

THOMAS L. ROBINSON Publisher
J. E. DOWD General Manager
B. S. GRIFITH Executive Editor
C. A. McKNIGHT Editor

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CALENDAR FOR IRAN

SLOWLY but surely, it is being reported that the Persians are ready to give Russia a partial calendar of events since the end of the war might help clarify the situation.

1945: Russian troops moved into Azerbaijan, northernmost Iranian province and a Communist puppet government was set up in Tabriz.

1946: All Hussein, U. N. envoy from Iran, demanded before the Security Council that Russian troops withdraw. They did. The puppet government fell. The Communist indoctrination remained. Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, 40, returned to Iran.

1949: In July, the British owners of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Co. agreed, after nine months of negotiation, to give Iran a better cut of oil profits—including retroactive payments and a doubling of the royalty rates. It would provide about 40,000,000 pounds for the Iranian government.

1950: All Razmara was appointed Prime Minister. Big plans for development were announced on the strength of a promised \$100,000,000 loan from the U. S. Export-Import Bank. The U. S. hedged, sent only \$25,000,000. In retaliation, Iran signed a \$20,000,000 trade treaty with Russia. Radio Tehran stopped broadcasting the Voice of America and BBC. The official news agency began to distribute Tass handouts from the official Soviet news agency.

1951: The Shah announced a program of land distribution, to dispose of some 2,350 villages among approximately 500,000 peasants. It was not, probably because of the March 7, a Moslem nationalist fanatic shot and killed Prime Minister Razmara. On March 11, All Hussein was appointed to succeed Razmara. On March 14, Britain sent a sharp note to the Iranian Parliament warning against any attempt to cancel the British oil concession. In releasing the note, the British also announced that they had offered a new deal—a 50-50 split on oil profits—to the Iranian Royal Government.

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EXCESS BAGGAGE

THE revelations in the Reconstruction Finance Corporation inquiry lend emphasis to Senator Byrd's remark that the lending agency's "access to the financial resources of the United States has been too great a temptation for political camp followers in periods when it (the RFC) did not have a job to do."

The Hoover Task Force Commission has previously recommended abolition of the agency, a motion that was seconded by Jesse Jones, who served as the first chairman after it came into being in January, 1932.

COMMUNITY EASTER SERVICE

CHURCHES of Charlotte co-operating in the community Easter service next Sunday morning at Freedom Park are to be commended for their zeal in continuing the custom.

The community observance at Sunrise on Easter morning has become a custom and tradition since it was established here nearly a quarter of a century ago. The custom was started largely through the efforts of the Rev. Herbert Spang, who came to his pastorate in Charlotte imbued with the colorful and impressive traditions of the ancient Moravian Church.

Winston-Salem is the southern center of Moravian culture and tradition and the Easter observance of the Twin City Moravians annually attracts thousands of lay folk. The Charlotte observance has never attained the color or the magnitude of that in Winston-Salem but the custom has established an important tradition here with members of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Ministerial Association taking part in arrangements for the event.

Another major feature of the co-operative

accepted in principle a proposal that the industry be nationalized and asked for a delay of two months in which to prepare the nationalization plan.

On March 15, by unanimous vote the Majlis decided tentatively to nationalize the industry. Spectators in the city cheered. The United Press reported that "jubilation swept the country and . . . people ran through the streets of Teheran shouting, 'Our oil is nationalized. Two thousand prayers were said for the Shah and his ministers.'"

On March 16, the Shah made a last-minute attempt to quell the growing spirit of revolt. He launched the land distribution program by turning over parcels of land to 143 peasants in a village called Davudabad. AP writer Robert B. Hewett said: The Shah "drove to Davudabad over streets and roads lined with police and soldiers. . . Soldiers marched in formation, their rifles fixed to their barrels and walls. The guard was larger than usual."

On March 19, the Iranian Senate announced plans to vote on the proposed nationalization on March 20-21. The AP said: "Legislative leaders there are not so confident of success as the probably would be if the nationalization bill will be passed quickly." Premier Ali Hussein was reported having trouble getting political leaders to serve in the cabinet he is trying to form.

That is the series of events that has brought Iran to the point of revolt.

The British—and Americans—still hope that the nationalization program will not take place. The more vocal British element also have that hope, for they are aware that Iran has neither the money nor technical personnel to run the fields. Perhaps the answer lies in the New York Times editorial comment of last week: "Should ownership of this industry pass into the control of Parliament not as easily swayed as the Majlis, it will not be long before another treaty will be signed with Moscow on the lines of the trade agreement recently concluded and the Russian-led Majlis will be able to refer to the Persian Gulf without the bother of taking over the Government."

A review of the calendar of events shows that on at least two occasions—the visit of the Shah to the U. S. and the approval of the Export-Import Bank loan—the U. S. might have prevented the current trouble. The British might have prevented it by concessions before their backs were pressed to the wall.

The West has failed in Iran. It has failed because it did not understand the growing spirit of nationalism in the Middle East. It did not fully appreciate the abject poverty of the people of Iran, did not realize that poverty was breeding an alliance with Russia.

If nationalization can be staved off—the only way that could happen if the Senate approves the measure. If the Shah, to dissolve the Parliament—the West had best review its whole policy toward the land that floats on oil.

in the period of the highest plateau of inflation we have ever reached. It is an agency which is being used as a workshop by get-rich-quick political predators. The Senate finds that "to talk about reorganizing a non-essential agency with no constructive to do is completely impractical. In the first place, competent, reliable financiers, such as are required to direct an institution such as the RFC was supposed to be, will not make themselves available as useless bureaucrats feed-off the public trough of the Federal pay roll."

Whether the RFC is making money or not depends on who's doing the bookkeeping, but that is beside the point. The point is that the RFC is a completely unnecessary agency which serves no useful purpose. And the Congress will do well to go along with Senator Byrd and put it out of business.

Dr. Spang, who incidentally, is the Everyday Counselor of the Charlotte News is chairman of the Ministerial Association's committee for this year's program. The committee has secured Bishop Costen J. Harrell as the speaker to read out a program which will be inspiring and worthwhile to all who take advantage of the opportunity to attend the services.

WASHINGTON SENATOR PAUL DOUGLAS OF ILLINOIS IS NOW ONE OF THE HALF DOZEN POLITICAL FIGURES IN THIS COUNTRY.

ing of the New Deal wing of the party, which has lost ground, but which still exercises a veto power over the White House nominations. . . . The following excerpts are from a copyrighted article appearing in the current issue of "U. S. News & World Report," as published weekly by the magazine publisher, Inc., Washington, D. C. (The News.)

Q. How was President Roosevelt's health in his last few months? Didn't he have his first stroke that last trip to Warm Springs in April, 1945?

Q. Was he seriously ill then?

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Virginia Hill's Performance Tops - And Ad Lib At That

BY ROBERT C. RUARK NEW YORK THESE OLD eyes are seeing some wondrous spectacles in the life of Virginia Hill. She is not only a top performer in the entertainment world, including Tallulah in a fizzy, ever comparable to the other girls in the gang, but she is also a top performer in the world of show business.

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Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round Senate Chaplain Ready for Communists

O'Mahoney Disagrees (CHAIRMAN Joe O'Mahoney, Wyoming Democrat, snorted at his disagreement and thumbed through an old copy of Ferguson's book on the subject of African mines, and read how they received "low taxes and liberal depreciation allowances from the Government of South Africa.")

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Patriotic Speech

"I'm trying to find out if your interests in foreign mines are so great that you'll be prejudiced in your advice to Mr. Wilson." The New Mexico Senator persisted. "Our miners feel your opposition to this kind of domestic production was based on your foreign interests."

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