

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Blood And Death

Charlotte passed last week-end in a rare haze of violence, strife and murder. The third murder of the new year topped the bill—but there were, in addition, nine cases of shooting and cutting.
We had suspected that other Southern towns had to endure violence at the same rate—albeit in proportion to their Negro population—but Chief Walter Anderson thinks not. The week-end, of course, was unusual, and not to be considered standard, but the Chief thinks we suffer more violence than cities of comparable size, and is of the opinion that a certain laxness all along the line of law enforcement is to blame.
There are four things, he says, which must be attacked:
Drinking, gambling, adultery, carrying weapons.
His department found that drinking hit a peak Saturday and Sunday, reflecting a growing trend of disorderliness. It found whisky, gambling, and adultery at the bottom of the list of its troubleome cases. Further, the Chief says that far too many people are going about the streets armed these days, especially in the Negro sections, and that alterations under these conditions are inevitable.
Adequate personnel in the Police Department may be a partial answer to the problem, but only partial. Until there is complete co-operation by all agencies involved in the long processes of law, violence will continue.
Not only must there be more alert policing. There must be vigorous prosecution in court, and sentences must be passed—stiff ones. Beyond that, there must be a realistic approach by the parole board. For example, the average prison term for murder in North Carolina is just a little over two years!
There's an answer. Crime and violence continue because the drinking, gambling, adulterous and well-armed citizens do not fear to enter even upon murder. They have little or nothing at stake if apprehended. While crime still pays, there will be no reduction in our lists of crime.

A Great Decision

It took the mighty pulp of the long years to force America onto the world stage. Since the early thirties, when this world catastrophe was being whelmed, this country has moved toward this moment, and from about expensive isolationism. Within eight days, in the midst of our second year of war, we have been committed to active participation in the affairs of all European nations—and in the affairs of most nations of the earth.
This was historic, as the correspondents were quick to note. But it was unilateral at all. We are expected to underwrite our full weight behind United Nations policy everywhere on the globe. Likewise, we are expected to enter into complete co-operation with trustworthy allies; they will have more than a routine interest in the conduct of our affairs. That is not to say that Joe Stalin's men will check on our control of interstate commerce—or that some Joliet Sir H. Knatchbull-Hugessen will set the cotton quota for our exports. In this departure of ours, that we shall henceforth have to behave as a world citizen, and not as a self-sufficient and self-contained homebody.
When we insisted upon a share in reorganizing the European Government, imposing certain conditions of our own, we not only accepted some responsibility for the future welfare of the Polish people. We also embraced the principle that whatever happens in Poland or any other European nation, economically, socially or politically, is of utmost concern to us. In short, we have accepted the old principle that a threat to liberty anywhere is a threat to liberty everywhere. Moreover, we have embroiled upon that.
A threat to prosperity anywhere is a threat to our own. It was apparently pretty easy for the Big Three to reach decisions concerning the future of Germany, but not too difficult to work out. What matters was that a pattern was set, and was definite enough in its major points to hold out great hopes for to-

morrow. The vital thing, so far as Americans are concerned, is that they be able to envision our new role in world affairs, and to accept it as of prime importance. They must realize that it is going to start major riots in the halls of Congress, and it is going to cost us a good deal of hard cash; that it will entail sacrifice and economic give-and-take. And they must realize that, in the long run, this is the only sound and right course America can take, as well as the cheapest.

Planners' All

The success of city planning in Charlotte is going to depend largely on the extent to which the people of the city, individually or through the innumerable associations in which they are banded together, take part in it and support it. Consider housing, for example. The City can (and should) tighten up its building codes, and by so much improve the standards of housing. But somebody's got to build the houses, and that's where individual builders and the Real Estate Board come in.
The Planning Board can propose and define and, within the limits of the municipal authority, undertake. But for the most part it is the duty of the board to make the rules. It is the rest of us who will have to play the game.
In this light it is decidedly encouraging to make a note of the individuals, officials, and organizations appearing before the board in session this week. The list is varied and representative:

- War Memorial Committee of the Association of Civic Clubs.
Mental Hygiene Society.
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.
The American Association of Social Workers.
Superintendents of the City and County School System.
Charlotte Business Club.
Family Service Association.
Children's Service Association.
Washington Heights Community Club and West Side Youth Club.
Disabled American Veterans.
Negro Teachers Association.

It turns out, you see, that planning, which was for so long nobody's business, is at once the concern of quite a few. That is entirely as it should be, and is proof enough, we think, that when the City Council and the City Government with this planning agency, it corrected a long-time and acute deficiency in our municipal outlook.

Salvage Slump

One thing we should have learned from this war is that we have been profuse in wasting our goods and resources. Not only have Americans discovered that they could manage very well without trading in the family buggy every other year, by eating substitutes from the dinner table, and accepting a small number of ersatz materials. Somehow, though, they have not been sufficiently impressed. Not only does it seem likely that they will forget lessons in frugality after the war—they are not even now bending themselves to the simple task of salvaging materials of greatest importance to the Government.
In Raleigh State Salvage Director George Snow is about ready to give up on Tar Heel patriotism. He had found us almost totally unwilling to help him salvage paper and tin. His theory is that North Carolina women will do almost anything to further the war effort except salvage waste materials. He sees in their readiness to perform volunteer services real evidence of patriotism. But he sees far too little salvage flowing to war plants.

And the waste fats salvage plan, on a national basis, is far behind current needs. As an important adjunct of the demobilization program, fats salvage deserves high priority, but has not gotten it from the public. Faced with this directors call a "desperate need", the year's quota has had to be increased by 100 million pounds. And unless that is going to be just so much big talk, then individuals, businesses, urban and rural, all over the country, will have to do their part.
At this stage of the game, judging from the lagging of this program and the dearth of Mr. Snow, any such conclusion would be little short of a miracle.

Statesmen At Work

(Serious, facetious and comic excerpts from the Congressional Record.)

MR. VOORHIS: Call it I am going to talk about Mr. Henry Wallace, who is perhaps too forthrightly honest for everybody to understand him, and concerning whom it might be said "God protect me from my friends. I can take care of my enemies myself." Yet the gentleman seems to have gotten into the Congress of the United States, or shall I say certain members of it, into one of the most terrific dithers I have ever observed during my period of service here.
My speech mainly is in the nature of advice to the enemies of Mr. Wallace. I would like to remind those people that the people of this Nation would not help anything that all the hue and cry and wandering which I can do becomes the way they suspect that Mr. Wallace is all right. The Congress might conceivably keep Mr. Wallace from filling any official position in the Government, and this might well be the very best thing that could happen to Mr. Wallace, personally. It would hurt those who opposed, and very much indeed, to me.
I cannot get the idea out of my head that Mr. Wallace's position against monopoly is the traditional American position. Cer-

tainly it was the position of Jefferson, Jackson, Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt.
MR. MURDOCK (Ark.) I notice the gentleman (Mr. Wallace) to mention George Washington, to believe in the Constitution. Does the gentleman recall that George Washington wanted to have the monopoly on a pallone some times higher than the one created by Haman.
MR. VOORHIS: I thank the gentleman very much for mentioning the Father of our Country to my list.
Mr. Wallace had a good deal to say about the Constitution, that is, a true program calculated to bring about a more intelligent and employment-giving enterprise. The gentleman's speech, however, does not seem to fit with all colors. I have a picture that had been painted of Henry Wallace, and it seems to me that some of his opponents from the South at this time to fall to take that into consideration.

WASHINGTON

REAL reason why the work-or-fight bill will probably not pass except in a highly diluted form is some back-stage personal by-play and inter-Cabinet throat-cutting.
When the work-or-fight bill was passed by the House and got to the Senate Military Affairs Committee, a meeting of inter-Cabinet representatives was held in the office of General Lewis Byrnes. And it was agreed that all members attending the meeting should write letters to the Senate Military Affairs Committee, recommending that the work-or-fight bill be amended, giving Justice Byrnes the power of administration. This meant that Byrnes would put things in the hands of the Senate, rather than under General Lewis Hersey's Selective Service as originally specified in the House bill.
It was also agreed that each member at the meeting would show others a carbon copy of the letter he wrote, in order that there might be no crossed wires. However, Under-Secretary of War Bob Patterson wrote a milk-and-water letter, and not to be very vigorous endorsement of the sentiment adopted at the meeting in favor of the Byrnes amendment.

McNutt vs. Patterson
Whereupon War Manpower Commissioner McNutt called Patterson and told him that if he didn't write a stronger letter he, McNutt, would tell the Senate Com-

mittee what he really thought about the whole legislation. In his heart, McNutt has consistently opposed any labor draft, believing the whole manpower problem was better solved on a voluntary basis.
Following McNutt's threat, Under-Secretary Patterson apparently got worried about the administration of the work-or-fight bill under McNutt's W.M.C. Presumably he had his Army advisers advise him that he could control General Hersey and his draft boards more easily than McNutt. At any rate, Patterson seems to be and his Army advisers also seem to think that actually the War Department did not favor the Byrnes amendment and would favor administration of the work-or-fight bill under General Hersey and the Selective Service Draft Boards.

This reversal of policy was what blew up the meeting and eventually torpedoed the whole work-or-fight bill. Several Senators, including Chairman Thomas, blew off steam regarding the Army's reversal policy. None the less, these were Senator Ed Johnson of Colorado, Governor of that state, then Paul McNutt was Governor of Indiana. Both are close friends and past leaders of the American Legion. So Johnson, leaving the Senate Military Affairs Committee, walked over to his office and dictated a strong statement to the press, blaming the Army for double-crossing.

Previously, the Senate Committee had voted to approve the work-or-fight bill. But when discussion between inter-departmental groups was revealed, the committee voted to hold hearings, and now both Democratic and Republican members have cooled materially regarding the original drastic work-or-fight act.

The Prize



London Nears The End Of Trial
By Marquis Childs

LONDON
IT is hard to put into words what you feel about this city where for so many centuries, from the time of the Roman Empire on down, people have lived. Over it, somehow softening the scars of the recent ruin, is the ancient crust of history.
By day it is a center, one dirty, more bustling than ever before. But at night it takes on a kind of magic. At night it becomes incredibly beautiful in a way it will never be beautiful again.
When all lights go on, it will again have the garishness of an ordinary city.

As dusk comes on, pinpoints of light begin to accent the darkness. Traffic lights are thin slits of red and green. Faint street lamps, widely spaced intervals throw almost no light at all. Blackout curtains are still drawn by the people who are still drawn by the light. The headlights of a few motor cars, unswitched now, but for the most part, they are very dim.
The result is a ghost city that is quite different from the midnight haze of blackout days. Most people still carry flashlights to see their way down curbs. The few passersby are muffled, indistinguishable forms.
Make no mistake, it is a miracle London exists today. High on the list of German objectives was the total destruction of the hated foe. And tonight, at least, they came fairly close to achieving that objective.
Once was in the early blitz of 1940-41, when so many chose so much—their very existence—to so few. How close the city was to collapse then will always be a debatable point for debate. Some who should know believe that for several days in the late fall of '40 it was touch and go whether the city could withstand the assault.
What you people realize is the seriousness of the threat to London when V-1 bombs began to fall shortly after D-Day last June.
The actual number that fell in Southern England in any 24-hour period was only a small fraction of what the Germans intended to send over. Even so, many people here speak of it as the worst period of the whole war. The V-1 bombs were peculiarly nerve-racking, since they made a buzzing, roaring sound that could be heard for several minutes before they hit.
In the nearly two years since I last was here, the added damage is obvious in even a casual stroll through the streets. Interior house walls standing open to the street are streaked with dirt and soot. For exercises, red flares are lit in the parks at night. The other night St. James Park was filled with them, and they lit up the whole sky with a lurid glare as it has never been lighter on the days of the blitz.
But this time, Londoners knew it was a good omen to find that the German government had decided to drop the atom bomb. You could hear the drone of them high above.
That phrase—come home—means so much. It is a profound longing in the hearts of millions all over the world to come home to what waits, they have thought too much about that. It's enough for now to come home, to dare to hope to come home.

Our Bankers And The World

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK
IT is hard to talk back to bankers about banking. The bankers' committees which have been organizing the Bretton Woods monetary agreement have a great debating advantage. They are experts, and the public has no right to question them.
Yet there is a loophole in their argument. These bankers' committees working through the American Bankers Association declare that it is dangerous to set up an International Stabilization Fund.
They say we might lose our money if we joined it and a fund, they say, that if all the nations of the world were to put nine billions of dollars into a pool to sustain all the currencies of the world, then some pretty serious trouble might break some important currencies. They might lose them. They say that some countries which don't have very much might borrow some dollars from the fund. They say that some countries might be tempted to engage in slovenly financial practices, because the fund would be there to keep the values of their currencies up, regardless of the nature of their policy.
The bankers have given us a technically correct description of the risks of setting up a world fund. They have not omitted a single one of the dangers involved in doing it. But they have neglected to mention the dangers of not doing it.
But the alternative is to live in a tent. This is the only alternative, for the sake of the widest possible range of nations. Tents are dangerous, too, worse than houses. It may be dangerous to try to stabilize all the currencies of the world, but it is sheer recklessness not to try to do so. We tried to get along between the wars without stabilizing the world's currencies, and the results were military currency devaluation, price manipulation, dumping of goods, the invention of half a dozen

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More, We Fear, On Blaze
Editors: The News:
You should have a lead to write an Ode to "Elliot's Mastiff—Blaze"
The New Deal thing, with Frank D. for King:
The best off your shack they'll size
My didn't they get mad at what I said
About the chain having a weak link?
My own personal conclusion, this
New Deal confusion
Would even cause perfume to stink.
Charlotte's Gravel Gettie—the New Deal
She averred I used bad taste; It can't be ignored, it was her Ox Ode to the good
And caused my Ode to low-rate.
The Lexington Vet. was distressed; I kept up my Ode to Democracy, yet lives under Bureaucracy.

Buzz Bomb Banter

By Hal Boyle

GERMANY—If Adolf Hitler's buzz bombs may cause stories, nights for some city dwellers—but it is no secret that they are a source of great trouble to some boys.
Several of Germany's victory boys have fallen in an infantry division sector, but without the usual news of their deaths, casualty and the boys' families.
After one boy had clipped a path through the trees before landing, the infantry sergeant, who was carrying ropes to the trees 500 yards away, was shouting: "One coming up in six seconds."
The trees then would be pulled down for six seconds to make a path for it.
Another idea was to set up aerial bombs that would burst before the buzz bomb cut out to go into a dive, to pump some more fuel into so it would travel on to the rear echelons.
After one buzz bomb burst nearby we were told that "super" duds were created that blew the paper away from the target. The boys of Sgt. Norman P. Minto of '60 Army, Ft. Belvoir, Mass., were heard to grumble bitterly: "No peace and quiet anywhere. They would be around and about newspapers in your face. It's just like the New York subway."
German troops are even more certain that "super" duds were created that was to win the war. They are sure that the boys are required to have complained that one buzz bomb "off" after another buzz bomb "off" after another buzz bomb "off" and then they were turned around and dived behind the Nazi lines.
It is hard enough to be chased all over Europe by the Americans and Russians; one captive said that when his own bombs start after them it is not so bad.
One "secret weapon" which a



"Imagine her telling me this dress fits me wonderfully. I could tell by her look that she meant I've gained weight!"

People's Platform

Editors: The News:
Has two Boys relieving Uncle Jack.
Mount Hilly's Beatty Can't stay out of the spotlight long;
In First Timothy she's told, how ever a preacher her son is;
If she's heard from under her veil, it's wrong.
Elliot gets a raise, after shipping old Blaze.
That was to be expected; Next comes son James after delaying a train;
Certainly he's not to be neglected.
Away with this King! whose praises you sing.
Let's get back again to sane-ness.
Our resources here's spent and squandered under leadership;
All done under a leadership-brainiac.
—W. C. NISBET JR. Charlotte.

A Word on Recreation

Editors: The News:
I want to send you a word of appreciation for the very fine statements that appeared in your paper this week concerning the recreation facilities in our city. Next comes son James after delaying a train;
Certainly he's not to be neglected.
Away with this King! whose praises you sing.
Let's get back again to sane-ness.
Our resources here's spent and squandered under leadership;
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Quote, Unquote

THAT was to prevent a repetition of German aggression in the creation of the peaceful nation of an organization for the defense of peace and the insurance of general security. The leadership powers should place at the disposal of this organization the necessary armed force to be employed to prevent or suppress aggression and punish its instigators.
Petrov, Red Star military writer.