

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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W. C. Dord, Jr., President J. R. Dord, Vice-President  
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MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1941

## Don't Blame John L.—We

Know About Him Long Ago

As public indignation against John L. Lewis begins to swell again, as the nation reads President Roosevelt's pathetic little note to the Czar of all the Mine Workers, we are prompted to ask whether the American people have any right to cuss out Mr. Lewis. Perhaps they would be entitled to denounce him if he had been sifting under false colors, if he had posed as a patriotic and benign citizen.

But the people of this country found out about John L. Lewis years ago. They got their first glimpse of the inner man when he introduced the sit-down strike. They saw a little more of him when he "loaned" huge sums of money to the Democratic national war chest during the 1936 campaign. He was a pretty well-known figure when, as absolute ruler of the CIO, he flatly refused to clean out the Communists. Yes, sir, this country, from the President on down, knows what manner of man John L. Lewis is.

Why, then, should we be angry at the man for a little thing like stopping all defense production in an hour of crisis? His captive coal miners strike, the steel mills dependent on the mines stop, steel production dips, the U. S. armament industry slows down.

But why blame John L. Lewis? By his very reputation we should have known he'd do it. The blame for the existence of such labor potentialities is on his part, upon us all—but more particularly upon President Roosevelt himself. For President Roosevelt and his associates coddled John L. and nursed him along.

Well might John L. answer the President's note with that favorite song of the Gay Nineties:

"You made me what I am today,  
I hope you're satisfied..."

## Dumping

The Air Corps Is To Be Loaded With 2,000 Deadheads

Secretary of War Stimson's announcement that the Army Air Force's personnel will be tripled to 400,000—about one-third the size of the German Luftwaffe—would have sounded more hopeful if he had stopped right there. But he didn't. Stimson went right on to say that approximately 2,000 National Guard cadets and lieutenants, who are being relieved of their field commands because of over-age and inefficiency demonstrated during maneuvers, will be dumped into the Air Force for ground duty.

"These officers are all right except that they have been deemed unfit for service with the troops," he said. "It is a mighty poor reason for assuming that they will be any more successful in their new jobs."

Air battles may be won in the skies, but they are planned on the ground. Every single military observer who has seen the Luftwaffe in action has reported that its successes have been due in large measure to superb ground and staff work. If these National Guard officers are unfit for service with the ground forces, how can they reasonably be expected to do an adequate job at their new posts?

We can't help wondering what the Air Corps has done to deserve this handicap.

## Sunderance

The Rule That Brought Owen Here Now Takes Him Away

If the minister of any principal church in the city were to be called away or transferred to another parish, chances are that we should feel impelled to take regretful note of it. In the case of Dr. Richard L. Owenby, pastor of the Myers Park Methodist Church, such an obligation undoubtedly rests upon us. This one is not to be discharged so easily.

For in Dr. Owenby the whole community has found a man it liked to begin with and more and more as it knew him better. Alert of mind and movement, genial yet with becoming dignity, a devoted Christian, Dr. Owenby has become a household name. He has become a man who is not to be discharged so easily.

when he came in contact and has blessed those who lived under his ministrations.

Sometimes, as in an instance of this kind which reverses the connection between this man and his innumerable Charlotte friends, the Methodist rule of rotation is made to appear in a harsh light. But like most rules which endure, it has its good points. The rule it was which brought Dr. Owenby here, and in that it has been the gainers.

## Mister Hill

For Ham Fish's Flunkiness, He Has a Bad Memory

"Corrupt perjury" is the charge brought against Congressman Ham Fish's secretary, George Hill. We quote from one of the two Federal Grand Jury bills of indictment. It looks pretty bad for the dish-faced, bespectacled flunkiness who appears to be taking the rap for his employer.

According to the indictments, Mr. Hill got himself into trouble by saying "no" when he should have said "yes." He was asked (1) if he was acquainted with Nazi Propaganda George Sylvester Viereck, (2) if he knew anything about the business of sending out of thousands of certain questionable speeches under the Hon. Fish's name, (3) if he knew who paid for reprints of the aforesaid speeches. To each query, Mr. Hill gave a negative answer. The Grand Jury has evidence that Mr. Hill chopped ped down a few cherry trees in the back yard and thinks he ought to be allowed to elaborate on his denials.

And here comes Hon. Fish himself, flanking his muscles and shouting: "I'll back George Hill to the limit on anything!" This is a bizarre touch. If the Congressman is so glibly glib about the wildly daring speech at a girl's school that his glibness part and he halfway lost his pants—if the Congressman were endowed with better judgment, he would give up all pretense of loyalty and let justice take its course. His own record won't stand too much scrutiny, although we do not imply that Ham is guilty of perjury.

Congress was quick to give itself immunity from such minor crimes as testifying falsely. When you come to think of it, it is no wonder that Ham is so glibly glib about the truth of his statements, there would be some vacant seats in the halls of both Houses on this October Monday.

## City Limits

State Maintenance—and Tax Evasion—Begins Here

There is something wrong with the existing machinery North Carolina cities have at their disposal for extending their corporate limits.

Consider our state capital, Raleigh. It's been growing by leaps and bounds of late. Large residential areas have sprung up just outside the official city limits. It took a terrific struggle, with all kinds of political shenanigans, to bring about tomorrow's election at which the city and in the area up for incorporation will decide for or against the proposed extension.

Before there could be an election, the Legislature had to pass an enabling act. Which means that the state can afford to spend the most money can either push through, or kill the act.

The only other way a city can extend its boundaries is by petition by a majority of the residents of an area that seeks admittance. This happens about as often as any group asks that new taxes be levied on themselves.

By all rules of fairness and equity, Raleigh's boundaries should be extended. In her present area seven and one-half square miles live more than 46,000 people—a population density of 6,253 per square mile. She wants to expand to 12 and a half square miles and take in an additional 10,000 or so persons.

Charlotte, too, has long since grown beyond her corporate limits. While her population increased more than 16,000 during the last decade, her area, 18.8 square miles, remained constant. The result has been tremendous spilling over into sections which are part of the city as far as most of the benefits are concerned, but which aren't on the tax books.

The pity of this inequality is that so many influential people now live outside the city that they, in league with the unwieldy legal machinery, just won't let a city's limits pass an outmoded, arbitrary line.

## Fantastic Situation

By Hugh S. Johnson

THE situation of labor in the defense industries is fantastic beyond belief.

The general civilian population is about to be brought to the brink of high cost living and sky-rocketing costs of living—and be squeezed dry.

Business executives for a few great corporations are about to be forced against the wall by all these forces, plus a reckless and unscrupulous profiteer system which nobody pretends is going to deprive it of its daily rations for such materials to fabricate, distribute and sell.

LABOR REQUIRED TO GIVE UP NOTHING

But organized labor—or, rather the small group of radical and sometimes racketeering leadership which controls it—is not only required to give up nothing, but is being permitted, if not encouraged, to use this crisis to entrench itself in a campaign of intimidation by holding a danger-point against the vulgar vein of national necessity—war production.

Mr. Sidney Hillman has practically announced himself as czar of our labor policy. In that capacity, he has admitted that he has permitted and abetted one hijacking of the defense effort by violating the spirit, not the actual letter of the law of Government contracting—award to lowest bidder. This he did, he says, because the lowest bidder had a labor contract with a CIO union, and he was afraid that that bidder got this great contract, AFI unions in other places, could strike the defense building program. All this was notwithstanding the fact that the AFI building trades have a contract not to strike defense.

CONTRACTS DIDN'T HELP THE NAVY

Apparently Mr. Hillman believes such contracts are no good. It is a good reason for such belief. In the Navy, after such contracts, there have been more strikes or at least more time lost in production than ever before.

Naval production on the Pacific Coast is being threatened by a strike of a few welders—threw out many times the AFI boiler-makers out of work and shutting down complete shipping and repair outfit.

Their grievance is not against their employers or their Government, they just don't want to be hijacked by the AFI boiler-makers. But they are hijacking the defense program just the same and using the nation's necessity to gain their ends.

Much of steel production is threatened by a strike of workers in the captive mines. They want a closed shop and the check-off. They want the AFI boiler-makers union dues by the company itself—a means not only of complete forced unionism but of insuring its continuation.

JOHN L. LEWIS FEELS WISELY PRESENT

The production of steel requires a tremendous amount of steel produced in three mines which are owned by the steel-makers, a complete control of this bottleneck would give them as much power over steel production as the Government or the companies themselves. There is no involved here an intricate situation which is involved a feud between John Lewis and the President.

In a decision of the Defense Mediation Board the Kelly shipbuilding Co. was required to fire a man who didn't pay his union dues and who was an effective device to perpetuate a union in that plant regardless of the wishes of the workers.

The company declined. The Government took over the plant. The Navy is operating it. Soon we shall see the Government taking over the production of a single union exactly as it will be doing if the Hillman decision is allowed to stand in the Currier case.

Price control, including a just limitation of wages, is an absolute necessity to prevent inflation. But because wage control is feared by labor leaders, the Government is making an ass of itself by attempting to justify the existing conditions by which the whole thing is being held.

Our is a long-suffering people but how long will it stand for this sort of favoritism and injustice at the expense of the whole people and the safety of the nation? I don't know—but certainly not forever.

A patent is granted on a bathing suit which may be put on or taken off while one wears the street clothes and the wearer is afraid the wartime rationing would come up with something like this.

The feeling grows that the Duke is now wanted up. In Rome, where the gladiators once fought and where they are losing Benito to the Italians.

"After a period of doubt," says a trade item, "it seems the automobile trailer is here to stay." And three tomorrow.

## Statement From a Friend



## Letters to the Editor: Battle Of The Catawba

Editors, The News:

In an article published in your paper, Thursday, Oct. 23, 1941, written by Rice Yahnke, AP Reporter, under the caption, "Battle Ends Hours in Advance," Frederick's troops Big Advantage Cause the Cessation of Hostilities," there appears to be many statements that are contrary to the actual facts.

While these maneuvers are primarily for training of the individual units, as well as the unit commanders, in the various phases of administration, supply and tactics, there must of necessity, be situations developed that terminate with the actual advancing while the other combatant is withdrawing. This is true in practically every contest when two teams engage in friendly combat, unless, of course, it ends in a deadlock.

However, in fairness to all concerned, it would be much better if in describing these maneuvers, the news correspondent would not continue the facts and figures stated that are absolutely contradictory to the actual culmination of the battle.

The reporter evidently got the two Corps confused and did not know which was designated as the "Blue" and which as the "Red" when he described one Corps with the "Red" and the other with the "Blue." He also stated that the simulated warfare could not be continued and again when he stated that the Commanding General "yesterday ordered the II Corps to give the I Corps another chance."

For the information and education of Mr. Yahnke, the writer has seen service in many maneuvers. Army Corps and Cavalry units have never considered his "Army" at no great a disadvantage that it needs another chance, when that "Army" has advanced and pushed the enemy back about 27 miles in three days, and captured hundreds of men, vehicles, guns, armored cars, and so on, and still maintained the moral superiority of the Blue Air Corps, a huge pontoon bridge over the Catawba River which was used to transport thousands of men and vehicles into enemy (Blue) territory.

This letter is not intended in a brazen manner, nor to discredit the splendid tactical actions displayed by Blue Forces, but to correct flagrant errors made and to correct flagrant errors made and to correct flagrant errors made.

## TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

The heart has reasons that the mind cannot understand. God speaks through the heart and his book: Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding.—Proverbs 3:5.

## Senator Soaper Says:

It is marvelous that Tokyo finds new ways in which the nine-power treaty may be scrapped, as you can't tear confetti in two.

A veteran trainer tells an interviewer the boxer of today is better than his of yesterday. He fights Joe Louis and gets to bed early.

published that may have the wrong effect on the morale of 16,000 splendid officers and men of the I Corps, or "Red" Forces.

For the good of all personnel concerned it would be deemed a splendid gesture if this letter is published in your line paper.

MAJOR A. LESTER HENDERSON  
101st Signal Artillery, National Academy, AFI

In the Kershaw, S. C. Manover Area.

(Note: Charlotte AP office reports that Mr. Yahnke's story was based on "information" provided by and cleared through the Army's Public Relations Office at Camden, S. C. said officer being attached to the 101st Signal Artillery, National Academy, AFI.)

Mr. Cheshire Joked Himself Out of Herring

Chapel Hill Weekly Being Funny cat James W. Cheshire of Hillsboro, four bags of roe herring. Nobody who does not know as I do, the depth of his humor, could have been so understanding that a trifling punishment this was.

John D. Elliott, a friend of Mr. Cheshire's in Edenton, catches and packs and sells roe herring, and deals in flat net and has several other occupations. When he ordered the four bags Mr. Cheshire called the occupation after Mr. Elliott's name on the face of the envelope—"Putter-Up of Roe Herring," "Maker" and "Shipper of Plan Nets," and so on. The postman who delivered the letter asked Mr. Elliott to read him the envelope to show to a friend. A day or two later a newspaper published the writing on the envelope. It struck editors all the county as good comedy, and so it was reprinted in dozens of papers. This made Mr. Elliott and his friends in the rule of business, Mr. Elliott forgot. Before Mr. Cheshire's order was reached, the envelope of roe herring was exhausted.

## Side Glances



a friend, a distinguished gentleman stopped at their table for a moment. The lady's friend introduced the newcomer as the Duke of—. Our informant knew him to be pretty high in the succession to the throne of one of the little countries that had succumbed to Hitler, so when he said that he was going soon to North Africa, it pleased her curiously. Later she asked her friend what the trip was for. The Duke replied: "What the Duke would want his plans known," the friend said, "but between you and me, he's deserting for the sole rights to the assets of Coca-Cola down there."

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## Side Glances

Here there may be some difficulty. European ports of northern Russia are barred to American-flag ships by the combat zone prescribed in April, 1940, after Germany invaded Norway. The American flag has been barred by ships flying some other flag. Congress revises the combat-zone provision of the Neutrality Act. There are also problems. Most uncertain of all is the rail line from Archangel to Moscow. With the Germans at Archangel it is doubtful if this route can be kept open long.

(Aside: This piece has been completely ruined by fate. I came down to work suspecting a big appearance next. But everything stands where it did twenty-four hours earlier when Secretary Hull held his press conference that it is time for the United States to defend its right to sail the seas anywhere. I could have said that in the first paragraph and stopped. But when I would have had nothing to show for a day's work that turned a perfectly swell idea for one of those tough columns that are expected of a columnist.—E. C.)

## Visitors Around

Faithful Never Was One To Do Things By halves (caption item, Morgantown News-Herald) Miss Estelle Shuping had a social call on her home last Saturday night with several guests. She served refreshments.

## Japan Appeased?

By Raymond Clapper

WE ARE NOT abandoning our shipping route to Vladivostok, in spite of an announcement from the U. S. Maritime Commission which would seem to suggest that this "Concession" had pulled a rug-out from under the Atlantic.

Tokyo can take no comfort from the earlier dispatches which indicated that the "Concession" had pulled a rug-out from under the Atlantic. It has been our policy to use all routes into Russia.

The Maritime Commission's earliest announcement was that all aid-to-Russia cargo would move from Boston effective Tuesday next. It should have stated that all aid-to-Russia cargo crossing the Atlantic would move from Boston. But as that explanation was not included, it was interpreted that the Pacific shipments were to be abandoned.

## NO BACKDOWN WAS INTENDED

Because of the tense Far Eastern situation, it was assumed in some quarters that this announcement revealed a change of high policy amounting to a backdown in face of the new Tokyo Cabinet. That was not the case. In fact the State Department and even President himself were taken completely by surprise at the Maritime Commission's announcement.

The mistaken claim given to the announcement caused consternation in high quarters. And naturally so. In its first place the Government was left in the position of seeming to be underwriting a broad-scale appearance move at the time a firm front was needed. In the second place it was as if we were telling Hitler where to send his submarines to intercept our supplies in Russia.

## STORY BLEW UP UPON INVESTIGATION

Actually the appeasement story blew up on investigation. The Maritime Commission was merely throwing some shipping business to Boston. That's all there was to it. For some time Representative McCormack of Boston, Democratic leader of the House, has been trying to get some Lease-Lend shipping business to Boston. The stevedoring situation here on the coast. Finally that was worked out. Even as Boston was still up against opposition from New York, which has been hogging the business, McCormack was determined. The Maritime Commission decided the time had come for appeasement—not of Japan but of McCormack and Boston. So it agreed that all Russian shipments across the Atlantic would be sent out of Boston. The announcement was unclear but the decision was entirely clear. Because it was a routine decision concerning whether New York or Boston would get the business, and thus involved no high policy, there seemed no occasion to consult either the White House or the State Department.

## AMERICAN FLAG SHIPS CAN'T REACH ARCHANGEL

A fair amount of ship traffic is being promised to Boston under this arrangement. Reports that it should run to about twenty ships a month are probably about right. Officially the port of destination is a military secret. Newspaper speculation has stated it is Archangel. This is about the only port we could figure out by the map, so it couldn't be much of a military secret to the Germans once the cat was out of the bag that the Atlantic would be used.

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