

## THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1941

## "Hold Fast"

The Duce Is Obsessed  
With a Retentive ComplexHold tight! Hold tight!  
... Want some sea food, mmm?  
—Popular song, vintage 1937.

Somewhat reminiscent of the once hysterically popular American song is Benito Mussolini's latest slogan for the Italian people, "Hold fast."

The Duce gave out with this new watchword on his recent speaking tour through northern Italy. The speeches, we are told, were designed to disprove the American idea that Italy is the Achilles heel of the Axis.

Pointed to the side of the hapless old dictator during his appearance was one Wilhelm Oomsberger, German Minister of Posts. Some of the least enthusiastic Italian viewers were heard to remark that the Nazi had come along to catch the utterance if he suddenly sneezed over.

But he didn't. He managed to keep on his feet throughout the trip. And he kept repeating over and over, "We must hold fast." "You must hold fast."

The impertinent question arises: hold fast to what?  
The answer is obvious. To your ration cards, you dope!

## Interception

The Nazis Seem To Have  
A Strong Pass Defense

Nobody but the Germans know how Hitler's agents kibitzed on President Roosevelt's personal note to Benito Mussolini and the German word "kibitz" is an extremely clever piece of espionage.

The President's aide, down, writes out a letter of greeting to the German dictator. He sends his trustworthy agent, Averell Harriman, to deliver the message in person. Then, before Mr. Roosevelt's eyes, the aide, whether he is going to make the note public the Berlin newspapers come out with a complete text of the letter. Of course it was altered in a few particulars—Herr Goebbels' boys are out of practice at quoting verbatim—but the note was there, in the original, all right. It makes us look slightly silly, which, of course, is what the Nazis intended to do.

Of course the Gestapo, which maintains a very efficient spy system in Moscow as well as in Washington, must have picked up the text at the receiving end. In that case, we hope that our "dear Benito" will about the proper people immediately. If, however, the leak was at the Washington end of the line, it is to be hoped that those guilty will be severely reprimanded. If not actually threatened with deportation.

## Decision

Will We Strike Japan Now,  
Or Await Russia's Defeat?

According to reports circulating among U. S. diplomats, Britain, the Dutch Indies, and the United States have tightened their oil faucets and at long last have cut off the last trickle of petroleum into Japan. This is news of the greatest importance, meaning that within a few weeks the Japanese must get oil, either by making a peaceful deal with the three powers or by launching a full-fledged war of aggression in the Pacific. Otherwise, Japan would be doomed to withdraw utterly from Asia and face upheaval at home.

Our guess is that the Japanese will fight. They have been trying to negotiate a "peaceful" settlement for months, a settlement that would assure them of oil and other raw materials from the ABC powers and still allow them a free hand in their Asiatic conquest. They have hit a stone wall. President Roosevelt and Secretary Hull have made it clear that Japan must withdraw from China before any settlement can even be considered. To the military clique that rules Japan, it is simply impossible to meet this condition.

The plight of the Japanese adds another reason for the great new German offensive against Moscow. It is generally agreed—and even the Germans have not denied it—that the latest drive on the central Russian front was planned to great haste. The official German agency's version, taken for whatever it is worth, is that Hitler simply ordered General von Bock to "knock Moscow out."

aia out before the Japanese are forced to begin a major war in the Pacific. If he does not succeed, Japan will be fighting virtually a five front war against China, Britain, America, the Dutch East Indies, Russia, and the United States. Especially do the Japanese fear Russia, for they can never banish the thought of those fleets of Russian long-range bombers based at Vladivostok—within easy striking distance of her highly inflammable industrial cities. Thus the situation becomes a race against time with the two factors involved: Japan's dwindling oil reserves and the progress of the German armies toward a knock-out victory over Russia. In any event, war in the Pacific between Japan and the United States appears to be a dead certainty. It is only a question of whether we and our allies shall fight with or without the assistance of Russia. Or whether we shall have a jumpy enough to strike first while the long odds are in our favor.

## Labor's Min

FDR Sees What He Has Done,  
And, Behold, He Likes It

In the President's review of the labor policies of his Administration in Collier's this week, he still has no word of repent for the sit-down, stay-in strikes which cost the country half out of its back there in 1937. Growing pains, he calls that, and other manifestations of labor going pawsant under the New Deal's encouragement. The glaring faults that are not to be overlooked in organized labor's structure are racketeering leadership, the use of coercion and violence, lack of discipline and responsibility, lack of monopolistic practices—he dismisses as no worse excesses than were committed by capital. Industry and finance when their fingers were in power.

What is a remarkable complacency for the President to assume. A candid man will have to admit that there was a great deal of capital industry and finance which cried for reform. A candid President would have to admit that the same is true presently of labor, and that the excesses of other forces in the past cannot be allowed to excuse new excesses of an upstart force.

What's exceedingly dangerous about the attitude of labor, and will not be minimized by such fatherly pats on the head as the President bestows, is the couple of words: violence and ideology.

Labor takes it for granted (and the President too for that matter) that violence in a labor dispute is different from ordinary violence and is not at all unlawful because it is because it takes place in a labor dispute, more or less impulsively and without premeditation or lasting intent to do real harm. Real harm is often done, however, and this Administration could take no surer step to preserve the privileges it has wrought for labor from an Unemployment Congress (and sometimes a downright hostile people) than by drawing up a sort of Kellogg Pact outlawing violence by either side as an instrument of labor policy.

The second disturbing manifestation we called ideology, and that is what it is fast coming to be. Labor for labor, in right or wrong. Those who are not wholly with us are altogether against us. The invariability of "pleket lines" without regard to the justice or the necessity of strikes which gave rise to them. Antagonism for antagonism's sake, as though strained relations and unrest would advance labor's cause. The importance of allaying these misconceptions has not yet been recognized by the New Deal, and it is plain from the President's review that he is unlikely to propitiate it. The President prefers (and deserves, rightly) to think of himself, like Lincoln, as the great emancipator. He has not yet troubled even to wonder, if it is a simple to check mass forces as it is to loose them.

A certain sameness runs through the histories of the professional conquerors. In the end, they try too large an underdog, for aise.

A thought at this juncture for unhappy Tokyo. On looking up her Ximono sleeve, Madame Butterfly discovers she has no trick.  
A safety policy, as well as a nice slogan for our daring young fliers in training, planer: "She'll Be Comin' Round the Mountain When She Comes."

## Selfish Defense

By Hugh S. Johnson

WHATEVER case may be said about it, there was some consistency in the neutrality legislation when our policy was to keep out of the war in Europe and to that end.

It forbade the risk of American lives, property and dollars in combined arms. It was a policy that was completely reversed in the Lease-Lend Act and the Export Control Act.

President was authorized in his sole discretion to risk both American property and dollars in unprecedented amounts whenever and wherever on the surface of the globe he decided, the Neutrality Act became obsolete. They now only serve to create an added danger of risk to the sacrifice we are making.

One foundation in which they rested is pulled out from under them it is hard to see any difference between their outright repeal and some piecemeal money business this side of that.

VALUE OF ARMING SHIPS

The American merchant ships is an extremely of very little value. It now takes too much technical equipment and crew to make it very effective against submarine and especially against combined submarine and aircraft attack. We haven't got either the equipment or the trained men to make more than a prize at effective armament.

While the presence of a couple of cannon on board might make a submarine a little more wary, would also make it more sure not to attack without any warning whatever.

There is a good deal of hokum about getting Congressional authority to arm merchant ships. It is a great deal more understood in Washington that we have already armed several and that the merchantmen are now being armed.

The first real question is whether American flag ships will be permitted to sail into combat areas. That also has been done.

The suggestion is that we can get around the prohibition of the Neutrality Act on that by changing the President's unimpeachable his own proclaimed combat zones and say that they are not.

It is really not a question of honor. It is a question of whether we are going to lift this ban. Let's do it honestly—by repealing that provision of the Neutrality Act.

WHAT ANSWER

TO THE SHIP IS SHIP?

Then comes another question, far more vital. After we have lifted the ban and said that we are permitting to sail into combat areas, what then? We have to have a way to get around the prohibition of the Neutrality Act on that by changing the President's unimpeachable his own proclaimed combat zones and say that they are not.

It is really not a question of honor. It is a question of whether we are going to lift this ban. Let's do it honestly—by repealing that provision of the Neutrality Act.

Technically it would not, under the old doctrine of international law. What it would mean today is that we are changing the doctrine of international law.

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The Good Die First—WORDSWORTH

## Milestones in a Long, Uphill Fight

By Herblock



## Letters to the Editor:

## WPA Worker Hits Nixon

Editors, The News:

Please allow me through your paper to answer the one Chester Nixon who has gotten so rattled, and was so . . . to start with, he is . . . or so lazy or has lay around the County Courthouse until he thinks someone should untie him and work for him for a while when he should be at home helping his wife haul up hay as he says she is doing.

I am very sorry for a good lady like this having to do the work and let her husband lay around in town.

There is not a WPA worker that I know of who is not a credit to his community. I am a man like this. I will be all his life has been given him. I will be all his life has been given him.

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Before death's angel came and closed life's final gate.

Men, thrusting not for fleeting wealth before they came to die. Men, never born to kill and steal. Men, never born to cry. Men, happy at their given tasks, their cup of joy complete. War makes of them a demon thing if dying in defeat.

Men, going to their death in ships were charged with the duty of saving their bodies free of flesh, a chance to their fate. Men, blasted from their planes above regardless of their plans. On land, on sea, from heights above, its kill, kill, kill.

Yes, war and God will come future day and God all shall obey. No can solve the mystery why Hitler seeks to lay. Gloating over his stolen gold, each new day plotting still. His downfall is written on the wall and America will fulfill.

Be gallant then you men who are set, preparing war to end. Pure not for loved ones left behind as your gallant cause defend.

Thank God, all mothers, for each son of soldiers they must be. If life is sacrificed in war they complete their destiny.

—JESSIE HANSEN BEDOWICK, Charlotte, N. C.

Soldiers Deserve More Hospitality

Editors, The News:

We now have visitors among us who are from many states of the Union. Our Southern Hospitality is certainly not in evidence when these boys in uniform do not realize that they are giving their very lives for us. They have left homes, jobs, mothers, fathers, sweethearts, sisters, brothers and friends behind for a year or longer. What are we of the "Friendly City" doing in appreciation for them? Can't we realize that they are visitors, many of whom will

RD 5, Box 1097, Charlotte.

A Poem About War And Patriotism

Editor, The News:

THE CHALLENGE

The sting of war is in the air and blood is being shed. In evidence like leaving flame it spreads its way, devouring all it meets. Each country claimed, submissively now, Hitler's type. I bet if you would him out, he is an advocate of Chas. Lindbergh.

—J. V. VINEYETT, RD 5, Box 1097, Charlotte.

Today's Bible Thought

You must do more than just your head. Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only.—James 1:22

A story could be made from less a million eyes have shed. The thunder's roar a trivial thing to sound from the dying dead. Pain on our souls ever know how long they had to wait.

When better warplanes are built, they are never good enough.

## Will We Let Britain Fall?

By Raymond Clapper

THOUGH who think it does not matter to us if England goes down ship this, it will interest any those who believe it important to the defense of the United States, that Britain and her navy are the only help us in winning out a powerful world in which we can live freely as we have in the past.

Suppose Hitler has begun his attempt to invade England. Suppose, as I found some of the best authorities in England figuring it out, that Hitler gains a foothold upon the decisive battle has to be fought out on British soil in regular mechanized warfare. That is exactly the possibility against which England is now preparing.

That struggle would determine whether England was to survive or perish.

WHAT WOULD AMERICA DO IN THE CRISIS?

The question which this Administration is now considering—and this is one of the reasons it is desired to change the Neutrality Act—is what the United States would do in such a crisis.

In such a desperate emergency it is easily possible that England would be so badly hit that she would be unable to land. A relatively small amount of additional war supplies might turn the balance, and save Hitler from ultimate victory. The Administration wants to be able to meet that emergency, does not want to come up to that desperate emergency and find that it must fail in the crisis because a law says no American ships can put in at belligerent ports with war supplies. The Administration wants to be free, if such an emergency arises, to be able to run every ship it can lay hands on into the northern ports of Britain.

ALL OUR 60 BILLIONS WOULD HAVE GONE FOR NAUGHT

After devoting 60 billion dollars to the production of war materials because we believe that the march of Hitler is a danger to us, after embarking upon lend-lease aid to Britain because we consider it our duty to help dollars to us to help her survive, we would stand in an absurd position to stop short of the critical moment because a law said our ships could not get into port with the supplies necessary to win the victory for which this expenditure of money and effort had been made.

That is the heart of the case over changing the Neutrality Act. The arming of American merchant ships presents no problem. The repeal of the other restrictions would protect us against future attacks by the Axis. That would be a source of critical raw materials in to follow wherever the war goes. But more important than any of these considerations is the question of being able to meet a future emergency in the Battle of Britain.

When the British lost all of their army equipment at Dunkirk, President Roosevelt wasted no time and simply rushed over surplus army equipment and began re-equipping the British, as an emergency act, without consulting Congress or the public. It was either that or leave Britain exposed to the invasion that was expected momentarily.

CONGRESS HOLDS BACK AT LIFTING RESTRICTIONS

Senators and Representatives are showing some reluctance or rather some apprehension as to the willingness of the public to follow the Administration in asking release from restrictions against going into belligerent ports and combat zones. There is particular hesitation in the House, hence the decision at the first White House neutrality conference was to leave the House leaders for a second conference.

President Roosevelt, Secretary Hull and Harry Hopkins are giving the legislators as complete a picture as they can of possible emergencies that may call for possible emergency aid to service that can be pressed into service. It all comes down again to the elemental question of whether we are in different to the outcome of the war. Although we have shown by the program of taxes and other heavy sacrifices that we consider it important that Britain hold, and are about to expand our program still further, the question of aid to Britain is to be discussed, all over again whether a new measure to make that policy effective comes up.

What Does George Do—Work The Balloons?

(North Wakeborough, Ill.) George Ashley, of the Oakwood vicinity and who works at the foundry, said Saturday he had been in the Liberty Foundry now thirteen years.

Under Cover (Annapolis, Md.) Gladys News (Prize) Miss Gertrude Brown was accompanied Sunday by her grandfather and aunt to Stony Fork Church in Montgomery County, she received a nice prize.

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