

Smear Tactics Chief Weapon In Many Political Campaigns

BY HAROLD L. ICKES A MAN no longer needs either the equipment or the character to stand some chance of success in politics. All that is required is a sufficient supply of the words "communist" and "fellow traveler" to smear his opponents. The epidemic of these terms today is nothing new...

THEY HEAR DOWN ON THE EMOTIONS The users of such smear tactics know that they are not appealing to logic or reason but to the basest of emotions—fear. They use them because they know that the things that they really stand for cannot withstand the cold light of facts. So they prefer to beloud the issue with a smog of words such as "communist" and "fellow traveler."

New Ideas and new movements ought to be met on the plane of ideas. The smear should be discarded and the man should be judged on his merits. They ought to adhere to some minimum standards of good reporting, not to be qualified to do so by public opinion.

I would be greatly cheered if the same minimum standards of irreproachable good reporting were used by political gossip-mongers in the dissemination of news by the organizations whose political goals and purposes make them attractive to large numbers of Americans.

Constrained by minima of decency, neither the female nor male gender in this society have yet reached the point where they permit the finger of accusation at a neighbor merely because some irresponsible sabbler whistles as she walks down the street.

Not do the finger-pointing, even in their most finger-pointing moods, condemn a young woman for a petty crime. They are strictly dishonorable asks her to do dinner or to the theater, and a petty crime is to show some interest in his earnings before the tongue begins to wag.

THESE OUGHTA TO emphasize the fact that the evidence of a young man's character is generally judged, even by those who think the worst of human nature, by the quality of some "role" on the basis of what some "role" would like her to do.

Obviously to ask people to refrain from gossiping about their neighbors is too much. It would mean that there was a great strain to ask the political rakes to stop talking about other men's affairs. It is not, however, too much to suggest that some criteria be set up for what is called "gossip" and that it be treated as such.

I do not believe for instance that an organization promoting liberal objectives should be classed as "communist" just because on some line a communist who tried it.

N. Y. Nylon Lines Routed By Police NEW YORK (AP) - Manhattan police today were requested to route the long lines of men, women and children forming today's daily line in front of hostery shops, waiting for nylon.

Meat Price Control Given 'Last Effort' Test



BYRNES IN PARIS FOR CONFERENCE—Secretary of State and Mr. James F. Byrnes are pictured in their Paris Hotel. Secretary Byrnes is in Paris to meet with British, Russian and French Foreign Ministers regarding European peace settlements. (AP Wire Photo by Emil Reynolds, Army Correspondent.)

Fuller Won't Quit Coal Conciliator Agrees To Stick

WASHINGTON (AP) - Special Conciliator Paul W. Fuller bowed to White House persuasion today and agreed to continue his efforts toward breaking the deadlock in bituminous coal contract negotiations.

Wheat Belt Gets Rains

CHICAGO (AP) - Rains came to sections of the parched Western Wheat belt today, relieving the drought which has been so bad since the first of the year. Heavy rains also occurred in the corn growing lands of central Illinois and Indiana.

Hal Boyle

Army Wives In Germany Find Life Easier Than In States

By HAL BOYLE BERLIN (AP) - Army wives who have striven here to join their husbands in the American occupation forces will find life in Germany easier than it was here, according to a survey conducted by the American Red Cross.

There will be no standing in long lines at the butcher's for the American wife seeking a steak for her husband. She will call at the Army commissary and buy one if available at prices that would seem ridiculously low in the United States. The range of food is very wide and includes a considerable supply of that sporting material

Anderson May Call For Removal Given 90 Days To Show Effect

WASHINGTON (AP) - Secretary of Agriculture Anderson said today during a discussion of meat shortage and black market conditions that if the situation is not cleared up in 90 days, he would favor removal of price controls on meat.

Red Might Paraded

LONDON (AP) - Russia paraded her armed force in a mighty May day parade in Moscow today in keeping with Generalissimo Stalin's warning that "international reaction is hatching plans for a new war."

Arabs Angry

WASHINGTON (AP) - An Anglo-American commission's recommendation for the immediate admission of 100,000 Jews to the British mandate of Palestine brought mixed reaction here and abroad today.

Strike Hits Atlanta Hard

ATLANTA (AP) - Thousands of Atlantans in their own cars, on foot or hitchhiking—struggled to get to work today without benefit of the city's public transportation system, tied up at midnight by a strike of 1,350 Georgia Power Co. operators.

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Says Plan Would Allow Abolishment Of Marines

Secretary Cites Measure's Faults WASHINGTON (AP) - Secretary of the Navy Forster declared today that "outright abolishment of the Marine Corps" is a possibility under the proposed legislation to merge the Army and the Navy.

While maintaining that the Navy is favoring "improvement" in the co-ordination of the armed services, he warned the Senate Military Committee against "a concentration of power in the hands of one man, (2) the idea of complete inefficiency, and (3) curtailing naval aviation and the Marine Corps.

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WEATHER Official Weather Bureau Forecast Partly cloudy with occasional showers today, ending Wednesday, with showers and thunderstorms Thursday.