EDITORIAL PAGE
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The Great Test

Harry Truman, having passed his first test with the people of the United States, is now about to enter upon a dramatic and perhaps historic scene. For the first time, in Potsdam, the Missouri country boy who became President almost against his will is to sit face to face with the shrewd men with whom he must make the peace. We have no fear that Harry Truman will be bested by Joe Stalin and Winston Churchill. On the contrary, we have faith that he will acquit himself well.

We suspect Americans will be watching for signs of Truman's ability to fence with these two strong personalities with even greater interest than they watch for the settlement of the problems of Germany, or the Balkans. For already the President is emerging as the sort of a homebody American, a man of the people, in a way few U. S. Presidents have managed. Except for the Republican National Committee, we suspect there are no plotters against him, except for sly references to the Hannegan-Pauley influence, we have heard no whispers. If things stand is '48 as they stand today, Mr. Truman could look the Democratic Party straight in the eye, and issue orders.

But even if he passes the test in Potsdam, and proves no more the foil for Stalin and Churchill than he has for pressure groups at home, he still has to jump a hurdle of tradition if he is to serve another term. No Democratic Vice President who has once been elected President and then served out the death of a President has ever been elected. John Tyler, Millard Fillmore, Andrew Johnson, Chester Arthur, Theodore Roosevelt and Calvin Coolidge were Vice Presidents who made the Presidency, but not a Democrat was re-elected. And like Truman, Democrats Tyler, Fillmore and Johnson all served in Congress before going to the White House—but the Republican counterparts did not.

The Hungry Men

Well, if the country wants to make so much over Pfc. Chester 'The Stomach' Salvatori, that's all right with us. But we can recall a day when an insatiable appetite was no cause for wonder, the times when it was a pleasurable sight to see a man eat up hearty. In the old days there were no scientists to rally around a man who was the table king of his district.

We don't know as we can set down any particular meal to match Brother Salvatori's seven orders of chicken, ten orders of French fries, a mess of salads, two pieces of watermelon and five pieces of pie. But we think the feat is not without precedent.

There is right in the editorial rooms of *The News* an old-line viceroy of the vittles, a chow champion of the royal purple who can—or has—put Pfc. Salvatori to shame. He's Chief C. E. Wister, presiding elder of the proof desk. Chief is now past 65, weighs 192 pounds. At 20, he weighed 190, and was an eater, citizens, an eater.

In the old times, flourishing up to 1910, there was The Little Gem Restaurant in the first block of South Tryon, where the newspaper clan liked to feed. Out front hung great bunches of duck and quail, and carcasses of bear and deer. In that emporium the Chief scored some proud victories. Once, when The Gem gave the newspaper boys a treat, the chef prepared a bird pie of 32 quail, and set it aside for the game Chief and a compatriot, arriving early, presumed this little token to be for them — and had eaten it all when them brethren arrived.

The Chief scoffs at scientists who are puzzling about Salvatori. "There's nothing wrong with that boy. He's just hungry." The Chief has reason to talk so. Whereas Salvatori is content with seven little orders of chicken, the youthful Wister never dreamed of consuming less than two whole chickens. It was his custom to eat an entire Pullman loaf of bread—the long old-fashioned kind at every meal; he normally drank a dozen cups of coffee daily. At The Gem he once ate 25 fried ham sandwiches and drank 25 cups of coffee for a wager. He would open breakfast with twelve hot fried cantaloupes (Shucks! I can eat six or seven now!), and then went on with the other courses; he often ate a whole basket of grapes before a regular breakfast; he once made a snack of a whole six-pound turkey with all the trimmings.

The Chief, somehow, is a little shame-faced about his accomplishments, and shows none of the pride of Mencken's human beerstube. But it's all fact, he says; he was just a hungry boy. And in those times before the hamburger, of course, The Gem was retailing quail on toast at a dime, and a man could indulge himself. He's slowed the pace deliberately now, but not because it's telling on him. He's never known sluggishness or headaches. He's simply decided to eat less. Just lately, for example, he inhaled three-quarters of a big lemon pie after dinner, and likes to munch at least half a dozen peaches to relax after supper. He doesn't understand all this fuss over Salvatori. In fact, he feels that he and the kid may have something in common.

A Slight Error

It appears that the public, as well as assorted members of Congress, was wrong about Private Joe McGee. In the end, it developed that he was not worthy of the quick protest and aroused sentiment which broke when the Army sentenced him to two years in jail on a charge of slapping German prisoners.

When that case became public, it was easy to sympathize with Joe. And with its usual penchant for maudlin sentiment, the public over-simplified Joe's plight, and went to bat for him. The Army relented, under pressure, and Joe was set free. But now it is certain that the Army knew what it was about, all along. And the fact is clear that Joe was not sentenced for refusing to mollycoddle Nazi prisoners of war but because he had broken orders and defied discipline.

And there is more. The Army knew, long ago, that Joe was not a good risk. It seems that he is something of a misfit, with a disconcerting record of thirteen court martial convictions behind him. And Army tests have shown his mental age to be eleven years, suggesting that he doesn't belong in uniform at all.

Here, if the great amorphous body of public opinion could be persuaded to consider the case again, is the proper moment for a national blush. For now Joe is serving time for being AWOL, for drunkenness, and for resisting arrest. And he has been AWOL before, has been convicted of drunkenness before, of fighting, of disrespect to superiors, of using Army equipment illegally. In addition, he has been wearing decorations to which he is not entitled.

This is another case of poor newspaper reporting, of sensational publicity, of public gullibility. The Army, you see, was dead right, and press and public came a cropper by raising voice in an affair of which they knew nothing.

Not Copyrighted

We wouldn't argue the point, but offhand we can generate some degree of sympathy for the wearers of that good old Philadelphia name of Biddle. They kicked, or at least one of their number did, when Russian-born Abraham Bitle and his wife, Celie sought court authority to change their surname to Biddle.

Not everybody named Biddle in Philadelphia is rich or of the upper crust, as lawyers for the Bitles showed when they offered the city directory in evidence. Listed were 175 of the tribe, and their occupations ranged all the way from bankers and brokers down to lawyers, chauffeurs, laborers and junk dealers. Even so, they were legitimate Biddles — well anyhow, they were natural Biddles, and since every third generation is a ditch-digger, the clan didn't seem to be doing so badly by itself. Beside, a name is a heritage, of sorts, even if you fail to wear it well.

Despite the protest of the Biddle representative, the Court decreed that the Bitles should become Biddles. And pray take a look at the Court's name. Judge Eugene V. Alessandroni. There, as any Mecklenburgher can plainly see, is a man who missed his chance. While the name-changing was going on, Alessandroni should have become an Alexander.

Statesmen At Work

(Serious facetious and comic excerpts from the Congressional Record)

REP ALLEN (Dem.) Mr. Speaker, we have had all sorts of people from Great Britain that she would see in the Japanese war and begin to. I have noticed in them in the press to find where a single British foot soldier has been landed on their territory. She does have some battleships there. This morning's American press refers to the information that even the influential London Times is now demanding that England get in there and get her part of the Pacific. I think the time is here that President Truman ought to demand that Great Britain fulfill Churchill's promise to the Pacific.

I have tried to find out why General Richardson intended to do to help us finish the job against Japan. Our War Department was not in a position to give me any definite information on the subject. I inquired of the Department that there was no reason why England should not now be. We would know what she intended doing. It would certainly be disturbing to the American people, and it would probably hasten the decision of the Japanese to quit the fight, if such is possible, if England would let the world know now that she intended to go into the Pacific and help with strong naval forces but also with very strong ground—[illegible]

MR ENGEL (March) Mr. Speaker, I was very much interested in the statement just made by my good friend the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. Allen). I felt much as he did when Gen. George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff of the United States Army, appeared before the War Department Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, of which I am a member. I asked Gen. Marshall whether or not Great Britain was doing her part in the war, whether Great Britain was going to take any part in the war in the Southwest Pacific now that the European war has ended. I asked him specifically just what part England was going to take in defeating the Japs out of the Islands which they still occupy in that area. Would we be expected to take Singapore? While Gen. Marshall has not said could not and, of course, he gave the usual stock answer, above the prepared text, [illegible] that Great Britain was doing everything within her power to win the war.

I am not defending Great Britain now, however, feeling the iron's not has become a favorite indoor sport. But when she lion is fighting on our side and doing a good job, I believe it is time to stop blasting that

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON

THERE is more than meets the eye behind the appointment of Carl Moran, ex-Congressman from Maine, as new Assistant Secretary of Labor. It probably means a gradual movement away from left-wing labor groups and no more "clearing it with Sidney."

Moran is one of the early New Dealers, a forthright, hard-hitting liberal; one of the few Democrats ever elected to Congress from the rock-ribbed Republican state of Maine. He joined with GOP Senator Owen Brewster, when the latter was governor, to fight the Insull Power interests, and he, himself, came within a close margin of being elected a Democratic governor of Maine.

After two terms in Congress, Moran was appointed to the Maritime Commission, got fed up with the dictatorial methods of Admiral Land, and went back to Maine to run his father's insurance company.

Moran is pro-labor, will fight for labor when it is right, but will also fight against labor when it is wrong. No one could have had a more pro-Roosevelt record when in Congress; but, on the other hand, Moran is one of the closest friends of labor-enemy Ed Burke, counsel for the coal operators.

The two got to know each other when Burke was in the House and later in the Senate from Nebraska. And John L. Lewis would have had fits the other night if he had looked in on a private party when the new Secretary of Labor, Lew Schwellenbach, and his new Assistant Secretary, Carl Moran, were entertaining Ed Burke, representative of the Bituminous Coal Operators and bitter enemy of the United Mine Workers.

What is bound to rile the CIO regarding the Moran appointment is that the First Assistant Secretary of Labor is an AFL man, Don Tracy, and the job of Second Assistant Secretary was to have been given to a CIO man, John Gibson of Detroit. Gibson was named just before Roosevelt died, but his name never went to the Senate. Now Moran gets his place.

Moran will be a fair and impartial supporter of labor. But his appointment undoubtedly means an increasing rift in the already widening gap between Hannegan and Hillman.

Note—Later Moran will be made Undersecretary of Labor, superior to Tracy, the AFL Assistant Secretary. At that time, a CIO Assistant Secretary will probably be appointed.

Eisenhower's Mother

Sam Goldwyn is going about the filming of the life of Gen. Eisenhower almost as if it were a religious rite. It is going to be a saga of a small town boy, the boy from Abilene who makes good. In a way, too, it is going to be the story of the backbone of America—how the boys from Abilene, Kansas, and Independence, Missouri, and the immigrant boys from Poland have made this nation what it is.

One of the most important characters in the picture will be Eisenhower's mother—a lady whose ancestors came here from Germany via Switzerland, just as Sam Goldwyn's mother came from Poland. Mrs. Eisenhower hated war, raised her boys to love peace, and didn't like to see Dwight go off to West Point.

She bore seven boys and five are still living. Milton is president of Kansas State College; Arthur vice-president of the Commerce Trust Co. in Kansas City; and Earl is a prominent attorney.

And during the homecoming of her most famous son, someone back home remarked to Mrs. Eisenhower, "You must be awfully proud of your son." To which she replied: "Which one?"

Wrangling Over Berlin

Insiders who have watched the current American-Russian wrangling over areas in Berlin say there is one important lesson to be gained—in the future we must decide these questions while our allies' tears are hot.

That was the advice which Wendell Willkie once gave the late President. Referring to the way Russia and Britain were calling on us for aid in the early part of the war, Willkie advised Roosevelt:

"As lawyers, you and I know that it pays to collect your fee while your client's tears are hot. Once their case is won, they forget. So now is the time to get commitments from our allies regarding what we want after the war."

Inside fact is that it was because of bickering between U. S. agencies that arrangements for governing Berlin were not worked out exactly one year ago. The Russians, during the Summer of 1944, were ready to arrange the details regarding post-war Germany. The matter had come before the European Advisory Committee on which Ambassador Winant sits as U. S. representative, and at that time—while the tears were hot—we could have written pretty much our own terms.

However, the War Department wanted sole authority to handle post-war Germany. They didn't want Ambassador Winant in the picture, nor other U. S. civilian agencies. Things drifted all during the Summer, until finally Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau brought the situation to a climax by pointing out to the President that almost nothing had been done.

The Army then called for a showdown and stuck to its demand that it have sole authority to handle Germany after the armistice. Roosevelt concurred. But even then nothing was done to iron things out with the Russians—and things dragged on until Yalta, nearly six months later.

While there's no use crying over spilt milk, there is one lesson to be gained from this, namely—settle plans for post-war Japan now, while Truman is in Berlin instead of waiting until the Pacific war is over.

"Oh, so you're Marines! Well, the invasion is early, boys—the apples won't be ripe for another two weeks!"

Might Be A Good Trade To Learn

The Air Age Comes

By Marquis Childs

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT TRUMAN has shown the patience of Job in waiting so long to announce the first international air routes.

The three routes, to be operated by three competing companies, as outlined by the Civil Aeronautics Board, comply with national policy stated by

an act of Congress. These competitive routes comply, too, with the great body of public opinion in this country, which is dead set against monopoly.

The reason the President waited so long was to give a small minority in the Senate—really a minority of two—every opportunity to voice the point of view in favor of a so-called chosen community company. The minority resorted to very petty tactics indeed to hold up the CAB finding as long as possible.

The delay of many months did not help to advance our post-war position. The Army Air Forces has done a superb job of building bases and airfields around the world during the course of this global conflict. Part of this we will write off as part of the cost of the war. But part of it will fit into the post-war air picture if we do not deliberately dribble it away in the course of our own family quarrel.

Senator Brewster of Maine and Senator McCarran of Nevada have openly and ardently embraced the cause of Pan-American Airways, which seeks a single company—the chosen instrument which would have Government backing. All the domestic airlines, with one or two exceptions, want regulated competition because they want to get into the international trade.

The stakes are big. Air travel is bound to expand at the war's end at an enormous pace. So will revenues from globe-spanning planes. That's why the lobbies have been working so intensively here at the centers of authority.

But there is a national interest here which is bigger than any private interest. In the interests of those who should know, the national interest can best be served by competing companies. That way more routes will be flown and more passengers. The chances are better for lower rates. More airfields in the air will in turn mean more orders for the aircraft industry. It will mean that research and experimentation will be kept at a high level.

Of course it is not the simple case of mere between competition and monopoly that is being presented. Far-flung business men put pressure on their Congressmen. Britain has been very plain about this. She is seeking rights on strategic British footholds scattered around the globe. That is true even though Australia, New Zealand and labor have gone to great lengths to protest.

The British position is not hard to understand. They point out that we have gained tremendous advantages in this war. While with their limited plant capacity they concentrated entirely on building bombers we with our huge plants built both bombers and transport planes in unbelievable numbers.

The forces pushing us into the new air age are so strong that nothing can really stop the drive. They cannot be channeled into monopoly. Neither can they be stopped by ancient prerogatives of sovereignty.

Every department of the government, War, Navy, Justice, State—has testified for competition. There will be enough business for all, and it's time to get on with it.

Quote, Unquote

THE question now is not how long can China stand the strain. It is how much can Japan take and how soon will she collapse.

—Dr. Wei Tao-Ming, Chinese Ambassador to the U. S.

The people of Yugoslavia are doing their level best to get back on their feet, but the road to economic recovery will be long and hard, and they will need help.

—Ivan Subasitch, Yugoslav Minister of Finance.

The excess profit tax should be repealed after V-J Day.

—Fred M. Vinson, new Secretary of the Treasury.

Since President Roosevelt's death, there has been no shift in American policy of friendliness toward the Soviet Union.—Joseph C. Grew, acting Secretary of State.

We should never forget the massslaughter of Nanking and other cities, and the [illegible] bombing of Chungking. . . . we should follow bombs, blows and hasten the enemy's doom.

—Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek.

America . . . upheld and fortified our self-respect and kept alive our aspirations for liberty and independence.

Mme Vincent Lim, wife of a Filipino brigadier general reported to be a prisoner of the Japanese.

That's not my racket.

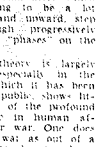
—Frank Sinatra to Pope Pius

The Crisis

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK

IT comes as a shock to find that we can no longer take the sleeper from New York to Washington, but must sit up in coach or chair car, and this after victory in Europe. There is also going to be a coal shortage this Winter. The new Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Anderson, has asked that no more grain be used for making beverage alcohol after Aug. 1.



All this runs counter to the neat little pattern we have been carrying around in our minds, to the effect that home front circumstances were going to become quite a little easier after the end of the war in Europe, and that there would be a fairly comfortable interim period until the end of the war in Asia, after which things were going to be a little better, onward and inward, step by step, through progressively more comfortable "phases" on the home front.

The "phase" theory is largely even-ish, and, especially in the crude form in which it has been accepted by the public, shows little understanding of the profound disturbance made in human affairs by a major war. One does not step out of war as out of a swimming pool, step by step leaving the water behind. But our desire to get on to the next and easier "phase" is so strong in us, that we are watching the end of the war to bring it about.

We are leaving France, and we are leaving it hungry, and demoralized of transportation (though we enter into solemn agreements on the feeding of Berlin).

We are leaving Italy, and we are leaving it in the grip of a walloping inflation, with $30-a-month workers trying to keep afloat in a $2-a-cake-of-soap economy, and observers note that special, sad kind of prostitution on the streets of Bari, which flares up only during inflations.

We are pulling our troops out of Europe, as Miss Anne O'Hare McCormick has noted in the New York Times, before anything has been settled or decided or stabilized, and we have even stolen a little bit of meat out of the European relief program, hardly enough for a few ounces apiece here at home, but enough to show how determined we are to prove that our affairs must become easier once the shooting stops; we are going to force history into our neat little pattern, in defiance of all fact.

That the "phase" pattern grips us, like a kind of fantasy, is shown by our enormous effort to get the automobile industry started again, somehow, between the days of Western and Eastern victory. The automobile industry has been given the signal to go ahead, but it turns out now that it is short of no less than 45 critical items, such as sheet steel, tin and cadmium, and it has turned to Washington for help in getting them.

Those shortages cannot be a matter of great surprise to competent people in the field; they must have been known; but they were not allowed to interfere with the dream. It will be interesting to watch the automobile industry as a barometer of reconversion; it is in the best position of any industry to obtain supplies. It has the most secure grip on the producers of basic materials, and if it can't obtain them, we shall know that we tried to jump the gun.

But we are facing toward normalcy, in full cry, running and stumbling, refusing even to look at any step—not that might delay us, and in this, our unfaithful conception of war's end, lies a very real danger to ourselves and to the world. For the great aftermaths of total war, from hunger to redeployment to reconstruction, have become in our minds mere petty obstacles to be brushed aside like flies, or stepped around, and as a result we are continually being brought up short in mock surprise before barriers that are plainly marked on every map except the unreal one we have decided to follow.

Dear Chick Sale:

Pass the Peanuts,
Winston-Salem Sentinel

Our favorite classified ad section in the Lenoir News-Topic reminds us that the complexities of science, on the march have complicated even the most fundamental human conveniences.

The ad reads:

"FOR SALE—One out-house, complete with slab and riser as specified by State Sanitary Dept. regulations. In good condition and reasonable. Apply at News-Topic."

We recognize the slab, but what in thunder is "riser?" Blamed if it don't sound downright dangerous.—Reprinted by request from The News of Jan. 24, 1941.

Muddle In Macedonia

THE Macedonian situation may prove serious. After all the struggle for control of Macedonia set off the two Balkan wars of 1912 and 1913.

The Macedonian muddle could very easily create strained relations between Great Britain and the United States. It could lead to war between Yugoslavia and Greece with presumably Macedonian Serbs, leaving thousands of them to live across the border in Greece. It could lead to war that Greece has forced across the border in the name of creating an independent Turkish province of Russia while Greece gets Smyrna and the British Dominion of Cyprus. Under the British-engineered Treaty of Lausanne, Greece has a free hand in Greece while the latter has a free hand in Yugoslavia. The Russians kept more hands off Greece while the British interfered in Greece to restore order. But Tito claims that Greek Macedonia isn't properly a part of Greece.

Greece is strategically important to the British Life-Line of the Empire through the Mediterranean and the Suez Canal. Greece's position would become even more strategic if she gets as she probably will the Dodecanese Islands, formerly held by Italy between Crete and Asia Minor. Great Britain will be in no mood to allow Greece to be pushed around by Russia's puppet Greece or by the Soviet Union.

Half a million refugee Greeks from Asia Minor were settled in Greek Macedonia in the exchange of populations between Greece and Turkey after the Greek-Turkish war of 1922. Then there was an exchange of populations between Greece and Bulgaria across their border in Macedonia. In 1925 the southern triangle of the Vardar Valley which leads through Yugoslavia to the Danube. A great deal of bloodshed has been caused to suppress Macedonian nationalism because of atrocities committed the