

The Clinton Chronicle

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CLINTON, S. C., THURSDAY, JULY 1, 1943

Holiday Warnings

Here is your Fourth of July duty as suggested by the National Safety Council:

1. Don't use fireworks. Leave the shooting this year to the men in uniform.
2. Avoid automobile trips. If you must drive, cut down your speed and step up your caution. You'll save cars, tires and lives.
3. Don't overdo in exercise, eating or exposure to sun.
4. If you swim: Don't go alone or when overheated. Wait an hour after eating. Know the depth of the water. Don't show off or indulge in horse-play.
5. Remember—accidents help the Axis!

A Memorable Fourth

It used to be in many parts of the country that the Fourth of July was celebrated with 12 hours of ear-splitting explosions. This year, we'll be lucky if we even hear a cap pistol going off.

It is probably well that this is true. For the Fourth of July this year should be celebrated with greater reverence than at any time in the history of our country—and somehow reverence and fire-crackers don't go together.

We have become so accustomed to independence that our day for celebrating it was primarily a day for relaxation and festivity. But this year millions of men will be working in factories on the Fourth—and other millions will be fighting all over the world—grimly determined to preserve that independence. Instead of watching fireworks at home this year we want to see fireworks of another kind—fireworks of steel blasting at those enemies of ours who dared to try to rob us of the independence which we have been celebrating for 167 years.

More Politics

In the death last week of Milledge L. Bonham, chief justice of South Carolina, the bench lost an able jurist and the state an outstanding citizen.

Hardly before his last rites were held, political speculation began as to his successor who will be elected by a vote of the general assembly next year.

The report comes out of Columbia, the seat of state politics, that the assumption is general that the present acting chief justice will be elected chief justice to fill out the unexpired term of Chief Justice Bonham. If this happens there will be a vacancy which most likely will be filled either by a circuit court judge or member of the legislature. It is noted that already a Spartanburg attorney and member of the house has been endorsed by the bar of that county for the place on the supreme court.

Now that a vacancy exists on the high bench, political campaigning, trading and promising may be expected in a quiet way, until the general assembly meets. The famed Santee-Cooper "big boys" may quietly enter into the picture. The legislature in past years has become a "closed shop" with outsiders having a poor chance when there is a good job to be filled or created. A large percentage of its members, especially lawyers, seek membership in that body as a stepping stone to a more remunerative position. It is a practice of extreme unfairness and poor taste that should not be allowed, but one that may be expected to continue. It is our guess that a member of the general assembly will land the plum. Those on the "outside" must be satisfied with the crumbs.

Confusion Galore

Out of Washington each day come conflicting and confusing announcements as to the part the people at home are to play in the war effort. If those who are in charge know the real facts, they should be able to tell the people intelligently and accurately today in order that they may know what to expect tomorrow.

Take the gasoline situation as an example. One day we are told there will be further restrictions, the next the report is denied. Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones says the rubber crisis will be over by the end of this year. Another high official charges Jones has made a mess of handling the problem and that it will be a long drawn out period before civilian rubber needs will be available. Look at the food problem, how bungling it is being handled. Yesterday War Food Administrator Chester C. Davis resigned in disgust in the midst of a seething controversy over wartime food and price policies growing hotter each day. A former rabid New Deal congressman is named to his place but this will only add fuel to the fire. The whole food program is held by Davis and others, to be unworkable and headed for a collapse.

Turning to the food subsidy plan, we see it repudiated by both the House and Senate. Then glancing at the anti-strike bill to prevent strikes in war production plants, we see it vetoed by the President, and congress in short order over-riding the veto.

In the matter of the selective service act, the public does not know what to expect. One day we read that fathers are to be drafted at once—the next day the report says they may never be called upon for service. Now they say the war can be run all right with the boys reaching 18 each month, a plan which we hold as unfair to the youth of the land.

And so it goes—confusion, contradicting statements, rumblings, wriggling and squirming over crucial issues.

The people back home are concerned about the war more than anything else. They are looking to Washington for intelligent leadership which they are not receiving. It is time for somebody to make up their minds as to what is the wise, staple policy for handling our domestic problems. The complicated program now, viewed from many angles, is all bogged down. The people are confused. They are tired of government red tape, indecision and inefficiency.

Santee-Cooper Politics

Richard M. Jefferies, state senator from Colleton county, on Monday rejoined the \$57,000,000 Santee-Cooper hydro-electrical (political) project as general counsel, Authority Chairman James H. Hammond, of Columbia, announced.

In making the advance announcement, the chairman said, "He'll take over the job he had before he became governor, and William Wilson, who has been acting general counsel, will again become assistant general counsel." No statement from officials was made as to the salary the post would carry. This is one item in such news releases they always take special care to keep from the public. When Jefferies held the position until he resigned to become governor, it paid \$10,000 annually.

Jefferies might be properly termed the high official of Santee-Cooper. Maybank and Byrnes were among its chief sponsors when the millions for its construction were being sought from Washington, but they passed from the picture when they saw the reaction of the state's taxpayers against this political monster.

The public is not surprised at Mr. Jefferies' return as chief counsel. The surprise is that the Authority has waited from January until now to make the announcement. When he became governor the public was advised that the corporation's assistant general counsel would act temporarily. We then asked why the word "temporarily." It is now revealed that the arrangement was to insure the return of the Colleton attorney to the position later on. He is the same gentleman who presented a bill to the Authority for about \$180,000 for legal services. The Maybank crowd, then in control of the project, couldn't save their faces by approving such an outrageous claim and deducted it by about \$130,000. What is the status of Mr. Jefferies' claim of \$100,000 or more, for legal services. Has it been paid by the federal government or is it still pending?

Also, the taxpayers would like to be informed, is Mr. Jefferies' job for lifetime, at a salary of \$10,000 annually? With the project completed and now the marvelous success its sponsors claim, why is a legal staff longer needed? Why can't the taxpayers have the facts and whole truth about this gigantic "octopus" determined to control the power utilities of the state.

The Chronicle has no confidence in Santee-Cooper. We would not invest a dime in it. We doubt if there is a business man in the state who would. It is loaded with dangerous possibilities, saturated through and through with politics, it is operated by a group of highly paid politicians at taxpayers' expense.

And speaking of Santee-Cooper, the public notes that Governor Johnston is extremely cautious to avoid a public statement as to his attitude towards the agency. It will be recalled that just before relinquishing the governor's office, Jefferies appointed William C. Johnston of Anderson, a brother of the governor, as a member of the board of directors of the authority. The appointment smacked of politics then, and still does.

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If it is a Magazine that you want, see...

JAMES W. CALDWELL
The Magazine Man

"Meet the People..."

(Each week in this space will be presented a picture and word portrait of someone whose name is news.)

Air Marshal
Sir William
Lawrie Welsh

• Few officers in the Royal Air Force know more about air and sea warfare than Air Marshal Sir William Lawrie Welsh, K. C. B., D. S. C., A. F. C., who has been appointed head of the RAF delegation in Washington, D. C.

• He has borne much of the responsibility for the development of the RAF. Welsh's military career began in the Royal Naval Air Service as a flight sub-lieutenant at the outbreak of World War I. In 1918 he left the navy and joined the Royal Flying Corps, later known as the Royal Air Force.

• Since his appointment as commander of the British air forces in North Africa last November, Marshal Welsh has had many contacts with United States forces. In this post he helped plan the triumphant Allied Tunisian victory. • He has served his government in Egypt, Palestine and Iraq, as well as North Africa. He was director of organization in the air ministry from 1934 to 1937, air member for supply and organization on the air council from 1937 to 1940, and air officer commanding the technical training command from 1940 to 1941.

NOBODY'S BUSINESS

By GEE MCGEE

We Are On Our Way

I stood in a bank lobby the other day for thirty minutes, just waiting. I observed that at least 50 per cent of all the checks that were passed over the counter were government checks. I further took note of the fact that practically all of the government items were paid in cash: only a small minority were placed on deposit. Government dough, which is usually easy dough, represents the fastest money in the world... here today, gone tomorrow.

Very few, if any, of the recipients of cash on the government checks referred to rendered any service whatsoever therefor. They were sideline payees. How long our Uncle Samuel can stand this heavy burden is anybody's guess. This does not mean that each and every person receiving these checks were not legally and justly entitled thereto, according to law.

The folks who were passing these checks in were not employees of the government; they were only payroll-ees. It would be hard to tabulate the many useless government agencies here and there and everywhere. They will continue to function (that is—draw pay) until a change is made in ruler-ship, meaning the arrival of a Republican or Lewis regime. New brooms always sweep old accumulations out of office. New workers (?) are installed; they will be no better and no worse than the old ones.

During a prosperity period like the present, people do not have very much more stuff to eat or wear: they simply eat porterhouse steaks and pie instead of cornbread and collards, and wear silks and satins and high priced shoes instead of calicoes, gingham and sandals. They substitute Old Crow, Grandad and Canadian Club for XXXX, Hoe Joe, and White Rabbit; in fact they drink the best that money can buy. Some few folks save some money: others throw it to the four winds and believe that no rainy day will ever come. Only about 40 per cent of the population of the average community is benefitting financially by reason of the war and war work.

Flat Rock Is Still Trying To Buy War Bonds

hon. henry morgan thaw, secker-terry of the treasury, washington, d. c.

deer sir:
mr. slim chance, sr., has asked this sorry spondent to rite or foam you about some help and information. mr. chance's son, junior, is in affrica fighting for his country. his pa says junior has told him to buy war bonds and war stamps at once and help win the war. the soldier's pa is willing to do so, but he has no more monney and that is why you are being addressed in his behalf.

mr. chance, sr., is a farmer by profession, occupation and avocation, and he do not know anything about anything else. he has some monney coming to him from his parities and his soil erosion conservation. therefoar he wants you to drop over to hon. claude wickert's offis, secker-terry of the agger-culture, and tell him that mr. slim chance, sr., requests that he pay you 18.75\$ in cash monney and charge it to him. then mr. wickert can deduct this from the next government check he sends to mr. chance. you can buy his bond with this 18.75\$.

as mr. wickert's records will show, mr. chance has 10 akers in cotton, 5 akers in corn, and 4 akers in miscellaneous stuff. he will get about 75 dollars for all of these akers. this is the only way mr. chance can comply with his son's request and he hopes you will attend to this without delay. he bought a stamp in january but put it on a envelope through

mistake, and he never got it back. he thought it was a 3-cent stamp ansoforth.

mr. morgan thaw, crops are .very good in flat rock's midst, and you can depend on us going over the top in all the drives after october the 1. no cash will circulate amongst us farmers till cotton has been picked, ginned and sold, that is—none except what uncle sam kindly gives us from year to year. send mr. chance's bond direct to him at p. o. box 123, flat rock. he gets his mail very regular when anny comes to him.

yores trulie,
mike lark, rfd.

TODAY... TOMORROW

By Don Robinson

BUTTONS — Miracle

Too many of us think that, when the war ends, somebody in Washington is going to push a button which will immediately convert our country from a wartime prosperity to a peacetime prosperity. We like to imagine that, when the button is pushed, tank assembly lines will suddenly start turning out shiny new automobiles, roast beef will appear in all the butcher shops of the land, our ration books can be tossed in the trash barrel, the 10,000,000 men in the army and navy will appear on their home doorsteps in civvies and we can gorge ourselves with luxuries of all kinds.

We hear about the problems of post-war planning, but in general they bore us, for we have an infinite faith in that Washington button. We have seen our country converted, almost overnight, from making civilian products to turning out the greatest supply of war equipment ever produced by any nation. Why can't Washington, with equal facility, shift us back again into a prosperous peacetime nation?

The answer is that Washington would like to try—but if we let Washington do it, instead of doing it ourselves, we will end up with a peacetime dictatorship very similar to the ones we are now fighting to destroy. We must decide quickly whether we are going to have our lives run, after the war, by the government or by the people.

PLANS — Washington

There are some members of our Washington bureaucracy who would jump at the chance to make us all subservient to government. They would like to have the government tell us what we can own, how much money we can make, what business we should go in, and how much we should pay for everything we buy. They are the men who think our type



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of democracy is old-fashioned and want to substitute regimentation for independence.

There are other members of our government who want to preserve democracy and free enterprise—who think our constitutional form of government is just as superior as it ever was—but even they realize that the government will have to draw the blue prints for our lives after the war unless we do it ourselves.

To do it ourselves, we must first get rid of the idea that there is going to be an over-all, national plan which will prevent a depression, guard against unemployment and bring our economy back to normal. Any such over-all plan would have to be one controlled by the government.

Instead of waiting for some magic formula to evolve in Washington, we must, instead—each one of us—figure out what we can do to bring our own businesses and our own lives back to normal.

INGENUITY — Spirit

The strength of our democracy lies in individual ingenuity.

When our forefathers built this great country they didn't do it by forming a government and waiting around to have that government tell them what to do next. Instead, each man worked out his own individual problem. Some decided to operate stores, others decided to be miners, others built roads and others took up farming.

The pioneering spirit which led these men to strike out for themselves and work out their problems in their own individual ways is the type of spirit which we must depend upon after the war for putting our world together again.

Instead of trying to figure out what the government can do for us after the war, we should sit down and plan how we can work things out without

asking the government for anything. If things look tough and the government offers to help us out with loans or regulations we must refuse that assistance, pull in our belts and call on our own intelligence and ability to solve our own problems.

Just as a child who gets everything he wants from his parents usually doesn't amount to much in the world, so will business decay if it goes to Uncle Sam for money, advice or protection.

The post-war conferences which will really count will not be the ones held in Washington but the ones held in the parlors of homes, in the back rooms of stores and in the boards of directors' offices of our big industries.

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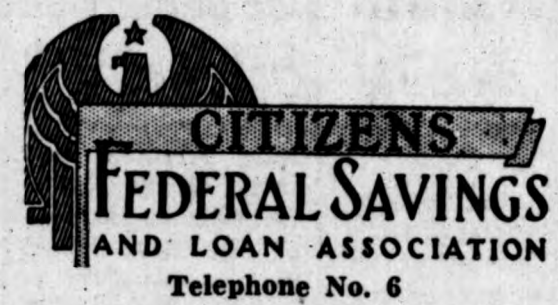
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