

The Wilmington Star

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1940

Star-News Program

- Consolidated City-County Government under Council-Manager Administration. Public Port Terminals. Perfected Truck and Berry Preserving and Marketing Facilities. Arena for Sports and Industrial Shows. Seaside Highway from Wrightsville Beach to Bald Head Island. Extension of City Limits. 30-Foot Cape Fear River channel, wider Turning Basin, with ship lanes into industrial sites along Eastern bank south of Wilmington. Paved River Road to Southport, via Orion Plantation. Development of Pulp Wood Production through sustained-yield methods throughout Southeastern North Carolina. Unified Industrial and Resort Promotional Agency, supported by one county-wide tax. Shipyards and Drydock. Negro Health Center for Southeastern North Carolina, developed around the Community Hospital. Adequate hospital facilities for whites. Junior High School. Tobacco Warehouse for Export Buyers. Development of native grape growing throughout Southeastern North Carolina. Modern Tuberculosis Sanatorium.

TOP OF THE MORNING

"It is a great security against sin to be hooked at it." CARDINAL NEWMAN

Stay On The Job

A week or so ago we could see no good reason why congress should not adjourn. So much has happened since that we are now convinced that congress will make the worst possible mistake if it adjourns now or before the new session begins in January. Never in recent history was the need greater or watchful legislative attention to the welfare of the nation. Each day's developments now how urgent the emergency is becoming and reveal the stark fact that the war crisis is moving closer and closer to our shores. The British blunder at Dakar may give Germany a naval base where the Atlantic is narrowest. The action of the Japanese in invading Indo-China poses for the United States questions of momentous importance. In the face of these far-reaching events, adjournment of congress would be little short of desertion. Compared to the national interests which are now in jeopardy or may be in jeopardy in the immediate future, the election or defeat of any sitting congressman is of small consequence. It is possible to understand the eagerness of candidates for office to return to their districts so that they may conduct their campaigns in person. But at a time like this the best politics any man can play is to stick to his job and to do his patriotic duty as a servant of the people.

No Pay For Hard Work

There is no good reason to suppose that the rank and file of North Carolinians will be reluctant to serve on draft boards because there will be no remuneration for their work. On the contrary, it is believable that there will be almost universal willingness to do this job as a patriotic duty, just as there was when military draft machinery was set up for the first World War. Not all citizens of North Carolina can serve in military, naval or air forces. But few are willing to serve their country in the present crucial period of our national existence. Care, of course, will be exercised to avoid asking persons to whom this service would involve infinite financial sacrifice. Many would gladly do the work but cannot afford to lessen their earnings. Naturally these will not be considered. There are many of independent means and

no regular hours of employment. The advisory boards which Governor Hoey has called upon to recommend county draft board personnel will bear this in mind when making their recommendations. The thing to remember is that there is a difficult job to be done, that it must be thorough, that the qualifications of draftees must be carefully weighed, and that injustice must be avoided. At the same time there must be exceptional care that no "dodger" escapes, and no fifth-columnist taken. Appointment to the draft boards imposes heavy responsibilities. It is in keeping with the fine American tradition that there will be no reluctance among eligible appointees to do the job well without pay.

Two Important Factors

This expansion of the Axis contemplates the division of Europe and Africa between Hitler and Mussolini and the ceding of Asia to Japan. Spain, growing bold, announces that she has never surrendered her claims in South America. This leaves Russia alone among the major dictator states whose position is problematical. But it is quite evident that from the dictator viewpoint there is no place in the sun for Great Britain and little consideration for the United States. If all goes well, this is to become a totalitarian world, with the dictators in supreme power and the people serfs. There are, however, two factors still to be dealt with. One, and it is primary, is the conquest of Great Britain. Unless Britain can be brought to her knees the whole iniquitous scheme will fail. The other is that, left to themselves in a conquered world the dictators inevitably will fall out and destroy each other. The United States could not stand alone against their united strength. We, too, would be forced into bondage. The second factor here cited is sufficiently remote to create no great hope for the world. The present problem, the survival of Great Britain, is the most important consideration. That must be made possible at any cost, any sacrifice. And here is where the United States comes in. This nation's part in the troubled situation is clearly defined and inescapable. It is to give the British war machine all the help our industries, our finances, our moral support can produce. We have sent 50 destroyers across the Atlantic, we are sending warplanes, we are building tanks for the defense of Britain. We must also send the giant bombers that Britain has asked for, if we are to be consistent. With them Britain will be able to destroy German industries now inaccessible to the Royal Air Force because of their great distance from England. With them out of the way, Nazi coastal positions under deadly fire and the blockade growing tighter, there would be reason to hope that Britain's valiant fight for survival would be successful. In that even the dictators' house of cards would topple about their feet and Hitler's dream of world conquest be shattered. As for Japan, her arrogance would suffer a severe shock if we, in addition to placing an embargo on shipments of scrap iron and steel to her, also placed an embargo on her productions shipped to this country. On the verge of bankruptcy now, she could not long endure this blow to her internal economy.

The Legion Viewpoint

As veterans of the last great war in which this country was engaged the members of the American Legion deserve to be heard in this new crisis which threatens the nation. They have suffered, perhaps more keenly than the rest of us, the disillusionment of the last decade, of seeing a new war and a new and more terrible military despotism follow the conflict which was to end all wars and make the world safe for democracy. At their convention last year these men advocated strict neutrality. It is hardly to be wondered at that the emphasis of this year's meeting is on a militant America, strongly armed for defense, keenly alive to subversive dangers within, realistically prepared to fight, if necessary, for life. Citizen soldiers who have seen war and know its sacrifices would be the last to want to fight again. But they are also apt to be the first to see the necessity for adequate preparation in arms and training to meet any danger which may arise. It is in this mood that the convention adopted resolutions calling for defense measures even stronger than any which have been undertaken so far. The Legion wants an army of 2,200,000 men, more naval bases, mandatory military training for the CCC, a removal of all "mediocre and incompetent" leaders from the armed forces, the barring of Communists and Bundists from any public office, allowing only full citizens to man American ships. Finally, the Legion urges the creation of a permanent system of universal military training. Some of these suggestions are clearly sound and well taken: we fail to see the necessity or wisdom of accepting others of the proposals now. The present conscription system, for example, extending over a five-year period, should be adequate to meet any foreseeable need for manpower. After this crisis is over will be time enough to decide whether the United States will have to maintain permanently a huge military establishment at enormous cost. We cannot yet see that far ahead. But whether these proposals are adopted or not they represent the wholly patriotic suggestions of men who have served their country loyally in the past. As such, they deserve the nation's consideration.

Editorial Comment

WHOLESALE CHOICE Raleigh News and Observer

The selection of Representative John McCormick of Massachusetts as majority leader of the House of Representatives is a whole-

some one and should meet, as it apparently does, the approbation of Democrats in every section of the country. Southerners should be the last to object to the selection of Mr. McCormick. He earned the leadership on the basis of ability, loyalty and seniority. As long as those standards are applied, the South will take care of itself in the distribution of party honors. Sectionalism should not be a factor in choosing a party leader. Fortunately, sectionalism has not controlled such selections in the past. Since the Democrats first organized the House in 1931, there have been five Speakers, all but one of whom has been a Southerner. Mr. McCormick now is in line to become the sixth Democratic Speaker, when and if there is a vacancy. He has merited his promotion in the same way as his predecessors. It is generally admitted that the leadership would again have gone to a Southerner had Representative Lindsay C. Warren of North Carolina not accepted appointment as Comptroller General of the United States. But when the vacancy was created by the death of Speaker Bankhead and the promotion of Speaker Rayburn, Mr. Warren was not available. With the North Carolinian out of the race, the most available man was Mr. McCormick. He should not have been defeated because of sectionalism any more than Mr. Warren should have been.

Happily, sectionalism has again been avoided. North Carolina and other Southern States long ago learned the value of seniority in Congress. Massachusetts has now profited by that lesson. The elevation of Mr. McCormick not only assures his party a worthy leader in Congress, it will encourage the retention of that body of other Democrats from Northern and Western States. There must be such encouragement if the Democrats are to continue to have a majority leader.

THE LESSER OF TWO EVILS

Charlotte Observer

To what extent this country should extend material aid to Great Britain in its fight of defense against Germany quite properly puzzles both the military and political leaders of the nation.

The practical question is, How far can the United States go in this direction without serious and dangerous impairment of its own fighting resources?

For example, England wants as many of this country's flying fortresses as can be spared.

These are the giant bombers with a far longer cruising radius than is possessed by any plane so far developed in Europe.

England has none at all of them, nor has Germany, but England needs this particular type, whereas Germany doesn't.

If England had them, the remote naval and airplane production plants of Germany, now largely removed from the Ruhr district to eastern and southeastern Germany, even to faraway Poland, could be bombed.

But this country has only about 60 of them. They are designed to defend America from long-distance attack—to defend even the Western hemisphere by meeting the enemy far out at sea and preventing him from reaching any base for supplies nearer our own domain.

Naturally, it's a perplexing question as to whether it would be wise to furnish England with some of these mighty planes when, if England should lose its case, America might need all it now has, and more, relatively soon thereafter.

Even so, it would seem to be logical to conclude that, even though England may some day be defeated, the more America can now do to forestall that decision and thereby postpone the imminence of its own perils from Hitler's total conquest of Europe, not only the less the chances of a German invasion of the Western hemisphere, but the more time allowed during which the United States can set its own defensive house in order.

The greater risk would, therefore, seem to be in holding on to what little we may have of military, naval and air resources than in sharing these to the largest practical extent with England, counting on that country, with such aid, being put in position to hold off its own defeat at least until the United States becomes totally prepared to defend itself.

WASHINGTON DAYBOOK

BY JACK STINNETT

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29. — Answering the mail orders:

M. G. Columbus, O.—You'll have to take up your problem of rising prices with "Aunt Hit," but if you are less familiar with Dean Harriet Elliott than I am (which is knowing her hardly at all) you had better address her that way. Prices are up here in Washington, too. Government officials aren't worried yet, and although sturdy, round-faced Defense Commissioner Elliott has been busier than an ice cream merchant in mid-August, she hasn't (so far as I know) had to put the screws down on anybody yet.

What the administration and Miss Elliott figure so far is that the upcoming prices are merely a reflection of improved industrial conditions. However, if you feel differently about it, write Aunt Hit a letter, in care of the Defense Commission, 20th and Constitution Ave. I'll guarantee that if you have a legitimate cause, you won't get ignored. "Aunt Hit" is so darned busy NOT ignoring people that she has had to cancel her three-times-a-week golf game and give up swimming. For the former Dean of Women at North Carolina U., that's a heap of being busy.

L. D. N., Portland, Me.—I don't want to make any enemies up there, but to be honest I think opinion here is about 50-50 on that "As Maine goes" business.

As nearly as I can get it, the whole thing started back in Lincoln's time and, because it held true for a while, became something of a political adage. However, political wisecracks here say that Maine is not even typical and that if you want to get the true pulse of voting trends, you should go out to—well, say some county in Iowa or Nebraska. Lottie Bean, the Department of Agriculture statistician, who is, up to now, one of the best election guessers in these parts, also subscribes to this theory.

D. D., Poplarville, Miss.—I have a column coming up shortly on the defense program, but I'll give you the lead on it now. I think the more serious bottlenecks are being broken out.

The situation is changing so rapidly that this might not hold true until tomorrow. What some of the commentators seem to have overlooked is that although we, in this country, are not getting orders as fast as we might, England is getting deliveries about as fast as our present industrial set-up can come across. Those who subscribe to the theory that our first line of defense is in the British Isles think this is perfect.

Fair Enough

By WESTBROOK PEGLER

The Star wishes its readers to know that views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and may not always harmonize with its position.—The Editor.

All told I have received, I suppose, a thousand letters from individual little people who have been kicked around, deprived of their right to work, robbed and cheated by labor unions under the authority and protection of President Roosevelt's labor policy. The people are unorganized, afraid and in many cases, desperate, and it seems very unlikely that they will vote for Mr. Roosevelt in November, although as yet Mr. Willkie has offered them no reason to hope that he will give them any relief. Mr. Willkie is on a spot, because if he should blast the crooks and dictators of the union movement and promise to break their brutal power over the little people every labor faker in the country would immediately damn him as an enemy of labor with a capital L.

The citizens who are individual victims of the labor skates can only hope that Mr. Willkie has some mental reservations and intends, if elected, to proceed against the thieves and fakers. That seems to be their only hope, because Mr. Roosevelt is playing ball with the boss unioners.

Not Mentioned

Aside from one very coy reference to the rare, occasional scoundrel in union leadership the president has never mentioned this oppression of American citizens by unofficial but harsh and arrogant dictators, many of them crooks of the meanest sort. It may be observed that even that mild condemnation was not gratuitous. It was wrung out of him.

The disclosures which have been made in the last year—with no help, incidentally, from his muscovite labor relations board—finally became so scandalous and the facts were so authentic that Mr. Roosevelt had to take some notice of them. That is Mr. Roosevelt's way. He took no action to compel state, county and municipal employees to pay federal income taxes until their outrageous exemption had been shown up in print for about a year, and he was dead sure that the people who would personally resent a change were vastly outnumbered by those who would approve it.

I am an utter novice in politics, but in my dumb, instinctive way, I figure that the big national bosses of various unions are merely touting when they assure Mr. Roosevelt that "the labor vote" will support him. I just don't believe they can speak for their members, many of whom, I am certain, do fiercely resent their pretensions to leadership. During the last years incalculable numbers of little people have been driven into unions against their will, harassed and persecuted, and without gaining a dollar beyond the amount which was promptly snatched back by the thieves representing the unions.

Hate Official

Nobody can tell me that people who have been the victims of this kind of doing feel loyal to the union movement or kindly toward any candidate who builds up the prestige of the boss unioners by complimenting them in public. These little people might not have been quite so resentful if the unions had been comradesly or half-decent to them. As it is, they hate their unions and hate the business agent and the local and international officials who treat them as if they were serfs—as, in fact, they are. If you are a worker earning so little money that the internal revenue doesn't even ask you to file an income tax return, and some union then makes you pay \$75, cash, to join and from \$2 to \$10 a month in dues and buy \$2 worth of tickets every three months, you are not going to cheer for unionism. You are going to be sore, and the little woman is going to figure that money in terms of milk and food and clothing which the children deserved but didn't get.

I don't want to hear anything about the rarity of the union scoundrel. I know better. The thief and extortioner is more common than rare, but that question aside, the damned spot that will not out is the fact that more of the high union leaders, from Will Green on down through his executive council, has made a concerted move to kick out the crooks or relieve the oppression of the little people by the union politicians.

In fact, they have a gang man in the executive council itself, the same being George Browne, and nobody in the American Federation of Labor has the character, honesty or courage to look him in the eye and tell him to get the hell out.

Many Mothers, Children Are Moved From London

LONDON, Sept. 29.—(AP)—Eleven thousand mothers and children were moved from London to the comparative safety of the countryside over the week-end.

The record exodus in two days raised the number moved since the start of the aerial bombings on the capital to between 75,000 and 100,000. Most of the women and children were from the poorer districts of the East end where blocks of houses have been wrecked, leaving thousands homeless.

SHORT CIRCUIT

SANTIAGO, Chile, Sept. 29.—(AP)—A short circuit halted trolleys and left homes without electricity in several sections of the city today. Engineers said last night's minor earthquake was not the cause, however.

They're Just Killing



Man About

Manhattan

By GEORGE TUCKER

SAN JUAN, P. R., Sept. 29.—Today we drove out through roads that were lined with coffee and Australian pine trees, and past pineapple and sugarcane plantations, to Puerto Rico's most modern rum distillery, the Carioca distillery, which has become one of the show places of the island.

If you have ever visited Ben Marden's Rivera in New York you will get some idea of how this place looks. It isn't at all real, in the sense that you expect to find a factory or a distillery. It is patterned along color and architectural designs that Walt Disney might have thought up.

On all side is lush tropical foliage. Almond trees, and the flaming flamboyans throw patches of red against the darker background of the canebrakes. You see towering coconut trees, fronds waving in the light summer trades, which are never still, and you see boys shinnying up those trees with long wicked machete knives (made in Connecticut), and chopping off the green coconuts.

Down here they cut them while they are green, for then they hold a quart of milk. There is a trick of dexterously flourishing the knife and trimming away one end of the coconut, so that you can drink the milk in comfort. It is quite a trick. I tried, but couldn't get anywhere with it.

After this refreshing drink we advanced upon the distillery. The air was heavy with the smell of molasses. It is pumped into the ground in storage tanks, much as oil is stored under ground.

The Carioca distillery has several of these bright, new buildings, all of which look like night clubs. You could pass your hand over any part of it, and wear white gloves, without soiling the gloves. You see giant copper vats holding thousands of gallons of fermenting rum. You go into another building and a chemist is carefully analyzing the new rum and the old, and the ingredients he puts into the rum, in hundreds of test tubes. You go into still another building and there you will find the "assembly" line.

This is the bottling works. An endless stream of empties is fed mechanically into a central point, where they are filled by machinery. As the bottles come out one man places a stopper in the mouth. Another bangs the cork with a hammer, ramming it home. Women are next in line, and these are slapping labels on the bottles as they move past. Today they are bottling white rum, because the label says "blanca."

Outside, laborers are leveling off a new drive which has been named Frances K Avenue. Landscape artists are fashioning new designs in the always luxurious tropic shrubbery. Off to one side hundreds of barrels are stacked, ready and waiting. They are pouring mortar for a new storage house. To the right, you can gaze out over the harbor, and to a tiny island in the mouth of the harbor, where once the lepers were kept. Beyond that is the sea and the old route which the pirates used to use as they beat up from Peru against the summer trades. From this point you can see also the mountains and the blue sky and the banana trees and the breadfruit trees

OUR COUNTRY

America, Child Of Courage, Need But Remember Its Past To Go Forward--James Boyd

By JAMES BOYD

Author of "Drums," "Marching On," "Long Hunt," "Roll River," etc. This country is the child of courage.

In 10 generations our people have won a continent from the bravest aborigines and made it into a unique power in the world. They have fought one war for freedom and another desperate one for union. Our history in war and peace is the history of brave men and women and often of brave children, too. In addition to this incredible effort we have designed and developed a form of government that has been a model and inspiration to other nations.

It is not strange that the speed and size of this achievement has left many gaps and brought problems faster than we can solve them.

It is not strange that a second world war coming on top of all our own difficulties should leave us feeling that we are suddenly faced with more dangers than we should be called on to handle.

But it would be strange if a nation, always at the forefront in any enterprise of daring and noted for its resourcefulness, should not meet these dangers and conquer them.

The first step, as we form for our tremendous task, is to remember our past; not only our great names, but also the uncounted numbers of plain people, native and foreign-born, who created this new world, who cleared the woods and won the West and manned our armies and our ships and made our industries supreme. Then we can go ahead, looking on our country with love, on our forebears with reverence and on ourselves with confidence and honest pride.

A sword and a vision—Taylor Caldwell sees these as essential to the survival of democracy, in the next article of this series on "Our Country."

Hollywood

Sights And Sounds

BY ROBBIN COONS

HOLLYWOOD, Sept. 29.—I never suspected it before, but Edgar Kennedy is really burning. Slowly, as usual, but surely.

Edgar was sitting on the sidelines of "The Quarterback" set, burning in lonely, unnoticed brilliance, and he was talking. Nobody could see the burn. All you saw was the ordinary Kennedy face, plain and open, that you see on the screen; above it the growing baldness which is as familiar as the face.

"You know," Edgar began, "when I do that burn I'm really burning—I get sick of their making me do it."

Edgar's secret desire, his hope of escape from that gesture which made him famous, that slapping himself on the brow and wiping his face in exasperation, is to play heavies. Heavies burn, but they can do it differently. They can twirl moustachios, for instance, if they have moustachios—but Edgar, here, hasn't even a toupee.

Well, how'd the "slow burn" stuff stay, PaGiacci?

This way He'd been looking for movie jobs and asking and asking heard was "Nothing today." He heard it so much one day that he at casting offices and all he'd at casting offices and all he'd burned. He slapped his brow, wiped his face slowly, shook with helpless rage.

And the caster cried "Do that in a picture and we'll get you something sure!"

It did get him something, a job as a Keystone Kop and a chance to "slow burn" from that time on.

At that point in Edgar's recital and the mango trees and, indeed, all the beauty and warmth and color that help to make Puerto Rico what it is.

In the musicycle the band leaders are flocking to roosts in Hollywood. Kay Kyser is here for "You'll Find Out," and Artie Shaw is in "Second Chorus" with Fred Astaire and Paulette Goddard. Roger Pryor is in "Lamour for Sale" with Anita Louise, and talks of giving up orchestra-touring forever to be here with Ann Southern. Charles (Buddy) Rogers has a movie deal in prospect, while Orrin Tucker (and Bonnie Baker) dropped in to talk over their new musical, "You're the One."

John Barrymore, even at this late date, still can rhapsodize over the fine qualities of a landlady during his early New York days, to wit "A marvelous woman, truly. . . Never asked for a cent. . . And inasmuch as she never did, I always paid her on the nail—when I had money!" . . . Isn't there somewhere in that a tip for the Barrymore creditors—for whom he says he made "The Great Profile?"

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BOMBAY, Sept. 29. —(AP)—The Council of All India Moslem League unanimously adopted today a resolution declaring the league cannot accept the viceroys invitation to send representatives to the expanded executive council and the proposed new war advisory council.

The iridescent colors seen on a thin film of oil is due to certain phenomena which result from the mutual action of the rays of light on one another.