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OUR STAND ON FORMOSA

WHAT about Formosa? Presidential adviser W. Averell Harriman yesterday reaffirmed the official American policy that island, a policy laid down six weeks ago at the outbreak of the Korean War. We have promised to defend Formosa if the Chinese Communists should attack it.

It is doubtful if the attack comes soon, that we can defend it successfully. If there were no Korean War we could probably help Chiang Kai-Shek keep the island, but now that we have committed the bulk of our Far East forces to the Korean peninsula some 800-1,000 miles north of the island, Mao Tse-Tung's Red Chinese might make quick work of Chiang's forces. It is likely that the Communists will take advantage of our involvement in Korea and invade Formosa shortly.

Formosa may be another Korea—an area which, for diplomatic reasons, we are obliged to defend but the defense of which would prove costly in lives and material. There is nothing especially valuable about Formosa itself. Two hundred miles long and 80 miles wide, the island is only half the size of Ireland. It's heavily forested with mountain peaks reaching up to 15,000 feet. Along the coast are plains that provide agricultural land. As terra firma, Formosa doesn't mean much.

Then why bother to defend Formosa, at all? The answers fall into that shadowy area known as psychological warfare. Despite our objection to Chiang's govern-

mental policies, we are obliged to defend the Nationalist Chinese government because that government is the last Chinese outpost against Communism. If we allow Chiang to fall the fence-sitters in Asia will assume that the United States is either unwilling or incapable of stopping Communist force in the Far East.

We must prove we are willing to try or Communism may win the Far East without our fight.

It will be well to remember that India voted with Russia in the recent UN Security squabble over the legality of the presence of the Nationalist Chinese delegate. Previously India, moral and spiritual backbone of Asia, had voted with the U.S. in approving United Nations' intervention in the Korean fight.

This doesn't prove that India has had a "change of heart," but it does prove that we have not completely won over that nation.

Thus, how India and the other nations of the Far East will react to U.S. assistance in the defense of Formosa is still an important and unanswered question. Since India has officially recognized Communist China, it might consider U.S. aid to Chiang assistance in rebellion; but India may recognize that assistance as evidence that the United States is willing to fight to keep Asia non-Communist.

There is still reason to believe that India and other less important nations of the Orient will reject Communism if we can show them protection against Communist forces.

HAZARDS OF THE HIGHWAYS

A CONSTANT reader of THE NEWS writes us that he has had occasion this last weekend to drive some 600 miles over the state's congested highways.

Our man also subscribes to THE GREENSBORO Daily News, another good paper. In its issue of Tuesday, Aug. 1, the Greensboro daily published an editorial headed "Safety Notes" in which an editor reported informally on hazards he encountered on his own Sunday driving. Remembering this article, our correspondent decided to keep his own box-score. Here is his report:

"There were five incidents that placed me in serious danger—three by my momentary hesitation, or bad brakes, which have resulted in an accident. Out-of-trace cars figured in four of these. Two, jaxoppies—one from Maryland, the other from Virginia—swerved into the left-hand lane just as I was passing, forcing me to get the hard-surface. Two South Carolina cars traveling together passed me at 75 or 80 miles an hour, despite oncoming traffic."

"Two jaxoppies, one from Maryland, the other from Virginia—swerved into the left-hand lane just as I was passing, forcing me to get the hard-surface. Two South Carolina cars traveling together passed me at 75 or 80 miles an hour, despite oncoming traffic. A West Virginia Ford, vintage of 1929 or thereabouts, stopped suddenly without signal at the sign 'North Carolina Bridge'. In the fifth incident, a North Carolina car turned left from the highway a split second after the driver gave his signal."

"I caught myself in violation of elementary safety precepts. Once, when I failed to see an inconspicuous highway intersection sign, I ran past it, and braked too suddenly, with danger to cars following. Another time, at a T-junction, I knew, I did not see traffic directions dimly painted on the pavement and to the annoyance if not the peril of other drivers I cut over from the wrong lane to the right lane at the possible moment. In approximate order of importance, the potential sources of danger and vexation noted were:

"1. Trucks heedless of the 45-mile-an-hour speed limit on the highway. I saw none except the over-laden traveling at or below this speed. Several trucks passed me when my speedometer marked exactly 55."

"2. Under-powered trucks and buses that roared down hills at 60 or 70 miles an hour and crept up at five to fifteen. It being almost impossible to pass these safely, long lines of cars piled up behind them. And danger arose, of course, when the annoyance of drivers overmastered their caution."

"3. Jalopies and Sunday drivers crawling along main Federal and State highway at 20 or 25 miles an hour."

"4. The want of uniformity in the speed limits and traffic regulations of villages, towns and cities. The most annoying tentative signs and markings often find themselves sorely puzzled."

"5. The size of the state's own highway signs. At normal speeds, some of them are difficult to read, the daytime, impossible by night. One exception, 'No Passing' sign; this is potentially very useful, but the letters are so small and it looks so much like the 'No Parking' warning that it is easily overlooked."

"Like the Greensboro editorialist, our man also reports that among the thousands of vehicles on the road last Saturday and Sunday he noted not one State Highway patrol car."

"It appears to us that this sort of careful observation on the part of thoughtful motorists can be extremely valuable to the state agencies charged with making the highways safe. We invite letters from other readers about their own driving experiences. We shall be glad to publish the most interesting, and all will be passed along to the proper people at Raleigh."

MOBILIZATION: CHEESECAKE DEPT.

THE floodlights burn late in Hollywood and the warm summer nights and the clicking of a camera's lens and the camera's bellows California air. Gallons and gallons of hypo alone splash and that occasional thud you hear is the falling of arches of a battalion of lush young starlets who have stood before the camera's camera. Cheesecake, an ever-present staple in the diet of several million World War II GI's, is back.

Back is Orable, peering over her bare shoulder as the GI cops unlicking his nose to scratch his chin and smile into his foolscap.

Back is Jane Russell, supreme in a haystack, nibbling on a stem of grass. And Lana and her sweater once again continue to morph into a GI's hand. A host of new names have sprung up since the end of the last hostilities and bathing suits have become even briefer. The gent of the lenses have discovered

new angles and new filters to bring out in full color—the cherubic pink of midday's cheeks. And some corps of anatomists must have been slaving diligently since 1945 to devise the hundreds of new poses into which the young ladies are now propping, reclining and hosting themselves.

One of the newer angles in pin-uppery, by the way, is the avowed call for pin-up photos. Mr. President is there any woman who apparently reminds the soldiers, sailors, Marines and Air Force guys of the dogs they left behind them?

But all is not frivolity in this business of providing photographs of beautiful young ladies. Hard-bitten old generals will sometimes order a GI to think up all the time or he'd go home. And if he doesn't want to get back home, he won't fight well. Cheesecake, they say, solves both problems.

FROM THE CHARLOTTE (S. C.) NEWS AND COURIER

WOMEN TRAFFIC POLICE

CHARLESTON'S plan to hire at least a dozen women to serve on a part-time basis as traffic policemen during the summer as a surprise, but is worth a trial. The job of the "lady cops" will be to direct traffic in the vicinity of schools, and there seems to be no reason why they could not perform as well as, perhaps even better than, men.

One advantage in hiring women, instead of men, is that they can be obtained on a part-time basis, to work four hours a day, five days a week. Their duty presumably will be assigned when children are going to and from school. This may mean that they will go on duty for an hour or so, have a few hours off, and then return to duty when schools close for dinner in the afternoons.

If the Korean crisis continues, and if the Armed Forces and defense industries make additional demands on the nation's manpower, there will be a scarcity of male police recruits in Charleston. The city's action at this time, besides adding to the safety of school children, is sensible insurance against future manpower shortage.

Another Cabinet member who dislikes the NSRB chief and who helped put the Indian sign on him is Secretary of Commerce Charles Sawyer. If I am to do a responsible job administering my part of the controls program, I must have maintenance on my machinery. It is impossible with Stimson, breathing down my neck.

TOP Co-ordinator of the economic controls program will not be Stuart Symington, chief of the National Security Council Board on Economic Warfare, but John R. Steiman, assistant to the President.

'Hand Me Some More Of Those Olive Branches'



Collected By Bill Sharpe

TURPENTINE DRIPPINGS

Harvey Gives Up

A nephew in Richmond told me an amazing tale of trying to win his own piano, an upright that was not new. He had learned the principles of tuning, but nobody had impressed on him the importance of doing it in those pegs that hold the wires, and that must hold firmly enough to resist a pull of hundreds of pounds. He got his tuning done, but, first thing he knew the insides of that piano had come loose and mixed together. Harvey gave up piano-tuning and went and bought a Hammond organ for his home.

She Ain't Negative

Passing the Lamberton TX X-ray trailer the day before yesterday just as a delightfully petite little number (dandies' proposition, however) started into the trailer (and me with a camera at the ready). I offered to make my own picture of her (and for her). Well, she smiled. "See I'm positive my chest ain't negative I'll just stick to the X-ray photos."

Does Something

There are a lot of parents nowadays who seem to have the idea that it is somehow degrading to register a child to say "air" and "mama" to an older person. Well, maybe. But if it does it to a youngster to be permitted to get away with "uh-huh" and "uh-uh" to all and sundry? Perhaps the idea is old fashioned, but there still is considerable evidence that a genuine show of respect and courtesy does something worth while to the person showing those attitudes.

Curbing Dangerous Drivers

Over in Elkin a few days ago, a group of children was playing on a residential street when the driver of a '50 Ford dashed by so fast that a woman who saw him couldn't get his number. She and a group of neighbors were discussing his performance when the driver of the '50 Ford roared by again, but this time he wasn't so lucky. One of the women got his number and reported him.

The esteemed Elkin Tribune in reporting this incident remarks: "It could well be that if every driver seen putting on an exhibition of dangerous driving were referred to the police and followed through by the person making the report as a witness, some of this racing through residential streets would stop."

Packing Them Tight

(Waynesville Mountaineer) With two thousand Methodists here for the state conference in Greensboro, one businessman, who is a leader in the Methodist Church, conferred

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

(Ed. Note.—While Drew Pearson is on a brief Washington column he has written by members of his staff.)

ONE of the unkind stories of the Korean war is that Joe Stalin had a blunt forewarning from President Truman that he wouldn't put up with any more S-type atomic bombs.

The ultimatum was relayed by Trvye I. U. S. Secretary-General, when he visited Moscow just before the outbreak. He wanted to work out a peace formula whereby we would recognize Communist China as a member of the United Nations if Stalin, in turn, agreed to call off the cold war.

However, Truman flatly rejected this proposal when the U. N. official sounded him out before leaving for Moscow on "honorable" grounds, but not as an appeaser.

Somewhat crestfallen, he asked the conference brochure if Mr. President is there any message you would like me to give to Generalissimo Stalin?

Then he added, crisply: "Yes, tell the Generalissimo that the only thing we want from him is peace. Also tell him that the United States will take no more marching around anywhere he tries it."

That was one month before the Korean invasion.

Unexpected Co-Ordinator

TOP Co-ordinator of the economic controls program will not be Stuart Symington, chief of the National Security Council Board on Economic Warfare, but John R. Steiman, assistant to the President.

From A 'Nen'

Two little girls who had just begun to explore the intricacies of spelling, were discussing the morning. "I had a awful good breakfast," remarked the girl.

"So did I," replied the second. "I had something real nice that begins with an 'n'."

"No," replied the second. "No sugar."

"No," replied the first. "No, it was a negg."

Cautious Mr. Carter

(Greensboro News) Careful County News. Mr. Carter, Southwestern Prines and Hamlet laundryman, off to a speculation which if he had made it, would have netted him in a few weeks.

Mrs. Carter was admonishing him for not taking advantage of the opportunity. "My dear," he replied, "I got to thinking about the pressure of his job. The President maintains a pipe in one hand, strikes a match with the other and wields a knife or fire a pistol."

Pipe Smokers

(Greensboro News) Pipe-smokers of our acquaintance for the most part stay out of politics because they can't hold a pipe in one hand, strike a match with the other and wield a knife or fire a pistol.

Truman Trivia

THOUGH President Truman doesn't object to smoking, he won't touch tobacco in any form. He insists on a clean pipe and even Harry Truman has assistants that it's an insult to be late.

Truman has gone overseas for television, has three sets in Blair House and one in the White House. He has a morning before breakfast.

In fact, his office is the only space in the White House that isn't artificially cooled. Despite the terrible pressure of his job, the President maintains a calm and friendly manner throughout each hectic day. One outburst of tension is an occasional ungracious wringing of the President's hands. If any would be associated with him, he would be associated with the President's economic Council.

Super-Tanks

DESPITE what the brass hats are telling Congress, it will be another year before American production lines start rolling out tanks that will equal the Soviet's 60-ton metal monsters.

These new super-tanks will come in three sizes. Only the 60-ton or the 80-ton on the market. Chander called on the President recently to discuss baseball's war role.

He didn't want to do the job any longer, but to do the service of our national spirit, he would be involved in the war effort. Chander declared: "If there is any way we can help, we will help."

Truman replied that he would put the former Kentucky Senator, a reservist, on top of my list, if we need one.

"Happy," you're doing a great job for the country right where you are and I would like to see you stay there. The steps to be taken to curtail it in any way and I have no intention of doing so."

Chandler reported that no major league ballplayers were seeking deferments, other than justifiable reasons applying to all men of draft age.

Forrest's Diary Will Throw Much Light On Defense Mess

By MARQUIS CHILDS

ALTHOUGH WASHINGTON has been busy in the past few days with the question of the defense of Formosa, the diary of Forrestal, which he took his own life in May, 1949. Shortly before the nervous collapse that preceded his death, Forrestal took this diary to the White House and left it to the President. The document was put in the safe of Rear Admiral Robert D. Donnan, naval aide to the President. At the White House it is said that the diary was kept under guard until it was turned over to Eugene S. Duffield, one of the President's associates, acting for the executor of his estate.

Stearns Dillon, of Dillon, Read & Co., the executor, has now returned to this country from Europe. It is reported that he will be the member of the Forrestal family who shortly decides how and where the diary should be published.

In my opinion there is a strong public obligation to make it available, with proper editing, at the earliest possible date. For the sake of the country more than from any other conceivable source.

Those who have read the diary say that it does throw extraordinary light on how we got where we are today. It is also the deeply moving record of a man of unflinching courage and sensitive individual who sees the pit of destruction prepared for his country, and yet, as though moving in a terrible and senseless nightmare, he can do nothing to avert it. He is, indeed, a man who would face up to the kind of order which a public servant can be subjected to.

In point of fact the diary is not a complete day-to-day diary. It is because it is more or less disjointed and lacking in chronology, it will take a great deal of editing. This editing should be done by someone who is not only a professional historian of the highest stature and responsibility. There should be complete confidence that no interest in any individual has been considered in the editing process.

For there is a voice that can speak above and beyond partisanship. In the broadest sense that is not to be a request to family and heirs, it is a request — a request of truth to the American people. The things that Forrestal did not say during the last tragic day are said during the last day he believed to be good and sufficient reasons, he would have said that he had given warning of the shape of things to come.

It is entirely admirable that the diary is being made available to the public. It is a document that will be read by millions of Americans who are seeking to understand the things that have happened in the past few years.

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