THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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War Party Acts In Congress

A GROUP of Republican Senators yesterday offered an ambitious plan for a new international organization as an amendment to the Marshall Plan for European Recovery. It would create a "supreme council" of the nations, eliminate the veto and establish an "offensive-defensive" alliance which would have the power to curb Russian expansion, theoretically at least.

Chief immediate significance of this move is that an important element in the Republican Party has no use for the United Nations and wants the cold war with Russia to go on until it explodes in a hot war.

The way for this inflammatory proposal was paved just two days ago when the House Foreign Affairs Committee, also dominated by the Republicans, issued a report outlining its version of Russia's 10-point program for world revolution. Points 5 and 6 made the interesting observation that the Russians fear a coalition against the Soviet Union and they therefore fear reconstruction or federation in the non-Communist world, which would explain Russia's current haste to buttress her security system in Eastern Europe. The Republican Senators now have taken the one step best calculated to intensify Russia's fear and provoke further Soviet aggression.

If Congress were to adopt this amendment to the European Recovery Program, it would completely confirm every charge Henry Wallace has made to the effect that the Marshall Plan is part of a Wall Street scheme to promote war with Russia and control Europe for American imperialism. It is clear that a new international organization, completely dependent on American financial and military power, would be a creature of United States policy.

It is clear also that the designers of this proposed substitute for UN intend that it shall be used as an instrument for a capitalist world revolution. They make that obvious when they specify that the new "supreme council" would combat "aggression or subversion in any form." These are the Senators who have opposed the Marshall Plan all along because it would extend aid to friendly Socialist Governments in Europe.

Since this Republican plan would change the whole original purpose of the Marshall Plan and eclipse the United Nations, it must be assumed it was presented with the sole aim of torpedoing the Marshall Plan and stopping any move to save UN. The timing of the declaration shows that it is meant to discourage the Truman Administration from considering any settlement with Russia in connection with the Palestine dispute in the United Nations. The advocates of war and American imperialism in our Congress have made their boldest and most reckless move to date.

Russia's Gesture Toward U. S.

RUSSIA'S conditional acceptance of the United States' plan for dealing with the Palestine problem in the United Nations is a maneuver to keep this country in the tight fix in which it now finds itself. This move by the Soviet also serves as a timely and pointed notice that there is only one way to restore peace in the Holy Land and save the United Nations—and that is by a settlement among the big powers.

While expressing willingness to co-operate with the United States on the Palestine question, the Russians acted swiftly to close the door against the proceeding by which the Washington Government apparently is trying to straddle on implementation of the Palestine partition plan. Andrei A. Gromyko, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, welcomed consultation among the five great powers but rejected the American suggestion that a Five-Power Committee be created to "look into" the matter and report to the Security Council.

"No one great power should hide behind a committee," said Mr. Gromyko, obviously referring to the United States. "The situation is such that any delay in the consideration of these questions could not be justified in any way."

In this instance, Mr. Gromyko has the better of the argument. The Russians are not the only ones who regard the American plan as a scheme to stall for time and possibly re-open the whole Palestine partition question for another round of debate in the United Nations. The proposed Five-Power Committee could outvote Russia 4 to 1 in recommending that the partition be turned back to the General Assembly for reconsideration, after taking weeks or months looking into the matter.

What the United States wants, above all, is to avoid a final decision on Palestine during this critical period when Russia holds an advantageous position in the so-called cold war between the Communistic and capitalistic powers. What Russia wants is direct negotiations between the Governments at this moment, when it is in an exceedingly favorable bargaining position.

Consultations among the powers on Palestine would take up many questions besides the means of keeping peace in the Holy Land, if they were pursued with any serious intention of effecting a solution. Indeed, such talks would have to embrace many if not most of the major points in the conflict around the world between the powers. In other words, agreement on an international police force for Palestine would require something like calling off the cold war, and that would involve compromises that the American Government is unwilling to consider.

The Palestine issue has played into Russia's hands for it forces the American Government to take this step toward a general settlement or take upon itself the responsibility for abandonment of the Holy Land and failure of UN. The Truman Administration thus is faced with the greatest test of its statesmanship and America's final decision for another world war or peace probably will be made by the course we follow in the Holy Land.

A 'Dead Bird' And A Puzzle

REP. L. M. RIVERS of South Carolina may not be premature in declaring that "Harry Truman is a dead bird already," politically speaking, but it still is a puzzle how the South is going to get out of voting for him and cast its ballots for a Democrat at the same time, as many of our leaders say we will do. Our best minds have now gone into a deep brown study over this problem.

Gov. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina asserts he is "through with Truman" but will vote for a Democrat for President in November. Boss Ed Crump of Memphis says the same thing, only more colorfully. Others have made the same promise publicly. But how will they manage this feat?

Of course, it could be done through the trick suggested by Governor Tuck of Virginia which would enable the electors to cast the State's electoral votes for some candidate, other than Truman, favored by the politicians.

There are several drawbacks to this scheme. It may backfire against the politicians because of the popular protest that the voters are thus deprived of a free choice. Beyond that, there may be many changes in the political picture before November and the task of controlling the electors may not be as easy as it now appears. At the very least, there are likely to be some sharp convention and legislative battles which may adversely affect the fortunes of numerous politicians who now are calling for this revolt.

Simplest way out is for the South to promote a rival to Truman and nominate him at the party's Philadelphia convention, but that problem grows larger the closer we come to it. Governor Thurmond's declaration that he favors either General Eisenhower or Secretary Marshall simply calls attention to the fact that the party has no alternative to Truman. Eisenhower, who originally was boomed by the Republicans, has definitely eliminated himself and would not reverse himself to run with the Democrats in their present disorganized state. Marshall's loyalty to Truman and aloofness from politics take him out of the picture.

The conservative South's own best bet, Byrd of Virginia, stands slight chance of overcoming the opposition of the Administration and the Northern Democrats to win the nomination.

What to do? The logical way out of this dilemma is for the Southern conservatives to come out publicly for the Republicans. That might have the effect of inducing the GOP to permit a filibuster against the civil rights legislation. It would also have the merit of permitting a straight-out test between the liberal and conservative votes in the South, and finally get the two-party system under way in this once solid region. That development has long been at work and it seems likely to reach maturity in November, no matter how the politicians manage to vote against Truman and still keep their Democratic standing.

From The Washington Post

Unsociable Americans

DISTURBING SIGNS indicate Americans are losing their good old slaphappy sociability. The front porch is becoming an anachronism, builders report. Nobody wants to sit on it any more and wave to passersby. And railroads are carrying empty lower and upper berths while passengers who want to ride in snooty aloofness from fellow travelers wait weeks to get roomettes and bedrooms. Most new sleeping cars are of the private room type. Indeed, the day may not be far off when the person who can tell of his travel adventures in an upper berth will be in the same class as the covered wagon raconteur.

As the open spaces disappeared in this country and people began getting in each other's hair, it was inevitable that walls of privacy would begin to rise, as they have in older nations. Yet there is no reason to fear all Americans are becoming brooding introverts. Many long-distance bus passengers still tell each other how the country ought to be run, and exchange domestic and heart confidences. And the masses that gather for any kind of a parade or bargain sale, or for a glimpse of a movie star are evidence that there are plenty of people left who like to brush elbows with their kind.

In New England, the weather is so variable that natives say, "You don't like our weather? Just wait a minute." In these parts we are more philosophical; when we don't like the weather, we just wait. — *Greensboro Daily News.*

'Get All The Sunshine You Can, Harry'

People's Platform

Links Truman With Republicans

TAYLORSVILLE

Editors, THE NEWS:

UPON the death of President Roosevelt, and before his body was hardly cold, Mr. Truman called in ex-President Hoover, to get the low-down on how to operate the Government, thereby to some extent affiliating himself with, or coming under the influence of the Republican Party. Then, at Fulton, Mo., this same Truman sat on a chilly stage and listened to Winston Churchill declare war on Russia, and did so without an indication of disapproval. In the face of all that, why do we wonder why the Russian Government is afraid of America?

Now, having associated Mr. Truman with the Republican Party, let us examine the pre-war record of the particular party, some of whom had Hitler decorations. For instance Henry Ford Sr. and Charles Lindbergh.

On the Lend-Lease Act, it voted 135 against and 23 for; selective service, 140 against, 23 for; ship arms to Great Britain 151 against, 5 for; fortification of Guam, 137 against to 13 for.

On top of all that they wanted to impeach Roosevelt, and then do business with Hitler. Gentlemen, let us be honest, do we or how can we feel that Joe Stalin does not know all that?

Kate Smith (our own Kate) says that America is supplying guns and ammunition to kill innocent people, that is in Greece. Now, if Kate is correct, America is nothing short of a gangster nation. Then, why should Joe Stalin not be afraid of us?

I do not like Truman's civil rights bill, but if we bolt the Democratic Party, and elect a Republican President, it will do us no good but more harm.

Before the last war broke out the Republican Party wanted to destroy Russia, and they still want to do just that. The sensible thing to do is to get rid of Truman as a candidate for he is too closely allied with the Republican Party to be safe. I do not think much of Henry Wallace, but he, at least, is for peace, and America has never won a war fighting alone. History shows that. We must remember that we will not have a Russian army to do our fighting for us next time.

Now they tell us that we must fight Communism, and the test of that status is whether the victim is a Christian? If he answers in the negative he is branded a Communist. Let us go into that situation. A recent poll by Gallup shows that only 49 per cent of the people in England believe in a hereafter. Well, that makes it plain that as soon as we burn the Russians at the stake, England will likewise be dealt with. What a pity that we let such men as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln get by the stake. You remember in 1928, Bishop Cannon said that Jefferson was an atheist. Now we know that no one can dispute with a Methodist Bishop without landing in hell. So that makes us Democrats Communists. Abraham Lincoln was an atheist, in support of that I quote: "This country, with its institutions, belongs to the people. Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing government, they can exercise their constitutional right of amending it, or their revolutionary right of overthrowing it." Now, gentlemen, if that does not make our Mr. Lincoln a Communist, please tell me what would? So, you Republicans are no better off than we Democrats.

I, only yesterday, heard a Baptist ministerial student say that God was going to destroy Russia and all Communists. I told him that I should not doubt that, since he made this commitment in Exodus: "Mine arrows are drunk with blood and my sword shall devour flesh."

I feel, in the face of that, we haven't got a chance. I truly feel there will be no war with Russia for their leaders are atheists; they will compromise to save the human race. America, have you ever asked why Senator Vandenberg is taking such a great stock in the European handout?

—V. G. BECKHAM.

Making No Sense

LAURINBURG

Editors, THE NEWS:

I WAS amazed at a statement appearing in your column to the left of People's Platform in the Feb. 25th issue. It was unfair the bold caption, "Wallace Out of This World." I quote the statement. "We must have a program that makes sense to the practical men of Wall Street and Washington as well as the realists in Moscow. It is childish to suppose, as Mr. Wallace does, that we can replace the men who now occupy the seats of power." Unquote!

Now, let's break that down and see if we can get sense out of it. I sure can't get any out of the way it is. First: "We must have a program"—My now! Isn't that original? Second: "That makes sense to the practical men of Wall Street and Washington"—Frankly, Mr. I don't believe there is a practical man in Wall Street or Washington; at least, not "practical" as Mr. Webster defines it. Third: "As well as the realists in Moscow"—Now there is a new name for them—REALISTS! And all the time I thought they could only be called "RUFFIANS"—of course, I've heard a few other names for them but I wouldn't repeat them. Fourth: "It is childish to suppose that we can replace the men who now occupy the seats of power."—Really, sir, are they that indispensable? If so, I take it you are going to vote for Mr. Truman—Hmmmm? Our country must truly be in a terrible shape if we don't have any men capable of taking the place of the "Big Boys" now in office. Tell me, kind sir, what will we do when the "Big Boys" die? The only answer according to you must be "Bury them."

You say we must have a program that makes sense to the practical men of Wall Street and Washington, and to the realists in Moscow. Personally, I think they have had enough programs. How about a program that makes sense to the other millions of people throughout the world? Of course, I realize that what the common people in Russia and some other European countries think is of little importance, but I have (not erroneously, I hope) been led to believe that the common person's opinion here in the U. S. A. meant something. Or does it say in little letters somewhere, "until elected?" Perhaps you can give me some pointers on that, eh?

I just read over those first two paragraphs and I still can't make sense out of them. Would you mind explaining them in your column the first time you have room?

—LELAND C. CARTER.

The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to mount it. Communications should be less than 300 words, typewritten if possible, and on only one side of the paper. Libel and obscenity will be deleted—otherwise anything goes. Each letter must be signed although, in exceptional cases and upon request, we will withhold the writer's name.—Editors, THE NEWS.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Dwight Eisenhower Boom Is Still Alive

WASHINGTON

GOP POLITICOS have learned of a highly significant conversation between General Eisenhower and Leonard Finder of the Manchester, N. H., Union Leader, the man who received the famous Eisenhower letters telling of the General's withdrawal from the 1948 race for the Republican Presidential nomination.

After that letter, Finder received so much mail from people who still thought Eisenhower should run that he finally called Ike on the phone and asked him once again what the political score was.

Eisenhower repeated the fact that he did not want the Presidential nomination but gave the impression he would not swim too strongly against the tide if it started to wash him into the White House.

Ike's greatest fear was that he might get involved in petty politics, also that any political activities by him might reflect on the Army.

He told Finder that he would abide by his letter of withdrawal, but admitted that he could not and would not stop Finder from making any statements to the contrary.

"I will not tell you what you should or should not do," Ike said.

Eisenhower also made a significant statement about the Republican Party which is bound to add fuel to Democratic hopes that he may be drafted instead of Harry Truman.

"I believe the Republican Party with the wrong candidate is the wrong party," Ike said.

Note—Finder plans to issue a statement summarizing his impressions of Ike's political possibilities shortly after the New Hampshire primary, March 9.

No British Co-Operation For Jews

THE British Foreign Office has just sent a 32-page top-secret master plan to British officials in Palestine instructing them on withdrawal from that country. A copy also has been sent to Sir Alexander Cadogan, British representative at the United Nations.

This column has been able to obtain a copy of this confidential document, and it bears all the earmarks of deliberately trying to inspire chaos in Palestine after the British leave.

Instead of turning over British equipment such as arms and armored cars to the Jews who will be entrusted with governing the country and preserving order, this equipment is ordered destroyed or sold.

The British have now been in Palestine for 30 years but, as they leave, not one shred of co-operation is being passed on to the Jews, who take over May 16.

Here is one brief excerpt from the secret British instructions to officials in Palestine:

Master Plan For Trouble

1. All files are to be destroyed.
2. All revenue and postage stamps and stamping machines are to be destroyed.
3. Livestock on experimental farms is to be sold.
4. Vital parts are to be removed in order to immobilize radio transmitters.
5. Postal orders and money orders to be destroyed.
6. Unissued currency notes to be destroyed.
7. Trucks to be auctioned just before final withdrawal.
8. Arms held by Palestine police to be sold to the individuals involved.
9. Armored cars to be destroyed, horses of Palestine police and camels to be offered to the riders at reasonable prices.
10. Jerusalem and Bethlehem jails to be emptied before the departure to Haifa.
11. "Criminal lunatics—first redistribute so that when enlarged (released) they are in the midst of their own population. That is, Arabs among Arabs and Jews among Jews."
12. All plans and field records to be shipped in 30 steel cabinets to the U. K., pending transfer to a successor.

Thus ends in futility and recrimination the tragic 30-year chapter of the British mandate over Palestine.

Fast Action On ERP Needed

IT IS now nearing one year since General Marshall proposed what is now known as the Marshall Plan for aid to Europe. When the plan was first proposed Congress said it was too busy with routing appropriation bills and shortly thereafter adjourned for the Summer.

Last Fall, as the European situation got bad again and speedy action on the Marshall Plan was urged, Congress squawked about going back to work. Too many of its members were away on trips, campaigning or resting.

Finally when Congress was convened there elapsed weeks and weeks of hearings, debate, argument, and secret GOP meetings at the home of Kansas isolationist Senator Reed—all at a leisurely pace as if the world was perfectly normal and there wasn't the slightest need to hurry.

Meanwhile Russia has gobbled Czechoslovakia, tightened its hold on Finland, and is preparing for an early strike at Italy. After that, France.

Some Republicans—notably Malone of Nevada, Ecton of Montana and Wherry of Nebraska—have seen clearly from what the world situation is all about. But other GOP obstructionists—among them Knowland of California and Ball of Minnesota—are smart enough to realize that a few millions of dollars spent now can save thousands of lives later. So far, however, they haven't.

The debate in Congress boils down to the fact that either the Marshall Plan is worth voting or it isn't. If it's to be dragged out until after Russia swallows Europe then it might as well be kissed off right now. Congress should make up its mind—and fast!

Merry-Go-Round

THE Council of Economic Advisers has sent an urgent plea to President Truman to crack down on steel prices. . . . Henry Wallace is looking around for a new Charlie Michelson to supply him with campaign material. (Some people think that's a waste of time: Harry Truman's doing a better job than Charlie Michelson.) . . . The CIO will soon withdraw from the left-wing World Federation of Trade Unions, which includes unions behind the Iron Curtain. (Too many Communists.) . . . Democratic leaders will be amazed when they find out what Oregon Democrats are going to support of Henry Kaiser against Truman. . . . Next foreign minister of Holland will be former Dutch ambassador to Moscow, A. H. Lovink. He hates Russia.

Joseph & Stewart Alsop

Treachery Timetable

WASHINGTON

THE STRUGGLE is over, and the terror is already beginning in Prague. Yet there is still one important fact to note about the death of freedom in Czechoslovakia. The ruthless Communist power play which has just been executed with such precision was actually prepared in broad outline in Moscow during the war, nearly five years ago.

The Communists overwhelmed the non-Communist majority of Czechs for a very simple reason: they already controlled every real source of power in the state. They obtained this control almost wholly by the efforts of two non-Communists, the Minister of War, General Ludvik Svoboda, and the Deputy Premier and newly rehabilitated Socialist leader, Dr. Zedenek Fierlinger. These men acted, in effect, as agents of the Kremlin.

No one knows now, and perhaps no one will ever know, what traps the Kremlin laid or what inducements the Kremlin offered to Fierlinger and Svoboda, a career diplomat and a career soldier with decades of service behind them. But it is very definitely known that Fierlinger and Svoboda were captured, in wartime, when Svoboda commanded the Czech troops with the Red Army, and Fierlinger was the Czech government-in-exile Ambassador to Moscow. The evidence further indicates that their future roles were then already allotted to Svoboda and Fierlinger.

During the war, loyal Czechs actually carried warnings of what was afoot in Moscow to President Benes in London. Benes made fruitless efforts to halt Svoboda's infiltration of pro-Communist officers into his Czech detachments. Benes also attempted to recall the slippery Fierlinger, ostensibly for consultation. Fierlinger, scenting trouble, arrogantly replied that he was too busy, and in any case his health was too bad for the journey. He added, threateningly, that his Soviet friends wanted him where he was.

Benes was caught in the toils of his own decision to orient Czechoslovakia toward the Soviet Union. He dared not flout the Soviets by repeating his order to Fierlinger, or intervene openly to control Svoboda. And thus the tragedy of Kosice inevitably occurred.

In the moment of the German collapse, at the end of the war, members of the Czech Government-in-exile met with the Czech Communists at the little town of Kosice, to establish a new government.

As a direct outcome of Fierlinger's efforts, the War Ministry went to Svoboda; the crucial Ministries of Interior, Education and Information went to overt Communists, and of course Fierlinger himself entered the government in a strong position. The government was hardly formed before Svoboda began to extend his infiltration effort to the Czech Army as a whole, handing the vital secret intelligence boddy over to the Communists. At the Interior Department, Communist Minister Nosek transformed the police into an organ of the Communist Party. And Fierlinger, as leader of the Socialists, labored to paralyze any opposition to this Communist seizure of the sources of Czech state power.

No real opposition arose until the terrible humiliation of last Summer, when the Czech government changed its unanimous vote on the Marshall Plan by direct order from Stalin. By then, opposition was useless.

There is a moral in this story for those who advocate friendly negotiation with the Soviets. Of what use are negotiations with a government which blandly promises one thing and secretly plots the opposite? There is also a warning. The fall of Czechoslovakia has not altered the world power balance. But the brutal methods employed and the suddenness of the coup have disclosed an important alteration in the Kremlins' timetable. It is not impossible that the world crisis will reach the acute and decisive stage in the next few months.

Marquis Childs

When Will War Come?

WASHINGTON

UNTIL the disaster to Czechoslovakia, there was a comfortable feeling here in official circles that the danger of war was something fairly remote—a matter of five to seven years. This was based largely on the assurance, which one heard over and over from those in authority, that Russia did not want a shooting war.

The comfortable assurance has vanished. It is not that the Soviet Union has come to want a war. But the attitude of the rulers in the Kremlin is now seen to make the possibility—yes, even the likelihood—of war far more imminent.

This is because of the fact that within the ruling clique in Moscow there is the conviction that the United States does not want a war. What is more, the Russians seem to believe that this country will be so divided during an election year that decisive action by the U. S. is impossible. Therefore they can, without too great a risk, move to get what they want short of war.

The danger is as acute as after the other Czechoslovak disaster of ten years ago. Then, a year intervened and the end was an open declaration of war.

ITALIAN ELECTIONS

While the sequence of events is likely to be of a different kind this time span is even shorter. The next critical date is April 18, when the Italians go to the polls. If the Communists in Italy win clear majority, then the same kind of grab for power will be started there that is today being carried to completion in Czechoslovakia. If Italy goes down France can scarcely survive. Western Europe will be finished. The Soviets will have made a decisive step toward their major goal, which is to isolate North America in every way from the rest of the world.

Consider the timing. Secretary of State George C. Marshall has said that the European Recovery Program should be passed by April 1. If money is not available by that date, the stocks of food and fuel supplies to Italy and France will begin to empty.

Perhaps the Senate, which has begun debate, will have adopted the bill by that deadline. But if the past is any precedent, in the House purblind men of the type of Rep. John Taber of New York will be repeating endlessly the shibboleths of the past. Meanwhile, Henry Wallace will be going up and down the country denouncing the recovery program and pleading the Russian cause.

What is doubly significant is the interpretation that Italians put on the Taber-Wallace noise. It is regarded as representative of American opinion.

GOOD NEWS PREFERRED

When Soviet representatives in this country send reports to Moscow they apparently tell them that must report what the Kremlin wants to hear. There is some reason to believe that those who don't send such reports find themselves quickly in disfavor. That is to say, if they report that the great mass of opinion is behind the Marshall program is for universal military training and is aware of America's vital interests in Western Europe, they are speedily demoted. Just that is reported to have happened to one individual in the Soviet Embassy in Washington.

Here then is the danger. Communism, with the aid and expert direction of the Russians, will step beyond the line of vital interests. Only after that happens will Americans wake up to what it means. Then war will come.

That is why Western diplomats in Washington are urging—pleading is a better word—for an unequivocal statement by word or deed that the vital line lies, this to be coupled with a clear warning that Communist seizure of power by force beyond that line would mean war. This might be done in a joint British-U. S.-French statement.

But time is forever short. It is essential that America's position be made clear beyond any doubt. If the machinery existed under our system, there would be a movement to form a coalition government of Democrats, Republicans and progressive liberals who oppose the Communists.

Short of that, nothing less than a dramatic declaration to the world will suffice. In a message to the White House or before a joint session of Congress, the leaders of the two major parties should state what it is America's vital interest to preserve the independence of Western Europe. All the Republican candidates for the Presidency should be present at that meeting, and perhaps also the leaders of organized labor and organized industry. Nothing less is likely to halt the drift toward catastrophe.