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I Find You Want Me To Furnish You With Argument And Intellect Too—**OLIVER GOLDSMITH**

The Army We Need

By Hugh S. Johnson

THE War Department is in for a barrage of criticism for "building another old" army and not taking advantage of the "modernized" small force concept. The rumbling has already started and it is going to get louder. Provision for expansion is being made by the War Department. The French line at Sedan pushed fingers of steel to the east, cut off British and Belgian forces in Flanders and almost in one stroke captured France. France had 6,000,000 soldiers but did not exceed 150,000 men.

That is the kind of argument that starts public sentiment and suspicion. Mr. Collins is in a position on the military affairs committee to know his facts. As this column has done, beginning even earlier, he has not been making a distinction between modernization and mechanization for many years—even before the Germans started it.

But to jump from the proved soundness of that position to any conclusion that the army has been wrong in planning an army now of about a million and a half with provision for expansion to 2,000,000 is a pretty big jump. In adopting expansion, or in providing in addition to a present division, plenty of old-fashioned infantry and artillery is something else again.

The War Department is moving to mechanization, motorization and aviation. It is also making use of the industrial capacity of the country and the policy of our Government is to produce more and more modern equipment overseas will permit. It is terribly handicapped in not having enough of our newly made equipment overseas will permit. It is terribly handicapped in not having enough of our newly made equipment overseas will permit.

Commencement Talk

By Raymond Clapper



Letters to the Editor: Wilmington's "Blue Laws"

Dear Sir:

Charlotte will have causes a plenty to be blue if the present "blue laws" are not repealed before the summer. The city administration doesn't do another thing while it is in office, it can make a large step toward making Charlotte a big city by repealing the blue laws.

Wilmington is already crowded with soldiers, thousands of them. And what to do on Sunday is a major problem to each and every one of them. Like Charlotte, Wilmington has "blue laws." These laws prohibit Sunday movies, baseball, and most entertainments.

The majority of soldiers in the South come from the North and West, where blue laws are used to have some place to go on Sunday. But in Wilmington they can only go to one of the beaches or to beer parlors and houses of prostitution.

While it is in Wilmington this week-end I questioned 15 soldiers on their Sunday activities. A typical reply is: "I go to the beach most of the time and other times I just hang around some place."

These places are usually dirty, places where crime is bred. The beaches help stem the tide of soldiers going into these dives, but they don't stop it completely. The soldiers are human. They want to go different places. Wilmington has its problem.

But it is not as acute as Charlotte. Charlotte doesn't have two beaches near by. Charlotte only has churches to go to on Sunday. But in Wilmington soldiers will go to church if they can't find any other place to go. But these people are wrong. They can find other places to go.

Charlotte has an extremely large number of speakeasies and houses of prostitution. And those places are where the soldier will go if he can't go to a picture show or baseball game. YOU CAN'T MAKE HIM OR ANYONE ELSE GO TO CHURCH IF HE DOESN'T WANT TO.

A surprisingly large number of our most respectable citizens take this course. Why shouldn't the soldier?

He can and will frequent the dives and bootleggers unless we read our blue laws and give him somewhere else to go.

—ZAMU HEARNER
 (Earl Hearnier is sports editor of the newspaper at House 11th in Charlotte and represents The News in his school and news items that he has learned in report facts as he sees them—Editor, The News.)

A Desperate Battle In Stickhorse Field

(See Jones In The Chapel Hill)

In Berryville, one little Virginia town where I grew up, there was an old field filled with allentown clumps, limestone outcroppings, and thickets of tall weeds. Every one of our neighborhood knew it as the stickhorse field. This was because we went there for our stickhorses. The stem of a young allentown make the best stickhorse in the world. It is easily broken and stripped of foliage and it is light though sturdy and rigid. To us an allentown was a stickhorse tree; we didn't know it had any other name.

Boys from our town were great riders of stickhorses. (There was in our yard a weeping willow that one of my older brothers had built a house as a stickhorse. He had leaned it against the side of a shed and forgotten it. The drip from the shed's roof watered it, and it took root and grew to be a large and beautiful tree.) Stunting stunts was a task when the runner rode a stickhorse. Our stunts and douches were in the street by way of a big gate, usually open, at the bottom of a slope. It was a thrill to roll down the slope and out through the gate astride a stickhorse.

A HAPPY HUNTING GROUND FOR MONKEYS

We always went to the stickhorse field for our new mounts, and we played cowboys and Indians there. It was a sort of happy hunting ground, albeit there was about it the memory of what to us small boys was a dark and secret deed.

There was a light-skinned Negro boy named Frank who carried a lean-bladed knife we called a frog-sticker. This boy was a pig and we looked upon him as a desperate and dangerous character.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

He that is now with Me is called Me, and he that is with Me shall be called Me.

—Matt. 12:30

Side Glances



In Jail

One Little, Two Little, Three Little—and a Rape Prisoner

Just before yesterday's discussion of the juvenile delinquency program, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Alley received a visitor, Mr. Mrs. Alley comprise the complete staff of the juvenile "Detention Quarters" on South Mint Street.

The visitor asked if he might inspect the building and its occupants. He said he had been hearing and reading a considerable number of reports about the "black" children.

Mr. Alley, without the slightest reluctance, escorted the visitor through every room in the building. The visitor learned what every citizen of Mecklenburg may see for himself:

- (1) That there are bars on the windows and that the children are almost entirely in removing those offensive symbols of a jail;
- (2) That, as both sides of the Courtroom building were careful to admit, the entry place is as clean as paint, soap, water and other grease can make it;
- (3) That there is a completely air-conditioned building where the "black" boys are "can't do anything with."

The visitor was highly entertained by Mr. Alley's stories about his young "prisoners," in whom he seems to take a personal interest.

"The boys get hot biscuits every day," Mr. Alley said. "One morning I took the biscuits and a can of hot gravy up to the boys on the third floor. I slipped the food into the cell. One Negro took the biscuits but they let the gravy. They call it 'gravy' and they eat it on the floor. Finally I reached down and picked up the gravy dish.

"At I leaned down, a little Negro snatched up the 'gravy' and slung it right in my face. If it had been just a little hotter, it would have put out one of my eyes.

"A few days later that the Negroes had all schemed out. When the little one seized the 'gravy,' the other was going to make a break for it.

"Oh, they are full of tricks, these boys."

The visitor learned also that when the "Detention Quarters" were opened several years ago, inmates got more liberal treatment.

"We used to let them out in the playground," Mr. Alley said, "and then they took to going over the fence like rabbits. We used to let all of them come down and eat in the dining room. But they took to making beds out of there, and with just my wife and me here, we had to start feeding them in their cells."

The ladies from the Council of Social Agencies are right. This place is no "home"; it is a jail and the smallest child confined there cannot fail to know it.

The strapping young six-foot Negro, who had attempted rape of a white woman, knows it. The seven other little Negroes—every one of them cute as a button—running around this moment in the same cage with the hulking black boy—they know it, too. All of them are smoking cigarettes, peering anything of visitors.

Mr. Alley doesn't like to keep suspected rapists with little boys who are young enough to enjoy a game of marbles.

Mr. Alley says he's thought and thought but he just hasn't thought of any way to do anything about it.

Unless somebody does something about it, Mecklenburg County and Charlotte must be willing to admit that they operate the largest factory for the mass production of young criminals in North Carolina.

Humanitarian

His Motive May Be Pure but His Bias Raises a Question

Everybody wants to see the people starve in Europe's conquered countries. There is, however, a valid difference of opinion on the point of sending food from the United States to Belgium, The Netherlands, Norway and the rest.

Same Old Ick

If It's Recommendations They Want, He'll Make Them

In reporting the appointment of Secretary Harold Ickes as petroleum co-ordinator for national defense, the Associated Press admitted: "It is not clear exactly how extensive are Ickes' powers."

Later it was disclosed that Mr. Ickes is to make "specific recommendations" for action which is necessary or desirable in the entire oil industry.

As usual, Mr. Ickes jumped the gun on his appointment publicity by coming out three days ahead with a recommendation for "careless days" to conserve oil.

Without attacking Mr. Ickes' idea—which probably will return as a stern reality—it is to wonder that the President found it necessary to give him a franchise for making "specific recommendations" about anything.

Ever since "Howling Harry" Ickes appeared on the political horizon he has been making extremely specific—and valuable—recommendations concerning everything that crossed his path. Some of his "recommendations" are a little slightly like the wins from the tanning rooms and one in particular indicated that he was not incapable of a wish to muzzle the press.

Perhaps the President feels that a man with such powers of suggestion should not scatter his shot across the entire nation, but should confine his genius to a single industry.

Pipe Line

Movement of Oil Is Necessary To the National Defense

It is natural enough, of course, for the railroads to oppose the proposed pipe line from New Orleans to Greensboro (or Norfolk). Inevitably, the building of the line will mean lowered revenues for the roads—which have been afflicted with too much revenue for a long time. More than that, their arguments are to be taken seriously for the railroads are essential to national defense and ought not to be hampered in any way that can be avoided.

Nevertheless, the claim that they have ample facilities for hauling the oil traffic is clearly already untrue. There is no shortage of oil itself. Yet the administration has already appealed to the nation to cut down travel on Sunday. And many authorities are freely predicting the rationing of gasoline within a few months. That would inevitably seriously curtail civilian activity and the long run might react unfavorably on the national defense effort.

Considerable time, of course, would be required to build the pipe line. And it is possible that before it could be completed, the present emergency would have passed. However, we cannot afford to assume that Whipping Hitler is most likely to be a long, slow job. And whatever promises to aid in that process will need to be done, even in face of the fact that it may turn out to have been unnecessary.

A psychiatrist says the rookie who is continually shy won't do in the army. For one thing it tells up the payoff to the barracks and game.

Nazi "Sin"

By Dorothy Thompson

MR. EDEN seems completely to have forgotten the interests of Europe—as contrasted with their governments—and especially the people of England, look up the word, not against Germany, but against Nazism.

Here, the avowed intention again to protect Europe against Germany after this war—the result of the old doctrine of Germany's original sin is utterly without resonance.

All Europe, and all Western civilization must find a system of mutual protection against these recurrent wars that occur in the heart of our world, from whatever source.

It is the complete stultification, however, that the shape of things to come is to include another attempt to force Europeans to reduce their industrial strength and work capacity of the German nation, and to attempt to keep her out of all politics because she is a formidable competitor, then no "moral" order can be claimed.

No half-way solution will work. It must be radical.

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



Visitin' Around

That's Justice Well (Blintze) from Transylvania (Times). J. F. Justice is having a well dog at his home here.

Is That, Now? (Cryo) from Lexington (Dispatch). Prof. Koozia is planning to fill his smoochhouse with hog lips next fall.

Doubling Defense

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON—The fact that the nation's defense program is being made "big" is being stressed by the War Department. At the present rate of production, plus anticipated expansion, 1941 shipments of machine tools will exceed production for the entire year of 1940. It should be remembered that last year's output was barely half of what this year's will be, and that was double the 1939 output.

The World War peak in machine tools, reached in 1918, was \$175,000,000. But to reach the \$200,000,000 output expected for this year and you have some idea, first of the increased dependence of war upon machines, and second, of the miraculous expansion which has taken place in this difficult and exacting area of war industry.

DEMAND FOR WAR MATERIAL INEXHAUSTIBLE

Yet even this does not satiate the appetite of the insatiable demand for more war production.

Stacy May, chief of research and statistics for OPM, said in a recent speech that in the broad field of ordnance we no longer have the luxury of choosing to build new the quotas of needed equipment. He said that the machine tool industry has met its capacity, not by 40 per cent as a conservative estimate, to meet current demand. He said something could be done by farming out and by letting prime contracts for smaller components than in current practice. He said the probable maximum of machine tool production capacity employed on non-essential tasks, over to defense work under competent management should be faced. This OPM official said the first step was to get an accurate inventory of the precise equipment by type and size, that is needed for ordnance items. He said he has been told that a surprising amount of equipment needed for ordnance production was already in existence and needed only to be located and used. "There is already in existence," said Mr. May, "a large part of the necessary equipment for working on one kind or another of machine tool production capacity that could be deferred without great hardship and with some benefit to postwar economy."

OPM has made an effort at subcontracting. Prime machine-tool builders were operating at a 4,000,000-man-hour level in 1940. In 1941, that figure was 82 million-man-hours were subcontracted. This seems a relatively small percentage although it represents more than double the amount of subcontracting as of December 1 last. The 80 machine-tool builders were using subcontractors. New 125 are subcontracting. There is still an unused capacity that can be put to work on the expanded program. How much more is not indicated.

FORD DEFENDS NEW SIX-CYLINDER MODEL

The Ford Motor Company takes exception to a recent statement that its new six-cylinder model must have taken a good chunk of machine-tool facilities that might have been used on defense work.

For this work 67 machines were necessary. Ford was able to find 303 of them out of existing production lines. Of the remaining 334 machines needed, orders for all except 21 had been placed by Sept. 15 last, when Ford received its first order for Pratt & Whitney airplane engines. Only a few days before, on Sept. 9, the old National Defense Advisory Commission had issued its first order for preference rating. Not until Jan. 31 of this year did OPM issue its priorities order to hold up non-defense orders on machine tools.

No criticism of Ford was intended or implied. The criticism was that OPM, knowing of the drastic shortage of machine tools, should have moved in earlier. Just one year ago when the old defense commission was set up, the first bottleneck in sight was in machine tools and everybody was talking about it.

As OPM's statistical chief said in the speech quoted above, "In our program of expanding facilities, we had been holding a year ago we should be in less of a quandary now."

That applies all up and down the line, in machine tools, in steel, in aluminum, and in searching out and putting to work the subcontractors.

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