

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 1941

## One-Way Tanks

How Pioneer Americans Still Produce Some Virile Ideas

The public prints these days give us little stories of another achievement of American ingenuity in the world sport of bringing Hitler to bay. We plan to make million-gallon oil tanks, quickly-welded affairs which can be turned out in quantity production, strong enough to stand one ocean trip, connect engines to them, fill them with gasoline and speed them to England, thus thwarting Hitler. Not only that, the tanks then would be converted into bombs and shot at him. It is a great idea. We like it. We do not detract from it. Rather, we remove from it such cause for doubt as may exist in the declaration that it is a new idea. There is nothing new about it at all, but it is one of those ancient, demonstrated devices of American progress.

## Ruse?

Churchill Should Think Twice About a Petsamo Adventure

London rumors to the contrary, we are trying not to believe that the British High Command is planning to help Russia by operating a North European front of her own. We are hoping that the command permitted this story to pass merely as a ruse to divert German soldiers from the Russian front.

If we did not admit Winston Churchill's almost total weakness for bold, almost foolhardy expeditions, if the examples of Norway, Greece, and Crete were not still fresh in our memories, we certainly would not believe that there would be an adventure in Northern Europe this summer.

Britain needs every weapon she can make and every soldier she can muster to defend the island fortress against a Nazi invasion that, as Churchill warns, may very well come about September 1.

The German armies in Russia are hard-pressed. But their pig does not appear to be so desperate that a few divisions couldn't be spared to wipe out any British expedition.

Furthermore, there are only about 35 or 40 days of summer left in far-northern Europe. Any army that Winter catches up around Petsamo and the Raschki peninsula, where Finland and Russia meet, is in for tough sledding, no wisecrack intended.

Let's hope that the British continue bombing Berlin and other German cities, that units of the fleet repeat their previous brilliant forays against ports in Norway and other occupied countries. Those blows will help Russia.

But no big expeditionary force this summer, please, Mr. Churchill. Wait until next summer, when you will be getting planes and tanks from us so fast that there won't be room over there to stack 'em.

Lesson

Totoly Had a Word For Russia's Wheelers

Some three generations ago a book made its appearance in Russia. It was a big book in size and content, and on its hundreds of pages were inscribed the impressions of a brilliant and it was called a book about the Napoleonic invasion of Russia in particular. And it soon became established as one of the really magnificent novels of the world. But the greatness of Count Tolstoy's "War and Peace" was not founded on its documentary thoroughness and sound deductions, rather upon its revelation of human nature which changes little or none at all despite the growing complexity of modern civilization.

Without this opening paragraph: "Well, Prince, Genoa, and Lucca are now no more than private estates of the Bonaparte family. No, I warn you that if you do not tell me we are at war, if you again allow yourself to palliate all the inhuman and atrocious of the Anti-Christ upon my word I believe he is! You know you in the future. You are no longer my friend."

Some, a big lumbering nation, was

Napoleonic scythe. But Russia's soldiers on the front were weakened from within by Munich Chamberlains, Norwegian, Goulingers, French Lavalists like the Prince referred to above. Back-stabbers, they lured the populace into a false sense of security in the face of the Napoleonic threat, boasted of the prowess of the Austrians who would surely stop the advancing hordes, laughed at the idea that Napoleon intended to invade Russia and scoffed at his ability to do so should he try.

There should be a lesson for America with its Wheelers, Lindberghs, Nyes, and Reynolds—a lesson of history, tried and proven. We don't know them the future. They are no longer our friends.

## Fill 'Er Up

And What if They Won't Sell Gas After 7 P. M.?

It was one of those small filling stations with only one gasoline pump and an oily stretch of dirt in front of it. But it was open. That was the thing. After miles of highway made dark and shadowy by Mr. Ickes' gasoline decree, the flickering bulb over the establishment seemed to blaze brighter than all the neon signs on Tryon Street.

As the car rolled alongside the gasoline pump, a sandy-haired boy came out. His broad smile seemed to anticipate the question.

"Sellin' any gas?"

"You bet, mister. Fact we done sold so much that we ain't got any left."

He pointed to the dry reservoir at the top of the pump. He worked the handle forward and back. There was a empty, sucking sound and no fuel bubbled in the glass.

"I've seen so many people wantin' to buy gas in my life," he added.

The guy who is about to venture an opinion on Mr. Ickes' gasoline ruling is getting on toward middle age. He has been running a filling station for about 20 years.

He has a hard work and looking ahead, he managed to buy his own station and now he's making a comfortable living for his wife and two children. You can't run a filling station for 20 years and not get to know how the public is going to react to things that affect their automobile fuel.

So somebody asked this guy what about not selling any gas from 7 P. M. until 7 A. M. and he answered as follows:

"Personally, it suits me just fine. If I thought that was all I'm going to have to put up with until the war is over, I'd be very happy about the whole thing."

"But look, this fellow Ickes says the idea is to cut down on gasoline. Do you know what this night law is going to do?"

"It's going to make people buy more gas than they ever did. I'll bet you that my gasoline next week will be higher than any week of a month ago. What happens is that instead of buying gasoline in little dribbles, the customers are going back to those words we like to hear: 'Fill 'er up!'"

"You know 60 per cent of the people I serve after seven o'clock at night want from one to three gallons each. Those sales don't mean anything. They won't even cut overhead. Sure, I like the curfew."

"But I know this fellow Ickes ain't going to be satisfied until he cuts my gasoline. I understand that within 60 days everybody is going to have to go down to the post office and get their gasoline ration coupons. That'll cut out one-third of my income—unless I raise prices. And that's exactly what all of us are going to do. Have to do it. They tell us to sell more tires and fix more punctures. Why, for Pete's sake, I can't get any more tires to sell and as for fixing punctures, I fix all the people bring me. I fix all the around scattering tanks on the highway."

A Government statistic shows the average milk bottle is good for 35 round trips. Unless an alley cat in the mess-time has pried in the night.

Always refreshing, among the many attractive graduation photos, is the one of the nurses just back from the laundry.

A comic commentator, who must appear wise while wordings, is much in the position of Sam Goldwyn, who interrupted the conference to say, "Gentlemen, for your information may I ask

## No End Of Waste

By Hugh S. Johnson

Superficially it seems grotesquely ridiculous to talk about rationing down to as low as five gallons

of gasoline a week. But the Eastern part of a nation with such an abundance of petroleum is a most of its wells are plucked in to a fraction of their potential production.

The answer is of course: "Oh there is plenty of it. Our trouble is that we can't transport it from the mid-continent fields to the east—2 or 3 points of

loss in such case. The reason why we can't transport it is that we have taken away so much gasoline and tank ships from their private owners to give to Great Britain and expect to take away 100 more.

O. K. if that is necessary and a fair and just balance of burdens between our own people and those of another nation. But who says that the balance of burdens is fair, just part of our duty? It is not. It is not at that decision? In arriving at it, who speaks for the American people?

GETTING AN ANSWER FOR ASKING QUESTIONS

I don't know the answers to those questions, but with at least a reasonable contact with what is going on, the mere fact that I don't know is excuse enough to write this column of queries.

We seem to have taken the lid off the public Treasury and the great American manufacturers in unlimited generosity first to Britain and now, it would appear, to Russia.

I am not sure that it is fair to feel much pinch ourselves but, boy, we are going to feel it still we say "O. K. if that is necessary and a pinch is equal all around but there remain a good many Americans from Missouri whose motto is still "Show me."

We have practically said to Great Britain and are about to say to Russia: "We will send you what ever you ask for and you don't have to pay a cent for it. The American people will pay it."

It is not a little realistic in our own behalf to ask: "What would restrain them from asking without stint or limit—what would restrain any nation?"

CALL FOR A "NO" MAN

There are any "no" or "let's see about that" department in our Government and, if so, where is it? The man in charge of this hand-out part of our effort is Mr. Hopkins, a sort of modern Rumpstil in the Palace, who is the greatest spender of money in the world.

At least regard for the public debt and taxpayers' interests that ever appeared in Mr. Hopkins' mind.

After a second visit to London, where the canny Britons took him over just as completely as Grant took Richmond and "Dear Winston" began writing friends here about "Dear Hop."

Mr. Hopkins has winged his way to Moscow to see what he can spend there. That's a good principle, but Mr. Hopkins would be more confidence if our "lease-lend" Ambassador was some one other than Mr. Hopkins.

There is a real ally in bottom to even the biggest bag of money to reach to things that American taxpayers also have to feed their own families.

WHAT SORT OF A BOOKKEEPER IS HOPKINS?

The President has said that the ex-WPA mastermind is only a "bookkeeper" in his present job as "lend-lease" administrator. If he is a new and very convenient kind of bookkeeper—one who doesn't know that there is a debit side to every ledger and balance sheet, and that outgo must be kept at least within hailing distance of income.

Among some of the more radical new drainers, to whom Mr. Hopkins is an idol, are the kind of "lend-lease" administrator, who believe and have said that Government control and socialization by spending, taxing and the incurrence of public debt until the Government to all intents and purposes does own or control everything in the country.

They also have said that the political power necessary to do this is easily retained by a simple formula: "Tax and tax and spend and spend and elect and reelect." Well we are sure on our way.

Are Shucks, Now, Editor Ball

Charlotte News & Courier.

With sorrow it is observed that Editor Ball's column in the Charlotte News remarked of a gentleman that he was "still acting like a sphinx."

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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

"Pipe down, boys—you're scaring my cash customer."

Let's Strayed, Hien, Or The Grim Reaper? (No. 7 Township Item, Concord Tribune)

E. D. Honeycutt had the misfortune of losing a horse last week.

Her Friends Just Didn't Give A Hoot (Township Item, Stateville Daily)

A recent marriage of interest to his friends was that of Mr. Howard Crawford.

## Doggerel Days

By Herbert



## Letters to the Editor: Politics In Religion

Editors, The News:

One of the cardinal principles of our democratic form of Government is religious toleration.

Every man is free in this great land to worship as seems good to him, and no one is to be always abhorred the others against the Catholic Church that has grown and from time to time.

But religious toleration pre-supposes the divorce of church and state, and the kind of propaganda, appearance propaganda, profligate propaganda and just totalitarian propaganda that has been loosed by the spokesmen of the Catholic Church lately is not religion but power politics.

Specifically I protest against the address of the Rt. Rev. Beckman (I trust I have his name right), Catholic Archbishop of Dubuque, Iowa, over the Columbia Broadcasting System Sunday afternoon.

The Archbishop told his vast audience that any co-operation between the U. S. and "Red Russia" was Godless and that Catholics in particular and Christians in general must use every means in their power to thwart such co-operation.

Since such co-operation is the publicly announced policy of our Government it sounded to me as if the Catholic Archbishop was in a bit of a bind.

He further reminded his listeners that their first duty was to the church, above their duty to country.

He questioned the patriotism of the President, he threatened the Congress and urged sabotage of the defense effort and a negotiated peace. In the course of his incendiary talk, which could have been written in Berlin or Moscow, he followed official German propaganda, this Catholic spokesman said that any Catholic who claimed to have the sanction of the Pope in firing anti-Axis views was misleading the public. In polite and airily language he said the Catholic Bishop of Jacksonville, Fla., one of the few Catholic dignitaries to speak against Hitlerism, a lot.

If this were an isolated instance it would have no significance. But it is not. It is a long campaign. The church presumably paid for his Archbishop's "American address." There is no indication otherwise from Columbia Broadcasting System.

Somebody paid for it, and I do not imagine that anybody will admit that Hitler paid for it, even if it was right down his back.

I am all for religious freedom. I believe in religious toleration. But the Catholic Church has gone very large, and very, very rich in these United States, and that is why it is so powerful. It is all right with most Americans. But power politics is something else and I think we should speak out strongly and tell the leaders

of the Catholic Church that America will tolerate no longer the political activities of the Catholic priesthood.

MRS. RAY JACKSON, Rt. 5, Charlotte.

(Note: The name is Beckman, Archbishop Francis L. Beckman—Editor, The News.)

More About Bombing Tokyo

Editors, The News:

The three editorials in Thursday's News were just, strong, and true. "Bomb Tokyo" must be repeated as a profound and noble piece of writing, especially for the expressed idea that to bomb Tokyo would be to inaugurate a new hatred which in time would ruin any chances for a lasting peace.

Of "Blasting War" in which you point out that America is ready to get into the war but is also ready when the war is ended to withdraw from it, I suggest that you sponsor a letter-writing contest at this time whereby your little readers may offer their plans for a lasting world peace.

—FRANKLIN PRINCE, Woodruff, S. C.

Note: Glad to hear from any reader with a plan for world peace, but ain't it a little hot for contest?—Editors, The News.

Enclosed Find One Iron Cross

A Letter to the Orlando, Fla., Sentinel

You and your newspaper have always stood for the principle of democracy and Americanism. I would be grateful to you if you would warn the people of Florida of just what is happening here in Florida so that they will wake up.

As I was born in Germany but am now an American citizen, thank God, I know whereof I speak.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

And he entered into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and them that bought, in the temple.—Mark 11:15.

Side Glances

COURT MUST FEEL DEEPLY FOR SECURITY

Several times Justice Reed referred to those persons driven to uncontrollable ambitions and willing to conceive at faithfulness to gain power.

Perhaps some Supreme Court member has in times past spoken this bluntly about a current question of national policy but if so I don't recall who it was. That members of the court should begin to speak now suggests how deeply they must feel that the future security of the nation is involved in the events of these days.

Visitin' Around

Last, Strayed, Hien, Or The Grim Reaper? (No. 7 Township Item, Concord Tribune)

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## Mr. Reed's Rally Speech

By Herbert

A "RALLY" SPEECH BY JUSTICE REED, U. S. SUPREME COURT, MAY 1, 1941.

It is most significant that a member of the Supreme Court thus takes part in the current debate over war policy. In the first place it is unusual to find a Supreme Court Justice speaking at a meeting such as a defense rally, and in this case was held under the auspices of the Council for Democracy.

Supreme Court Justice makes few speeches and then usually only before professional bar societies, on topics related to the legal profession.

But it is obvious from the content of Justice Reed's speech that he feels deeply about this question and that he considers it a matter transcending ordinary political issues from which members of the court by tradition keep aloof. Other members of the court are known to have strong personal feelings and it would not be surprising if some of them from time to time should speak out in public addresses.

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