EDITORIAL PAGE

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Despot's Decline

Francisco Franco is losing ground, but slowly. The Spanish people heard the first news of his retirement from a private shindig of Falangist officers and military men when, in the midst of the elbow-bending, the Caudillo rose to declare that he was in favor of "evolution" in Spain, but that he would step down only when he chose—and that he would hand the reins of Government to men of his own choice. That held out little hope for the men and women who yearn for a return of the Republic.

They were nervous, too, over reports that the long-time pretender, Don Juan, was making ready to move out of Switzerland. For despite the fact that observers all over the world have predicted a short, unhappy life for any attempt at a monarchial revival, Franco may have the cards stacked by the time Don Juan arrives.

There are some signs, however, that the heart of Fascist Spain, the Falange, is on the decline. In his efforts to remove the Fascist taint from his regime, Franco ordered the Fascist salute abolished. It created little stir in Spain, because the salute was never mentioned; the order was rescinded by number and publicly proclaimed by number only.

In the Summer capital at San Sebastian two interested observers are watching Franco carefully. The American and British ambassadors are wondering whether he is not playing a losing game, in his attempt to hold control and push the Falange into the background at the same time. Already, the army and the church begin to encroach upon the powers of his personal dictatorship, and the nice balance he set up in 1937 is long since gone.

In the face of continuing pressure from the United Nations Spain is already trying to re-enter the commercial world. She has made trade agreements with France, and seeks contact now with Italy, Switzerland and Belgium. She is not likely to establish commercial relations with any great powers, so long as Franco is in power, so his chances of holding his shaky throne seem slim indeed.

Eric's Chance

As czar of the movie industry and the most powerful of the nation's censors, Eric Johnston has an unparalleled opportunity to better the state of American entertainment and improve our relations with the world. As successor to Will Hays he can, if he will, overcome a certain amount of Hollywood's penchant for the juvenile. He can, within limits, remove a good many of the bogeys now surrounding the making of movies.

He should be able to interpret the U. S. to foreign nations somewhat more realistically.

Within a few years, if he willed, he might junk the world's notion that we are a people worshipful of gangsters and colorful outlaws, that we are adolescently and slyly sex-mad, that the level of national intelligence settles about the empty, dazzling musical. Even without monkeying with the sacred box office formula he should be able to lift us toward a new sophistication.

The public's enthusiasm for the documentary film during the war should give Hollywood a way out, if it wants it. There is an opportunity to rise above the sugar-and-spice pap born of the inviolable box office rule in favor of happy-ever-after entertainment, an opportunity to increase the proportion of intelligent and well-paced movies dedicated to the proposition that life, after all, is real. Mr. Johnston could aid greatly in any such struggle.

He might lift censorship out of the low estate in which it has found itself ruling on the measurements of sweater girls and the details of love triangles. He might so inspire the industry, in fact, that censorship would become a matter of national good taste rather than a narrow interpretation of morality. He might, in effect, help persuade the U. S. that it is become a mature nation and a world citizen. If he should undertake that task, and even partially succeed, his field for education would be as great at home as abroad.

Still Kicking

When General Iimura of Japan's police was explaining that the Emperor was now securely settled on his throne despite an abortive plot against him, he gave away a trade secret. He said, casually, that his police still hold a tight check on groups and individuals throughout Japan, and his spies informed him that there was no more plotting against Hirohito.

It's just dandy that the Emperor is in no danger, now that we've embraced him as our straw boss in Lesser East Asia. But someone should give a passing thought to Iimura's national police. If it is possible to check the whole country on the question of the Emperor, and hold the populace under strict control, then the police can do anything. Their control is as tight today, apparently, as was that exerted by the Gestapo at its height of glory.

If this handy little organization is allowed to live on through the occupation, and is no more disturbed in the future than it has been to date, we might as well save ourselves the trouble of hanging around in the home islands of Japan. For so long as the police maintain control of the people, it is possible for the war-makers to remain in power. Indeed, we may be removing only the most obvious and troublesome characters from among the top leadership, and leaving a working organization for terror intact.

So long as this police band exists there can be no hope of a popular clamor for democracy or anything resembling it. We will find our potential allies in Japan too frightened to co-operate, knowing that their records will be available at headquarters upon the departure of our troops. If our agreement to retain the Emperor also included acceptance of his police, we've been robbed.

Too Much Money

If you're an individual consumer, we'd all thank you to keep a careful check on your velocity. If you get into the habit of turning over your money too fast, you'll bring ruin upon us. The facts are that consumers in the country are now holding about 140 billion dollars ready cash in pocket, sock, bank or lock box, and that those billions could plunge us into ruinous inflation overnight.

Whether it will or not depends entirely upon the spending speed of the next few months. Up to now a shortage of goods and a few remaining Government controls have kept things in hand. But bankers and Government economists know that can change in a flash. Velocity is the bankers' word for the danger we face. They measure that by the number of times demand deposits change hands every year, and they can tell at a glance what is coming by the rate you're circulating cash.

In 1929 demand deposits turned over 125 times in New York City banks; the rate has now dropped to 24 times. Outside New York the rate has dropped from 70 times in '29 to 20. If we have the will power we'd better keep that figure decently low.

Our money at present is divided like this: individual demand deposits, $24,000,000,000; currency holdings, $23,400,000,000; Government securities, $50,000,000,000; time deposits, $42,500,000,000. We got that way, economists say, because Government spending climbed to new highs and money in circulation always increases with the size of the public debt. If we try to spend it at a rapid rate we'll quickly exhaust the supply of goods, send prices to a new high, and get ourselves caught in economic pressures brand-new to world history. Prices have always declined after wars. If we want to set a record this time we can—but it'll cost like fury.

One by one, words in our noble language are restored to earlier meanings. Thus, as rationing fades from the scene, the blue point is once more an oyster.

Henry Pu-Yi of Manchuria is the puppet of Hirohito, now also a puppet. It is somewhat as if Charley McCarthy had a son.

Statesmen At Work

(Serious, facetious and comic excerpts from the Congressional Record).

THE Senate was criticizing the OPA's meat rationing policy:

Mr. TOBEY (N. H.) I appreciate the remarks made by the Senator from Nebraska. Only this morning I received word from my own State of New Hampshire of a large supply of meat beyond the points available for purchasing of the meat. I share the Senator's apprehension and feelings respecting the present situation, and I have already made my representations in connection therewith.

Mr. WHERRY (Neb.). I wish to thank the distinguished Senator from New Hampshire for his comment. I appreciate very much his interest in the situation.

Mr. HICKLENLOOPER (Iowa). I wish to inform the Senator from Nebraska that I have received a number of letters from meat dealers and meat processors in my home state of Iowa indicating that there is now a surplus of meat on hand; that the present point system for purchase of meat is preventing the distribution of the meat, and that the OPA policies are strangling the distribution of meat which would otherwise be available. However, I should like to give the Senator a note of hope. In the Washington Evening Star of yesterday I noticed an article stating that the OPA has taken some very drastic action respecting price ceilings. This brief article says:

Hula girls add 25 cents to cost of pictures in Hawaii, OPA rules.

Mr. TOBEY. I am from New Hampshire. What are hula girls?

Mr. HICKENLOOPER. That will be explained to the Senator in a moment as I read from the article. "This is a new price order which OPA has master-minded over there in Hawaii:

OPA has put a ceiling on hula girls.

In a new price order covering commercial photography in Hawaii, OPA said a 4- by 5-inch picture would cost 50 cents, but added: "With hula girl, each, 75 cents."

"Hula girl," said the official definition, "means any female posing for compensation or profit for a direct positive photograph whether paid by the photographer or the subject of the photograph."

I commend to the distinguished Senator from Nebraska that the OPA expert on hula girls no doubt has been imported from Hawaii in furtherance of the OPA's policy.

Mr. WHERRY. I want to thank the distinguished Senator for his comment, but I should like to say to the Senator that I have been talking about a different type of livestock than that which he mentioned. (Laughter.)

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON

OF all the millions who contributed to the defeat of Japan, none perhaps is more entitled to credit than the venerable statesman who yesterday celebrated his 78th birthday and his last week as Secretary of War. Perhaps even more than for his late Chief, victory over Japan was a personal victory for Henry L. Stimson.

He had begun fighting Japan as Secretary of State under Hoover, fourteen years ago this week. And he never stopped, not even when he was out of office—until now.

Even after he had stepped out of the State Department following Roosevelt's inauguration in 1933, Stimson came down to see the new President of the United States about Japan.

He and Roosevelt at that time did not particularly like each other. They had been political enemies since 1910. That was the year which swept young Roosevelt into the New York Senate and Mr. Stimson into defeat as candidate for Governor New York.

Stimson, older than Roosevelt both in age and in manner, regarded him as an ostentatious young whippersnapper, didn't like the way he wore riding boots in the Albany Legislature, considered him a poor imitation of his cousin Teddy, whom Stimson worshipped. "Charming, but without stamina," was the way Stimson described Roosevelt in those days.

Nevertheless, the ex-Secretary of State swallowed his personal feelings and came down to see the new President of the United States in May, 1933, on what he considered the most important international problem facing the country—Japan. He urged Roosevelt not to recognize Japan's conquest of Manchuria, which he, Stimson, had fought so bitterly.

Leaving the White House after the interview, Stimson's face glowed. A friend, who knew what his mission was, asked what the new President had said about recognizing Japan's puppet government in Manchuria.

"He said," replied Stimson, "'I won't even discuss it with the [illegible]!'" And used a three-letter word which many others have applied to the Japanese since Pearl Harbor.

Stimson's Long Fight

The story of Stimson's long battle to stop Japanese aggression in China has never been adequately told, and probably won't be unless he tells it himself. Unfortunately, Mr. Stimson is all too reticent.

But this columnist, who traveled with Mr. Stimson on some of his trips abroad remembers vividly how Stimson was one of the few who realized that the minor skirmish on the tracks of the South Manchurian railroad below Mukden, fourteen years ago this week, actually was the beginning of Japan's well-laid plans for the conquest of Asia.

Many others at that time thought Stimson was wrong. Baron Shidehara, the Japanese Foreign Minister, emphatically told him so; and judging by the way the war lords kept Jap diplomats in the dark, Shidehara probably thought he was telling the truth. Some of Stimson's own State Department advisers also told him so. So did the British Foreign Office; and so also did the French, with the exception of Aristide Briand.

Finally, even in his own Cabinet, Herbert Hoover felt that Stimson was unduly alarmed about the Japs, while Midwestern members of the Republican National Committee nearly had conniption fits when Stimson ordered Prentiss Gilbert, U. S. Consul in Geneva, to sit as an observer with the League of Nations.

In fact, it was pressure from Midwest Republicans which forced Stimson to withdraw Gilbert from League sessions and replace him with that clowning diplomat, Charlie Dawes, whose safe and sane, Midwest Republicanism appeased the isolationists but did not help stop Japan.

Era of Peace Dies

Leaving a sick-bed in the Spring of 1932, he sailed for Paris, determined to warn the statesmen of Europe of impending disaster. Renting a villa at Geneva, he called in Ramsey MacDonald, Chancellor Bruening, Dino Grandi, Andre Tardieu and pointed out that aggression in faraway China could be a greater threat to peace than the menace of big guns in Europe.

There came a time several years later when France was pushed out of Indo-China, when Britain called for American help at Hong Kong, Singapore and India. But at Geneva in 1932, Mr. Stimson was branded as naive and idealistic. The leaders of Europe were "practical men."

Stimson & FDR

Stimson saw the world coasting toward the abyss. Every inch of the way he tried to stop it, and he had failed.

Having failed, Stimson later accepted Franklin Roosevelt's invitation to help prosecute the war which he tried so desperately to stop. He accepted the invitation of a man who was a life-long political enemy, but whose views on foreign policy he had come to respect.

And gradually, Stimson and Roosevelt were drawn closer together. Actually they were very much alike. Both New York country squires, both born to wealth and comfort, both actually preferring to spend their time with horses, dogs and trees, both believing in taxing themselves and the wealthier classes to the hone, both believing that their heritage was to give their lives to public service.

And more than anything else, both believed that this war meant the last try for civilization, the last try to preserve freedom of worship, free thinking, freedom to go and come, freedom to struggle toward the goal of loving thy neighbor as thyself.

So the two men, political rivals in peace, fought side by side in war, and came to respect and revere each other. And at the first hushed and hurried Cabinet meeting called after the death of the late President, Henry L. Stimson, then nearly 78, having served in both the Taft and Hoover Cabinets, sat shaken and solemn.

"I am a soldier," he said when Truman asked him to remain in the Cabinet, "and when I am called upon to serve, I serve for the duration."

His face was white. His eyes were filled with tears. Now the duration is over. Having won the war that he began singlehanded fourteen years ago this week, Henry Stimson has retired.

The Official Starter

A Job For Civilians

By Marquis Childs

WASHINGTON

EACH day that passes shows more clearly the desperate need for a civilian commission, made up of men of unquestioned stature and capacity, to bring order out of the chaos to which our towering military strength is being reduced.

The Army and the Navy cannot do the job alone.

General Marshall has known for some time that the problem of post-war readjustment would fall largely on his successor as Chief of Staff, General Eisenhower. In discussing the difficulties Eisenhower will inherit, Marshall has advocated a commission headed by a civilian to make recommendations that would have an impartial authority.

The way in which demobilization has been snarled is an example of the services. Now that peace has broken out, they find it almost impossible to stand up against the demagogic cry of "bring the boys home."

A large measure of blame falls on the services. They were not properly prepared for V-J Day.

Demobilization plans were pitifully inadequate. While the Army has come in for most of the Congressional wrath, the Navy has been even more dilatory and confused with respect to demobilization. Navy bigwigs simply could not understand why anyone would ever want to get out of the Navy.

Their attitude reflects the Annapolis monopoly which has been so bitterly resented by the reservists. As the reservists see it, within the charmed circle of the Annapolis ring all the controls and most of the honors have been kept for the little group of regular officers.

The vast preponderance of men out of civilian life who make up the wartime Navy will not soon forget this. It will be one reason why it will be hard to maintain a peacetime force at anything like the level now being talked about.

According to preliminary reports, fewer than one per cent of the reserve officers who have served through the war say they would like to stay permanently in the Navy.

Belatedly, Navy moguls are beginning to recognize that something is wrong. Recently reserve officers were asked to fill out questionnaires stating why they did not care to stay in the Navy and, if their experience had been unpleasant, to give details. The answers scorched the paper they were written on.

This is a comparatively minor phase of the readjustment. The Navy has now come forward with a proposal for a peacetime Navy only a little smaller than the present vast accretion of strength. The chairmen of Senate and House naval committees have backed it up.

It's a good guess that the new Chief of Staff of the Army will ask for a big peacetime army. The boss of the Air Forces, who eventually replaces General Arnold, will certainly argue for a greatly expanded air fleet.

Anyone who thinks we will get modern military security that way doesn't know Washington.

Since, obviously, the taxpayers will not stand for everything the military chiefs ask for or anything approaching it, what we will get is a political compromise. That is all that could ever come out of the old-fashioned grab bag method.

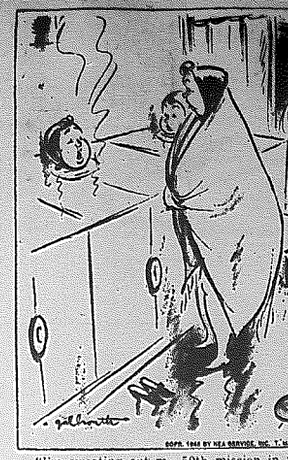
In fact, what we're likely to get is the least security for the most money. Because aviation and scientific research are comparatively new, with few powerful interests entrenched around them, they will get the short end of the stick.

The new men who will shortly head all three military services will have fewer fixed ideas than leaders who have necessarily fought the partisan battle for their respective services. Some form of unified control obviously is necessary.

The conclusions of an impartial commission will carry much more weight than the competing claims of rival services. We have a chance to build the basis of national security with reason and order in a framework that is politically and economically possible.

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



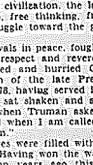
"I'm sweating out my 50th mission in this thing!"

Banker's Headaches

By Dorothy Thompson

NEW YORK

THE United States has become the World Banker. The British are asking for three to six billion dollars in some form of credit. Generalissimo Stalin has told an American delegation in Moscow that the Soviet Union would like to get a six billion dollar loan. Gen. de Gaulle was recently in this country, largely for the same purpose—to get credit—and the Chinese Prime Minister, T. V. Soong, recently in Washington, made it clear that China is depending on American financial assistance as the only possibility of recovery.



These are four of the Big Five; we can imagine what the smaller nations are thinking!

The word "assistance" is misleading. We are not engaged in international philanthropy. If General Motors or Ford want to sell automobiles, they help finance the dealers, so that they can help finance the customers. Nobody considers this charity; on the contrary it is supposed to return a profit. That is the situation of the United States which needs customers for its prodigious production.

We are pretty new at this business. Prior to the last war the United States was a debtor in international finance. A debtor can only be solvent through an excess of exports over imports. When, after the last war, we became the leading creditor nation, and still pushed exports while restricting imports, we contributed to upset the whole world economy. The problem is whether we have learned the lesson now when we are infinitely stronger — both absolutely and, above all, relatively—than we were then.

As far as one can see at the present stage of negotiations and from what we know of them, we are again preparing to push exports, with accelerated political and economic vigor, without indicating to other nations how they are going to pay for them.

A leading issue with Britain is over the sterling bloc. We practically are demanding that Britain dissolve it. The sterling bloc, which includes the Empire Commonwealth, and Near and Middle Eastern states from Egypt to India, stabilizes the currencies of these countries around the Pound Sterling. As a means of maintaining this stability, the Bank of England becomes, in effect, the central bank of the whole area, taking over all foreign exchange coming into these countries and redistributing it according to demands for exchange to pay for imports.

If an Egyptian merchant, for example, wishes to buy in the United States, he has to get dollars from the British. We argue that many Egyptians want to buy here, but do not get the dollars. By this, it is argued, our trade with Egypt is less than it would be otherwise.

This, it seems to me, is a primitive concept of foreign trade. Dollars have to be spent eventually in the United States. If they are not spent by Egypt, they have to be spent by Britain. Britain is obviously willing to spend them—her great question is how she can get more dollars to spend here. So our demand will not, in my belief, expand our trade. What it will contribute to do, is to dissolve the British system, contribute to the dissolution of the British Empire and weaken Britain all over the world.

Our second demand on Britain would have the same result, if accepted. It is that Britain scale down the debts she owes to members of the Sterling bloc; first, because we believe her own solvency depends on it; and, second, because Britain can only repay her debts by British exports, and we fear that this diminishes our own chances in these debtor countries.

The first lesson that every banker has to learn is: Don't ruin your customers. The second lesson is: Provide means for your customer to repay the loans you are willing to grant him.

And international financing cannot be divorced from foreign policy. We have to ask ourselves whether in the present constellation of affairs it is political wisdom further to weaken Great Britain's world influence. We must realize, in the second place, that no great nation is wholly dependent on any other nation.

People's Platform

Boost For Tipplers

By DURANTE W. PARKER

Charlotte

Your editorial about the WCTU gave me a great deal of satisfaction and enjoyment and I want you to know that I think you should mention those points more often until famous for them. I am of the solid conviction that the WCTU is by now one of the most laughed at outfits in the U. S. because of their lack of intelligence and reasoning.

Now, you can print this—and I hope you do—the entire thing.

The WCTU has given liquor drinking, both fruit-jar and parlor style, some of the best advertisement that could possibly be thought of for many, many years. Common sense will tell you as well as psychology books that if a person is told that he should NOT do something, he is going to do it or try to. As you said, the prohibition dark-ages taught most of the public that various and sundry means may be used but the old bottle gets produced and cash is laid on the barrel head. The quality is questionable and the result is worse than if the person had bought good whisky to start with.

Now, why doesn't the State of North Carolina—or all the states for that matter—get wise, and cope with the "demon" like the state of Nevada has. In Reno, whisky may be sold over the bar until mid-night and then no longer. A bar license is immediately revoked if the bar-tender sells a customer who is already "tipsy" and as a result, no one gets any drunker than the first stages—and is usually back to normal after twenty minutes in fresh air. The main point is, a person doesn't have to buy a whole bottle just to get a drink. That is the flaw in legalized whisky. A guy buys a whole pint to get himself a nip and then has to drink it all up to keep from throwing it away. As a result, he gets "whiskyfied" and has to be poured into bed.

You'll notice I'm not mentioning beer at all. The WCTU idea about 3.2 beer just doesn't hold water. A person can get stupid from drinking too much lemonade or cola drink. Pure apple juice will make a person worry if you drink enough of it—say a couple of quarts. So that isn't worth mentioning.

It seems to me that with schooling as free as it is, we, here in the United States are committing the greatest crime of all by not becoming educated sufficiently to see beyond our own stupid noses and cope with situations in a sensible way rather than waste all that energy and newspaper space on moronic ideas that a twelve year old child could see through so well until it is even funny to him. I'll bet my bottom dollar that 90 per cent of the entire WTCU membership hasn't even been through GRAMMAR school. So why are they to criticize the educated public????

And so, looking at the WCTU from the inside of the new search harm they do by constantly talking up beer and whisky from the "naughty-naughty" and "must not touch" standpoint—thus making it an attractive venture for our teenagers — and I don't think they are ready for any "Christian Temperance" after all. It certainly isn't Christian to promote drinking (by those adverse psychological methods, I mean) and something it certainly doesn't make for any temperance. So I'm all for encouraging them to take up raising hogs. Then they can encourage Pigs to be Pigs instead of human beings becoming pigs.

The sooner they (I'm still talking about the WCTU) sit back down in that rocking chair and start knitting and stay at home where they belong, the easier and quicker it will be for our young men and women of tomorrow to emerge into a society without dark corners in it where they can drink or not drink (and I doubt if many will give it a thought) and act like normal people.

(Please, Ladies, hold him responsible, not us—Editors, The News.)