

By Drew Pearson

MONDAY, APRIL 9, 1946



"Do you know when the war's going to end, Mrs. Jones? Mama says you know lots of things that never even get in the paper!"

People's Platform

Editor, The News: I have read with disgust the front page article of April 4 which states that the Charlotte Central Labor Union refused to permit prisoners of war to work on the grounds of the Memorial Hospital. This grounds need grading, grading and grass planted. It is generally known for instance, that Stettinius did not approve the three-vote deal at Yalta, and that he also favored open publicity on this and other things. In the end, when the clean light of publicity was focused on the three-vote deal, the American position was corrected. But Stettinius either wasn't strong enough or didn't have courage enough to put across his views with the President in the first place. If so, it might have saved a lot of headaches.

And Now The Limb!

That is why some of FDR's most genuine well-wishers are hoping that he will see the importance of bringing stronger men into the State Department—and do it soon. Unfortunately, Ed Stettinius and the new State Department aids have no experience in standing up to the President and probably are afraid to. They were hired on the basis that if they didn't behave they'd be fired and they owe everything to him. It is generally known for instance, that Stettinius did not approve the three-vote deal at Yalta, and that he also favored open publicity on this and other things. In the end, when the clean light of publicity was focused on the three-vote deal, the American position was corrected. But Stettinius either wasn't strong enough or didn't have courage enough to put across his views with the President in the first place. If so, it might have saved a lot of headaches.

We See With Just One Eye

Some folks whose pride and joy is their "realism" and "two feet on the ground" are feeling that England and Russia are concerned.

A Cloud Appears

NEW YORK learned last week that the great powers are sometimes only a quarrel can proceed and this quarrel has proved it. The three powers are not in agreement on the differences, and the differences have not led to a break, and that is unity. Under the circumstances, the existence of differences is the method for handling differences.

A Veteran Departs

WASHINGTON The layers of authority never got straightened out in spite of the best intentions of Mobilizer Byrnes.

Statesmen At Work

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

SEN. BARKLEY of Kentucky was discussing the constitutionality of proposed manpower legislation when Mr. McKELLAR said: Mr. President, I do not agree with all the statements which the Senator has put in my mouth. I have serious doubts whether he is carrying out what the Government itself can do.

Mr. BARKLEY, Mr. President, I had a suspicion that you would say that. I wished to say that I realize the Senator and I disagree about that.

Mr. McKELLAR, I believe that it is provided in the Constitution, which is now so little thought of.

Mr. BARKLEY, There is nothing in the Constitution about that.

Mr. McKELLAR, Yes; there is a provision in the Constitution about that. It says the Senator has not looked at the

Believe It or Not, but Secretary of Commerce Wallace has been carefully studying the work of Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover, and has paid private tribute to him.

One of Hoover's closest advisers, when he was Secretary of Commerce was Dr. Julius Klein, Director of Commerce, later Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

Twice, Wallace has called Klein in to ask his advice on the reorganization of the new Commerce Department.

Wallace also dropped a significant remark to business callers the other day about Hoover. He said that Hoover unquestionably was the best organizer and had the greatest vision of any Secretary of Commerce in recent history.

It is predicted by some of those around Wallace that he will go back to a lot of Hoover's ideas about running the Commerce Department. This probably will mean a clash with the Bureau of Hoover.

Hoover had his own experts stationed abroad to report on foreign trade. But Harry Hopkins let this be taken over by the State Department. Many businessmen have urged that it be transferred back.

Gillette Testifies

One of the most tiresome things about Congressional hearings are the monotonous statements made by witnesses. Pages long, they are usually less illuminating than ten hot air balloons.

Senator Wherry, of Nebraska, who was acting as chairman of the hearing, asked Gillette if he had a prepared statement.

"I have a prepared statement," replied Gillette, "but I believe it will be well to leave it with you without reading it unless you insist on it. I haven't read all of it myself."

"You think you'll agree with it?" asked Wherry.

"Yes, I do," replied Gillette flashing a broad smile, then proceeded to answer the Committee's questions.

FR-Secretary of State

Just after the new millionaire term of State Department executives was appointed last December, Mrs. Roosevelt telephoned her husband, then at Warm Springs, expressing her strong disapproval.

She felt that he did not represent her husband's philosophy on foreign affairs.

A Pair of Buckners

In the dark Winter of 1862 an unknown man named Grant moved boldly down the muddy valley of the Tennessee with some 12,000 Bluecoats in his command.

In February, as the vanguard of swelling forces that pop-eyed General Hastic was moving against, Albert Sidney Johnston's poorly-defended line, he fell upon Fort Henry and quickly captured it.

Almost before the dispatches were back in St. Louis, he came upon Fort Donelson, where some 15,000 Confederate soldiers, under the command of Lieutenant General Simon Bolivar Buckner.

Little Grant audaciously opened a siege, violating every principle of warfare by assaulting fortifications when he lacked superior forces.

General Buckner, who had a vacation trip in the old days—sent a note asking for an armistice and discussion of terms for surrender.

There came back three famous words: "No terms except an unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted."

Buckner replied: "Sir, the distribution of the forces under my command, incident to an unexpected change of commanders and the overwhelming force under your command, compel me, notwithstanding my reluctant suggestion of Confederate army yesterday, to accept the ungenerous and unchivalrous terms which you propose."

Donelson fell, the way to the heart of the South was open, Grant was famous and the Union had a long peace conference, he is found sitting close to President Roosevelt.

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That was a frequent complaint as the lines of power became confused amidst all the complexities of wartime Washington. It was simply not Byrnes' field. He was accustomed to working directly with men whom he could gauge in direct exchange.

Although he won a distinguished place in the Senate and served on the Supreme Court, there have been many frustrations in Byrnes' career. By virtue of his personal popularity, he should have been majority leader of the Senate.

At the Democratic convention in Chicago last summer he suffered a public rebuff. Taking a step unusual for one of his cautious nature, he announced his reëlection with suspicion on New Deal reforms.

His friends assumed that had, if not the blessing, at least the approval of Roosevelt in this move.

Then came the veto from the CIO. Sidney Hillman, whose Political Action Committee was to be an important factor in the fourth term campaign, made it plain that he would not have the South Carolina. For one thing, Byrnes had been the co-author of a resolution condemning the sit-down strikes of 1937.

As a Southerner in the Senate, he was closest to the group that looked with suspicion on New Deal reforms. Yet he did not cut himself off from Senate liberals who carried the burden for Roosevelt and reform.

His reëlection at Chicago Byrnes took with the calm, smiling exterior that he always presented to the world. A lesser man might have sulked; might have pulled out entirely. Byrnes, however, returned to his desk as War Mobilizer, with the long hours and incessant concentration that such a responsible job inevitably means.

In a curious way, Byrnes has been a transition figure between the old South and the new South that is emerging. He spans the gap between the late Colonel Ed Smith, who was for many years his colleague from South Carolina, and Georgia's Governor Ellis Arnall, a symbol of the South's new assertiveness.

In 30 years in politics, Jimmy Byrnes has learned a lot about human beings. That knowledge can be used in making the peace.

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