# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

*And Evening Chronicle*

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 1941


## Churchill

### *If He Falls, Britain Moves Nearer a "Deal"*

British censors have permitted American newspapermen in London to file stories stating bluntly that Prime Minister Churchill has been fighting "the great parliamentary battle of his life in Commons."

Churchill's enemies and critics in Parliament had increased since last he faced and defeated them. This time they used Crete as a weapon against him. And although for the second time in a month Churchill stood off his attackers successfully, his opposition continues to rally in more and more powerful array behind Leslie Hore-Belisha.

The increasing strength of Churchill's opposition is of tremendous consequence to the United States. The fact that the Prime Minister is being brought to bay more frequently indicates that a change in war leadership is not impossible. Indeed, it appears unlikely that Churchill and his cabinet would be able to remain in power in the face of further serious defeats.

If Churchill falls, it will not necessarily mean that the war is over. It will, however, bring the possibility of a "negotiated peace" between Britain and Germany much closer. Hitler has said repeatedly that all he wants is a change of leadership in Britain. As long as Churchill remains at the helm, the war will be fought out. If Churchill goes, the United States must face the bitter fact that she may have to stand alone against Hitler.

## Saturation

### *Robin Moor Affair Finds A People Already at War*

Unarmed, without a cargo of munitions, and outside the restricted waters of any nation, the American merchant ship Robin Moor has been sent to the bottom of the South Atlantic.

As late as a year ago, mere suspicion that a Nazi submarine had torpedoed an American ship under such conditions would have caused an incalculable burst of publicity. Press and radio would have screamed in outrage.

In June, 1941, however, there is a surprising lack of anger at the incident, a careful restraint in the utterances of the State Department, a plea by the President for the public to "reserve judgment."

Newspapers generally are "playing down" the sinking, giving more prominence to critical defense strikes.

The obvious conclusion is that no further outrage can move the American people to much greater enmity for Hitler's government. The United States is resolutely committed to do everything in its power to defeat the Nazis.

American reaction to the sinking of the Robin Moor is the reaction of a people at war, to whom calamities are but the fortunes of war.

## Sub Catcher

### *Kettering's U-Boat Detector Is Needed Now*

Ingenious Charles F. "Boss" Kettering is symbolic of American mechanical resourcefulness. It is largely because of "Boss" Kettering's genius that modern automobile drivers are spared the pesky task of starting car engines with a hand crank. In addition to developing a practical self-starter, he contributed a half-dozen other parts without which the motor car would be a primitive and uncertain vehicle.

Because Americans have confidence in "Boss" Kettering's ability, because he is much too practical to go off half-cocked, news that he has nearly completed a detection device "capable of driving German submarines off the seas" is of tremendous importance.

The new detector, Kettering reveals, is no fanciful instrument he whipped up overnight. It is the result of six years of co-operative work by the General Motors Research Division, headed by Kettering, and the Navy Department.

When the device is perfected, it will be used to catch submarines when they come up at night to "breathe" and to charge batteries used for underwater cruising. Once located, Kettering says, the submarine is a goner.

As for the war problem, here again is the factor of time thrusts its way into the picture. Kettering predicts completion of the device within "a reasonable length of time."

At this particular point in the war, no effort later than "now" is within a reasonable length of time. English shippers are taking a bad licking. Of course "Boss" Kettering realizes the urgency of speed; no doubt he is as impatient as Galileo, who, having at last secured the lenses for the first of all telescopes, went to an Italian dinner and asked him to make a suitable cylinder in which to mount the lenses.

"How soon will you require this tube, master?" asked the tinner.

"How soon?" repeated the great inventor, "I will tell you. If it had been completed yesterday it would have been too late."

## The Flag

### *Respect for It Requires A Little Ceremony*

At Monday's Flag Day parade, it was noticeable that Charlotteans watching the procession showed profound disrespect for the colors.

"If any man watching a parade in New York or any other Northern city failed to remove his hat when the flag came by," said one rather prominent local resident, "well, somebody might ask him to take it off—or it might be knocked off. I was disgusted with the sight of scores of otherwise intelligent-looking men lounging around the curb, hats cocked back on their head, hands in their pockets, watching our country's flag parade past."

No man who knows his patriots will accuse a Charlottean or any other Southerner of disrespect for the flag. In a darkened movie theater, our Charlotte folks applaud, even cheer, the Stars and Stripes.

There's nothing ostentatious about showing proper respect for the flag on parade. Hatless men simply stand at attention while the banner passes. Men wearing hats remove them with the right hand and stand at attention, holding the hat over their left shirt pocket. Women stand facing the flag until it has gone by.

Nothing to it, you see—except a kind of thrill for those who go through this little ceremony.

## Faint Hope

### *Airport Election Poses Both Legal and Practical Questions*

The possibility—yet to be substantiated by an official opinion—of holding another bond election for the enlargement of the Air Base property (and probably the purchase of a site for a secondary airport) is highly encouraging until you stop to reflect that the same proposition was turned down by the people of the city only three months ago.

Very likely the amount of the bond issue would have to be increased somewhat this time, for $50,000 or $55,000 would be needed to buy land contiguous to the Air Base in order to provide the ground for the Air Corps to undertake its $1,250,000 improvement and enlargement program at this post. A suitable site for the secondary field, on which WPA and CAA are to spend upward of $330,000, would certainly come no cheaper than the $15,000 first contemplated. Private flyers probably would continue to protest that they wanted a first-rate field with all modern improvements, or none at all.

What's more, a considerable body of people would continue to object that if the Air Corps wanted to expand its base in Charlotte, it could jolly well buy its own land. The Government's got plenty of money, ain't it?—they argue.

It does seem inconsistent for one branch of the service to insist upon dollar-a-year leases whereas other branches are buying land outright, and paying good prices. Nevertheless, the fixed policy of the Air Corps in establishing and enlarging *temporary* bases is to lease, not to buy, for some day these airports will be turned back to their municipal owners.

Objection to this policy will not change it in any particular, so that the questions for the City authorities and the people to answer are, in order:

*(1) Can another airport bond election be held without specific action by the Legislature?*

*(2) If it is called, what is to assure that the result will be any different?*

## Human Bombs

*By Hugh S. Johnson*

WASHINGTON.—Most of our officers say that our Army was the first to experiment with and develop at least the principles of parachute attacks. The story of some line officers is that they proved the tactics, including the transportation of light cannon and cars, that accredited German observers watched it, took it home, improved it, gave it also to the Russians and that our General Staff filled it for reference.

Well, we are catching up fast and in some things going ahead. While it is just getting a good start our organization, training and equipment of parachute troops are very encouraging.

In the first place the men are chosen as a football team is selected. The physical requirements are far above those for any other troops. The men must have completed at least one enlistment—trained soldiers at the outset. Even after this rigorous selection, there is a preliminary period of 90 days and a further weeding-out in practice.

They go into a period of physical conditioning as severe as that of any professional boxer—no liquor, not even cigarettes or tobacco except at long intervals and then for only a day, and that is merely to offset the danger of being trained too fine.

**THEYRE EQUIPPED TO SPRAY LEAD**

They carry Tommy sub-machine guns and a small armory of auxiliary weapons. The are accomplished grenadiers, educated not only to expert marksmanship but also trained and equipped for all the arts of demolition by explosives—to destroy bridges, rails, roads and military obstacles. They also must have an officer's background knowledge of at least minor tactics to recognize key points at a glance and know what to do about them.

It is a dangerous service contributing more than its share of crippled ankles and broken legs.

A man dangling from a parachute slowly floating down from a great height is about as helpless as a caterpillar in a cocoon. His coming is advertised. He makes a lovely swinging target for enemy airplanes and almost as good a one for handy wing-shots on the ground. Also, to be most effective, these boys must be spotted, as a surprise, on the map at just the points where they are most needed and not sprinkled all over the landscape. For these reasons the idea is to drop them as close to the ground as possible—as low as 200 feet or, it is hoped, even lower.

**A NEW ELITE CORPS IS FORMED**

This attainment is in an experimental or development stage which probably accounts for the injuries.

These new troops are becoming a prized, proud corps d'elite—like aviation aces or submarine suicide crews. The service is voluntary and eagerly sought. It is about the highest individual responsibility to be attained by an enlisted man. The daring that would seem this service and fight to stay in at the end of 90 days' experience is a pretty good guaranty of the daring that will make these boys effective when they have to deal with something more offensive than a dummy target.

## *What About This, Ladies; Air It So?*

The Winnsboro (S. C.) News and Herald:

We do not want to bring the displeasure of feminine readers on our head, but we can't overlook the subject of the women's voices on the radio. It has been evident to all radio listeners that a woman's voice is not as pleasant on the other waves as is the masculine tones. Certain leaders of national women's organizations have decided to increase their budget for air activities and to "put women across." The club organizations feel that the programs for women and from women must not be wholly amateur ones but put together in a professional style with scripts and music to attract attention. This should help to develop the voices of women participants upon the radio and surely such purpose and intent will work out successfully for the women listeners.

## *The Blind*

Statesville Daily

De Valera warns of trouble if Irishmen are conscripted. Apparently they'd rather feel the iron heel of a Nazi than be asked to stir themselves in their own behalf.

## The Road Ahead

—By Berlock

## Letters to the Editor:

# Democracy And The Sword

Dear Sir:

One thought that will be worth much to us Americans may be our realization that, however just the formula of democracy may be, that its being forced upon the people of other nations at the point of a sword is questionable.

Our greatest national and diplomatic mistake was when our National Leaders injected into World War No. I, an issue that was not needed, when they declared the purpose of the entrance of the United States as being, "To make the world safe for democracy."

We entered with England as her ally and at the same time with Russia and Italy as their allies fighting "to make the world safe for democracy." England is isolated in Europe now, and neither Russia nor Italy considers themselves to be democracies, and they are not allies with us or England in the World War of today.

The results, however, that are most noticeable and damaging, are that the dictator nations have taken us at our word, "going into war to make the world safe for democracy," and in reply have organized what is known as the Axis Powers, or a league of dictators to fight the democracies; so that now the question is, was the injection of this issue into the World War fruitful?

Not only are we now confronted with doubt as to any alliance between nations and dictator nations throughout the world; but we are confronted with the question of just how big a failure our foreign diplomacy has developed to be in the affairs of the world with the development of the issue of—Democracies—vs—Dictators.

—MONROE ADAMS.

Statesville.

## "Dealing Democracy A Death Blow"

Dear Sir:

"A great war leaves a country with three armies; an army of cripples, an army of beggars and an army of thieves."

If America is to survive as a democracy, she will have to hold herself aloof from this rampaging epidemic of madness which is sweeping the world like a scourge. Isolation may not be the perfect solution—there is none—but it is the one which promises the least peril.

And although isolation may require that we draw within our own borders and lay on our guns from this time forward . . . and cope with economic dislocations more serious than anything this country has yet encountered, the alternative would be so much worse by contrast as to look like Hell alongside of Heaven. We can defend ourselves in this country but we cannot whip Hitler in Europe.

Call it what you will, it is always the better part of wisdom to bargain with unalterable circumstances and to accept the lesser of several evils. And it is the part of good judgment to salvage all that we can of our way of life, and to choose the course which involves the least risks. For even though we must sacrifice some gains in order to escape total ruin, there is always the hope that we may climb back again. So long as our national structure remains intact, so long as rugged individualism is free to assert itself and to function in the American way as an independent unit in our national setup, we will have a firm basis on which to rebuild a strong national economy — we can take temporary reverses in our stride. But if we pursue a policy which has been recently demonstrated by other nations as suicidal, America, as we know it, will disintegrate.

On our present policy we are drifting into dictatorship. Our social and labor and economic advancements which represent the progress of 150 years are breaking down, one by one . . . not to be reconstructed in our lifetime, if ever. We are aligning ourselves with dictators, we are adopting their methods and their policies. We, the last democratic stronghold on the face of the earth, are dealing democracy its death blows.

We are watching our freedom recede further and further into oblivion. The curtain is being drawn on an era which will be recorded in history as one of utopian progress . . . the era immediately preceding the swiftest and most catastrophic decline in history.

—NELL DIXON RUSSELL.
1126 Clement Avenue,
Charlotte.

## Superstition From Little River

"The Sage of Little River" in The Zebulon Record:

Well, we are down on Little River again, sitting on its banks after dark, listening to the frogs croaking. You know, to me there is music in the frog chorus. Some folks are afraid of the dark, and do not like to hear the frogs. People have queer ideas sometimes, and we are all superstitious about something. I heard a screech owl a little bit ago. There is something mournful and shivery about its cry. Some say that if it cries about your house it is a sure sign of a death in the family or bad trouble. I have heard that if you take off your shoe and turn it upside down the owl will cease to cry. Tried it once, but with little results.

In my ramblings about over the nearby country I have picked up a number of superstitions. Here are some of them. "A baby must fall off the bed if it is to be raised." "Rub a cricket on the bottom of a baby's foot to help it to learn to walk." "Sweep a baby's back with a brush broom to strengthen its legs in order to walk." There are many such about poor little kids. It is a wonder so many of them live with so much superstitions about their raising. About things in general: "Look at a garden and the stuff will not grow." "Anyone riding in the ambulance with a sick person will be the next to die." "Pile frogs to the feet of the bed to cure fever." "Put an axe under the bed edge up, and it will ease the pain of childbirth." "By killing the first snake you see during the season, you kill your worst enemy."

**TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT**

*The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. — I Corinthians 15:26.*

## The Right To Strike

*By Raymond Clapper*

WASHINGTON. — The issue in the North American Aviation strike, in the Pacific Northwest lumber strike, in the San Francisco shipyards strike and in other such parties to defense work is a simple one. It is whether those particular labor groups shall be allowed to exploit their selfish interests at the expense of the nation's need.

These strikers, and particularly their reckless local leaders, have forfeited all claim to public sympathy. They are being denounced by their own national labor leaders. Philip Murray, head of CIO, William Green, head of the AFL, Richard T. Frankensteen, head of the United Automobile Workers, and other national labor leaders have spoken out in rebuke to their own irresponsible subordinates. They deserve the thanks of the country for placing the national interest above wage racketeering by small key groups.

It is not as if these workmen had no recourse, no way to get a hearing. Each of these strikes has been waged in face of the fact that the National Defense Mediation Board was investigating their claims and giving every protection to insure just treatment of the men.

**ROOSEVELT THREW PROTECTION AROUND MANY UNIONS**

President Roosevelt has thrown many protections around labor. Even in this crisis he has been long-suffering in throwing the Government's strength behind labor when it had a fair case. If he finds it necessary to be drastic now, he will have strong public support because these small labor groups have overplayed their hands. They have abused the right to strike at a time when national needs called for self-restraint. Because they have recklessly abused their right, they may find it restricted. The country cannot tolerate any kind of license and unrestrained conduct which imperils its defense.

I often find myself wondering whether democracy is equal to this crisis. At best democracy is a cumbersome form of government. It cannot work if labor is to strike when and where it wishes, without any regard to the necessity, for instance, of keeping bomber production going.

**SELF-RESTRAINT FOR LABOR OR WE FALL LIKE FRANCE**

Unless labor itself exercises self-restraint, either we will go the way of France or else the Government will take drastic action. This strike situation is unwittingly opening the door to drastic controls. We are talking about putting the troops into struck plants. I can well imagine that if this condition continues, if labor does not control itself, the time will come when labor will be carrying work cards and a man will either behave or will be blacklisted. That would not be democracy as we have known it. But I don't believe this nation will cling to unworkable practices of democracy when to do so means paralyzing the country at a critical time. Defense of the nation is paramount to everything. If necessary the right to strike will have to give way to it.

Another freedom is that of speech. It also is being put to a severe test.

Freedom of speech was intended to strengthen government. The theory is that full discussion will produce a sounder decision. But free speech can be abused to the extent where it ceases to become a source of strength and becomes a cause of weakness. Even now the Government hesitates to put certain matters up to Congress because a handful of Senators is able not only to prolong debate but to inject into it every kind of suspicion, innuendo, and obstructive contention. In a measure, our ordinary democratic processes have been found to be unworkable in certain respects at this time.

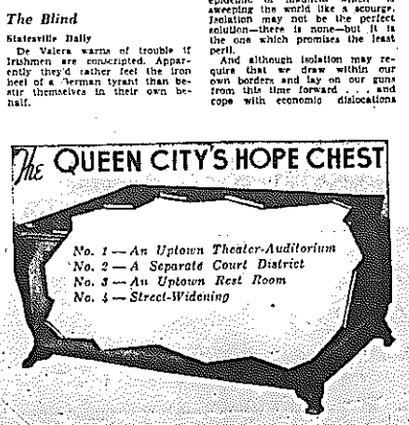
**HOW TO SAFEGUARD THE RIGHT TO STRIKE**

So long as the right to strike is held within bounds and is subordinated to the national requirements, and so long as free speech is self-restrained so that it operates to strengthen the Government instead of paralyzing it, those rights are safe. But a nation must be pragmatic. If a thing doesn't work, it goes out. We may retain the pretense but we scuttle the reality and substitute something else that will work. Those who jeopardize labor's rights now are those who abuse them. Those who jeopardize free speech and free debate are the ones who abuse them.

## Side Glances

"Do you mean you've spent four years here at the university and haven't any idea of whom you're going to marry?"

## 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*

## Visitin' Around

**Any Kin To The Wicked Flea?**
(Winnsboro, S. C., News & Herald)

Situated in Bethel community is Crooked Run Baptist Church.

**Look Not Upon The Wheat When It Is Green**
(Oak Grove item, Shelby Star)

Lee Blanton lost a mule last week, its death being caused by eating green wheat.