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Tower View

From the perspective we enjoy up here in the Ivory Tower, with yesterday's preceding sun still in view, tomorrow's heaves up and over the eastern horizon, this tableau of the Planning Board's resigning with Chairman Gilchrist's finger pointing in the direction of Mayor Baxter is seen in all its significance. The explanation is simply itself.

You see, Mayor Baxter for the past two years has constituted himself the town's promoter. A good thing it was that he did, too, for his Council and City Manager, predominantly of Iron Duke extraction, were content to pass on the business which was brought in and laid before them. Had it not been for the mayor's enthusiasm and his dealing ways with the Council, post war would have found us projectless.

As a result of this highly individualized sponsorship, and perhaps in part because his disposition is to overestimate, Mayor Baxter began to think of the War Memorial, the new library, the parks and recreation expansion as his babies. He became a sort of official proprietor over them, a steering committee of one. Again, it was a good thing. At least it was more of a good thing than a bad thing.

One fine day a delegation of business men representing the Chamber of Commerce and headed by Coleman Roberts, who had done a whole lot of work spreading the hard clay of Charlotte for city planning, appeared before the Council. "What about it, men?" asked Mr. Roberts, meaning city planning with all that he had shown its possibilities to be "okay," said Mayor Baxter for himself and Council.

But Mayor Baxter was translating city planning into such tangible undertakings as the War Memorial (Baxter style), a new library, parks and recreation expansion. He envisioned the new Planning Board as an official ratifying agent—to begin with, at any rate—for his own cherished plans. But the Planning Board had another conception—as it had to have to be worth its salt—of its opportunities and its purposes.

What happened, specifically, to give rise to the mention of "political implications" we don't know, for despite the many improvements which have been installed up here in the Tower, such as air-conditioning, the rotating blades, the oculum machinery won't be delivered until the full reconstruction period. But we think it's pretty clear, all the same, what happened. An already-formulated plan of limited extent and the purpose of planning from the ground up had a collision. It's still too early to tell if city planning was a casualty.

No Gas, Yet

Up to this moment humanity has been spared one of the grisly horrors freely predicted for this war—the use of poison gas between armies and against great civilian populations. In the Summer of 1943 General Porter, Chief of the U. S. Chemical Warfare Service, predicted that Germany would use gas when she was pushed to the wall. And General Waft said at the same time that he could not envision the Reich going down without resorting to gas.

Our best-informed experts were wrong, happily, and Germany went to her end with the use of gas confined to extermination chambers in her border camps. Earlier in the war President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill sternly warned the Germans that their use of gas would bring retaliation. German intelligence, however, that the Allies were prepared to fight gas warfare on a vast scale, passed the word. As German armies were driven back into ever smaller areas, they became steadily more vulnerable to gas attacks, and commanders' doubts were raised as to whether it was a matter of time before as a poor military risk rather than because of any humane impulse.

Outside the general staffs, very little is known of the potentialities of poison gases developed since the last war. Use of gas on a limited scale has been reported from the Russian and Chinese fronts, and some use of it was used by the Italians in Ethiopia, but in general its horrors are unknown. It remained unknown in Europe largely because of our superiority in the air, and as the war with Japan approaches climax, there is every reason to expect that the

Japs, too, will fear to resort to gas.

Our air superiority in the last months of the Pacific war will be more marked than in Europe; the Jap islands are a much more compact target, and the use of gas there would be highly effective. It is likely that the end of this war, too, will come without the release of gas against soldiers or civilians. And here is a lesson in preparedness: The enemy knows, or anxiously surmises, our ability to fight a gas warfare. Beholding as forewarned, he fears to resort to this final bestiality. It is good medicine.

Cause & Effect

Gastonia, the neighboring city on the other side of the spreading Catawba, had a little demonstration in cause and effect this week. Not long ago its citizens voted on a 12-cent tax to supplement the State standard in its schools. The proposition lost. On Tuesday, two rombs of pupils in Junior High had to be dismissed because there were no teachers to take charge of them.

Somehow, the acceptance of a converted vote on the part of the teachers is given the affair by the failure of any one of fifteen substitutes to take over the vacancies. We think that professional considerations, as well as the interests of the school children themselves, might have moved some of the substitutes to have served in a pinch. At any rate, nobody responded, and at last only two teachers had signed up for next year.

For that they are hardly to be censured. The teacher, like any working person, is worth what the trade pays. And in North Carolina cities and towns, some of them smaller than Gastonia, the teachers' pay is better than the State standard. It's not only the rule but entirely in order that basic teachers salaries, which may be adequate in rural areas, be stepped up in places where the cost of living is higher and the qualifications for teachers more exacting. And certainly if teachers go on technique for whatever a system pays, they stand precious little chance of getting salary increases.

\$56 Question

For several years a New York Teamsters' Union has been getting by with murder. It had a deadly and beautiful racket—familiar now, we suppose, because an alert newspaper's publicity has killed it temporarily. When trucks drove into New York markets with cargoes of fruit or produce, drivers had to fork over a \$56 "fee" before they could unload. It mattered not where the truck came from, or what they carried; if they were non-union, they paid, or they sat. It was obviously a racket, and a few months ago late business men and farmers from all over the Eastern seaboard raised a howl. A case reached the Supreme Court, and that body was forced to decree that the Federal Anti-Racketeering Act did not apply to unions at all. The Court did not absolve the union, nor did it approve of its practices. Its judgment was as much, they simply interpreted out of the book.

So the New York racket continued. If goods went to city markets, they were heavily taxed by union agents. When the New York Journal American went after the story, they altered its police action, had Mayor La Guardia barkling, and shortly the union's highwayman disappeared. For a time, at least, trucks went to market unimpeded.

But there needs to be more. This cannot be left to an occasionally aroused public opinion. If anti-racketeering laws do not apply to unions for the reason that these laws might endanger their very existence and remove their right to bargain, then it's time for a new anti-racketeering law. We suppose that the Teamsters have every right to insist upon a single standard for their members, for local, organized firms in direct competition with them. But we cannot conceive of any right which would permit them to hold up independent trucks entering the city, demanding their "fees." If they are going to behave like this, perhaps we should take a chance with their rights and privileges if they had by and by and some anti-racketeering legislation with teeth to bite unions, too.

The Vice-Presidency is now as vacant as if someone were there.

Statesmen At Work

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

REP. GEARHART (Calif.) was speaking on a resolution to begin the war against Germany. Mr. BALDWIN (N. Y.) I am very much interested in what the gentleman has said. I do not understand why every one of the gentlemen here because he has just said that they are not retreating trade treaties that the other countries have granted to anything. Therefore how can they be falling on their back when the gentleman says they have not granted anything anyway?

Mr. GEARHART: The gentleman has not been listening very carefully. He has not been reading the newspapers. I do not know which. We have made 28 trade agreements with 19 countries. I have read the newspapers. I have made agreements granting concessions to us which they have immediately taken steps to do. The United States has been dry upon the paper they have signed. The nations from which we have received no concessions are the nations to which we have generalized concessions in the Ameri-

Few people outside the White House know it, but President Truman detailed Secretary Blevins early in the morning of requesting the resignation of Francis Biddle as Attorney General. Apparently not wanting to see Biddle go to face Truman, the President Early to handle the matter. Early called the Attorney General on the phone, and he broke the news to Biddle. However, did not appreciate this second-hand method of doing business. He promptly called the White House, said he wanted to see the President.

Going to the White House, Biddle told Truman that his resignation had been made. He had immediately after President Roosevelt died, and that he quite appreciated the fact that a new President would want to have his own personal friends in his Cabinet.

"But," he added, "the relation between the President and his Cabinet is such that if you want to accept my resignation, it seems to me you should tell me so yourself, not detail it to a secretary."

Embarrassed, President Truman agreed.

San Francisco Storm

The French-Syrian problem has been like a shower of cold water on diplomats engaged in hammering out the United Nations peace machinery—especially when it comes to the veto power.

Suddenly they have come smack up, face-to-face with the fact that under the Yalta veto formula, their new peace machinery (1) could not prevent the French from shooting Arabs; (2) could not investigate the quarrel between the French and the Arabs; and (3) could not effectively tell the French to stop shooting Arabs—unless the French wanted to be prevented, wanted to be investigated, or wanted to be scolded.

Brought a number of the Big Five, the French could exercise their right of veto and stop any real outside interference.

The absurd paradox in the whole situation is that the U. S. State Department has been sending notes and oral protests to the French urging them to stop. But once the San Francisco peace machinery is set up, the State Department will have little right or power to lodge their protests.

All this has been the subject of the stiffest secret debates in San Francisco. They were held behind closed doors, where the protests of little nations nearly blew the pot out.

What especially burned up the delegates was the contention that any of the Big Five could veto discussions and verbal proposals for settling a dispute.

It was not a veto on a shooting match, because the Big Five have to carry the burden on shooting; it was a veto on a shooting match, because the Big Five have to carry the burden on shooting.

One of the small nations looked to France to carry the ball for them. But the French delegation ducked. The Syrian-Lebanon dispute was too hot and they wanted

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON
The right to veto any interference in it. Result was that Australia's Evatt, who has turned out to be the most effective small nations operator at San Francisco, picked up the ball, gave the Big Five a real run for their money. Evatt, a devoted disciple of President Roosevelt, told friends he was convinced that the late President would have agreed with him if alive. Evatt called a number of smaller nations, started things off quickly, and one of the committee meetings at which he had asked that British Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Alexander Cadogan be present to explain the Yalta voting formula. Lord Cadogan came.

The Little Nations

First shot out of the box, New Zealand's able Prime Minister Fraser stood up, poured a lot of last questions on Cadogan.

"Now," concluded Fraser, "we want specific answers to our specific questions."

Cadogan hemmed and hawed, finally gave some answers.

"Would you publish those answers so that we can all examine them closely?" Fraser asked.

Cadogan finally agreed.

Then up sprang Evatt again and in blistering language tore into the Big Powers' right to veto even discussion of an incident. Lord Cadogan quivered. Evatt was supported by The Netherlands, opposed by the Czechoslovaks.

Next day Evatt did some quiet lobbying, came to the evening session with new support. For the first time one of the Latin Americans sided with the Australian-New Zealand-Netherlands group. Stately Chilean Foreign Minister Joaquin Fernandez arose and said:

"Doctor Evatt's attitude as to the veto is magnificent. All I can do is say that Chile agrees 100 per cent. Anything I could add would only confuse the issue."

But the interpreter watered down the Chilean's words. Provoked, Fernandez refused the translation, wrote out his speech for the record in English.

Soviet Ambassador Gromyko then rose to say the smaller nations would have to vote the Big Five.

"If the Big Five can't work together," argued Gromyko, "there will be no peace anywhere."

Despite this the opposition slowly gathered steam. Canada, Belgium, Peru, Mexico, Cuba, Columbia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Greece and Norway swung behind the representatives of Australia and New Zealand. Only South Africa supported the Big Five along with the Czechs, Yugoslavs and the two Russian republics.

Lord Cadogan followed Gromyko's words with an appeal for faith and hope. He was seconded by Senator "Long Tom" Connally of Texas.

In the end, Australia's Evatt proposed that the smaller nations have the right to submit their objections and questions to a conference subcommittee composed of four big powers and five small powers. This was all agreed to when suddenly the Texas Senator proposed that the subcommittee include France, making a total membership of nine. The motion was defeated.

Chance of the Big Five being outvoted. Delegates from the small nations sighed, reluctantly yielded.

"I said the smaller nations made a mistake afterwards."

"The British talked about faith, the Russians about hope, but Connally talks only about charity—for his own views."

The Front Step Cleaner-Upper



What Beaten Germany Thinks

HEADQUARTERS 518TH INFANTRY
Office of the Regimental Commander
15 May, 1945
Unna, Germany.

Editors, The News:
Herewith is a transcription of an interview, which speaks for itself. I pass it along to you without reservation or further comment, except to assure you of its authenticity.

— ARTHUR S. KICK, Major, Infantry.

The following interrogation of a German civilian was made by an agent attached to this headquarters and is reproduced in an effort to disclose the mode of thought of the average German mind. The subject was chosen at random in this area and is considered to be of average intelligence and normal character. Her thoughts on politics, the party, and Germany are not an individual's feelings but rather represent the attitude of the German people generally.

SUBJECT: Hilda Martin, Age 24.

From 1940 to 1944, subject was employed by the Luftwaffe in Eastern Germany. As a result of Allied bombings, she became ill and was discharged from the service. Subject was ultimately evacuated to her current residence in Berlin.

Q. You mentioned having a brother in the SS. Was he a volunteer?

A. Certainly. My brother is a German.

Q. Is he as fanatical as our SS?

A. He often said he would be fighting rather than surrender. He was very disappointed when he was dropped from the group of paratroopers picked last February to land on Gelsen. However, headquarters. For some reason it was planned but never carried out.

Q. Did you know where Gen. Eisenhower's headquarters were at that time?

A. No, but the paratroopers were assembled near WELSEL. Pictures of concentration camps were often taken to show them. She refused to look but admitted they were probably true but claimed to have no previous knowledge of them.

Q. Did you know that there will be a little peace on earth with the defeat of the German Army?

A. No, this is the last time for Germany. It has been fought at this time that everyone must live through two wars. My parents and grandparents have, and I expect all my family was very disappointed when it was released from the army. In fact, she cried. They always said at home, "You can't live with a



"Yes, I've baked six pies, apple, peach, apricot, lemon, chocolate and banana—he'll be pleased when he comes home tomorrow and finds I haven't forgotten his favorite kinds!"

People's Platform

Editors, The News:
The story in The News on May 28th by Correspondent Thornburn Wiant was probably the most significant report of America's true place in the world yet to come out of Europe. It was a very simple tale and to the casual reader may have appeared to be nothing more than a routine "incident of an American camp." It told that sick, undernourished and homeless babies were left on the doorstep of the 14th Medical Group at Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, headquarters of the American Third Army.

Behind this story is the picture of the true hope of the world. We can see a group of tired, bewildered and discouraged women holding a meeting somewhere in the wilderness of European destruction and death. They hold a council such as the women of Damascus held in the eighth century before the Christian era. A council such as the women of Athens, Thebes and Sparta held a few hundred years later. There is no just as important. To these women it is more important than the councils of the 14th Medical Group. There they only discussed moving a border pole back or forward a few yards, but at this council the babies; never to see them again; never even to hear of them again. They know that if their babies live another few years, only one thing that one last hope of depositing their little blood on the soil of American soil. With the wisdom that comes with such desperation they know that if their babies live another few years, only one thing that one last chance for survival.

— H. L. GOLDEN, Charlotte.

A Default

By Dorothy Thompson

SALZBURG
A MORE prolonged stay to Austria's own policy received a cold douche at the outset.

No proclamations declaring Austrian freedom have been posted to this day, no newspapers have been published, no radio is permitted, no party heretofore does not know its status. No one in our part of Austria has read the San Francisco peace treaty except by mouth, has heard of the death of Hitler, Himmler, or Goebbels, which is being done by word of mouth, or Himmler's million dollar cache, or the rescue of Schuchmann, or the fate of the prisoners of Bismarck and Dachau.

The military government proceeded, as under orders supplied in Germany to disarm Germans, to track down war criminals, which is being done with admirable skill and the thoroughness of a purge. The officers, first at the top and then gradually downward, are being cleared of Nazi officials, a move which also is being carried through.

Salzburg is the seat of municipal, district and provincial government. It is the only city in Austria which has not been replaced by old Christian Socialists, which before Hitler, was the dominant party heretofore. They head the provincial government temporarily, since it is hoped they will be able to obtain the release from the Russians of a man in charge at the time of the Anschluss who was highly popular, but who was in a Berlin cell.

But had a dozen citizens whom I interrogated in Salzburg had no idea even who the new mayor is. The people are living in a political vacuum. Through the radio they can listen to it from Graz and Vienna, occupied by the Russians, but they cannot hear the news, which is being disseminated by the military government.

The problems of the military government are prodigious, encompassing feeding the people and restoring order to the shattered towns. In Salzburg Province, thirty thousand of the indigenous inhabitants, including the tens of thousands of Germans.

Positive political activity was suspended on May 25th, and for three or four days ago of a gentleman from the Psychological Warfare Office, through the radio, a newspaper and set up a radio station. But he is not an officer and is not in uniform. It is a government and I have a strong impression he is not an envoy of the United States.

The State Department officials are hanging fire until the Russians admit us to Vienna, even though there are no German troops in Vienna. The State Department seems to be in a waiting position.

But the military orders were to treat the Austrians as a clear conquered Germany with all German directives applying there. The Austrians who had been silent underground during the years after the Anschluss came out to welcome the American liberators. There could have been staged in those first days a general festival of joy which would have been a Nazi and given the change an anti-Nazi stamp.

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A. Yes, we were too crowded in Germany and had no colonies like England, France and Holland. We will need to find a place to live. The second is missing on the Western Front.

Q. Did you believe that Germany needed Lebensraum?

A. Yes, we were too crowded in Germany and had no colonies like England, France and Holland. We will need to find a place to live. The second is missing on the Western Front.

Q. Do you believe there will ever be peace on earth with the German harboring ideas such as you've expressed?

A. No, you'll have to destroy the entire German race which you would never do.