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Our Veto

History may well prove that H. G. Wells was right about Winston Churchill. He has been most incredibly right in the past, even when he was dashing off fantastic predictions, in the manner of Jules Verne, of things to come. He fore- saw, for instance, our vast war in the air, the coming of socialism, and the world revolution of which this war is surely a part. But when he spoke so harshly of Mr. Churchill last week we found Mr. Wells had to take a second look at that to sit on the sidelines at the age of 78 and condemn Britain's leader as an unwelcome symbol of Britain's fighting spirit, an incoherent sort of miscegenation, a conception of the forces at work in the world. That is all very well, for Mr. Wells has served Britain and humanity in the role of sideline critic just as Mr. Churchill has served it in the role of a fighter, engaged in the front-line business of saying the free world from aggression.

But so much of what the aging Mr. Wells had to say was obvious and unimportant. There are those of us who may oppose the Churchill policy in Greece, Italy and Belgium; there may be doubts as to the long-haul wisdom of the Churchill policy of abetting monarchs. But the stout man who led Britain from disaster to victory, and strengthened the will of mankind to resist the forces of evil, is surely not to be reviled in his time as a "would-be Fuehrer," something less than a Boy Scout in the role of a world-maker.

Let us admit that, of the two leaders of human thought and endeavor, Mr. Wells is definitely the intellectual with regard to the significance of the history of man's struggle. But let us admit, as well, that Mr. Churchill is a veritable symbol of the practical fighting man who himself has suffered in leading a people in their magnificent battle. If Mr. Churchill was right after Munich, and after Dunkirk, and is wrong now about Greece, Italy and Belgium, we cannot bring ourselves to join a movement to throw him into discard, for all history's lessons.

And doesn't the very fact that Mr. Wells can freely make so vicious an attack upon his Prime Minister stand as incontrovertible evidence that his policy of Churchill der Fuehrer is badly out of focus?

Col. Woodward

Colonel C. W. Woodward, whose death Saturday was a loss to this community as well as to the Army, was surely a casualty of this war. He was an important tank, and he performed it well. An commander of the huge Quartermaster Depot here he had had a hand in the building, supplying and training of our Army from the uneasy times of pre-Pearl Harbor days. Charged with preserving the tremendous stores of troops gathered, trained and moved to battlefronts from this area, he played as vital a part in our war as if he had been assigned some more dangerous and exciting post in the front lines. Charlotte came to know him well, for he took an active part in its civic and social life. And the community knew him as a good soldier, one who worked very hard at a difficult job, and gave it his best thought and effort. Accordingly, he will be mourned here, and honored as one who gave his life toward the winning of the war.

A Reassurance

The Office of Price Administration, as an agency with a hand on the affairs of every citizen, may well enjoy public confidence in order to perform its given task. And it is our notion that the recent sensational developments in the Charlotte district agency, though they involve the arrest of two men charged with fraud, should serve to bolster that confidence.

If that seems to be specious reasoning, consider this: Here is a Federal agency in more or less complete control of our everyday lives. One branch of it is assigned to

Statesmen At Work

(Serious, facetious and comic excerpts from the Congressional Record).

The House was debating a bill permitting transfer of loans from TVA to the Rural Electrification Authority, which would take TVA out of the business, and save taxpayers 1 1/2 per cent interest on loans. Mr. HOFFMAN: The gentleman is speaking about the R.E.A. co-ops now?

Mr. HOFFMAN (Miss.). The co-operative power associations; yes.

Mr. HOFFMAN: Are those who operate the co-operatives?

Mr. RANKIN: No; they are local people.

Mr. HOFFMAN: Are they in any way connected with the Federal Government?

Mr. RANKIN: No; except through these loans.

Mr. HOFFMAN: We loan them the money? Mr. RANKIN: Yes.

Mr. HOFFMAN: How is it that those officers take the money?

Mr. RANKIN: They have never taken an active part in a campaign where I live.

Mr. HOFFMAN: Yes; they do in Michigan. One of them ran ads last campaign in the Fourth Congressional District. They ran ads and signed them.

One of the officers of the co-op ran ads stating in substance I was keeping 50,000 women abused to the west. Where does he get any authority for that?

The Merry-Co-Round

By Drew Pearson

THOSE who have been sitting close to Roosevelt's and Churchill's elbows during recent hectic weeks say that much of the trouble regarding Greece, Italy, Lend-Lease and other things dates back to the calling off of the Churchill-Roosevelt-Stalin conference, provisionally scheduled for just after elections, about Nov. 22.

It is no secret that Churchill was irritated over Roosevelt's decision not to proceed. However, it has been a secret that not only was he irritated, he was boiling mad. And his unbridled influence, in relation with Greece and Italy, definitely caused the partial failure of the Chicago air conference.

Since then, Churchill has been working to have the postponed big three conference, revived at an early date, and it now looks as if he has succeeded. Obviously the President cannot leave the country until he is inaugurated Jan. 20. But after that the meeting probably will take place.

Judging by the temper of Churchill's critics in Parliament and hostile editorials in even the London Times regarding his Greek policy, the Prime Minister badly needs such a meeting to restore his shaky prestige.

The inside background of the Churchill-Roosevelt friction goes back to Churchill's flying visit to Moscow right after the Quebec conference last Summer. Personally Churchill got along famously with Stalin on that trip, though politically he didn't do much business. A lot of things, he felt, such as conflicting British-Russian influence in the Balkans, Turkey, Iran remain to be settled. So he counted on ironing them out with Roosevelt after elections.

The President, however, decided not to rush off to the Near East or Russia right after elections. For one thing he didn't want to get in the middle of a Stalin-Churchill dispute.

Shaky Prestige

This was when Churchill hit the ceiling. Leaders noticed that a lot of warmth disappeared from their personal telegrams immediately afterwards.

There was one memorable occasion when the Chicago air-conference reached a deadlock when Churchill seemed especially stubborn. The British and American delegations were not far apart, but neither side would back down. At one cabinet meeting in London, two British Cabinet members urged Churchill to cable Lord Euston, British delegate in Chicago, to compromise. They felt British-American harmony was much more important than a point of commercial air advantage, and that the two chief Allies of the war should not cause an important conference to go on the rocks because of their differences.

Churchill, however, refused to budge. The conference ended with a patched-up agreement camouflaged as a real agreement.

On top of this, conditions drifted from bad to worse in Greece. It is quite true that Roosevelt had agreed to give the British a free hand in Greece. In fact, Roosevelt had carried this so far that all American political and underground operations in Greece had to have British approval. Roosevelt even backed up Churchill in supporting King George of Greece when most of the Cabinet wanted to require a plebiscite before the King could return.

So, unquestionably, Roosevelt shared in planting the seeds from which the present trouble springs. His advisers say, however, that he did not expect or even dream that British policy would drift into such a tragic impasse as is occurring today in the streets of Athens.

It has had serious repercussions not only with British public opinion but in the United States where it has given a new life to isolationist critics of Roosevelt's foreign policy. Those are some of the reasons why the President is reported now quite ready to sit down with Churchill and Stalin—if the latter is receptive—to iron out some of the critical points of European politics.

Note—Another important point of discussion may be the worrying question-mark of what has become of the Russian drive across Poland.

SIDE GLANCES



"I'm going to knock you cold with what I say when my sister enters the room, for contrary to all gag writers I'm not going to ask for a quarter or say anything to embarrass either of you!"

The Glory That Was Greece

Everyday Counselor

By Herbert Spough, D.D.



We Must Push Our Policy

By Marquis Childs

SOMETHING very like a crisis exists beneath the surface in the relations between the Allies who are fighting this war. It is not in trying to conceal it with cheerful statements that all is well.

It will not interfere with the prosecution of the war. The vast machinery for that objective is now rolling, and it will roll on to the final victory whenever that may be. It is for the post-war future that this present crisis bodes ill. I believe that most Americans who think about these things are deeply troubled about the turn of events in occupied Europe. It is this not from the perspective of Washington, which is all too likely to be a distorted perspective. During the campaign and after, I have been talking to groups in every part of the country, and recently to men in uniform who come, often with real interest, to hear so-called orientation lectures on the political implications of the situation that exists in this unhappy world today.

It's been extremely interesting to find in every group one or more listeners who put a question that is phrased something like this: "Isn't it just the same kind of game of power politics that they are playing over there? Are things really so very much different from what they were in 1939 and 1940?"

The number of times that inquiry is put in that form is striking. It seems to me symptomatic of a profound doubt that, understandably, is beginning to assail

millions of Americans. We do remember the Atlantic Charter and the Four Freedoms. What it may be as a fact I think it was a war for our survival, to meet of it was more than that.

All this is directly related to the testimony of the new Foreign Policy of State, Edward Stettinius Jr., before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee the other day. In general terms—necessarily in general terms—he defined a liberal foreign policy for America. With the confirmation of his assistants, I believe he should be given an opportunity to carry out that policy.

Basically, of course, policy will originate with President Roosevelt. But it will be up to Stettinius to implement it, and particularly to make it known and understandable to the American people. He cannot rely on the broad generalities of his predecessor. In the light of the growing doubt in the minds of Americans everywhere, we must make clear the direction and the goal. To fail to do so is to risk a drift back toward a new kind of isolationism.

There are those, of course, who expect the impossible from the new Secretary of State. They talk, and write, as though an infinite number of choices lay before him and he could pick the one leading to perfection. On each side—the right and the left—the choices are politically circumscribed, as the outcome in the Senate over the appointment of Stettinius' new assistants has clearly shown.

We must begin to try to function and quickly, within the political framework that exists. Our allies must be made to understand how serious is the doubt growing in American minds. They must know that the new isolationism would not be passive indifference. It would be active and assertive.

Is America anything more than a glorified factory movie house, with all the trappings of a factory? That seems to be a proper definition to many Americans, but the thoughtless factory movie house is something more than a glorified factory movie house, but the thoughtless factory movie house is something more than a glorified factory movie house, but the thoughtless factory movie house is something more than a glorified factory movie house.

Without attempting to pass judgment upon Dr. Bell's claim that the majority of our soldiers are "young pagans," with which we are inclined to disagree, we are convinced that "knows little and cares less about Christianity..."

The founding fathers established here "a new order of things," under the motto of "liberty and justice for all." The symbol and framework of this government points to the fact that our nation is "God-centered." Look at the great seal of the United States on the back of our dollar bill, and you will find the words "E Pluribus Unum." We in America are stewards of this divine principle of greatness. The clock is ticking, and the entire world that "man does not live by bread alone, but by every word which proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

Anti-British Chorus

By Samuel Grafton

THE American public is being flooded with anti-British propaganda, manifest, declarations of opinion, and editorials. Some of this material is put out by liberals who properly object to current British policy in Belgium and Greece. But some of it, coming from publicists who have always been anti-British, from isolationists, who see in the present situation an opportunity to get in their own particular anti-British licks. Liberals denounce British policy in Belgium and Greece, and isolationists urge in remark that the British are sending the last American ship to Europe, and that the British are the cause of the war.

The two currents of criticism of Great Britain combine to make an unhappy coincidence, the question of postwar commercial air routes has come to a head at this time. The American pressure against Britain on this point, too, has been an unhappy set of coincidences has activated them all at the same moment. In actual fact, the major American groups now attacking Britain, each one probably with different motives, would drop dead.

This crazy coalition cannot last very long. The anti-British liberals to realize that it is a kind of coalition; or that it has at least in effect, and is a coalition. If you make the same sounds as the next man, you are not making any sense, no matter what you intend.

Our Policy

By Dorothy Thompson

There is a latter-day heresy about democracy that it is incompatible with leadership and strong government. This was never true and it is preposterously untrue when Democracy has to be the result of chaos and collapse.

The rejuvenation of Democracy in Europe is inseparable without vigorous leadership able to discern and implement the basic needs and trends of the people. To do that the leadership must have freedom to operate within certain principles.

Politics is not an exact science but it does have axioms of all its own. No government, for instance, can sustain itself with popular support unless it is associated with success, not failure. A popular government, to overcome a national defeat, must turn the defeat into some sort of popular victory.

This Italian democracy will be done in a few days. The exit of Italy as a great European nation, relinquishes the pre-Mussolini empire to the victors. The Italian government, that helps to dismantle German industries, as is proposed, can never rest on a popular basis. Democracy that would overthrow it.

The People's Platform

Just working for money should get on the brain. You should be working to help with the war. Of course, we can't just pick up a gun and go over to fight with the Germans, but we can get behind the boys by getting behind the work they are doing.

And we shouldn't get mad because we don't get a two-week Christmas vacation. We should really be the ones who need that. They will be fighting over Christmas. So buy all the bonds you can and don't slack off. Put money up in the safe, but put it in bonds if you don't, we may not wish this war.

MONROE, N. C.

Stop Hoarding Cigarettes

Editors: The News: We, Irving Bullard of your friendly Aberdeen, N. C.

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READERS are invited to express their opinions in these columns, on any subject whatever. Any signed article, providing only that it is within the limits prescribed by law and decency, will be published in "The People's Platform"—and the hotter the subject and the clearer the expression, the better.—Editors, The News.