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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 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.

35-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 Orton 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 easy to find reasons for not doing what we should do, for holding on to this or that bad habit, for neglecting our religious duties. But God sees through our excuses. They may blind us; they can never blind him.

—FORWARD—

The French Situation

As heavy a fog as often hides the English channel covers the negotiations between the Vichy government on the one hand and Germany and Italy on the other. We hear that the effort is to drive the French into open declaration of war against Britain and also that the effort is restricted to naval and air bases in all France and the French possessions. Marshal Petain, premier of unoccupied France, is variously reported opposed to the whole proposition and soon to visit Paris to sign either one or the other proposal. As so often has happened in this war, all that observers can be sure of is that Hitler, balking in his air campaign as a preliminary to invasion, is trying to effect some sort of agreement with "Free" France to bolster his chances of ultimate victory—chances which are growing slimmer as winter nears.

It is a sad thing to have to say, but it is probably true that there are men in the Vichy government who would be willing to accept the bait dangled before them. These men have worked hand in hand with Hitler; they care no more for Britain than the Nazis themselves; they have no scruples about stabbing their former ally. For the sake of the present advantage they might well accept whatever Hitler offers, regardless of the fact that the only hope for the liberation of France lies in a British victory.

What such false leaders plot, however, is less important than the way in which the mass of Frenchmen, and particularly those in the colonies out of reach of the Nazi military machine, would react to such a program. What is primarily at stake is not the portion of France and the French empire completely under the Nazi thumb, but the French troops and colonies still loyal to the Vichy government. Britain was seriously endangered by the French collapse; her plight would be more desperate still if such units as the French army in Syria openly joined arms with the Nazis, or if Hitler actually gained naval and air stations in strategic French colonies.

The revelation that these negotiations are under way heightens the significance of the speech which Prime Minister Churchill ad-

ressed recently to the French people. Mr. Churchill's plea was not meant for the men at Vichy. It was an attempt to reach the people of France themselves, not only in France but in the French colonies, to restore in some measure their hope and courage, to point out again the stake they have in British victory. How effective it was we cannot tell. But it is difficult to believe that Frenchmen who have followed the Vichy government so far would obey its dictates to the point of making war on England or helping England's foe. That could be nothing less than a betrayal of France itself and its hopes of survival as a free and independent nation.

Act Today

The city commission is scheduled to meet again today. Inevitably the water situation will be on the agenda.

For this reason the eyes of all Wilmingtonians are directed toward the city hall. Every person in the city expects the commission to take definite action—not at a later meeting, but today. The time for adjournments is past. The time for action is here. The question of salt water in city water mains has gone unanswered long enough. For years there has been no satisfactory answer. For years the people of Wilmington have been subjected to the same trouble. Now, they demand that the commission do something about it today.

It is not a question of what the commission feels it can afford to do, but what the city can't afford to do without.

There are financial obligations involved, to be sure. But they will not be as great, whatever total they reach, as Wilmington's losses if a permanent supply of fresh, pure water is longer withheld.

Wilmington's business firms and home dwellers have already lost thousands upon thousands of dollars in the past three weeks because of salt water in the city's mains. These losses must be stopped.

The distressed citizens of Wilmington must be given relief—not merely temporary relief, but permanent relief.

And today is the day that the decision must be made at the city hall.

Mr. Roosevelt Speaks

President Roosevelt's address at Convention hall in Philadelphia, where he had been nominated for the second time by the Democratic convention of 1936, was announced as a political speech—the first of five he will make as the present campaign nears the home stretch. But we believe the people of America will view it more as a declaration of his principles in a great national emergency than as the utterance of a political candidate.

Thus, when he gave "solemn assurance" that the United States has no secret agreement with any foreign power concerning American participation in any war, we may be sure it was the President speaking, and not a candidate.

It is important that this portion of Mr. Roosevelt's text be studied carefully. Declaring that he and "your great secretary of state" are following the road to peace, he declared: "There is no secret treaty, no secret obligation, no secret commitment, no secret understanding in any shape or form, direct or indirect, with any other government, or any other nation in any part of the world, to involve this nation in any war or for any other purpose."

Here is a pledge, the sincerity of which cannot be brought into doubt. For emphasis, the President added: "It is for peace I have labored; and it is for peace I shall labor all the days of my life." We will not, he declared, participate in foreign wars nor send our army, naval or air forces to fight in foreign lands "outside of the Americas" except in case of attack.

There should be no doubt in any mind that the administration's course had been wholly directed toward peace. Mr. Roosevelt traced the steps that led up to the rearmament effort. During the last eight years his "every thought" has been directed to "preserving the peace of the world and more particularly the peace of the United States—the peace of the Western Hemisphere." Foreseeing the war's approach, he explained, he employed the full power of his office to prevent its arrival. When war came he used the same power to prevent it from spreading to other countries. When that effort failed, he "called upon congress and upon the nation to build the strong defenses that would be our best guarantee of peace and security." He denied that he had phoned Mussolini or Hitler to "sell Czechoslovakia down the river" or that the unemployed are to be driven into concentration camps.

The whole tenor of the President's Philadelphia speech was above politics.

Japan And Russia

Japanese eagerness for an understanding with Russia may be responsible for the report from Tokyo that Soviet authorities will speed up the formalities attendant on the arrival of the new Japanese ambassador to Moscow today. Whether the Russians are actually as ready to deal as the Japanese hope is something Josef Stalin alone can say.

Very possibly the Kremlin would welcome an assurance of quiet in the Far East at this time—if the price is not too high. The Japanese are ready to offer a good deal. They are willing to recognize Outer Mongolia as part of the Soviet system if the Russians will do the same for them in respect to Manchukuo. They are prepared to allow the Russians to establish a legation at Hsinking in return for the right to establish a Japanese legation at Ulan Bator.

They will even go so far as to recognize Russian interests as predominant in the Chinese province of Sinkiang.

Should this prove satisfactory, both sides would withdraw their troops from the Manchukuo frontier. Thus the Japanese would be free to use their forces in China and the Russians could send their border army to the Black sea area.

There are advantages to both parties in such a settlement, particularly as the Russians would not be asked to stop sending help to China. But Stalin may prove suspicious. It is difficult to understand how he can see in the Japanese offer any permanent advantage to Russia, knowing as he does that Tokyo is associated with Berlin and Rome and that sooner or later he may have to resist German-Italian encroachments on Russia's sphere.

Clark Doubly Welcome

Rep. J. Bayard Clark's visit to Wilmington and his two addresses, before the Kiwanis club and at a meeting in the High School auditorium sponsored by the local American Legion post, gain significance by the fact that there was no political motive involved. Mr. Clark came in response to an invitation from the Legion primarily to help the post in its membership campaign, which is meeting with excellent success.

His assurance that he has the pledge of the Washington authorities that the Wilmington area will be adequately provided with defenses is reassuring. We could wish, of course, that he had been able to announce one or more major defense projects for the area. But it is gratifying to the people of Wilmington to know that he is exerting his influence for them.

The explanation that no further commitments will be made until after the election invites the question why it is considered necessary to postpone decisions which must be made in any event, especially as speed is the keynote of defense. But it is something to know that after November 5 Wilmington will have a place on the defense map. And he left no one who heard him in doubt on that matter.

WASHINGTON DAYBOOK

BY JACK STINNETT

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24.—It may be just a little election-time political twister, as some observers here insist, but if those are real straws that I see in the wind, certain politicians are in for a tornado of trouble after November 5.

Why AFTER November 5? That's a good Republican question in some quarters, but the Democratic answer is that, except for the primaries held in recent months, there have been no elections to investigate since 1938 and it would have been utterly impossible to complete sleuthing and prepare indictments before election.

Even if they could have got the cases ready, no court could have moved fast enough to try them. Suppose the persons charged were innocent. Think what injustice would have been done then to persons running on the party ticket of those who had been charged.

COMMITTEES BUSY

That's the explanation given, but to get back to those straws.

1. A Senate campaign investigating subcommittee, with Senator Adams (D-Colo.) as chairman, heard testimony in Jersey City, N. J., where Mayor Hague's Hudson county political machine has been on the griddle for years.

2. Another Senate subcommittee, with Senator Hill (D-Ala.) as chairman, heard testimony in Chicago, where the Kelly-Nash machine, captained by Mayor Edward J. Kelly, has also been under a crossfire of charges from big political guns.

3. Numerous complaints of violations of the Hatch act, the Corrupt Practices act, and civil rights statutes have been filed with the Department of Justice. These are purported to run the whole gamut of election and campaign violations, from minor infractions which might result in Federal employees' losing their jobs to the outright stealing of elections by means that could send offenders to the penitentiary.

4. Attorney General Robert H. Jackson has publicly declared an out-in-the-open war on election frauds and all violations of the voting and campaign statutes now on the books, and backed it up by appointing Maurice M. Milligan, U. S. district attorney at Kansas City, Mo., as field general for the drive. Milligan is the 55-year-old attorney—who prosecuted Tom Pendergast and sent that long-time boss of Kansas City politics to the penitentiary. Sixty-three other defendants who stood trial were convicted; 36 others pleaded guilty and 169 threw themselves on the mercy of the court.

Some administration critics say this is just pre-election window-dressing—front to offset charges that machine politics really aren't frowned upon. I wouldn't know about that, but it certainly is a fair guess that even if the tempest is started in the political teapot, it has a chance of getting out of hand and becoming a good stiff blow, if not a tornado.

CALL IT WINDOW-DRESSING

In the first place, on those Senate committees both the Republican and Democratic parties are represented. If charges against the persons investigated are substantiated, they're not BOTH going to sit quietly by and let the breeze die down.

In the second, if those complaints filed with the Department of Justice are verified, they are matters for the courts, and the Federal courts don't hold their sessions and deliver their verdicts behind closed doors.

In the third, Mr. Milligan has tasted blood, is ambitious (he ran for the Senate but was defeated for the nomination by the incumbent, Senator Truman, in a stiff three-cornered battle), and is considered by friends not to be the kind who would take his appointment lightly.

We have enough scientific information about children, enough skill in dealing with them, and enough experience to eliminate the "feeder" in juvenile court if the community wishes to—Carl R. Rodgers, clinical psychology professor at Ohio State.

The Editor's LETTER BOX

The editor does not necessarily endorse any article appearing in this department. They represent the views of the individual readers. Correspondents are warned that all communications must contain the correct name and address for our records, though the latter may be signed as the writer sees fit. The Star-News reserves the right to alter any text that for any reason is objectionable. Letters on controversial subjects will not be published.

To The Star:

I have been very much interested in the various comments from time to time regarding the water situation. The fact is that we do have a situation that we must remedy, and I believe the best way to go about this is to appoint a citizens committee, who in conjunction with the present Army engineer, and the several engineers locally could determine whether the best place to secure our water supply should be Castle Hayne, or up the Cape Fear river beyond the locks.

This, it seems to me, is the only matter of important consideration. Without condemning our commissioners, let's work with them to bring about a satisfactory solution to this bad situation that will prove satisfactory to us and pleasing to future generations.

WILMINGTONIAN.

MORE ON SALT

To The Star:

I read an ad in a New York paper the other day

About hotels and it went on to say

That only with a wish and a twist of the arm

You could step into a tub of surf water nice and warm.

They thought they had something in this ad.

But when I read it, I suddenly grew mad

To think with all the salt water, to them it's so rare

And they have to pay to take a bath in it there,

While we down here are floating in brine

But still continue to grumble and whine.

We have the advantage over those folks by a long shot

Why, down here we have salt water to fill our coffee pot!

We have it to drink and have it to spare

For washing our linens and washing our hair.

We have it for dishes and washing our food

And yet it still puts us into an awful mood.

The people up North don't go into a wrath;

In fact, they're tickled over a nice ocean bath.

But like a child who has too much candy to eat,

He soon becomes tired and sick of the sweet.

The candy is alright, he decides, in a store

But for his stomach he wants no more.

Salt water, we agree, is fine for a seashore.

But for our faucets we want no more.

Ingratitude I guess might be the word to use

For all this salt water that we sorely abuse.

But it also goes to show that New York with its glamor and fuss

When it comes to salt water has Nothing on us!

A CITIZEN.

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.

NEW YORK, October 24.—I have to take this day out to pet the dear feelings of two of my colleagues who protest that they were misrepresented by my interpretation of a circular which they distributed to members of the New York Newspaper Guild. These two are George Britt of the World-Telegram and Lewis Gannett of the Herald Tribune. Among others, they signed an appeal to their fellow-members to turn out for meetings and to insist that the delegates to the representative assembly also attend regularly, to prevent "unrepresentative" decisions.

Just as all of us, until a few years ago, referred to venereal maladies as "social" diseases, there are still those in the labor movement who refuse to call communism by name, and Mr. Gannett is one of them. Mr. Britt has his naughty moments when he will call a bolo in private, but he is still too bashful to use such words in public, and that is the cause of our little trouble.

Send Telegram

The pair of them sent me a long telegram claiming that I misused their appeal to support my charge that the guild is rotten with communism. Gannett says he has never identified as communism the discussion which formed my own conviction that communism was the guild's trouble. Now, by way of reservation, he wants to say that there are others than communists who disbelieve in conscription and to repudiate the distinction between Americans and Muscovites—which never was attributed to him, anyway. That distinction is my own, and I don't want to share it with anyone. I think it is pretty good, and I know it drives the Bolos crazy.

I believe this does clarify the record except on one point.

The appeal, admitting "disaffection" in the guild, said the workers on the Chicago Herald-American voted, 4 to 1, to be represented by a "company-sponsored" union.

The Herald-American people repudiated the guild in rebellion against that which Britt identified as communist control and adherence to the Moscow party line. The phrase "company-sponsored" conveys the suggestion that these journalists are rats, scabs and finks, in the polite language of the guild. It indicates the actual degree of respect for the free choice of free men which exists in the newspaper guild when any decision goes against it.

Some Roses For Remembrance



"I STILL REMEMBER THE EFFECT I PRODUCED ON A SMALL GROUP OF GALLA TRIBESMEN... I DROPPED AN AERIAL TORPEDO RIGHT IN THE CENTER, AND THE GROUP OPENED UP LIKE A FLOWERING ROSE. IT WAS MOST ENTERTAINING."

—VITTORIO MUSSOLINI AFTER THE CONQUEST OF ETHIOPIA.

BAPTISTS ADOPT MORALS REPORT

Report On Temperance Presented At Annual Session Of Wilmington Body

A report on "Temperance and Public Morals" was presented to the Wilmington Baptist association's annual session at the Gibson Avenue church this week by the Rev. R. H. Satterfield, pastor of the Winter Park and Masonboro Baptist churches.

The association adopted the report as presented with the request that it be published.

It follows:

No subject has been so clouded with prejudice, distorted by passion, sometimes uninformed, sometimes designed to mislead. Today there is confusion, or indifference, or blind acquiescence on the part of otherwise good citizens and Christians. In view of these facts there are two or three suggestions that should be made.

First, we should ask what is the motivating power—the driving force—back of the liquor traffic? If historical data prove anything they prove that blind greed for gold is the motivating power back of the manufacturer and producer and that an uncontrolled appetite is the driving force back of the consumer. Say what we will about the motive of control, saving youth from the boot-legalizer, and decent drinking. All of us know that there are not the real motives.

A second suggestion has to do with the results of alcohol and the liquor traffic. Here again we can cut through all the confusion and propaganda with one word, namely, corruption. The individual who drinks is corrupted in his body, his social relationships, and his spiritual life. An eminent specialist in the field of social disease stated some months ago that drinking was the major contributing factor in at least ninety per cent of all social disease. In this age of high-powered cars one's social responsibility becomes very acute on the highways of the nation. Today unprejudiced reports reveal the fact that the majority of highway fatalities are traceable to "drinking drivers."

The drinker also falls short of his social responsibility in the home. The havoc wrought in the home by alcohol is simply beyond the power to describe. The minister and the physician, the social worker and the relief agent all testify to these facts.

The most dangerous corruption, however, results from the blind greed of the manufacturer. There is nothing that he will not do to confuse, mislead and blind the public.

The German propaganda minister is the essence of stupidity in comparison with the astute propagandist employed by the liquor forces of America. Politicians are the first victims of the trade. Laws must be made, legislatures must be influenced, city government must be handled, and all opposition must be silenced by fair means or foul. This pressure is felt also in the field of religion. More than one minister in this country has lost his life because his lips could not be silenced otherwise. And every means possible is used to humiliate, misinterpret, and damage the minister who is consistent in his preaching with regard to the liquor traffic.

But there is hope. First of all we live in a moral universe in which

natural laws are administered without fear or favor. The natural law of centrifugal force will turn a speeding car over on the curve notwithstanding the fact that the driver bought his liquor at the legalized liquor store. The law of economics will function in the home where the father spends his money for legal liquor just the same as it does in the home where monkey rum is the beverage; and the resultant cost to society to care for the wreckage will be the same. The ravages of social disease are just as great on the social drinker as they are on the debauchee.

An ever greater number of our people are beginning to see the workings of this unbiased natural law, and are beginning to realize that it cannot be violated without desperate, tragic results both to the individual and to society. The smokescreen of prejudice and propaganda are being recognized for what they are, and as a result a great mass of our people will vote in a very different fashion from what they did a few years ago.

LABOR BILL HEARINGS MAY BE HELD IN N. C.

Members Of State Commission Invite Trade Associations, Others To Appear

RALEIGH, Oct. 24.—(AP)—Open hearings probably will be held next month on the possibility of drafting a state wage-hour bill for presentation to the 1941 general assembly, a legislative commission on fair labor standards announced today.

Members of the commission, meeting in the office of Labor Commissioner Forrest H. Shuford, invited trade associations, unions and business to file briefs, and to appear at the hearings.

At present, North Carolina has no minimum wage law, and its maximum hours laws are honeycombed with exemptions. Whereas North Carolina employers in interstate industries are covered by the federal wage-hour law, many North Carolinians in intrastate industries come under no such measure.

Building Equipment Is Reported Stolen

J. E. Newton reported to the sheriff's office yesterday that during the night someone broke into the tool house at the project for which he is contractor in Sunset Park and took a large power saw, a stationary variety, several hand saws, several smoothing planes, several braces and bits, three or four hatchets and other tools.

FREED

MINNEAPOLIS, Oct. 24.—(AP)—A district court jury today freed Frank Leachin, 58-year-old unemployed elevator operator, who testified during his trial on a murder charge that he killed his 57-year-old wife "because she was always nagging me." He also pleaded self-defense, saying he shot her in their home last March 20, when she attacked him with a knife.

HOEY MAKES RECORDING

RALEIGH, Oct. 24.—(AP)—Governor Hoy today made a 10-minute recording on the importance of citizenship duties. The record will be played in Charlotte at a citizenship program sponsored by the Exchange