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FRIDAY, JULY 16, 1943

House Divided

Councilman Baker Declares Minority Out Of City Affairs

Here, by grace of factionalism in City Council, we go again. The City's municipal government, formed last year, is an admirable instrument, is divided at the head. This week, it has become so rent asunder that there is no hope of unity or conciliation.

Once more, there will be government by caucus. The opposition, which has hitherto kept the peace on various issues since election, announced that it has caught the minority plotting, holding secret meetings, though in a public place.

Now, Councilman Baker says, there will be outside meetings of the majority group, and decisions will be reached before coming into the Council chambers.

Perhaps it is well enough that the Council remain split, but the Baker Declaration is fair warning that all important decisions will be made in secret, by majority Councilmen and their advisers.

The Defeated

An OPA Expert Screams And Runs For The Door, Full Till

We think we never saw such a searching commentary on the ills of Washington's mass-production Government as yesterday's story on the departure of red-haired Lew Mearns from the office of Price Administration.

It was delightful to read that Mearns had left on his desk, as he fled, only a Washington street car token and a bottle of eye wash, partly filled.

It had long been the dream of thousands of American business men that Washington needed to become businesslike.

matter of record, now that nothing worked from the beginning. The Government of the United States is too big, too complex, too slow-moving, too bound by safeguards, too gross and dumb, too much beset by quaint personalities.

Maxon was not the first man to discover that truth, nor was he the first to follow it out in open meeting. He is only the most succinct of them all. His utterances were much clearer than those of irate Leon Henderson.

Heart Change

A Brave Italian Editor Begins His Quaking At Last

Our thoughts should often be with Virgilio Gayda in these perilous times. The Fascist editor, loudest of the mouth-pieces of Mussolini and his henchmen, is suffering mortal pain.

In those days, such a short while ago, gallant Gayda could not believe his ears. He could not understand this demand for Unconditional Surrender.

He could remain petulantly defiant even while the bombs rained upon the industrial cities of Northern Italy. He could still call his defiance, if only in whispers.

Russia's Losses

Russia Finds A Time For It; We Might Follow That Lead

Regardless of the attitude of other United Nations Governments, Russia is determined to avenge the crimes of this war perpetrated by the Germans.

Russia, whose trials were thought unspeakably cruel and merciless by most Americans not long ago, looks at the war with clear eyes. Because she does not flinch, she is able to declare wholeheartedly the penalty in the present trial.

Perhaps Americans will believe this statement degrading to Russia, and surely there would be clamor that America could not undertake such punishment as the Soviet will exact.

A suggestion that the Jap army may have had a hand in Yamamoto's death somehow recalls the verdict at the Irish Inquest: "An act of God under suspicious circumstances."

Coffins End Saga Of A Bomber

By Reynold Clapper

SOME will say it was just luck but some will say it was the prayer that Pvt. J. Regan scribbled on the nose of the "Coughlin Coffin," a B-26 Marauder bomber. Anyway, "Coughlin Coffin" was raised over Sicily on Sunday when indeed the last raid over any of the "Coughlin Coffins" came back on an engine with an unbroken record of never having lost a man, never having one wounded in 50 bombing raids during which the plane was hit many times.

"Coughlin Coffin" started out as a Jinx ship but became the luckiest ship in the bomber force for no matter how badly the ship was damaged the crew always escaped. There was great commotion among the air force people when the word spread that "Coughlin Coffin" came back from Sicily so badly battered it would never fly in combat again.

When the factory in America turned out this particular airplane something seemed to be wrong with her. She never was right on her tests but Capt. William R. Pritchard, of Mobile, Ala., had been assigned to the ship and had put up an argument to Africa.

On the way over the ship's engine sputtered so much she was given the name of "Coughlin Coffin." Capt. Pritchard took the ship into its first action on last New Year's Day on a raid over Tunis railroad yards. The ship went out on nine-

teen raids without incident but on the twentieth one engine was knocked out. Twice more the "Coughlin" limped home on one engine. Meanwhile Capt. Pritchard had been made squadron leader and he turned the ship over to another pilot.

In time the "Coughlin Coffin" accumulated 120 log patches. On Sunday the ship went out on a raid over Sicily under a new pilot, Lt. F. C. Mehaner, a blond German boy, 22, who was born in Dresden. His parents became converted to the Mormon Church and moved to America in 1922.

Just after the bombs were dropped in Sunday's raid, anti-aircraft fire hit the left engine—always it was the left engine that was knocked out—and the ship's hydraulic landing gear apparatus. As Pilot Mehaner prepared to land, one wheel stuck. Aboard the plane as a passenger was the original pilot, Capt. Pritchard.

"I wanted to fly the ship on the 5th mission just for the hell of it," Pritchard said. "We got into an argument about whether this was the 4th or 5th so I decided to go along for the ride, anyway, just to be sure I was aboard on the golden anniversary."

Pritchard kept moving all over the ship during the critical trip home, helping to take his old pride and joy in safely once more.

"I was sure sweating it out," said Pritchard. "I was sweating it out for you, too," said Sgt. Joseph P. Krajan, Bridgeport, Pa., chief of the ground crew, "when I saw the wheel was not down.

As the pilot dropped her down, the right wing struck the ground and ripped partly off as the ship came around. That's the end of the military career of "Coughlin Coffin."



"I don't see any sense in entering a beauty contest. Aunt Hattie—it seems an awful waste of time with all the fellows my age in the service!"

No Better. But A Big World

By Samuel Crafton

IT IS a big world. Several Senators are about to leave on a trip around it. Two of them are Mead of New York and Clegg of Maine. They have just been told by the Truman committee what to look for as they go round the world.

Senator Mead says at once that, under lend-lease-in-reverse, we ought to obtain rights to the use of these fields in the post-war era. Our rights? The man talks about our rights? The bloody phrase crops up in the bright new war. But there is only one safe way to guarantee American rights to use those fields.

This incident will explain why I find myself a little less than ecstatic about these Congressional resolutions in favor of an international police force, etc. Those resolutions should, of course, be passed. I am for every one of them. I am more than written, I shall be for them all. But they do start at the wrong end.

We go to these vague, high-minded resolutions as we go to church, once a week, without prejudice to our daily activities. When we phrase crops up in the bright new war. But there is only one safe way to guarantee American rights to use those fields.

I feel somewhat sad, thinking of those Senators going out into this big world, bleeding world, to look into the question of who gets the oil. So big a world, so small a thing to look for! It is a trip to the moon to bring back a hayseed. This trip, for this purpose, protects our self-interests outward; it is American isolation on its travels, though the men involved may not be isolationists.

For, if we had truly lost our isolation, these Senators would have been sent to report on what the world thinks of us, not on what they think the world should be. There are many inquiries the Senators could validly make. Who care what six Senators think of the world? Anyway, I want to know what the world thinks of us. In the world still interested in our good government by our occasional yaps for airports and islands and such? Does it hate us for what we have done to de Gaulle? Will it trust us, after our professed interest in the French? But these are questions that are not in its mind. It is always a one-way, outward process, as if the stage were perpetually ours and everybody else only the audience.

War, Prisoners

Editors, The News: Thank you for publishing the new item about the Governor of New Mexico, John J. Dempsey, paying tribute to the mounting deaths of the soldiers in Japanese prison camps.

After the many months we all have been working together, it now becomes necessary to end this most pleasant relationship.

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Too Many Jobs Uncle Jesse Didn't Know

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON INSIDE fact is that despite Jesse Jones' hull-broiled demands for a Congressional investigation of the over-all agreement with Peru, this, he said, had expired in September, 1942, and because of BHW stalling, Jesse asserted, it had not yet been renewed. However, Jesse apparently did not know that his own Assistant Secretary of Commerce and right hand man, WHV Clayton, had written a letter to the BHW asking that the Peruvian agreement not be renewed.

For instance, on July 5 he issued a blast against the Vice-President contending that Wallace's Board of Economic Warfare had held up the over-all agreement with Peru. This, he said, had expired in September, 1942, and because of BHW stalling, Jesse asserted, it had not yet been renewed.

Presumably Jesse did not know what his own chief assistants were doing when he made the charge against the Vice-President. This is one of the chief complaints against the Secretary of Commerce, who personally is considered one of the most likable men in Washington.

Everyday Counselor

The Lord Is Able

By Rev. Herbert Spangh

WHEN you are tired, blue, discouraged, feel that everything is going wrong, that everybody is against you, that the world has completely gone to the devil, try your little and read what it says about God's ability. Take your confidence if you have one, and believe in the word ABLE as it is used for our Almighty God, and especially what is written of Jesus Christ the Saviour: "ABLE TO MAKE ALL THINGS NEW."

"Able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." "Able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy." "Able to keep that which I have committed unto thee." "Who shall change vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the workings whereby he is ABLE even to subdue all things unto himself." "Believe ye that I am ABLE to do this? . . . Yes, Lord." "According to your faith be it unto you."

Quote, Unquote

WHAT disquiet the minds of the Chinese people is not whether war but when they are going to win it and what price—Genocide, Chiang Kai-shek. We cannot afford to relax our efforts for an instant. On the contrary, we must prepare ourselves to meet a more steadily the greatest strain to which we may ever be subjected. —W. B. Chas. St. Nelson. A better post-war world is what the people of all ages over the world are looking for. Let it be a most inhumanistic desire to be captured. —Sir William Beveridge. The Allies must recognize that no matter what nations or boundaries are restored, the future must not be divided into separate economic units. —Paul Hensel of Northwestern University. The Japs can be licked but it will take a lot of licking because of their knife-edge war efficiency, sharpened by six years of war in China. —W. B. Chas. St. Nelson. Let it be a most inhumanistic desire to be captured.