THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 1941

The Long Watch

It's Stingy To Work Our Firemen 84 Hours a Week

Twelve hours a day, seven days a week, 84 hours a week.

I say Charlotte manufacturer tried to work his employees on any such schedule, the Government would be on his quicker'n you can say "wage-hour law."

Yet that is what the City requires of its firemen.

We agree with the Young Civic Society—it ain't right and something ought to be done about it.

It is easy to convince yourself that nothing can be done. The Fire Department already had tried out a plan to give each man one day off each week. It didn't work. Normal absences from sickness and other causes make it impossible to give the firemen a day off without reducing the number of men available for duty to a point below minimum requirements of the fire insurance underwriters. When the available crews drop below the minimum, fire insurance rates skyrocket. Nobody wants that.

To keep the present standards, it would be necessary to employ at least 20 new firemen. That would mean spending more money and perhaps an increase in the tax rate.

All right, then, why not spend more money. Our city firemen deserve decent working conditions and 84 hours a week is manifestly indecent. Charlotte was one of the first cities in the South to put on the "two platoon" (24-hour-shift) system for its fire department. There is no reason why it should not continue to be progressive. It is one thing to be thrifty and admirable to be stingy.

Aluminum

It Glitters in Night Clubs As Well As in Kitchens

Last week a young man who lives in Charlotte came home from a trip to New York considerably disillusioned about the aluminum shortage.

"I went to New York," he said, "convinced that housewives who had been encouraged to give up their choice pots and pans were being patriotic and unselfish. We needed aluminum to build fighting planes. The shortage was acute. I got the impression that if the situation was so pressing, surely all available sources of the metal had been requisitioned before asking for kitchen utensils. Now I think the housewives are being hoodwinked.

"While I was in New York, I went to a good many night clubs and restaurants. In these places I found scores of British aluminum tables, solid aluminum chairs, bars made of aluminum, walls decorated with aluminum. Everywhere I looked I saw in New York I saw another chunk of the precious metal.

"When I thought about housewives giving up their pots and pans while Manhattan night spots glitter with aluminum, it burned me up."

We second the motion. It ought to burn people up.

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Since aluminum and the shortage thereof became a major issue, our office has become a sort of no man's land for the battle between the Aluminum Company of America and its critics. Almost daily the mail brings mimeographed or printed attacks on and defenses of the Aluminum Company.

Harold Ickes' famous remark that if we lose this war it will be because of the recalcitrance of the Aluminum Company of America has been quoted by both sides. Defenders of Alcoa say it's not the company's fault there isn't enough of the metal; the Government raised the estimated demand.

Whatever the justice of these charges we don't know enough about the inner workings of Alcoa to pass judgment on it. It appears that the Aluminum Company of America is facing new-thing competition.

R. S. Reynolds (cousin of Winston-Salem's Dick Reynolds) announces that a new plant constructed by his aluminum company (Reynolds Metals) has passed its first test runs.

Located in the Muscle Shoals area of Alabama, the new plant will turn out [illegible] pounds of pure aluminum a year. It was begun on November 20 of last year. The entire plant was completed in less than six months.

Senator John Bell of Alabama says it took a year to build a similar plant in Germany.

Another Reynolds Plant, this one with a productive capacity of 60 million pounds of aluminum a year, is being built at Longview, Washington.

These new plants will help aluminum production, but will they help it enough? According to OPM figures and estimates, the outlook is none too optimistic. The chart at the bottom of this page shows why.

Formal War

The Case For and Against An Open Declaration

The United States is at war. No matter how vigorously the Wheeler-Lindbergh crowd denies it, we have been at war for many months now. It is possible to say exactly when we got in. At the moment Hitler became Chancellor of the Reich he, by the nature of his pre-announced program, declared war upon all of the democracies. All that has happened between that moment and this has been an intensification of the struggle.

As American resistance to Hitler has become more resolute with each passing week, there has been an increasing demand for an open and official declaration of war.

At first glance, it might appear that a declaration of war against Germany is the honest, straight-forward thing to do. There are certain other undeniable advantages of such action:

1. British morale would be greatly stimulated by a formal declaration; the whole Empire would get at least a temporary "shot in the arm."

2. The morale of the German people would be jolted, particularly among that part of the population who has not forgotten how America's entry heralded the turning of the tide last time.

3. In America those who have been obstructing the national defense effort or who have reacted to it indifferently on the excuse that "we aren't at war yet" would be obliged to show their true colors; there would be no lack of official authority for using wartime methods for speeding up production.

On the other hand there are several excellent reasons why the undeclared war policy may be best for the immediate present:

1. There is the matter of timing. We can declare war, but once in this fight, A declaration is our ace in the hole and we must not allow ourselves to throw it away; we must use it when it will take the biggest pot. English morale has been helped by the Nazi-Russian war and seems to be in no immediate danger of cracking.

2. As long as we refrain from an open declaration, we, with England, can say how the war will be run; a good many people who remember the last war recall that after we got in, it was England's show from then on. We were largely a silent partner.

3. A declaration of war would mean that all the bars against German submarine attacks on our shipping (if there are any restrictions remaining) would be down. Our ships would be attacked wherever U-boats sighted them—and we need those ships.

4. Although public sentiment is fast crystallizing for a forthright stand against Germany, it is doubtful that the entire nation is ready for a war declaration yet. A premature declaration might set off an unfavorable reaction.

5. All available information indicates that we are not yet prepared to send an expeditionary force to an overseas battlefield and such a battlefield would be difficult to find. A declaration of war, to be most effective, should be accompanied by immediate and forceful military action.

Apparently President Roosevelt has considered all of these factors and more. It appears that he is not yet ready for the final break.

We Americans like to announce our intentions openly and honestly. We prefer to observe the usages of formal diplomacy. But we have learned through painful experience that when we deal with a gang of international rascals, anything goes.

Hindsight On Hess

By Dorothy Thompson

I BELIEVE that the turning point of the war occurred this week-end and when Hitler made the most colossal political blunder of his career. Furthermore I suspect that he knows it since Churchill's speech Sunday afternoon, and the reactions in Washington.

Again, he has totally misread British psychology. And it is possible that he has been encouraged to mistread it, and that he, who set so many traps for others, has fallen into one himself.

The immediate effect is to dissipate a terrific nightmare. That nightmare was the union of the Nazi and Communist revolutions, which, in every country was producing the most dangerous situation. The Communist revolution has not been a real menace anywhere in all the years that had passed since its inception. But a Communist-Nazi combination — the Russian revolution's appeal to masses and the German revolution's appeal to classes—Russian revolutionary technique plus German military efficiency—this was something. That it was senseless made it none the less dangerous; nothing is more dangerous than armed nihilism, than the Gestapo plus the Ogpu. Communist cells plus Nazi secret agents, the Red Army plus the Brown one.

THE DEADLY COMBINATION IS IRREVOCABLY SPLIT

Such a combination looked suspiciously like the "Wave of the future" to a great many people. Now, the combination is split irrevocably.

It is my belief that Hitler was making a tremendous gamble on Britain getting out of the war, as a result of this development

Were the same political brains ruling England that ruled it up until two years ago, exactly that would have happened. The two revolutions and the two bozeys of Europe and the West, would have been encouraged to eat each other up, and Hitler would have emerged in the role of the White Knight saving the world from Bolshevism, which is the act he wants to put on. After he has played all the other dramas in "The Ring," he would like to close with "Parsifal."

But there are brains in England and there are brains in Washington, and the move is too transparent.

HESS' PROPOSITION TO THE BRITISH

The early German comments on the Hess flight said that Hess had had several letters from the Duke of Hamilton. The British denied this. But Rudolph Hess is an experienced politician and it seems highly unlikely to me that he would have gone to Scotland unless he had been offered some sort of salt.

The proposition that he had to make was, I think, the old one of asking for peace while dangling the bogey of Russia. Hess was known to be bitterly anti-Russian. I think he told the British that (1) if Britain would call off the war, Germany would attack Russia; and that (2) otherwise Germany would make a hard and fast alliance with Russia and go out with her against the British Empire in the Middle East, Iran and India.

The mediator between Churchill and Hess was Sir Frederick Kirkpatrick, former Counsellor of the British Embassy in Berlin, a man who was acquainted with Hess, and who speaks German.

A small item in the press announced that Churchill, while there negotiations were going on, called a conference of the Dominion governments and the Governments in Exile which issued a more or less meaningless report to the effect that no peace would be made with Germany until the European continent was liberated.

But immediately, another small item announced that Sir Frederick Kirkpatrick had flown to Ireland. Now, why Ireland? And why Sir Frederick? Could it be, perhaps, because there is a German Embassy in Ireland? Who did Sir Frederick see in Ireland? And if he got in touch with the Germans, what did he tell them?

Did he tell them, perhaps, to disregard the Churchill resolution? Did he encourage them, perhaps, to believe that the Churchill Government might fall, and another come in anxious to collaborate with the Nazis against Russia?

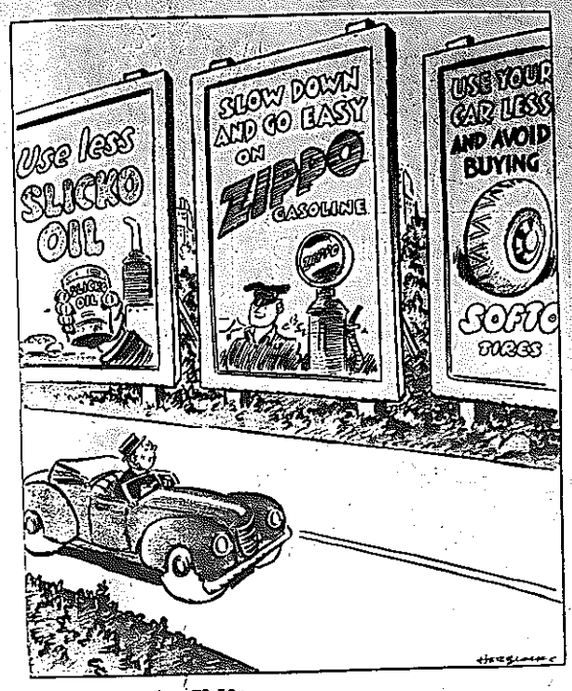
THE TENSION MUST HAVE BEEN HIGH IN BERLIN

Between the attack on Russia and Churchill's speech, there must have been terrific tension in Berlin. What joy there would have been had Churchill announced that he was "not going to pull Russia's chestnuts out of the fire."

Churchill, however, is a statesman, who knows exactly who the enemy is. He made the strongest attack on Hitler in his entire career.

Next Year's Advertising Campaigns?

—By Herblock



Letters to the Editor:

Gold In Them Thar Hills

Editors, THE NEWS:

In these days of storm and stress, wars, and rumors of wars, why not turn away from it all and spend a while among the mountains of Western North Carolina. There amid the serenity of their beauty and charm, let the world and its cares drop away from you while you relax and enjoy nature at its best.

The writer is familiar with some of the greatest scenery in the United States and Canada, but the mountains of the Blue Ridge have a distinctive appeal of their own with their forest-covered summits, crystal streams and the soft purple haze that hangs over them.

Among other places of interest in Mount Toxaway, The only mountain known that had a spring that flowed out of it and produced a pennyweight of pure gold each day and was discovered by accident by a traveller who put his cup under the trickling stream and when the cup was full he noticed the gold dust in the bottom.

Some men, in their eagerness to tap the main source of the gold put in a charge of powder which split the rock far back in the mountain and the stream and the gold were soon lost. But somewhere in that mountain and above the level of that lost spring must be a vastly rich gold mine as the water of that tiny stream produced each day a dollar's worth of gold dust.

Not only does that section contain gold, but in the vicinity of the Sapphire Lakes there are sapphires, garnets, beryl, and also rubies. A wonderful place for a vacation.

—G. R. M. MILLER
2812 Harrison Street,
Oakland, Calif.

(Thanks, Mr. Miller. It takes a Californian to describe adequately our North Carolina mountains. Editors, THE NEWS).

Roquefort Cheese In South Carolina

Spartanburg Herald

South Carolina Roquefort cheese. That is the substance of an announcement by officials of Clemson College on comparison of tests begun in January in the curing of cheese in an abandoned railway tunnel near Walhalla. The product, as shown by examination of the first samples withdrawn from the tunnel, is said to be equal to Roquefort cheese imported from France.

The cheese cured at Walhalla is different from the French cheese in that cows' milk was used instead of sheep's milk of which the famous Roquefort of France is made. It may be proved by the Clemson experiments that the kind of milk used in making Roquefort cheese has less to do with the quality of the finished product than the conditions under which the cheese is made and cured.

The story of the origin of the Roquefort variety of cheese is that a French peasant many years ago left his luncheon of cheese and bread in one of the natural caves near the little town of Roquefort. Returning months later he opened the forgotten package and discovered a remarkable change in the cheese. Tasting it, he found a difference in flavor and texture. Scientists discovered that the changes were due to certain bacteria which throve in the atmosphere of the cave. A new industry was born and Roquefort cheese became popular in many countries.

Importations from France have been stopped by the war and the Clemson experiment may provide a substitute to fill a nation-wide demand. Several other varieties of European cheese are no longer coming to the American market, notably those from Switzerland, Holland, Germany and Italy, and it remains to be seen whether American agricultural colleges can find methods for making them on this side.

Jackson's Birthplace "Settled" Again

Columbia Record

Archibald Henderson, the North Carolina mathematics professor who wrote a biography of Bernard Shaw, is planning a book on Andrew Jackson, which it is announced, will settle the interminable dispute between the Carolinas over the birthplace of President Jackson.

South Carolinians settled this dispute a long time ago to their satisfaction with the decision that Jackson was born in South Carolina, as he said, but the hard-headed Tar Heels have never accepted this settlement any more than South Carolinians would accept the verdict of Dr. Henderson who thought he had settled it once before some ten or fifteen years ago, but only to discover that he had discovered nothing.

In a sense, the dispute doesn't matter. As soon as President Jackson was old enough to know what he was doing, he had sense enough to pick South Carolina as his birthplace. Anyhow, all this took place a long time ago, in 1767, and very little can be done about it now. What matters now is the type of men and women being born in both North and South Carolina and the type of conditions they are born to.

The Danger of Being a Prophet

Coronet Magazine

In 1908, after the demonstration flights of Orville Wright at Fort Myer, Virginia, had finally convinced the public that stories about a successful flying machine were really true, E. L. Jones, editor of the magazine, Aeronautics, asked various scientists for opinions about the future of flying.

The reply by Prof. William H. Pickering of Harvard College Observatory, included the following statements:

"The popular mind often pictures gigantic flying machines speeding across the Atlantic carrying passengers in a way analagous to our modern steamships. It seems safe to say that such ideas must be wholly visionary.

"Another popular fallacy is to suppose that the flying-machine would be used to drop dynamite on an enemy in time of war."

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

Now he that planteth and he that waereth are one.—I Corinthians 3:8.

NAZIS WOULD BE READY TO TRADE ARMS TO LATIN AMERICA

No doubt, it would be ready at once to trade arms to South America. Douglas Miller, in his book "You Can't Do Business With Hitler," written out of his fifteen years' experience as American commercial attache in Berlin, says that at the end of this war, if Germany is victorious, she will have worn out her peacetime industries but will possess an expanded plant capacity for manufacture of all implements of war — planes, guns, tanks, and rifles. The triumph of force in Europe would be the signal to every Latin American country to arm. Germany's winning equipment would be rated the best in the world. It would be offered at attractive prices and in enormous quantities. With technical advisers to accompany it and train the Latin soldiers. If only one Latin American country did this, all other would be forced to follow in self-defense, especially when by taking on German arms the Latins could dispose of their huge surpluses of raw products.

Sure Hitler will trade with the Americas — just like that.

Throwing Red Dust

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON. — Following their usual policy, the isolationists are trying to use Germany's attack on Russia as a new pretext for an attempt to confuse and divide the country.

Senator Wheeler, upon whom the isolationists from Lindbergh down depend to do their thinking for them, sets the isolationist line by saying, "I don't think the American people will stand for us to tie up with the Communists."

That's nothing but an attempt to make a red herring out of Red Moscow. This Government, in a statement made public by Acting Secretary of State Welles, strikes hard and effectively at that kind of attempt to confuse the country.

In this official statement, the United States Government voices its dislike of the Communist dictatorship and of its suppression of religious and civil liberty, and makes it clear that we have nothing in common except that Hitler now happens to be the common enemy of both. As Secretary Welles said, the issue still remains the defeat of Hitler's armies, which are the chief menace to the Americas. Help from any source which will hasten the downfall of Hitler benefits our own security.

GERMANY'S CHANCES OF WINNING AGAINST RUSSIA ARE GOOD

Those who are trying to throw red dust in the eyes of Americans now would do well to look at the real question. The fact is, as is recognized by qualified judges in Washington, that Germany's chances of busting Russia are very good. Russia's equipment is poor. Her planes are obsolescent and inferior to those of the Germans. Russia's officers are poorly trained in warfare. What Russia has primarily is hordes of strong, courageous fighting men, and not much to put in their hands for a stand-up fight.

Germany went into this campaign after the same long, careful preparation that preceded other campaigns. Thanks to her nonaggression treaty with Russia, Germany probably has been able to learn most of the essential military secrets of Russia so that the German staff knows exactly what it is dealing with. Some here would not be surprised to see Germany clean up in a month—The objective is supposed to be to smash the Russian army, to knock it out of existence as completely as France's army was knocked out.

HITLER WILL COME OUT OF RUSSIAN WAR STRONGER

Now visualize Hitler's position if at the end of a month, or by Fall, he has smashed the Russian army and is complete master of the rich storehouse of western Russia, with all the loot and raw materials made available to him.

This talk of the Germans and the Russians killing each other off so that nothing will be left of either of them is dream stuff. The Russians will be killed off and Hitler will come out of it infinitely stronger, infinitely better prepared to wage a long war of attrition than ever before — and more determined than ever before to break out into the high seas. He will not be content to remain landlocked. Why should he be?

Yet Lindbergh continues, out of the depth of his ignorance, to advocate a negotiated peace with Hitler. He would have us sign a paper that would mean no more to Hitler than his nonaggression pact with Russia. It would serve only to lull us to sleep while Germany prepared for new campaigns. Colonel Lindbergh says it will be only a question of time until Hitler will desire to trade with us.

NAZIS WOULD BE READY TO TRADE ARMS TO LATIN AMERICA

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Sure Hitler will trade with the Americas — just like that.

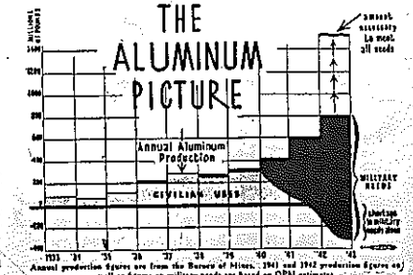
Side Glances

"Looks mighty efficient, mister—but will it snuggle its head on my shoulder and whinny when I pat its back?"

Visitin' Around

For Complete Details—
(Marshall News-Record)

Paul Tipton, of the Walnut Creek section, was in Marshall this week for treatment following a cut of the hand.



Annual production figures are from the Bureau of Mines, 1941 and 1942 production figures on well as figures on military needs are based on OPM estimates.