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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1943

Meat Trouble

OPA, Making Stirred Up,
Should Make Explanations

It seems to us that something has
gone awry between the Office of Price
Administration and the meat dealers in
and around Charlotte. Officials are
perfectly willing to tackle their problem,
and to state it publicly. The story is
that very, very few meat dealers (re-
tailers and processors) are observing
the regulations. The OPA should have
over-calling prices, OPA charges, for
that, we have no doubt.

And the meat is not being properly
graded, OPA charges. Of that, a layman
can have no knowledge, but the asser-
tion is upsetting. After having made
such statements, the OPA should have
given the public some assurance that
things would be right soon with the
local meat supply. There was only the
statement that meat dealers would have
no complaint. That investigation had
found precious few of them in line.

The public reaction, we venture, will
be that either OPA has done a poor job
of its job; or that the dealers themselves
are bound and determined not to abide
by the regulations, and to take what
profits they can in high times, while
a great many others are taking their
share. In either case, the public is left
with an uneasy feeling. These "spot"
checkups, the feeling goes, what are
they? Is that all that is going on? Are
we forced to a haphazard system of en-
forcement? And this grading? Has that
something to do with the entire pro-
cessing of the meat? What of sanitation?

There should be, and could be, an
explanation of sorts, it seems to us.

Murder Boom

It's Getting Late, But
The Killers Are Working Hard

It there's man, woman or child in
Charlotte who feels particularly sus-
ceptible to murder, we'd advise fleeing
the corporate limits until the new year
dawns. Now, in September, the local
murder rate has really struck its pace.
We're out to make up for lost time, and
there's nothing. One side, lovers of this
life, the dispatchers are out in full
force. For a time, they found one victim
per day. Die per diem. Not all the
slaughter is on the battlefronts. The
killers do all right at home, once they
wake up to the fact that they're away
behind their quota.

Until August, only seven murders had
been recorded in the City, a dim, dull
year for the erstwhile murder capital
of America. Georgia, Georgia, Georgia,
when 30 or 40 bloody slayings were just
a part of the annual life of Charlotte.
Things had gone to pot, since the hir-
ing of the Negro police, and the
clamping down by Police in general.
Murder had to catch up. It did.

There were three slain in August, and
three more in the first three days of
September. A little more of an outbreak
like that, and we'll be back in the big-
league competition. Brins on the city
city thugs, with their rapid-fire guns,
old match 'em with quick knives, old
revolvers and shotguns. But, however,
it is stated, the problem is simply this:
They're falling behind in our production
of corpses. Too few of them the violent
deaths. Up, murder rate. Let the bloody
and flag fly as it has before. Come on,
Mecklenburg murderers, take your
monthly place in the sun. There are
more than four months to go. In one final
firing of killings, let's set a new record
for slaughter, this year.

Real Planning

Gastonia Shows Us How
To Get Down To Business

There goes Gastonia, past us in a
cloud of municipal smoke. The smaller
city across the Catawba, in the race for
post-war objectives, has taken a later
start than Charlotte, but has already
skipped out front, and seems likely to
hold the lead for some time. In Gastonia,
arrangements for the post-war planners
go down to brass tacks. They didn't
just plan, they planned very definitely.
Now, they are already for the post-
war era. They have made ready.
A lesson for any municipality is in
the deeds of Gastonia. Shortly after dis-
missing the need for some plans, the
most people of that city took the sim-
ple and added logical steps. They hired
an architect and civil engineer to supervise a
number of planned projects. They knew
what they wanted, very quickly, and
they went to getting everything on blue-
prints. They had a good excuse, every-
thing will be prepared, and the tide will

be let. That's the way to plan and make
it pay. Planning alone is not enough.
Put the city's goals down in working
drawings, and have the needs definitely
determined.

Is there a danger that the Charlotte
Planning Committee, having a great
deal of the City's available talent and
experience, is going to plan too long?
Will there soon be definite goals map-
ped out, and put into the engineering
stage? Can we follow the lead of Gas-
tonia?

A New Network

Governor Sees Prospect
For Great New Highway

From the words of Governor Brough-
ton, North Carolina drivers still have a
future. Tomorrow opens up before them
with wide, smooth new highways. The
Governor says we're going to break a
record, spending money for roads. Not
since the original modern highway sys-
tem went down, to the tune of \$50-
000,000, has such a prospect been view-
ed in the State. And, this time, we have
ready cash to start with.

Well, there's \$200 millions on hand in
the vaults of the Highway Commission.
And there's \$15 millions more author-
ized by the last legislature. And there's
\$11 millions more targeted for our use
by the Federal Government. That's \$46
millions, and that's enough. As soon
as restrictions are lifted somewhat, we'll
have new roads. It is to be expected
that they will be the roads of the fu-
ture, and not duplicates of those now
in service.

The expenditures will come at an ex-
tremely opportune time. The employ-
ment of men in such a great program,
in the period just before or just after
peace, will be welcome. And the high-
ways themselves are in great need of
work; not only new roads, but repairs
also, are in demand.

If it is reasonable to expect that the
\$46 millions of today will buy almost
as much as the \$50 millions of yester-
day, then North Carolina may expect,
within a few years, to have a highway
system second to none. For future de-
velopment, we will surely need such a
system. The Governor holds up a pretty
picture.

No Retraction

Mr. Churchill Did Not Give
Up All Hopes of Invasion

No one expects Winston Churchill to
break right out with the plans for an
Allied invasion. Whether we plan to
strike today or tomorrow is the business
of the whole world, to the Allies no
right to prior knowledge. Thus, while
the Prime Minister was speaking very
boldly to his friends, the Russians, and
saying that a second front would not
be opened on the Continent until suc-
cess was guaranteed, he was taking
pleasure in the knowledge that Britons
and Canadians were already on the way
to storm Italy.

It may be, now, that the Allied high
command has already made its deci-
sion to fight a warm-weather war this
winter, to poke around the lower edges
of Europe and pound through the air
in Germany. If that decision has ever
been reached, or even considered, it
might be discarded at any moment. For
instance, now, with Italy rapidly ac-
cumbent to a powerful drive, and sev-
eral other Allied armies poised all
around the Mediterranean and in Brit-
ain, now seems a happy time to touch
off the fireworks.

They may not come, immediately, and
that will be purely a military decision.
But they are certain to come sooner
than was expected in military circles
some six months ago. Every day almost,
new possibilities arise before us. Soon,
there will be the possibility of stabbing
Southern France, already threatened
from the flank; there will be the pos-
sibility of driving into Albania, on the
blind side of the Balkans. There will be
new possibilities unfolding as the full
weight of the bombers hits Southern
Germany.

There are simple facts for all to see:
invasion opportunities await on every
hand. And the mere fact that Winston
Churchill stepped out boldly and said
that the Allies would take their own
time and place does not preclude the
possibility of a full-scale assault in 1943.
Not at all. In his heart to heart chat
with the Russians, the Prime Minister
was only pointing out that British-
dom was continuing to be hit, and was
directed by British-American officers. Just
as Russian armies are and have been
directed by Russian officers. That was
all Mr. Churchill did not veto the
idea of an offensive soon to come.
There is still that looming possibility.

Too Many Guns?

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

CONGRESSIONAL opponents of drafting fathers
plan to point an accusing finger at the manner
in which old-fashioned war chiefs have amassed treas-
tremendous quantities of old-fashioned war weapons—
artillery, shells, and bombs.

If the generals were so extravagant in order-
ing such quantities of this old-fashioned mili-
tary material, Congress' critics say, they
ought to think twice before going through with a
tremendous army of 10,000,000 men. In modern
war it is airplanes, not massed foot soldiers,
which have turned the tables.

At present, a board set up by Jimmy Byrnes to
see why our warehouses are stocked with military
equipment which may never be used, makes this
frank admission: "We have no damn many demoli-
tion bombs that they are running out of our nose,
eyes, and ears!" Early in the war, we began to
manufacture demolition bombs in astronomical quan-
tities, simply because the British had required them.
But now we have turned to incendiary bombs for 60
to 70 per cent of our requirements, and the demoli-
tion bombs are choking the warehouses.

This is only one sample of what is being un-
earthed very quietly by the procurement review
boards of the Army, Navy, War Shipping and Lend-
Lease Administrations. Their reports will be sub-
mitted to Byrnes next week, but will not be published.
When war broke, procurement officers made frantic
estimates of everything, from shoestrings to heavy
tanks. They wanted to be on the safe side. But now
it is discovered that the services have many shoe-
strings and so many tanks—not to mention a thou-
sand other items in between—that they can't find
storage space.

Also, in the field of Lend-Lease, you never
know what your customers may do. It's as bad as
running a department store, where you have to
take back customers' for cost because they changed
their mind. Coats, for instance, were what the
British sent back. They had ordered great quan-
tities of Lend-Lease overcoats, but changed their
plans and asked Uncle Sam to take them back.
The Russians sometimes order masses of goods,
then change the order, as the war changes and
requirements differ.

The boards which are today reviewing this vast
procurement business have found enough surplusage
so that there will be more goods available for civilian
use.

Wages To Prisoners

Officials of farm organizations are staging a
vigorous backstage debate on the question of how
much pay prisoners of war should receive for farm
work. Prisoners are now being paid 60 cents a day,
as provided in the Geneva Convention on treatment
of prisoners. But great numbers of prisoners are
arriving from the collapsed battlefields of North
Africa. Here, the unions are worried that
wholesale employment of these men, at 60 cents a
day, may best down prevailing wages. The Farmers
and their labor union on this point. They will stimu-
late legislation, which Congress convenes, to force

For Services Rendered



A World Recolt?

Not From The South

By Raymond Clapper

SINCE returning from abroad I have been hearing
about how Southern Democrats have been hearing
about how trouble in setting up the peace after the war.
These Southern Democrats were supposed to have
been laying down the law to Roosevelt and Hull.
They were going to stand for none of this global
boogymongering and fanciful superlatives after the war
and they were not afraid of Communism. They were
alarmed that Representative Martin Dixon found him
out of public life on some trick Red scare.

Nobody ever expected a few indifferent
demagogues like Reynolds of North Carolina and
O'Daniel of Texas to try to understand the prob-
lems. But there were disturbing reports that
Senator Pepper was running to cover. One mag-
istrate came out with what looked like a free-
box piece about how Roosevelt wasn't doing
to prepare anything that would frighten the most
nerveless isolationists. Cordell Hull has been sitting
on the id, fearful that the least whisper of
guidance to the American public in these times
might be seized on by the Reactionaries. He and Rosen-
velt have feared a campaign like the Senate
waged successfully against Wilson. The policy of
the Administration has been to keep everything
in a whisper lest some of the Senators overheat
and ruin everything.

I wonder if such nervous caution is justified?
I believe Southern Democrats are not so much
Tommies of Texas. He clings to the black law
which was regulation in the political generation
of Jim Crow. He is a man of the old school, like
a stage Southern politician. What Long Tom thinks,
most of the other Southern Democrats must be
thinking because it is so much easier to follow
only think about him that he is not typically Southern
Democrats. It is that he is chairman of the Senate For-
eign Relations Committee which is no small
vital in what is to be done after the war.

Well, unless Long Tom Connally has had a
brain storm and made a speech that says some-

thing of higher to be prisoners. It's expected that
the other three farm organizations will line up
on the other side.

Greatest Migration

A Hitler's propagandists don't brag about it,
but the greatest migration of peoples in modern times
has taken place around the perimeter of Europe,
causing great confusion. It is the movement of
citizens away from coastal areas, where a landing
might be feasible. This has been done by the Germans
not only in the Channel from England, but
also in Southern France, and somewhat in the
Balkans.

Purposes is to avoid having civilians under
foot—especially civilians, who might be destroyed by
Hitler. Not knowing where the Allies might strike,
the Germans, with typical thoroughness, have
removed peoples from every conceivable invasion
area. Millions of persons have been moved—at a
time when the transportation is already strained,
and when migration of stiff elders has been made
necessary by the bombing of interior cities.

Capital Chaff

GOP's Gov. Warren of California, Western-
boom candidate for the Presidency, is playing it
safe. He has visited both Willie and Dewey, would
settle as a Vice-presidential candidate with either.
... Senator Cotton Ed Smith of South Carolina was
weeks late getting up to Washington at the opening
of Congress, but after Congress adjourned he lingered
on, making statements against the Administration.
... The Interstate Commerce Commission is sup-
posed to be a co-operative agency when it comes to
getting along with other Government departments.
But they have followed a dog-in-the-manger policy
when it came to inviting the SEC to file a brief on
competitive bidding on railroad bonds. They haven't
wanted SEC in the picture. ... Madame Chiang Kai-
shek was very sick on her homeward airplane trip,
by way of Africa and India. The pilot said, "The
weather was rough as the devil and she was in a
pretty bad way. She didn't say a word the entire
trip."

War Department is getting desperate for
messengers to run errands in its giant Pentagon
Building. They have used sixteen-year-old Negroes
all summer, but the boys are now going back to
school. Salary offered is \$12.50 a year.

Latin Notes

It can now be revealed that the Argentine Gov-
ernment, shortly after the recent revolt, assumed
Washington they would break relations with the
Axis. But under pressure from pro-Nazi military
elements in Buenos Aires, President Ramirez backed
down. ... Felipe Aguirre, Argentine Ambassador to
Washington, has submitted his resignation, but it
has not been accepted. ... The Foreign Minister of
Chile will visit Washington this month. ... A
visiting journalist from Colombia was asked in Chi-
cago: Can you get from your country to Argentina
for the week-end?

—By Dorman Smith

Everyday Counselor

Dangerous Age

By Rev. Herbert Spaulgh

WHAT is life's most dangerous age? In the face of rising juvenile
delinquency many think the most dangerous age is that
of youth.

In the September issue of the Christian Herald Dr. Ralph
Stockman expresses the opinion that life's most dangerous
period is middle age. He rightly points out that there many active or-
ganizations devoted to magnifying and training youth but that
this is not true for the middle-aged. Speaking of this incident in
the words of the Psalmist, "The destruction that waiteth at midnight."
The kind of middle age is more commonly those of the mind and
character. It was these men which Christ denominated as vigorously when
He was here on earth—any self-righteousness, a closed mind, a
self-centered spirit. Facing such men of life day, Christ said,
"Should ye be converted and become as little children, ye cannot
enter the kingdom of Heaven." He was speaking of the open-
mindedness and open-heartedness of childhood.

By until the tremendous manpower demand made by the World War,
it was not easy for a man or woman past forty to obtain employment.
The reasons given were a closed mind, fixed habits, lack of enthusiasm,
mental laziness. Many have been fooled by the lying proverb, "You
can't teach an old dog new tricks." But mature minds are teachable, if
they are willing. So low spiritually brought on by a sick conscience can
be revived. The conscience can be sharpened by a vigorous and daily
application of the Word of God. The wise prophet wrote, "They that
wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up
with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary. They shall
walk and not be faint."

The Gestures

By Samuel Grafton

THERE is a certain love of the gesture in Washington these days.
The gesture comes out in full bloom in the Press. Pearson, who
has been, wisely or unwisely, attacked Secretary of State Hull
as being anti-Soviet.

(I don't believe Secretary Hull is anti-Soviet. If he were anti-
Soviet, he would not have allowed Russia to join the United Nations.
The position of becoming the best friend of the new French Com-
mittee at Algiers. He would be working to keep Russia's influence
Europe down. But his policies have allowed Russia to increase
his influence enormously among the democratic agencies in Europe,
notably the French and Czech. We couldn't be doing more for
Russia's prestige if we were following an all-out pro-Soviet policy.
Of course, we haven't been doing that, either. We have not been
firmly of one mind or the other. The very indefiniteness of our
policy is what makes it presumptuous of Mr. Pearson to attempt
to analyze it. You can't put a label on it. That's the trouble.)

Anyway, Mr. Pearson said those bitter words. So the President, at
a press conference, tore Mr. Pearson into small bits, called him a liar,
said he was playing an angry game, almost over-ruled the reporters. Mr.
Clapper came away and wrote a bushy little column, as of a man
who had seen a great wonder. What a curious incident this was! If we
couldn't teach an old dog new tricks, and I do not think we are then the President
had an easy answer, right at hand, for Mr. Pearson. "Bloom! That's the
answer: all that was required, and stronger than the strong one that
was attempted."

But this was more than just an answer to Mr. Pearson. This was
the familiar business of the gesture. The President was backing
up Mr. Hull in public. That was part of it. He was in effect, broad-
casting a message to Russia. That was part of it. But if our policy
is fundamentally right, do we need these games with words? We play
cards too often. The other day Assistant Secretary of State Beria told
he had to issue a statement denying that the State Department has
"engaged in any policy of encouraging conservative and reactionary
persons desirous of retaining the evils of pre-war Europe."

It would have been ever so much stronger if Beria had been
able to say briefly: "Here here, we didn't encourage Beria and
the other enemies of Hitler, and we didn't encourage the right wing
suggestion that both of these men, for the sake of whom an anti-
communist agency, the Office of War Information, was soundly spanked,
persons desirous of retaining the evils of pre-war Europe."

There is a certain vulgar variation here between theory and prac-
tice. Out of this, I venture to suggest, comes the Department's intense
concentration on the question of the gesture. It is being said about it,
and what answers are being made, what agencies and men are
being rebuked and what gestures are being offered on its behalf,
etc., etc.

Platform Of The People

Soldiers' Housing

Editors, The News:

An Army captain in the Corps
of Engineers was recently trans-
ferred to North Carolina in the
line of duty and desired to have
his family live near-by. His de-
sire is perfectly understandable
since anyone in the service is sub-
ject to overseas duty at any time.
The right to live with his family
as long as possible is not only
legitimately human, but simple
logic.

Upon reading the news-
papers of surrounding cities in
the eastern part of the United States,
we many see depicting de-
plorable living spaces, but with
the one restriction which in-
cludes "the children." "A little
better only," or "People with
no children."

With this consideration to house
and children, this is a situation
unfair to patrolling tenants.
The main objections are that chil-
dren are a burden and that they
damage property in the course of
their daily playful lives. The re-
sult is that many people with
children are being sent to the
"unfortunate" housing of chil-

dren cannot find a decent place
to live in the one city where
is the family to do. There is no
solution, logical or otherwise, of-
fered by the military. This situation is
disregard all basic reasoning in
line of business and return on
investment. In a big way, it is a
provincial one, but very com-
mon in most parts of the coun-
try.

Certainly such an attitude
among real estate dealers is
not conducive to the structure
of the American home and
family for which we are now
investing in a big way, and
blatantly. Are there not
children of American homes
giving up their homes for the
maintenance and preservation
of this inalienable right? Are
not these children making a
valuable and necessary con-
tribution to the nation's
defense? Why, then, the ob-
jection to them and harmless
state of mind and their
children here at home?

PVT. R. GORDON, C. E. Head,
Camp Butler, Mo., writes
question of what is being said about it.