



Washington, D. C.—So many political traditions have been shattered within the last year that it isn't surprising to find Wendell Willkie setting a new precedent for the role of defeated presidential candidate. It's the first time in this country's history that a former presidential nominee has tried to keep the leadership of his own party by not only actively endorsing his successful opponent's policies, but even serving as his personal envoy on a highly important mission. Friends of Willkie claim that he will not actually undertake a full time job under the president, nor will he return to head the Commonwealth and Southern Corporation. There are indications that Willkie is considering several law positions which have been offered to him.

The Republican candidate's unorthodox post-election behavior has provoked even stranger reactions on the part of his former friends and foes. General Hugh Johnson, who was one of Willkie's most ardent admirers has recently burst forth into vitriolic editorial comment on Willkie's lease-land bill stand. On the other hand, PM's Ralph Ingersoll, who heaped invective on Willkie throughout the presidential campaign, now has unhesitatingly decided that perhaps he isn't so bad. Our political cynics say that this proves one thing which they have known all along—that the flourishes and alarms which go on during presidential campaigns have very little to do with what the candidates believe in or represent.

The current industrial boom with its huge expenditures for non-productive war materials, is causing concern to government economists who are looking ahead toward the inevitable peacetime letdown. The truth of the matter is that the United States Government alone, although still at peace, will spend as much in 1941 for warships, guns and airplanes as was spent in the peak year of the first World War.

When the European war is over, this gigantic industry will certainly topple if not propped up by an immediate switch to more productive manufacture of consumer goods. After World War 1, the new auto industry was on hand to take the place of the war production, but so far no similar substitute is available.

In a time of crisis, there are always orators who can rise to the occasion. The past few years have developed a set of speakers who certainly reach larger audiences and perhaps possess greater skill than the famous Ciceros and Demosthenes of antiquity. A consensus of opinion nominates President Roosevelt as the Number One orator of this generation for his sense of drama and timing and his superb diction. Winston Churchill runs a close second, with his forceful and sincere delivery. Heading the labor contingent is John L. Lewis, who has the resonant voice and rolling cadences of an old time Biblical prophet. Among the ladies, Mrs. Roosevelt is a poised and energetic speaker. The booby prize, of course, goes to Adolph Hitler for his ungrammatical diction and a voice which ranges from guttural harshness to shrieking semi-hysteria.

Laurel Springs

Laurel Springs, Feb. 25.—Van Brinegar and Miss Carrie Shepherd, of McGrady, were visitors in this community Saturday and Sunday.

Miss Katherine Walker, of Winston-Salem, is visiting her grandmother, Mrs. M. F. Osborne.

Rev. Carl McKnight has an appointment to preach at Pleasant Grove church on Sunday, March 2nd, at 2:30 o'clock.

Mrs. Caroline Brinegar is ill at the home of her son, Charlie Brinegar.

Talmadge Anderson has purchased a Ford car.

Ben Osborne spent the week-end with home folks near Vannoy, N. C.

Jakie Brinegar was at home last week-end from the CCC camp at Laurel Springs.

Frank Brinegar is very ill at this writing.

Mrs. Caroline Brinegar is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Candice Brown, at State Roads.

If you have not often felt the joy of doing a kind act, you have neglected much and most of all yourself.—A. Nielsen.

Our world...

Former King Alfonso Very Low

Rome.—Former King Alfonso XIII of Spain was in a critical condition again last night after suffering another series of grave heart attacks, and all members of his family were summoned.

Turkey, Greece and Britain Understand

London.—Great Britain has reached an "excellent understanding" with both Turkey and Greece on mutual defense problems in the Balkan-Mediterranean zone, the News Chronicle reported today in a Cairo dispatch.

Preparations for German March in Bulgaria

Sofia.—The British legation yesterday began destroying confidential records, and evacuated members of its staff to Turkey as signs multiplied rapidly that the German army is ready to begin its large-scale occupation of Bulgaria, possibly within a matter of hours.

Extent of Italian Losses in Albania

Athens.—A government spokesman last night reported the torpedoing of another Italian troop ship in the Adriatic and strong aerial attacks on Fascist lines in Albania where 105,000 Italian troops are said to have been "knocked out" of the war thus far. The authoritative newspaper Proia said that seven Italian divisions totaling the 105,000 men had been shattered and that hospitals in Tirana, Durazzo and Valona were "overflowing" with badly wounded Fascists.

Greek Determination to Finish Albania

Athens.—The Greek army in almost four months of war has captured 20,000 Italians and "will not cease fighting until the Italians are out of Albania," a government spokesman said last night.

Italy's Shredded and Tattered Africa

Cairo, Egypt.—Royal Air Force bombers smashed at Italian airdromes in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia, while reinforced British land columns seized two additional posts on the Juba River front in Somaliland and are within 40 miles of closing a pincer movement against besieged Cheren in Eritrea, the British announced yesterday. "Extensive damage" on the Italian air base buildings in Addis Ababa was reported in an R. A. F. communique issued last night at Aden.

Roosevelt Anxious to Give All Aid Possible

Washington.—President Roosevelt said yesterday that peace terms in the European war must await a military triumph and he opposed any change in the pending lend-lease bill which might curtail all-out aid to Great Britain. Mr. Roosevelt said that while he cannot publicly discuss any proposed amendments to the legislation, it is obvious that he does not want any amendment which would change the government's policy in sending all possible aid to Great Britain.

40 Millions for Marine Base in N. C.

Washington.—Construction of the "largest marine corps base in the United States" in Onslow and Pamlico counties is authorized in the \$842,302,883 bill for naval shore establishments passed yesterday by the House. The action paves the way for passage today of an appropriation bill which is expected to contain an initial fund of \$1,500,000 for the huge development that will cost in excess of \$40,000,000.

Mussolini Asks People to Cease Grumbling

Rome.—Admitting that Italy has suffered enormous blows in Africa, Premier Benito Mussolini yesterday told his Blackshirt followers that German mechanized detachments as well as dive bombers have arrived in both Libya and Sicily to herald a "new season of success for us." "Great Britain soon will be aware of this," Mussolini said in reference to the German aid, after he had called upon the Italian people to cease their grumbling and "intensify our hate" in order to achieve a final victory over Britain.

Topia

Topia, Feb. 25.—Mrs. Ruth Osborne, of Mt. Zion, visited her sister, Mrs. Flora Moxley, last week.

Miss Logene Pugh, of Piney Creek, spent the week-end with Miss Sara Blevins.

Mrs. Della Ward, of Crumpler, visited in this community Monday.

Mrs. O. E. Moxley visited Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Pugh, Monday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. R. V. Blevins visited Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Pugh Friday evening.

Mrs. Carey D. Blevins and children, of Piney Creek, spent Sunday in the home of Mrs. Belle Blevins.

P. C. Edwards, Eugene Black and Miss Faye Lee Black made a business trip to West Jefferson Saturday.

Visitors to Mrs. Viola Williams on Sunday were Misses Virginia Douglas of Crumpler, and Nell Weaver of New Hope, Joe Caldwell and Paul Douglas.

Mrs. Myrtle Perry visited her sister, Mrs. Grace Taylor in Galax, last week.

Formal Statement From Tokyo Gives Assurance

The Japanese government "is not pessimistic regarding the future of its diplomacy towards the United States," Premier Prince Fumimaro Konoye said today in a formal statement.

"The government believes it has no need to fear anything if it pursues the right path," Prince Konoye said.

"The government, however, is resolved to do all in its power to make the United States and Great Britain understand the true intentions of our country."

The premier's written statement was sent from his sick bed in reply to a questionnaire sent him by thirty-one leading members of the lower house of Parliament led by the veteran liberal, Yokio Ozaki, who throughout his more than 50 years in Parliament has been a staunch advocate of Japanese-American friendship and co-operation.

The deputies asked a full and frank statement as to the government's general program in the face of the present international crisis.

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ALLEGHANY

STAR TIMES

R HALF A CENTURY OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF ALLEGHANY COUNTY

Sparta, N. C.

Thursday, February 27, 1941.

Next Sunday Important Day For Methodists

Of purely local interest, and yet of very great interest is the new heating plant going into the Methodist Church basement this week, ready for its initial service next Sunday. Not like the old furnace which sent all the heat through one register into the center of the building, and sometimes sent some smoke with the heat, this new furnace has pipes running direct to each room and is so built that it will heat the building after the modern manner.

The pastor, Rev. Mr. Strader, is particularly pleased at the prospect of being able to do away with the assorted old stoves that had served their day so faithfully in the various church rooms.

The congregation is happy for the new furnace and for the roof repairs that have been done, and also for the prospect of further improvements to the interior of the church building.

Next Sunday probably will see one of the largest audiences at the Methodist church that has gathered there in many a month. Mr. Strader should find plenty of inspiration for his Sunday morning sermon.

Little Pine and Rich Hill will Have New Schools

Plans for the construction of modern new school buildings at Little Pine and Rich Hill are now nearing completion, and work may get under way in the near future, C. M. Crutchfield, district WPA supervisor, states.

Buildings are to contain three rooms each and will be constructed of face tile and brick.

When completed, these buildings will do away with old school buildings at Dividing Ridge, Hooker, Blevins Crossroads, Rich Hill and Little Pine. The new schools are to be built in Glade Creek township.

French Active In Indo-China And Japan Amazed

From Saigon, French Indo-China comes word that France bolstered her Indo-China military establishment today with a boatload of naval, army and air force officers from Dakar, Senegal, West Africa.

The officers — their numbers were not disclosed — landed at Saigon late Tuesday from the 10,086-ton French ship Bernardin de Saint Pierre. They had come from Dakar by way of the French Indian Ocean island of Madagascar.

At the same time a spokesman for the Japanese military mission in Indo-China, Colonel T. Nakamura, declared Japan had no desire for naval or military bases in southern zones of the colony, but wanted only "rubber and rice and to help Indo-China prosper."

The spokesman also expressed polite bewilderment at "whom the Australians in Singapore are preparing to fight" since, he said, Japan and Britain are "on the best of terms."

Britain recently reinforced defense stations in Malaya, at the tip of which lies Singapore, with thousands of Australian troops.

Tax Revision Bill Passes National House

The House passed and sent to the Senate a bill designed to relieve inequities of the 1940 excess profits tax law.

The measure constitutes a series of amendments to last year's revenue act. It was sponsored by Chairman Robert L. Doughton (D.), N. C., of the ways and means committee. He said it would give "relief" to corporations which would have suffered undue hardships under the original law.

The legislation was drafted by tax experts of the committee and the treasury. It is designed primarily to adjust "abnormalities" of basic income on which the excess profits tax would be computed.

The Foreign Invasion That Must Be Stopped



Army Recruiters Didn't Arrive, But Hope To

Last week the Star-Times carried a story that came direct from Recruiting Headquarters in Charlotte that the U. S. Army Recruiting Service mobile unit would be in Sparta February 20 and 21, Thursday and Friday, for the purpose of — etc, etc.

No U. S. Army recruiters appeared.

Their original letter was checked, and all seemed OK. Still no sergeants in uniform, and no movies, as had been promised.

Somebody was chagrined.

This week another letter from Charlotte, saying that a car accident near Boone prevented the party from continuing their trip, and adding, "As soon as the mechanics are able to get the kinks out of my buggy, we expect to take up where we left off. You can be looking for a notice, and you can count on us being there." Signed, William D. Montgomery, Sergeant, DEML, Recruiting Service.

Apparently no casualties.

Baptist Sunday School Conference Next Wednesday

The Sparta Baptist church will hold a special Sunday School conference next Wednesday night beginning at 7:30 o'clock. This is one of 70 such meetings being held throughout North Carolina with the aim of increasing Baptist Sunday School attendance ten to fifteen per cent. This meeting is promoted by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention with headquarters in Nashville, Tenn., and a representative of that board is expected to be in attendance here, as also a representative from the State Mission Board in Raleigh. Also included on the program will be the local pastor, Rev. V. W. Sears, the Moderator of the Alleghany Association, A. O. Joines, and the Associational Sunday School Superintendent, Miss Ivy Grace Doughton.

The purpose of the expansion of Sunday School work in all Baptist churches of this association, and every church is urged to see that their Sunday School officers and teachers attend this conference. More than 8,000 officers and teachers are expected to attend the special meetings scheduled for this week in North Carolina.

State Legislature Hurries Toward Adjournment

The legislature put on full steam yesterday, rushing toward an adjournment before the middle of March, as possibly the last government reorganization proposal was sent forward, this one to create a new three-member utilities commission.

There were more than 30 separate committee meetings during the day and night, and scores of bills were reported out to the floors in the busiest committee day in the memory of veteran legislative men.

The senate has already approved appointment of a calendar committee, an action taken to speed bills through during the legislature's closing days, and there was every indication the lawmakers would work overtime from now on except today, when they visit Elizabeth City.

MOST CERTAINLY

At the Fayetteville Employment Office the interviewer was asking an applicant the trade questions for carpenters:

Interviewer: "What is a 'shore' in carpentry?"

Applicant: "Be shore you're right, then go ahead."—N. C. Employment News.

What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others remains and is immortal.—Albert Pike.

Guest Star



Jeanette MacDonald, golden-voiced soprano star of screen, concert and radio, appears as guest soloist Sunday, March 2, on Columbia network's "Pause That Refreshes on the Air." Andre Kostelanetz conducts his 45-piece virtuoso orchestra and Albert Spalding, eminent American violinist, appears as narrator and soloist.

Fire Alarm Last Friday

Even when Sparta's fire alarm shrieks there is a degree of comfort and a sense of security, for the people know an able and energetic bunch of firemen will be on the job almost within seconds.

Last Friday morning about 10 o'clock a motor at the Porter Lumber plant got too hot, and that started fire in some shavings. An alarm was sent in immediately, but before the firemen arrived the blaze had been gotten under control, so no great damage was done beyond the damage to the motor.

Quadruplets Born To Kentucky Family

On last Sunday in Leitchfield, Kentucky, Dr. J. C. Tucker said quadruplets—three girls and one boy—were born to Mrs. Porter Lasley, 42, wife of a farmer.

Dr. Tucker said the babies all were "very good except the boy. The mother is getting along nicely."

The births were unexpected and the first baby, born at 8:30 a. m., arrived 30 minutes before the physician appeared.

The second girl was born at 10:30, the boy at 12:15 p. m., and the third girl at 12:30.

The Lasleys have had 10 other children. Eight are living. The oldest is 23 and the youngest three.

State Legislature May Discuss Alleghany Foxes

It appears that Senator Eugene Transou and Representative W. Bert Edwards have been urged by a number of farmers in Alleghany county to consider the advisability of introducing a bill in the General Assembly that would permit the county to take some action in regard to destroying some of the foxes, which are reported to be painfully plentiful in this section and responsible for the killing of numbers of game birds and domestic animals.

According to members of the county sportsmen's club, that association definitely is not sponsoring the drive to rid the county of the fox. Petitions recently presented to the board of commissioners were signed in the main by farmers, although some sportsmen's names were said to have been on the lists.

County Game Warden Dick Gentry estimated that there are 2,000 foxes in this county, and maybe more. He said that the grey fox outnumbered the red fox and that the latter is not responsible for the crimes with which the fox has been charged.

Many residents, and especially the farmers, want a \$2 bounty put on the fox. They claim that foxes destroy a large number of chickens, and that foxes are so plentiful a "good chase for sport" is impossible.

Tenants Must Share in Benefits Of AAA Program

If a tenant or sharecropper is asked to spread lime under the AAA program for 1941, he must either be paid for his time or given more than the usual rental, or it will be determined that he has contributed to the carrying out of a particular soil building practice and will share in the payment coming to that farm, according to information received from R. E. Black, Alleghany county agent.

Several farmers in the past have had tenants to spread lime and have given them no compensation, only their usual share of the crop.

Mr. Black said, "I would like to advise all farmers, that if they have a tenant or sharecropper to spread lime or phosphate, sow grasses or legumes, or turn green manure crops, that they pay these men for their time with cash or crops."

To Help You Fill Out Your Income Tax Returns

During the week of March 10 to 15 J. S. Atkinson, deputy collector for the internal revenue department, will be in the register of deeds office in the Court House to assist folks in filling out and filing federal income tax returns.