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THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1943

Peeping Tom
Protesting Sailor Should Not Have Visited the House

If the young sailor who stood up in the gallery and screamed at the House of Representatives really wished, as he said, to see what makes this country tick, then he was in the wrong city at the wrong time; America does not lie in Washington, but out in the provinces. Further, if he sought evidence that Congress was still fighting the Civil War, he was in the wrong gallery; the Senate does that sort of thing far better. The sailor, worse luck, caught the United States of America at an embarrassing moment, when all the grisly details of the working machinery were hard to inspection.
 Having been in the Navy two years, and having seen some of the fighting of this war, the youngster was taken aback at what he heard. To him, it was inconceivable that elected representatives of the people would, in times like these, stand to argue against the removal of a politician from the Southern States. That was not at all understandable to the mentality of the young man who are fighting our war. No, the Congress and a great many of the people, despite all pleas to the contrary, are still far behind.

The youngster should be given the right to stick around and visit with the Senate. He'd likely wait a long time (for many operators in that body will probably stall on the poll tax bill), but he would see the day come, he'd see filibustering in the midst of war to make him ill. Remembering the sound and feel of falling bombs, and holding forever in his memory the sight of American men falling in battle around him, he would not be able to bear the sight of that Senate scene.
 Yes, the sailor saw his country at an unfortunate moment, but it could have been worse. He should have been told that the House has sent up a poll tax bill, and that, if it has not been talked to death in the august Senate of the United States, he saw an issue in doubt; soon it will be lost.

It's wonderful—borrowing all these billions from ourselves without any designers. Somebody trusts us. Maybe it's us.

The Breakdown
Only Lack of Courage Could Have Given Miners Wage Raise

The coming of the pay raise for the miners of John Lewis was a sticky secret long before the War Labor Board shamelessly made its public announcement. It was, in some circles, a foregone conclusion that the Government of the United States would buckle down before King John Lewis, and that, in bending the nation to his selfish will once more, he would add to the rise of inflation in such a way as would write the doom of the cost control policy. With the rise of \$1 or more to the Lewis miners, the Little Steel wage formula will go up in smoke, and the Government will retreat.
 This retreat has come in a fashion so inane, the average American (who believed that the U. S. could and would stop the Lewis mutiny). It started with a firm stand against inflation, in the signing of pledges with Labor; the pledges were broken; the Little Steel formula allowed the workers to draw a line; then Little Steel ceased to be a formula in some cases. It will end with a retreat to higher places all the way through the complex maze of American living costs. The defeat of the anti-inflation program, which is now certain to come in the months ahead, may properly be laid at the door of the Labor-patronizing New Deal, at Franklin Roosevelt's insistence on going to virtually any requested Labor gain.

We cannot grieve too much over the New York Times' figures showing that Labor's gains in the coal miners' case have been something over 150 per cent since 1933—while the rise in the national average cost of living has been only 33 per cent. In the pre-war years, Labor as a whole made deserved gains; now, however, in the years of war, a small section of Labor is permitted to halt the war production schedule for protest. As a result of the protest, the Administration (presumably on order from the President) retreats, and gives and more to John Lewis.
 After the halting of production for Lewis is allowed to crack up the unimpeded control of prices and living

costs. In this case, as in past handling of the battle against inflation, the Administration has not only blundered—it has shown a complete lack of courage. The move will come, we dare say, at a shock to most Americans, and in 1944 it will be remembered. We can think of an issue more likely to turn voters away from the Democrats next year. Washington failed to hear the voice of the people.

The Plans
Mr. Roberts Gets a Start By Sketching Out Future

It was a foregone conclusion, when Coleman Roberts took over the Charlotte Planning Committee, that he would give the community a full measure of public service. In the bare outlining of objectives and possibilities for immediate and future planning, the chairman has lived up to his billing. In his last communique before the beginning of the Committee's official life, he listed a number of sub-committees likely to be appointed (more to be added). They, if manned by men and women of vision, can completely plot the future for the community and render an incalculable service:

- Public Buildings
- City Streets and Parkways
- Streets and Sidewalks
- Parks and Playgrounds
- Industries
- Educational
- Law Enforcement
- City and County Relations
- Health
- Urban Developments
- Zoning

The Roberts suggestions are, we take it, only suggestions, but they certainly point the way for leadership and thought by Committee members. Many of the proposals are sure to be adopted; others are sure to fail. It remains that, in the presentation of the plan and progress for City and County, Mr. Roberts has made a real contribution. We wish the greatest measure of success to Chairman and Committee.

Still Ruml
Compromise Will Suit People, But Leaves Treasury Wanting

The watered Ruml Plan so oft predicted is, apparently, with us at last. House and Senate battled about the new principle in taxation for four long months, with the Democrats complaining that Ruml was rich man's spokesman—and then approved in compromise form almost every detail of the Plan. Even Mueley Bob Doughton, speaking bitterly of windfalls and lost assets, has in the compromise and had praise for it. What he so recently attacked as damnable taxation, he now so admires that he votes and thus finishes his task. The fight was wonderful; the result was three-fourths of what the people and the Republicans wanted, and the Administration receives the credit.

For those small taxpayers on the \$50 fringe, the news is glorious—and to all others (even those chuckling new-rich enemies of Bob Doughton) it was almost as good. On the basis of smallest income of late, taxpayers will be placed. Forgiven 75 per cent, they will become acquainted with a 20 per cent holding tax in July. If Congress cracks fast enough, there is but one little item in all the confusion which may be clearly understood at a glance. The tax has virtually been passed, but there is no provision for the additional \$16 billions asked by the President.
 In the mood of compromise, Congress gave away this and that, but forgot to provide for any increased revenues at all. The fight was so hot for the long months that the workers forgot about the war and its huge cost. The taxpayer may now be satisfied (and listen for the approval, soon, of the ex-Ruml enemies) but the President and the Treasury will not be. The compromise will have to take in a great many more dollars than it is expected to, if the gap is to be closed. But the Ruml battle, at least, is over. Either way, win or lose, it was a technical decision.

For retiring a side, British Eighth Army to American Army to British First Army makes a sparkling double play.

What's become of the old-fashioned dinner ring? And dinner?

For The Soviet Only

The Dissolution Of Russia's Comintern

By Dorothy Thompson

THE debate as to whether the liquidation of the Third International—the International Communist Party—alone or in concert is completely beside the point. First of all, it is a fact, and a fact of very great importance.

Second, it is an absolutely logical culmination of previous developments. It is not made as a gesture toward the democracies. It is made for Russian interests, and in order to free the hands of Russian nationalism. It is also, in all probability, a part of a general agreement which Stalin is trying to reach in respect of post-war arrangements, involving such questions as Russian borders, spheres of influence, and alliances with the Western powers.

Such arrangements have long perspectives. To assume that Stalin is "temporarily" suspending the Comintern, at a moment when he is trying to reach agreements for a period of decades, is childish. The Russian-British treaty, made for twenty years, is a proof that Stalin is thinking in terms of decades. It is the move of a nationalist statesman who is thinking wholly in terms of the future of Russia, and not in terms of the future of the working classes of the world.

That is the way he has been thinking for many years, and the evolution of the Comintern has proved it. In fact, the issue Russia versus the international revolution was the basis of Stalin's coming to power, and it is a law of politics that people maintain their power by the same means that which they achieve it. Previous to the Russian revolution, there were international socialist and labor movements with affiliations in every Euro-

pean country. But since there was no socialist country, there was no leading power of visible national leadership.

In 1919, after the success of the bolshevik revolution in Russia, Lenin founded the Third International. This was completely logical, for in Lenin's concept the Russian revolution was only the start of the world revolution, and Russia was not even the main object in the world revolution. This attitude was illustrated when Trotsky concluded the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with Germany under which large portions of the Russian empire—notably the Ukraine—were given up. The theory back of this was that it did not matter whether the Ukraine was under Russian or German control, because the world revolution would wash out nationalism anyhow.
 The concept of Lenin and Trotsky was that it would be impossible to maintain the Russian revolution in a capitalist world. They awaited the outbreak of the revolution in all the highly industrialized European countries, and the Comintern was a genuinely revolutionary instrument. But by the time of Lenin's death, in January, 1924, it was clear that his calculations had failed. Astonishingly enough, from the viewpoint of Communist theory, Russia had been successful in defeating the internal and externally-inspired counter-revolutionaries, while not even the strongest Communist parties in Europe, not even those in defeated and chaotic countries, had achieved their own revolutions.

In the fight over the succession to Lenin, between Stalin and Trotsky, it is to be seen the nucleus of the developments of this week. Stalin's idea was "Socialism in One Country," as a master-plot of what could be achieved. Trotsky clung to Marxist theory that this was both impossible, and contrary to the world revolutionary idea. In Trotsky's opinion the Comintern took precedence.

The Bull's-eye

—By Dorman Smith



Now, Adolph
You May Disappear

By Samuel Crafton

THE Fascists generally like to say that they came now there is no one to fight the Comintern. Well, there is still another meaning in the rich complex of meanings which envelop this act.

Russia achieves this war to be a war purely for national liberation. Actually her position has been close to that of most American and British conservatives, who say that this is entirely a war of self-defense, and not a war for social progress. Russia has never obtruded any suggestion of social change or development into the picture. Her chief slogan, as offered to the people of Europe, has been "national liberation." Russia, and Communists generally, have not gone in for the language of American and British liberals, who have hoped for that extra quart of milk and a little more democracy as direct outcomes of the struggle. Russia has never talked the Wallace war-time language. To her, this has been a war to beat the living daylight out of the Fascists, for good and sufficient national reasons.

By abolishing the Comintern, Russia says, in effect, that she now relies on these national reasons for fighting Hitler. She thinks each country has such reasons for fighting Hitler. In good measure, she reasons broad and national enough to allow the union of all classes in the struggle. In such a setting, the Comintern is superfluous, and as Russia has "wiped it out" for the very nice people, and don't think the clipping was so cute.

So, in a sense, the whole world has grown up, and the time has come when the Comintern, as a movement to that effect, most disappointed, in the end, will be those who believed, in a peevish kind of way, that the Comintern was the only thing that had saved us from Hitler. It is only that which has failed us. It was only a symptom of our illness. Hunger is still hunger, discontent is still discontent, and all preventing those who don't want to face the facts from finding an adventurous excuse for obscuring them. This is why we have so strong a feeling that this latest development marks a new stage in the parade to wherever we are going.

Platform Of The People
Plans On The Fire

Editors, The News:
 I have read with much interest your Editorial entitled "Brass Tactics" and would like to see your newspaper on May 17th.

You have dealt with this subject in a manner which could be exacting with the trend of thought of this Association, and we expect with-
 In view of the fact that the National and Local Campaign to encourage public officials as well as those of private industry to begin now to prepare definite plans and specifications for post-war construction projects.

I have just been placed on the Charlotte Planning Committee and sincerely hope that this body will be able to develop some real worthwhile projects and that something concrete in the way of plans for the reconstruction of our city will be prepared for these projects.
 FRANK H. CONNER
 Acting Executive Secretary
 Carolinas Branch
 Associated General Contractors
 of America, Inc.
 Charlotte.

relations with other countries have developed. The internal and extra-legal devices have become an embarrassment, and have necessarily been abandoned more and more into the background. But there is still another meaning in the rich complex of meanings which envelop this act.

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between the places is that there are almost no more than 100,000 people working at Hoskins as there are of us who are living here. They are not going to be able to get on. I think the clipping was so cute.

We also have our churches, and we need a store. We work hard and make an honest living and those who don't should stay in their own attractive town. This is why we have so strong a feeling that this latest development marks a new stage in the parade to wherever we are going.

Mrs. E. W. Stephens,
 Miss Helen Stewart,
 Mrs. G. A. Clary,
 Miss Susie Cook,
 Mrs. M. G. Clary,
 Mrs. W. N. Fisher,
 Mrs. J. C. Stewart.
 Hoskins.

over the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union was not only the victory of the Comintern, and even the idea of the Comintern was working toward greater purposes. The secret purpose in Russia had been purely of this idea, and the Comintern was the instrument for its purpose. It is to be shot as a result of the trial, was Zhdanov, the first President of the Comintern.

Under these circumstances, considering the fact that the Russian Communist Party has always controlled the Comintern, with a very unbroken leadership, why was it not dissolved after the final victory of Stalin over Trotsky fifteen years ago? It was not dissolved because Stalin saw in it a useful instrument for a quite different purpose than the one for which it was originally formed. Stalin transformed the branches of the Comintern into outposts of Russian policy in the capitalist countries.

He feared an attack of the capitalist world, by one country or a coalition, on the Soviet Union. The sole task of the Comintern (therefore) was to prevent this by awakening sympathy for the Soviet Union amongst the workers, and, in case they failed to prevent war, to upset the war machinery by strikes, sabotage, and if possible revolution. During this phase of the Comintern's existence, military preparedness in Russia, and anti-militaristic and pacifist in every other country.

During this phase many "front" organizations were built up amongst liberal and pacifist groups, all of the organization whose name is completely revealing: "The League Against War and Fascism." But this policy, in its turn, was overthrown by the historical events of the last few years. (It is concluded)

Not By Custom

The King Bosses

By Raymond Clapper

PROBABLY no monarch or chief of state anywhere plays his part quite as King Gustav. He is far from a figurehead, as he demonstrated in one war crisis after another. He is a mere head of state. I have the word of an opposition firebrand that the King's 85 years are a mighty force in Sweden.

His very age gives him a patriarchal power which he does not hesitate to use in both large and small things occasionally. Indeed, under Swedish law the King is the practical representative of the people's will, in which fact lies his responsibility and his right to interfere whenever the seriousness of the situation calls for such action on his part.

Yesterday I saw him play tennis on a public court. Several of us had been invited to be present. The King came out of the tennis room wearing long flannels, a long white polo coat and white hat, and carrying a racket. He stopped and chatted with us, apologizing for trying to play tennis at his age. But, he said, he liked the game and he would not play. It is remarkable that any person of 85 could be active on his feet through such a game, much less handle a racket with the quick co-ordination required.

We visitors regarded it as phenomenal, but there was no excitement around the court, which was open to the payment of a small fee. Several persons were playing on other courts, and perhaps more than a hundred persons scattered around the clubhouse veranda, talking among themselves. Only a dozen or so gathered in all in the gallery to watch him play, although this was the first time the King had played outdoors since his serious illness some months ago.

Not even Per Albin Hansson, Prime Minister for a decade and boss of the Social Democratic Party, feels strong enough to suggest the King on a show-down—as when the Germans demanded permission to send a division through Sweden to help the Finns. The Social Democrats were against allowing the Germans to march through. They considered this a violation of neutrality, and also they were against the Nazis anyway. However, the King steered his country through without becoming involved in the war. It was a probability that, if permission had been refused, the Germans would have forcibly entered Sweden. The King took a strong position for letting the division go through, but he was emphatic that no more could be permitted again.

There has been much discussion about the dramatic conference between the King and the Prime Minister. The King took responsibility for the action. The fact that it helped to prevent the Germans from over-running Finland made the move popular with those in Sweden who strongly fear Russia. This incident demonstrated the political power of the King, although it is not exercised frequently.

The Social Democratic Party in the majority, but the Conservatives joined in the wartime coalition. The growing issue now is over whether to continue the coalition after the war or to return to party government. Hansson, who has been in power ten years, wants to continue the coalition. It makes his job simpler, his position more secure. However, some members of his party want to return to party government, feeling that the present coalition is a bad thing to continue indefinitely. They accept it only as a necessary evil.

One effect of it is to drive the discontented into the Communist ranks for an outlet. One armament manufacturer told me that his plant, with four thousand employees, has 500 enrolled party members and a thousand others who are sympathetic and attend Communist meetings. The Communist Party is small in Sweden, but is growing as a protest against the static, cozy government coalition.

Quote, Unquote

"There is no over-all manpower shortage. The problem is how best to utilize the man and woman power we have."
 —Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, President A. E. Whittier.
 There is only a brief period for planting some crops, and if the gasoline situation is not relieved soon, some of the land intended for crops this year will not be planted until next year.
 —Agriculture Department report.

Side Glances



"Don't you think it would be patriotic to spend our vacations in the country? We could pick a farm near where some good-looking boys are working!"