# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

*And Evening Chronicle*

Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday By The News Publishing Company, Inc.
W. G. Dowd Jr., President — R. Dowd, Editor
and General Manager — Nurke Davis, Associate Editor
Mrs. Dowd Jones, Secretary

J. W. C. Dowd, 1892-1929

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.

MEMBERS ASSOCIATED PRESS AND AP FEATURES

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Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Charlotte, N. C., under the act of March 3, 1879

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

By carrier: 30 cents a week; one month, $1 cents. By mail: One month, $1c; three months, $2.00; six months $3.70; one year, $10.40.


## Little Stick

### *Our 'Vicious' Statute Can't Stop Strikers*

The suddenly halted telephone strike, a direct blow at the war effort, has outraged public opinion, and seems a new crisis in the constant labor-management conflict. But by and large it is only another incident in the story of war-time industrial strife which cannot be lifted out of the broad and turbulent scene. There were new wrinkles to this one. This time, women were striking on a great scale for the first time.

The strike came because telephone girls from other towns were transferred to big centers, and given an $18.25 cost-of-living supplement. Organized workers were resentful, though the policy is an old one, and is routinely employed by many U. S. companies. The case was one in which telephone girls struck against other telephone girls. And feelings were so bitter that the strikers had refused to heed a WLB order to return for work, so that the case could be arbitrated.

But this strike, serious to our war program, falls generally into a pattern. Like this week's strike of Boston truck drivers which lasted for nine days, the recent strike of Detroit supervisors, and the Mid-West transport strike, it was begun as a protest against the policy of management — but it continued in the face of Government demands that it cease. And that brings the whole case down to the question of the Government's ability to control the powerful factor at work in industrial relations.

The no-strike pledge aside — and the equities of this telephone case aside—the fact remains that labor, in refusing to submit to government orders, is injuring the war effort.

And there is the Smith-Connally Act of June, 1943. It is still assailed by labor as vicious, a violation of sacred rights. And yet it has proven merely ineffective. It cannot halt strikes, that is obvious. There is strike after strike (some even after Government seizure), but where are the penalties? Who is punished? If labor, even in isolated instances, is to follow a stubborn and unreasonable course, refusing arbitration, how can production be maintained?

There is this, as we've said before: Atlanta's regional War Labor Board, handling a strike in violation of labor's pledge, provided practical talk. The Smith-Connally Act needs that kind of bolstering.

## Priority

### *Toilets And Sinks Come Before Bath Tubs*

Verily, mates, the world do move. Here's the mayor of that progressive and cultural city of Charlotte, N. C., proposing that when new houses are built they be required to have "bathing facilities." The term remains to be more clearly defined, but what Mayor Baxter and Council evidently have in mind is a bath tub or shower.

Yes, we know they'll keep coal in the bath tubs and pile wood in the shower stalls. But some few of them may use these facilities for the intended purpose, and it's a foregone certainty that they won't ever start using 'em unless they have 'em.

They now have to have, in houses built subsequent to the passage of the relevant ordinances, toilets and sinks. But there is no requirement that toilets and sinks be installed in houses already built. In a survey made four years ago, it was found that there were 5,044 dwelling units in Charlotte with no indoor toilet, 1,313 bath-type, and 1,317 dwelling units without even running water. That statistic is hard to believe, but it was true four years ago, and nothing much has happened since to make it less true.

Mayor Baxter's suggestion of "bathing facilities" for new houses is a good one, and we are all for it. In time, it will work noticeable wonders. Meantime, however, we suggest that the Council ought to consider the more primitive necessity of toilets and sinks for all families. The work of installing them, what with the lack of plumbing fixtures and the scarcity of plumbers, cannot be undertaken now, but that is no reason why the Council shouldn't fix a certain period of years, commencing with the end of the war, during which all occupied dwelling units had to be equipped with toilet and sink or be declared unfit for human habitation.

## Two Rings

### *Enlightened Industry Opens A New Frontier*

It won't be long now, says a Southern Bell spokesman, until the telephone invades rural America in force. Though we lead the world in the matter of rural telephone service, there is still a great frontier of communications before us. Presently, the sack country will be opened up. And it is not to cost the taxpayers a dime, nor will installation be expensive. Lines may be strung on poles of the Rural Electrification Authority, and service will be rendered at a price the farmer can afford. This is a great forward step. It had been planned before, and was halted only by war.

Here, we believe, the telephone companies have taken note from the experience of the power companies—who greatly extended their service after the coming of REA, and went into hot competition with that Government agency in the sale of power. The private power industry, of course, was stimulated by Federal action, and whatever else may be said for or against REA (or power company policy) this is a direct result of the New Deal program. And a wholesome one, we think.

The telephone companies, marking the trend of the times, and calculating that it might sooner or later occur to the Administration to enter their field, have apparently determined to get there first. So far as we're concerned, this is good business. The rural field needs to be opened up, and it is always preferable, other considerations being equal, to leave such tasks to private industry. When they want to, they can do the job more efficiently, with equal benefit to the public. And they pile no new burden on that taxpayer's back.

## Arbiter

### *Citizen Griffin Offers Facts Behind Our Taxes*

Public interest in the debate over North Carolina's tax policy increases with the approach of the January session of the General Assembly, and at this point it is well to note the real service being done the people of the state by Lloyd C. Griffin of the N. C. Citizens Association.

This man, a tax expert by virtue of years of experience as a legislator and close study of North Carolina's fiscal problems, speaks for a large group of the state's businessmen — or usually does. For the past few months he has not been speaking for them, but working. With his complete set of charts, graphs and figures, he has trekked all over the state, setting forth the facts of our tax structure and its background of political and economic history. And that's all he does.

He believes that his members do not want him to advocate tax reduction, or to oppose it. He simply shows the effect of it in various instances, and ties the whole picture together by showing the amount of money on hand, and the purposes for which it is being spent. Even a glance at his well-worn charts conveys a graphic lesson on the up and downs in the State's income and expenditures. Thousands of North Carolinians have seen and heard Mr. Griffin by now.

He will not be able to convince all of his audiences that their desire to slash taxes—or leave them at present levels—is unsound. But his mission is being accomplished in very satisfactory fashion. North Carolina businessmen are learning the facts of our tax structure, and are coming to their own conclusions from his impartial presentation. That Johnny Appleseed of state taxation is giving an important segment of public opinion the basis for an intelligent decision. Mr. Griffin and his association deserve the acclaim of interested citizens.

# The Merry-Go-Round

*By Drew Pearson*

WASHINGTON

MOST Congressional committee meetings just before Thanksgiving were sparsely attended. With the lame-duck Congress about to bow out, the Senate has been meeting haphazardly. Many seats have been vacant, many Senators have been resting from the recent campaign.

But when the Senate Commerce Committee met this week, an unusually large number of Senators showed up. Those on the inside knew the reason. Those not on the inside soon discovered the reason.

North Carolina's ponderous Senator Josiah Bailey began talking. Long supported by the Duke power and tobacco interests, Bailey with no apologies brazenly plunged into a eulogy of the Duke Power Company and talked of the danger of power competition from the Government.

**Then he introduced an amendment to the flood-control bill, up for final approval by his committee—an amendment which would prevent the Government from building transmission power lines and distributing electric power from the big flood-control projects authorized in the bill.**

This is the big battle long fought in the West over the Government has built Grand Coulee Dam, Bonneville Dam, plus other power projects; sometimes has also built transmission lines and distributed the power in competition with private companies, as does the Tennessee Valley Authority.

### *Vote On Amendment*

The flood-control bill before Bailey's Commerce Committee called for a continuation of this practice. But Bailey's amendment would put a complete stop to it. When the amendment came to a vote, only three Senators opposed:—Bilbo of Mississippi, where cheap TVA power has been a boon to the State; Pepper of Florida, a strong advocate of public power; and one Republican, Robertson of Wyoming.

**Voting for the amendment and the private power industry were three Republicans and a longer list of Democrats:—Burton of Ohio, Wiley of Wisconsin, Brewster of Maine, all Republicans; and Bennett Clark of Missouri, Bailey of North Carolina, Radcliffe of Maryland (who usually supports FDR), Mrs. Caraway of Arkansas (also usually behind the President), Arthur Walsh of New Jersey, Maloney of Connecticut, all Democrats.**

Three of them, Caraway, Clark and Walsh, are lame ducks who will leave Congress in a few weeks. But they were careful to be on deck for this vote. Meanwhile, White House advisers have indicated that the President would veto the entire flood-control bill if it passes with the Bailey amendment.

### *Now The Fight*

FOR at least three months, during the campaign, all Roosevelt factions — liberals, conservatives, New Dealers—stuck together. None criticized another publicly. Hatchets were buried to promote the common cause.

**But last week, sparks flew again when liberal Attorney General Francis Biddle called in even more liberal Assistant Attorney General Norman Littell and asked for his resignation.**

**The session culminated a bitter long-smouldering personal feud between them.**

**"You realize," said Biddle, "that you and I cannot part as friends."**

**"We certainly can never part as friends," snapped back Littell.**

Real fact is that Littell has been the Justice Department's most hard-hitting crusader for New Deal policies, has crusaded so hard that he was frequently far ahead of his more cautious Cabinet chief. It was Littell who threw an unceremonious monkey-wrench into the Navy's plan to lease its precious Elk Hills oil reserve to Standard Oil of California. He stopped the deal.

It was Littell who tangled with the Army over its plan to turn Palm Beach's swank Breakers Hotel back to the Florida East Coast Railway at great cost to the taxpayers after spending millions converting it to a hospital.

It was Littell who fought the title companies in order to get the titles to Government-purchased land cleared more quickly, thus speed up payments to thousands of farmers forced to give up their land to Army camps.

Littell was in the thick of almost every Justice Department fight involving liberal causes, and each fight got him more in the Attorney General's thinning hair. What especially nettled Biddle was the way in which some Senators and Congressmen got hold of Littell's interdepartmental reports, used them to fire back at Biddle. This week Littell's Senatorial friends plan to light more bonfires under Biddle regarding the resignation of his tempestuous, hard-hitting, liberal assistant.

## Our Courteous Receptionist

*—By Dorman Smith*

# Detroit Can't Go Back

*By Samuel Grafton*

DETROIT

THE city of Detroit is planning four dream palaces as welfare buildings, and four dream swimming pools, a dream public library, several dream police stations, and a dream private planning plant. Most of the plans call for buildings in the standard modern style of architecture, with great concrete pedestrian overhanging blank glass faces.

Postwar planning here is as necessary as water. There are 270,000 employed in heavy war industry now in the Detroit area. It has been figured that, even at the 1940 level of civilian production, 300,000 would lose their jobs. At the best Detroit can do is get back to the 1940 level, the 300,000 would lose their new jobs just as the soldiers come home for their old jobs.

The problem is too big for the City Government to swing, and it knows it. The city has plans for $270,000,000 worth of projects, all told, but it has only $22,000,000 in cash to pay the bill. That's about equal to one week's payroll in this territory. The city is turning, twisting, looking for money. It thought it was going to get $11,000,000 by putting an excise tax on the excess profits of local utilities, but rate reductions were put into effect, instead, which makes sense, too, and this source was cut to $2,500,000. You probably don't have a postwar future on utility overcharges in any case. But this gives some idea of the desperate intentness with which city officials are scraping every resource, fearful of the day ahead.

Nobody knows what the current population total in Detroit is. But the street cars and bus lines, which used to take in about $19,000,000 a year before the war, will collect more than $36,000,000 this year, at the same fares. The question is whether the new passengers are riding a bubble. The question is in the air. Almost every want ad for labor promises a stable postwar job. The advertisers know that is what working people want to hear. Money doesn't impress them, but security impresses them.

**When you look at Mayor Jeffries' local Government, writhing, striving, straining to meet the problem, you realize how impotent local Government really is in our day, and what an empty tootle on a tin horn is the cry for a "return to local self-rule." One corporation here alone, General Motors, has a $500,000,000 reconversion and expansion plan, and that represents almost 50 times the cash resources which the whole city of Detroit is able to bring to bear on the problem. But reconversion and expansion depend on high national economic policy, and not on town meetings.**

In Detroit you realize that we can't go back. Going back to 1939 means a reduction of $30,000,000,000 in national income. It's not reconversion we need, but a second conversion, to a permanently higher level of output.

We need to pour some reinforced concrete around the bubble, while the bubble's still there to give shape and form to the future.

# Grinding Our Seed Corn

*By Marquis Childs*

WASHINGTON

AT one of the critical moment in this war, General Marshall had to make an extremely difficult decision. He had to abolish the Army Specialized Training Program and sweep into the ranks about 100,000 young men of superior qualifications. They all had high intelligence quotients, as measured by Army tests. If they had not been routed into the ASTP, most of them would have been sent to Officer Candidate School.

**The reason for this abrupt decision was the discovery that the average age of the men in infantry divisions being trained for combat duty had begun to creep up. That decision caused General Marshall no little anguish. It disheartened thousands of parents, to say nothing of the young men themselves. But under the cruel necessity of war, there was no other choice.**

From many sources, complaints are coming that we are endangering our national future by arbitrary policy which ignores the necessity for training at least a minimum number of engineers, doctors and scientists. Medical authorities say the Army is pushing men through medicine with scant training. No more pre-medical students are being admitted. This suggests a serious health problem after the war.

It is dangerously shortsighted, it overlooks the fact that one of the reasons we are winning this war is the wealth of technological skill we have been able to draw upon.

Wars to one side, competition in peacetime is going to call for all the brains America can summon. We're going to need intelligence plus technical skill to work our way out of the aftermath of this great conflict. It was one of Britain's tragedies in the Twenties that a whole generation of superior individuals had been killed off.

**Jefferson Davis was once being pressed to take boys of 15 and 16 into the Army. It was in the darkest days of the Confederacy and the South had been bled white. But the leader of the South said:**

**"I shall not grind the seed corn of the Confederacy."**

That, it seems to me, is profound wisdom. We should now apply this moment in the great conflict to our survey our own resources of youth to be sure that we are not grinding the seed corn of America.

Of course, a great deal of responsibility rests on local communities. As manpower becomes scarce, young people rushed out of the high schools to get jobs at the pay. It looked so easy. You could get $20 or $25 a week for jerking sodas.

**The Office of Education reported a sharp decline in high school enrollment for 1943-44 as compared to 1942-43. A national go-to-school drive was started to stop this trend. Reports in September indicated that the decline had been checked. Many communities report a gain in high school enrollment.**

The real power to stop this exodus rests, in the last analysis, with the parents. Help can come from teachers and from the public generally. That $25 a week in the corner drugstore may look awfully big now. But the youngster who yields to the temptation is likely to regret it when the rush for jobs begins at the end of the war. Then training and skill will count.

## SIDE GLANCES

*By Galbraith*

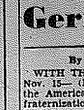
"So you want to invest your nickel in something conservative like lollipops, and she's for shooting the works on a chocolate bar! Well, older and wiser men than you have failed to solve similar problems!"

## Lighter Side Of War In Germany

By HAL BOYLE

WITH THE AEF IN GERMANY, Nov. 15— (Delayed) —(AP)— Under the American Army's strict nonfraternization rule, the soldiers are forbidden even to speak to German civilians under penalty of fines ranging up to $40 and $65.

That is something of a hardship when an occasional civilian, dropping the mask of dignity assumed by most Germans, makes a wisecrack at the expense of the troops.



BOYLE

But Pvt. Chris Kacoyanis of Somerville, Mass., was equal to the situation. During the long, weeklong stalemate in which the Germans held one end of a town and the Americans the other, a young German girl, who spoke English stepped up to him, pointed at his head and said, jeeringly:

"You don't know the German people regard the Americans as gang criminals rather than as an Army."

She said that because of my short haircut," Kacoyanis said later. "Hitler had circulated a lot of pictures showing American convicts and because most of the soldiers had our hair cut short, she was trying to imply we all were from the infamous Sing Sing."

Kacoyanis didn't answer her taunt directly. He just looked the other way and said in a very loud and dignified voice:

"I keeps my head cool—and I don't have to see the barber very much."

Then he marched on past her.

If the German Army intelligence hasn't been up to snuff recently, Hitler can blame the rookies of the First Infantry Division headquarters.

Capt. Max Zera, who used to teach physical education in New York City high school was passing through the division kitchen when he saw the cook baking a number of brown birds.

"What are those?" asked Zera, his mouth watering, "Spring chickens?"

"Spring chickens hell," retorted the cook with pride. "These are German messenger pigeons."

### SURGEON'S HUMOR

Major Edward M. Libert, combat surgeon of Council Bluffs, Iowa, was sitting in his tent one night when a strange officer, mistaking the tent for an engineer unit's headquarters, stuck his head in and said:

"Please come down the road and pull out a couple of bridges for us."

"We've pulled out everything else for soldiers," replied the surgeon, "but we can't pull out bridges."

Annoyed at the German machinegunner who shrayed a village street there were cleaning up the doughboys got permission to employ an old Indian warfare trick.

As soon as it was dark, T-Sgt. Walter G. Dunn of Canastota, N. Y., and S-Sgt. William Widener of Logansport, Ind., hung several kettles and tin pans on a wire and strung it across the street.

They tied a cord to the wire and passed it down into their shelter half of a basement of a German home. When comfortably settled for the night, they jerked the cord, causing the kettles and tin pans to jangle. The Jerries opened up immediately, firing hundreds of machinegun bullets at the sound.

After the firing died down, the two lauching doughboys waited awhile, then jerked the string again. Again a nervous German began firing.

Taking turns sleeping, the two soldiers alternated at pulling the cord. So this time the enemy responded with fierce firing. In the morning, all concerned were tired and sleepy—but the Germans had spent all night firing down an empty street.

# Everyday Counselor

*By Herbert Spaugh, D. D.*

IT is amazing what a man can do when he sets his mind to it with determination. It is a sign of weakness to say, "I can't". The history of this war is bringing to light many interesting stories of brave and fine soldiers whose peace-time pursuits were far removed from war.

**One such is related by the Associated Press from Aachen, Germany: "In 1932, Derrit M. Daniel was cleaning up the last details on his doctor of philosophy thesis—a little work entitled, 'Macrocentrus Ancylivorous, A Polyembryonic Braconid Parasite of the Oriental Fruit Moth.'**

"It is a native of New Jersey," drily observed Lt. Col. Daniel, who now is cleaning up Aachen, first large German City to come under a land attack.

"The 30-year-old entomologist, turned soldier, has done a lot of fighting since he left his research post at the New York State Experiment Station, Geneva, N. Y., in 1940.

"He is a four-time hero. He won the Silver Star and Cluster in Tunisia and has added other Clusters to his medal for gallantry in action at Troina, Italy and near Caumont, France.

**Here is one of the heroes of this war who was trained in the quietness of an experimental laboratory on a university campus. With his ming training, he was able to adopt himself to new circumstances and conditions with outstanding success.**

What he has done, hundreds of others have accomplished. Faith, determination and application work marvels.

"I Can't", closes the door in the face of opportunity. Thousands of frustrated and unhappy people trudge along the highway of life, mumbling, "I can't".

I dare you to say, "I can't", when you haven't really tried! Hear the words of one of the most famous world citizen, St. Paul, as he cries out, "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me."

## Platform Of The People

# Unconstitutional?

Editors, The News

"What about the closed shop?" you ask. While I am not qualified, either by experience or education, to express an authoritative opinion concerning the relative value of the closed and open shops, I do wish to express a positive opinion about the recent laws passed by Florida and Arkansas banning the open shop. And that is that these laws are ill-advised.

**When a case is presented to the U. S. Supreme Court, as most likely it will be, I think these laws will be found to be unconstitutional. As the News points out "... states have attempted themselves to ban practices which are recognized by the Federal Government." For a state to have the right to pass laws not consonant with the Federal law would soon mean the dissolution of the Union. The Civil War settled this question; or, is presumed to have done so.**

These laws, as quoted by the News, recognize the right of employees to bargain collectively while abridging their bargaining power. If employees through their union cannot bargain for the exclusive right to do any work, then there is nothing to prevent the states passing laws which will deny any other one or all, of a Union's bargaining powers. Hence, these laws are, in effect, a nullification of the law found constitutional by the U. S. Supreme Court which recognizes the right of employees to bargain collectively.

**Moreover, these Florida and Arkansas laws not only abridge the rights of employees, they also abridge the right of employers to bargain. Under these laws an employer cannot legally bind any group of employees, as a unit, to do a given piece of work. With industry as highly specialized and organized as it is today, these laws make a continuity in operation much more difficult.**

Even were all the labor organizations to simultaneously disintegrate as a result of the action taken by Florida and Arkansas, the task of manning industry on the basis of contracting each individual worker would cause a disruption in production which we cannot now afford. However, as there is no likelihood that the unions will disband, Florida and Arkansas have only succeeded in creating a condition which will breed more strikes and dissension. Incidentally, with virtually all skilled labor now unionized, where are the open shops to recruit labor—if it comes to a show-down fight?

**With respect to the "rights" involved, I have never belonged to a labor union, but I assume that most unions follow a fairly democratic procedure in the selection of their officers and bargaining agents. To the individual worker it's simply a question of whether he shall have as his employer the owner, or the management, of an enterprise, or have as his employer the union head, or management. In the latter case his boss is, at least theoretically also his servant.**

I assume that it is still permissible to conduct a business employing only unorganized labor so long as the workers prefer not to join a union. However the disorganization of a labor union in order to employ unorganized workers is not one of the employer's "rights."

To me the solution seems to lie in the fostering of a closer relationship between business and labor with management and labor in a futile attempt to reverse a trend, and the fighting over again of a battle which labor has already won.

LEWIS AYER SMITH,
Charlotte.

# Plan To Keep Nat. Guard

WASHINGTON —(AP)— The War Department believes the National Guard should be continued in the post-war period as a component of the reserve army of the United States ready to serve anywhere.

Secretary of War Stimson said he had approved a report from the National Guard Committee of the General Staff recommending that "we maintain as part of our peace time military establishment a National Guard capable of immediate expansion to war strength."

The Secretary said:

"It would be the mission of this reserve component, in the event of a national emergency, to furnish units fit for service anywhere in the world."

Normally, the training would be pointed toward defense of critical areas in the United States against land, seaborne or airborne invasion with assistance in covering the mobilization and concentration of the reserve forces. But the units, Stimson said, also would be capable of integration into larger organizations or task forces.

He asserted that this conception of the importance of the National Guard "would interfere in no way with the traditional mission of the National Guard of the States and territories." In time of invasion in the protection of life and property and the preservation of order under state authorities.

The importance of the National Guard in the peacetime army would not be lessened by enactment of any system of universal military training, Stimson said.

# Alphabet Deflation

FROM WE THE PEOPLE

ALREADY the purely depression bureaus, boards and departments have been closed or are in the process of liquidation.

The NRA, the WPA, the NYA, the CMA and the CCC have already been liquidated.

The Disaster Loan Corporation (DLC), the Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC), the Food Distribution Administration (FDA), the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), the Federal Security Agency (FSA), and the Federal Works Agency (FWA) are now in process of liquidation.

The following war boards and bureaus will be closed just as soon as the war is over: The Combined Food Board (CFB), the Defense Plant Corporation (DPC), the Metals Reserve Company (MRC), the Office of Civilian Defense (OCD), the Office of Defense Transportation (ODT), the Office of Price Administration (OPA), the Office of Rubber Director (ORD), the Office of War Information (OWI), the Petroleum Administration for War (PAW), the Smaller War Plants Corporation (SWPC), the War Food Administration (WFA), the War Labor Board (WLB), the War Manpower Commission (WMC), the War Production Board (WPB), and the War Shipping Administration (WSA).

While Congress authorized, as war measures, the creation of these boards and bureaus, you all know that because of their complexity the Congress could not either personally or directly administer such departments.

## *Quote, Unquote*

ONE of the last acts of the German armies before they left here on Tuesday was to execute five Dutch patriots. We hope you are here to stay—Meijel, Holland, resident to British soldiers.

When you are standing up in a crowded railway train, I hope you will remember that the tonnages carried by British railways in preparation for the invasion were, on paper, impossible.—British Production Minister Oliver Lyttleton.