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THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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A Job Well Done

Never has war been a time of warfare by sea, land and strange. In Europe, General Eisenhower has disclosed, our strategic bombing campaign against Germany is [illegible]. For the rest of the way, we will [illegible] to tactical bombing alone. That [illegible] have recognized as news of major importance, but it was merely that. It marked the end of a tremendous effort against the enemy, and the opening of a new one under unique conditions.

Never before has air support of armies been limited to tactical operations. Under it now, there was always the task of hammering far behind the enemy's lines, at his sources of weapons and material. Now, that job has been done. All that the advancing Allied armies need, in the air, is assistance in softening up strong points. They do not even need air cover.

In the last days of the great campaign of strategic bombing the cost to the Nazis was frightful. In the final 16 days 3,468 German planes were destroyed. And on the biggest single day 1,021 of them were lost—most of them on the ground. The figures were significant. Planes were destroyed wholesale on the ground because the once-mighty *Luftwaffe* was out of gas. The refineries were gone, and finally the scattered synthetic plants had been knocked out. Few planes rose to meet Allied attacks, because pilots, planes and fuel were all petering out. It was the end of one of the most decisive campaigns we have waged.

Years will pass before experts have sifted the evidence in the rubble of German industrial centers, and calculated the deadly effect of the big bombing fleets on the enemy's power to resist. But it will eventually become obvious, we think, that the war in Europe, though not won in the air, probably could not have been won without that terrific pounding which went on in full fury for more than three years. It surely cut the length of the war, perhaps by years.

And now, with the enemy's territory tightly squeezed, so that there is little room for the maneuvering of the big fleets, we may expect the immediate transfer of air power into the Pacific, where it will pour new destruction upon Japan. There, it will get the second test.

Many A Sin

As in charity's name, a good many sins are passed off as labor trouble which are nothing more or less than breaches of the peace and violations of public order. Coming under this classification is the closing down of the Cities Service Refinery at Lake Charles, La., and the taking over by the Federal Government.

The plant is a large producer of high-octane gasoline, a critical war-necessity. It has been closed down since April 9. It has a union, but the union isn't striking, nor is there any dispute over wages. The dispute is about rents.

So the company has gouged the workers by upping their rents, eh? No, the company has no houses. Well, some Federal housing project has gone up in its rents, eh? Nor is that it. There is a privately-owned housing development near the refinery, and on April 1 it went up from $54 to $66 a month in the rent for the larger units in the development, proportionately for the others.

That is, clearly, a thumping increase, and nobody could blame the tenants for organizing a protest. But they can be severely blamed for directing it against their employer, against their fellow workers, several of whom were beaten, against war-production and — in continued defiance—against the U. S. Government. Blamed, hell; they can be put in jail for it, can't they?

Not Interested

By the 1940 Census there were some 82,000 souls in Mecklenburg 21 years of age and older. Roughly, that figure represents our eligible voters. And, as about two-thirds of the population is concentrated in Charlotte, that leaves approximately 30,000 eligible voters outside the city limits. Just to be on the safe side, make it 20,000 eligibles. You'd expect those, or most of those, to rally to the polls when confronted by an issue that came home to them.

But for the special school tax election, in which a 20-cent supplementary tax is at stake, only 2,492 voters registered. This extraordinarily light registration means, of course, that this issue is not a hot one with county residents. The vast majority of them were so unconcerned by the prospect of 25 per cent increase in the tax rate that they stayed away, and left a small minority to decide the question.

The light vote likely means defeat for the supplement, but this is not what, at the moment, concerns us. For the making of this decision is democracy in small, and if we attempted to settle many of our problems amid such apathy, we'd soon be engulfed by them. It isn't that pay raises for teachers in the County schools is a world-shaking issue, but inasmuch as it involved a considerable addition to the tax rate, it would seem that it should have pulled voters to the polls, regardless of how they stood.

It is not only true that Mecklenburghers show the extent of their interest in the school system by the way they vote for a tax increase. They demonstrate it even more forcibly when they choose not to consider the question at all.

A nice trick in psychology, if Washington can do it, is to convince the enemy the war is over, while reminding the overconfident at home, "It's earlier than you think."

The Guiltiest

That bold little Goebbels is talking in the last throes of desperation, of course, when he calls on every surviving German to discard the rules of warfare and use "all means" against the terrible enemy. There are two stages of a war in which all resemblance to human likeness may be thrown off and bestiality given its head. One is when you're sweeping everything before you and no one can stop you. The other is when your bolt is shot and Nemesis is breathing hot blasts on the back of your neck.

Upon the rum of Germans, soldiers and civilians, Goebbels' exhortation is likely to have no great effect. They have one prime quality which has seen them through, and that is submission to authority, and Allied authority is nigh. But there is a group of specialists already confirmed in brutality who may match his desperation in words with their own desperation in deeds. That is the SS Corps, the *Schutzstaffel*, the so-called Elite Guard, Hitler's own licentiates.

Go back through the list of German bestiality—concentration camps, prison camps, murder of prisoners of war, murder of civilians, obliteration of whole populations—and you will find the SS as the agency through which organized horror was employed. These are the elite of Nazism, and they have done Nazism's crimes to order, with a few spontaneous contributions of their own. These are the worst assassins the world has ever known.

It is futile to rage against them, for they are beyond reach. They are possessed of a strong tendency toward self-extermination and a will to die rather than surrender. But some of them will survive, either that they may continue the work or because, at the last, they lose their nerve; and when the time comes that they may be dealt with, let them be called War Criminals No. 1, every last man of them who ever has worn the uniform of the corps.

Belatedly, a menu card arrives from Yalta, listing Vodka, five wines, caviar, beef and butter. Things like this make us dirty capitalists stop and think.

Then there was the sailor in the Jap navy, who tired of it all and ran away to sea.

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON

THERE are a lot of "ifs" in the life of a President, and two big "if's" which swayed the destiny of Harry Truman were:

1. If Democratic Chairman Bob Hannegan hadn't come back from a political swing around the country last Spring and reported to FDR that no one he met was for Henry Wallace, Truman today might not be President.

2. And if, on that eventful July night in Chicago when the galleries were roaring for Wallace and the delegates were shouting for Wallace, Bob Hannegan hadn't insisted on adjourning the convention again Truman today might not be President. That adjournment gave the bosses time to organize, and next day they put across Truman.

Naturally, the man who turned these "if's" from defeat to victory is bound to sit at the right hand of the man whom he makes President. That is a long way to come for an Irish boy who was a 21st Ward, St. Louis committeeman at the time FDR was first elected President. But Bob Hannegan is sitting there today.

Son of A Policeman

Hannegan was born in St. Louis 42 years ago, son of a St. Louis policeman. He went to school in St. Louis, coached the swimming team at St. Louis University, practiced law in St. Louis and eventually became city boss of St. Louis. To Bob Hannegan there is nothing about St. Louis or Missouri that can be wrong, which perhaps explains why he left no stone unturned, including strong-arm tactics at Chicago, to nominate his fellow Missourian, Harry Truman.

However, it was not until Hannegan was 29 years old and the same year Franklin Roosevelt was elected President, that he actually got into politics. That was through fate, as it usually has been with Hannegan.

There was a five-way split in his ward, and Democratic leaders wanted one who could weld all factions together. Popular Bob Hannegan, son of an Irish policeman, was the man they chose as city committeeman to do it.

It was in 1932, the fateful year FDR was elected President, that Hannegan first met Harry Truman, then a city judge at the other end of the state. He helped Truman with his senatorial campaign a year later. After that he became city boss at St. Louis and got his first big break in 1942 when Truman and Senator Bennett Clark were engaged in a battle over Missouri patronage.

Unknown to each other, both Truman and Clark had selected Hannegan to be collector of internal revenue for St. Louis. Finally Clark called up Truman and said he wanted to get together to discuss the appointment.

"Before we meet," said Truman, "I want you to know that I am for Hannegan."

Tax Czar Hannegan

So it was unanimous and Hannegan got the job. He turned out to be a crackerjack collector of internal revenue. One reason he worked so hard was because of the way the newspapers attacked his appointment. He was fired on the job in the morning and had to leave at night.

And this time he was telling president Grafton Mo. Hannegan that he would get out of political mess. But in 1943, when Jim Farley wanted to step out as chairman of the Democratic National Committee, Hannegan was asked Roosevelt, together with tax chief Guy Helvering and Assistant Commissioner George Stoneman, to recommend a man to take his place. Hannegan's name headed all three lists. By that time Hannegan had settled his St. Louis revenge office up from last on the efficiency list to near the front.

When word of his appointment leaked out, there was a sour political reaction. Roosevelt was accused of putting a ward-healer in as tax commissioner. However, Henry Morgenthau, though extremely sensitive about criticism, stood by him like a rock. Morgenthau had had his treasury sleuths investigating Hannegan from top to bottom, couldn't find a thing wrong.

Hannegan battled through his confirmation fight in the Senate, but after he won, he wanted to quit. He told Senator Truman that he had been vindicated and that he didn't want the job anyway. In the end, he agreed to stay on a year.

Meanwhile, Hannegan took a night course on tax law, worked night and day, and spent his week-ends inspecting branch offices. According to Morgenthau, who is a tough tax man himself, Hannegan was the toughest revenue commissioner ever to serve in the Treasury Department.

Roosevelt's Tax Troubles

One day while at the White House, Roosevelt tossed him a tax return and asked him to make out his income tax. He said the President of the United States couldn't afford to make a mistake on taxes and he needed a good man to make it out for him. Hannegan returned a few days later with a tax expert, but was told Roosevelt wanted to see him alone.

So Hannegan sat down with the President and they made out his tax return together.

Meanwhile, Democratic leaders, fishing around for a new chairman of the national committee, and receiving a turndown from Judge Sherman Minton, turned to Hannegan. Calling him over to the White House, Jimmy Byrnes said: "Frank Walker wants you to be chairman."

By that time, it dawned on Hannegan that that tax meeting with FDR had been for the purpose of sizing him up. That night he and Mrs. Hannegan worked out a little speech which he would give the President declining the job. And on the way to the White House a day or two later he rehearsed the speech carefully.

When he walked into the Executive Office, however, FDR said:

"Come over here, Mr. Chairman. I want to be the first to shake your hand. I am sure you are going to do a bang-up job as head of the National Committee."

Hannegan started to mumble his little speech, but the President wouldn't even listen. After he left the White House, however, Hannegan literally bombarded Roosevelt with letters telling him what a poor chairman he would be, how good he was as Internal Revenue Commissioner, and how he owed it to the country to remain where he was.

The letters gave Roosevelt a big laugh, and he sucked Hannegan in a little deeper by giving him the first tip that he would run for a fourth term.

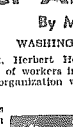
Happy Birthday, Dear Adolf, Happy Birthday To You!

Hoover And The Hungry

By Marquis Childs

WASHINGTON

THE other evening in New York, Herbert Hoover spoke at the 21st annual reunion of workers in the American Relief Administration, the organization which fed Europe after World War I.



Each year "the Chief," as he is called by the men who worked with him, has given an off-the-record talk. This time he spoke with exceptional freedom about the crisis which confronts Europe today.

While it had been previously announced that the entire meeting was off the record, one New York newspaper carried a garbled account of Hoover's remarks. The former President was deeply disturbed because he has tried, thus far successfully, to keep out of print his doubts and fears over the bungling of the food situation in Washington.

One reason for his public reticence was his hope that he might be useful in helping to straighten out the tangle. As a matter of fact, he has been frequently consulted by high-ranking officials in Washington on food problems. Unhappily, they rarely accepted his advice.

Last September, Secretary of Agriculture Claude Wickard asked Hoover about what seemed to threaten then to be a glut of hogs and pork products. Hoover strongly urged Wickard to keep production levels high. He advised that farmers be given a guarantee that the Government would buy all surplus hogs at a fixed price.

If there is an excess, Hoover said, it can be stored in preparation for the tremendous task of feeding Europe. Pork products, and particularly lard, are relatively easy to store, he pointed out. Fats, said the former President, whose knowledge of food and food supply extends from the grass roots in the corn-hog belt to the remotest corners of the earth, are the key to health and well-being—the key to stability. Lard, he wrote, is gold in the bank.

The administration unfortunately took the opposite line. A 10 per cent cut in hog production was recommended to farmers. Having had an unhappy experience with a floor price that was not a reality, the farmer on his own cut his hogs from 30 to 35 per cent.

It is this fact that makes the present situation so critical. In order to step up the meat and fat supply it is imperative to step up hog production at once. This in turn means keeping sows off the market now, and it would mean that the next four or five months would be exceedingly short here at home.

But if this is not done, the shortage all over the world next February and March will be disastrous. So the choice is between lean months now and an even more acute pinch a year from now.

The question of food is rapidly getting into the stage of acute controversy. You hear people say that we shouldn't feed "those Europeans." Isolationists are cleverly exploiting the issue without having to disclose their own basic prejudice against any kind of world cooperation.

In view of all this, it is interesting to look back at two articles that Hoover wrote in November and December of 1943 for Collier's magazine. Those articles, reprinted in a pamphlet, have a prophetic sound today. Coming from the man who knows more than anyone living about food and hunger, they seem even more significant than when they were written.

"A starving world must be fed after this war ends," Hoover wrote. "That has been promised to the victims of the war again and again by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill. Even if it had not been promised, we would have to do it if we want to make a lasting peace instead of lasting anarchy. And we will need to do it unless we are willing to stand by and watch millions of human beings die after we have made gigantic sacrifices to give them a chance to live.

"If this war stopped tomorrow, (this, remember, was 1942) there would be millions of permanently debilitated adults and millions of stunted children. But there will always be millions who can be saved. If European civilization is to live, they must be fed. And especially must this be done for the children, or we shall be faced with a generation of physical degenerates and potential gangsters."

That was written by a man who knows what he is talking about.

"Why, yes, mother, I fall in love with a different boy at the canteen every night! Why not! Aren't they all wonderful?"

City Hall Today

By Dick Young

IT COST the Federal Government $1,500,000 and required the services of 800 clerks and typists for 1,000 man years

Mr. Young

to make 500,000 searches through the Census Bureau's records for proof of citizenship of applicants for government jobs after Pearl Harbor. Out of that experience came the realization of the need for greater care in the registration of births. So this year's observance of Child Health Day has as its objective "a birth certificate for every baby in the USA."

There are doubtless many adults in Charlotte today who have no proof of their birth in this country and of their American citizenship. There are others who have recollection of their recent born to obtain registration of their birth after applying for a war job. National figures show that of the 10,000,000 babies born since Pearl Harbor more than 700,000 may be officially registered. Not so many years back, keepers of the City's vital statistics continually pounded their heads against the stone wall of doctor's indifference to birth registrations but today most of the births here occur in hospitals which have regular procedure of keeping and filing these records. But parents of babies born here should see that their child's birth is registered and should check with the vital statistics bureau at the City Health Department to see if the hospital or doctor has filed the record.

* * *

This young lady went to a lot of trouble and made an appeal clear across the Atlantic Ocean in an effort to get a couple of traffic tickets lifted. She sent the citations to a brother of Police Officer J. C. Goodman, a major in the Army stationed in England but Major Goodman sent them back to his brother and the traffic division summoned the young lady to Headquarters. She had to pay the $1 for each of the two offenses, which occurred back in January. She paid up just this week. . . . Judge E. McA. Currie was chatting with me last week about securing a War Department history of the 30th Division in which he served overseas during World War I; so when President Truman in his address to the Armed forces referred to the fact that he served in France with the 35th, I asked the Judge next day if he knew the President then. He was a captain of artillery and Judge Currie was a first lieutenant of the Infantry and he said he couldn't recall ever seeing him. Solicitor Mercer J. Blankenship was standing with me in front of the bench as I chatted with the Judge and he laughingly asserted, "If he had said that he was going to be President some day Judge Currie, of course, would have remembered him." . . . Thirty-five long leaf pine trees have just been set out on the lawn of the Palmer Fire School, which is rapidly becoming one of the most attractive spots in Charlotte. If J. A. Furrer has as good luck as Jimmy Jimison had with other trees he'll do all right with his long leaf pines. A couple of years ago Jimison set out 24 dogwoods and lost only two, and of 10 weeping willows planted along the creek bank only one died . . . "Buxx me, Miss Blue" is a common jest around the Police Station these days since a new-fangle electric door snatch has been installed on the gate leading to the jail on the second floor. The desk sergeant has to press a button, which causes a buzzing sound at the door, before it can be opened. . . . Detective W. J. Miller has received notification that his son, Flight Officer Robert Miller, is missing in action over Germany. . . . Condolence to the family of E. G. Richardson, superintendent of municipal buildings, who died last Saturday morning.

Out Of Congress

PRESIDENT Truman goes to the White House from more than ten years in the Senate, and from all present indications he intends to use his close contacts with Congress to promote harmony between the executive and the legislative branches of the Government.

Of our 16 previous Presidents since the outbreak of the Civil War, five had been members of Congress for a considerable period. Two others, Lincoln and Hayes, had served one term in the House so long before their election as President that their Congressional service meant little or nothing. Three others—Arthur, T. Roosevelt, Coolidge—had presided over the Senate as Vice-President without ever having been elected to Congress.

Arthur was presiding officer of the Senate during its special session of ten weeks in 1881. The membership was almost evenly divided politically, and the Vice-President, often in a position to cast the deciding vote, was in the thick of the fight to replace Democratic employees of the Senate with Republican employees. Arthur entered the White House after the death of President Garfield with the reputation of being a spoilsman. In fact, he had been removed several years before by President Hayes from the office of collector of the port of New York for flagrantly padding the rolls with spoilsmen. Nevertheless Arthur as President rose above his shabby political past, and gave the country a high-minded administration. At times his relations with the Republican Party leaders were harmonious, but at other times they were inharmonious, and he was disappointed in his hope of being nominated to succeed himself.

T. Roosevelt had presided over the Senate for only a special session of one week when called to the Presidency on the death of President McKinley. The first Roosevelt quarreled incessantly with his party leaders in Congress, but his point upon the party organization, also upon the people, was strong, and he was nominated to succeed himself. Coolidge had presided over the Senate for two and a half years before President Harding died; his relations with his party leaders in Congress were highly harmonious.

The five post-Civil War Presidents who had served long in Congress were Johnson, Garfield, B. Harrison, McKinley, and Harding. Johnson had been in Congress for 15 years, with an interval of four years, when Lincoln died. But he was a Democrat, and his relations with the Republican-dominated Congress went from bad to worse as the new President tried to follow what he conceived to be the late President's policy of reconciliation with the defeated South.

Garfield had been in the House of Representatives for 17 years. He was shot by a demented office-seeker less than four months after entering the White House; in those four months he had stood firmly and successfully against what he conceived to be improper demands of the party organization on appointments.

Benjamin Harrison, who had served a full term in the Senate, nevertheless fell out with his party leaders in Congress. One reason was his attempt to follow a middle road between the spoils system and civil service reform (his civil service commissioner was Theodore Roosevelt). Despite the hostility of the old-line Republican leaders, Harrison was re-nominated.

McKinley, in the House for 16 years, deferred constantly to his party leaders, and the record indicates that they pushed him against his will into war with Spain and annexation of the Philippines. Harding, Senator for one term, had relations with his party leaders that were highly harmonious—indeed, too harmonious.—Editorial Research Reports.

Statesmen At Work

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

SEN. HAWKES (N. J.), in answer to Senator Barkley's upbraiding of members for absenteeism:

I do not wish to have the distinguished majority leader misunderstand me. I am very sympathetic with what he has been trying to do. It is what in business I have tried to do all my life. I would not undertake to run an organization with three or four directors present when 21 of them should be present. I would not undertake to run an organization with only one or two officers present when fifteen officers should be present. For many years in business I have been doing what the distinguished majority leader has been requesting. I ask the Senator whether he does not think that serious thought should be given to enabling members to be present in the Senate Chamber when they should be here and also to be present in committees when they should be there.

Further desire to say at this point in the Record that I do not wish to have the people of the United States think that the Senators whom I know in this body are shirking their duty or are negligent or are remiss in answering to their responsibilities. I have worked hard all my life, but I must frankly admit that never have I worked so hard as I have since my service in the Senate. I believe the other members of this body could make a similar statement. Let me say that I have the utmost respect for my colleagues as I see them working day and night trying to keep up with the proceedings in the Senate and with their work in committees and at the same time attending to their voluminous correspondence and making an effort to see their constituents when they call on important business.

Let us remember that a Senator cannot see his constituents when he is on the floor of the Senate. He must either step outside the Senate Chamber or else go to his office and see his constituents there. Taking care of his constituents is the most important duty a Senator has, outside of doing his duty in the Senate Chamber.

Quote, Unquote

Education is very much more than a formal or institutional matter. It includes the whole nexus of influences—home and family, work and play, church and state —which help to shape the individual.—Dr. Everett Case, president Colgate U.

The Japs are tough, individually and collectively, and there are a lot of them. With all we have killed, they are stronger than when the war started.

—General Joseph Stilwell.

It is a matter of a short time before the rise or fall of our nation will be decided.

—Tokyo broadcast.