." He is blacklisted if he has ever been opposed to the Hitler regime!

Any criticism of the regime is a cause for dismissal from the Chamber, and thus from the profession. Every day, directives are issued to all newspapers, concerning what they should print, where they should print it, and with what comments. Whoever fails to follow these lines is liable to arrest and imprisonment.

All information not covered by directives is printed by editors at their peril. Persons violating these restrictions are not tried before a civil court, but dealt with by administration decree.

Sixty per cent of all the pre-Hitler newspapers have been closed down by administrative action, and, of the rest, two-thirds are owned by the Nazi Party. Now, sir, in view of these facts, what do you mean by daring to compare Elmer Davis to Doctor Goebbels?

Are you so ignorant as not to know that your statements will be picked up by the News press and used by them to convince their readers in Germany and neutral countries, that American tactics are as bad as their own? Mr. Davis' job is first, to co-ordi-

nate the information services which exist in every Government agency. By abolishing his office, Congress has not abolished Government press agents. It has sent them back into the chaos out of which Mr. Davis has been trying to pull them.

Dr. Davis' second job was to explain the why and wherefores of Government policy. This is a job no one envies him. But that it is necessary is obvious. It is irresponsible democracy to blame his position to that of Dr. Goebbels. Why not compare him to that of Brendan Bracken, who performs the same service for the British Government?

That the Office of War Information could be improved is obvious to everyone who has contact with it. But it cannot act more efficiently because it is affronted by one of those articles which stands every step.

It has no power to coerce or intimidate anybody. I am myself a journalist. Never once, in the whole career of the OWI have I been asked by it to take any line, present any opinion, or even publish any report. I have been highly critical of many Government agencies, and not least of all the OWI, against which I once wrote three articles of outspoken criticism. To one of those articles I received a courteous reply, which I ignored because unconvincing.

On the other hand, the OWI has often given me facts, which I needed for my work. The office, as needed, is useful, and could be improved—if there were a serious atmosphere instead of a frivolous one surrounding Congressional criticism. What are the Congressional criticisms of Mr. Davis? That he is a member of the American Labor Party. Does Congress assume that no one, except a Republican or Democrat, can hold a position in the United States? Is it implied that Mr. Davis is using the OWI for American Labor Party propaganda? I defy Congress to find a single contemptuous reply, which I ignored because unconvincing.

The other charge is that he has criticized the press for putting too much emphasis on controversy and not enough on harmony.

Italy's Other Famous Leaning Tower

—By Dorman Smith



Let's Be Tough A Hard Peace For Nazis

By Raymond Clapper

LONDON
The mood in England appears to be moving in favor of a hard peace, following up the "unconditional surrender" stipulated at Casablanca. The best indication of this is the growing radicalism of the Labor Party Conference in adopting strong resolutions which in effect hold the majority of the German people responsible for allowing Hitler to possess the power he has.

After the last war there appeared what a diplomatic friend of mine in Washington calls the "dear darlings" attitude toward defeated Germany. With only a few exceptions, the line that the Italian people have been held captive by Mussolini against their will, and that we really allied with them in trying to smash his regime. There appears to be a very little tendency to take such a line with Germany. The action of the Labor Party Conference in Britain would seem to clinch the movement in this country toward Vanitarsitism, which is the British name for advocacy of a hard peace.

I feel warranted in saying that Government quarters here feel there can be no weakening in the Casablanca unconditional-surrender position, and that we won't even make an effort to drive a wedge between Hitler and the German people but will hammer the whole business until all is quiet. This is contrary to the policy pursued by Woodrow Wilson last time; also to the feeling of some private individuals that such an attitude as is being taken now gives no opportunity for a crack in the German home front. It was apparent when I was in Sweden that Goebbels was using all the Vanitarsitism, over and over, to bring us back to the German people into clinging to Hitler as their only protection from implacable Allied fury.

When blood pressure is reduced from the foregoing attitude, a somewhat more realistic judgment comes out, namely, that no matter what we say now in the heat of war anger, the most difficult thing will be to keep over on the part of any kind of consistent policy toward Germany after the war. Everybody will want to return home. The democracies do not like the idea of occupation anywhere. The British also remember their experience after the last war, when British soldiers occupying Germany tended to become sympathetic toward the German people.

Some of the more thoughtful people of influence here are convinced that the problem of the so-called reeducation of Germany will be most trying one for the democracies. In the first place, some of the Nazis' neighbors, such as Czechoslovakia, Poland and the Netherlands, have old scores to pay off and do not want too much interference from the big powers in going about it. They consider themselves as having first claim. In other words, they are not particularly pleased over the prospects of large squads of American military administrators, trained in the Army's Charlottesville school, being sent over on the Continent. You hear some of them say that this is a business the Americans can never understand, and that it is better he left to the Europeans.

Furthermore, the question of what is to be taught in the German schools is a matter of practical difficulty. Obviously it is not desirable that the coming generation of Germans should read Nazi textbooks written by our side, we cannot make them believe such books. We might force our own version of twentieth century history on them, but they will reject it even while the teacher is reading the lesson and remarking with sneer, "That's what the books say; but such attempted forcible education is unthinkable."

On The Negro Park

Editors: The News:
Mothers, and fathers, your child's life is at stake. Friends, your friends' children's lives are at stake, and what are you going to do about it? Reading the article in The Charlotte Observer, Sunday, June 6, 1943, I thought that it showed little consideration by the people in the Harding Park section in not wanting the Park section to be changed to a playground. It is possible that he put the park for Negro children in the Brooklyn colored section just off Pearl St. The children of this section will starve for food, and they struggle to keep the word from passing them by, and their nominee for the presidency in '44 will be an ambassador of their will.

and on the creek banks. On Sunday, June 20, a little boy, a member of my Sunday School class, was hit by a car. His mother and friends, are we going to let this happen to another one of our children?
Now is the time to stop it before more accidents occur as that this Sunday which was the day that I was in the city. He is about seven years old and it is possible that he may be physically ruined for life. You, the people of Harding Park, put yourself in the place of this little boy and his parents. Think of all the children in that section, Friends and parents, the only way we can prevent such an accident from happening again is by getting a park for these children so they will not have to play in the street and on a creek bank.
Last week I decided to find out how many children lived in this section. I went to the streets except three. On one little street I found that there were 86, and on another street there were 238 children with no place to play. I am hoping that I may get to see how many children need this park.
I am hoping that you will look at this thing intelligently. Let me say that the children are as the man who fell among the rocks on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. Friends of the Harding Park section, are you going to do as the priest, Levite, or as the Samaritan? It might have been your son.
—GEORGE WILLIAMS JR., Charlotte.



"It's getting monotonous, these neighbor kids coming in for dinner the first of every week—do you suppose their parents are saving points?"

House Gets Even Angry Action

By Samuel Crafton

NEW YORK
THE House of Representatives was not voting against the Office of War Information at all when it voted to cut off all domestic activities by that agency. It was voting against regulation of any kind, administration of all kinds. The House merely happened to find the OWI walking by itself on a dark street and made it the token victim of its anger. It put a long pin into the OWI by way of having the agency idea, and all the other agencies.

For, quite obviously, the House did not have the remotest idea of what it was doing. It was voting against regulation of any kind, administration of all kinds. The House merely happened to find the OWI walking by itself on a dark street and made it the token victim of its anger. It put a long pin into the OWI by way of having the agency idea, and all the other agencies.

The House has been furious at the great flood of press agency indulgence (often supplied) by hundreds of Government bureaus. And so it killed the domestic branch of OWI, as a blow at Government press agency. But did it know that this branch has as one of its chief functions precisely this duty of cutting down on Government press agency? It has in many places reduced the flood to a trickle. This is the co-ordinator of publicity which the House was demanding six months ago, and now it has killed it! Why, doctor, you pulled the wrong tooth!

That is why I say this is a token attack on all agencies: one agency has been selected, at random, as a service men in Los Angeles are not so long ago selected not suit victims, and it has been stripped of its clothes as a sign to men that passion rules the day.

The House then went on, to snatch 20 per cent of the budget from the Office of Price Administration. This is a case after-noon. It is the true mark of a riot that it always gathers momentum in this fashion, and sweeps on to the next center, to see what it can do. Why did the House do this? Why did it do this? It even \$35,000,000, from OPA? Why not 20 per cent, or 41 per cent, or 72 per cent, or only 1.627 per cent? But the House was not in a thoughtful mood. It was in a snatch-the-pants-off-him mood.

I ask you to think about these hot angry eyes, these jerky gestures. The House was not reforming the Office of Price Administration. It was attacking it. It was not trying to improve it. It was trying to kill it.

The whole picture is shot through with signs of deterioration of order. This is not a debate, it is hubbub. It is not voting, it is stamping of boots. It is not only disorder in itself, it is a kind of flushed challenge to more disorder. For to cut the funds for price control, and to order an end to price roll-backs, at the very moment when the coal miners were walking out on a price-wage issue, showed an eager, almost suicidal will for the crash of head against head.

If I find this to be not unaligned with the disorders which have been breaking out in some American cities, that is because there have a political base, too. Who will deny that a politically-inspired banding about non-existent Administration plans to bring millions of Chinese "blessers" club of the House of Representatives, and played its part in starting these riots? And who will say that the banding which generates these whippers is so very different from the hate which has just overflowed from the House of Representatives?

This Congress must regroup its lines. The cooler heads must take over. This is a crisis of order. It transcends party politics. Senator Taft, and others, seem already to have sensed this. It is an anti-Administration leader, he is a responsible one. Let us hope there will be such a man. The republic needs them. The republic needs them. The republic needs them. The republic needs them. The republic needs them.

What does interest generally in the case of Bob & Hearst? It is not a case of race and color, but of the race under Hearst's hand and the race under Hearst's hand. It is a case of race and color, but of the race under Hearst's hand and the race under Hearst's hand. It is a case of race and color, but of the race under Hearst's hand and the race under Hearst's hand.

There never was any exact date as to when and in what quantities they would arrive. Churchill and Joe Stalin, the international capital now that they will not come at all, and that they will come in a few days. The technique of Mr. Bob & Hearst's opponents will do the using. To see the best of these papers has been seen and the uniformly heavy and unimpressive comments on them must have been a surprise.

More than that, our Bob has come out for collaboration since Hearst-papers fashioned such an American of him. It is nothing but a case of race and color, but of the race under Hearst's hand and the race under Hearst's hand. It is a case of race and color, but of the race under Hearst's hand and the race under Hearst's hand.

Quote, Unquote

The American household will have to get along with fewer colors, sizes, styles and ornamentalities in the things it wears, and the market and the bodies of American boys and girls. Watching the maneuvers of the pliers, their audacious, deep and barrel rolls, one might think that a contest in stunt flying was in progress; but a sudden burst of trailing behind a plume of smoke banishes any idea of peaceful sport, since the pliers are the sullen of battles: smothering, marked with black crosses on the pliers, and the market and the bodies of German boys and girls correspond in the Kuban area.