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WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 1941

Full Candor President Abandons Vagueness And Tells People Facts

The speech Mr. Roosevelt made last night was certainly the greatest he has made since the first hundred days of his first Administration—probably the greatest of his career.

He has been accused—with considerable justice—of lacking candor in his recent addresses. Various diplomatic language has swathed all his meanings, and the simple people who make up the great majority of the population have been left puzzled and bewildered, unable to quite make up their minds about what it is he face.

But last night he dealt in candor itself. The enemy was named over and over—Hitler and Nazism. The purposes of that enemy—to conquer not only Europe but this hemisphere as well—was bluntly stated.

And far beyond that he went. He said flatly that Hitler's prime objective is to gain control of the Atlantic Ocean. He named Dakar, the Canaries, the Azores, the Cape Verde, and warned that Hitler's possession of any of these would mean that the Nazis would be well on their way toward gaining the mastery of the Atlantic, since it would enable them to cut off the supply line between the United States to Great Britain.

When he learned that the Nazis are already busy in Latin America, that they plan to get control of nations there by "revolution" from within, in order to give themselves bases from which to operate against the United States.

Once we were the "lone star" of the world, and "foreign wars" was "not our business." We shall not send American boys to die in foreign fields. This, he said plainly, is our war quite as much as it is Britain's. Our destiny is as much at stake as any other nation's. And we are going to do whatever is necessary to assure that England wins and thereby preserve our own freedom.

That was a tremendous statement. It closes of the controversy at a stroke. And it goes on to say we will, if necessary, fight, to the last ship and gun and man rather, than see humanity, ourselves included, reduced to slavery to a brutal so-called master race.

The atmosphere in this country Tuesday was like that on a sunny August day. Today it is clear and clean, as after a great thunderstorm. There is more excitement for men to do their duty, more courage for the people who will back the President to the ultimate limit, certain of the rightness of his decision.

Warning Which No Longer Has Point It Had Last Summer

Last summer the Nazis were very indignant about the French. They themselves systematically and mercilessly murdered French women and babies along the roads of France. But when the French captured some parachute troops, designated as Belgians and prepared to execute them, the Nazi spokesmen screamed about international law and promised to murder ten French prisoners for every man thus executed.

radio promises them execution. It is against international law immediately ban the Nazi spokesmen and any such executions will be paid for at the rate of ten to one by British prisoners.

A strange sound, that phrase, "international law" in the mouths of the people who invented unrestricted submarine warfare and the systematic murder of civilians.

And of course it was no rattily. Donning the uniform of an opposing army has always automatically given a man the status of a spy and made him subject to execution without trial.

Fortunately the British are in better position to claim their rights here than were the French. Not a great many British prisoners are in German hands. And for a while at least the British can retaliate man for man in the execution of prisoners.

On Your Own In This City Traffic Has To Take Care of Itself

We know a city, on the whole a progressive city, where traffic conditions are abominable. Where an ever-growing horde of automobiles, buses, taxicabs and trucks are turned loose upon its streets to make their way under the most haphazard regulation, each vehicle for itself.

Where the authority over traffic resides not in a trained specialist but, indifferently, in a building inspector—and a good building inspector he is said to be. Where the City Council refuses to put up or not to put up traffic lights, while on the other hand it passes a legislative function.

Where traffic bottlenecks are allowed to exist with no apparent effort to eliminate them by the exercise of a little thought and some study. Where the rate of traffic deaths is alarmingly high in comparison with far larger, more crowded cities.

Where the lethal custom has grown up of running through the tail end of the yellow signal or even the first rays of the red, and likewise of beating the green. Where the police accept such driving habits as so frequent they were strictly orthodox and never design to molest any but the most flagrant violators.

Where safety and convenience are at a discount, recklessness at a premium, improvement at a standstill, and where nothing at all is done about a vexation that everybody talks about.

The site of all these "wheres" is, of course, Charlotte. If ever a city needed a training in traffic specialist and instruction for its traffic police, this is it.

Hill's Bonus Overlooks Trifling Detail

George Washington Hill, president of the American Tobacco Co., and several other officers of the corporation have been ordered by the U. S. Supreme Court to pay back \$2,168,033.44 paid to them over a period of years in company bonuses.

Included in the sum was an item of \$150,000 paid by the tobacco company, at Mr. Hill's direction, for the defense of a suit filed by minority stockholders over \$250,000 alleged to have been paid former Judge (now convict) Menton as a bribe.

Mr. Hill is an expansive gentleman who has been making somewhat over \$400,000 a year through the bonus system. Two years ago he threatened to resign if the firm's stockholders forced a reduction in his bonuses. His self-respect, he said, couldn't stand it.

But the court admitted that Mr. Hill was pretty good, and in effect said that from the stockholders standpoint he deserved all he got.

Freedom Of Seas Of Seas

WASHINGTON—We passed the Neutrality Act in 1937. We passed the War Relocation Act in 1941. We are going to repeal it. We are going to repeal it. We are going to repeal it.

When the principles of the Neutrality Act were first suggested, though not urged, by E. M. Baruch, this column said "nothing about the sea helped to get us into every one of our foreign wars except the war with Mexico."

Economic causes are responsible for most wars. Our Revolution was against the form of British sea power to dominate and exploit these colonies—Boston tea-party, etc.

We engaged in an undeclared naval war with France and a second undeclared war with Britain, the first against interference with our shipping. During our Civil War, British commerce was destroyed and we have always claimed the right to do so.

We stopped a British ship and took off two Confederate enemies of the United States. That was the first step toward the restoration of the United States. One war at a time is enough.

WILMINGTON, DEL., May 28.—GERMANY'S war with Spain was made possible by public indignation over "Spain's" battle ship Maine in Havana Harbor.

In the World War we had as much legal cause for fighting Germany over interference by both governments with our "freedom of the seas" as we had for fighting Britain over her blockade of our Atlantic Coast.

We said that we went to war to vindicate our "freedom of the seas" and to bring about a just peace, but neither of these things has happened.

KEYS ENGLAND AN REAL FREEDOM OF THE SEAS. We have no freedom of the seas today while British interests are invading our coast for example, while an alarm bell in Venezuela is being rung.

The neutrality act does not mean that we are to force American vessels through actual blockades and to make war by its invasion.

In Which a Full Apology is Made. Busy Arthur, News & Views. One newspaper in the world that gives a whop about Oswald County.

Now I never intended any character, but or anything defining about Paul when I wrote those few words about his working. It was all done in good faith.

Paul Vinters was referred to in this column last week as having gone to work. That was a grave mistake. So far as we know, are informed or are able to determine by thorough investigation, Paul is not working, has never worked and doesn't intend to if he can get out of it.

Treasury Asks Aid In Bond Sales. Dear Sir: On May 1st we inaugurated a carefully considered plan to reduce the savings of the American

One Thing Certain



Letters to the Editor: Mr. Wilson Was Right

Dear Sir: In a recent article in The News, the Rev. Herbert Spangh said: "We need to remember that world conditions today are man-made and not God-made."

It is important that the Treasury Department reach—as often as possible—every home in the United States with information about these government obligations.

Through your newspaper, your assistance will be invaluable in our efforts to do this on a continuing basis. We should like to come to you from time to time with specific requests for co-operation.

An Open Letter To Senator Pepper. The Honorable Claude Pepper, Senator From Florida, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: I am enclosing a copy of an editorial that appeared in The Greensboro Daily News, discussing some implications of your recent speech in the Senate and the recent lynching of a Negro in your home state of Florida.

Men who should know better are doing everything possible to divide and destroy us. This under the guise of patriotism.

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Side Glances. I don't think there was any exaggeration in the statement recently of Philip R. Reed, chairman of the board of General Electric and a consultant in OPM.

Visitin' Around. No More Rectorial Trips (Arcadia Item, Lexington Dispatch) G. T. Evans and S. L. Teah had water systems installed some time ago.

What Is It? Superintendent Now? (North Wilkesboro Herald) It was remarked one day recently by reliable sources that Captain C. P. Walker, former superintendent of the tannery here, never allowed any kind of line to stand in a tannery building over night.

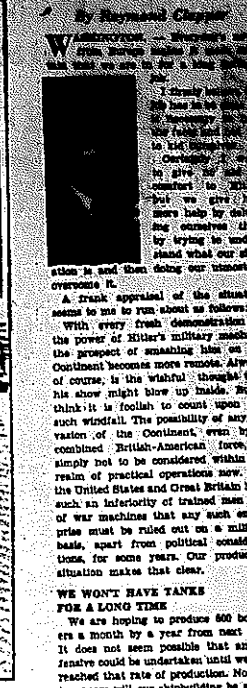
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The Queen City's Hope Chest

- No. 1—An Uptown Theater-Auditorium
No. 2—A Separate Court District
No. 3—An Uptown Rest Room
No. 4—Street-Widening