THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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o W. C. Dowd, 1926-1937 o

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MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS AND AP FEATURES

Sic Semper

A Free-Willed People Don't Relish Control

By now, it may be assumed the Salisbury rationing board controversy is quite well on its way to settlement and dispositions returning to an amicable normal. No other result, though at the price of severely, and perhaps permanently, hurt feelings, was to be expected. If the Salisburians desire to, they are entitled to claim victory, or so it seems from this distance.

Boiled down, the whole fuss was a clash between community sentiment and the formalized regulations of the Federal bureaus. The community had a view as to how affairs in the rationing office should be handled and the Charlotte District OPA office had a conflicting review. When these views clashed—this being America and North Carolina—the result was inevitable. For which let us all, including the people who for the time being are bureaucrats, be thankful.

Aimee

Always One For Dramatic Exits And Entrances

On the same note of sensationalism that she first rode into the public ken, Aimee Semple McPherson, high priestess of showmanship, seems to have been bound to ride out. The lass who disappeared from the beach at Venice, California, back there in 1926, setting a nation to searching for her while it half wondered if she weren't shacked up somewhere, who turned up a month later in Mexico with a fanciful tale of having been kidnapped and tortured, now at 53 has been found dead in her hotel room.

But the first diagnosis of "heart attack" has been suspended while an autopsy is made to determine if she died unconventionally from an overdose of sleeping tablets from a bottle which sat on the table.

In any case, Aimee throughout her preposterous career was, for a saint, even a self-anointed saint, always a good deal of a bother to the cops and the law. When she did not have the criminal courts handling her traffic, the civil courts were litigating marital and financial issues of her making. And now at the last she has the benediction postponed while the coroner examines all that remains of the priestess.

How's That?

German Defeat, Says OWI, Will Only Help Japan

The Office of War Information, having collected its data from the war agencies at large, has made the startling announcement that the defeat of Japan may be delayed as long as two years after the fall of Germany. Americans must have felt the shock of that, but relaxed somewhat as they dug down into the story and fished out some of the OWI reasoning. That done, they likely dismissed the whole affair as an example of conditioning propaganda.

For the OWI's analysts based their unwelcome forecast upon a parallel study in mass psychology, and not, apparently, upon reports from the Pacific theater themselves. By some devious means it is calculated that the people of the United States will suffer a let-down after the demise of Germany, and a lowered morale will prevent our keeping up the 40-per-cent production pace adjudged necessary to conquer Japan.

And on OWI's other hand, the very fall of Germany will immeasurably increase the fighting spirit of the Japanese, and spur them on to greater efforts. The bloody end of their very last ally, and realization that they will soon feel the full might of United Nations (perhaps excepting Russia, perhaps not) is supposed to provide a stimulant to Japan. That's a singular piece of reasoning, we think, which is not borne out at all by actual events in the battle areas.

Fighting commanders and their men who have returned from the Pacific have warned repeatedly of the tough fighting ahead, and it is foolish to assume that it's all over but the shouting. But there's no realism in the view that our victory in Europe will prolong the Pacific war, ruin our morale, and boost that of the enemy.

The Grab-Off

After All, The Army And Navy Are Allies

Two headlines in the paper this week, when read one after the other, offered a striking commentary on draft policies; to wit:

OLDER MEN MAY FACE DRAFT SOON

NAVY RECRUITS 17-YEAR-OLDS

The hope of the draft authorities has been that with the successful prosecution of the war against Germany and the building up of forces in the Pacific to as great an extent as the supply services could sustain, manpower needs would be taken care of by the induction of boys reaching 18 plus an increment in the 19-26-year-old group still undrafted.

Obviously, if the Navy grabs off the kids just before they attain draftable status, the Army and other services are going to have to look elsewhere for replenishments. Their glance goes, as the first headline above indicates, straight to the older men in the 26-30 group, settled family men, mostly, by their domestication unsuited to the type of warfare that some of them may see in the Pacific.

The Navy's predatory tactics in getting its manpower first affords some standing to its boast that in personnel it is the superior branch. But it certainly throws the hooks into the orderly, efficient apportionment of that manpower as between the branches, and is another potent argument for a single, overall Department of National Defense instead of competing services.

Fie, Fie!

Dewey Promises Dixie More Of The Same

We hear a yelp or two from Southern editors that Tom Dewey has omitted the South in his plans, for a new and greater United States. His proclamation that "in a new administration the East, West and Middle West will receive equal treatment in post-war reconversion" brought on protests that the one-fourth of the nation's population living in the South would be ignored in the event of a GOP victory.

It was recalled that Woodrow Wilson had branded selfish appeals to sectionalism as the lowest depth of patriotic feeling; it was remembered that Mr. Dewey, in the traditional New York State manner, had opposed freight rate reform by which the South would benefit; it was shouted that, under Tom Dewey, the South would become a red-headed step-child.

Perhaps sudden anger, welling up in the red moment of beholding a Republican in the same old act, brought forgetfulness. But we cannot forget, must not forget, we're stepchildren in any event, under the rule of either party. Southern influence in national politics, as in the anguished cries of Josiah Bailey and even Governor Melville Broughton, is pretty light.

Hadn't we best pass a decent period of mourning, following the tragic rebuff of the Chicago convention, before flailing at the rascally Republicans? And are we remembering that the Solid South, refusing to break away from its allegiance, remains a willing pawn—and that it is in such an unhappy state that it can't throw its weight around with either party? Shall we rip and snort, now that Tom Dewey promises to preserve us just as we are? Or shall we show the rugged independence for which the Southern character is adjudged and resolve to do for ourselves what no national government can be it Democratic or Republican, can do for us anyhow?

Fears are expressed that Donald Nelson, like Henry Wallace and others, will return from China with political amnesia—a strange condition of not knowing who you are, or where you stand.

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

(EDITOR'S NOTE—This is the third of Mr. Pearson's columns on Mr. Dulles.)

WASHINGTON

WHEN you study the official investigations of Wall Street firms, which caused public outrage, demanding the establishment of the Securities and Exchange Commission, you find that some of the most top-heavy investment sky-scrapers were built up with the legal advice of the firm of Sullivan and Cromwell, of which John Foster Dulles is the most prominent partner.

However, it also happens that one of President Roosevelt's own Cabinet members, James V. Forrestal, Secretary of the Navy, is linked up with at least one of the investment giants which deflated with such loss to the average American investor.

Reluctant Witness

In fact, even today Dulles is being hounded by disagreeable lawyers who demand his deposition in one of the most suspicious-looking cases in the history of American utility companies, where $500,000 was contributed to the campaigns of Bruce Campbell, Democratic candidate for Governor of Illinois, Mayor Bernard Francis Dickmann of St. Louis, Senator Roscoe Patterson of Missouri, Ed Winter of Missouri, former acting governor of Puerto Rico, and a score of judges, aldermen and state legislators all over the Midwest for the alleged purpose of influencing utility legislation.

For months Dulles dodged the process-server in this case. Finally a marshal waited all night in front of Dulles' house. Just before he was about to drive to Washington to confer with Secretary Stimson, as he stepped into the car, the process-server jumped out, served Dulles with the subpoena. Several photographers were present, caught the dramatic picture. But for some reason the photograph was never published.

First chapter in this case occurred when Harrison Williams, husband of America's best-dressed woman, organized the North American Holding Co., controlling a score of Midwest utilities, with securities valued at $1,526,000,000 in 1929. John Dulles was not only counsel but, in the peak year of 1929, became a director and a member of the executive committee.

Frantic Resignation

He remained there for nine years, until suddenly, on Nov. 4, 1938, he resigned. His resignation followed a phone call from the Securities & Exchange Commission that it intended to investigate the operations of North American's most important subsidiary, Union Electric of Missouri.

The Federal Government brought criminal charges against various Union Electric officials, asserting that campaign contributions were used to influence politicians in Missouri and Illinois, so that North American might sell highly profitable but unnecessary utility bond issues to a gullible public. Secretary of the Navy Forrestal's investment firm, Dillon, Read & Co., handled these bond issues.

Government prosecutors put John Dulles on the witness stand and grilled him at great length, but did not indict him. They did indict and convict Frank J. Boehm, executive vice-president of Union Electric.

Boehm has now turned around and sued John Dulles, Harrison Williams, Clarence Dillon and their companies, contending that he could not have spent the huge total of $5,000,000 as a slush fund for political purposes without the knowledge of these officials and that he was made the scapegoat to protect them. This is the suit in which Mr. Dulles is now such a reluctant witness.

Inflated Company

The Dulles firm also was counsel for another of Harrison Williams' top-heavy investment trusts, Central States. According to an official report by the Securities and Exchange Commission, Williams invested only $72,000 in Central States in 1912, and by clever manipulation with investors' funds, he inflated the company to more than $350,000,000 in 1929. When the bubble finally burst, the American public, according to the SEC, was left holding the bag to the tune of more than $300,000,000.

By the end of last year, the company, still dominated by Williams and counselled by Dulles, was worth only $11,148,655. The subsidiaries of Central States and their shrinkages were: Goldman Sachs, shrunk $403,000,000 from 1929 to 1936; Shenandoah Corp., shrunk $124,000,000; Blue Ridge Corp., shrunk $97,000,000; American Cities Power and Light, shrunk $72,000,000 plus several others.

Dulles is also counsel and a dominating influence in the American Banknote Co. which, through his influence with Central States and the North American Co., has enjoyed a monopoly of all their stock and bond certificates. Other bank notes companies have offered to take this business at around half the price charged by American Banknote.

Dominating Influence

Dulles also was a dominating influence in the Babcock & Wilcox Boiler Co. Until recent years subsidiaries of the North American Co. were required to buy their power plant boilers from Babcock & Wilcox, sometimes at prices considerably higher than those obtainable at competitive bidding.

Dulles' firm also was counsel for McKesson & Robbins during the famous fiasco when its head, Donald F. Coster, turned out to be Frank Musica, who shot himself when he was caught several millions short on phony warehouse receipts.

"What Flavor?"

—By Dorman Smith

War's Small Type

Does war seem unending on the home front, with pleasures scarce and little nagging discomforts legion? Does one grow impatient of restraints and yearn for the headlines to march straight into Berlin, and be done with that end of it, so that we then may transfer the headlines and the broadcasts to the Pacific and be done with that too, and so back to as we were?

Whenever that mood presses upon you, gentle reader, take out this picture and look at it. It is the small type beneath the headlines of war. Reprinted from yesterday's news columns, it is of a fellow American on Palau, a Marine—probably, after the style of Marines, a kid of no more than 19 or 20. All but done in by the strain and the sight and sound of battle, he sits somewhere on Hill 200 on Palau giving way to tears of exhaustion and perhaps—who knows?—of sorrow for comrades lost. But have no fear for his resolution.

The little man who weeps will rise to fight again, and yet again, as often as he is called upon. And again he will suffer these moments of utter weariness and misery, of homesickness and of an overwhelming disgust with the tortuous ways of war, the unending days and nights of war, and dismiss them. For to him all life now resolves itself into two simple stark questions: When will it be over; and when it is, will life be left to him?

Let the boy weep. And, not forgetting, weep for him.

Everyday Counselor

By Herbert Spaugh, D. D.

"WHAT God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." These words of God, given us in the Bible, are a part of the marriage ceremony in most Christian churches. With the steadily increasing number of divorces in this country, one cannot but wonder if marriage vows are taken as seriously as they should be.

The participants in practically all Christian wedding ceremonies also promise to live together, "till death us do part." One trouble today is that far too many enter the marriage relationship without much thought, and with less prayer. If any. All too many who are married by a Christian ceremony simply consider marriage to be a civil contract which can be dissolved at the desire of one or both of the participants by court decree.

After awarding 40 divorces in a court held at Greensboro, N. C., eleven of these being the second for either the plaintiff or respondent, Judge Hoyle Sink said, "No man or woman should be allowed more than two divorces, possibly one. People should not expect the courts to continue protecting them in their bad judgment or folly, and in most cases it is folly."

He said that he had tried 3,000 divorce actions during his eighteen years on the bench, and declared that approximately 85 per cent of the couples seeking a divorce had married when they knew each other less than a year, and many of them only for a few months or weeks. He also said that it was his observation that persons who were married between the ages of 23 and 25 rarely asked for divorces.

After twenty years of marriage and domestic counseling it is my sincere conviction that all too few enter the marriage relation with any proper knowledge of "what it is all about." Some ministers insist on pre-marriage instruction and some of our denominations require it. All of them should.

Home making, the rearing of children is still the most important business in the world, yet the majority of us leave the important matter of marriage relationships to either instinct, or trial and error. It is trial with error which is bringing this mounting list of divorces. Now it is going further, people are going back for a second and third.

Everyone preparing to marry should read what the Bible has to say about it. (Matthew 5:31, 32; Matthew 19:3-12; Mark 10:1-12; Luke 16:18; 1 Corinthians 7:10-15.) Then the marriage ceremony ought to be read over carefully. This should be followed by some good book on pre-marriage instruction, and a conference with doctor and minister.

Recommended books on this subject are "Ten Rules for a Happy Marriage" can be had by writing the Everyday Counselor, in care of the newspaper in which you read this, enclosing a self-addressed stamped envelope. "The Marriage Book," 25c postpaid.

Yanks Are Beginning To Really Hate Nazis

By HAL BOYLE

WITH AMERICAN TROOPS IN GERMANY, Sept. 24—(Delayed)—(AP)—The sustained stand being made by Nazi armies at the borders of Germany is a rude shock to the average GI. I found out for the first time in almost three years of war he is getting a real front line peeve against the enemy.

In Tunisia, Sicily, Italy and France, American soldiers have fought with valor and success against opposing forces they despised—or some times reluctantly admired—but rarely hated. The war to them was something of a deadly game rather than a personal vindictive passion.

They didn't hate the Germans as did the British and the Russians because their homes had not been bombed and their relatives killed by Nazis, and when they took their first big batches of yellow-haired Germans and saw no horns growing out of their heads, their first reaction was "Why, hell—these guys are just like us."

Now, they are beginning to realize that, while the German soldier may look like the guy they drank beer or shot pool with back home, there is a great difference in the ideas and ideals he lives by.

NAZIS FOOLED 'EM

"Once we drive them back to their own country they'll come to their senses," has been the thought and consolation of most soldiers ever since invasion day last June. "Then we'll have a walkaway parade to Berlin and the war will be over. They will never fight in their own country."

But they are. And it's making the American soldier madder, tougher and more anxious to smash through to Berlin every day. Many of these combat troops have been overseas for two years or more and secretly had hoped their reward for a quick victory might be to return home by Christmas. Now they realize that is an outside chance and they are uncomfortably aware of the possibility that the European war may well last through a cold and forlorn Winter.

The American doghace is a poor hater, said Sgt. D. Peel of Geneva, N. Y., "but the apparent willingness of the German leaders to drag their country down with them has put the American troops in a mind to accommodate them. Every bomb or shell—German or American—that is dropped now destroys German property. If they had an honorable leader among them, he would give up and save his country."

Cpl. Walter Loeb of Milwaukee, Wis., said German prisoners had told him they thought the Nazi defenders would keep up the fight until the German Army was destroyed or until British and American forces linked up with the Russians.

"They are all afraid of the S. S. officers and the Gestapo," he said, "and they say Himmler himself is running the Army. They all say they are sorry that Hitler wasn't killed."

Sgt. Morris Alweiss of New York, thinks the stubborn Germans' decision to fight on will remove any desire by either American soldiers or even the people back home to be lenient with the country.

"We ought to have a ten-year occupation of Germany," he said, "and we ought to require one year of Army service for all of our men sometime between the ages of 18 and 25. They ought to spend six months of it over here, too, as an occupation force. If we did that, Germany would be a little slower about starting a third world war—and if it did come, we'd be ready for it."

Crosby Supports Dewey: Sinatra Backs Roosevelt

WASHINGTON —(AP)— The Bing Crosby and Frank Sinatra schools of thought have find themselves at odds over politics too—now that Sinatra has come out for a Roosevelt fourth term.

Crosby —, "The Groaner" — is a member of the "Hollywood for Dewey Committee" and his Brother Everett — says Bing "definitely" means every word of the "Bing" currently is USO'ing in France).

But Sinatra — "The Voice" — had tea with President Roosevelt yesterday and came away from the White House an avowed backer of a fourth term.

"Why?" asked a reporter.

"Well, you might say I'm in favor of it," he replied.

Actually he and the President didn't talk politics and Sinatra didn't sing. They talked about young girls who swoon.

Mr. Roosevelt, said the singer, kidded him about having the latest in fine faint which went out of style 50 years ago.

"Did this President ask for any pointeds?" reporters asked.

"He doesn't need any," came back Sinatra. "He's good enough himself."

People's Platform

Watch The War Criminals

Editors, The News:

With the victorious Allied armies now threatening to smash into the Reich from at least two directions, the question of the disposition to be made of Axis war criminals becomes more pressing with each passing day. When one speaks of war criminals, the eyes of most everyone are immediately focused on the chief among them—Hitler.

Already having foreseen the catastrophe befallen him and his country and the frustration of his attempts for world domination, Hitler is now, even at this hour, thinking of an avenue of escape. It has been about a year since the Allies warned neutrals not to provide a sanctuary for Axis war criminals in their countries.

The Allies should put teeth in this admonition to neutrals, for Hitler may choose to repeat the act of the Kaiser by seeking refuge in some neutral country, though it is a question as to where he could find a haven in hostile Europe, save Spain, and pro-German sentiment in that country, may not prove be too great. In my opinion he would more likely choose pro-Fascist Argentina for a hideout than any other site. Should he choose such a way of escape.

He has the alternative of departure from his country to cloak himself in utter concealment from the Allies or self-suicide, of which I think the latter is the more practical and cheapest way out for the Fuehrer. There is, of course, always the possibility that he might fall victim to an assassin in his own country.

But no matter what decision he may make in an effort to escape, the Allies, in line with their former announcements, should pursue him to the ends of the world until they locate the muss-fuddled Austrian paper hanger. Justice would not prevail if Hitler was forced in exile on some remote island as in the case of Napoleon or even incarcerated on the isle of Alcatraz.

He should be made to appear before the Judge, and justice should be meted out to him in accordance to the laws of the country in which he is tried. We killed Dillinger, and the crimes he was allegedly charged with are trifling misdemeanors in comparison to those committed by Hitler against innocent humanity.

WILLIAM LEFFIS BENNETT,
Charlotte, N. C.

Dewey Shouldn't Have Said A Word

Editors, The News:

Politicians, like all other human beings in their quest for gain, invariably (though unwittingly) expose the very things of greatest value possessed by their competitors. When Mr. Thomas Dewey focused the attention of the people on that remarkable and all-powerful phrase indispensable—like Job he was only being realistic. "The thing he feared most had come upon him" — Franklin D. Roosevelt, the indispensable man.

There are a few—very few—instances of men indispensable. Could we have dispensed with George Washington's services during the trying years when this nation was being born? Was there any living man on earth equally competent of taking his important place during those trying times?

Was there someone who could say to Thomas Edison, while he was in process of creating for the whole world light, and before he had finished the job, You step aside and let me carry on. I am young and I haven't grown tired and quarrelsome on the job. Of course, I haven't the experience nor the knowledge like you, but these fundamentals are not so important, they are not indispensable, a few more generations in the dark won't matter.

There have been other instances—not many—of men indispensable at some period of their lives because of peculiar circumstances and experience.

Today there is only one living American peculiarly endowed with the experience and knowledge necessary to finish the most important job this nation and the world has ever undertaken. The only American who has the personal knowledge of all that has happened thus far, that has sat down in conferences with the other heads of big nations and worked out a common understanding to date and probed the future. Experience is a most valuable possession—it is the creator of knowledge.

Fourth term or first term is not important just now. Selfish ambitions are unthinkable. What is important is finishing this job that so vitally concerns every man, woman, and child on this earth. Yes, the world will long owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Dewey for focusing the attention of the people on the man indispensable to the completion of so important a job far from finished.

CHARLES D. DAVIS,
Charlotte.

Post Script To Contest

Editors, The News:

For the past few weeks I have been reading in The News of why this person or that was going to vote for Mr. Roosevelt or Mr. Dewey. It looks like they've all ended off with the end of the contest, so I'll put the cap on the stack by saying this:

On Nov. 7 when we all go to the polls to vote I trust there will be more of us who have not forgotten the last Republican Administration than those who have forgotten—because if there are more forgetful voters, I am afraid they will get us all in another frightful mess.

—EUGENE B. SMITH
Wadesboro, N. C.

Quote, Unquote

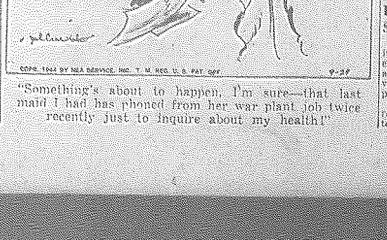
I SERIOUSLY doubt that any peace treaty emerging from the Senate will provide real peace.—House Democratic Leader John W. McCormack of Massachusetts.

There is no basic distinction between the war with Germany and the war with Japan.—British Home Secretary Herbert Morrison.

We are getting some of the finest pilots in the world now. They are far superior to the German pilots, who are deteriorating rapidly.—Col. Don J. M. Blakeslee, Eagle Group commander back from England.

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



"Something's about to happen. I'm sure—that last maid I had has phoned from her war plant job twice recently just to inquire about my health!"

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