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FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 1945

OUR CHIEF HAS FALLEN

Not only the nation of which he was president, but the world mourns the sudden and unexpected passing of Franklin Delano Roosevelt at Warm Springs, Ga. What a pity he could not have lived until those two wars were over and a lasting peace formed among the nations of the world.

Mr. Roosevelt embodied the spirit of America. Although his great heart has ceased to beat, his spirit will live on. He was the idol of millions of every race, creed and color. Their welfare weighed heavily on his heart and he sincerely wanted to see the time come when human suffering, misery and oppression would pass forever from this earth. He wanted and strove to put down tyrants and oppressors so that the lowly and helpless world over would have a fair chance in life.

Mr. Roosevelt has inspired the strong nations to help the weak, strong men to go to the aid of the underprivileged, powerful industries to deal with mercy and sympathy with their employees and competitors, free peoples to help relieve those who are down trodden and oppressed.

It has been a marvel to the world that a man stricken with paralysis and crippled in body, should have such mental courage, such physical endurance and such recuperative powers to withstand the burdening duties of official life for a dozen years. But he willingly gave every ounce of his vigor without stint or complaint in order that Democracy and freedom might live, not only in this nation, but throughout the world.

Internationally, Mr. Roosevelt was a diplomat, a peace negotiator, a mighty warrior against greed, selfishness and oppression. Wherever he went in his various journeys throughout the world, he was looked upon as a friend and savior of mankind.

The death of Mr. Roosevelt, however, will in no wise prolong the war or cost more lives of our fighting men. He had surrounded himself with capable and trained leaders in military and official affairs, who will prosecute these wars to a hasty and victorious conclusion.

The new President, Harry S. Truman, is a trained executive. He will carry forward the work and principles so firmly established by Mr. Roosevelt. The people of America are imbued with the spirit of freedom and Democracy and will rally around Mr. Truman and give him unstinted support in carrying forward the wars, establishing the peace and going through the reconversion period with the least possible social and economic disturbances. (L. B. W.)

THE DEVIL IS SICK

We are inclined to agree with those skeptical British newspapers which, while taking the reports of Hitler's serious illness with considerable salt, said that even if the reports are true, they are not of great moment.

What difference does it make to the allied governments or to anyone else who is running the Nazi machine? Recent revelations of atrocities committed by its agents, particularly with reference to the treatment of American prisoners of war establishes well that there are ample sources of criminality to draw upon in the Reich if Hitler should pass out. Adolf is a heinous offender against the human race. There is no doubt about that. But look what follows in his wake, Himmler, Goebbels and the heads of those murder camps. Choice is very limited in a pen of swine.

'Twouldn't surprise us either if there is not considerable failing health in Germany these latter days. With the U. S. Ninth Army already across the Elbe river and its junction with the Red army predicted within a few days; with the Soviets and the Americans both prepared for a race for Berlin; with the allies cracking the German lines along Italy's coast and with Berlin being bombed daily; with Hitler's once vaunted fortress of Europe rapidly approaching the vanishing point, the amazing thing is that Hitler is the only one who shows any symptoms.

The point we are trying to make is Hitler's fate, if it matters at all, is of small moment beside what has to be done to rebuild what he and his fiends have destroyed.

The devil sick, the devil a saint would be. But we don't believe that even illness will keep Adolf out of the hell he has made for himself.

WAITING

The Associated Press says that between 18 and 20 million Americans are in a blissful state of expectancy waiting on their income tax refunds but this esteemed news service after an examination of the prospects advises these nieces and nephews of Uncle Sam to calm down.

The bureau of internal revenue is going to try—it doesn't promise—to start the checks moving some time in May and it hopes to distribute the whole amount by next December. All of last year's refunds have not been made yet.

Well even a promise is better than nothing and if the refund comes riding in with Santa Claus, it will be almost as welcome as if it bloomed with the May flowers.

What we are just thinking in this connection, however, is what would happen to a taxpayer if along about March 15 he would notify Uncle Sam that he was thinking about making him out a tax return and that he might expect it along about Thanksgiving. We just wondered. That is all.

PATTERN FOR NAZI MALARKY



Washington in Wartime

By FLORA LEWIS
 (Pinch Hitting For Jack Stinnett)
 (Second of two columns on how an international conference works.)

WASHINGTON — Diplomats' rooms at an international conference may not be so smoke-filled or bottle-littered as politicians' at a convention, but the diplomats do try to get in a round of play like anyone else.

There were a couple of large elegant parties in Mexico City. At one, in the spacious, open-air military casino, a sumptuous cold supper was laid out at long tables but guests stood at their places and ate. There were no chairs — a Mexican custom, it seems.

Even though U. S. Secretary of State Stettinius has turned thumbs down on festivities at San Francisco, there are bound to be a few. Some diplomats delight in formal champagne receptions and feel offended if this trapping is omitted.

Others consider them a bore-some necessity but reached to Stettinius' edict by saying "He meant official parties, of course."

The unofficial parties usually consist of dinner at a restaurant; handy to conference headquarters and hotels or a quick lunch after the morning meetings—but often more is accomplished there than in the regular sessions.

Officials exchange ideas over a ham on rye, joke and chatter and find themselves in a good mood to reach mutual decisions.

Occasionally, however, a surprise is pitched onto the floor of an open session—and the result is all up to the astuteness of the chairman and delegates present.

This happened twice in Mexico. On the first day Paraguay unexpectedly pulled the explosive Argentine issue from its sleeve and put it on the table. Delegates and spectators were tense in anticipation of a heated debate, but quietly, without blinking an eye, Mexican Foreign Minister Padilla put the question back to the end of the conference, as originally planned. By then the necessary unity among representatives had been achieved and they dealt with Argentina peacefully.

One day the Act of Chapultepec nearly passed as a treaty. U. S. delegates felt this would burn the works for Senate ratification of the Dumbarton Oaks plan, so Sen. Austin (R-Vt.) in a split-second move, got a 24-hour postponement of action. This gave time to re-word the document as an "agreement"—not a treaty—to fit U. S. constitutional requirements.

Austin simply said he couldn't understand the Spanish text and wanted a translation. Besides, he said, since Sen. Connally (D-Tex.) was arriving the next day, he'd like to wait for his advice.

The way things are shaping up, official proceedings at San Francisco are likely to go as smoothly—although there are bound to be some flare-ups.

As in political conventions—anything can happen at a conference.

Complete Surrender Policy Still Stands

LONDON, April 13—(P)—Prime Minister Churchill said today that the Allied policy of unconditional surrender for Germany still stood, even though Gen. Eisenhower has asserted that the war in Europe may not end with a clean-cut surrender of all German forces.

"The policy of unconditional surrender does not exclude unconditional surrender piecemeal and is not necessarily applied only to wholesale surrender," Churchill explained.

Labourite Rhys Davies raised the question in commons by saying that Eisenhower's declaration meant in effect that the "policy of unconditional surrender was completely unworkable."

He referred to the Boer war in South Africa, where he contended that after the proclamation to end hostilities was made "the war actually began in earnest and lasted for two years afterwards."

Churchill replied that he believed Davies was "not very accurate in his history."

Major Carr Spoke To G-W Students

Fourth in a series of Vocational Guidance lectures, Gardner-Webb students heard a talk yesterday at their chapel program in the E. B. Hamrick auditorium by Major I. N. Carr of the Fourth Service command from Atlanta, Ga., using as his subject, "A Military Career," with the 21 branches of the Army as a basis of his talk. Major Carr gave a brief resume of each branch and stated that "to be successful in military life, you must learn the fundamentals of discipline." He also gave the advantage of a naval career, including the Coast Guard and Marines and briefly sketched each.

The purpose of these lectures is to give the students a wider knowledge of vocations open now and vocations that will be available in the future.

Stole Charge Accounts

SPOKANE, April 12—(P)—Police figure that the burglar who broke into a market in suburban Hilliard must have had an account with the store because—

Included in the loot were records of all charge accounts, valued at \$8,000.

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND:

Army Takes It On The Chin In Meat Shortage Inquiry

By DREW PEARSON
 (LT. COL. R. S. ALLEN NOW ON ACTIVE SERVICE)

WASHINGTON—It happened behind closed doors, but a lot of housewives would have relished being present when Congressman Clinton Anderson's special food committee quizzed an array of Washington big-wigs.

A lot of star witnesses were present, but the Army, represented by Maj. Gen. Carl Hardigg of the Quartermaster Corps, chiefly took it on the chin.

War Food Chief Marvin Jones started the ball rolling when he produced figures showing that last year, when meat was plentiful, the Army gobbled up the works by failing to take anywhere near the quantity allocated to it. In the fourth quarter of 1944, the Army had asked for one and a quarter billion pounds of meat. Actually, the Army took half a billion pounds less.

That, according to the closed-door testimony, was the chief reason why ration points on meat were dropped last year and the housewives got a windfall. The public then got back to the habit of eating meat. But today, with meat far less plentiful, the Army ordered even more than allocated to it last year.

General Hardigg was unable to satisfy the Congressmen as to why the Army failed to take up its meat last year or at least failed to put it in cold storage for later use. Had this been done, Army demands would now be much smaller. General Hardigg also was asked to report back on how much meat was consumed by U. S. troops overseas, as compared with that consumed by troops in the United States.

MYSTERIOUS WALL STREET SUICIDE

Early this week, Leon Fraser, head of the First National Bank of New York, popular, able, in the prime of his life, went up to his old boyhood home in New York State, carefully penned three notes, and shot himself. In one note he said: "Except for this mental depression, I have everything to live for, good friends, lovely business associates, and a good future in this world with financial ease."

No other clues were left regarding Leon Fraser's suicide. It was one of the mysteries of the banking world. But in Washington, certain facts were known about Fraser's work as head of the Bank of International Settlements and his contacts with the Germans just as Hitler was building up his power.

For five years, 1930 to 1935, Fraser was the main spring and finally head of the bank. In 1934, he presided at the German Foreign Debt Conference at the Reichsbank in Berlin, where the Dawes Plan and the Young Plan were secretly junked. This marked the end of attempts to collect German obligations. It wiped the slate clean for Germany financially.

Later in the same year, Fraser met again with German bankers, and in 1935 he conferred with Hitler and received a gift from the grateful Nazi government. And when he retired from the Bank of International Settlements that year, the Nazis gave him another gift—a large antique silver plate.

Two other Governments also gave Fraser presents when he retired—Japan and Italy. Aside from these three Axis partners, it was considered significant that none of the other 26 countries on the Bank's board gave Fraser a farewell token.

HITLER FOOLED HIM

Fraser kept up his correspondence with Hitler's Finance Minister, Hjalmar Schacht, until 1941, two years after the European War started. Commenting on his visit with Hitler, Fraser recently said: "I confessed that he is the one man who completely fooled me."

Fraser also held a small amount of German Government bonds and some securities in the Dresdner Bank, Siemens and Halske and Deutsche Erdel.

A vigorous opponent of the Bretton Woods Agreement, Fraser was scheduled for a rehearing before a Congressional Committee soon, where several Congressmen planned to cross-examine him on his earlier history in forgiving Nazi war obligations. Their contention is that Bretton Woods is aimed to cure some of the international money machinations which went on secretly in Berlin and Basle in which Fraser participated.

Whether this had anything to do with Fraser's mental depression and his mysterious suicide may never be known. But it is known that a lot of well-meaning bankers also were fooled by Hitler.

Leon Fraser was one of those contagious personalities everybody liked, and this is written only in the hope that other soft peace disciples may not repeat his disastrous mistake of the last decade.

CAPITAL CHAFF

Censorship of newspaper comment on the possibility of war between Russia and Japan was ordered by the State Department. Byron Price's Office of Censorship had nothing to do with it except carry out instructions. This is the first time news comment has been barred on the relations between two countries. . . . Loy Henderson, able U. S. minister to Iraq, is returning to Washington to head the State Department's Near Eastern Division. . . . Shortly before returning to China, Ambassador Pat Hurley got Roosevelt's OK on arming several divisions of Chiang Kai-Shek's troops. However, experts are betting that few of them will ever see service against Japan. They are more likely to fight in a major civil war against the North Chinese. . . . U. S.-British trouble with Russia over Roumania appears in a new light when you learn the hitherto hushed-up fact that U. S.-British oil men secured highly important technical documents regarding Roumanian oil wells and removed them from the country. It was only after this that the Russians barred U. S.-British oil men from the oil fields.

Many Killed In Ship Explosion

ROME, April 13—(P)—Hundreds of Italian civilians and a number of American and British servicemen were killed in Bari Harbor Monday by the explosion of an American Liberty ship loaded with munitions, an Italian government spokesman announced today. More than 1,000 other persons were injured.

The cause of the explosion, one of the major disasters of the war in the Mediterranean theater, was not yet known, the spokesman said. The number of military personnel casualties also was not known.

Authorities did not disclose the identity of the ship.

Earlier the government spokesman had placed the toll of Italian dead at 267 and the injured at about 1,600.

WFA ALLOCATION

RALEIGH—(P)—Allocation of approximately \$1,650,000 by the War Food Administration to 930 North Carolina schools, having approved lunch programs has been announced. The allotments are in the form of reimbursements for meals served 213,040 pupils so far this year.

Beittel Resigns Guilford Post

GREENSBORO, April 13—(P)—Dr. A. D. Beittel has resigned as dean and professor of Sociology at Guilford college to accept the presidency of Talladega College at Talladega, Ala. He will complete his work at Guilford College at the close of the present academic year and assume his new duties August 1.

A native of Lancaster, Pa., Dr. Beittel has been at Guilford College approximately 10 years. He will be accompanied to Talladega by his wife and two sons.

Maps Changed To Keep Up With Army

PARIS, April 13—(P)—Supreme headquarters changed its huge wall battle map today in an effort to keep pace with its fast armies.

The huge one to 100,000th scale German map was shifted over and bent around the corner of the briefing room.

The new strip showed Berlin and Leipzig.

A Daily Prayer In War Time

FOR DILIGENCE

Thy providence, O Father in Heaven, calls us in these critical days, to bear a full share in meeting the Nation's needs. Yet we confess to slothfulness, and to self-seeking, and to idle pleasure seeking. We are not living as those engaged in a life and death struggle with enemies of our life, and of our very souls. Forgive us that we thus ignore the hour of our visitation. May something of the spiritual intensity of Jesus fill our spirits. Let every thought be tinged with a sense of our mission. Teach us to pray without ceasing for our service men and for our allies and for our enemies. Fill our hands with helpfulness and our hearts with love. Grant that no day of our lives may pass without some service to our Country and to our Cause. Thus would we line ourselves to Thy revealed purposes for a world like unto the Kingdom of Heaven, which Jesus died to establish. Amen.

If Today Is Your Birthday

By STELLA

FRIDAY, APRIL 13 — Born today, you have considerable literary and artistic talent which, when combined with your executive ability, should tend to put you in the class of those who really know how to make money from art! Unfortunately, however, you are an extravagant soul and you will have to learn the lesson of saving money if you are to manage to hang on to any great amount of money during your lifetime. You have a natural instinct for leadership and you manage to work your way toward the top in any organization or group in which you are interested. Although you may not appear to be an aggressive person, the chances are that you will quietly, persistently and doggedly go out after what you want — and in the long run get it! It is likely that your life will run in cycles of good and ill fortune. At one moment you will be riding high—the next—suffering from a setback. But you are not one to be too easily discouraged. Quick to see and grasp an opportunity, you will get further than most by jumping on the bandwagon than by fighting against long odds when things are against you. You've learned the secret of lying low during a storm. Although you are not as gregarious as many of those born under this sign, you are loyal and sincere to those few whom you accept into your close circle of friendship. You women, on the other hand, are apt to be a little too flirtatious for your own good. You may bring others as well as yourself, a certain amount of heartache unless you learn to distinguish between temporary infatuation and real love.

WITH HEALTH BOARD

WINSTON-SALEM.—(P)—Robert L. Caviness will begin work next Tuesday as senior sanitary engineer of the State Board of Health in Raleigh. For the last four years he has been district engineer of Forsyth county health department.

Electricity For All Farm Homes Is Postwar Dream

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON, April 13—(P)—You can be sure there'll be federal funds after the war to bring electricity to farm homes.

The administration wants it that way. Practically everyone in Congress believes it's a good idea. Electrification of the farm country—with government help — has been going on since 1936 when Congress created the rural electrification administration (REA).

Since that time REA has spent \$410,000,000 on getting electricity into rural areas.

There's a bill in Congress to give REA \$585,000,000 to spend on the same kind of program between now and 1948.

HOW IT WORKS

There are three general ways in which the program works:

1. A group of farm people, wanting electricity, get together, form a cooperative, and borrow the money from REA to pay for the power lines that will bring electricity to them. Most of the REA program is with cooperatives.

2. Or a city borrows money from REA to extend electric power lines into farm areas.

3. Or a private company, a utility, borrows money from REA for the same thing.

Some of the borrowers may have up to 35 years to pay back the loan.

So, when the loan is paid back, a farm cooperative will have paid off the cost of setting up the power lines.

From then on—unless they have their own power plants, which few have—the farmers in the cooperative need only pay some nearby power company for the electricity actually used.

ELECTRIFIED

In the meantime rural America slowly is being electrified. Light and heat for the homes, electricity for the farm equipment.

Since 1936 there have been 904 borrowers from the REA. Of that total 831 were cooperatives. The rest were 54 public agencies, like city governments, and 19 utility companies.

That represents electricity brought to 1,233,000 rural establishments—like farm homes, non-farm homes, country stores—and serving about 5 million people.

REA estimates that an additional 3,600,000 rural establishments—representing perhaps 12 million people—can be electrified.

The war, with its various shortages, has cut into REA work. But about 10,000 new establishments a month are getting electricity through REA loans now. This number will be greatly stepped up after the war.

FEW FORECLOSURES

So far, REA says, only one borrower—a utility company—fell down on its obligations to REA and had to be foreclosed.

Which means: The REA has been nearly 100 percent successful in the loans it has made.

When REA started the cost of stretching the power lines averaged about \$1,800 a mile. This has been reduced to somewhere between \$800 and \$1,000.

But all this doesn't mean there won't be a fight over REA. There probably will be.

Senator Shipstead (R-Minn.) wants REA taken out of the de-

partment of agriculture—where it is now—and made an independent agency.

WITH AGRICULTURE

Senator Wheeler (D-Mont) and Senator Aiken (R-Vt) back Shipstead on this. But the administration wants the REA to stay right where it is: Under agriculture's wing.

And there is the problem of choosing an administration for REA. President Roosevelt recently proposed Aubrey Williams, former head of the National Youth Administration, as boss of REA.

After one of the bitterest fights in recent congressional history, the senate refused to permit Williams to take over REA.

So there still is the job of choosing an administrator, plus whatever right develops over separating REA from the agriculture department.

But on the subject of voting funds for REA to continue its work—that seems assured.

Raise In Price Would Bring Beef

WASHINGTON, April 13—(P)—A spokesman for livestock producers told senate food investigators today that an increase of \$1 a hundred pounds in cattle prices would get the country the beef it wants.

P. O. Wilson, Chicago, secretary-manager of the National Livestock Producers Association, expressed the opinion, too, that "it would not cost consumers any more than they are paying now when you figure what they are paying the black market."

Price ceilings on cattle, Wilson testified before the agriculture committee, are based on costs of two years ago while corn has gone up 75 per cent and other feeds are also higher.

As a result, he said, cattle are not being fed to heavy weights.

There were 2,700,000 calves slaughtered last year which would have been fed to steer weight if the price structure had been favorable. The country lost the difference between their average weight of 350 to 400 pounds and the weight of a 1,000 pound steer."

Furniture Plant Burned In Whitnel

LENOIR—The Highway Furniture company, in Whitnel, was completely destroyed by fire of an unknown origin shortly before dawn Thursday.

Lenoir firemen were unable to save the furniture company, located in a frame building, but prevented the flames from devouring the adjoining wholesale storage plant of the Barringer Oil company.

The flames, visible for miles, were first noticed about 4:45 a.m. Bynum Cox and Wade Withers of Lenoir are the owners of the firm, which originally was an upholstery repair shop.

Mr. Withers was quoted as saying insurance would cover only about one-third of the loss.

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