

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 1940

Quadrant

Concerning Two Desires That Could Not Be Reconciled

He may have been a very young squirrel with out experience in a world turned suddenly white. But our own theory is that the was on his way to being a Freudian case.

It is improbable certainly that he was any of those squirrels in the First Presbyterian churchyard but not exactly a nut with a morbid desire to be far from the madding crowd. And the woman who was tossing out nuts for him had a pleasant sort and called to him in a soothing voice.

Now it is the supposition that he was a nut who knew anything. The snow was so hard and the nuts lay fully on the surface as they fell, so that no digging was necessary.

What plainly ailed him was that he couldn't make up his mind. Whether to climb to the tree trunk and keep his feet warm, or bravely to endure the cold without a warm his stomach with walnuts and pecans — that was the question.

Repacked down, ran wildly forward a few yards, quite evidently trying to keep his feet from knowing there was snow there at all, turned and ran, peering over the tree trunk again, peering again, and despairingly out at the nuts, his chest rising as each new one fell. Repeated the performance at intervals of 30 seconds or so. Once in a terrible rush he reached a nut, grabbed it, slipped to crack it, dropped it, and returned to the tree again to peer out, his picture of frustrated soul.

He destined neurotic, obviously.

Useless

Holding Japan Calls For Sterner Stand Than This

The commercial treaty of the United States with Japan expires today, and hereafter between the two countries will be renewed on a day by day basis.

Immediately there will be no change in tariffs, etc., but the United States will be free to make whatever changes she pleases, or to embargo exports to Japan, particularly war exports, by a moral embargo like that now in use against Russia — or by the passage of a specific embargo act.

All of which again brings us up against a problem which, as we have said before, ought to be decided one way or the other. For the abrogation of this treaty represents a definite gesture of sympathy to Japan that we do not like her plans to conquer China and become the mistress of the Pacific.

And standing alone, it is not certainly a futile gesture. It is one which is neither a good nor good nor herring, and which will only embitter our relations with Japan. It cannot stop Japan in China. It can only do what it is in fact doing, make Japan more polite to us for the nonce and to the successfully carrying out her Chinese adventures — at the cost of secret rage and anger toward us, the desire for vengeance.

The question we need to face squarely is this: do we really want to stop Japan enough to pay the price and take the risk?

That we can stop her there is not much doubt. All along she has got from us two-thirds of all the military supplies she needs. That was ironic in a way, because as with one hand we supplied her with the strength to murder the Chinese, we held out the other to give the Chinese a vast lot of sympathy and some little aid. But for that we had this excuse, it would do no good to stop shipping our supplies to the invader. Deprived of them here, she would simply buy them from England, France and Italy — all eager for the trade. And more than that she would still pay for them in American dollars. We needed her silk, would go on getting it. Merely it would come by way of Britain and be paid for in dollars instead of goods — at a considerably higher price.

goods from us, sends us two-thirds as much of which silk is the primary item. That is five or six times as much as our total trade with China, half that of our trade with the United Kingdom, half that with Canada, from 25 to 40 percent more than that with France. The loss of that trade will be a serious matter for us directly. And indirectly it will mean more unemployment because of the closing down of the silk mills. More, and it is no mean item, our women will have to wear cotton and rayon instead of silk for a good while — a thing which is certain to raise a vast clamor.

The risk? That Japan may elect, instead of bowing herself bitterly out of China, to stake all in a swift naval warfare. There is no doubt that all our professions for many years and our obligations under the Nine Power Treaty call on us to clap on the embargo, willy-nilly. And prudence may dictate the same thing — for we are probably helping to raise up an Eastern colossus which may some day be a grave threat to us. On the other hand, we have economic trouble enough now.

But in any case whatever, we ought to make up our minds and quit trying to ride a horse in both directions — either come to the aid of China with effective measures or accept her doom and desist from silly and bootless gestures which net us nothing but hate.

Justified

Veto Of This Measure Was Only Rational Course

The Republican cries of "Hitlerism" against the President's veto of the measure to pay Ohio \$1,338,000 withheld from it in 1938 because of its failure to comply with the Social Security Law — and against the House's veto to sustain the veto — is mere political maneuvering.

For all we know there may be politics on the side of the President and the New Dealers in the House too. Probably not, for that matter. Certainly the ardent New Deal dislike for Governor Martin L. Davey did not aid Ohio in getting her irregularities overlooked. And the present Governor of Ohio, Republican John W. Bricker, is anathema to the White House, perhaps not without reason. Ohio's effort to make the Federal Government bear most of the relief load in Ohio.

But regardless of that, the veto was amply justified. To deny it, the Republicans would have to show that Ohio was not in fact failing to comply with the law in 1938, something that is completely impossible. State politicians would be at liberty to manipulate the relief set-up as they wished, for the achievement of temporary objectives — secure in the knowledge that, once they attained those objectives, they could remedy the irregularities and get back on a par with the rest of the country. And indeed, if you ever let down the bars by overriding the law to pay sums not legally due in the past, it would be only one more step to overriding the law to raid the Treasury at will.

On The Skids

Long Gass Seems Done For, Regardless Of Run-Off

Even if Earl Long should succeed in grabbing the Democratic nomination to the Governorship in the coming runoff of primary in Louisiana, the Long machine still promises to be broken. He has the stouge Legislature in session at Baton Rouge, busy engaged in passing laws designed to catch votes at the coming election. But it is already that this is the last Long Legislature. Only 25 of the 100 members of the present House, and nine of the 39 Senators secured outright renomination in the first primary. And even if all those who are still in the race should be covered by the long sting at the runoff — a highly unlikely thing of course — the Longites would still be a minority in the next Assembly, and Earl Long, as Governor would be impotent.

Moreover, it is plain that the old braven gasp spirit has been pretty well worn by the long sting at all laws to coerce and intimidate and flout democratic forms and rights — in the good old Yellowhammer.

Our Sales To Reds

By Hugh S. Johnson

WASHINGTON — Secretary Edison and Assistant Secretary Johnson are right. The rubber and tin are a necessity to national defense. We do not produce them. We do not import them from clear across the world. This is becoming more and more expensive as the war goes on.

But are they right in saying that people in this country who own pig-tin and crude rubber are "unique" and "uniquely" important when they sell them to the highest bidder — even if some of the bidders are to the Russian purchasing agency. Amtorg, and are exported to Russia to call such transactions "scandalous"? Are they really excusing their own incompetence and negligence in a situation which long ago screamed for action — which they did not take.

For several years, Mr. B. M. Baruch has been urging that our Government purchase and import sufficient reserves for these strategic raw materials. He actively urged again and again that some of our surplus wheat and cotton be traded for these supplies from British and Dutch possessions.

Some sufficient action and more or less sufficient gestures were made, but the condition of inadequate supply revealed by this public statement is proof enough that this dangerous condition was not remedied. Not at the fifth minute of the eleventh hour, pressure is being applied to make private owners of these stocks do what Government failed to do. The method is plain condemnation and characterization of the exercise of plain commercial rights as "scandalous."

Rubber and tin come to us from Dutch and English possessions in the East Indies and Straits Settlements. These are countries our country to Russia cross the Pacific. That is a far longer voyage than the trip to London from the original sources of these materials. Russia can get no commodities from the East Indies because there is any law against them — but because our merchants and bankers don't take the risk. She must pay cash. There is no published record of any tin and rubber shipments from these possessions. If Russia has cash, she will buy. She will buy there. What goes on here?

Murderers, All

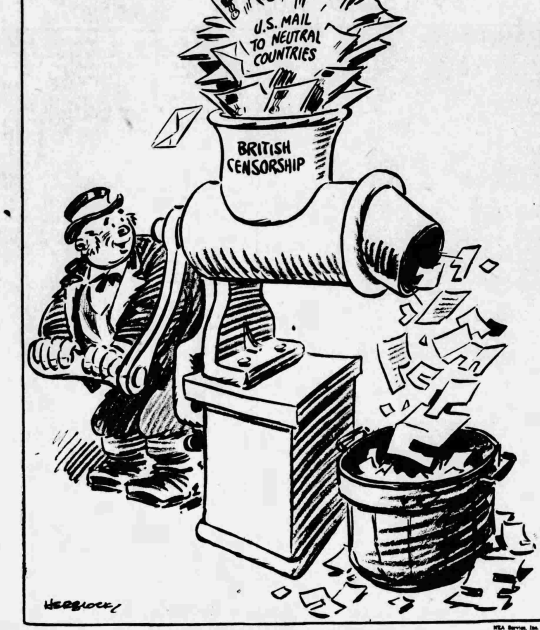
The lyncher is a murderer. The simple fact that his crime is usually committed in the security of numbers does not alter the fact that he is a murderer.

There are other murderers committed with in this fair land of ours. In all too many of such cases the guilty person is never brought to justice.

For instance, gangsters have a way of killing those who incur their displeasure. The justice meted out to the person who speaks of numbers does not alter the fact that he is a murderer.

The U. S. Mail Must Go Through

By Herblock



Letters to the Editor: Threat Of The Incompetent

Dear Sir: Somehow I always think of the United States as being a great big family with all the grown men and women, collectively, the parents of the family. All the youth, its children. I admit we don't all have happy, united family. We have a lot of family squabbles, but still the national family dies persists in my mind.

Every intelligent family these days tries to keep its size within the bounds of its economic circumstances. It tries not to bring into the world children it cannot properly provide for. It holds down the number of its dependents so that the burden of their care and support will not become too great. Normal children grow up, leave the family and make their own way to depend upon it. But some families are so unfortunate as to bring into the world abnormal, physically or mentally deficient children who remain dependent throughout their lives. If and when such parents die, or become, themselves, incapacitated, these deficient dependents become burdens upon society.

Now this is what I fear may be happening in America. At any rate the idea is worth thinking about. Can it be possible we have such an increased number of feeble in the nation that the burden is fast becoming unbearable upon the national family?

Mr. Billop: Miracles

A miracle is, by definition, any wonderful or amazing thing, fact or event. It is, therefore,

Johnny taking a bath or shining his shoes without being told.

Money dropping up in the corner at the exact moment she promised to be there to pick up Father.

The engine starting without the least trouble on a cold morning.

Father actually remembering to perform a family commission down town the very first day it is given to him.

The dogs desisting from chasing a motorcycle up the road when you call them.

An open fire burning cheerfully without smoking you out of the living room.

A permanent wave that stays permanent through a prolonged shower.

A new house that cost no more than the estimate of the builder.

Pipe tobacco that does not burn, the tongue and provides a "cool, sweet smoke."

An address that can be found without emptying the contents of several desk drawers.

A new car that goes several months before receiving the first dent in a fender.

The news will pay a price of \$1 for the best letter to the editors received each day. The contest is open to all, whether previous prize-winners or not, but preference will be given newcomers and those whose letters do not exceed 300 words in length.

The editors reserve the right to withhold the prize on days when no letter seems of sufficient merit to warrant it, but hope they will have less and less occasion to do so.

It is eligible for the prize, letters must be printed over the correct name and street or rural address of the writers, an should not exceed 300 words in length.

Has it become absolutely necessary now for us to do a few simple things, such as (1) limit suffrage rights to proved competent; (2) introduce the practice of eugenics and birth control in order to maintain supremacy of the competent in the land? These things, at least, are worth thinking and studying about, aren't they? Maybe a little more intelligent birth control, and a lot more discretion in the matter of whom we allow to vote would get us out of our critical situation. What do you think about it?

—W. C. WEBER, Charlotte, W. Car.

Government Menaces Liberty, He Thinks

I think not only Charlotte but Americans everywhere must more heartily endorse your present editorial.

Sunflower Street

By TOM LITTLE and TOM SIMS



Coughlin, The Eel

By Dorothy Thompson

I OWED the Dies Committee an apology. In my column of Jan. 17 I asked — apropos the arrest of seventeen members of the Christian Front — how it was that the Dies Committee had not discovered these gentlemen and warned the American public in its report.

I based my statement on the summaries of the report carried in the American press. These summaries listed the names of the organizations that had been investigated. They named the Communist Party and a considerable number of its "front" organizations, as well as eleven trade unions in which Communist influence was strong.

But on the Fascist side, the only organization named in either "The Times" or the Herald Tribune's description of the report was the German-American Bund. The public was therefore not informed that the Dies Committee discovered that we are operating in this country with the same sort of "front" organizations that the Communists have.

Whereas the Communist "front" organizations are mostly camouflaged under the label of leagues of friends of the "worker" or of "democracy," the Nazi fellow travelers are camouflaged under the names of "Christian" or "patriotic" or "American." Otherwise, the setup and the technique are the same.

PAPA'S SNEAKS UP TO ADOPT'S BOOK

The Christian Front was brought into the testimony by none other than Mr. Fritz Kuhn. (Page 1 of the report, Union Calendar No. 3, Report No. 1476, 76th Congress, House of Representatives.) And I advise my readers to send for the report and read it for themselves, in toto.

That petty racketeering mimic of bigger and better racketeers, the German-American Bund had worked sympathetically with other organizations throughout the United States and co-operates with them. Kuhn testified that these organizations are the Christian Front, the Christian Mobilization, the Christian Crusades, the Social Justice Society, the Silver Shirt Legion of America, the Knights of the White Camelia, and various Fascist, White Russian, and Ukrainian organizations.

The report further tells us (on the testimony of Mr. Kuhn) that the standard reading in the Bund camps is Hitler's "Mein Kampf." Fellow booklets and his publication, "Liberation," the books of Julius Streicher (the perverted and sadistic editor of the "Blood and Soil" magazine) and the Nazis in Nuremberg, who became even too strong medicine for Hitler some time ago, and the Rev. Father Coughlin's publication, "Social Justice."

YOU CAN'T FASTEN HIM DOWN VERY EASILY

Now, the role of Coughlin in respect to this whole movement is difficult to define. Coughlin is one of the greatest squirmers about the ground level of the movement. He manages to be a power behind the throne, while openly allying himself with a specific organization. (That, at least, is his claim.) His publication, "Social Justice" is quoted continually by the publications of all the other rabble-rousing Fascist organizations. His anti-Semitism becomes incitement to violence, only when it has left his mouth and been transferred to several other and less cautious mouths.

On Aug. 14 "Social Justice" published a statement of Chuck Coughlin in which he, "as a clergyman," finds it necessary in order "to protect his usefulness," not to be associated with "The Christian Front." But he finds he can support "a Christian Front," whose "advertising principles and whose entire program to defend Christianity against the unjust aggressions of anti-Christian forces."

In other words: Include me out, boys, because it will impair my usefulness as a public speaker, etc. and isn't becoming a clergyman.

Coughlin is his own "front" organization for the elements that are trying to upset the order of this country by inciting race against race, and by spreading terror and confusion. Long ago they removed the name of violence from the street. Now some of them are indicted for planning organized and armed violence. Coughlin is as much their fellow-traveler as the League of Peace and Democracy is a fellow-traveler of the Communist Party — which it is.

Visitin' Around

The Interminable Round! (Wedding item, Waxhaw Enterprise) This is to be a busy week for the Weddington folk. Beginning Monday night with a P.T.U. meeting Mr. Miller has arranged for Happy Gadd and His Yodling Rangers to play a real Western riding program Thursday night, beginning at 8 o'clock with admission 10 and 25 cents.

Who Got The End-Piece? (Except, Ridgeway item, Winsboro News & Herald) At 5 o'clock the family and a few of Florence's small infants enjoyed an open air supper in Goodson Park, topped with a birthday cake.