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## EDITORIAL

### TODAY—A NEW GOVERNOR

● ● Today, a new Governor takes charge of North Carolina for the next four years. Those next four years will be filled with the most serious problems of any Governor's administration in the past twenty years. Practically the whole world is at war or near war.

When this writer introduced J. Melville Broughton to audiences in Roanoke Rapids several months ago, it was with the warning that here might be the next War Governor of North Carolina. No man likes to face such a leadership, but with all due respect to past Governors we know of, there is none who can lead the people of this State better than the Governor who takes the solemn oath of office in Raleigh today.

Plenty of folks will arise who will disagree with him in the dangerous days which lie ahead. But wise men know you cannot satisfy everybody. Not even the best athlete can bat a thousand or run for a touchdown on every play. It is the percent-



age of hits and misses that count when the totals are added up. When that time comes, we predict that Governor Broughton will be heading the list of popular Governors among the folks who know a good man when they see one. His way will not be easy, for he comes into office at the most critical period in our nation's history, but knowing the man, we know he will surmount obstacles which would weaken lesser men, and, with the support of those who placed him in office and those who are big enough to forget petty, political differences, he will lead us the right way.

Roanoke Rapids and Halifax County voted for him in a big way. They will be with him when crises come and weighty decisions must be made. They are happy with him today as he accepts the highest honor at their hands.

## An Open Letter to Congress

WE, the undersigned, address you as private citizens, anxious for the safety of our institutions and our country in a world overfull of hostile aggression. We speak for no one but ourselves, but we speak not only to put before you our thoughts, but in the hope that we may perhaps stimulate others to do likewise, in order that you, whose duty it will be to make decisions, may be able truly to represent the will of the people.

We believe that the Axis Powers—Germany, Italy and Japan—have clearly demonstrated that it is their purpose not merely to defeat their present enemies, but to conquer and dominate the world and to impose upon the peoples of the world a form of physical, mental, and spiritual slavery designed solely to perpetuate the mastery of the Axis dictators.

We believe that the outcome of the present war will determine whether human dignity and freedom are to perish throughout the world for generations to come, or whether the challenge of lawless lust for power shall be met and the would-be rulers of the world defeated and destroyed.

We believe that a victory of the Axis tyrannies in Europe and Asia would place our country in an extremely precarious position, both militarily and economically—a position in which its independence could be maintained only at great cost and sacrifice—if indeed it could be maintained at all.

We believe that it is foolish and dangerous to assume in the face of so much recent evidence that the Axis Powers, if victorious over the nations now resisting them, would have no designs upon this Hemisphere. Once they were victorious, the decision would be theirs, not ours.

We believe that it is an illusion skill-

fully propagated by Axis agents and their dupes to think that we, as a free people, could ever "come to terms" with the victorious Axis tyrants.

We believe that only wilful blindness to fact permits the assertion that this country would be in no danger if it had to face a hostile sea power in the Atlantic as well as another hostile sea power in the Pacific.

We believe that many of those who say that it is too late, that the Axis Powers can no longer be defeated even with our help, do not want in their hearts to have them defeated.

We believe that the Axis Powers can be defeated. We have seen what British airmen can do against German airmen five times their number. We have seen what a few British divisions can do against twice their own force of fascist legions. We have seen what the Greek army can do, and the Chinese army against a foe with every advantage of equipment save the indomitable courage of free men.

We believe that the Axis Powers will be defeated, if we, the people of the United States, do our part—if we give prompt and effective aid to those countries which are now holding the Axis tyrants at bay. This does not mean selling them war materials so long as they can pay for them and so long as it is convenient and profitable for us to produce them. It means turning our whole productive resources and ingenuity wholeheartedly over to one single-minded purpose. It means subordinating our ordinary needs to this one greater need of building ships and planes and tanks and guns. It means giving these things to those who are fighting the battle. It means the mobilization of America for war—a war in which we may be fortunate enough not

to sacrifice our blood only if we do sacrifice freely of our wealth, and work with unflagging energy.

We believe that a vast majority of the American people know these things and are ready to make the sacrifice. We believe they are eager for prompt and determined leadership.

We cannot express an opinion as to the specific measures to be taken. We do not know all the facts upon which to base an opinion. We do not know, for example, whether it is necessary to use our Navy to help keep open the lines of supply between American and the British Isles. We do know that those lines of supply must be kept open if the Axis Powers are to be defeated. We do know that neither fear nor excessive caution should stand in the way of our giving whatever aid is needed to bring about their defeat.

Whether we do this or not, war may be declared against us. But neither the threats of the Axis Powers nor our own dread of becoming involved as a belligerent must be permitted to hinder our prompt and effective action.

We say to you, our representatives in Congress:

This is where we stand. We are mindful of the risks involved. We believe that these risks must be taken in order to avoid the far greater danger of an Axis victory. The President has clearly and courageously defined the issue. We ask you to act fearlessly and swiftly, so that our country may continue to be free and our children may receive from us a heritage of freedom even greater than that which was handed down to us by our fathers.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

### IF YOU AGREE WITH US — ACT NOW

Clip and send this letter to your two Senators (J. W. Bailey, R. R. Reynolds, Washington, D. C.) and to your Congressman. Get others to do likewise.

### THE JAIL

● With more than 750 voters going to the polls Tuesday to vote on a bond election, double that of usual bond election votes in the city, the citizens of Roanoke Rapids, by a vote of more than 6 to 1, elected to place the new city jail in or adjacent to the Municipal Building.

The Mayor and City Board of Commissioners now have a clear mandate from the people. There is no reason for further delay in the erection of the proper kind of jail to house those who violate the law. They are, at least, entitled to a decent place while in "durance vile".

Those who opposed the location of the jail at this particular place had a fair opportunity, which they used, to gain support which could have defeated the measure.

Somebody had to lose. We feel certain they will abide by the will of the majority.

But it must be the duty of the majority to see that their rights are protected and that none of the evils they presented are permitted to exist. The majority thinks it is right in the question. It is now incumbent upon that majority to prove it was right. The minority must be protected.

That's the American way.

### STILL BUILDING

● Some folks reading The Herald might think we were not telling the whole story about the growth of our city during 1940. While it is true that some of the building permits issued by the building inspector may run over into 1941, it is very interesting to see that permits issued in 1940 reached a record total of more than a half million dollars.

These permits include new dwellings, new office buildings, new stores and apartments, additions to filter plant and other similar improvements, repairs to mills, business and residential property, etc.

Some critics may say we brag some about Roanoke Rapids. Maybe we do. But show us any other town like Roanoke Rapids that can equal our 1940 record of more than a half million dollars in building permits (which does not include the armory) and . . . we will still brag about the fact that Roanoke Rapids is still building . . . still growing.

What we want to see and brag on, too, is that our people are growing also . . . growing spiritually, mentally, physically . . . good, honest, debt-paying, conscientious people are just as important as building permit records. Let's build folks as well as buildings.

### FIREFIGHTERS

● There were 51 fires in the city of Roanoke Rapids during 1940, lacking one of an average of one a week for the entire year. The Fire Department also answered 13 fire alarms outside the city limits.

For a fire a week, a total damage of \$8,550 is small. That is probably because an average of 15 firemen answered every call.

Firemen fight fires . . . are not responsible for their beginning . . . must stick with them until the end.

Our vote of thanks to the Roanoke Rapids Fire Department for keeping down the damage we mortals start.