THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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● W. G. Dowd, 1863-1937 ●

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FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 1942

Crowd?

Why, Thousands Will Turn Out To See Paratroopers

It was a profound observation Miss Minnie Hamlet made to Lieutenant Seitz over at the Chamber of Commerce. The Lieutenant had come in to make arrangements for the paratroopers' jump just outside of Charlotte Saturday morning. He said that police should be there to handle the crowd if there was a crowd.

To which Miss Minnie replied: "There will be a huge crowd."

No doubt about it. One sure-fire way to raise a crowd in a hurry is to stage a parachute jump. County fair promoters of a few years ago could always park 'em in on the day of the balloon ascension. Nor has the public appetite been satisfied. About a year ago a private airport near Charlotte advertised an air show including parachute jumps. An hour before the first jump such a multitude had gathered that the CAA authorities had to call off the parachuting. There was not enough room for a jumper to land safely.

Now that the war has heightened interest in parachute warfare, there's no telling how many people will turn out Saturday to watch a detachment of 24 soldiers bail out. We doubt if the President could get a much bigger attendance.

Just one reminder, though. Don't crowd the golf course, folks; give the boys room to land. After all, who wants a paratrooper wrapped around his neck?

Great Example

Lynching in North Carolina Established as a Crime

The moribund institution of lynching was given a further push toward the grave in North Carolina today when five men were convicted of having stormed the Person County jail last August seeking to get their hands upon a Negro held there on a rape charge. Three of the men were handed sentences of eighteen months on the road, two of them twelve months.

The law, meaning the courts, has always stood ready to punish lynchers or would-be lynchers, and properly so. For lynching is a crime directed coincidentally against the law's due process. And the law's dependence upon that same due process—upon the evidence as it might be offered by witnesses and sheriffs and jailers, upon the verdicts of juries—has served to protect mobs. Witnesses have refused to testify against and juries to convict their friends and neighbors. The law was impotent.

But in Person County something new was added. Not only the court but local officers of the law, and State Highway Patrolmen stood ready to see the mobsters identified and convicted. The attempted lynching was itself aborted by the courage of these officers, and in the process they noted members of the mob. The State pitched in. Governor Broughton ordered the State Bureau of Investigation to the scene that additional evidence against the mobsters might be obtained. And the jury saw its duty, and it was done.

The result speaks in most commendable terms of all concerned—the court, the officers, and the jury. It likewise furnishes an example in enduring terms against lynching or the attempt at lynching in North Carolina. The offense has been reclassified in Person County as one which leads to the road gangs.

Fire In Pisgah

It Is Result of a Crime Too Vicious To Describe

Next to fighting a war, we reckon, the meanest work anywhere is fighting forest fires. There are almost never enough men available to work in shifts, there is no rest or relief. Throats parch, tears flow until the ducts are empty, the skin becomes tight and red. There is a constant shower of ash and, as the indescribable crackling roar moves nearer, the downpour is of live, red-hot coals.

Inevitably the fire, like some malignantly resurgent monster, finds a way to jump the "break" that has been made, and the job must be started all over again. Sometimes this goes on for 36 and 48 hours at a stretch—until a rain comes, or the men drop, or the fire burns itself out.

And of all forest fires, those that come in the Spring do the most damage. There are no leaves on the hardwood trees, but the great forests of Pisgah are largely coniferous—white pine, hemlock, balsam. In early Spring, before fresh sap flows into the needles, the tops of these trees are like tinder. When the needles burn this time of year, the tree dies.

It is almost unthinkable that any ordinary criminal would maliciously fire a forest—particularly a national forest—unless he were paid to do the job. Yet Governor Broughton, who interrupted a trout-fishing jaunt to direct countermeasures against fires near Brevard, says there is definite evidence of incendiarism. We take that to mean that the firebugs were enemies of the United States. For what other reason could they have caused thousands of acres of beautiful and valuable forest to change into a blackened waste?

To anyone who has breathed the air of the high places in Pisgah, or fished the clear waters that shoal out of its evergreen fastnesses, or heard the mincing step of deer along a trail at night, this is a crime more heinous than arson. It is, in a literal sense, a crime against nature.

The Mask Slips

And for a Moment the Real Bob Reynolds Is Revealed

In the eyes of many North Carolinians, Bob Reynolds remains a hearty buffoon—a sort of overgrown playboy who is to be indulged and tolerated rather than hated and feared. For in all of his monkeyshines, Bob has been at pains to avoid appearing snobbish. In a sense his most publicized misbehavior has been undertaken on the same level as his appeal for votes. The one sure way of alienating these people—talking down to them—Bob has avoided at all cost. Like the late Huey Long he has put on the mask of a clown, knowing that the people are always last to suspect what lies beneath the comic disguise.

But from time to time the mask slips, and when it does we get a glimpse of the sinister visage it conceals. For, instance, Bob was never quite able to make his bitter hatred toward Britain or his sympathetic attitude toward Nazi Germany seem humorous. Nor was there great mirth in this country when the man who believed we could do business with Hitler became chairman of the Senate Military Committee.

Now there comes an even more explicit indication of where Bob stands. Reprinted on this page is an article from *The Hour* quoting a letter Gerald L. K. Smith is using to advertise his new magazine. Smith is one of the most persistent pro-Axis spokesmen in America. His efforts to engender hatred between Britain, Russia, and the United States could scarcely be improved upon by Goebbels himself, and his fascist tendencies are unmistakable.

The letter is from Bob Reynolds.

Let us consider what this endorsement means. It means that the Chairman of the Senate Military Committee approves of the Axis program to promote disunity in this country. (Bob wrote of Smith's magazine: "It speaks the truth.")

It means that the Senator from North Carolina, in lending his approval to such an enterprise, is underwriting defeatism and flirting with treason.

Pierre Laval, it comes to us, has done pretty well by himself, but then Laval never did have Bob Reynolds' showmanship.

In a way, these Jap armies bring to mind the old George M. Cohan musical shows, of which it was said that they moved so fast no one knew if they were any good.

It is hinted that clothes rationing may go much farther than anyone so far has predicted, and we may see prophets running around in their understatements.

A whale, put out of action by a depth charge, is washed up on the Carolina shore—and it just now occurs to us: Jonah's was a one-man submarine.

Then there was the Washington amnesia sufferer who didn't know his own name, address or which board he belonged to for winning the war.

According to an eastern typographical error, which was allowed to stand, history is repeating itself.

Voluntary War Plans

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON

A conspicuous trend toward the democratic way of doing things has been established, by this Government, without pointed advertising, the last few days.

Man-Power Mobilizer Paul McNutt announced his efforts to fill the labor shortage will "be on a voluntary and democratic basis." That was not the way some of them wanted it. The demand for a draft and the compulsion that goes with it, was strong within the administration higher councils.

While Mr. McNutt is making his own decisions, as far as the official record goes, it is a good guess he would not have made this controlling one at the outset, without a little private advice from the White House.

MORGENTHAU GETS TWO HOMERS

Then Treasury-Secretary Morgenthau, whose batting average in inner administration squabbles over policy has not been high (probably because he was outnumbered on most occasions) knocked two home runs in succession for the voluntary democratic way of rallying support and money.

He and Leon Henderson, the price fixer, had been tangling (and hotly) over basic financial policy.

Henderson wanted to hike the tax increase bill, some say, as much as 100 per cent over Morgenthau's recommendations to the House Ways and Means Committee. Henderson also favored the compulsory savings method of raising money for the war by extracting it from salaries and income at the source.

DOUGHTON AGREED WITH TREASURY BOSS

Mr. Morgenthau called in Chairman Doughton of the House Ways and Means Committee and Chairman George of the Senate Finance Committee and found they were of the same mind as he, in opposition to such ventures. The Treasury Secretary then dropped into the White House to see the President, and thereafter was able to announce:

1—He (Mr. Morgenthau) favored the voluntary subscription method of selling Government bonds, and was opposed to compulsion.

2—He did not want the tax bill upset into the realm of further income confiscation for economic effect in avoiding inflation.

In view of the way his announcements came about, after obviously approving consultation with the Congressional Finance Directors and the White House, it looks like this is the way it will be done.

In support of his position, Mr. Morgenthau appeared with officials of General Motors before Congress to testify that their employee co-operation system of promoting the sale of Government bonds was working out extremely well. Expansion of that system, they thought, could produce the money needed.

That seems to leave the matter of success for the democratic way, in preference to the collectivist-compulsion methods, pretty much up to the country.

It is up to everyone who believes that way to buy another bond.

LAVAL SPEECH IS HINT OF DESPERATION

Laval's tricky political speech was designed to spread the impression that his elevation to power means the Axis is winning the war. If he thinks so, he is the only one in the world who could, and I mean anyone in or out of Nazidom including Der Fuehrer himself, on its plain face, it means the opposite.

If Hitler thought he was winning the war by the methods he has been pursuing he would not have gone to the extreme of forcing Laval on the French people—an extreme he has wisely avoided before.

He avoided it for the very good reasons he did not want to force the antagonism of the French people too far, or loosen the restraints of the British and us toward a nation he severely controlled.

That he chose to do so now, when things are not going well for him in Russia, Libya or elsewhere, is not only a confession of weakness but a hint of desperation.

"Do You Not Know That I am a Woman . . ."

The Baltimore Sun

Of one thing, of course, we may be sure, Mrs. Roosevelt, along with the country in general, will grow in sobriety and restraint as the war effort proceeds. The pressures that brought about Mrs. Roosevelt's retirement from OCD will temper her speeches. Social reform and social gains will be forced to their proper place in an all-out effort in which Mr. Roosevelt has called a war of survival. The advocates of social reform and social gains will gravitate under the same pressure to their rightful role.

But probably that role for Mrs. Roosevelt will not be one of complete silence. It would be just like a man to remember here what Rosalind said in "As You Like It": "Do you not know I am a woman? When I think, I must speak . . ."

The fact is, that is more or less true of men and women alike. But as the gravity of war increases it will be an audacious speaker in any group who speaks on public issues without more gravity than in the past.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

Religion should be purged of materialism and selfishness: *And he entered into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and them that bought in the temple.—Mark 11:15.*

"With My Full Heart . . ."

From The Hour

Gerald L. K. Smith: "International conspirators seek to destroy American sovereignty in name of wartime emergency . . ."

Bob Reynolds: "It hits the bull's eye with every paragraph . . ."

On February 21, The Hour revealed that Gerald L. K. Smith, expert pro-Axis rabble-rouser, former aide to Jailbird William Dudley Pelley and now fuehrer of the fascist "Committee of One Million," had formed in Detroit, Michigan, a secret group called The Inner Circle. The purpose of Smith's cabal, we reported, was "to serve as a brain trust for the anti-democratic, disruptive program with which Fifth Columnist Smith seeks to undermine American morale and hamper the war effort of this country."

Early in March, The Inner Circle launched its initial project: a monthly magazine, The Cross and The Flag, edited by Gerald L. K. Smith. The seditious, defeatist character of the magazine is adequately indicated by the titles of a few of the articles in the first issue: "Union with Britain—International conspirators seek to destroy American sovereignty in the name of wartime emergency and peacetime chaos"; "Will Refugees Take the Jobs Left Vacant By the Soldiers?"; "The Cliveden Set—Is President Roosevelt being used by the Red smear artists?"; "Sir Stafford Cripps—Whose man is he? Churchill's or Stalin's?"

CONGRESSMEN ENDORSE THE CROSS AND THE FLAG

Smith is now mailing around the country a yellow leaflet soliciting private subscriptions for his fascist publication. Written in the form of a letter, the leaflet opens with this scarcely self-effacing comment: "My dear Fellow American: The Cross and The Flag is the name of a new fearless and dynamic crusading magazine, of which I am the editor."

The extraordinary feature of this leaflet is that it quotes from letters sent to Smith by Senators Reynolds and Nye, enthusiastically welcoming the appearance of his Fifth Column magazine. According to the document, Senator Reynolds, ruddy-faced Chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee, wrote to Nazibaiter Smith on March 23, saying:

"Let me congratulate you with my full heart upon your first edition. It is well you did it in black and white. It is just the right shot; it hits the bull's eye with every paragraph; it is straight from the shoulder; it is gotten up in a conservative manner; it should have its appeal; it speaks the truth.

"We have arrived at the hour when we must have more 'two-fisted' talking and real action. America must be saved and America must be saved for Americans."

And Senator Nye, in a letter dated March 28, remarks: "I have received issue No. 1 of the new magazine. It is excellently done." A third Congressman endorsing Smith's latest contribution to Axis propaganda is Representative Roy Woodruff of Michigan, affectionately characterized by Smith as "an American above reproach, a patriotic citizen loved and revered by every good American who knows him."

"I Have No Apologies To Offer"

WASHINGTON— (AP) —Senators Nye, Republican, North Dakota, and Reynolds, Democrat, North Carolina, said Thursday they had endorsed a new monthly magazine, "The Cross and the Flag," published by Gerald L. K. Smith of Detroit.

Both Senators declared in separate interviews that they had written letters to Smith commending him for his views as set out in the magazine.

"Mr. Smith wrote me," Nye said, "that a Michigan or Ohio mother was concerned about the death of her son, with the British military service and in acknowledging the letter I added these lines: 'I have received issue No. 1 of the new magazine. It is excellently done.'"

"I haven't any apologies to offer at all for having written these lines except that they have been used for a promotional cause, seemingly. But I don't figure it is of sufficient importance to even ask that there be a ceasing of the quoting of the lines."

Reynolds, Chairman of the Senate Military Committee, said he had not endorsed Smith himself but rather the principles he stood for.

"After looking over Mr. Smith's first issue," he said, "the things that impressed me favorably were these: that he is against Communism, Nazism and Fascism; that he is against union now with Britain because we first have to win the war; and that he is 100 per cent for complete victory.

"I have no apologies to offer for endorsing the program of any individual or group standing for the things I have stood for many years. I would do the same thing if it were John Jones or Henry Brown."

Return of the Native

—By Herblock

Laval's Plan For America

By Dorothy Thompson

(This is the last of a series of three articles by Miss Thompson analyzing Pierre Laval's second rise to power. Miss Thompson's regular three-times-a-week columns will continue as they are received.—Editors, THE NEWS).

NEW YORK

If we keep our eyes on the French Fleet, instead of upon the whole political constellation, we stand a good chance of being deceived ourselves. (The appointment of Darlan as Commander of all French Forces, including the fleet, is not a preparation for its delivery to the Germans.)

For Laval will NOT deliver the French Fleet to the Germans. That would be much too transparent and unsubtle. Laval's game is to do nothing, on the surface, for the Germans, but everything for nationalist France.

He will therefore make a step by step policy, engaging the fleet, first, in convoys—for instance to get food to France. It will certainly not be unpopular in France to insist on removing food transports. And, through representatives in America, he will make a great bid for American sympathy and support.

USING FRENCH-FLAVORED NAZI PROPAGANDA

For internationally also, Laval's job for the Nazis is to prove that he is acting altogether and exclusively in the interests of France. His role is to say, "What I have done is wholly for the French people and necessary for them." His international role is to launch a peace offensive, especially in the United States, and on behalf of the suffering people of France, with the object of dividing public opinion in the United States, and thus weakening our effort.

Hitler has always known that French propaganda over there is a thousand times more effective than German. Not only has experience proved that Hitler can only win France through a Frenchman; it also indicates that Hitler can only confuse America by a Frenchman.

Laval is picked for both jobs.

HE WILL WORK FOR A "NEGOTIATED PEACE"

Through them, he will try to work for a "negotiated"—that is to say for a Hitler—peace, and an American policy that is anti-Russian, and of course, anti-Japanese.

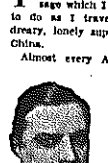
Send 'Em Some Mail

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON

This is by way of delivering a message which I promised many times to do as I traveled across our long, dreary, lonely supply lines reaching to China.

Almost every Army officer, enlisted man and civilian with whom I talked, including diplomatic people, said, "When you get back home for God's sake tell them to send us some mail."



I heard that refrain in the heart of Africa's mosquito jungles, on the sun-baked desert posts in India and in the remote recesses of China. They all want to hear from home. They know letters are being written to them. But deliveries are few and months between. What makes it worse, they see people traveling back and forth by air from the States daily, jumping from here to the other side of India in two weeks, but letters months late if at all.

THEY WANT SOME CONTACT WITH HOME

Morale may turn on small things. Most of these men are living lonely lives, walled in by the strange native life around them. They are burdened with intense heat, desert dust and constant dangers of malaria, dysentery and other tropical hazards. Yet they take all that as part of the job. They do not expect to be parked in specially hand-picked climates. They do not expect to have some place like New York where they can go on leave. If they can have good food, cheap, tax-free American cigarettes as the Army has elsewhere, a chance to get a night's sleep, and some word from the folks at home, they ask for nothing more.

These forces are something of a special case. Americans sent to Australia, Ireland or England are among more their own kind of people. But when you are set down by a tiny straw-hut village in Africa, where not even a movie is to be found and only semi-savage natives, and when there are only a few of you, cut off by thousands of silent, empty miles from home, you need something extra to keep you going.

EMPLOYEES SHIFTED TO VARY MONOTONY

Pan-American Airways has a policy of shifting its Africa men every few weeks to vary the monotony of life in those lonely outposts. Refrigeration may seem a luxury but it means fresh meat and vegetables. Air-conditioned barracks are not pampering but give a man a good night's rest so that he can put in a real day's work. The difference can be seen in the results. Americans do in weeks construction jobs that would otherwise require many months.

I don't know of any one thing that has brightened up life in Africa more than the little canteen which Pan-American installed at one point in the African desert. Every afternoon about 5 the canteen opens. It serves cold American beer and hot American hamburgers and hotdogs, with ketchup and raw onion. The men gang around and that one hour brings fresh life back to them.

Those are the little things that completely alter the tone of the men. And they want real American news broadcasts and American radio entertainment, to link them with life at home. I found neither the officers nor the men able to keep up with affairs at home. They do not see newspapers at all. A few magazines are passed around, usually several months old. Time magazine is beginning to get its airplane edition through, but the ones I saw in India a few weeks ago were of dates before Pearl Harbor.

MEN ARE HUNGRY FOR SIGHT OF WHITE WOMEN

One person suggested to me that we ought to send out a shipload of American hostesses, for men go weeks without seeing any white women at all. We had no thought that his suggestion was practical. But mail from wives, mothers and sweethearts would make American soldiers in Africa and Asia happy beyond anything else that could be done for them.

I found them all uncomplaining otherwise, willing to go through hardships. They just want to hear a warm word from the home folks once in a while. And you can't blame them for that.

Visitin' Around

Where Was Wade—In The Shade?

(Turkey Creek Item, Transylvania Times)

Mr. Harry Silton, of Pisgah Forest, pruned apple trees for Mr. Wade Lyday here last Monday.

Johnny Had To Stop, Which Is More Than This Sentence Does

(Gibbs Chapel Item, Morganton News-Herald)

John Nelson is back to the school again he has been away for some time.