



Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday By The News Publishing Company, Inc. W. C. Dowd Jr., President...

The daily edition of The Charlotte News was established 1888. The Evening Chronicle (established 1903) was purchased by and consolidated with The Charlotte News May 6, 1914.

The News desires to be notified promptly of errors in any of its reports that proper correction may be made at once.

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By carrier: 20 cents a week; one month, 57 cents. By mail: One month, \$1.00; three months, \$2.60; six months, \$5.20; one year, \$10.40.

MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 1943

Where Next?

After Sicily, the Deluge Will Sweep the Continent

Almost the flaming incident in Sicily is done. Now, but for a few more excruciating miles, a few hundred more lives for the altar of war, the great Italian appendage is out of the fighting. It will not be long until Allied planes, rising from Sicilian fields, will be knocking Italy out of the war; until Allied armies, based on Sicily, will be springing across the narrow Italian soil. The first breach in the wall of Fortress Europe is all but complete. The next move advances swiftly.

There is no guessing whether the new and heavier blow will be struck immediately at Italy herself, or launched in a new direction—perhaps through the Balkans or the Lowlands. And it matters little. What does matter is that the next blows are already poised, and that the way for them is now being cleared. After Sicily, there will not be a long wait. Even now, as Europe totters, the concentrated might of airpower is softening the enemy for the next phase of attack.

The cry from Russia that this is the time for coordinated attacks against Europe from all sides is not, of course, new, but it is significant just now, when the Red offensive power is at an all-time high. The days of Hitler's regime have long been numbered, but never so clearly as now. The battles ahead are certain to be harder, perhaps bloodier, than the struggles for Africa and the Mediterranean have been. But as the Nazi defenders have crumbled in the months past, they will surely crumble again, under the heavy thrusts to come. Despite all official warnings that it is absurd to expect Germany's end in 1943, the signs for all eyes to see are that the empire is not long for this world. The end, it seems, can be only a matter of months, and Allied commanders in the field are extremely anxious to meet destiny on schedule.

It is in Buffalo that a fellow told the judge that she was a clinging vine before the wedding and a rambler thereafter.

German Whines

They Made the Bet and The Payoff Draws Nigh

The recently increasing German squeal for pity should be—and is—music in the ears of the peoples of the United Nations. It is the overture to the appeal for mercy which will be presented in the forthcoming German unconditional surrender. Just now the German propagandists are jumping the gun and using for war purposes the tune which sooner or later they must sing for peace. The Bernier Lokansacker of August 1, for instance, lures to the propaganda line, commenting on the Allied air raids on German cities, thus: "This is a stab made by people without honor against people without defense. The Nazis, who riddled Poland, who starved and mutilated Greece, who plundered France and Belgium and Holland, who bombed and machine-gunned British civilians, who robbed and murdered and raped wherever they could extend their blight, now begin to beat their pleas to the humanitarians of the world. It sounds good, not that we like particularly to hear German whines, except as they mean something. The present whines are like the echoes of the whines of 1918. First they whined for the world's pity. They failed to get it, so they pitted themselves. Then they collapsed. The German people deserve no sympathy. They started their war with their eyes open. They knew the stakes. Hitler told them. At the beginning he said that what was to be done would shape Germany's destiny for a thousand years—be it victory or ruin. They knew what to expect. They named the bet, themselves.

On War Workers

Returning Labor To Be Employment Headache

Something should be said for these war workers who, now, since everybody is talking peace, begin to see themselves in a dilemma, with the result that war production is being first waning since the program began. They gave up their jobs and went off to war work. Their reasons for going are not as important as that they went. Without them the American war effort would have fallen flat. There would have been

no Army, no ships, no planes, no bombs, no GI chaps. Though it may be argued that they took the cash and let the credit go and, therefore, may be expected to pretty well shift for themselves when the Great Day comes, that cannot be as simple as it sounds. In the first place, while many war workers are making relatively high salaries, and most of them are making more money than they ever made, they are living under conditions which are expensive. Some of them can naturally can't save money, anyway. Multitudes of them will come home fully able to care for themselves through the readjustment. Others in great numbers will be returning soldiers, certainly, should have first call on open jobs, but unless provision also is made for returning war workers the unemployment situation is going to be a huge problem. Also, what about those thousands of girls and their bright new skills?

No confirmation to speak of can be found for a report that John L. Lewis has become favorite pin-up boy of our overseas soldiery.

Over-All Draft

Finally We Face War's Ultimate Necessity

More than three years ago the British Parliament passed an act requiring all British subjects "to place themselves, their services and their property" at the disposal of the Government. Many people in the United States have believed that universal conscription should have been one of our first pieces of war legislation. However, the Administration felt that the United States might better achieve the war purposes with only military conscription, and has been in constant controversy since as one group of military age after another had its champions to rush forward protesting.

Now comes the increasing possibility that the universal draft may be advanced after all as one means of breaking the United States' final manpower log jam. The drafting of fathers, the retaining of reserves of American men of fighting age, is scheduled for a big Congressional fight when Congress reconvenes in September. The Administration is represented as worried over the possible outcome of that fight.

Therefore now comes a renewed proposal for the universal draft, as advocated for a long time by War Manpower Commissioner McNutt, which would tend to end all manpower legislation. Every person would be told where to serve his country, whether in uniform or out. The law would apply to all men between 18 and 65 years old and all women between 18 and 50, and all groups having the usual exemptions. From this distance it would seem that the universal draft not only is highly desirable now but has been all the while.

"And now," said the President to the distinguished French visitor, "if you can find some unity around here I'll show you what I mean."

We Can't Know

Facing Starvation Is Only An Idea Here

When news comes of conditions in the occupied countries our own food problems become no negligible thing, cannot be considered in the same connection. Underground reports out of Poland, where Germany presumes to issue food rations, are that the rations are so small for subsistence forcing the people into the "black markets" for supplementary food. In these markets one may buy a pound of wheat flour for \$3.50, a pound of eye bread for \$2.50. A pound of butter costs \$12. A pound of sugar may be had for \$6. Under conditions such as these starvation becomes not a far-off, unthreatening thing of dread, but something starkly immediate. Americans do not know that feeling.

It is the people and their worries that spoil the American picture. Never were there so many people standing around and looking contented.

To accommodate the new laundry crisis, there is talk of a slight alteration in the old maxim, as follows: "Cleanliness is next to impossible."

Charting The War Ways

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON The capital is watching an agricultural conference called in Minneapolis today (Monday) by Minnesota's anti-Administration Congressman August Andresen.

The conference consists of Congressmen and some Senators from Nebraska, Wisconsin, Minnesota and possibly Iowa to discuss farm problems and foreign policies. Andresen, an isolationist reactionary, says he wants to take Congress back to the people and is planning to throw the meeting open to public discussion.

It is suspected, however, that his chief idea is to strengthen his own political fence and boost the farm bureau and Co-operatives as against the Triple A groups.

What particularly intrigues Washington, however, is a letter recently written by Congressman Andresen in which he gives encouragement to the "Black Market."

Writing to R. H. Suhr, butcher in Lewiston, Minn. Andresen gives this pointed advice: "Speaking confidentially, I think that if I were running a butcher shop, I would make every effort to get meat from local sources, irrespective of some of the unjust and unfair rulings."

In Washington, this is interpreted as meaning just one thing: advice to deal with the "Black Market." Coming from a member of Congress supposed to uphold the laws of the land and help create respect for Government, Mr. Andresen's letter is considered unusual, to say the least.

Churchill-Roosevelt Problems

The Churchill-Roosevelt conference in Canada boils down to one main thing—will Great Britain use the armor she has been training in England, plus whatever U. S. troops may be there, to launch a second front across the Channel in France?

To understand this question fully and to understand what Churchill and Roosevelt face, it is necessary to know the background of what has been going on in the Mediterranean. It is as simple as that. At the May-June conference between the President and the Prime Minister, there is my own personal diagnosis of what has taken place regarding each:

1. Russia As everyone knows, Russia has been asking the United States and Britain repeatedly for a second front in France. Each time we have steepled. In June 1942 when Foreign Minister Molotov came to Washington we told him the United States had only just stepped into the war and would really sympathize. He had pointed out that Britain had a large army in England. We had to reply that the United States could not discuss what Britain did with her troops.

Several times since then Russia has asked us for a second front in France. We have given different excuses: that we were setting up a front in North Africa, that we were beginning operations in Sicily, that a second front across the Channel would cost terrific casualties. To the latter Russia has replied:

"Of course it would cost casualties, but what do you think we have been doing, attending a tea party?"

What's Harder To Drown Than a Cat?

—By Dorman Smith



What For The Liberated?

The Allies Face Test

By Raymond Clapper

AS we are now regarding Italy, one of the Allied problems that will accompany victory everywhere will be to find a way to launch self-government in liberated Italy. Every person would be told where to serve his country, whether in uniform or out. The law would apply to all men between 18 and 65 years old and all women between 18 and 50, and all groups having the usual exemptions. From this distance it would seem that the universal draft not only is highly desirable now but has been all the while.

What have all our mystery boys around Washington been doing all this time, that we come up now undecided whether to call the King of Italy names or try to do business with him?

Fortunately we have time to profit by this awkward exposure of Allied policymakers sound asleep when the first big opportunity knocked. Especially should this embarrassing exposure cause us to be sure we are not similarly found wanting with regard to preparing for the liberation of France. That may not be far off, but our troops occupy some French territory—Corsica and the southeastern corner of France from the Rhone east and from Lyon south.

Forty-eight hours after Mussolini's capitulation Gen. de Gaulle broadcast that no Allied settlement with Italy could be valid or lasting without French participation. This was a plain warning to the Allies to end their policy of ignoring the French Committee of Liberation.

The de Gaulle utterance, made without consulting some of his more moderate followers, was regarded as tactless and caused considerable

Side Glances



"You've been a model passenger, lady! All day long I've been hauling men who told me how I ought to drive!"

Summer Welles' Enemies

Affairs Of State

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK I DO NOT know if Mr. Sumner Welles, Undersecretary of State, is a great liberal. But I know that those who are not liberals do not like him.

It is perhaps dangerous to accept these inverse certainties of a man's character. After all, Mr. Arthur Brock could be wrong. He might be opposed to a public official, and the official might still be not very good. Yet I cannot drive it out of my head that those who liked our deal with Darlan would be pleased if Mr. Welles should lose his present job.

Only a few days ago one newspaper writer who rarely supports the Administration on anything except its Darlanian deal, put the finger on Mr. Welles as the disturbing influence in the Department of State.

There is little evidence, as I say, to show whether Mr. Welles actively opposed our dalliance with the Jimmy-come-lateries of anti-Fascism. I have a feeling that maybe he did.

But, either way, this will be true: those who have tried to make a kind of philosophy of expedients, those who have tried to dress expediency up as a way of life, those who express deep suspicions of the motives of anti-Darlanites, though their rarest express suspicions as to the motives of a Darlan; these would, in general, be pleased if Mr. Welles lost his job.

They would treat that event as a triumph for Mr. Hull, to whom they are uniformly partial. They would see it as a justification of our past dealings with dubious characters. If Mr. Welles went out, they would consider as under a cloud those who have questioned both the morality and the ultimate expediency of expedients.

And that gives importance to recent newspaper attacks on Mr. Welles and to the officially-denied "dope" stories from Washington that the move to oust Mr. Welles may be kicked upstairs into a meaningless roving ambassadorship.

On the basis of these unanswered and unchallenged attacks, the world at large would regard Mr. Welles' exit from the executive side of affairs as confirmation of our policy of expediency. It may be there is no set plan to put Mr. Welles out; that this is only a trial balloon. Then let us accept our democratic obligation to let the trial balloon go uninfused.

It is clear that some sort of functional disorder or maladjustment exists in the State Department. There is a possibility that this has nothing to do with "personnelism" at all, that it is a healed organization of the difference of opinion which exists in the country generally concerning our expedient deals.

If so then a great debate, a great historical process has come to a head. That process would be aborted if we allowed Mr. Welles to be shunted aside without protest or comment. The great story would trail away harmlessly into a confused and obscure mumble, far from being a sign to the world that we are actually, gleefully, institutionalizing our lack of a foreign policy, but with route permanently into the business of managing our affairs on a day to day basis.

Those who don't like to see a major trend dismissed like a retractor office boy have a duty to keep their eyes on this trial balloon.

Everyday Counselor

Rev. Herbert Spangh whose column, "The Everyday Counselor," appears daily on this page, is teaching in a Summer Conference for the Methodist Church and he, therefore, has suspended his column for two weeks. It will reappear here on Mr. Spangh's return.

Platform Of The People

FR & A Liberal

Editors, The News I notice where you have elected Mr. Roosevelt in your editorial entitled "Sam and Franklin," referring to Sam Grafton the columnist and Franklin Roosevelt, the President. I notice, too, that your editorially supplemented your column with another column against Mr. Roosevelt's policy of expediency in the Balk and toward the new Italian government.

But knowing Mr. Grafton as I do, it is all very humorous, because I do both having different things in mind. The good Mr. Grafton believes he is a man of an "liberalism" and the Charlotte News merely sees in it another name for expediency as "what's in it for me" as which Mr. Roosevelt, in other words, you would be for Jim Farley and for Sam Grafton—and even in "One World" there is no machine; that would bring the two of us together in 60 years or 600 years.

Mr. Grafton has lost the main thing—we are fighting this war because the United States stands against world pirates; and Mr. Grafton is just plain silly if he thinks, believe that after twenty years of piracy, the pirates will be better than the pirates.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT If you will just welcome the strength God is anxious to give you, you will find that you are strong. I will love them freely—Hos. 14:4.

Brazil is building up a strong expeditionary force to final destruction of war fronts. Water Minister Oscar Ortega Dutra of Brasilia.

Quote, Unquote