

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday by  
The News Publishing Company, Inc.  
W. C. Dowd Jr., President J. E. Dowd, Vice-President  
and General Manager and Editor



The daily edition of The Charlotte News was established in 1885. The Evening Edition (established in 1903) was purchased by and consolidated with The Charlotte News May 6, 1914.  
The News desires to be notified promptly of errors in any of its reports that proper correction may be made at once.

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	By Carrier	By Mail
One Month	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.00
Three Months	7.50	6.00
Six Months	13.00	10.00
One Year	25.00	20.00

11 cents per week by carrier

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1941

## Dubious Act It Seem To Give Hitler A Color of Excuse

The signing of peace laws as they are called: Neutrality Act is again demonstrated by the German action in proclaiming the Red Sea a war zone.

The Neutrality Act was framed to prevent incidents between American merchant ships and German submarines and surface raiders, and so save us from again getting into war. But the fact was that we didn't get into the last war because of incidents but because of the considered judgment of Mr. Wilson and Congress that we could not afford to allow Prussian militarism to win.

As a matter of fact, only one ship flying the American flag was sunk by German before we entered the war, and its sinking involved no loss of life. Moreover, the sinking of the Lusitania, often cited as a prime cause of our entry, took place eighteen months before April, 1917.

Perhaps the Neutrality Act has actually prevented incidents this time, though it does not seem probable in view of Hitler's desire to avoid war with the United States until he has first polished off England and secured command of the Atlantic.

What is certain is that it has crippled and is now increasingly crippling our aid to England.

And what is clear also is that it has given the Germans a sort of pseudo-legal basis for arrogantly assuming already to possess the command of the sea and by unilateral action laying out zones which no one can enter save by their permission.

Nobody who is capable of logical analysis will be fooled by these pseudo-legal claims, but many Americans are incapable of such analysis. And it is to them that the argument is primarily addressed, to the end of cheating further confusion and delusion among us.

## Half-Wits

Delirious Psychiatrists Prove  
What We've Already Clear

In Detroit recorder's court, they got curious about it and decided to test it out on a half-wit.

They took as the subject of the test 300 persons for traffic violations. The particular violations were:

Racing red lights and running through them.

Running past stop signs.

Shooting out from curbs in front of traffic.

Whipping recklessly around corners on green lights.

Running away from the scene of accidents.

Driving with bad brakes.

The 300 persons involved in these cases were handed over to the psychiatrists, and what emerged?

Why, that people who do these things are of low mental capacity, and that most of them are on the borderline of feeble-mindedness.

We knew that already, of course, but it is comforting to find science proving it by intelligence tests.

Maybe when it has been proved on a large enough scale, even State legislatures will eventually get around to confining that would-be drivers ought to be made to submit to intelligence tests to get a driving license, and that these tests will catch up with the lives of all of us should be rigidly refused such license.

## More Light

Doriot and His Gang Help  
To Explain U. S. Policy

Reading his declaration in Paris recently that the French "are not a people who can be crushed and repressed forever," you might easily think that Jacques Doriot is a daring French patriot who has arisen at the hour of need to arise in Paris to warn the Nazi tyrant to go slow.

But you would be wrong. Jacques Doriot is a French traitor who worked for the downfall of France, first as a Communist and then as a Nazi. The party he has arisen at the hour of need to arise in Paris to warn the Nazi tyrant to go slow.

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## That Auto Tax Plan

By Hugh S. Johnson

WASHINGTON—It goes without saying that we are going to be taxed as never before. That is

a matter of necessity. We are doing it to save our system. But there is another principle at the other end of the dilemma. Chief Justice John Marshall stated it: "The power to tax involves the power to destroy." Instead of saving, taxes could destroy us.

We can't let the principal business of the United States as it was formerly said to be of Prussia, industry, commerce and agriculture and what sustains it, be taxed to ruin. Any tax that bears evenly on all maintains pretty well the power of each to exchange goods with the other, no matter how high the tax rate goes. But to the precise extent that you burden one out of proportion to the others, you depress the purchasing power of that one and drag down to some degree the whole structure. You may also tax out of us a necessity of life.

It is now proposed to put a 20 per cent excise tax on the sale of every automobile—new or used or a flat \$100 turn-over tax every time a motor car changes hands.

AUTOMOBILE HAS MADE COUNTRY OVER

The effect of any such non-sensical arbitrary action can scarcely be imagined. Whether for good or ill, this nation is on wheels.

It has changed the whole face of our country-side. I can remember in the implicit business when it used to be said that a farmer would not go further than seven miles for repairs. Now he thinks nothing of going 40. That change dried up the little cross-roads general purpose store. It wiped thousands of hamlets off the map. It made miniature metropolises out of better towns. It substituted real departmental schools for the little red district shack. It brought money and much better entertainment to the whole country.

THIS WILL UPSET WHOLE NATION

In the larger cities, it enabled workers of all classes to move far out in the suburbs where their children could get air and sunshine. It made it easy to locate great industries far from the city centers and generally brightened the whole outlook of American life. Many things were responsible for that, but one stands out like a harvest moon. It was a reduction of the price of the lower cost cars. That was done over a long period by securing the genius and political experiment and loss. The change that it wrought in our living was also a long one. It changed the map of the United States and the habits of our people. It seems that it can now be undone in 60 seconds by a single Federal fiat.

And, maybe the law can be changed that easily but the condition which the law assumes can't be changed so long. Long period of discomfort and even disaster to many people.

## He Maintains Mickle Is Really Pickle

Letter to Baltimore Evening Sun

To the Editor of The Evening Sun

—Sir:

Apologies of the "mickle," "muckle" controversy, may an Aberdeen man say that you have the better of the argument? Certainly D. D. et al. and the "howl" are incorrect in saying that the proverb is: "Mickle mickle makes muckle." In Aberdeen "muckle" means "little," "small quantity," "one grain of corn." To take an example from Burns, there is the line:

"The big heerd the mickle muck."

CHARLES C. LYALL, Baltimore, May 5.

## This Distinction Does Not Exist

Charlotte News & Courier

Secretary Stimson said that Germany has reduced the peoples of thirteen nations to a condition of semi-slavery. There is no such thing as semi-slavery. The Negro slaves of the South were semi-free and they had "mickle" accuracy to a degree that no other people in America have had it.

Slaves may be on the far end of the land. The peoples of the thirteen countries are working under a slave-master.

## "Already In America We Have a Large Following"

By Berloch



## Letters to the Editor:

## A Man Who Muffed Chance

Dear Sir:

Charlie Lindbergh is cutting more capers than a circus clown. I wouldn't know whether he is a moral or just plain vicious. A little of both, I guess. Anyhow, his nuisance value to the Nazis must be considerable. The Communists, Italians, and roughnecks in general seem to like to hear him speak. Some of his sponsors and backers argue that our Government has already got us into war. If that were true, then Lindbergh would be giving aid and comfort to the Nazis, in that he is trying to hinder our defense plans.

It is a sorry spectacle to see a man who has a chance to do some good pandering to the worst element in his country and trying to sabotage the American way of life.

"How must the flames of shame overspread the cheek  
Of him who might have been admired by all.  
See little children point him out  
And hear them speak  
Of what he was, and gossip over  
His fall."

—G. N. RAMSEY

Route 4,  
Lincolnton.

## Praises News as Lives Paper

Dear Sir:

A truck-load of orchids to the fastest-growing newspaper in the Carolinas.  
And The News is improving in all departments every day.

The perfume ink in a recent paper just goes to show that The News is really "The Lives News" in the Carolinas.

What kind of smell will you use when you print Hitler's picture?

—STEVE PAPAPAS,  
Louisiana State University,  
New Orleans.

## Optometry Chief Praises Work of The News

Dear Sir:

Appropriate resolutions were passed by the Southeastern Congress of Optometry, expressing the appreciation of this body to you and your paper for your fine cooperation in making the Southeastern Congress a success.

I wish to add my personal expression of appreciation for King James or on deeds from the splendid co-operation shown by your paper and its editorial staff.

—JAMES A. FALKER,  
Southeastern Congress of Optometry  
Charlotte

## Perilous Fumble

By Raymond Chapin

WASHINGTON—This country still is only half awake. This late stage of this war is on every mind.

It was a year ago this month that William S. Knudsen was named as administrator of a Government defense organization. He set up the first thing that was discovered was that there were grave mistakes in machine tools. Yes, now, a year later, we are just getting around to calling for complete around-the-clock use of machine tool facilities.

Knudsen, when at this late date, hundreds of machine tools are not being used, as the recent survey of the National Association of Manufacturers shows. That's just one symptom of our sluggishness.

We have underestimated the job straight through. For months the War Relocation Authority would have no shortage of aluminum. Now they are lacking aluminum out of civilian use, and still there won't be enough for the airplane program. Months later we realized that an enormous expansion would be necessary.

## WE ARE FALLING DOWN ON THE JOB

Last Summer some were urging expansion of steel capacity. But we were assured there was plenty of capacity, enough for civilian use as well as defense. Now we have discovered that capacity is inadequate.

We made the mistake of not setting out to do the things we have thought to take it in our stride—with business as usual. But we have had to go into price-fixing, into rationing, and a year late in some respects—as with automobiles. Bomber assembly plants are nearing completion but the automobile industry was not run to work it. In time, do the parts are not coming along for assembly.

The Army was caught flat-footed. A few weeks ago General Marshall, Chief of Staff, testified before a Congressional committee that the Army had just finished making out the plans for the German military campaign in France a year ago. We were taken by complete surprise with the new German tank-air team. Didn't know such a thing was in existence.

## EVERYBODY IS TRYING TO DUCK OUT

For more than a year the Government has been trying to accumulate reserves of rubber and other materials which must be imported. But it has been slow going because civilian manufacture was not cut down. We have succeeded in accumulating only half a year's reserve supply of rubber although the source can be cut off any time the Japanese move.

You can see on and finish the list yourself. There's that aircraft factory in Baltimore that still stands idle where they left it when the depression hit. There are the tobacco people, the soda pop people, the brewers and all kinds of other people trying to "Congress out" of leaving them. There are the railroads, caught unprepared by the sharp withdrawal of intercontinental ships. There are President Roosevelt and Harry Hopkins, a semi-invalid, trying to write the script, direct the production, paint the scenery, play the leading parts and sit in the box office.

## WE MAY SOON FACE HITLER ALL ALONE

More and more the 100 Republican Congressmen who voted against the bill to regulate ship foreign shipping. They haven't learned anything since Munich. There is the whole country, working it, self up into a lather over the convoy issue when that same issue has become mooted. The real question has moved far beyond that and is whether the United States Navy goes into joint general action with the British in many ways.

## Side Glances

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect will of God. — Romans 12:2

## TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

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## THE QUEEN CITY'S HOPE CHEST

No. 1 - An Uplown Theater-Auditorium

No. 2 - A Separate Court District

No. 3 - An Uplown Rest Room

No. 4 - Street-Widening

No. 5 - Street-Widening

No. 6 - Street-Widening

No. 7 - Street-Widening

No. 8 - Street-Widening

No. 9 - Street-Widening

No. 10 - Street-Widening

No. 11 - Street-Widening

No. 12 - Street-Widening



"How comforting! They go to sleep at ball games, too!"

## Visitin' Around

Fald the Pic.

DIMIN 117

(Mort. North Item)

Adm. Journal

A man said he set a hen with fifteen eggs on Sunday and every egg hatched and he said he thought his Sunday's work was fine. But one day when he came in from plowing, he saw the big steaming around in the hen looking miserably sleep. It had been standing around the pen and eating every little chick as it came out of the coop, except one. The man was so mad he wouldn't say the one chick left and gave it away. He had never set a hen on Sunday since. He says Sunday's work doesn't pay.