THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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America's Hour Of Danger

AMERICA has announced it is willing to compromise the Balkan dispute in the United Nations General Assembly by dropping charges that Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Albania are guilty of aggressive actions provided they commit themselves to accept a new UN border watch commission to safeguard Greek independence. Although Russia and her Balkan satellites have no reason to regard this as a very tempting concession, they do have cause for elation for the move represents a definite setback in the effort to mobilize world opinion and force behind American policy.

Modification of our demand for UN action against the Soviet allies may well be prompted by something more than the fact that we are beginning to encounter resistance from friendly nations like France and Belgium, which suggested this compromise. There is ample reason to believe that the change in tactics also is based on realistic calculation in Washington that the American people are not supporting and perhaps will not support an all-out challenge to Russia.

In other words, our position in the United Nations is being seriously weakened as it becomes plainer each day that the Americans have no heart for the Marshall Plan and other non-military measures on a scale which will meet the Soviet competition in the economic, ideological and social fields. The Truman Administration has no alternative but to call a retreat if America cannot or will not do all the things which are required to stop the European deterioration that is rushing headlong as Winter approaches.

Significantly, on the same day that the United States backed up at Lake Success under European prompting, a Republican spokesman—Rep. Case—was in England telling the European nations that they are "kidding themselves" in thinking that financial assistance from this Country is a sure thing. The day before, Rep. Taber, the Republican who controls the House purse strings, announced he saw no evidence of great need to aid Europe and no reason to call a special session of Congress this year. Republican Senator Taft has warned that we will not put up for an "international WPA." GOP Senator Capper has characterized the sending of American dollars and goods to Europe as "Operations Rathole."

These are but a few of the warnings to slow up that have been served on the Administration. It is being made unmistakably clear to the Washington strategists, the hungry Europeans and the Russians that aid from America will be "too little and too late." It cannot be counted on as a dependable weapon in the struggle with the Communists for Western Europe.

At the same time that it is confronted with the fact that one-half of our program for world leadership is not working well, the Administration is being forced to recognize that our diplomatic offensive through UN is carrying us too rapidly along the road to war and we are not prepared for that showdown unless we are depending entirely on the atom bomb to carry the day. Just a few days ago former Secretary of War Patterson warned us that "World War III lies dead ahead" unless the American people drop their "business as usual" attitude, and cautioned us that our military strength now "is hopelessly inadequate."

Only one answer is possible. America must rally quickly to present a united front and accept the task required of it in this crisis, or it must reverse its foreign policy in an effort to call a halt to the "cold war" between two worlds. If it does not have the intelligence and the will to do either, then we must resign ourselves to further Soviet gains and further aggravation of our differences until the "cold war" explodes in the final atomic blast that will end our world.

Lesson On American Free Press

THE observance of National Newspaper Week (Oct. 1 to 8) has been highlighted for us by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt's defense of the American free press in one round of the debate with the Russian totalitarians before the United Nations Assembly.

In her patient and well-bred manner, Mrs. Roosevelt explained to the Russians that "a free press will inevitably interpret certain principles of democracy in different ways, as will the people themselves. We have, therefore, differences of opinion."

That ought to be clear to the logical Marxists but we doubt if it will improve their regard for an unregimented press, since they obviously do not want differences of opinion. Mrs. Roosevelt anticipated that objection and answered it with what seemed to be a rather lame justification of the American system.

"It is the price one pays for freedom and for democracy that the Government often has to wait for the enlightenment of the people," she said. "Totalitarianism may move faster, for good or ill, but we believe democracy as a free people stand on a firmer foundation."

We find ourselves in disagreement with that statement insofar as it carries the inference that the free press is responsible for exaggerating differences that delay Government action. A common fallacy among Americans is the notion that we have too many differences of opinion and spend too much time airing them. Actually, the opposite is the case.

When we reach an impasse or a national state of bewilderment such as the one we are in now over foreign policy, prices, etc., it is not because we have been hearing too many differences of opinion and too much criticism, but because we have been getting too much of the same old pap from the same old oracles. What we plainly need are bigger and better differences of opinion, stated by a few fresh voices, to shake us out of the doldrums.

We want to make it clear to the Russians that it is not freedom of speech, but a dull season in the public forum, which is prolonging our present foolishness.

Here We Go Again

FROM our Eastern exposure we can look down from the Ivory Tower's dizzy heights into the valley of Church St. and the busy canyon of Fourth and watch the traffic jams going somewhere to happen. On good days, you can spot the same cars going by time after time, in the long, slow scramble for parking places. Circulation in these arteries around the Square has been slowing down through the years of our watching from the windows; it isn't much fun looking any more.

Once, when they turned Fourth into a one-way street for a brief and hilarious time, we could see the cars pile up two-deep in that street, and confused motorists trying to cuss their way out of the smarls caused by the inspired traffic reform. Since then, the myriad proposals for controlling Charlotte's traffic have been singularly unimaginative.

And now, here we go again. This time City Council is approaching from the other flank. The scheme to make Church and College one-way streets came right out of the hat, and as an example of applied science in traffic control it will fit in sublimely with our present system of no-left-turn corners, strategically placed as handicaps to the parking steeplechase. Any moment now, we're expecting the smarls to pile 'em as high as our windows.

We don't know, of course; we're only bemused amateurs, and we suppose this second one-way venture into the narrow by-streets will cause little more confusion than the other remedies we've applied, time to time. But we're feeling the beginnings of impatience, waiting for that traffic engineer we've been looking for. While we're waiting, we've been reflecting that a group of men sitting in the Council chamber are about as well qualified to devise a traffic system as we are to stage an aerial act at the Fairgrounds—or to dream up a traffic scheme of our own.

From The Atlanta Journal

Good Advice From Henry Ford

IT is not the first time that Henry Ford II has talked like a man who understands the true obligations and opportunities of our free enterprise system. In his address at Cleveland to the assembled manufacturers of automobile and airplane parts, he fortified his claims to industrial statesmanship.

Henry Ford's philosophy, like that of his grandfather, is the philosophy of large production. His instincts are adventurous, and he is willing, to a degree which others might well emulate, to do some things on sheer faith—on faith in the future of the world, on faith in the destiny of America.

Young Ford told the manufacturers that the "world-wide deficit in production and productive capacities is the problem which you and I and the rest of American businessmen have a particular responsibility to help solve." This, said Ford, is apparently "not simply a temporary 'postwar' problem, but the gigantic task of building an economic base for future peace."

This being the case, American businessmen must raise their sights and stop paralyzing themselves with fears of a vast shrinkage in demand for their products. "In trying to be wise managers we may have been quietly basing our decisions upon sad memories of the past rather than on the needs of the future." Clearly, this was a gentle indictment of the timidity of many businessmen in the face of obvious demands for expansion. Without addressing himself to it by name, Ford doubtless had in mind, as the major and most disastrous prototype, the restrictive program of the steel industry.

One other point Ford made with effectiveness. So great is the world's need for production, he said, "that filling the vast economic hole left by the World War II is beyond the strength of any one nation, including the United States." This led to the natural conclusion:

So far as our own best interests are concerned, it seems clear that our job is not only to continue to increase the productive capacity of America, but to do everything we can to rebuild, and expand the ability of the rest of the world to produce. Unless the whole world achieves greater wealth and security, America cannot hope to maintain high living standards. We are all in one boat together, and if it sinks at one end, it sinks all over.

Mr. Ford could hardly have issued a more convincing endorsement of the Marshall Plan if he had called it by name.

'Pst!'

Palestine Offers Fine Opportunity

Soviet-American Co-Operation

By SUMNER WELLES
Former Undersecretary of State

NEW YORK

I EXPRESSED my belief last week that we were all too often merely seeking a show-down with Russia in the United Nations, and all too seldom trying to find constructive solutions upon which agreements might be possible.

The Palestine settlement offers both the Soviet Union and this country an opportunity to co-operate through the United Nations in laying foundations for world peace.

The Soviet Government has stated categorically that partition was a solution it was prepared to support. While the United States has hedged and trimmed it has at least officially announced that it gives "great weight" to the recommendation for partition proposed by the majority of the United Nations' special committee.

The majority report of this committee offers the one form of Palestine solution which is today practicable. There is ground for legitimate difference of opinion as to many details. But in its main lines the majority report is wise and just.

The settlement proposed need not be considered a means of finally divorcing Jews and Arabs. The division of each of the new Jewish and Arab states into three non-contiguous zones should, on the contrary, encourage the two nationalities ultimately to perfect many methods of political and economic collaboration.

UNITED NATIONS SHOULD ACT

The Jewish state would contain 550,000 Jews and at least 500,000 Arabs. During the proposed two-year transition period 6,250 Jewish immigrants would be permitted each month to enter the new state. A large police force will be indispensable. The United Nations cannot stultify itself by adopting a solution which it is not prepared effectively to implement, and through which the peoples of Palestine would not be assured of security.

The threats of such Arab leaders as Mr. El-Khoury of Syria, and Jamal-El-Husseini, that the Arabs will drench the Holy Land in blood in "the sacred right of self-defense" are arrant bluster and need not be taken too seriously. It would be paradoxical for the Arab states to defy the United Nations upon whose authority and strength their own independence and prosperity so largely depend.

In the statement of British policy made to the Assembly by Mr. Creech-Jones there is one point which merits indorsement: That is his insistence that "any recommendations made by the General Assembly should be accompanied by a clear definition of the means by which they are to be carried out."

The two chief requirements will be money and military force.

ADMINISTRATION IS COSTLY

The administration of Palestine has been costing the British some $140,000 yearly. Until Palestine is independent, administrative expenditures will certainly be no less. The solution of the Palestine problem is an obligation incumbent upon all members of the United Nations. The financial burdens should be proportionately shared by all.

The nature of the police force to be employed after Britain's withdrawal raises a far more difficult question.

The Security Council has as yet no armed force at its disposal. Under Article 11 of the Charter the General Assembly is empowered to refer to the Security Council any question relating to the maintenance of international peace and security "on which action is necessary. Under Article 43 the Security Council is authorized to call upon all members of the United Nations "in accordance with a special agreement or agreements," for "armed forces . . . for the purpose of maintaining international peace and security."

In the present instance the Assembly is, therefore, entitled to obtain from the Security Council the action needed to enforce its decision with regard to Palestine, and all member nations are obligated to make available through special agreements such forces as the Security Council may require.

If the United States sends troops to Palestine the Soviet Union will regard such action as a threat to its security. If the Soviet Union insists upon sending its own military forces the Western powers will be equally suspicious. There could be no more encouraging development than for both Governments to agree that none of the major powers should send military contingents to Palestine to undertake the police work needed.

BRING IN OTHER NATIONS

Could this agreement be reached the Security Council should call upon such countries as Sweden, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, Brazil and Argentina, none of whom can be suspected of having any selfish interest in Palestine, to join in establishing under the Council's staff committee a military force capable of maintaining order.

At a moment when the United Nations must assert its authority if it is to retain public confidence, the question of Palestine offers it a chance to show that it can promptly and justly solve a most dangerous controversy.

But the Palestine question will not be settled unless the Soviet Union and the United States join in supporting the solution decided upon by the Assembly.

If the two Governments are willing to co-operate in this settlement they will also thereby automatically create an atmosphere far more propitious to the adjustment of the widening differences that now divide them than the poisonous fog of propaganda, insults and vituperation in which they are presently enshrouded. The surest way toward co-operation is to start co-operating.

Quote, Unquote

You may not be able to fool all the people all the time but right now a substantial majority believes they will get rich if the boom lasts long enough.—Jackson (Ga.) Progress-Argus.

All schools have teachers but they teach only when they aren't called upon to arrange and present programs, get up plays, attend PTA meetings or do something else which takes them out of the classrooms. But, after all, what can you expect but reverse form from an institution which ends with commencement?—Greensboro Daily News.

Samuel Grafton

Two-Toned Picture

NEW YORK

THE question is whether you want the wholesale Government or retail Government. When we govern at retail we fix prices on almost every article, at almost every level. If there are producers who cannot get along on this basis, we almost them with subsidies to help them sneak by; without having to upset everybody's prices. Government at retail considers the individual. Some people regard this kind of Government as an affront to individual dignity, but it at least admits there are individuals, and that they have problems.

Government of the wholesale variety goes in for big, sweeping gestures instead, like a road company Hamlet.

It announces it will abandon price fixing and trust to "natural processes" to keep everybody happy. But it forgets, say, the diabetics. It turns out that diabetics are having trouble under our present price level because they have to keep away from low-priced, starchy food, and cannot always afford the other.

Wholesale Government has little to say in regard to such spot situations and such distressed persons, except a mumbled "Oh, them."

It is odd how often it finds it necessary to sacrifice selected individuals on the altar of individual dignity.

Government on the retail style wears a kind of silly look on its face when it calls down to a Federal official, named Jim, setting prices on lace drawers. You can always pluck such a character out of context, and when you do pull him out of context he looks fairly funny. But the context is adequate, low-priced food for diabetics, and expectant mothers and quite small children. Retail Government constantly produces bit of humor, and wholesale Government constantly produces bits of cruelty. You take your choice.

The great thing about wholesale Government is that it is forever coming in on a wing and a prayer. It fervently hopes that, in the absence of restrictions, producers will produce enough to beat their own prices down. Sometimes they prefer to put prices up, instead.

But the worst is that any unforeseen, like a disappointing corn crop, or a sudden flare-up of famine in Europe, knocks the pretty picture over. If we'd had a big corn crop, or if there had been a fine European harvest, we might have got away with canceling price controls a year ago. But Government at wholesale can stand anything except hard luck. It must get all the breaks, or its enchanting formulas bog down.

The result is that advocates of wholesale Government often find themselves cheering a drop in the price of butter, only to do a double-take as they look around and find that meat has gone up meanwhile, and bread.

They clutch their shirts in the high wind, and drop their bundles. This is not the fault of their theory, which is a good theory. But it is perhaps a good theory for good times. To have adopted it in a time of obvious unsettlement is a little bit like insisting on playing Hamlet in the open air during a rainstorm; the only result of the sweeping gestures is that you skid.

We are victims of ideological impatience. We should have combined the two approaches, wholesale and retail. It would be bad, back then, when you could take care of an unexpected development with an unexpected bureau. The initials were, one admits, sometimes funny, but it is an old principle of life that it is better to laugh than to cry.

Joseph Alsop

Too Little, Too Late

PARIS

THE strange delusion, that the European economic and political crisis can be overcome by pinch-penny half measures, seems to be firmly fixed in what passes for the mind of political Washington. If a patient in his senses were dying for want of a blood transfusion, no doctor in his senses would say, "Yes, he can have a transfusion, but not a drop more than half a gill." Yet this is the system of President Truman's initial response to the anguished French and Italian requests for aid.

To be sure, the President has a certain excuse. In this case the United States is blood donor as well as doctor. The country is beginning to suffer cruel gas pains in the region of that troublesome organ, the Congress. But the death of Europe will bring in its train disaster, utter, final and rapid, for us in the United States as well. And this is why one finds, among leading personalities here in Paris, American as well as French, a mood of mounting despair.

HOPE WANING

The despair is all the deeper—the highest officials are all the more ready to confess with shattering frankness, "the end is in sight"—because the mood of today has abruptly replaced a mood of hope. In the convalescent ward which is postwar Europe, France was doing well until the present hemorrhage began.

Even now, one can still see the remaining signs of healthy recovery. In the purely economic domain, French production had been pushed upwards nearly to the 1938 level, and while their coal and raw materials last, the factories continue to pour out their goods.

In the domain of politics, the Communist effort had collapsed and passed its peak many months ago. By a fantastically phony propaganda, coupled with lavish financing, the Communists have continued to make slight gains among the peasants. Yet there has recently appeared, in their vital base of operations, the trades union movement, a strong and energetic grass-roots opposition composed of rank and file workers disgusted with the party dictatorship. If France's economic recovery is allowed to continue, there is reason to hope that the Communists can be driven from their control of the C. G. T. (French Labor Federation), their weapon of blackmail against every French Government, within a year or so.

The cause of France's hemorrhage was, of course, this year's cruelly bad harvest. The loss of the harvest, coupled with the collapse of Britain's sterling convertibility, has given a serious impetus to the postwar inflation. It is impossible to exaggerate the gravity of France's present situation.

IMPORTS RESTRICTED

In view of the shortage of gold and dollars forced the Bank of France a month ago to restrict imports to four essential categories: food grains, fats, petroleum products and coal. Thus no orders have been placed for a month for essential raw materials for French industry. Moreover, restrictions are now beginning even in the essential categories of imports, without which France quite literally cannot live. Some days ago, the so-called Committee of Six, meeting amid the lovely, slightly shabby 18th century splendors of the Hotel Matignon, took a decision of unmanageable gravity. France's petroleum stocks are so low that they can last only a couple of months. Nevertheless, the shrewd Monnet, governor of the Bank of France informed Premier Ramadier and the other members of the committee that it was impossible to place further contracts for petroleum imports without sacrificing elsewhere. And so it was decided to cancel 450,000 tons of forward petroleum contracts—which risks adding future strangulation to the present hemorrhage.

In this situation President Truman has thus far promised France $100 million immediately and something like $300 million at the end of the December special session. France's minimum need, which must be met in full if the French economy is to continue to operate, is for over $100 million monthly until the Marshall Plan can come into force, at least seven months from now.

Furthermore, the timing of the aid offered by President Truman will prevent the placing of any import contracts whatever, even for wheat, during November, December and probably part of January. This means that in the worst period of the Winter France will be plunged into the most fearful unemployment. At the same time a heavy cut is bound to be made in the near-starvation rations of the French man in the street. Inflation, disorganization and political extremism will then reign unchallenged.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round: Royall Wants Good Men In Government

CREDIT conscientious Kenneth Royall, secretary of the Army, for hammering at one of the worst weaknesses of Government today—the need of all-round, able manpower.

Ever since the war ended, it has been increasingly difficult for the Government to draft good men for important positions. During the war, men from every walk of life volunteered to come to Washington, but now—though in some respects the emergency is almost as serious—Government agencies literally have to get down on their knees and beg qualified men to work for Uncle Sam.

Speaking in his home state of North Carolina last week, Secretary Royall pointed to this difficulty, and urged not only business men, but labor and farm leaders to give part of their time to the Government.

In the opinion of Washington observers, Royall put his finger on one of the most important factors in Government. No organization is any better than the men in it.

Trumanesque Simplicity

HYSTERICAL editors will never describe Harry Truman as having the great radio appeal of his predecessor in the White House. But sometimes when the President speaks impromptu or is with only a few people, he becomes almost Lincolnesque in the simplicity of his eloquence.

The other day a group of Gold Star Mothers went in to see the President. They had only a few minutes with him, and grandmotherly Mrs. Mathilda Burling of Richmond Hill, N. Y., the National President, scurried among her charges, trying to shush them along.

The President shook hands with each, then spoke briefly. No stenographer was present, and his words will never be recorded for history. However, there was something about the way he concluded the last impromptu line which caught in the throats of his visitors.

"What we are all trying to do," he said, "is to make it unnecessary for us ever against to have any Gold Star Mothers."

Some of the ladies wept. Afterward, the President cheered them up by inviting them outside to pose with him for a picture.

"These gentlemen are what I call 'The One More Club,'" he bantered at the photographers.

Navy Censorship

THE Navy's attempt to censor part of the news of the Neptunis Rex initiation ceremony when the Battleship Missouri crossed the equator has brought to light another equator-crossing ceremony which was completely censored aboard the airplane carrier Wasp.

Strangely enough, this jamboree occurred in September 1944 during the height of the Japanese war. The Wasp had just finished bombing Manila Bay, but for some reason best known to himself, its commander, Capt. W. J. Slattery, decided that it was the appropriate time to initiate those who had never before crossed the equator.

Captain Slattery is the same officer, who as commander of the Banana River (Fla.) Air Base, used Navy planes so lavishly to stage a clambake on the Bahamas to which he invited high-ranking admirals up and down the coast.

In 1944, despite the fact that the Wasp was in the red-hot Philippine battle area, the sister carrier Hornet was ordered to take over the guard, and irresponsibility reigned supreme on the Wasp. According to a report by one officer aboard the ship:

"The initiation ceremonies were none other than brutal. Several planes were damaged beyond use and shoved over the side. The morning after the ceremony, I was informed by the assistant medical officer and flight surgeon R. B. Collins that 40 bomber pilots were unfit for duty."

One officer, Comdr. Elliott Earl, engineer officer of the Wasp, was so badly beaten up that he was hospitalized for several weeks thereafter.

The Gravy Train

CONGRESS may be adjourned, but the old gravy train is running right along on schedule.

One place where the gravy is being ladeled out is the Senate folding room, where documents, speeches, etc., are prepared for mailing. It is as busy as a bargain basement these days as Senators up for re-election in 1948 begin to bombard their constituents with campaign propaganda.

Busiest part of this propaganda mill is the so-called service department, where nine persons (three times as many as employed under the Democratic Congress) are now employed.

Biggest job being done by the Senate folding room is for Senator Wayland Brooks of Illinois—"Curley" to his friends.

The gentleman from Illinois, who preached economy so ardently at the last session, has now ordered 425,000 Farmers' Bulletin Lists mailed to his Illinois farm constituents. This is an index of farm publications published by the Department of Agriculture.

What Illinois farmers may not know is that they, as taxpayers, are paying the bill for Senator Brooks' propaganda from their Senator. Brooks got the bulletin lists free, also the envelopes in which they are mailed out are free. Finally they are mailed out under the Illinois Senator's frank—also free. In the end, however, someone has to pay the bill.

NOTE—The last session of the GOP-controlled Congress spent more money on itself than any other in history—in fact, triple the amount spent in the lush days of the New Deal.

Byrnes And Bidault

WHEN popular French Foreign Minister Georges Bidault came to Washington last week he saw his old friend Jimmie Byrnes for the first time since the much-loved Jimmie retired as Secretary of State. Their meeting recalled to Bidault a conversation he had with Byrnes about a year before in Paris. Apropos of loans to France, Byrnes had complained:

"Mr. Minister, the trouble with France is that Frenchmen won't work."

Bidault challenged this statement and Byrnes went on to explain:

"Look at your barbershops. They're not open all day Monday."

"Mr. Secretary," replied the French Foreign Minister, "we Frenchmen like to be clean-shaven at least one day a week, and for that reason our barbershops stay open all day Sunday. That is why you couldn't get a shave on Monday."