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FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 1941

"Vicky Bob"

The Reynolds That Holds the Hammer Is Ready To Stab

Senator Bob Reynolds were headed for an Asheville juke-joint, which he is, instead of chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee, which he is, it would matter little to us thought about American aid to Russia.

Bob has been one of the most important men in our national defense picture since the matter—and greatly—he has set a course directly opposite to the Administration's and to the majority of the patriotic citizenry.

Without help ourselves by helping Russia, Senator Bob Reynolds yesterday said the United States will give immediate consideration to any request from the Soviets for aid against Germany," said Under-Secretary of State Sumner Welles at almost the same hour. "Any request for aid will be given as favorable consideration as possible."

It is a matter that everyone expected Senator Reynolds got the Military Affairs Committee Chairmanship is at least three months that Reynolds has been in office. Now he has an opportunity to do his thing.

We have said that the Administration is a mixed form of government and that it is just as apt to be democratic more democratic. The Nazis say it is just as democratic more democratic. The Nazis say it is not democratic and that it must be stopped.

Senator Reynolds is the Senator Robert Rice Reynolds who in the Administration's view, is well known. But we have the statements of Senators and other Government officials yesterday that the outlook is dreary to questions which they replied signifi-[illegible] they have to ask the chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee.

We don't know what he has done about Reynolds or don't know. When he was up for confirmation as chairman of the Military Affairs Committee a few days ago, many North Carolina newspapers, including The News, plead with the Senate to waive the convention courtesy and turn down Reynolds. The Senate declined to do so.

Now Senator Reynolds bids to become the "Lord of the United States, a new dispensation is in order.

So shall aboard, let's go to hob with Lindbergh, Wheeler, and Nye and—

Business

Furniture Makers Hike Prices And Defy Government Request

Less than a week after Price Administrator Leon Henderson asked the furniture makers to go easy on price increases and to submit plans for any price quotations to his office, several furniture companies went right ahead and raised their rates by approximately 10 per cent. They acted precipitately without consulting Mr. Henderson or any other Government official. The price increases are in addition to previous ones in ten per cent write-ups made only a week or so ago.

The furniture manufacturers excused themselves by saying that they were sure that if they took the time to tell Mr. Henderson's office about the higher costs, they would be operating on a narrow margin and would be forced out of business before approval of the increases could be obtained. This is a flimsy pretext; the manufacturers *assumed* there would be no prompt action on their request. They didn't give the Government a chance.

The President gave it to the furniture manufacturers straight in his remarks at the opening operation a few days ago. He said:

"If such price increases continue in this (furniture) and other industries, there will be inflation and demoralization not only in our industry but in the economic system generally."

No one has disputed that statement. But the furniture manufacturers have chosen to disregard it.

The success of a democratic form of government in times of crisis is based largely upon the assumption that individuals will co-operate voluntarily in a manner which will promote the best interests of the nation. If any large number of individuals or interests refuse to co-operate voluntarily and continue to demand purely self-interested "freedom" then one of two results is inevitable. Either (1) democracy must become authoritarian and demand co-operation or (2) the nation disintegrates and crumbles.

We presume that neither the furniture manufacturers or anyone else wishes to choose between these unhappy alternatives.

Baffling

That German Victory News Is Overdue but We Can Wait

Day before yesterday Mister Goebbels told the German people and the world that within 24 hours his propaganda ministry would announce Nazi successes in Russia "baffling the imagination."

Our imaginations are still waiting to be baffled by Mister Goebbels.

Not that our imaginations haven't been baffled a devil of a lot during the past week. The Nazi attack on Russia was considerably baffling in itself. But even more baffling is the tough fight that the Russians are giving Hitler's panzer divisions.

Today the Associated Press reports that it looks more and more as if the Red Army had stolen some of the thunder from Hitler's lightning war technique and that the Feuhrer was preparing for a long siege of Russia.

We hope that there is going to be a lot more baffling. We hope Russia and Germany baffle each other all over the place. We hope that the two gangster nations will be so weakened by the struggle that the leaders of both will be completely baffled.

So take your time Mister Goebbels. We can wait. We've got plenty to do, while you think up something baffling.

Higher Rents

Don't Blame Increased Coal Prices—Yet

There is a considerable undercurrent of talk in Charlotte about how the apartment house landlords are going to shock their tenants with a general rent increase this Fall. We have been unable to pin down any landlord for a definite statement on whether he was going to hike rents but one or two said they "might have to do it."

Apartment dwellers say that are being told that the rumored rent increase will be blamed on higher costs—particularly, they hear, on the rise in coal prices.

We do not know what the other "higher costs" include. There has been no change in the tax rate on property. There is no threatened increase in water or power rates.

How about coal? There have been price increases in various types of coal. Stoker nut coal is now selling for about $8 a ton—50 cents higher than last Summer's price. Pocahontas egg is currently quoted at about $9.50 a ton—85 cents higher than the price last Summer. These are increases—but mighty narrow ones.

Of course the prices on coal may skyrocket within the next month or two. Even now many mines are taking orders for delivery after July 25.

But until there is a really substantial boom in coal prices, the landlords need a better excuse for talking about rent-raising.

It might sound stronger if the landlords came right out and said: "Well, times are getting good and everybody else is doing it so why shouldn't I cut myself an extra chunk of dough."

The public understands that kind of talk better than something like this: "Dear Tenant, Due to a terrific rise in the price of coal, amounting to 50 cents a ton, we are forced to increase your rent $5 a month. Love, Your Landlord."

STILL GOING STRONG

Sole member of the original cast to appear in the closing performance of "Tobacco Road" was the banker with the mortgage. Those fellows never weaken.

IN TIME, IN TIME

The passing of the Kaiser, instead of whoozie, recalls Oliver Herford's sad observation, on reading a club notice of the death of a member, "It's always the wrong one."

Time For Waiting

By Hugh S. Johnson

IT IS interesting to learn, through the widest kind of publicity, and within 48 hours after Hitler's voluntary action that her Washington military experts predict that Hitler will fail. It is hardly "Hitler vs. Churchill" in a month and must win it. He forces members of war. All this is accompanied with advice to the Russian High Command on how to defeat him.

There are also hints in this story that all along the "experts" knew what Hitler was going to do—even as Mr. Churchill hinted that he knew what Hitler intended. These dispatches do not say who these "Washington military experts" are, but presumably the reference is to our General Staff.

To a casual observer this would seem a good time for military experts to soft-pedal their experting in public and try to produce a little better quality of their art in practice. It is a lot of baloney that they knew all along about this explosive move. It was always a possibility and perhaps an eventual certainty, but until about three days before it occurred, no indication had appeared in our news that it would happen now.

MAY HAVE BEEN SUSPECTED BUT IT WASN'T "CERTAIN"

Perhaps a few individuals in our General Staff and High Command suspected it, but the statement that its immediate launching was a concensus of our military expert opinion just simply is not true.

The anti-axis governments, including Britain and our own, are in an unhappy spot. If they didn't know it and weren't prepared for it what is the matter with their military and diplomatic services of information? If *they did* know it and didn't tell their people about it, what kind of "rannykaboo" goes on here in these democracies?

Of the two embarrassments it seems to me that it would be wiser and more honest to choose the former—that they didn't know. In the first place, it is the true explanation. In the second, if we are to be at our best in this war it will have to be on a basis of complete confidence — confidence of people in their governments, but also, and even more important, of governments in their people. Hiding the imminence of such an earthquake, if its coming was known, would be almost unforgivable.

CAN THE EXPERT PICK A WINNER IN WAR?

And now about this business of Hitler winning the Russian campaign in a month — or losing it if he doesn't win in three. If the experts didn't know enough to predict the coming of what appears to be the biggest land campaign in history, they don't know enough to predict that.

They didn't know enough to predict a single of the many tremendous results of the astonishing land campaigns in Western Europe and the Balkans. They didn't know enough to insist on American rearmament for modern, mechanized, motorized and aerial warfare.

On that record wouldn't it be better to withhold some of these ultimate conclusions until a few more facts about this bewildering business are at hand?

In the first place, what does "winning the Russian campaign by Hitler" mean? That is not at all clear, because his own objectives are not clear. The experts are clearly right in saying that his objectives are not the worthless gutted shells of Russian cities or even fortresses. They are control of the raw resource centers of Russia, of which the richest by far is the Ukraine. Both because that requires the destruction of Russian military power and because the destruction of that power is a necessity for Nazi security and defense, the first objective is destruction of the Russian armies. Can that be done in one month or three?

ONLY SALVATION IS FOR RUSSIA TO RUN FAST

Not if the Russians can run fast enough and far enough. Can they? Not if the Germans can quickly enough destroy the few and woefully inadequate rail and motor roads and transportation centers. The military miracle of the fall of France was as much due to crowding destruction and demoralization of French communicating routes behind the defense lines as to any other single cause.

Will there be a repetition of this in Russia? It is a possibility, but the magnificent distances and open terrain here are very different from the crowded and congested area of Western Europe. It is a good time to wait awhile and see.

The Factories at Night

—By Berryman

Letters to the Editor:

Yardstick For Patriotism

Editors, THE NEWS:

Implicit in the state of being of we call freedom is the obligation of restraint. No government can impose freedom. It can only afford the conditions which encourage the exercise of freedom.

Obviously, any privilege is tolerable only so long as its exercise is not inimicable to the common good. This is true whether the society be democratic or totalitarian. The essential difference between democracy and totalitarianism is that the latter attempts to define more rigidly what is for the common good. Democracy compliments the individual by presupposing that he is moral and intelligent. Totalitarianism insults him. Totalitarianism might not be bad if it enhanced the common good by exalting the individual.

In a democracy, in peacetime, the common good concept is flexible and, to some extent, undefined. Free speech may become intemperate and unlicensed, but the abuse of the privilege only serves to emphasize its value. In peacetime a minority may attempt to frustrate the will of the majority. But when a nation is confronted with an emergency which threatens its existence as a free country, the privilege of free speech must be exercised in conformity with the common good as it is defined by announced national policy.

When a nation is at war citizens who attempt to hamper the successful prosecution of the war are traitors. A state of war automatically abridges the right of free speech. Unfortunately, until, or unless, war is officially declared, the attempt to vitiate the efforts of the government in wage an undeclared war cannot be legally defined as treason.

Those who now oppose our undeclared war, but declared fight, with Hitler and Co. know that abandonment of an undeclared war would be no less a defeat and a betrayal than would be the case had the war been orthodoxically declared.

To those honest citizens who thought, and may still believe, that actively aiding the nations resisting Axis aggression was not for us a good policy, I, due our respect as they silently and courageously do their best to help their country win the fight in which it is now engaged. They yet may be thankful that the beast was killed before he reached America.

But what of the citizens who recognize that we are engaged in an undeclared war, yet continue their vociferous denunciation of our participation. Are they patriots or are they traitors who, abusing the right of free speech, foment doubt, distrust and fear? Is a traitor any less a traitor because a technicality enables him to evade the legal consequence of his treason?

Maybe the period of apparent hesitation, spent in enlightenment and preparation, has served another useful purpose. It has highlighted certain individuals who, because of their achievements and their positions, we might have accepted as true patriots and sincere haters of Hitlerism.

The essential facts are clear. This country is fighting Hitler and Co. Whether you personally approve of this fight or not will not affect your support of your government—if you are a patriot. If by deed or word you do anything designed to keep your country from winning the fight, you are a traitor.

By this simple test let us now measure our heroes, our statesmen and our would-be leaders.

—LEWIS A. SMITH.

1709 East Boulevard,
Charlotte, N. C.

What Hitler Said, (or) The Same Old Story

The Christian Science Monitor

"Germany does not intend to export its doctrine to Russia. I see no reason that we ever again will take stand against one another. We both realize this, that every fight of our peoples against one another would be advantageous only for others. We, therefore, agreed to conclude a pact which excludes for all the future any application of force between us . . . Any attempt of the West to alter this will fail. I would like to assure here that this political decision means a tremendous change for the future and that it will be conclusive." (Adolf Hitler before the Reichstag, Sept. 1, 1939.)

"The non-aggression consultation pact with Soviet Russia gives us assurance of a policy of peaceful agreement with this greatest empire of the East." (Hitler in a broadcast to the German people, Sept. 4, 1939.)

"We have the will to carry on and to represent our interests alone, but we have found that the two greatest peoples of the earth can do better if they co-operate.

. . . We shall be extremely happy to tell the British that there is no desire for Germany to extend itself to the Ural Mountains. Now, gentlemen of England, the German aims are very well defined and are limited. . . . The nightmares of the British statesmen now can be calm because Germany has no intentions on the Ukrainian territory." (Hitler in an address at Danzig, Sept. 19, 1939.)

Following The Fingerbowl . . .

Ottilie Alx in
The Reader's Digest

At a buffet supper at Harpo Marx's home in Hollywood, guests were inconvenienced to find no napkins, but Oscar Levant "covered up" for his friend. "Due to the high cost of living," he announced, "there are no napkins—but from time to time a woolly dog will pass among you."

A Basso To End All Profundos

Wall Street Journal

A certain Weidman, the proud possessor of a very fine bass voice, confided one day to a friend that he had had a remarkable dream. "I was in a mighty choir: 5,000 sopranos, 5,000 altos, 5,000 tenors—all singing at once, double forte. Oh, magnificent! But suddenly," continued the singer, "the conductor stepped the lot, and turning to me said, 'Not quite so loud in the bass, Mr. Jones.'"

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy cometh in the morning.—Psalms 30:5.

Too Much For One Man

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON—Lyons has come out of his way to present under signing to some extent, their problems, and has succeeded with a [illegible] in the whole place, as Bernard M. Baruch was in the last war.

The national reorganization just announced probably will help. It will simplify the task of national unity in trying to deal with the political explosions here. But it leaves the over-all management as unclear as before.

TRANSPORTATION IS STILL AN ORPHAN

Even now the transportation situation is still an orphan, in the hands of Ralph Budd, who is the sole survivor of the original National Defense Advisory Commission. Why he is not included in the OPM organization, since transportation is an increasingly problem, is difficult to understand. The price and civilian supply organization, OPACS, under Leon Henderson, still remains an independent organization with numerous commodity sections detailed to those now being set up in OPM. The oil administration, under Secretary Ickes, also remains outside as a separate agency.

Perhaps the most useful thing that is going on at OPM is the retirement of several industrialists who sadly underguessed the needs of the defense program and failed to drive for expansion of steel capacity and electric power.

OPM has put the heat on the Army for faster dishing out of contracts, although it has not gone along with that Army for a 50 per cent cut in automobile production. President Roosevelt has appealed to OPM to make ruthless diversion of machine tools from whatever source they can be obtained for essential work in Government arsenals. This is likely to force OPM to move more swiftly than had been otherwise expected. OPM has hesitated to force sharper reductions in automobile production for fear of causing unemployment.

WE CONTINUE TO SUFFER FROM LACK OF ORGANIZATION

That OPM and all Government agencies feel the need of sharply stepping up defense production is certain. That President Roosevelt feels it is certain.

But we are suffering and will continue to suffer from lack of coherent organization. Boards and committees, countless liaison meetings, the necessity of consulting this agency and that, are deadly consumers of time. Authority still is divided and scattered all around Washington.

It heads up under President Roosevelt. But President Roosevelt has everything else heading up to him. He has lend-lease, he has the contact with the British, questions of Army and Navy strategy and dispositions of Army and fleet forces to consider. There is no one, aside from the President, who has the final word.

HENDERSON IS OUTSIDE OPM AUTHORITY

OPM has no control over Leon Henderson, in charge of prices and civilian allocations. Mr. Henderson has no control over OPM. Nobody has any control over Secretary Ickes, the oil administrator. Transportation, which is so vital that we have to curtail gasoline consumption in the East, is left out on its own. This at a time when Ralph Budd is making a survey to get short-haul freight taken off the railroads and transferred to trucks so that the rails can be cleared for long haula, and when railroad construction needs are clashing with shipbuilding needs.

OPM, restricted to its own back yard, is trying to revamp its internal organization. The reorganization was worked out by John D. Biggers and Donald Nelson of OPM. It was not a White House job and President Roosevelt apparently knew little about it in advance. It probably will be a good mustard plaster. But something more than home treatment is needed. An over-all reorganization such as only the President could undertake is needed, and sooner or later—probably later—it will come.

Side Glances

"Did you ever read about Daniel Boone having to stop for an ice cream cone every six steps he took?"

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

Did Ye See Any Pigeons In The City?

(McLeansville, R. 1 Item.
Reidsville Review)

R. E. Apple attended court at Greensboro this week.

Watch Out, Yankees!

(Mineral Springs Record)

Miss Katy Sams left Tuesday for the University of Tennessee where she will take a Summer course in the line of work.