THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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Guess Who?

Finally, That's About What The Polls Said

At the end of one of the fiercest campaigns in American political history, and on the day of one of our most decisive elections, the nation has no idea whether Mr. Roosevelt or Mr. Dewey will be our next President. Officially, that is. In conversation, most North Carolinians seem to accept the Fourth Term as a certainty. But from a look at the polls of public opinion, they can determine nothing. According to almost every political soothsayer in the business, the great American electorate is an inscrutable mystery.

There has never been such hedging, hesitancy and deliberate confusion since the first "straw votes"—away back in the nineties. The pollsters have been learning, painfully, by experience. In 1940, as we've mentioned, all of them failed completely to forecast Mr. Roosevelt's landslide victory in the Electoral College. So this year they've left that door open. All of them predict that the outcome will be remarkably close—providing.

They provide that, if the soldier vote is thus and so, Mr. Roosevelt will stretch his slim lead. They provide that, if five key states swing one way or another, the whole applecart may be upset. And they provide, further, that though the race should be neck-and-neck, there is an excellent chance that Mr. Roosevelt will again storm to an overwhelming electoral victory.

All this would seem to be enough to undermine public confidence in polls—but likely won't. They have said nothing right up to this moment that you can put your finger on. They go so far as to say the thing is so close that no one can call the winner—but go to great pains to show just how Mr. Roosevelt could pull through with another landslide.

The fact is that, having been caught so far in error in the past, they attempt to hedge their figures in every direction. To the end, of course, that they will be able to point out their words of wisdom in post-election surveys. This is the way they stack up:

GALLUP: In 1940 he gave Willkie 163 electoral votes which he did not win. Now he gives Dewey 10 states and 85 electoral votes, Roosevelt 18 states and 165 electoral votes. He says twenty states are too close to record.

FORTUNE: In 1940 estimated popular vote almost exactly, but said final trend was to Willkie—and that the alternatives were a Roosevelt victory by a fair margin, or a tight squeeze for Willkie. It said no landslide was indicated. This year it gives Roosevelt 53.5 per cent of the popular vote.

CROSSLEY: Predicted a photo-finish in 1940. Now it gives Roosevelt 52 per cent, but adds that pivotal states are so close that a Dewey victory is easily possible.

EMIL HURJA: The GOP pollster predicted a Willkie victory in 1940, with a total of 353 electoral votes and a popular majority of four million. He counts Dewey in by a score of 354 electoral votes to 167. Hurja's is the only poll mentioned which is not conducted on a scientific basis of sampling the electorate.

There it is. It's worth nothing to the anxious public, of course. But it guarantees that, whatever happens, most of the crystal-gazers will be right. Dead right. Wait and see.

Minister

His The Smallest Church And Widest Congregation

The celebration which took place Sunday, of the 24th anniversary of the founding of the Little Church on the Lane was, of course, a denominational affair, yet we find ourselves wanting to say something about it.

For it was likewise the 20th anniversary of the pastorate over that Moravian band of the Rev. Herbert Spaugh. Mr. Spaugh (we have heard him addressed as doctor, but plain mister becomes him) presides over what is certainly the smallest ecclesiastical edifice in Charlotte—and has, as will appear, the largest congregation. He is a devoted shepherd to his flock, as they are responsive to his benign care, and his Little Church is a model of Christian fellowship and dignity and devotion.

But it is as a minister at large that Mr. Spaugh has made himself extraordinarily useful to this community. Through his "Everyday Counselor" in The News he has extended his influence for good into thousands of lives, with scant attention to denominationalism. As perennial chaplain of the American Legion, this soldier-veteran of the last war occupies a special place in the regard of his contemporaries. And beyond that, his study sees him only after he has completed his wide ministrations. Many who were weary and heavily-laden have known this man and responded to his comforting kindliness.

Beside all that, he's a good fellow, with so complete an absence of pomp and stuff that this praise we take pleasure in bestowing upon him will go to his heart and not his head.

Exclusive

Only Fighting Nations At Our Peace Table

In London, they've hung out signs for the peace conference, and they're plain enough. Admittance to bona fide fighters only. No neutrals allowed. And no standing room. Lord Robert Vansittart, who proposes to preserve peace by running Germany through a grinder, is largely responsible for the quarantine. It's a closed shop, he says. No neutral of whatever status is to be allowed within hearing distance.

Here, idealism goes by the boards, and dreams of the equality of all nations under peace go glimmering. For this once, at least, the business of making peace is going to be strictly realistic. It matters not whether the neutral who seeks admission be red-handed, like Spain, or pure in heart, like Switzerland. If they haven't bled, they have no place at the peace table. There is a justice in this attitude of Britain's Parliament—though we don't know how it may presume to speak for all other United Nations unless there has been some behind-the-scenes agreement.

Neutrals, standing on the outside and fearfully watching great powers at war, may be blessed with a more objective view—and thus qualified to sit in judgment on the Axis. But what Lord Vansittart and Parliament want is a good deal less objective view. Their minds are less on justice and equality than on the permanent quelling of aggression. In this respect, they are right. All but the dreamers must agree. A world of law and order is what we want most, but this world has proved often enough that it can't operate on anything approaching that basis. We must start with force. And the nations to apply it in this instance are the United Nations.

Good Job

2,500 Chest Workers Deserve Applause

In view of the overwhelming success of the War Chest campaign the people of Charlotte and Mecklenburg are due a rousing salute. The community, as usual, did more than its part. But even though the campaign was waged and its goal overreached in a time of prosperity, the corps of 2,500 volunteer workers who directed and carried it out faced new obstacles.

They deserve the gratitude of the community as well as that of the men and women who will benefit here and over most of the earth. We have become accustomed to well-organized Chest campaigns, and to our subscription of quotas. But success this year was not wholly due to flush times, nor to Mecklenburg's big-heartedness. These Chest workers, most of them busy people, had a big job to do, and they did it well despite unusual handicaps.

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON

DURING the campaign, Ann Sheridan, having returned from touring the war camps in India and Burma, wired Warner Bros. in Hollywood, with whom she is a long-term contract, asking if she could suspend her contract for about six weeks in order to do some campaigning for Governor Dewey. She added that she knew Warner Bros. were for Roosevelt, but she wanted to do some work on the other side.

To this Harry Warner wired back, telling her to take the time off she wanted and adding: "Isn't this a wonderful country where you can be for Dewey, I can be for Roosevelt and we can all be good friends after the election."

To which words, this columnist would like to say Amen and add that it's an even more wonderful country than most of us realize, because probably no other major nation in the world could weather a wartime election of such importance.

Great Britain has not had a national election for nine years. Brazil has not had one in over a dozen years. Canada and various other British dominions, where according to political scientists, democracy flourishes even more luxuriantly than here, have had no national wartime elections.

On the other hand, Cuba, though a belligerent, has held a Presidential election. Perhaps the U. S. A. can take a little second-hand pride in the Cuban election, because the Cubans were going along with our example.

Anyway, it takes a strong democracy, a tolerant democracy, to withstand the brickbats, the name-calling, the savagery of what has been the most difficult campaign since the 1864 campaign between Lincoln and McClellan. And now that it's over and we have demonstrated that we can do it, let's all get on with the war.

Petticoat Politics

Women sometimes have a lot to do with backstage politics. Witness Mrs. Will Clayton, wife of the suave, handsome Surplus War Property Administrator who, because of his anti-Roosevelt business associates in Texas, has been accused of being against FDR.

The other day, however, Will Clayton made a speech before the Women's Democratic Club on the subject, "Why I Am for the Re-election of Franklin Roosevelt." Behind that speech was a lot of feminine wire-pulling — chiefly by gracious Mrs. Clayton.

Mrs. Clayton is a lady of both force and charm. Frequently she differs with her husband. When he contributed $7,000 to the Liberty League against Roosevelt in 1936, she contributed $7,000 to help Roosevelt.

In this campaign, Mrs. Clayton wanted it definitely understood that her husband was FOR Roosevelt. She went, therefore to Mrs. Will H. Davis, wife of the chairman of the War Labor Board and herself chairman of the program committee of the Women's Democratic Club, suggesting that Clayton speak before the club.

Mrs. Davis gladly agreed. Then Mrs. Clayton, to make doubly sure that her husband's position was understood, arranged personally that for a radio hook-up. Will Clayton was against the President in 1936, but there is no question about where he has stood in 1944.

End Of PAC?

Sidney Hillman didn't advertise it, but during the last days of the campaign, he took steps to disband his controversial Political Action Committee. The final decision will not be up to him alone, for the whole thing will be threshed out at the CIO national convention in Chicago, Nov. 20. But not waiting for the convention, Hillman already has sent notice to most of the 200 members of the PAC staff that they go off the payroll Nov. 15.

Originally PAC was set up as a permanent organization, and there are several schools of thought inside the CIO regarding its continuation. One group, including auto workers president R. J. Thomas, wants to keep PAC alive. Hillman, on the other hand, wants to shut up shop, concentrate on New York politics, and also get his health back.

NOTE—What most people don't realize is that Sidney Hillman was kicked out of the Roosevelt Administration without so much as a thank-you note during the embryo days of the War Production Board shortly after Pearl Harbor. Hillman was then co-administrator of the Office of Production Management with General Motors chief William Knudsen, and was flat on his back with a serious illness when Roosevelt reorganized the entire set-up out from under Hillman. Hillman didn't know about it until he read it in the papers.

Suffocating, Isn't It?

—By Dorman Smith

It Takes All Kinds

By Marquis Childs

NEW YORK

GOVERNOR DEWEY'S campaign in the closing phase has been based on the technique of divide and rule. He has appealed to fears and hatreds in an attempt to split the unwieldy elements that make up the Democratic Party.

What he conveniently ignores, of course, is that the Republican Party is also made up of dissimilar groups with widely divergent views. It includes John L. Lewis, the labor leader, and Winthrop Aldrich, the banker. It includes Col. McCormick, high priest of head-in-the-sand isolationism, and Ogden Reid, publisher of the internationalist Herald-Tribune.

It includes progressive Congressman Charles LaFollette of Indiana and reactionary Congressman Clare Hoffman of Michigan. It includes New York's able Robert Moses, an exponent of public works planning, and anarchists of the Stamp of William Randolph Hearst, who apparently believe in no government at all.

Dewey has gone a long way in his effort to set bloc against bloc; to frighten the Catholics and alarm the Poles; to cry Communism and special privilege in the same breath. It is a dangerous course in that it goes contrary to basic American tradition.

It is hard to believe that such a campaign will succeed. While most of the polls of public opinion display unprecedented caution, the indications are that the President will be re-elected by a narrow margin.

Compounded of fears and threats on the one hand, on the other hand the Dewey campaign has gone down the primrose path of promise. Lower taxes, higher wages, more profits, jobs for all, more social security, a secure world order—these are a few of the promises the Republican candidate has held out in the face of the grave uncertainties of the coming four years.

I remember well a prominent Republican in the West who spoke with misgiving of these promises. He said he believed the American people were tired of promises and of politicians who offered the world with a ring around it on a silver platter. The American people, said this sturdy individualist, are ready for frank talk about the difficulties we're almost sure to face in the years to come. They may even prefer a little Churchillian blood, sweat and tears in place of the bland diet of promises.

As for the Democratic candidate, his campaign has not differed essentially from 1936 and 1940. It leans heavily on the personality of Franklin Roosevelt. He presents himself to the public as the wise, kindly father who assumes the loyalty of his family and friends.

A New Kind Of Politics

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK

THE political campaign just ended gave further evidence of the rise of independent political interest in the United States. The Political Action Committee was an outstanding instance, and it captured most of the headlines because of its usefulness as a campaign issue. But PAC is not an isolated piece of business; PAC is only one item in a general trend among American toward self-organization for political purposes, outside the purview and beyond the authority of the old-line party organizations.

The campaign for Wendell Willkie in 1940 was independently organized. It was thrust upon the Republican Party, in a fashion not too unlike that which the PAC has followed. The Willkie Clubs of the previous campaign were another example. In the recent contest, independent Republicans continued to behave independently, in a number of instances, by refusing to endorse the Republican candidate, and by moving their support to Mr. Roosevelt. The formal Republican organization showed itself to be somehow too narrow to be able to keep many of the Republicans and independents "in line." Senator Ball and Russell Davenport and Bartley C. Crum and others acted according to their hearts' desire, quite regardless of the suffering thus occasioned in the breast of Mr. Werner Schroeder.

On the Democratic side, independent activity first dwarfed, then almost swallowed the formal Democratic organization.

I do not know how much money was raised for Mr. Roosevelt's radio speeches by independent workers in New York, California and Chicago, but $200,000 would be a modest estimate. I saw something like 800,000 rabid at two dinner meetings alone, one at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, and one at the Hotel Astor in New York, and in none of this work did the Democratic national organization as such, have even a finger. If it had not been for independent committees, such as the Independent Committee of the Arts and Sciences for Roosevelt, and for some spontaneous newspaper solicitation of funds, Mr. Roosevelt's representation on the radio networks would have been cut by at least one-half.

The Wall Street Journal commented wonderingly during the campaign, on the odd fact that the chief radio orators for the President were not senators, not governors, not party chairmen, but two independents, political amateurs both, Mr. Quentin Reynolds and Mr. Orson Welles. Both worked themselves into visibly haggard conditions. Neither was running for office.

The two party organizations, as a matter of fact, began to look more and more like antiques during this campaign; there is something quite definitely desiccated and vestigial about them; they are both beginning to have a Gay Nineties air. Something is cooking. The rise of independent political activity is too marked not to constitute a major trend. The self-organization of labor, of the theater and literary worlds, of the Republican internationalists, for independent political activity, is a movement that is gaining in strength and becoming increasingly conscious of itself. It was sporadic in previous campaigns, but in this one it was aware of itself, in a new and different way.

Scratch One Fat-Top

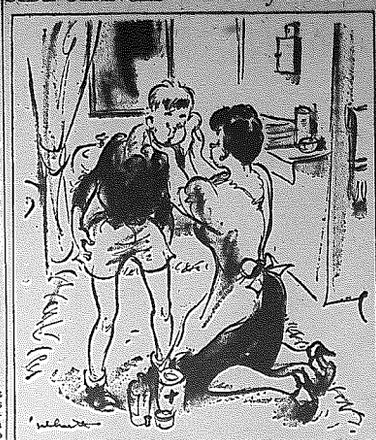
A POMPOUS gentleman approaching a party and remarked, "I'm Theodicus-P. Smith, Esquire." Smith, Esquire."

The other man retorted, "Glad to know you. I'm John Jones, Woman's Home Companion."

—Uncle Mat's Newsletter.

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



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"I don't know who was to blame. Mom—the argument broke out all of a sudden while we were discussing how to preserve peace!"

Everyday Counselor

By Herbert Spaugh, D. D.

THERE is fussing at home all the time. Nothing anyone does seems to suit the other. I'm getting so I hate to come home from work. We are making more money and have a better income than we have in years, but I'm wondering if it is worth all the wrangling we have. How I would love to have peace at home." So writes a distracted correspondent.

Home squabbling seems to be as old as the family itself. The Good Book says, "Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than a house full of sacrifices with strife."

This age-old problem has become more acute in the strenuous times of our day. The demands of the war effort are laying heavy toll upon the manpower of the nation. As more men and women go into the armed service heavier requirements are laid upon those at home. In many cases both father and mother are leaving the home to enter war work. The hours are long and often inconvenient, duties multiply, tension increases. Taut nerves provoke irritability.

We are beginning to find, if we have discovered it before, that money alone does not bring happiness.

Man by his sinfulness and selfishness has brought the world into an uproar. Yet quietly and smoothly the hand of God moves and works in all of those realms not invaded by man. We have abused that privilege unknown to other objects of God's creation.

FREEDOM OF CHOICE. We are paying the penalty.

We need to raise our eyes to the starry heavens on a quiet night, and see the perfect peace and harmony there.

That peace can be ours as we are reminded in the Bible, "Thou will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee because he trusted in Thee."

In nothing be anxious, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God, and the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

Anything Can Happen In Battle

By HAL BOYLE

WITH U. S. TROOPS IN GERMANY (AP) — It was dark and the two soldiers were sleepy.

Pfc. Otto Kaiser of Brooklyn, N. Y., and Pvt. Thomas A. Gill of Turtle Creek, Pa., dug a deep foxhole and covered the floor with straw. They fell asleep.

They awoke a few hours later in four inches of water. Drowsily they bailed it out and lay down again. They awoke once more to find water again in their foxhole, but they were too tired to get up. By dawn they were practically floating around. They found they had dug their foxhole on the site of a spring.

Instead of abandoning it, these resourceful troopers dug a channel to let the water escape, hollowed out a basin in which to wash themselves, built themselves a stove, and advertised throughout the division: "The only foxhole with hot and cold running water."

German machinegun bullets whistling past his bulldozer did not bother T/5 Francis Goetz of Green Bay, Wis.

"They won't hit you unless they've got your name on 'em," he called lightly to another soldier.

Whang! A Nazi bullet spanked against the steel crossbar, three inches above his head. Goetz dived into a foxhole a second later, abandoning his battle philosophy.

"No name — just initials," he muttered.

When they get around to picking "the coolest man in the Army," an infantry division will have a good nominee in Pfc. William Murphy of Greensboro, N. C. His outfit was subjected to a terrific artillery battering during a fight with three elite Nazi regiments. His buddies looked out of their foxholes, and there was Murphy, sitting calmly by a tree—reading a comics book.

If only S Sgt. Oliver Garner could have stopped laughing he would have had two more Nazis.

His armored division tank, "I Don't Wanna," engaged a German 20-mm. ack-ack gun dug in along the roadside, and destroyed it with a direct hit.

Two Jerry survivors sprinted for the tall timber. Garner drew a bead on them with his rifle, and then began laughing so hard he couldn't aim.

"No wonder they were running so fast," he said. "The seats of their pants were on fire."

People's Platform

Both Ends Against The Middle

Editors, The News:

It may be well worth calling your attention to some of the more violent inconsistencies of this President campaign in our own state.

The "Constitutional Democrats" urge North Carolinians to "search your hearts, before voting for Roosevelt" — they make this plea on the ground that Mr. Roosevelt and the Democratic Party are "selling out" to "foreigners," "pressure groups" and other sources and "classes."

And this is the violent inconsistency. While they say one thing in one area which may suit them, the Republican National Committee uses the very arguments presented by the "Constitutional Democrats" in the exact opposite sense in another part of the country. This week in the "Afro-American," and the "Defender," the two large Negro papers of the North, Negroes are urged NOT to vote for Mr. Roosevelt because they say, "the Southern Democrats still rule the Democratic Party" and Senator Truman "was once a member of the Klan." "The Constitutional Democrats" in North Carolina say the Southern Democrats have been "betrayed."

The Republicans in the North appeal to class votes on the ground that "the Southern Democrats are in the saddle." In the border states, Mr. Dewey spoke of "Communists and fellow travelers" in the ranks of the Roosevelt voters, but on the radio "beamed" directly to the large Italian-American voting districts in New York does he repeat that? No, he does not. That district sent a member of the Communist Party to the New York Council, so all day long for five minute intervals, the Republicans in foreign language repeat that "Roosevelt fell down on relief for Italians," which of course may be construed that Mr. Roosevelt is responsible for the plight of the Italian people and that Mussolini and Hitler had nothing to do with it.

In Boston, with its preponderant Irish Catholic population, Mr. Dewey spoke against "Godless Communism." In Buffalo, with its huge Polish population, he spoke with feeling against Russia's designs on Poland and that part of the Negro press which has gone over to Dewey blasts forth the line that "the Southern Democrats have the Roosevelt Administration in their grip."

More than anyone else in this campaign, the Republicans have tried hard to create a class consciousness among American citizens, playing one against the other, carefully using the right arguments in the right places. Let us hope lies" do not get away with it.

H. E. BRADERMAN.

Charlotte.

Thanks From The Army

Editors, The News:

The United States Army Recruiting Service wishes to thank you for your part, in the form of an excellent and timely editorial which appeared in the Charlotte News on Oct. 19, 1944, in furtherance of recruitment of women for the Women's Army Corps.

The fact that representative newspapers like yours are solidly behind the war effort should do much to bring the great struggle to a speedy and successful conclusion, and to insure the wounded men of adequate care and attention by competent, trained technicians.

MARION J. BRODNAX,
Captain, A. U. S.

Charlotte.

Has FDR Met His Match?

Editors, The News:

I have listened to all of President Roosevelt's speeches and all of those delivered by Governor Thomas E. Dewey, and it looks to me as though Roosevelt has met his equal, if not his master, in Thomas E. Dewey.

Dewey is knocking the Champ from pillar to post, and has him on the defensive and against the ropes on his domestic record. The thought occurred to me that if Dewey can lick Roosevelt on his domestic policies, may we not find out in four or five years that Churchill and Stalin have made a sucker out of us and licked Roosevelt and the American people on his foreign policy?

How can we expect these men to respect Roosevelt and the American people when Dewey is giving him such a licking on his domestic record?

My husband has been overseas two years. I have lost all confidence in Roosevelt and his abilities to shorten the war and handle the peace, as he is making such a mess of things.

—MRS. CHARLES FLAIZ

St. Louis, Mo.

Truman's Home Record Blasted

Editors, The News:

Truman says we shouldn't discuss the health of President Roosevelt. To me it has become very obvious why he brings this up. I listened to Roosevelt's speech Saturday night on foreign affairs and in view of his slow delivery and the way he fumbled and repeated his words, I think his health is very much an issue. If he doesn't serve out his term Truman would become President. Could there be a more incompetent man than Truman to handle foreign affairs? He is not a big man; very obscure until Boss Tom Pendergast made him Presiding Judge of Jackson County.

Truman wants everyone repudiated. Did he ever repudiate ex-convict Boss Tom Pendergast, ex-convict Earl Browder or Sidney Hillman? No! He wants to focus out attention on foreign affairs so we will forget his long association with the most corrupt vice ridden machine in the country.

The question is, "do we want to glorify this man with his background to our children?" Teen age children are hard to handle without the parents being confronted with the fact that Truman even with his background got to be Vice-President. Houses of prostitution, gambling, gang murders such as the one at the La Salle Hotel, and the Union Station massacre happened when Truman was presiding judge of Jackson County or in the Senate.

Ex-convicts were put on the Kansas City police force. High school girls and boys were found mixed up in some of the most sordid things. Kansas City parents will long remember the opium dens and prostitution among high school girls and boys that was uncovered by the Federal narcotic agents. Did Truman ever condemn this? He fought the confirmation of Milligan as Federal District Attorney in the Senate because he thought more of ex-convict Pendergast than he did in cleaning up Kansas City.

Truman showed his contempt for law and law enforcement. He ought to talk about the corruption that took place in Kansas City, something he ought to know a lot about, rather than foreign affairs.

Sincerely yours,
GORDON R. COATES

St. Louis, Mo.

Quote Unquote

WE feel good. It is not a case of unrestrained rejoicing, but I certainly feel the opposite of pessimism.—Senator Claude Pepper, on political outlook for the Democrats.

I couldn't see a building standing untouched. Everywhere it was rubble. After we had passed through it, Hodges and Schweinfurt we couldn't understand how Germany has held up so long.—S/Sgt. James Wakefield, prisoner released by the Germans.

If you wait for the settlement to join a world security organization we'll never join. If we insisted on a perfect set of laws before we established municipal or State Government, we'd never have had it.—Sen. Joseph H. Ball (R) of Minnesota.

My theory was that if the old-time gangsters never give a sucker a chance. If the Jap was sucker enough to try to come through the Surigao Straits I wasn't going to give him a chance.

—Rear Admi. Jesse Barret Oldendorf.

It is obvious that the Reich has lost the war.—Admi. Nicholas Horthy, regent of Hungary.