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And Evening Chronicle

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THURSDAY, MAY 15, 1941

Brave Start

Citizens Body Gets Good Man, Lets Appearances Go Hang

If somebody should argue cynically that the new idealistic Citizens Group is starting out to be just another bunch of politicians, adhering to standard political practice by appointing as City Attorney a lawyer who had been vigorous in its campaign, about all you could say in reply would be that it wasn't so.

In the appointment of Mr. Tillett, as a matter of fact, the shoe is on the other foot. If the Councilmen had had politics uppermost in mind, their most astute choice of a City Attorney would have been Mr. Scarborough, present counsel, from they could have boasted, "You see, we told you we weren't going to play politics, and this appointment of a man who was against us is proof of it."

That would have been a grand gesture, but a policy of being so full of high-white pretense in the selection of key men in the City Administration would very likely have frustrated the purposes which are the genius of this popular movement.

To accomplish what it is supposed to want to accomplish, the Citizens Group has got to depend upon men of a like mind and zeal in positions of responsibility. The designation of Mr. Tillett as City Attorney, a place he must have taken at some deprivation and regardlessly, was a highly definitive act.

It seems to show a resolution to get the right men to do the work, even if they have to be drafted, even at the risk of being accused of playing the same old politics.

In short, it seems to show that the Citizens Group is so certain of its non-political intentions that it does not have to eschew the appearance of politics. Men being what they are and tending to be misunderstood, the group's appointment of Mr. Tillett and his acceptance of the place were both the bravest style.

Bogey Man

Which Is Not Likely To Have the Intended Effect

When Darlan went off for his conference with Hitler, Petain fled to the Riviera, apparently to make it impossible for Admiral Leahy to see him and further to persuade him not to submit to German demands.

And now comes the announcement that Vichy has agreed to full co-operation with the Nazis. The terms are not revealed but they are said to be political as well as economic.

The avowed purpose of all this, according to the Vichy dispatches, is to frighten the United States into abandoning Britain.

If that is so, the Nazis and Vichy are giving themselves a lot of trouble for nothing.

It has long been apparent to all realists that Darlan was preparing a final sell-out to the Nazis. And that the most the United States could hope for would be to delay such action as long as possible. And Washington has undoubtedly been proceeding with that in view.

What the complete passage of Vichy into the Nazi orbit means is that the way is being opened to bring Spain and Portugal into the Axis and give Hitler Atlantic bases in the Canaries, Azores, and Cape Verdes.

That is a matter of the most serious moment to us, for it will put us in considerable peril and probably assure Hitler's dominance of the Atlantic. But it will not frighten Washington into action; it will almost certainly drive it to decisive action.

Twelve Men

Who Knew That Freedom Is Better Than Life

God rest you happy, gentlemen,
Who laid your good lines down,
Who took the khaki and the gun
Instead of cap and gown.
God bring you to a fairer place
Than ever Oxford town.

We are reminded of the verse from the last war, inappropriately in detail but not inappropriately, we think, in general feeling, by the twelve American volunteers who died in the sinking of a Canadian transport, at the hands of a Nazi barbarian, the other day. Nearly all of them were young. The young always come up fair and sweet to them in their last days, you may be sure. And it is more than likely that the cool laughter of the girls in the evening was very dear to them. But because their youth was unsullied by the blight of these times, they understood the faith of the men who stood with Davy Crockett and Travis at the Alamo, knew the boast of John Paul Jones as the *Bonhomme Richard* sank under him, remembered that Americans before now had thought it their duty and their honor to die for freedom. And understood at last and profoundly in their simple young hearts that life is a fragile boon which had better not be bought too dearly if it is to be savored.

They were better men than the rest of us to who tarried at home, and each of them in his own right was worth countless millions of snivelling appeasers. Take off your hats to the brave.

Hess Puzzle

Clapper Solution Looks Like Best Which Has Appeared

It is virtually incredible that Rudolf Hess flew to England under the impression that by seeing the Duke of Hamilton he could really arrange a peace in a few days. Such a lack of information concerning English morale and the almost total absence of any peace sentiment among Britons is beyond belief and would suggest that the Germans are telling the truth when they assert that he is nuts.

Hess, it always has to be remembered, is an original Nazi and co-author of "Mein Kampf," undoubtedly passionately shares the racial and political theories there set forth, holds as his primary postulate that it is the business of Germans to serve as the Master Class of the world, the business of the rest of humanity to serve them. Any terms that he might propose for England would, therefore, seem to be intolerable, would inevitably have as their ultimate purpose the weakening of England to prepare for the final German triumph.

Yet it is possible that the solution Mr. Clapper proposes in his column today may be correct—and that fear has driven Hess to desperate devices to try to head off what he judges to be catastrophe. If Hitler has actually taken the decision—as seems probable—to turn his back once for all on the West, line Germany up permanently with Russia, and to carry the war to Spain and the Atlantic, Hess, a bitter anti-Communist, would inevitably be horrified—and would have ground for fear that it would bring the United States into the war and end in the total destruction of Germany.

In any case, however, it must be borne in mind that as a good Nazi he has no real concern with the peace of the world as such, but is interested alone in preserving Germany and advancing her purposes.

Uneasy Puffs

Adolf and His Pal Try To Conjure Away a Shadow

Adolf Hitler usually pays attention to leaders in the countries he has marked out for his victims in proportion to his fear of them because of their correct diagnosis of his intentions. Long before the war he habitually denounced Eden and Duff Cooper because they were wise to him, passed over Chamberlain who didn't see through him. And now it is Churchill and Roosevelt for whom he regularly saves his hate.

Hence, when we find his newspaper denouncing Mr. Stimson as insane and as having no notion of what has actually happened in Europe, we may conclude that it adds up to a tribute to the acumen of the Secretary of War.

In lighter vein was the plaint of an Italian radio commentator Tuesday evening.

This little man spent the first half of his broadcast denouncing Roosevelt and trying to persuade the United States that it would get rich if only it would stand aside and let the Axis win. Almost in the same breath he bemoaned the fact that the United States was inhabited by Anglo-Saxon people, "the stupidest and most strong-headed breed," and spat out a crack about "a kind of sub-human species."

Then he rose to masterful heights and grieved aloud that Columbus had ever been born.

Plainly, there are many uneasy necks in Axis lands these days.

Draft Sabotage

By Hugh S. Johnson

WASHINGTON — The drive for "blanket deferments" from the draft or selective service is the worst thing that could happen to the system. Senator Vandenburg seems to be leading the assault on the ground that deferments for "married men has not been absolutely uniform." Why should they be uniform? Why should a man otherwise eligible be able to dodge the most solemn obligation of citizenship by changing his marital status? Marriage isn't the question. Dependency is the only question in which the public and the Government should be interested.

On this question there has not been regimented uniformity among the boards, but the cases of resulting hardship were examined under a microscope they wouldn't amount to 1-100 of one per cent of the total selection. Selective service headquarters and the army itself, after induction, is alert to see that no final injustice is done.

The alternative to entrusting the question of relative availability for military service to committees of neighbors familiar with relative conditions is to try to do the trick by blanket exemptions enacted by Congress.

THIS METHOD RUINED CIVIL WAR DRAFT

It never did work. The stench and the scandal of the Civil War draft—which ruined it and made it fail—was the creation of automatic privileged classes. The two great errors of the World War draft was a blanket exemption for shipyard workers and another rule for the selection of married men on whom their families were dependent but where the parents of the wife were "ready, able and willing to support the dependent family."

The pressure for blanket deferments now for such all-inclusive classes as "students, mechanics and married men" is becoming overwhelming. The draft regulations are exceptionally generous and aware of the relative urgency of every national need. No students (for example, were draftable under the original act until July, 1941, the idea being not to break up the academic year.

As to students or apprentices in training for the highly technical services of modern war who can demonstrate that they are making proper progress in that training, all are subject to deferment as is every man who is already qualified and can show himself to be in any way a necessary man in a necessary industry. All these general rules and policies have been and are being worked out by the selective service organization in the closest possible cooperation with the Knudsen-Hillman organization in OPM.

THIS WILL ANGER MANY GROUPS

The fairness of this draft is a deadly serious matter. If political pressure groups of special privilege can use their hokum methods to escape the most serious and sacred obligation of citizenship, one of our greatest strengths will become a rotten reed and a stench to heaven.

Perhaps the attempting perpetrators of these demands for exemptions from military service haven't stopped to think about the kind of majority group resentment they are courting. The segment most interested and the most hurt by these compulsory sacrifices are wives, mothers and sweethearts. Theirs are the jealous eyes that will be watching these slick evasions in favor of other groups than their own. At the last reckoning they are going to have to be answered, and if I were arranging with this draft, I would rather consider answering a cageful of tigers.

Note On the Hazards Of Modern Life

Barnaby Conrad, University Tar Heel

Here's a saggy saga: Saturday Pokey Alexander took his car "Mayflower" (cause so many Puritans have come across in it, natcherly) out to a creek to wash same. He also took out an unidentified co-ed. After washing the storm (the car), he began practicing jiu jitsu holds, on the honor system, with the gal as stooge. It must have looked strictly censorable, as in the midst of their rasslin' they heard a disparaging voice from above saying, "Naughty, Naughty" and looked up to see a guy just above them in a plane! He'd gotten curious at several hundred feet, cut his motor and snuck up on 'em unawares!

What Next?

—By Bishop

The Hess Motive

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON—The overtaking of Rudolf Hess, Hitler's deputy, by the Duke of Hamilton is a mysterious occurrence, and the detective story is on.

I have read the speculation theories about it. The one that to me seems most plausible is that Hess has refused to go along with a very recent decision of Hitler's. Probably the decision in question relates to Russia and was one which seemed to Hess to betray Nazism and the interests of Germany as he conceives them to be.

Remember that Hess was an original Nazi. He assisted Hitler in jail while "Mein Kampf" was being written. The main thesis was that Germany must entrench on the Continent by crushing France and Russia. Communism was the deadly enemy of original Nazism. Germany could regard Great Britain as a potential collaborator. That was the basic line of "Mein Kampf" foreign policy. Hitler berated the old regime for what he regarded as its stupidity in becoming entangled with Britain in 1914. He conceived of Germany supreme on the Continent, England as the great sea power, the two operating as a team.

VERY RECENT EVENTS MUST HAVE DECIDED HIM

Events did not work out that way. When Hitler saw that Great Britain was not likely to acquiesce in German domination of the Continent and was ready to fight, he made the first real deal with Moscow, in August, 1939, to neutralize Russia. Obviously Hess went along with that because only a short time later, Hitler named him as the next in succession after Goering. Obviously Hitler was at that time convinced that Hess was thoroughly loyal.

Apparently Hess retained his standing until very recently. He was prominently on hand for Hitler's birthday April 20 in the Balkans. On May 4, Hess was on the front row of the rostrum when Hitler addressed the Reichstag. On May 1 Hess addressed aircraft workers at Augsburg urging them to greater services for the Fuehrer. On May 10 he delivered himself to the enemy.

Whatever it was that drove Hess to such a decision must have occurred during that interval.

IT IS PROBABLY MORE THAN PERSONAL FEAR

If it were a simple matter of Hitler having turned upon him, Hess might have been deeply hurt. He might have committed suicide, under the ancient code of a soldier who has unwittingly brought down upon himself the contempt of his superior. If Hess had felt himself personally wronged, that would be the most likely extreme course—not betrayal to the enemy.

One who truly believed in Nazism as Hess apparently did could have been moved to this strange desertion only with the hope, however fantastic and unbalanced, that it might save something which to him was more precious than his Fuehrer, his life, or the winning of the war. To say that Hess did this merely to save his own life is to put an extremely low and dubious rating on a man who could not have won Hitler's confidence if he had been a physical coward.

HITLER IS PROBABLY COMING TO ATLANTIC

To me this incident connects with some great decision that Hitler has made within the last few days. Hitler has two basic courses open. One would be to turn east now into Russia and sail down his food and oil. The other would be to push through Spain, reach the west coast of Africa, come out into Dakar, the Cape Verde Islands and the Azores and draw the sea noose around Britain. European dispatches suggest the second course is the one probably just decided upon. It means letting Russia off, choosing to go arm in arm with Communism down the long corridor of the future. If Hitler comes out into the Atlantic that probably will draw the United States into the war.

One can imagine Hess, the strong disciple of early Nazism, rebelling at such a complete reorientation which would mean Germany's departure from the Western World and would embed her into the Oriental East. That may have been too large a dose for this fervent Nordic to swallow.

Anyway it is the most plausible of several dozen theories as I look at it.

Letters to the Editor:

Isolationism Means Ruin

Dear Sir:

A great many of our isolationists are seemingly very much disturbed at the prospect of the United States becoming imperialistic in its attitude. They think our safest course is to refrain from becoming an Empire, and any indication that we are about to extend our influence into wider spheres meets with a positive scrap from them. It sounds very fine to extoll the glories of a Great American Past, but it is as impossible for our future American course to be one of isolation as it is for the British to be satisfied apart from the control of the sea.

This one thing is certain—viz: If we have any foreign markets, we must make them. For the past twenty years, we have practiced the old doctrine of isolation and our foreign trade has all but vanished. The British have been struggling during that period to keep the Nazis and other totalitarian powers from taking from them the freedom of trade they have so long enjoyed, and the fight for that will be lost unless the Battle of the Atlantic can be won for the democracies. To the surprise of a great many of our people, we found when war began that Germany had a rather impressive hold on our South American neighbors, and we now know that if Hitler should be able to take the British off the Atlantic, we would be found in a death struggle to keep him from getting full control of the continent to the south of us.

It is foolish to talk about what we would like to do. Of course everybody would like to stay out of every kind of conflict that would cost money or men and no right - thinking American ever wants to fight a war, but the fact remains that the United States will win this fight or lose whatever has been gained through its past struggles. The economic boycott which would be executed against us, should Hitler control the Atlantic, would reduce us to ruin for our whole economic system. If the democracies win and the proper settlement is made, we ought to have a half-century of substantial prosperity.

If such a program means imperialism, then let it be that. The leases which we acquired in the swap of old ships has widened our reach, and we will be forced to take a number of others before the close of the conflict. The idea of empire is not a bad one. We will do well to grant statehood to Hawaii, and we certainly ought to forget about any immediate or near release of our hold in the Philippines. Porto Rico and Cuba ought to be numbers 50 and 51 and a hundred-mile strip from Washington to Alaska would make for sense and safety. The American Navy is swiftly becoming the great power of the earth, and along with the British, we ought to make it serve to keep our lanes of commerce open for an increasing trade after the war.

The day of isolation is over. We'd as well bid it farewell. Whatever is necessary to preserve and strengthen American freedom of commercial intercourse must be done, and our navy can never again take second or third place in this definite race for a commercial existence. Mr. Knox has the correct idea about our navy. He ought to have the unanimous support of all real Americans.

—COY MUCKLE.

506 Johnston Bldg.
Charlotte.

Today's Riddle

Dear Sir:

A merchant bought 120 apples: he sold 60 of them at five for 10c which brought him $1.20. He sold 20 at two for 5c which brought him 20c. He sold the last 30 at three for 5c which brought him 50c.

The merchant noticed that the first 60 apples at five for 10c brought him $1.20 while the last 60 sold as the same as five for 10c, that is 10 at two for 5c and 20 at three for 5c brought him $1.25.

Why did the last 60 apples bring five cents more?

Mr. Editor: If this riddle wins $1.00 will you please furnish the answer and keep 95c?

—K. H. McALLISTER

Route 1, Alexis

Note: For failure to give the answer to his own riddle Mr. McAllister is hereby docked 95c. And since it would take a 2-cent stamp to convey the remaining nickle to him, the editors have decided instead to keep it and spend it on a bag of peanuts.

The last 60 apples were sold not at the rate of five for 10 cents but five for 10 and 5-12 cents. If that isn't right, we owe somebody a bag of peanuts.

—Editors, The News.

Congress Lags Behind People In Unity

Dear Sir:

Recently there has been much talk about the need of our people waking up to the dangers that confront our country. It is true a great many have this need, but the majority are awake and are doing their part in preparing our defense both materially and morally.

It does seem, however, that our Congress is not awake to these dangers and their responsibility of doing something about them.

Could anyone doubt the nature of the destruction from within, that Hitler admitted he had planned for our country, after seeing samples of his evil work and its successful operation?

Can we doubt that these plans include every detail and that the means and men to carry them out are already awaiting Hitler's command, and when this time comes it means nation-wide destruction of communications, transportation, industrial and defense plants, forest fires and wholesale poisoning of our soldiers? Can we afford to be so lacking in intelligence as to expect anything less terrible when we know that Hitler is clever enough to know that the greater and more powerful the country the greater its destruction needed to destroy it.

Even if his plan was only partly a success, our country and people cannot afford this experience with its shortages of trained men and equipment and production at low ebb.

It is the duty of our Congress and Senate to pass a law or laws as quickly as possible to prevent this happening. It is also within the power, right and duty of our representatives in Washington to pass any law that is necessary to preserve our country and Government and protect its people. Any Congressman or Senator who does not believe that the practice of democracy in government can do this, should not be representing a democratic people because he misinterprets the meaning of democracy.

Any law that would confine all members of alien organizations and alien parties to quarters under guard where they would not be free to carry on their plans would have the approval of the majority of Americans.

Surely every wide-awake American would like to know this, if our representatives were asleep when they passed the Lease-Lend Bill with its seven billion dollar appropriation, why, in heavens name, do they allow a small minority of people, influenced by Fifth Columnists, to slow down production and defeat the main purpose of the bill in rush production and aid to Britain.

Our men, and maybe our women and children, too, are preparing to sacrifice even their lives to preserve democracy. Surely, it is not asking too much of our Congressmen and Senators to put aside all differences and unite with wisdom and courage to shoulder the responsibility of proving that our democratic government is practical at all times to meet not to submit to, any situation that may arise in our country.

—MRS. BOB RYATT.

Miami, Fla.

A Relic That Stumped Many a Bright Boy

Monroe Journal

Yesterday Mr. R. W. Howey brought in from his father's home place a queer looking object. It looked something like a well bucket but was made with just so hard that you couldn't scrape down to the wood. Mr. Howey knew very well what it was because he had been seeing it all his life. But he wondered if any one else would know. At his office he began to ask people. Some guessed one thing and some another, none right.

Mr. Howey never found any one to tell what it was and when he puts it in his home as a relic and a door stop, he will have a puzzle for visitors for many years no doubt.

It is a bucket such as the old time people carried their tar in for wagon grease. In those days wagon axles were made of wood and the only lubricant was tar, which was made at home. Every wagon carried a bucket of tar strung on the rear end of the tongue or axle. This one belonged to Mr. Howey's grandfather, George Howey, who was born in 1772. Besides farming he ran a store and wagoned to Camden and Charleston for trading. His son, the late Frank W. Howey, kept the bucket during his life, and now his son, Mr R. W. Howey, expects to hang on to it as an interesting relic from the past. But he will not expect many people to know what it is or was in its day of usefulness. It is handmade of oak, about ten inches in diameter at the bottom, and slants upward to the top. The hoops are handwrought iron.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

And the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin. . . If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. — *1 John 1:7, 9.*

The QUEEN CITY'S HOPE CHEST

No. 1 — An Uptown Theater-Auditorium
No. 2 — A Separate Court District
No. 3 — An Uptown Rest Room
No. 4 — Street-Widening

Visitin' Around

For Complete Details—
(Smithfield Item,
Pee Dee Advocate)

Mrs. Lila M. Charvis is not getting along so well lately.

What Gender Are Farmers?
(Ridgeway Item,
Winnsboro News & Herald)

Men and farmers who are connected with the construction work being done on the recently let contract on Route 5, are making Ridgeway their home.