EVENING NEWS—March 22, 1944

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And Evening Chronicle

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Our Ideals

They're Often Hooked Up With Patronage

Americans, we are moved by high purpose. We sing of democracy, of the golden legend of our inheritance. We fight savagely for the rights of all men. We take our stand for States' rights, determined that, even within our own borders we shall defend individual freedom. And this is not idle chatter; the signs are everywhere. For instance, there is a sign in Louisiana, today.

There, Representative McKenzie, a frenzied Democrat, has written the President a wrathful note, complaining of the removing of branch offices of the Government from his state to Texas. He protests that a Treasury Department branch, employing 23 persons, is being taken away from his Louisiana, and given to Texas. He scoffs at Treasury statements that this move is being made in the interest of efficiency, and hints darkly that it is only a step toward further "centralization of power."

The Congressman threatens the President. Take these agencies away from Louisiana, he says, and the people, already becoming alienated from the party because of the "occurrences and happenings of recent years", will break away. He cries that Louisiana's states' Rights are basic. He asks a blunt question: "What recognition, if any, will you accord to Louisiana and its people?"

Yes, Americans. There is states' Rights. There is the cream of freedom. Louisiana wants her share of the scattered Government agencies. She wants them forever. When they are moved, she screams of discrimination, and at their loss she begins to talk of bureaucracy, and whisper darkly of the New Deal. How often is this cream of democracy only a nightmare, over the pork-barrel?

A mysterious object found in a ship's cargo and suspected of being a bomb is identified as corned hash and continues to be mysterious.

New Course

Mr. Willkie Now Steps Closer To Old Guard

Wendell Willkie, may his days be long, has given the nation the kind of dissenting opinion it has needed in trying times. Most of the way, he has shouted his challenge to the leadership of Franklin Roosevelt, though courageously backing many of his policies, foreign and domestic. But of late, perhaps feeling the need of closer kinship with the political vehicle that is the Republican Party, he has turned to sharper criticism. In all fairness to the Republican dissenters, they have just complaints—though they have often contented themselves with petty criticism.

Mr. Willkie, snuggling up to the general Republican position, delivered a Wisconsin speech last week that was not in tune with the rest of his utterances. He charged Democrats with power-grabbing, which is legitimate enough, and pictured an inner group with playing power politics, both ends against the middle. That is permissible. And then he turned to a historical resume of the Republican Party, picturing it in these words:

"The Republican Party has maintained its vitality through more than 80 years because it was a flexible vehicle, capable of generating within itself new ideas and principles. There have always been men within the party who insisted, sometimes at great political cost to themselves, on fighting within the party for the things they believed right and in the true tradition of Abraham Lincoln."

As against this paragon, he solemnly accuses the Democratic Party of "standing still", of applying old formulas because those formulas worked in the past.

Somehow, we're lost here. Unless Mr. Willkie has confused his parties, he's talking pure political blarney — or else we've been blind to the virtues of the Republicans these many years. Has the GOP maintained its vitality? Has it constantly offered new ideas and principles? And has the Roosevelt Administration stood still, working old formulas? We believe not.

Bill Parker

His Record of Service Is A Remarkable One

Bill Parker, the retiring president of the Charlotte Junior Chamber of Commerce, will soon enter the service. He will be sorely missed in the community. Bill is a young man who gets things done; recently his organization named him as the outstanding young civic leader of the City, a deserved tribute. His successor, with an opportunity to lead in another difficult year, is the able James Glenn, who has been an active Parker lieutenant. *The News* takes some pride in the elevation of Mr. Glenn, for he is one of our own young men.

Bill's record as head of the Junior Chamber, we suspect, has not been equalled. He took over at a time when the group was sadly depleted, when its membership was at a new low because of the war. Financial condition was not the best, and more than one undertaking met with something less than brilliant success. Under his leadership, the group was revitalized. Its activities became unanimously successful, and a smaller membership turned to greater accomplishment.

There was, for, example, the salvage drive directed by the Junior Chamber which resulted in a real accomplishment, through the Junior Commandos. Scrap paper collections for war were large in Charlotte, and the Chamber did more than its share. The Junior Chamber's funds grew, following successful promotions, and its service reached a climax with the decision to promote the rich Charlotte Open golf tournament, a major undertaking. That event was a stirring success, financially and otherwise. It gave Charlotte a new asset, and achieved a goal heretofore beyond its reach.

Bill Parker, a personable, energetic and tireless young leader, saw it through. His members gave him loyal support, to the end that the services of the Junior Chamber, under difficult conditions, were more valuable to the community than ever before. We think this young man deserving of recognition for his contributions, and wish for him the best in the days ahead.

Irish Ire

Let It Flare, But Safeguard Our Troops

There is news that Eire's Minister Eamon de Valera was quite angry at the American request that Axis diplomats be barred from his country. That's all right. The State Department expected no smiles, and if the Irish prefer to look upon the request as an ultimatum, there should be no American protest. Our Minister is reported to have pointed out that there were no demands in the paper, and that we were only attempting to guarantee the safety of thousands of American soldiers endangered by Axis espionage.

The Irish take the view that they have more at stake in this war than Americans. They will preserve their neutrality in the face of danger from both sides. Though thousands of their young men fight with the Allies, they prefer to permit free access to Jap and German diplomats, and they scoff at suggestions that these men are working as spies.

It is to be hoped that the defiant attitude of Ireland does not deter British and American authorities from taking every possible step to isolate Eire, and that, if it becomes necessary, they will not hesitate to deliver an ultimatum. It is the decision of our military, not the Irish, as to whether our plans for invasion are endangered by Irish neutrality. If Mr. de Valera prefers to remain angry for the duration, he is perfectly welcome to do so. Let us lock him up in his own borders and be about our business.

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON

THE President has had what Louis Howe used to describe as "the old Dutch up" against General de Gaulle and the Army's plan for using him in the liberation of France. For two months the plan lay on the President's desk while he delayed acting on it.

In January, this column reported that Gen. Eisenhower had completely revamped any earlier ideas about de Gaulle, had found that he was overwhelmingly popular inside France and that, when the second front invasion came, the Allied Armies would get more support inside France if it was known in advance that they were co-operating 100 per cent with Gen. de Gaulle. Accordingly, a plan was worked out whereby immediate French elections and other political matters would be under de Gaulle's Committee of National Liberation when and if France was invaded.

This political set-up was especially pushed by the Army, which didn't want Gen. Eisenhower to have to worry about political problems as he did in North Africa. The British also agreed, and even the State Department, never enthusiastic about de Gaulle, concurred—thanks largely to the go-getting salesmanship of Undersecretary Ed Stettinius. Furthermore, Admiral Leahy, former Ambassador to Vichy, who has always been unenthusiastic about de Gaulle, said that he would interpose no objection.

But when the plan got to the White House, it stuck. The President kept it for two months.

Casablanca Grudge

The President has given no very clear explanation, but those who were at Casablanca think they know one of the answers. Ever since de Gaulle stubbornly refused to get together there with Gen. Giraud, the President has had personal thumbs down on the Free French leader. Roosevelt had proposed to Churchill that de Gaulle be brought to Casablanca, figuring that, in the end, his persuasive charm could bring the two Frenchmen together.

But de Gaulle remained obdurate. Roosevelt even had a hard time getting him to pose for a photo with Giraud. It was one of the few times that the President has not been able to melt a visitor. In addition to which, de Gaulle, despite his high principles, is one of the most difficult Frenchmen anyone ever had to deal with. None of this has been forgotten at the White House.

So when the Army plan to cooperate with de Gaulle got stymied on the President's desk, Secretary of War Stimson and Acting Secretary of State Stettinius came up to the White House. Entering the Executive office, Stettinius said:

"Mr. President, the Secretary of War is tremendously interested in this."

"What's the matter with the State Department?" chirped up Stimson. "Isn't the State Department interested in it, too?"

Stettinius agreed, but aroused no enthusiasm from the President, who suggested that the plan be redrafted.

"What you mean," surmised Secretary of War Stimson, "is to put in a whereas and a whereof clause saying, 'Notwithstanding the above, Gen. de Gaulle is a so-and-so.'"

Rickenbacker

Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker did some bare-knuckled sermonizing about the attitude of the average American toward Russia during a confidential talk on Capitol Hill the other night. Addressing a closed-door meeting of the 78th Congress (third-term Republican Congressmen), the World War I ace declared that the minds of most Americans were cluttered up with "too much propaganda and too little real information" about our Soviet allies.

Rickenbacker, who recently returned from a War Department sponsored tour of the battle fronts, also got in a few political licks against the New Deal, plus some kudos for his friend, Lt. Gen. Patton.

"The trouble with our thinking about Russia is that we are twenty years behind the times," Rickenbacker asserted. "Russia is entirely different now from the country we knew after the revolution. I had an excellent chance to study conditions there as a civilian observer for the War Department, and I was greatly impressed by the country and the people. In fact, the Russians could teach Americans a lot of things.

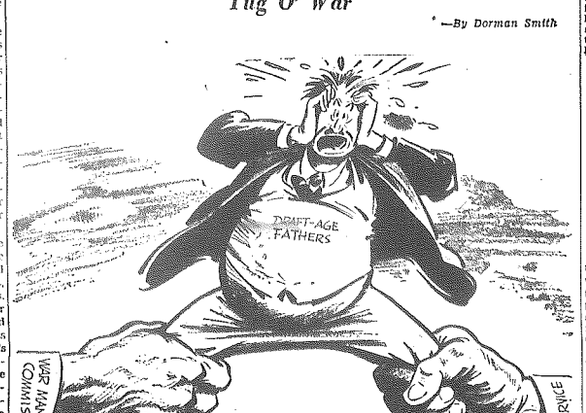
"Frequent accusation that the Soviet Government is undermining family life is without foundation and obviously designed to create prejudice in the United States," Rickenbacker said.

Actually, the Soviet Government is encouraging greater respect for family life, he said, and the employment of women in war factories is only a temporary expedient that has not interfered with their duties in the home.

"And everywhere I went, I noticed a growing tolerance of religion," he emphasized. "A few churches were closed, but a great many more were open. Anyone in Russia is free to attend religious services if he wants to. Also, the Russian people are working just as hard to establish free enterprise as we in America."

Tug O' War

—By Dorman Smith



The Long American Nose

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK

MR. Sumner Welles is upset because he thinks that, by opposing Farrell, we are interfering with the freedom of Argentina to manager her internal affairs as she pleases. But President Farrell of Argentina is a fascist, and he has usurped power, as fascists do, for the express purpose of interfering with the freedom of Argentina to manage her internal affairs as she pleases.

(The last thing in the world that Fuehrer Farrell wants is to let Argentina manage her internal affairs as she pleases. That is why he heads a movement which suppresses newspapers, dismisses pro-democratic college professors, jails liberals, and manufactures "presidents" without the formality of elections.) So now we get into the wonderful metaphysical question of whether, in interfering with a man who is obviously interfering with the freedom of Argentina, we are interfering with the freedom of Argentina.

I don't know how long Mr. Welles sat and brooded on his legalistic egg before hatching it, but in objecting to our opposition to Fuehrer Farrell, he has got himself into the most desperate philosophical trouble.

He says the Argentinian people alone have the right to decide by whom they shall be governed. But the whole point, and purpose of the Farrell movement is to take that right away from them. Mr. Welles's position, therefore, is that in order to protect the right of the Argentinian people to decide by whom they shall be governed, we must recognize a government which refuses to let them decide by whom they shall be governed.

By this time Mr. Welles is indeed in the clouds, for he is arguing, with every appearance of sober thoughtfulness, that the Argentinian people have a sacred right to a government not of their choice.

Or, to put it another way, he proclaims that we must respect the right of the Argentinians to have a government they don't want, if they want it. But they don't want it. Well, if they want it. But they don't want it. Whereee!

But this is only one corner of the wonderland into which Mr. Welles has wandered. He says also that Latin Americans will resent our opposition to Fuehrer Farrell, and will begin to distrust us, and that Pan-American harmony will break down into "blocs." In other words, we must cheerfully accept the emergence of a fascist bloc in Latin America, as the clever way to prevent the emergence of blocs in Latin America. Neat, hey?

Picayune Mr. Woodring

By Marquis Childs

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT tossed into one of his press conferences the word picayune which, as I recall it, had a tendency to bounce back. But as Webster defines it: "something of very small or of the least value." It fits perfectly certain of his opposition that has now come out of the old familiar woodwork.

I refer specifically to Harry Woodring of Topeka, Kan., who has formed one of those committees to oppose the fourth term. There are plenty of valid reasons for opposing the fourth term but I feel confident that Woodring will embrace none of them. He is a disgruntled ex-officeholder and there is no more unhappy breed of politician. Most of the members of his committee who have come to light so far are of the same stripe.

They include former Congressman John J. O'Connor, the only victim of the backfiring purge campaign of 1938. And, most wonderful of all, old Jim Reed of Missouri is lined up in this great crusade. Jim Reed has been in a temper for so long now that even he can't remember why.

With so many forces out to destroy not only Roosevelt but his record, it is worthwhile looking into Woodring's background and the reason for his abrupt exit from the Washington scene. He happens to be sole and unique for one reason only. Of all the odd and incongruous people assembled at one time or another within the present administration, Woodring is the only major officeholder whose resignation Roosevelt forced squarely on a question of policy.

Woodring was made Assistant Secretary of War in 1933. He became Acting Secretary when George Dern died suddenly. Then through Presidential inertia he was named Secretary. That was in 1936.

As Secretary, Woodring became involved in one of those disgraceful feuds that have too often shattered any possible harmony. His adversary was Louis Johnson, then Undersecretary of War. Partly policy, partly personality, the fight between the two was the talk of Washington. Johnson was an interventionist. Woodring was an isolationist. And he kept right on being an isolationist down to that fateful month of June, 1940.

Then, with Britain almost completely defenseless — our Atlantic security about to crumble to nothingness—President Roosevelt wanted to give England some of the outmoded arms long stored in our arsenals. But his Secretary of War was opposed. The approval of the Secretary of War was necessary. Woodring finally resigned. His letter of resignation has never been made public. It would reveal the real cause of the break and it would show Woodring's opposition for what it is worth.

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"We'll give Dad some dye and a bunch of eggs—he has so much fun coloring them he won't even think to ask the price of our new Easter hats!"

Everyday Counselor

By Rev. Herbert Spaugh

LT. E. F. EDWARDS of Reigate, Surry, is a fast man when it comes to thinking about food. With the Fifth Army Beachhead forces in Italy before dawn one morning he crawled to the crest of a hill, dragging a telephone with him, and when daylight came he relayed information back to his artillery unit that resulted in seven direct hits on a big house which the Germans held, and which was causing serious trouble to the forces on the beachhead.

After the house was demolished, Edwards tried to get back to his original position, but was pinned down by a German sniper, and forced to lie there until noon with no chance of getting back in time for lunch. He solved the difficulty by picking up the telephone and ordering lunch. His order was filled, and the lunch, with an additional 50 feet of wire was attached to the telephone line, and he hauled it in hand over hand, maintaining communication with his unit at the same time.

Later in the afternoon it commenced to rain, and when Edwards saw the sniper remove the telescopic sights from his rifle and begin to wipe them off, he made a break for it and won. That night he enjoyed his dinner in the comparative security of his dugout. Lt. Edwards exercised considerable ingenuity in preventing the enemy from interfering with his meal hours. We can't help but admire him. Most of us are reasonably regular with our food habits. Yet it is amazing how we will tolerate all kinds of interference when it comes to feeding the soul.

We have a persistent enemy, the Evil One, who exercises great ingenuity to see that these habits are broken up. For instance, it is amazing how many things can happen in a Christian home on Sunday when the family is trying to get to divine services. There is usually one member of the family who insists on sleeping late, delaying the others, and getting father and mother in a dither. Of course, they get up regularly during the week, and could do it on Sunday.

Then there are Sunday visitors who come in about church time. Of course if it were on a week day, and we had to be at the shop or office by a certain time, we wouldn't hesitate to explain. But on Sunday it is different. And of course we mustn't forget the Sunday dinner which must be cooked and prepared, as if feeding the stomach were more important than feeding the soul. Then, if we try to have family prayers, the telephone will ring or someone will be late and come down in a bad humor, etc.

Would that we might show the persistence and ingenuity of Lt. Edwards when it comes to feeding the soul destined for immortality?

People's Platform

What Of Willkie?

Editors, The News:

Two remarks in a recent edition of The News appear to contradict each other and, as one interested in the political scene, I would appreciate a clarification of the point which is raised.

The editorial entitled "Tom Dewey" makes the following assertion:

". . . There is also resentment of Willkie's bold statement that he would support no other Republican nominee now in sight . . ."

In "Washington Roundup" by the Associated Press appears the following remarks:

"Supporters of Wendell Willkie say he will not run independently if he fails to receive the Republican nomination and point to Willkie's recent assertion that he will support any party nominee."

Now, which is which? Just exactly what has Mr. Willkie said with reference to his support of a Republican nominee other than himself?

The News editorial suggests that "the sum total of opinion, among North Carolina Republicans at any rate, is that Willkie is no Republican at all, but a Roosevelt Democrat who was once a GOP candidate."

If, however, the Associated Press story is erroneous or The News editorial discredits Mr. Willkie unfairly.

S/Sgt. Robert A. Spencer.
Army Air Field
Florence, S. C.

Mr. Willkie may have recalled his famed remark, but we assume he meant what he said the first time—Editors, The News.

The Lost Is Found

Editors, The News:

To the "28 Clergymen" of American Fellowship of Reconciliation: The proper Fellowship now is education. As you know, Russia is indispensable to winning this war. And winning with Russia means competition with Russia. So, let's "get ready" for that competition. Such a program is the proper fellowship. And this is done in the hope of speeding-up some who seem too slow. Maybe it's November?

What seems to be the quickest way to "get ready" for competition with Russia, is to "find" what has been "lost" for centuries, to find the "lost realization" of a great fact. That is done simply by realizing what is a fact, this fact: the fact that the earth is natural resources; the fact that everything produced, is produced from what was created.

With that realization, everything soon becomes clear. Clear that the natural resources of the earth, cannot rightfully be "owned" to a degree that deprives others of their right; that mass poverty means that those in poverty are deprived of their natural inheritance; that because a man is a "mental giant," gives him no "right" to a hogish share of what is produced from what was created.

B. H. EIDSON

Charlotte

WE are fighting for liberty, the most expensive luxury known to man . . . for town meetings, for the soapbox, for the high privilege of throwing pop bottles at the umpire.—Army Service Forces Lt.-Gen. Brehon B. Somervell.

If our Allies are to do their best for us as well as for themselves, they must have confidence that the pipeline of lend-lease supplies will be kept full. —Navy Secretary Frank Knox.

Willkie Not Like F. R.

MANITOWOC, Wis.—(AP)—Wendell L. Willkie says he never has had a political talk with President Roosevelt "in my life," and contends there is no man in public life in America who has so frequently disagreed with the President as he has.

Campaigning in Wisconsin for the Republican Presidential nomination, Willkie in a speech in Green Bay last night asserted that "I am in complete disagreement with the President's Vichy policy, his Darlan policy and his dealings with the Fascist forces of Italy."

He gave the lie to what he described as "stories spread around that I am in league with President Roosevelt and agree with his foreign policy."

"As a matter of fact," Willkie declared, "I don't know what his foreign policy is."

Willkie, in speeches during his Wisconsin campaign for a delegate slate pledged to him, has stressed the importance of the Badger State ballot to the Republican Party.

He has described the Wisconsin primary April 4 as "the most important primary in the nation" and one that will determine in what direction the Republican Party will turn and whether the party will prevail in the 1944 election."

Since his thirteen-day tour began last Saturday, the importance of the primary to the GOP has increased with the number and vigor of Willkie's speeches.

In Green Bay he said it would be "the most important" primary and added "by either party." Earlier yesterday in Appleton he had said that in his judgment "there is no question that Mr. Roosevelt will be the candidate again of the Democratic Party."

Gen. Eisenhower Says Size 40 Is His Sweater Fit

PHILADELPHIA —(AP)— Enlisted men have sweaters knitted for them, reasoned Mrs. Samuel Hepburn, so why not generals?

She broached the question, on behalf of the Salvation Army Women's War Service Bureau here, to Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower, and the answer came in a letter from the General himself:

"I would, indeed, be honored to have one of your sweaters and would in addition find it a most convenient thing to have. I think size 40 would be about right."

Mrs. Florence C. Appel, assigned to knit the sweater, says she hopes to finish it in time to keep the General warm when he crosses the English Channel.

GI's In Pacific Get Own Weekly

SOMEWHERE IN AUSTRALIA —(AP)—"The New York Times Overseas Weekly," the first American newspaper printed in Australia for American troops in the Southwest Pacific war theater, appeared on news stands today.

The eight-page edition was printed by the Brisbane "Courier Mail" from plates flown from the United States. It contained numerous cartoons and maps, a review of world events, columns devoted to "news at home," reviews of sports, radio and movie news and dispatches from the New York Times foreign correspondents.

The newspaper will be distributed to American units throughout the command of Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

Soldier-Pianist Dies Of Italy Accident Injuries

CHICAGO—(AP)—Sgt. Richard M. Cram, 27, soldier who played the piano for President Roosevelt, Gen. Eisenhower and other high officials at the Cairo and Teheran conferences, died in Italy March 3 from injuries suffered in a motor vehicle accident, his parents said the War Department has notified them.

Sgt. Cram, an Army Air Force flight engineer, accompanied Col. Elliott Roosevelt to the conferences as a member of the photo squadron the President's son commanded.

In a letter which the President carried to Washington for mailing to the young man's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Cram, the sergeant said both Mr. Roosevelt and Gen. Eisenhower requested the tune "Roll Out the Barrel" and praised his playing.

"Have new order from Hon. Imperial Staff—multiply our gains by 10 and divide losses by 20—also shout much louder into Hon. microphone!"