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FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 1949

ANOTHER BIG STICK

SECRETARY of State Dean Acheson has been a busy man these past few weeks. He has talked with men of a dozen nations and he has told them how far the United States could be expected to go in implementation of the North Atlantic Defense Pact.

The new Secretary of State has knocked heads with Senators like Vandenberg and Connally in attempts to reconcile the exigencies of the atomic age with the constitution of the eighteenth century.

And, behold, he has been successful. The people of the world today are reading the text of the pact and, doubtless, Secretary Acheson is selling the pact better against a barrage of angry words which isolationists, Reds and a few misguided pacifists will certainly direct at him.

The State Department will not deserve the attack. Rather, it deserves the commendation for an engineering job that may bring peace to the world, for the Department has built a bridge between the democracies of the West—a bridge with two ends and two sides.

But the attack will come. Mr. Acheson will be told that the words of the pact commit the United States to go to war if Russia attacks—say, for instance, only if it does not feel the pact being a moral and legal commitment to war. It certainly is moral and who is to say whether it is legal—though it probably is.

There is much talk about the pact being a moral and legal commitment to war. It certainly is moral and who is to say whether it is legal—though it probably is.

We must remember that our activities over the past four years have committed us to war against Russia if that nation should send troops into the Western democracies. Witness Greece . . . Turkey.

Legal commitment? Moral commitment? This nation has a practical commitment to oppose Russian aggression with American force. It has been the core of our foreign policy since the declaration of the Truman Doctrine.

Has anyone cause to be disturbed over the terminology of the pact? We don't think so. Congress need not fear that the pact destroys its constitutional privilege to declare war or not to declare war.

Article Five, which gave a few Congressmen the jitters, says only: "The parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all."

It is left to the discretion of the Congress of the United States to determine whether the United States shall or shall not declare war.

Has Russia cause to be disturbed by the text of the pact? We think not. Only in the event of Russian aggression will the pact be exercised. But once again, it is logical to assume that aggression against the West would call upon all Western democracies to defend themselves collectively—pact or no pact.

As for the signers of the pact—they can only profit from the sense of security such political solidarity will give them.

The benefits of the pact are obvious. The United States will arm signers—probably with billions worth of guns and equipment. Thus armed, the signers can turn production toward domestic recovery.

When this recovery is complete, the signers will have a force far stronger than the West will be strong, strong enough to discourage aggression from the East.

Yet we must not lose sight of the immense war-making potential of the Atlantic Defense Pact. Strength in the amount the Pact will produce will always be dangerous. If the Western nations should choose unscrupulous leaders, men of war rather than men of peace, the pact is a force far more than a guaranty of peace.

The pact is a big-stick; we must carry it softly.

MAIN STREET INSTITUTION

NOT long after the November election upset, representatives of the life insurance business met in New York City. Some of them, especially those from the bigger companies, wondered how the industry would fare under a new administration which was pledged to put the Government even deeper into the field of old age and health insurance.

It amounted to anxiety—was allayed by the president of the Ohio State Life Insurance Company, Chris Adams, who gave the visiting insurance men a bit of profound common sense.

The candidate who won was the man with the common touch who carried his cause to the common people . . . Main Street talked to the top.

On the face of the record life insurance business, the record is not so good. It is related by our policyholders. It is dotted with our beneficiaries. It is the people of Main Street who built the institutions to its present proportions.

To the vast majority of these life insurance companies, the record is not so good. It is related by our policyholders. It is dotted with our beneficiaries. It is the people of Main Street who built the institutions to its present proportions.

Mr. Adams' statement has recently been punctuated by some revealing facts and figures covering the past calendar year.

VARIETY AMONG THIEVES

WHAT there is honor among thieves is an ancient but highly disputable proposition; that there is imagination among thieves can be doubted by no one in the light of some criminal exploits here and there over the face of the globe.

In London, for instance, bandits used panzer techniques to loot a jewelry store; three men in a car drove over the sidewalk and into a jewelry store, the lead protected from flying glass by a helmet . . .

At Newark, a burglar grabbed trays of valuable jewelry . . . the car swerved back into the street and hit out.

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which indicate that life insurance will always be a Main Street institution.

Reports for 1948 show that:

- 1. American families received \$6,868,000 daily from their life insurance companies. Total payments were \$5,238,914,000, nine per cent larger than in 1947, and 37 per cent larger than five years ago.
2. Living policyholders received more than half of the life insurance dollars under existing endorsements, disability benefits, annuity payments, emergency cash surrender values, and dividends.
3. Death benefit payments reached a record high of \$1,446,607,000 in spite of what appears to be a record low rate of loss among policyholders.
4. A survey of four-unit families—father, mother and two children—shows that 87 per cent own some life insurance.

The life insurance representatives of the Charlotte area who are meeting here tonight to hear Holgar E. Johnson, president of the Institute of Life Insurance, are well aware that these statistical increases reflect the confidence of the public in life insurance. They also reflect the growing confidence of Americans in life insurance as a means of saving money and protecting dependents.

And as long as life insurance remains the "bread and butter" of the "federated thrift of the common people of America," it will have nothing to fear from Government.

of old-time colored folks. "What are you wearing that stocking cap for?" the wretch asked.

An ingenious, and learned, thief made names at a Summer hotel not so long ago. He was a member of the "Bureau of the Holy Regulars for years during his vacation. Knew everybody. Everybody knew him. Became a confidante of the desk clerk. Friendly chap. One day, he came in. He said the desk clerk said, "Give me all the money in the safe."

Honor, perhaps not. But variety and imagination . . . lots of it. Good thing, too. Help us pass one's time in the cooler when inevitably, one is caught.

The State Senate Agriculture Committee has approved a bill to stop bankers from using a "blowing up process" in making their bread. Suppose we could arrange something like that for Hollywood?

After all the years in which politicians have tried to carry the farmer, he remains a malcontent. Oh, what a tangled web we weave when first we practice self-reliance—Washington (D. C.) Evening Star.

It's Springtime! Who Wants To Stay In A House?'



KEY WEST, FLA. President Truman is disturbed by what he has heard in a great many ways. He has bogged down in the rebellious Senate, he gives no sign of it to him around him. He is a great, jaunty, equitable set, determined to keep the peace, but he has a nerve of the privacy that is a luxury customarily denied to Presidents.

By a rough estimate at least a hundred would-be guests have been dissuaded from joining the President at Key West. He is a man who is wanted to see, Chief Justice Vinson among them, have come to Key West.

The four years Mr. Truman has been President have been crowded with events, crowded with problems, crowded with people pushing and pulling and shouting and fearing on him. It was one of the things hard for him to get to the beginning—that he, personally, stood at the focus of power.

What happens in the next fourteen or 20 years will determine the judgment of his presidential term. Truman's first four years. But at this moment, on the eve of the signing of the Atomic pact, he must be credited with a strong, positive, and far-reaching program.

When the State's dental plan was first discussed, the British Dental Association objected for three reasons: 1. Restrictions on clinical freedom. More than half the work a dentist does requires prior approval by a Government committee.

Income Cut Criticized British Dentists in Revolt returns in some cases as high as \$32,000 to \$40,000. It estimated twenty per cent of the profession was earning more than \$19,000 gross. The Ministry stated that by halving returns over that sum overworking to the point of ineffectiveness would be discouraged and economies effected.

Young Mr. Ryan Cleans Up 'LENDINER RYAN, who donated \$1,000,000 to a clean up municipal governments from coast to coast, is a rich man who has tried, with varying success, to do something for his country. The trouble is that he has tickled a man who himself has tickled with Tammany. Also, Ryan hasn't known where the power of private money should stop and the Government should begin.

Marquis Childs Truman's 4 Years

colossal failure. But one thing to be in mind about Mr. Truman's record is that he has almost always out of the council of perfectionists.

There are those who say Mr. Truman's conviction about civil rights is merely political. There is a simple sense of justice which is not swayed by the cruel and wrong things done to the Negro.

With his strong sense of Americanism, Mr. Truman is a great asset to the effect of the Allen and DeLoach of the public and, more recently, of the harm done in the which have followed the pact.

Looking back, the President would be disappointed in his own performance. It was a denial of America's world responsibility. It left great scars on the hearts of those who have no power, no acceptance of responsibility.

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James Marlow Rent Control ABC THE Senate bill . . . All Federal controls would end in any State whose governor merely announced that he would not enforce them.

Senate . . . Let landlords raise rents 5 per cent on Oct. 1, 1949, provided that on March 31, 1950, provided that . . . The total increase the landlord would be permitted to receive would be above what he got for his place on June 30, 1947.

House . . . Wipe out that part of the present law which lets landlords raise rents 15 per cent, although they are not to exceed the amount that would be distributed.

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Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round Country Faces Siege Of Wire-tapping

WASHINGTON If a grand jury ever gets to the bottom of the New York City wire-tapping scandal, it will find that it was about as safe to talk on the telephone in Manhattan as to dodge across the middle of the highway. It is a man who has tried, with varying success, to do something for his country.

Italian Election Slush Fund

ATER, in February, 1948, Italy was in the throes of her first free election in two decades. The Communist were bent on winning. Again Secretary Forrestal came to the young friend, told him he was broken and asked that he raise money for the Italian political campaign.

Young Mr. Ryan Cleans Up

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