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MIDDLE EAST MUDDLE

SATURDAY THE U. S., British, French and Turkish governments jointly made a statement of policy on the Middle East.

In this short statement—short as diplomatic statements go, about nineteen columns inclusive—the word "defense" appears fourteen times. "Defense against outside aggression," "defense liaison organization," etc.

It is also noted once, in the only reference to the subject, that "the achievement of the peace and security in the area through the Middle East Command" will bring it social and economic advancement.

Middle Easterners are not interested in "defense." They are very interested in land, food and clothes. A recent U. N. report on the Middle East stated that in most of the area a large proportion of the cultivated land is held by large—generally absentee—landowners.

A land reform bill was introduced in the Syrian parliament. The bill was, however, dominated by the parliament, boycotted it when the bill was presented, thus there was no quorum.

News Columnist Stewart Alsop, now in Cairo, has reported Egyptian resistance to booting out the British and the Pashas—the rich native landholders under whose rule the great masses of Egyptians have long lived in semi-serfdom. He further states that communism is not at present a major factor.

And along with this reinvestment must come a policy of revolutionary energy understandable to the citizens of the Middle East, rather than one of defense against an unknown enemy.

JUNE, 1950

DURING the last hectic week of June, 1950, the U. S. made a series of decisions which will profoundly affect the world for many years. These decisions were made by the President and the men who made them.

They are fascinatingly described in the current issue of the Saturday Evening Post by Beverly Smith, the Post's Washington editor. The decisions of those six days have caused considerable comment and have tended to magnify certain impressions of what then transpired, thus this article helps restore events to their proper proportions.

Louis Johnson, former Secretary of Defense, recalled that Secretary of State Acheson opposed the protection of Formosa during the first full meeting of Presidential advisers, then after "violent discussion" between the two men Acheson "reversed" his opinion.

Another thing all interested in the United States should know is that the "memories of most of those present, backed by certain notes taken at the time, indicate that Acheson made the suggestion" that the Seventh Fleet be started north from the Philippines.

When the first reports came in from American, in Korea, with General MacArthur in Japan or in the Pentagon believed the Com-

THE SPLIT, SPIN TAXPAYER

BUSINESS is booming these days. That is, if you are a taxpayer. Since the new revenue law became effective the legal eagles have been working on a tax loophole.

You may prefer to call it tax relief, depending on which side of the till you are on. Anyway, the smart boys have uncovered what Business Week calls "one rather obscure provision of the new law" affecting the "split-up," the split-off and the spin-off.

Before the new law was passed, say that the magazine, there was only one absolutely guaranteed tax-free method of distributing shares in new companies to stockholders of an established company. That was the split-up.

The split-off has been "more chancy." Under Company A, spin tax payer can transfer part of its assets to one or more companies, which give their own stock in return. Then Company A gives these shares to its stockholders. The stockholders, in return, give some of Company A's stock back to Company A.

'MIDDLEBROW' MUSICIAN

THE world of music is infinitely poorer because of the death Saturday of Sigmund Romberg, composer of The Desert Song, The Student Prince, The Student Prince and dozens of other musical plays which have been long appreciated.

Jazz, to him, was lowbrow; symphony highbrow. "Me, I write middlebrow," Romberg liked to say. His style was readily accepted—his works of almost 40 years ago are at least as popular as those he turned out this year.

Like so many men who have made outstanding contributions to our culture, Mr. Romberg was a first-generation American. A native of Hungary, he came to this country via Vienna, when 21, getting his start as a pianist in a New York cafe.

Alsop believes, is clear—"to give the moderate and rational Egyptians, who exist, and who are our last hope here, some sense of participation and self-respect."

And what do we offer them? Offense against their want and misery? Oh no—the Communists offer them that, however false may be their offer. We offer them defense, defense against an aggressor they've not heard and do not care about.

And our diplomats reported the AP yesterday from Cairo, "mindful of the agrarian reform that accompanied the advance of communism in China," keep "a watchful eye on developments."

Perhaps some of the diplomats think we should do more than watch developments. Maybe they also remember what has happened to some diplomats who said agrarian reformers should be helped in China.

In his address last Wednesday President Truman said that perhaps someday we can get on with "the only war we seek—the war against want and human misery"—if the armaments burden can be reduced.

We cannot win by such a philosophy. The enemy, that is, the war against human misery cannot wait for reduction of armaments, which looks far away indeed. But war against want and misery is one of the most vital battles of this unique war we are in.

A couple of billions of dollars applied to the battle could easily come off our scores of billions for military defense, and do vastly more good in this global war than it would if invested in superatoms and supercarriers and superweapons.

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minists had a strong invading army. The term "police action," which has plagued President Truman since, came up at that time. The President never used the word—a reporter asked if it would be correct to call the Korean affair a "police action." Mr. Truman said "yes."

Fourteen Congressional leaders, from both parties, were called in to participate in some of the discussions later in the week. According to Smith:

"No one questioned the propriety of the decisions; the general attitude was one of friendliness and earnest support. When the President's statement (on using the Navy and Air Force in the campaign) was read to the House of Representatives, the opposition was limited to a few feet and cheers. In the Senate, Republicans as well as Democrats praised the President's leadership and appealed for united, bipartisan support."

Two Senators of the far right, Ken. of Missouri and Watkins of Utah, and one Representative from the far left, the sincipitated Marcantonio of New York, questioned the President's right to act without formal approval of Congress.

It will be well to compare these findings of a responsible and painstaking reporter with some of the conflicting statements we will hear increasingly during the coming election year.

The Republican Party in North Carolina might have escaped the odium of the so-called carpet-baggers had they had strong leadership. But they did not have it. Unfortunately Republican social leaders who posed officially as leaders have sorely accepted anything that has been handed to them by their Northern bosses who have wanted the Negro vote in the big North.

The leadership of the Republican Party in the South has been provided for generations by a so-called leadership that has been satisfied with Federal jobs. All the principle, character, intellectual stamina and gain of the contemporary anti-segregationist Republican Party leadership in the Southern States have been sacrificed for Federal patronage; bigger and bigger Federal patronage; bigger and bigger Democratic Party of today is offering the Negro class legislation in the form of FEPC, not to secure votes of Negroes in the South, where they do not

to that company. The Courts differed on the legality of this one. Now the spin-off. Company A transfers some of its assets to a new company, getting stock in return. The new stock is distributed to Company A stockholders, who don't turn in any stock in return. Before the 1951 law new shares received in a spin-off were taxable at regular income rates. Now spin-off of common stock of corporations organized this year or hereafter pays tax-free. But the tax collector will still remember that you have the shares, especially if they increase in value.

Then there's a "roundabout" way of getting a tax-free spin-off, says Business Week. "You form another corporation and transfer the stock of your subsidiary—or other stock holding..."

But that was enough for us. We noticed in closing the magazine that "unless you get more legal advice" you might not be able to split-up, or split-off, or spin-off, round about or directly.

How about those of us who can't afford the smart boys? Guess we'll spin in, down and out.

They are awarding the cheap Government water power from Hungry Horse Dam in Montana to the Anasconda Copper Company, despite vigorous objections by Mr. Truman's Justice Department. The contract violates the principle of the Sherman Antitrust Act.

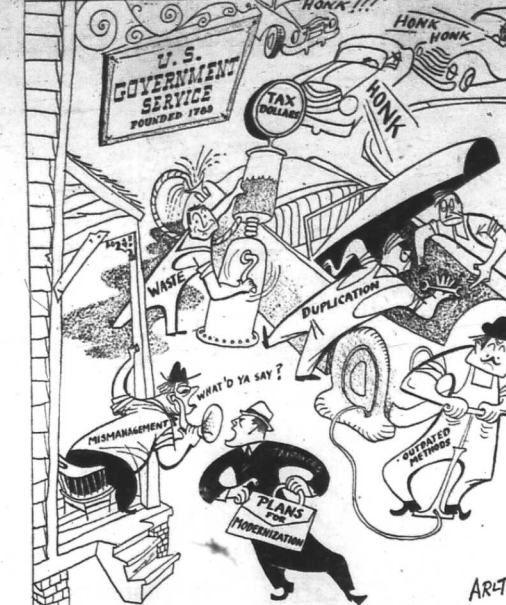
They are also closing their eyes to the criminal record of Anasconda, whose Anasconda Wire and Cable Company was twice convicted of war frauds during World War II for selling defective wire to the armed forces—wire which, if not detected, might have caused the loss of American troops in battle.

Ironic fact is that a small business firm, the Harvey Machine Company of Los Angeles, was about to receive a big order from the war and collected \$1,000,000 from Anasconda. Yet this is the company which will now be favored with cheap Government power, a tax-mortgage to get support for its aluminum plant, for years, and a contract whereby the Government buys virtually all its aluminum.

Monopoly Ignored OTHER phases of the Anasconda aluminum deal are also interesting. When little businessman Harry-rang Government doorbells and sat in Government anti-trust hearings, he agreed to become Anasconda's Justice lawyer. "Why don't you get a wealthy partner?"

Meanwhile Anasconda made various overtures to him, frequently discouraged partnership. Harvey resisted. Finally the Government served notice that the priorities he had received on materials, together with his power contract at Hungry Horse, would be taken away. Throwing in the sponge, he agreed to become Anasconda's Justice lawyer. This means Harvey will be swallowed up by Anasconda like

economic adjustment" is a term used loosely these days, and manipulated by economic chiropractors.—Dallas (Tex.) Morning News.



People's Platform

Letters should be brief, written on one side of the paper. The writer's name must be signed, but may be withheld from publication in the discretion of the Editor. The News reserves the right to condense.

Hillbillies Shows Defended

HUNTERSVILLE EDITORS, THE NEWS: I refer to your letter published against hillbillies shows by Mr. A. W. Black I would like to tell him straight.

He may as well have come out and said he was referring to Fred Kirby of WBT. I think Fred Kirby is doing a pretty good job and evidently Mr. Black must think so too because from his remarks he is bound to listen quite often. He seems very familiar with the schedule of the programs.

He would not have ever offered in the way of entertainment. My being a patient here at the Sanatorium, I would like to express my thanks to Mr. Fred Kirby for the time he's donated in coming out here with entertainment.

BILL W. HORNSBY Mecklenburg Sanatorium

GOP, FEPC And Negroes

CHARLOTTE EDITORS, THE NEWS: DURING the 1870s in the reconstruction period of our state and a few years later the Republican Party in North Carolina was manipulated by the so-called carpetbaggers, or in other words political adventurers who came here from other states, to get with their native partners.

They organized the Negro vote on the promise of "40 acres and a mule." That was the battle cry among the Negroes in order to corral their votes. Every adult male Negro expected to receive from the Government 40 acres and a mule and the right to vote. These so-called carpetbaggers and their partners were generally unscrupulous office-seekers.

A few so-called carpetbaggers later eschewed politics, settled down and became good citizens. But the damage had been done and ever since it has been almost impossible for the Republican Party in North Carolina, or for individual Republican leaders in North Carolina, to escape the odium attached to so-called carpetbagging.

The Republican Party in North Carolina might have escaped the odium of the so-called carpet-baggers had they had strong leadership. But they did not have it. Unfortunately Republican social leaders who posed officially as leaders have sorely accepted anything that has been handed to them by their Northern bosses who have wanted the Negro vote in the big North. The leadership of the Republican Party in the South has been provided for generations by a so-called leadership that has been satisfied with Federal jobs. All the principle, character, intellectual stamina and gain of the contemporary anti-segregationist Republican Party leadership in the Southern States have been sacrificed for Federal patronage; bigger and bigger Federal patronage; bigger and bigger Democratic Party of today is offering the Negro class legislation in the form of FEPC, not to secure votes of Negroes in the South, where they do not

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON DESPITE President Truman's 1948 whitewash campaign based on protecting the nation from big business, his administrators have now decided to put one of the biggest metal companies in the world in the already tightly held aluminum monopoly.

They are awarding the cheap Government water power from Hungry Horse Dam in Montana to the Anasconda Copper Company, despite vigorous objections by Mr. Truman's Justice Department. The contract violates the principle of the Sherman Antitrust Act.

They are also closing their eyes to the criminal record of Anasconda, whose Anasconda Wire and Cable Company was twice convicted of war frauds during World War II for selling defective wire to the armed forces—wire which, if not detected, might have caused the loss of American troops in battle.

Ironic fact is that a small business firm, the Harvey Machine Company of Los Angeles, was about to receive a big order from the war and collected \$1,000,000 from Anasconda. Yet this is the company which will now be favored with cheap Government power, a tax-mortgage to get support for its aluminum plant, for years, and a contract whereby the Government buys virtually all its aluminum.

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OTHER phases of the Anasconda aluminum deal are also interesting. When little businessman Harry-rang Government doorbells and sat in Government anti-trust hearings, he agreed to become Anasconda's Justice lawyer. "Why don't you get a wealthy partner?"

need them, but to corral the Negro vote in the big Northern cities in the doubtful states.

In both instances the Negro is or has been the victim of exploitation. FEPC is alike in possible as was "40 acres and a mule." The Negro has right and protection under the law, full opportunity under the system of free enterprise, the right to vote; rights under the Constitution; he is an American citizen. It is that not good enough him? What does he want? Does he want to be a ward of the nation and thereby lose his citizenship?

Let the Negro think, study, inform himself and vote intelligently and patriotically and he will be respected and will continue to make progress as he has been making. He will not help himself by seeking privilege at the expense of the rest of the country.

In conclusion I will say that I was a candidate on the Republican ticket for State Sen. I opposed FEPC and lost several hundred normally Republican votes thereby. I would do it again. Full constitutional rights for all citizens, special privilege none.

ROY H. EAVES

Public Interest In U. N.

CHARLOTTE EDITORS, THE NEWS: WE wish to express our thanks for the co-operation of your newspaper in helping to make the United Nations a real effective in Charlotte through the wide educational medium of your columns, both news and editorial.

It is that we will find more real concern among the reading public every year for the increasingly effective use of the machinery provided through the United Nations and its agencies for the elimination of the economic and social causes of war, wherever they may be found, and for the achievement of peace by free, genuinely democratic processes.

ELIZABETH HAWES DANIEL, CHAIRMAN Joint Committee for U. N. Week

Quote, Unquote

It took everything but strong-arm tactics to disuade our City Hall reporter from writing a story of a financial crisis of the Dodge Grove cemetery board. The Dodge Grove cemetery board has had to go in the hole the past two months as a result of a financial crisis. The commission on grave financial crisis mounted. The commission on grave financial crisis mounted. The commission on grave financial crisis mounted.

Making the best of a bad situation is what you might call this: An advertisement of a wallet that's subject to an excise tax, instead of using an asterisk to bottom them and printing in small type that they are subject to the "Plus Federal Tax," boldly proclaims: "The U. S. Government, speaking officially, says this is a luxury and makes us a percent tax on each one."—Lexington (Ky.) Leader.

It was for defrauding the Government in connection with the sale of defective wire that was fined \$31,000. Three of its men were given suspended prison sentences.

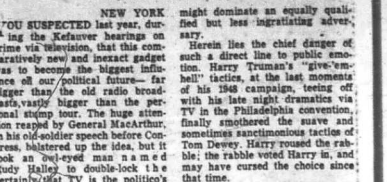
Again in Pittsburgh, R. L. Anasconda was convicted Jan. 11, 1948, on a war fraud charge. He was given a five-year term in prison and a \$100,000 fine.

Marked the judge: "The company perpetrated these frauds with the intent to increase their profits without regard to the lives of American boys."

On top of the criminal convictions, the Government brought suit after the war and collected \$1,000,000 from Anasconda. Yet this is the company which will now be favored with cheap Government power, a tax-mortgage to get support for its aluminum plant, for years, and a contract whereby the Government buys virtually all its aluminum.

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YOU SUSPECTED LAST YEAR... King the Kefauver hearings on crime via television, that this comparatively new and inexact gadget...

Harry just whipped everything in organized politics for the second most important job in New York, that of chairman of the City Council. This puts him in as second in command to the Mayor, and an almost certain in eventual candidate for Mayor and possibly Governor.

He conducted his current campaign largely via video, even appearing as a narrator on something called "Crime Syndicated." On the record he is as much actor as politician. He is a high public office, but he is a good bet to be Governor before he's a great deal older.

The immense potency of the television program cannot be underestimated from now on as a political weapon. Its effect on the listener, its huge command of audience, almost would make it possible for Milton Eisenhower to win an election over a qualified but dull-garrr opponent. A man with the easy charm of an Eisenhower

might dominate an equally qualified man, but he is not so easily won. Herein lies the chief danger of such a move. Harry Truman's "give-'em-hell" tactics, at the last moments of his campaign, were a brilliant stroke. In his late night dramatics via TV in the Philadelphia convention, he finally smothered the suave and somewhat insouciant speech of Dwight D. DeWey. Harry roused the rabble; he roused the rabble, and he has cured the choice since that time.

I imagine a man with the tremendous, doubly early and lusty public appeal of a Huey Long could achieve almost any end today, with video-camera and the transcontinental cable, and the radio-broadcasting of his gaudy histrionics, while a Calvin Coolidge or early Herbert Hoover might find the TV screen a definite enemy.

The appeal of the medicine show of the carnival Barker, has been denied as a vital approach to an essentially emotional public. Florida started with the radio-broadcasting of Winston Churchill and the ripe and fancy phrase-making of Franklin D. Roosevelt. He has used them, even without the addition of widespread video.

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California's Governor Warren is Playing It Shrewd For '52

SACRAMENTO THE BIG, square-faced man who is now playing it shrewd for '52 in the new wing of California's capital seems to radiate good will and easy assurance.

While he was re-elected to a third term by a whopping majority last year, organization Republicans in California are for the most part trying to crowd him out of the 1952 picture. This is all the more remarkable in view of the fact that he has not only held his own but in the country Warren is considered a likely competitor for the White House.

The reason for what most other men seem strange to him is not hard to find. In the course of pushing what is, on the whole, a constructive and progressive program, Warren has stepped on important toes. Powerful interests are not to get him out of office. He has enlisted the help of the type of Republican who considers he has the Party upper lock and key.

One consequence is a savage smear campaign. In its most poisonous form it is being carried on by an organization calling itself the Partisan Republicans of California.

Mailed out to a carefully selected list of members of the State Committee for the Partisan Republicans of California. The extraordinary document bearing the name of Gregory C. Bern, as editor, declares:

"There are three principal 'prospects' who Communists and New Dealers are expected to try to impose on the Republican Party eating an ice-cream cone."

Interesting fact number 3 — Fleichmann and other Defense Production officials did so. Fleichmann was called by the Justice Department either in regard to Anasconda's criminal record; its monopoly position until after they had reached a tentative agreement.

The past record of an individual seeking a Government job is sometimes scrutinized by the FBI for war. But not so in the case of Anasconda. It was made Anasconda's Justice lawyer. "Why don't you get a wealthy partner?"