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FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 1943

First Lady

In Battle, North Carolina's Name Leads All The Rest

In the first week of September, 1941, on a night when the moon was over the choppy waters of the North Atlantic, the sixteenth battleship of the U. S. Navy lifted her terrible voice in battle roar for the first time. She was not the biggest warship afloat, nor the fastest, nor the most heavily armed. She was just the most deadly of them all. She was the sleek 35,000-ton North Carolina.

Her commander, when all was ready, pressed a button and her great turret burst into a blinding, deafening roar of flame. Her nine sixteen-inch guns and half of her 20 five-inch guns shattered the night with a single explosion of two and three-quarter tons of powder; twelve tons of shells screamed through the night. And the Navy's ENCY came through. She heeled over, settled back, and swirled on. She stood up under the kick of the greatest salvo ever fired by any ship of any navy on any sea. She was ready for battle.

On October 26, 1942, at an hour when the battleship was a doer of modern warfare, a ship of the North Carolina class (and it matters not if she was the ENCY or a sister), was making way through warm tropical seas in company with a carrier force, seeking contact with warships of Japan. She found them, and more. Three waves of Jap planes gave her a baptism of fire, but of them all only one came through the curtain of steel. It fell to the bristling guns on her decks.

Torpedo planes and dive bombers gave her more. One wave of bombers came in through the mists. Twenty of them came down, and all were blown to bits or plunged into the sea. The young lady of the North Carolina class led the way in the battle of Santa Cruz. She was perfect, and she wanted to try again.

On November 14, she had her second chance. Herding a flotilla of destroyers with one or more other battleships, she blazed into a Jap trap eagerly and made a massacre of the battle of Guadalcanal. Before enemy cruisers could get their range, she had sent them to the bottom; her escorts cleaned up or routed the rest. She breathed destruction wherever she went, and sea power or air power meant nothing to her guns.

The Madame X of the North Carolina class brought a grand new name to naval warfare; and a new day as well. For their brief time, the terrible sisters are the most fearful vessels afloat. North Carolina leads the rest in the navy, which leads all the rest in war on the seas. In the struggle for freedom, its fame already belongs to legend.

Revolt

Wildcat Coal Strike a Blow At John Lewis the Dictator

Pennsylvania's wildcat strike of United Mine Workers, keeping some 18,000 men idle at a crucial point in a war-vital industry, is not simply another bit of evidence of Labor's irresponsibility. The work-stoppage in the coal fields is an indication of an evil which has long existed in the syndicalist reign of John L. Lewis King. John himself has deepened the strike in the face of public indignation, but its origin is of the Lewis family, and of the Lewis family alone.

Under present conditions, the strike is intolerable and unjustified. Miners have not been striking against the coal operators. They have been striking against the union, UMW. They have protested an increase of \$4 a year in union dues; an issue they struck on once before, in 1941.

For whatever reason they struck, the wildcaters would not be justified. But it is to be remembered that they are violating a contract in wartime because they realize there is no democracy in their union. It belongs, not to them, but to their dictator. Because the Federal Government has steadfastly refused to assume control over union activities as it has over other monopolistic enterprises, the workers have been exploited.

The Lewis autocracy is plain to be seen: 71 per cent of UMW's dues-paying members do not have the right to elect their own district officers. UMW records show that 312,000 members are in "provisional districts" where officers are hand-picked by Lewis. That condition exists in 21 of 30 UMW districts, and it

brought this strike, against the union itself.

The outlaw walkout is not to be condoned, for it is close akin to sabotage. But its background seems to us sufficient to indicate the pressing need for union control.

Common Clay

Willkie Exposes All Leaders Except the Republican Leader

Wendell Willkie's message in Durham last night was a new one from the stoneware set of the Grand Old Party, but in black and white it looked like a political manifesto. Mr. Willkie cried out against idolizing of our leaders, and for the preservation of liberalism. His was no plea for anarchy, nor for a war effort of every-man-for-himself. Our great leaders are important, he said, but they are not to be placed on pedestals. Not a one but could be replaced.

Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Josef Stalin are to be admired, respected and treated even by Mr. Willkie. But they are, after all, men of flesh and blood. They work no miracles, and their success springs from the great strength of their peoples. Through our leaders, Willkie expressed, Mr. Willkie wants them to become no more gods.

Just how that thought occurred to the erstwhile spiritual leader of the Republicans we cannot know, and it is not in disrespect that we suggest he might have in mind one W. Willkie, who speaks to Franklin Roosevelt. He is apparently convinced that he is capable of filling the Presidency himself—and we are not sure that we disagree—and he may have been suggesting that FDR, least of all, might be replaced and the world would move on, as swiftly, as surely as ever.

Perhaps his message was born of intimacy with all three great United Nations leaders. Drinking with Stalin, debating with Churchill and talking with Roosevelt seems to have had the singular impression upon Mr. Willkie; that these three are but common clay. But while he was holding forth on the business of holding our leaders, it does not seem to us that he is speaking a word in his own behalf. For he is, to millions, the hope of America. Come to think of it, why did OPA let down the bars in Durham, to allow motorists to drive out to hear him, bilious or otherwise, as he had sent three amounts to idolatry of the first order.

Who's Boss?

Ickes Says It's Not New Deal; Congress Says It's Nobody Else

Even from afar, it is apparent that a great gulf yawns between the paid philosophies of Harold Ickes and an undetermined number of the members of the new Congress. The fact hit hard this week as the Ickes went on record in a magazine as saying that this war was not run by the New Deal, but that key men in the program were men of strong anti-New Deal sentiments. Congress, or its Western farm bloc, hasn't caught up with Harold yet.

In the House, Miss Sumner of Illinois set off a hot little session with a candid observation that the time of the farmer's plight had not passed. In effect, she said, livestock was still being needlessly slaughtered and crops plowed under because that is the way the old AAA works, and no machinery or equipment for carrying on farming. Whereupon Knutson of Minnesota offered a sparkling observation: Food that rots on the ground is less painful than the old AAA. A boldness—it becomes an act of Providence and relieves the Administration.

The Farm Bloc didn't seem to be making any headway toward Harold Ickes, until it developed that a New York lawyer, Joseph L. Weiner, was directing the farm machinery program for WPB. That was too much. The House ripped up Mr. Weiner's record, found that it was he who had made the profound discovery that there are both men and female in this country. It wanted to know who was running this country, anyhow.

The decision was that Felix Frankfurter ran it, he and the men he had trained for executive positions. They were cutting the lives of the millions, and that wasn't all. OPA was run by men with a ridiculous background of experience. They were college amateurs from the old days, the Lewis ruled, of the Bush Trust strike. Those men of authority all believed that the American system had outlived its day, and they were engaged in a noble experiment to offer a substitute. The protest against them ended in a scream, and that was all.

The United Nations They Won't Last Forever

By Dorothy Thompson

WASHINGTON
IN HIS speech to Congress on the State of the Union, the President has fully defined some of the details about the future peace, and suggested that it could be well for all of us at this critical period, to confine our eyes to the larger objectives and not get bogged down in argument over methods and details.

At this stage of the war, this is certainly common sense advice. Yet the President himself did make two positive statements regarding post-war policy, as it affects our present enemies, the Axis. The first was that after the war we shall maintain the present grand alliance, United States-Britain-Russia-China, together with the smaller United Nations, and disarm and keep disarmed Germany, Italy, and Japan.

The main idea dominating the President's thought is security: security in the domestic life, and security in international life; permanent protection against the possibility of aggression ever happening again. The President does not believe that "magnificent isolation" will afford us this security, nor that we can "maintain peace by good intentions alone." He apparently believes that any future menace might come from the Axis powers alone, since the United Nations are bound together "in solemn agreement, that they themselves will not commit acts of aggression or conquest against any of their neighbors." He accepts the thesis that the roots of trouble, in the future as in the present, will remain permanently the same.

Now, on this, it might be well to have a little historical perspective. The first aggressions in this war were committed by two nations who were our allies in the last war, Japan and Italy. So the idea that a beaten enemy will always be the first again to take up arms is not necessarily correct. Japan and Italy emerged from the last war as victors disaffected by their victory. Mussolini, who emerged into power to turn Italy into an aggressive, imperialist state, was the very man, who in the previous war, had contributed most to leading Italy into the camp of the Allies.

Furthermore, both Italy and Japan were committed to keeping the peace after the last war. They were members from the beginning of the League of Nations, and signed all the solemn agreements to outlaw war which were so numerous in the twenties.

Germany and her central European allies were unilaterally disarmed after the last war, and for years there were international commissions busy seeing that they remained disarmed. Nevertheless, they re-armed eventually, in a tremendous way, and with the open or tacit consent of some of their former allies. At no point did either Britain, Russia, or the United States oppose German re-arming. For years the Russian Government allowed the Germans to test out new arms in Russia. Britain went so far as to make a naval treaty with Germany, allowing her many new ships including submarines, after Hitler had declared the disarmament clauses of the Versailles Treaty null and void.

France alone, and the small countries surrounding Germany, were for security by permanent German disarmament. Now, why did this happen?

The real reason was that the victorious powers after the last war immediately began to play a balance of power politics amongst themselves. When France appeared too mighty in the balance of power situation, they closed their eyes to the coming up of Germany. Russia wanted to keep the Western powers divided because she feared an anti-Communist crusade, and therefore tried to intensify the antagonisms between Germany and the Western powers, and even to back up Germany as a sort of buffer state. Mussolini, having tried to get concessions by the consent of Britain and France, and hoping for fish out of troubled waters, troubled the waters, and the best way to do that was to back Germany.

Finally, even the democratic elements in Germany, felt the injustice and insecurity of a disarmed nation in the midst of a highly armed world.

The point in re-hashing this history is only to get a realistic view of the future. It is on the record, no assurance that a Grand Alliance will outlast ten, twenty, or thirty years. It is only a negative alliance to prevent the rise again of once life enemies, and not a positive collaboration for the creation of a new world. And, if the second is the aim, then it must be accompanied by every effort to dissolve old antagonisms and integrate former enemies into a new and higher entity of the world.

If the disarming of our enemies is to be regarded as the last step in the war, we will all agree. But if it is to be regarded as the first step in making a truly constructive peace, then I greatly fear it will turn out to be the first step toward the next war.

—By Herblock

The Budget Figure



Peace-Time Rationing A Social Security Plan

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK
I AM NOT one who believes that things happen accidentally and therefore I propose to all you in the idea that Great Britain is planning with a Beveridge plan for social security, not because she wants to lower for food, clothing and everything else, out of \$100 a national debt on her might as well call it "it" and forget the actual figures.

This extraordinarily simple explanation is never insufficiently sinister to those who regard all political change as the result of diabolical plotting. If we will suspend our normal political belligerence for a moment, and concede that the world makes sense, we will be struck by the following facts: Great Britain has always needed up to a billion pounds a year in income from foreign investments, profits from the carrying trade, and from insurance, to keep going. Her foreign income has been steadily falling for the last ten years, her carrying trade has been scrambled and her insurance and financial services have been taken up the cap. Her future is insecure, and so the Beveridge plan suddenly comes along, and its arrival is sudden, like a rain shower after a drought. The firemen after the fire.

Great Britain may have lost in the next peace than in the last and out of this need a Beveridge plan has been born. It is actually only a kind of pie-in-the-sky plan, guaranteeing all sections of the British population a cut in whatever goods are available, by guaranteeing all individuals a minimum cash benefits in every conceivable adversity. Relief money will be distributed instead of ration coupons, but social justice, a sound hardpan and sound distributive justice, is missing.

I concede that this is not the popular picture of the Beveridge plan, which is sometimes regarded as a sudden break with the old. But the fact that England is turning to a Beveridge plan because she has, in fact, no other way to live is a fact which I should say, more. Political virtue does not lie in sudden burning benches, but in the exercise of good judgment on inevitabilities.

Germany and her central European allies were unilaterally disarmed after the last war, and for years there were international commissions busy seeing that they remained disarmed. Nevertheless, they re-armed eventually, in a tremendous way, and with the open or tacit consent of some of their former allies. At no point did either Britain, Russia, or the United States oppose German re-arming. For years the Russian Government allowed the Germans to test out new arms in Russia. Britain went so far as to make a naval treaty with Germany, allowing her many new ships including submarines, after Hitler had declared the disarmament clauses of the Versailles Treaty null and void.

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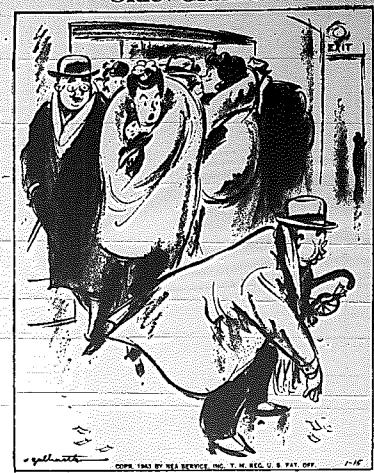
The real reason was that the victorious powers after the last war immediately began to play a balance of power politics amongst themselves. When France appeared too mighty in the balance of power situation, they closed their eyes to the coming up of Germany. Russia wanted to keep the Western powers divided because she feared an anti-Communist crusade, and therefore tried to intensify the antagonisms between Germany and the Western powers, and even to back up Germany as a sort of buffer state. Mussolini, having tried to get concessions by the consent of Britain and France, and hoping for fish out of troubled waters, troubled the waters, and the best way to do that was to back Germany.

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Side Glances



"There's the old codger at it again—looking for stray ticket stubs to help him out on next year's income tax!"

Flim-Flam Flynn Shame On ER

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON
IN THIS Ed Flynn case, I find myself spluttering not so much at Flynn as at Roosevelt. He's the one who ought to know better, and Mr. Flynn has been beaten around in the paving-block street. He stretched a trusted politician in Australia to keep an eye on General MacArthur and watch for anything that looked like 1944 Presidential politics. Ed Flynn wanted to be an ambassador and Mr. Roosevelt undertook to make him one.

It was not surprising that Ed Flynn wanted a diplomatic post. He was eager to take almost any one that the President would offer. Mr. Flynn has been beaten around in the paving-block street. He stretched as chairman of the Democratic National Committee was marred by the constant reiteration of the charges despite the fact that two grand juries considered them and returned no indictments. Quite understandably, Mr. Flynn wanted the kind of vindication and prestige that come from a diplomatic appointment. It would mean a lot to his family. Diplomatic life carries a glamour of distinction, and so the movers would lead one to think. The New York politician wears a morning coat and a high hat on special occasions and he looks with awe on a coat in which, the movers suggest, such are the striking clothes. It was the most natural thing in the world that Ed Flynn should ask the President to fit him up with a diplomatic job.

But it is difficult to understand why Mr. Roosevelt should send Mr. Flynn to Australia. True, our Minister there is an old career man, Nelson Johnson, who has been in the foreign service 25 years and is ready to retire. But Australia is a Turkish spot right now. The Government there hangs on by a majority of one. It is anti-Churchill. Australian politicians play a game of complaint. They frequently about inadequate aid from the United States. There have been strikes and other instances where the co-operation was not all that was wished.

General MacArthur has conducted himself with discretion in a most delicate situation, when it would have been so easy for such a spectacular figure to stek his neck out to the disadvantage of our mutual interests. If Mr. Flynn brings the properties to Australia, he will be in a position to make a fortune. That is in itself a sinister indication that he is likely to have trouble finding his way around in such a delicate and complicated situation as exists in Australia.

And it is unwise and unwise to bring the diplomatic field as a place for buying politicians, especially now when our relations with other Governments are becoming more complex than they ever have been. We are entering a new period in our foreign relations and we need the very best technicians at all contact points.

I don't subscribe to the idea that no laymen should be appointed to diplomatic posts and that everything should be left in the hands of career men. The professionals are needed in all missions to handle the technical work. But sometimes they are too restricted in their interests, and lacking in that political sense or feeling for the forces that may be surging around them.

Almer invariably they are tied in with the reactionary group wherever they may be because they play with rich people and they are apt to be bought. Yet a man like Joseph P. Davies, a former ambassador, can go into Communist Russia as Ambassador and get on better than anyone else we ever had there. He had a shrewd judgment of what was going on. He sensed the things that career men sometimes miss.

So the argument against Mr. Flynn isn't that nobody but career foreign-service men should be appointed to be head of missions. The point is that when you send a layman into a foreign country, you ought to be very, very good indeed, a man of distinct achievement and one commanding respect in his own field—a man like Governor Lehman, for instance, who is better equipped to do the relief and rehabilitation work than any career foreign-service officer.

How Fast Are They? Speed Kingdom

Table with columns: From Carrot, MPH, and MPH. Lists various animals and their speeds.

Visitin' Around

Is Willard Something Special? (Amherst Item, Morganton News-Herald)
The young people gave Willard Smith a going-away party Friday night. He left on Monday for Fort Bragg. They all had a social time and yet a sad time.
Wonders of Nature, 43 Years Ago, Transylvania Times
We've learned some lessons about weather this week, and one of them is how to pile water six inches deep on a hillside. It has been that way most of the time since Sunday.
Wonders of Nature, (Amherst Item, Morganton News-Herald)
It seems every week-end we have a blizzard. The Farm Market women are on edge if doesn't come so heavy till Sunday. We are so glad that everything works out for the best.