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## Bargain In Bail

We have always maintained that one of the reasons for this community's high murder rate was the lightness with which the murder of Negroes by Negroes was looked upon by the courts and officers of the court. A classic example of this majestic indulgence came to light a few years ago in a study of "Bribe and Punishment" made by The News.

This study took up 36 consecutive killings and showed what had happened to the killers, which was not as good as always, then Hon. John Carpenter, Solicitor of the district. Two Negroes had been indicted for murder, a murder which Detective Chief Littlejohn calls one of the most brutal in many years. They were arraigned in Superior Court, pleaded not guilty and went to jail awaiting the trial which had been set for Jan. 8. Subsequently, after the term of court had been concluded, Solicitor Carpenter freed the two men on bonds of \$2,000 each.

As bonds go—and another study by The News once established that in Mecklenburg most bonds were going unpaid—\$2,000 for any degree of manslaughter is grotesquely cheap, even by Solicitor Carpenter's standards. In view of the fact that these men stood indicted for the crime of murder, under circumstances which Chief Littlejohn describes as "brutal" and with at least the suggestion of murder in the first degree, to have released them on bonds of any amount was a piece of effrontery to the whole code by which the State maintains its system of arrest, trial and punishment.

Even so, as flagrant as the incident was, it would not have come to light, in all probability, except that the indicted killers are further charged with using their freedom to intimidate a State's witness against them on the murder charge. A fine come-off all around it was, tracing, we hold, to the lightness with which the murder of Negroes by Negroes is looked upon by the man who represents the State in Mecklenburg as its official prosecutor.

## Free As A Bird

The American Society of Newspaper Editors has addressed itself to members all over the country, asking this question:

Will the Federal government in any way encroach upon the constitutional guarantee of press freedom? Answer yes or no.

We voted "no." And meant it.

If that needs any explanation, it may be found in instructions from the State to the press, "In the interest of clarity, let's leave out extraneous factors that so often get mixed up in a discussion of the constitutional guarantee—malign influence of publishers, attempts by local officials to suppress news, anything of that sort."

So we've disregarded these extraneous factors and decided for ourselves that the American press is now, and has always been, just as free as the forefathers meant it to be when they were forced to clasp the Bill of Rights onto the Constitution as a rider. If there has been an instance in which government in this country has infringed upon press freedom, we don't know about it. If there are those who want to argue that the press is not free from itself, or that it is bound up with this or that evil influence because of its nature as an industrial enterprise, that's all right with us. We can think of any number of ways in which newspapers might better themselves (as a matter of fact, we have a long list of possible improvements for ourselves, which receives our earnest attention). We can agree with many critics of American journalism. But we can't see that its freedom is restricted or endangered in the sense of which the Constitution speaks.

And, as a matter of fact, we can't think of any industry which is more busily engaged in the business of self-examination than the press. Magazines and newspapers themselves are full of these soul-searchings and examinations. We believe U. S. newspapers as a whole

regard themselves as more than an industry, and are fully cognizant of their public service place in the American scheme. The press, we say, is not only free, but it is alive and thinking.

## More Waste Paper

In August, when the Junior Chamber of Commerce commended Charlotte for waste paper, its hard-working members collected something over 600,000 pounds. That was a high-incredible total, exceeding any one-day drive we learned of, and topping Atlanta's by a comfortable margin. But it was not just a local project, with its success a matter of local pride.

In that time, waste paper meant material for war: it was a critical material, a kind of weapon. It brought in over \$4,000 in money—but more important, it was directly to war. Today, waste paper is no less a critical material. Demands for it are insistent, and in its thousands used it is vital to our effort against the enemy.

Sunday, then, Charlotte should be ready to offer as much waste paper, or even more. Joyce expert more, for it is almost five months since their last collection, and a 600,000-pound stock is supposed to accumulate in Charlotte every 90 days. This time, as last, the sort required of housewives is simple and limited. And gathering the paper, bundling it and placing it on the sidewalk for the trucks will be a very important contribution any of us can make.

The thought has struck us forcibly, during the war, that Americans waste enough of their substance to keep other nations going. The thought of the waste of paper alone is staggering, even in normal times. In a time like this, it is a waste we cannot afford. Sunday is the time to do something about it.

## An Earl, Now

In her time Great Britain has known some singular characters to pass through her House of Lords, to sit among the noble figures of her history. There have been, besides the swaggering young empire-builders of the olden days and the stately builders of empire, a number of tradesmen, become great in the markets of the world, and elevated despite vigorous criticism. But there has never been a stranger Lord than David Lloyd George, the stout-hearted old warrior who became an Earl this week.

Named to this high post (it beats a viscount, baron, or knight) but loses to a duke or marquess by his King, the most severe and powerful critic of England's ancient system of peerage becomes one of the upper classes, and is thus removed from his beloved common people. They won't change him, not the Lloyd George world has known. And that is not because of his 82 years; earling this man would never have tamed him. But an Earl he is. And this is what an Earl is: a hereditary title, third highest rank in British peerage. He is entitled to be designated as "Lord," and at state and formal social occasions he takes precedence over all except royalty (we presume that means he's annoyed first, or in the loudest voice, and perhaps gets first and largest servings, if any). He sits in the House of Lords, cannot be tried for a felony save by his peers. His children rank as commoners, but are to be called "Lord" and "Lady," with the eldest son given the courtesy title of "Baron."

And that's about it. There's no grant of land, money or estate. And there has been none since the time of those benign sovereigns, William and Mary.

If that doesn't sound like the fierce battles we have known as Lloyd George, reflect only that, in his last years on this earth her nation has bestowed upon him, in recognition of valiant service, one of his highest honors. It is only by happenstance that it is also a lofty title, built upon ideals which the man himself does not approve.

Like the patrolman who pulled the dead horse from Pottawatomie Boulevard to Main Street before writing out his report, the Red Army in Hungary decided to bypass Szekesfeharvar.

## Words Of The Wise

No woman is a genius: women are a decorative sex. They never have anything to say, but they say it charmingly. They represent the triumph of matter over mind. Just as men represent the triumph of mind over matter.—Oscar Wilde.

Every immigrant who comes here should be required within five years to learn English or leave the country.—Theodore Roosevelt.

The cry goes up to abolish poverty, but it will indeed be a sad day when poverty is no longer with us. There will still be poor, but they will be poor in spirit, not in body. They will be poor in spirit, not in body. They will be poor in spirit, not in body. They will be poor in spirit, not in body.

There is the expression of ideas, and if people of one country cannot preserve their language, they cannot preserve their identity.—Franklin D. Roosevelt.

## The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON  
SECRETARY STETTINIUS is really revolutionizing the State Department.

In addition to barrels of pastel green paint plastered around the corridors, a brass band, and a big rally at Constitution Hall to introduce his "new team" of millionaires, Stettinius is really trying to get more public interest in the State Department. He is a firm believer that U. S. diplomats should understand.

To this end he held a unique conference last week at which his "new team" met with the American Platform Guild, a group of lecturers from all over the country who must have public opinion through the lecture platform. It was supposed to be a very hush-hush affair with all new men barred.

Stettinius himself was the first man to speak, but came late, breathless and full of apologies. "I'm terribly sorry, but I had to meet two new Ambassadors," he explained. "I had to receive the new French Ambassador and the new Dominican Ambassador."

One or two lecturers arched their eyebrows, for the Dominicans long ago made quite a fuss about dropping the "San" from "San Dominick."

Stettinius went on to introduce his team, the most impressive of which turned out to be Assistant Secretary Dean Acheson and Post-Librarian Archibald MacLachlan, who presided over the affair and seemed sincere in his assurances that the State Department wanted the public to know more about U. S. foreign affairs.

"Tell your audiences," he said, "to discuss foreign policy and stick it, and then make up their minds. We are here chiefly to carry out the policies which the American people want."

### Criticism of British

Most frequent questions fired at the new State Department executives were about the British. Some lecturers said they detected a growing resentment against the British, so they asked various questions about London, British competition during the war and so on, even including the sale of British bicycles to Mexico.

Dean Acheson, after patiently answering some of these questions, remarked: "I'm surprised no one has raised the question of the three cases of machetes. The wires have burst up over these machetes, which a British firm found left over in a warehouse. Manufactured before the war, machetes were sold by the British in Central America. We never heard the last of them."

## "I Have Great Hopes for Mine, How About You?"



## Helping The Boys Return

By Marquis Childs

WASHINGTON  
AS REPORTED recently in this column, the whole problem of helping the veterans of the war back to normal life is very much to the fore here in Washington. There is an acute awareness of what failure could mean.

There is a necessity for a new approach that will take into account the needs and desires of the individual and not the individual instead of a serial number.

In order to underline the need for individuality, the individuality of disabled men returning from the war, I have received a number of letters, some of them from veterans who say they are afraid to sign their names, protesting against the methods of the Veterans Administration.

One of the reasons the Veterans Administration has come under criticism recently is the red tape institutionalism that seems to blight veterans' hospitals. In response to a column on this subject, some time ago, I have received a number of letters, some of them from veterans who say they are afraid to sign their names, protesting against the methods of the Veterans Administration.

My dear Mr. Secretary: "I am deeply concerned over the physical and emotional condition of disabled men returning from the war. I feel, as I know you do, that the ultimate ought to be done for them to return them as useful citizens—useful not only to themselves, but to the community."

"I wish you would issue instructions to the effect that it should be the responsibility of military authorities to insure that no overseas casualty is discharged from the armed forces until he has received the maximum benefits of hospitalization and convalescent facilities, which must include physical and psychological rehabilitation, vocational guidance, pre-vocational training and re-education."

"Very sincerely yours,"

"FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT"

## The People's Platform

Editors, The News:

Last Friday the Rev. R. L. Erickson gave an inspiring message, over the radio, preaching from the text: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee." That same afternoon, as he was driving his car across the nation, he was struck by a train, Sunday, only a few moments from the close of the Old Year, he passed away.

New Year's morning his daughter, Mrs. C. G. Carr, gave her regular radio broadcast, "The Morning Thought for the Day," a comforting message to her father and heartache in order to bring a message of hope and comfort to so many who are passing through their own Golgotha, these tragic days.

The writer does not know Mrs. Carr, personally; but, after listening to her message this morning, I want to say that if ever a true Christian walked the streets of Charlotte it must be she. And if Charlotte has any citizen who has done more for her community or who has brought more hope and peace to her people, it must be Mrs. Carr. I don't know who it could be.

Three months ago her brother lost his life in the service of his country. Only a few days before that, her husband, the late Dr. Carr, was called to the Great Beyond. But she has not let alone, the work which he left unfinished. And now her father, the Rev. Mr. Erickson, has been called so swiftly, so tragically! (And when she needed him so much.)

In her broadcast she told us she was awake during most of last night (during the howling of the wind, with which the New Year was ushered in—lay awake, unable to go to sleep, wondering why this last great grief had come—but that, with the morning light there came into her heart a great peace, "the peace which passeth all understanding, the peace of a full heart, she gave thanks—thanks to her Heavenly Father, for His blessing and for His assurance that "My grace is sufficient unto thee!"

Truly, Right here in our midst, in a living example of one who "walks with God," what an inspiration—what a revelation of God's grace, which gives to mankind the strength, the courage to carry on, amidst that day when the Morning Light shall break and we shall enter into our Eternal Home!

—ALEX NORMAN, Charlotte.

## SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



"Don't ever let him know I told you, but I think Bobby can show you how to roll cigarettes!"

## A Plan For Germany

By Dorothy Thompson

NEW YORK  
WE have been unable to transcend the political coalition into an entity to deal with Germany.

There are two conditions and only two, under which Germany, as an entity, can surrender. The first is to make clear that "Germany" will be left as an economically capable of life. A Germany that is delinquent, or loses its industrial potential, or is overcrowded by the evacuation of ten to twenty million Germans into a truncated Reich, will be more incapable of sustaining life than Puerto Rico.

The second condition under which Germany could surrender—and I am using the words "can and could"—is that they even be able to operate as a going concern for the world. The second condition is that they even be able to operate as a going concern for the world. The second condition is that they even be able to operate as a going concern for the world.

The Russians are making a Russian diagnosis of the situation—both contemplating an old-fashioned nationalist power there, and the Russians also have a schizoid. If they wanted to make all Europe Communist, that would be a policy. But they don't.

Under the slogan of security the Russians want to extend their power. The extension of their power, they think, they need this for their protection. The British, frantic, and with some cause, over their own security, wish to enlarge their power, especially in Western Europe, the Mediterranean, and Africa.

The American answer is the elimination of commercial rivals, and trade expansion. If everybody is getting something out of this war, the United States must certainly get something, too, and we have obviously not got Empire extension of influence in Europe.

This is the world we live in and it's no good saying that if Churchill

## The Lost Souls

By Hal Boyle

IN GERMANY, Dec. 28—(Delayed)—A-Hiding in a small village, being overrun by German soldiers, the "lost souls" of the middle of the minefield.

The Germans attacked under cover of night. Pvt. Odis Stacker, of Dallas, Tex., was alone in the foxhole. As quickly as he could, he loaded his rifle and got out some grenades. He threw the first toward an enemy he could not see.

Sometime later he still was busy trying to pin down the invisible foe when he felt a tap on his back. He turned and saw his squad leader, S. Sgt. Lead A. O'Shield of Hollywood, Cal., who had crawled over to his foxhole.

"Enjoying yourself?" asked the sergeant. "No, I'm not," Stacker nodded, then fired another clip.

"Well, I hate to spoil your fun," Lead A. O'Shield said, "but you'd better snap up here for awhile. The attack was here, and the enemy is all over the rest of us are trying to get some sleep."

All of his preparations were for nothing. After hiding eight hours, he was able to rejoin American troops.

After the Nazis left town Pvt. Glen H. Walker of Fairbairn, Ark., wanted some fresh potatoes to supply himself, the evening's ration, and began digging them in a field near the position of his anti-tank gun.

"I had lost my dogtags and couldn't find a single thing to identify me," he said, "so I quickly made a pair out of cardboard. I didn't know but what they might accuse me of being a spy."

DANGEROUS REUD  
He noticed one potato was considerably heavier than the others. Scrapping off the mud, he found he was holding a German anti-personnel mine.

## Quote, Unquote

WHERE are some wounds to the spirit, caused by curious or blundering statesmen prying questions, pity and misapplied quotation.

—Gen. Norman T. Kirk, Army surgeon general.

The lives and happiness of our children, as far ahead as the mind can reach, depend on us today. If we succeed, we shall have a world that will be a better world than the world we have now.

—Carl A. Peterson, New Zealand minister to U. S.