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 W. C. DOWD, President  
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 LEWIS J. E. DOWD, USNR, Vice President and Editor on leave for the duration  
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TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 1943

### Great Day

#### "Annihilated" Red Army Frees Leningrad and Rolls On

The ghost of old Nikolai Lenin must be howling with glee today, for the ancient city which bears the name of the founder of the Soviet Union has been from certain defeat to victory, a victory which may prove to be one of the great decisive triumphs of the war. Though locked in the Nazi grip for two Winters, and pounded with all the might of the German Army, Leningrad has emerged from its confinement with a great pat. The siege is broken, and that brings new strategic problems to the Eastern Front.

To the men all over the world who have expected the downfall of Hitler in 1942, the increasing tempo of the Russian advance has been cheering. In seven short weeks, the scale of war had shifted before Stalingrad; now the Red Armies pour forward on the whole uncovered front, and the German invaders are falling back to the lines of early 1942.

Hitler's plight, almost exactly forecast by the words of his General Dietmar on the Fuehrer's last birthday ("The German Army in the East is now in an incredibly difficult situation. It was extraordinarily serious decisions. It had almost been decided to break grips with the foe and put between his and our positions the earth that he had scorched") grows the more desperate. Now, certainly, he can expect no more successes in Russia.

If the war is to be ended this year, its signs are burning today. With Russians taking their terrible toll in the East, the British-American forces closing in on Axis legions in Africa, and Berlin shaking under RAF blows, the Third Reich can see the times ahead. On two fronts, Hitler is being softened, his strength sapped, but in the East, he is being bludgeoned, his proud armies rolled back as they have never been before.

Leningrad is free. Stalingrad stands. Rostov and even Kharkov are in danger—and in the West the storm gathers. The time of Hitler's Nazidom grows shorter by the day.

### The Answer

#### An Admiral Tells All Critics How Fortunes of War Are Born

Public protest over the slow progress of Allied operations in Tunisia has been loud in England, but is scarcely to be heard in the United States. The reasons for that may be that most of the troops involved are British, that the action is nearer England—or that the British have become a veritable nation of outspoken war critics through the years of conflict.

Whatever the cause, we rejoice that there is a ceiling on criticism of the military in America during these days. It was inevitable that forces of the United Nations, in the months they were withdrawn before prepared defenses in order to gather strength, should seem to blunder like green amateurs before the skilled professionals of Germany and Japan. Public criticism in those days was not constructive, but it did awaken a world to peril.

With the turning of the tide, the yelps have become more infrequent. Americans trust that, once their men and their weapons are in the field, nothing can stand before them—and the evidence to date tends to substantiate that highly opinionated theory. The true answer of the military to any lay critic should not be an impetuous charge of gross ignorance, but a simple statement of the problem at hand.

Great Britain had one the other day from Admiral Sir Andrew Browne Cunningham, commander of the Allied Fleet in operation against North Africa. He revealed that the High Command had considered in advance the possibility of seizing the naval base at Bizerte in the invasion of the area, but had rejected it because of the heavy costs involved.

"I believe it would have been possible to take the port, but we should have had to reckon on the loss of a battleship, several cruisers and probably 25 per cent of the merchant vessels."

There, the military explains, is the reason our men are still bogged down in Africa. We are preparing to fight a major battle because our officers took the "less hazardous course" in the invasion. The critics may, and probably will, say from now until the armistice.

straightforward answer to their hind-sight challenges than that given by the Admiralty. We talked, made our decision, and now were fighting it out. Is that good enough? It is, Admiral.

### Double Talk

#### For a Couple of Reasons, Unity Isn't What It Was

These comrades, are perplexing times. Men drift apart, friends find they no longer share the common ground. Great gulfs yawn suddenly between the groups. Americans, beset by the problems of living in war, are discovering with consternation that they speak in a babel of tongues. Among us, misunderstanding grows, and from that comes suspicion.

There is a waning of faith, soon the age-old bonds between man and his fellows will disappear. For well over a week now, the nation has been thus, dazed and drifting. Upon investigation, we discovered a web of sinister circumstances, a skein of confusion as hampering to national unity as a campaign of sabotage.

It boils down to a matter of nomenclature; too many incidents of the same name are piled before the eyes of the public. There are, for example, too many Flynns around.

An enraged subscriber tore into the office the other day, what were going to do about the Flynn case. What Flynn case? The Flynn case, of course. And so we regaled him for half an hour on the subject of Ed Flynn and why he should not be sent as Minister to Australia—before the visitor could sputter that our interest was with that former minister, Flynn, Earl, and his trial under the statutory law of California. You start with a paving block and wind up in the midst of a covey of light o' loves.

Or, same time, same place, we might be caught in a tirade on the plight of the farmer and his crops, only to find that our neighbor was gazing raptly Westward, intent upon the case of the long-legged Farmer, Frances, busy kicking her heels after trying to drink up all the drinkables on the Coast.

We tell you, there's a crisis in the art of conversation.

### Sleight Of Hand

#### Devious Methods of Nazis in Looting Europe Hide a Trail

In the peace plans of the United Nations, a most important item is the restoration of property which has been stolen by the looting Nazis in the conquered lands since 1939. It is also the least likely of all war aims to be put into action. The slave states have seen the intricate methods by which the Germans have seized virtually everything of value in Europe must smile sadly at the pronouncement of such a big purpose.

The Dutch, particularly, will greet the suggestion that their wealth is to be restored to them with joy and knowing grimaces. For the Netherlands have been bled white while by occupation costs of over six hundred million dollars a year, by double taxation, by currency manipulation and forced loans) as has many another nation.

Governmental funds of all sorts, insurance reserves and all types of private and public monies have long since been gobbled up by Hitler's relentless economic agents. And the flow of money and property into Germany has not only wrecked the economy of a survivor Europe; its course has been so devious that no amount of post-war reallocation can possibly return the stolen resources to their rightful owners.

It is all very pretty to plan the complete rehabilitation of European economy (after the United Nations have sent relief and bestowed blessings upon rightful Governments), but there will be an ugly snarl to unravel in the days just before the post-war conference again. Rather than attempting to settle individual accounts with a defeated Germany, the conquering Allies are likely to find it more profitable to put the Third Reich to work immediately, to keep it in production and force it to pay the big bills to every land it has overrun.

Only thus will the scales of economic order disrupted by Germany be balanced. This, in addition to the price which must be exacted in payment for human suffering, is a debt which must be paid.

### Tough Going

—By Herblock



### The Danger Is Now

## We Need An Allied Council

By Raymond Clapper

Washington  
 No matter how Roosevelt and Churchill work it out, a man like Welles ought to go over for his own checkup on the spot. This is most important, because we cannot afford to have lingering suspicions about North Africa. Unfortunately this affair will encourage isolationism again, and dampen hopes of making this world stick.

Our best international technician is Sumner Welles. He has carried the Good Neighbor policy through many intricate and stubborn difficulties in the Western Hemisphere. He knows the background of the North African trouble and is well equipped to smooth out difficulties and establish a working rear area that is safe for General Eisenhower's military campaign.

Robert D. Murphy, who did the diplomatic spadework for the United States in North Africa before the landing, undoubtedly deserves the praise he has received. But he has many inescapable handicaps, growing out of his long period of dealing with the politics of the area. He should return here in a short while, undoubtedly could do much to improve political conditions and his would return here in a far better position to make decisions in the future.

Surely the Army and General Eisenhower would welcome such a mission by Secretary Welles. They have all they can do to carry off the Tunisian campaign successfully. It is our first big show in this war and we can't afford to flop. General Eisenhower has no time to work on the politics of the area. It is a military test for us. It is also a diplomatic test and needs the direct attention of a man like Welles.

It is a simple matter to fly there and back—a couple of days each way if you really want to make time. Captain Joe Hart of Pan-American Airways, with whom I flew to Africa, has just crossed the South Atlantic twelve times in thirteen days. The best navigation we could have would be for Secretary Welles to fly to Africa.

### War Is At Climax

## The State Department Lags

By Samuel Grafton

I HAVEN'T spotted any trends for you lately, and I had better catch up, because there are all kinds of trends whizzing across the political scene like rabbits in a hurry. Any of you trends unsuspected, they multiply on you and may crowd you out of house and home.

One trend is a growing public awareness of how far our State Department lags behind the realities of this war.

This is new. A year ago, criticism of State Department policy was merely mystifying to most Americans. As recently as last February, Mr. Welles, who has learned a lot in a year, actually delivered a speech attacking Mr. Roosevelt for not giving the State Department more power. Not long ago it would have been impossible for Mr. Hugh Grant, ex-Minister to Albania and Thailand, to deliver his speech of last week, asking for "new blood" in the Department. The Department has been until the present moment, the great unassailable, single spotless vest of the Administration.

Today's American correspondents in Africa, such as CBS's Charles Collingwood, and in London, such as the Herald Tribune's Geoffrey Parsons Jr., have brought home to Americans, with a full sense of shock, the bad effects produced around the world by our apparently impudently headstrong French collaborationists in North Africa, now, as at Vichy previously.

Men who head the first faction believe they could not stand the tempo of lusty democratic change and progress and growth.

Our Department of Justice has thus been emboldened to bring section 102 more than two dozen Americans, presently because the public has been fed up on "the sickness," and

## Not A Man A Policy

By Dorothy Thompson

WASHINGTON

IT SEEMS to me that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is giving undue attention to the appointment of Mr. Flynn as Minister to Africa in view of more serious questions that it might be considering. It might, for instance, consider what, in the future, and after our victory, it recommends as an American foreign policy. That question is by no means settled. And it is difficult for us and ambassadors and ministers to represent a policy that does not exist.

Until this war it has been the policy of the United States to be disinterested in the political affairs of the world. Traditionally, the United States has been unwilling to assume the responsibility of responsibilities—for instance, for the organization of the world to prevent war—and it is not yet clear whether this Congress or any future Congress will change this policy. It is far from certain what the foreign policy of the Republican Party is, and how a possible change of party power would affect our relations with the rest of the world.

A summary of Republican utterances since the election of the Congress reveals complete disparities. The Republican Governor of Minnesota, Mr. Harold E. Stassen, has gone farther than Henry Wallace in advocating a world peace pact after this war, and the relinquishment of a degree of sovereignty by all states, including our own, in the House Foreign Affairs Committee the Isolationist, Hamilton Plan, has been removed. But in the Senate Affairs Committee, Warren R. Austin of Vermont, anti-isolationist, has been set aside in favor of Senator James J. Davis of Pennsylvania, who has been isolationist.

Representative Karl E. Mundt of South Dakota has advanced a positive planning commission to "prepare the way" to exploit America play a strong role in the maintaining of future peace, and Representative Jesse Sumner of Illinois has introduced a resolution in behalf of staying out of European and other wars.

In criticizing the appointment of Mr. Flynn, the obvious question arises: Who should be appointed, and what policy should he seek to further? Up to now the criticism has been personal, negative and unpolitical. It has afforded an opportunity to exploit anti-Roosevelt sentiment. I believe the appointment to have been a mistake. I can discern no qualifications in Mr. Flynn justifying this appointment. I think the action was very unwise and I believe that if it had been found to create the reactions it has, at a moment when he ought not to make such mistakes.

But, from a larger standpoint, what have been traditionally the qualifications for American Ambassadors and Ministers? Have they ever been appointed according to their qualifications? What were the qualifications that recommended Mr. Kennedy for Ambassador to Great Britain? Or Mr. Cudahy to Belgium?

The highest posts in the diplomatic service have traditionally been filled for one of two reasons: Either as a reward for party favors, or as a means of getting rid of an undesirable personality. I don't know just what motive is animating the President in this case, but there is certainly nothing new about it.

It is true that more and more career men are rising to the top posts, but even career men cannot represent an policy which is not clear.

There is no objection to taking men from outside the government, if they are taking men to represent the Administration policy, whatever it may be. A proper procedure would be to ask: Who is eminently qualified for the post? A proper candidate ought to have the following qualifications: He ought thoroughly to understand the structure and problems of the British Empire and Commonwealth. He ought to have knowledge of the military, strategic, economic and national problems of the Pacific area. The Minister to Australia is the last American diplomat in the island Pacific area. He ought to have tact and the capacity of amassing accurate information.

Such Americans certainly exist. Outside the Government we have a Council on Pacific Relations, a Council on Foreign Relations, and a Foreign Policy Association, in all of which are gifted men who have spent years of their lives in study of foreign affairs. In the universities we have scholars. And, finally, we have editors and foreign correspondents who have concentrated on Pacific affairs. So we could find an excellent and qualified minister if finding a qualified minister outside the State Department itself were the issue. But it never has been the issue.

It would be an excellent thing for the Senate to raise the issue now. It would be a good thing for the people to know what the Administration would do if they should ever have the same responsibility.

I cannot forget certain Republican appointees whom I have met in various capitals of the world. There was, for instance—but why bring him up?

### Platform Of The People

## The Dry Captain

Editors, The News: I see by the papers that "Captain" Edward Page Gaston, for a number of years now one of the leading prohibition lobbyists in Washington, has just been arrested by the Federal Bureau of Investigation charged with wearing the uniform of a captain in the United States Army. This is a serious offense, especially in time of war.

"Captain" Gaston has been ordered arraigned before a United States Commissioner. Unfortunately for the "Captain" or for those who may claim this is a mistake or an act of prejudice, the "Captain" circulated a photograph of himself wearing such a uniform, and carried the insignia on some of his literature, made frequent public appearances wearing his uniform, and invariably introduced himself as a retired member of the armed forces. He also claim to such honors, not a very good one, was that during the last war he was a member of the New York State Guard. The New York State Guard, admirable as it was at the time, was never Federalized or recognized as a part of the Army of the United States.

"Captain" Gaston is a brother of Lucy Page Gaston, secretary of the Anti-Cigarette League of America, and the FBI agents quote him as saying that he had been a director of the World Prohibition Federation and the founder of "The New Vigilantes of America" and the "Patriot Guard of America."

This news should interest the South especially, not to mention all service men, past and present. Army, Navy and Marine Corps and I trust it receives wide publicity throughout the South. "Captain" Gaston is the man who four months ago was speaking through the South on the subject of drunkenness in the armed forces at Pearl Harbor. He was one of the leaders in spreading this libelous and degrading charge.

Praise the Lord, and pass the ammunition!  
 —STRUTHERS BURT,  
 Southern Pines, N. C.

### Side Glances



"Mother bought an expensive coat today—the proceeds Dad's, ungratefully, well, tamed. I, not to say she."