

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 1945

Fresh Start

By April 1, which falls on Sunday, the new laws governing North Carolina mental hospitals go into effect. As of that date our four big institutions will operate for the first time under a modern commitment laws, and under a genuine system of dual control. But they will also operate under a brand-new Board of Control.

Governor Cherry is to appoint, we understand, an entirely new board. And this was the point of legislation in the General Assembly. The situation at Morganton called for a housecleaning of sorts, for old influences were still at work for the patients. And this is the reason for the forthcoming new board. We had hoped that several members of the old board might be retained, and we cling to that hope.

After four years of battle to reform the campaign comes to a climax in Governor Cherry's appointment of his board next week. Despite improved legislation, fat appropriations and an aroused public conscience, our hospital administration will be no better than the board which will soon take office.

There must be only two qualifications for membership: 1. Earnestness and genuine interest. 2. Ability. Should the board be appointed without regard for political considerations, and with an eye only for the welfare of our thousands of inmates of mental hospitals, the system will go forward. If the appointees include men and women with a background of training in psychiatry (no medical doctors are provided for), that will be fortunate indeed. But all of them must be deeply concerned with the problems of the hospitals and their patients. We must see no members who seek to carry out ulterior motives, or stand to make political gain through positions on the board.

The new board must have no more Harry Riddies. It must have men with the vision and genuine concern of Governor Broughton. For our hospital system will move forward or deteriorate under the new board. It must look to these new appointees of Governor Cherry for leadership. The formation of this board is one of the Governor's most important acts of his term, and the news looks forward to its announcement with the keenest interest.

L'Affaire Franco

The UNRRA, somehow, has managed to screw up coverage which the State Department lacks. It is, curiously, more realistic, as given to its purposes, and to give the same of expediency. The difference between the United Nations Relief organization and our State Department is clear enough, in the case of Franco Spain. For the State Department virtually keeps Franco's government in business. It not only sanctions the purchase of goods from Spain today, it goes so far as to grant licenses to ship oil and gasoline to Spain—and without these things the Franco Government could not exist.

But UNRRA, though urged to take the same course by purchasing some two million blankets in Spain, has taken the opposite view. Governor Lehman turned down a blanket of Franco's pro-Axis Falange. He ruled that there should be no UNRRA procurement in Spain at all.

It may be that UNRRA is strengthening its international character, that it can get by with snubbing Spain because it is backed by all the great powers. But it is strange indeed that our State Department does not feel the same compulsion to bring Spain to heel. It has said that we have dared not challenge Franco, for fear of losing valuable military supplies. But UNRRA, with a long list of vital materials to buy, finds no such difficulties in its path.

It speaks to Spain, and it keeps the full record of the black years of Franco's rule, and indicates clearly the post-war attitude of the United Nations toward that Fascist dictatorship. But the State Department behaves as

The Navy's Plan

If it had forgotten the days since 1938, and continuing to ally along with France, our nation which has no such an enemy as if it had sent all its men into the field against us, rather than just the Blue Division it shipped into Russia. We trust that Mr. Stettinius will operate for the less of Governor Lehman's secret, and find a new courage.

The U. S. Navy, lest we forget, is one of the foremost foes of the movement for universal freedom for press and radio. In the midst of a vicious American campaign for free access to and distribution of news all over the globe, the Navy's brass hats are assailing our own press freedom at home. Secretary Forrestal, somewhat unenthusiastically presenting the Navy's scheme to Congress last week, stunned Washington with this proposal:

The thirteen American companies now engaged in international communications should be merged into one private company, to be operated under Government supervision. It was not the kind of thing Mr. Forrestal stands for. His every utterance in the field of political philosophy runs counter to this bold proposal of a government-controlled monopoly of world news. And in several instances he revealed that he was somewhat reluctant to present the case for his admirals. But present it he did, and Capitol Hill reacted quickly. Congressmen didn't like it. Those who spoke up, in fact, there seems to be little chance that it will ever become the law of the land. As one Senator said immediately, the country can have no assurance under such a plan that the military would not cloak all foreign news under rigid censorship. This scheme would make it possible for Government to say to any publisher, or any wire service, "This can't go over the wire—in the national interest." And the rebuttal offered by Rear Admiral Joseph P. Denham was pretty weak. The Navy's line is that, by consolidation of all international news services, publishers and broadcasters could get the cheapest possible service, the greatest efficiency. And he then between these thirteen companies would eliminate some of them, and bring about a monopoly anyhow.

The point, it seems to us, is that news distribution at home or abroad must be left to private companies, even if they are not members of the press. It must be faced eventually. In any event, Government control would impose immediate censorship on news coverage, and become the most dangerous threat to the American public. We hope to hear no more of this brain-child of the admirals.

Delinquency Cure

Are your children running wild? Do you fear that they will join the army of juvenile delinquents? Are they out of control, defiant of your authority? Have you lost your grip? Has your home become a hell of conflicting wills, and is it torn by unhappiness?

If so, it's all your fault. You have sinned against your children, shunned your obligation, betrayed a sacred trust handed down from the beginning. You are a man, a mother, a delinquent yourself. But, if things are getting out of hand, so that you know not where to turn, we have a quick and easy remedy for you. It's so simple that we wonder it has not been shouted from the housetops. It can be done in ten minutes.

All you have to do is to keep ice cream in the home at all times. That's easy enough, isn't it? If you'd just had a few quarts of strawberry on hand last week Junior wouldn't have fought off buying one on the car on the beach, or swiping that last automobile. Keep the freezers full at home and the kids won't want to wander off, seeking pleasure in juke joints. And we know because we've been told.

Our authority is . . . let's see . . . One Charles Patno of Charleston, Mass. And he's an official of a co-operative cream association. He's recorded by a lady, Mrs. Ethel Austin Martin who is with the . . . National Dairy Council, Sec'y?

Statesmen At Work

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

THE House, debating an agriculture appropriation bill, was interrupted by a member who said that he was going to waive points of order—the Republicans taking the view that such a rule would give the opposition Committee legislative power over items not covered by legislation. Rep. Cannon of Missouri rose.

The Committee on Rules in the Sixty-first Congress consisted of Speaker Cannon, John Dalzell, of Pennsylvania, and Minority Leader John Henry Williams, of Missouri. Three of the ablest men who ever sat in the American Congress. When the committee would, it would legislate. It was the Speaker and Mr. Dalzell would vote for the rule and the gentleman from Mississippi would vote against it. The gentleman from Mississippi would take the floor and say to his brother, "I am going to vote for the rule in general and the pending resolution in particular."

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON
In a highly secret session before the Senate's Military Affairs Committee last Thursday, General George Marshall said that the German war machine is collapsing. The Gestapo still remains its hold of terror on Germany.

Marshall pointed out that German gasoline stocks are practically dried up, and that the Nazis do not have enough fuel to move their supplies, let alone their armored vehicles and army. On the other hand, he said, their supply problem is far simpler than ours because they are fighting a home-front war. Their repair and replacement job for tanks and other vehicles is also comparatively simple. When Allied armor is knocked out, it means that it is lost if the damage is too much for the field repair base, while a Nazi tank has suffered far more serious damage can be taken right into a tank factory not so many miles from where it was hit. This is a tremendous advantage for the Nazis.

The chief of staff also told the Senators that it is a mistake to figure that the Japs will fold up quickly once Germany is out of the war. Although his losses have been heavy, Japan still has a formidable amount of stockpiles of supplies. He would not estimate the length of time needed to defeat the island empire. But instead it would be extremely tough going. Marshall said nothing during this session about the plan to take over as supreme commander in the Pacific once Germany falls, but members of the committee now take that for granted.

Advice To Young Senator

Senator Milton Young, newly-appointed North Dakota Republican, was welcomed by a group of his colleagues at a dinner in Washington club last week. Each of those present had a few words of advice—mostly facetious—to offer him.

Crusty old Senator Hugh Butler of Nebraska, however, a constant GOP foe of the Administration, got rather serious. He remarked: "I told you that, although the GOP is a minority in the Senate, it has a good organization and is able to make its weight felt."

"Our party organization is an important thing," he said. "But that does not mean that a member is bound to vote with his party at all times. On the really important issues Republicans and Democrats are expected to vote according to their conscience—even if that means voting against party colleagues."

When it came the turn of Progressive Republican

Explanation?

General MacArthur's Army friends in Washington have a unique explanation for his refusal to let Maj. Gen. Norman Kirk, Surgeon General of the Army, visit Manila on his recent inspection tour. They say privately that no suitable housing was available for the major with the Kirk incident. "When you are a five-star general you don't have to give an explanation for what you do."

Further details of General MacArthur's refusal to let General Kirk touch foot on the island of Luzon in order to inspect Army hospitals there have now leaked to the press. General Kirk, head of the Army Medical Corps, arrived in Leyte with a staff of medical experts ready to place them in strategic positions. In Luzon fighting was heavy at that time.

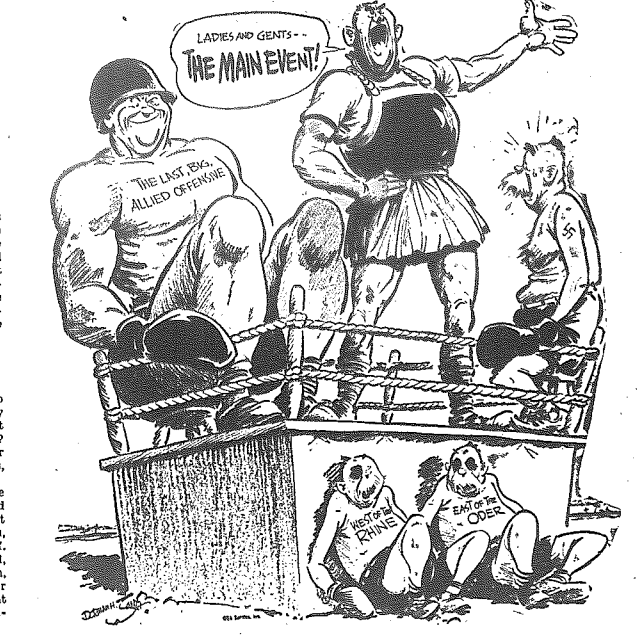
As a courtesy to MacArthur, Kirk radioed him from Leyte, Island that he was coming. He received in reply a message saying that his presence was not needed.

Scarcely believing his eyes, General Kirk gave MacArthur a chance to show his hand by sending another telegram which said in substance: "Don't understand your message. Do you mean by your telegram number so-and-so that my assistance is not welcome?"

General MacArthur's reply was brief and to the point. It read: "No, repeat no."

Kirk then got in his plane, boiling mad, and came home.

Now That The Preliminaries Are Over—



The Man Who Carries The Load

By Marquis Childs

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.
THE man on whom falls the heaviest responsibility for the conduct of the war in Europe, with its myriad complications, is General Dwight David Eisenhower.

From the farthest position on the front line, the chain of command runs back to this man's desk in a quiet, unadorned office. Various problems requiring decisions are filtered out as they pass back, so that only the most momentous questions finally reach the 54-year-old five-star general. The weight of his responsibility has aged him visibly in the nearly three years he has carried his first in Africa, then in Italy, and now in France and Germany.

When subordinate puts a knotty question up to him, he has a habit of hesitating a moment and biting his lower lip in concentration. "Now, I'm not trying to buck your question," he says, "but when he has thought it out, he gives his answer."

Inevitably, a certain remoteness surrounds this man. His concentration on the objective before him is necessary to success. Not because he wanted to, since he is by nature a friendly human being, but because it seemed the only choice, he has cut himself off from all social life. This includes military banqueting, which is part of the function of higher officers in a foreign country, as well as mingling with the rich and aristocratic French, who court some high-ranking American officers.

Eisenhower's forehead is more lined than it was three years ago. He is perhaps now bald, with only graying wisps of hair on the top of his high-domed head. His expression is ordinarily serious and preoccupied except when a warm smile lights his face. The impression he makes on most visitors is one of solid, almost solemn integrity. It is in the way he sits, with his massive hands tucked together on the desk before him. It is in the way he speaks about the course of the war.

He can be mild and friendly, but he is also stern. Once, when he was living in the apple orchards of Normandy, a U. S. labor union delegation came to see him. They tried to talk about reconversion. Eisenhower firmly told them to get on with their duty. He was to stop talking about reconversion and stay on the job until it was finished.

Eisenhower has tried to fix a firm policy that there shall be no censorship of the press. He has been criticized for this. Yet he bitterly resented the criticism of Allied policy toward the civilian population in Sicily, since he was to stop talking about reconversion and stay on the job until it was finished.

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"O.P., I won lots of stakes and purses when I was operating my racing stable, but I've done so well here driving rivets that I dread going back to the track after the war!"

People's Platform

Editors, The News: When the State took over the schools we were promised to be relieved of all local taxes, which we were, but it wasn't long before they said there wasn't sufficient money to run the schools so they began to look for some form of tax. Now they've decided on a sales tax which brought in millions of dollars. I have never anything doubling in price and everybody buying what they can find regardless of price it does not look like the tax will decline. Again they say there is not money to pay the teachers and want to drop it back on local taxation.

With the school system centralized at Raleigh, I will never vote for a local tax until we have some local control. We can't get anything without going to Raleigh, and a man from Raleigh, and when he comes he doesn't understand anything about the lay of the land and the ones who scratch his back first are the ones who get the favors.

This thing is sponsored by a few big-wigs expecting to be benefited by the tax. I have never seen a word said about how much the teachers will get. I think they just as the levy high enough so the

Crisis Of Bretton Woods

By Samuel Grafton

A NEW argument has cropped up in Bretton Woods. It is said that there is a great misunderstanding between Britain and the United States. The trouble is that Bretton Woods means it. We have had better drop the whole thing and let the British and American are interpreting the agreement in different ways.

This argument is being pushed by the New York Times, the New York Herald Tribune, and by those members of the American Bankers Association who don't like Bretton Woods anyway. Some of these molders of opinion some times seem to me a little too happy about their discovery that there is a possible difference of viewpoint between Britain and America. A good internationalist should be saddened to find that there is any such difference. He ought to have the impulse to minimize the difference, and to try to enlarge on it for the purpose of killing an international agreement.

There is a misunderstanding between Britain and America on Bretton Woods. I can't find that there is. The committee are hammering General Ike tell them that in no uncertain terms that, as he saw it, their duty was to stop talking about reconversion and stay on the job until it was finished.

When our American Treasury officials look at Bretton Woods, they are struck by the fact that it is an agreement among the nations of the world to keep their currencies stable. We like stability; we have the gold of the world; we are the dominant financial power. And so in all our official talks about Bretton Woods, we hit our hard on the point that Bretton Woods operates against currency gyrations. It means that all moneys will have fixed and definite values, and so on.

Quote, Unquote

SOME romance may develop from this. Most of the doors are sitting and many a Marine, peering here after a transfusion, has remarked "I am gonna look up this babe when I get back."

—Pharmacist's Mate 7/6 Edward W. Belmont of Shepherdsburg, W. Va., at Iwo.

If things go on as they are doing in India, the victory that the Allies will have will be only so-called, because they will also have India and other nations in the same plight bleeding at their feet. —Mohammed K. Qandari.