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'FECKLESS FOLLY' IN IRAN

IT HAD BEEN five years now since the Russian army, dragging its feet, withdrew from Northern Iran under pressure from the U. S. Security Council. The Kren... to this oil rich nation; and it appears that we might have given them the opportunity... meaning the U. S., Britain and the Transient themselves.

Columnist Joseph Alsop, whose reports from Tehran have appeared on this page this week, has roundly denounced the U. S. State Department and the Administration for its "feckless folly" in Iran, for losing to Russia in Iran by default.

And, in this instance, the State Department does deserve criticism.

True, it is properly concerned with affairs in the Far East; indeed, it is up to its ears in the Far East. But things were relatively tranquil in the Orient in 1946—when the United States had an aggressive diplomatic program in Iran. When the last Red soldier trudged over the border into Soviet Azerbaijan, our first dollars should have marched into Tehran—dollars for education, for health, for housing, for agricultural reform. They say you can't buy friends—perhaps not, but you can insure allies; and our investment in Iran would have been worth more than a dozen Koreas.

Iran means oil. Fully 25 per cent of West Europe's oil supply comes from the fields of Iran through the refineries of the Ahadon. Iran means oil and armies run on oil. The western military effort will be crippled if Iran's oil ceases to flow to the West.

Was the State Department sleeping? Not completely. Adviser George Kennan worked manfully for an economic-diplomatic pro-

WILL RUSSIA INTERVENE?

WERE it not for the possibility of Soviet intervention, the MacArthur formula for victory in the Korean War would doubtless have been adopted long ago.

The Administration and our U. N. allies fear that Russia will intervene in the Korean War. General MacArthur, on the other hand, told the Congress that "the Soviet will not necessarily mesh its actions with our moves."

Some light on the proper authority for deciding this issue has been shed by the General himself, through his combination Rowell and Main Friday, Maj-Gen. Courtney Whitney.

Who will recall that the New York Times recently printed what purported to be a documented version of the Wake Island conference between General MacArthur and President Truman. That story said Mac-

JOE MARTIN—SMEAR EXPERT

AFTER reading very carefully several hundred newspapers and listening to many radio broadcasts these last few days, we had come to the conclusion that General Douglas MacArthur received a most genuine and cordial reception from his fellow Americans. Even those who disagree with him are seemingly outdone themselves in honoring his military accomplishments and his statesmanship. We had detected no criticism of the General himself, any of his ideas.

Hence it came as somewhat of a surprise that Rep. Joseph W. Martin should bring the Worcester County Republican, Chas. J. Massachusetts that "a smear job is being prepared on Douglas MacArthur," and that "the wrath of the American people will be kindled in its fury" if the Administration tries to "smear" MacArthur.

Reading the AP dispatch further, we decided Joe Martin must be right. Said Mr. Martin:

The smear campaign will be fed to left-wing hatchet men who do their thinly disguised...

HOW NOT TO DISCIPLINE

SOME high-ranking Army officer at the Turner Air Base in Georgia showed deplorably poor judgment when he issued an order requiring officers, regardless of rank, to "beat it, bud." The next story said that "many enlisted men watched beguiled as the men designated by Congress as officers" picked up discarded cigarette butts, bits of paper and other litter.

Officials of the base would not reveal who issued the order, but it was learned that the officers were being punished because they had been lax in seeing that enlisted men carried out previous orders to do the cleaning up.

Any organization—military or civilian—has the right to discipline its members. It is the duty of those in authority by humiliating them before their subordinates. Army officers are instructed never to "hawl out" a sergeant in front of the men over whom he has authority. In private business, the vice executive never makes a laughing stock of a minor official in the presence of employees.

In the military and naval services, obedience to authority is essential, and in times of war often is a matter of life-and-death.

Any army or navy that tries to operate in a strictly egalitarian manner is doomed to failure. A captain who is not subject to the will of his men...



News From The Capital
Fulton Lewis Fans Bombard Solons

BY TOM SCHLESINGER
Charlotte News-Special Writer

WASHINGTON

THE North Carolina Congressional offices have been hit by an avalanche of letters and postcards in that makes the MacArthur mail look like a mere spring drizzle.

All Tar Heel lawmakers report an unprecedented flow of anti-Truman passion in the form of answers to sixteen questions posed over the Mutual Network by radio commentator Lewis.

The legislators can't remember anything in recent years that approaches the reaction. Questions asked by the bitterly anti-Administration Lewis ranged from whether Truman should be impeached to whether the constituent would vote for the President again. Other queries were the domestic and foreign policies of the government.

Senator Clyde R. Hoey said he received more than 2,500 responses to his questions. MacArthur reaction—with all essentially in agreement with the Lewis stand.

Senator Willis Smith reported an estimated 3,000 returns, with "not one in a thousand favorable to the President." He said his MacArthur mail, including those letters following the speech, was in the neighborhood of 1,200.

The deluge wasn't confined to Carolina legislators. Senator Richard N. Nixon (Calif.), whose offices are in between that of Smith and Hoey, said he got more than 30,000 messages.

Hoey, whose story was about the same, only to a lesser degree. Most Representatives could dig up at least 500 cards without half looking.

Flood started several legislators wondering just what effect Lewis—a bitter anti-Grum campaigner—may have had in the runoff race in which Smith defeated the former UNC president by more than 20,000 votes.

"If 3,000 letters are enough to send letters to a Congressman, there are at least ten times that many who feel the same way but are just lazy," one Congressman declared.

Hoey, who is regarded by his fellow newsmen as one of the most dogged fault-finders in the history of the broadcasting business—makes no bones about his strong GOP leanings. In the process, he has conveyed to a large part of the country the impression that Washington is an unending scene of riotous and political bickering.

One writer once described him as "an enterprising reporter who discovered a gimmick."

Brehm's defense attorney also claims that people in the country who live in small towns and who have a frugal nature, a distaste for showiness, an interest in operating a small business—working for one. He pitches his case by telling the story of these people.

Besides numerous volatile attacks on former Senator Brehm, both before and during his Congressional days, Lewis has recently been in the news in a Senate investigation into the Maryland Senatorial election. Lewis supported Senator John Marshall Butler, an unknown Republican, who defeated Senator Millard Tydings.

People's Platform
A Council Slate

Editor, The News:

FOLLOWING a careful survey, I venture to voice the opinion of the vast majority of the progressive citizens of our city in regard to the council, conscientious men now serving on the council, namely, Senator W. L. Goddard, Mayor Victor Jordan, who seek re-election along with our Hon. Mayor Victor Shaw, and two who seek a seat on the council, Herbert Barker and Philip Van Evert.

It is due time to call a halt on men who seek to remain as a fifth of a century-fixture in any office, whose opinions, instead of being flexible with the needs of a growing city, have become fixed and applicable not to this day but twenty years ago, whose ideas have become obsolete and cannot keep pace with the needs of our city today.

Viewing the result of my survey, it would seem unnecessary to remind you that Claude Albee and Basil Boyd persistently blocked the lifting of rent control, thereby blocking private enterprise to such an extent that a housing shortage for a time was created as a result of suppressing the incentive of those who would have offered rental properties had they been able to realize a minimum margin of profit on the investment. Thereby forward moving citizens, builders of great cities, the backbone of a nation, were temporarily forced into oblivion and everybody suffered.

—MRS. IVA P. WILLIAMS

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round
Congressman's Kickback Alibi Crumbles

WASHINGTON

CONGRESSMAN BREHM'S attorney, in defending him from the charge of taking kickbacks, has accused Jack Anderson of my staff of intimidating Mrs. Emma Craven, one of the Congressman's secretaries.

Brehm's defense attorney also claims that the Congressman did not know anything about the kickbacks of another secretary, Mrs. Clara Soladay, until my assistant raised the kickback question with Mrs. Craven.

The incident is important, because it shows that certain people are a long way from the truth. It also goes to the root fact that money paid to Congressmen for the salaries of stenographers was supposed to be paid to the ladies themselves, not to go into Congressman's pockets or political campaign chests.

Here is exactly what happened: In January, 1950, Mr. Anderson of my staff did call at my direction at the home of Mrs. Emma Craven to ask her about salary kickbacks which she had paid to the GOP Congressman from Ohio. The interview was cordial. Mr. Anderson appealed to Mrs. Craven's conscience to tell the truth, pointing out that kickbacks were against the law, that we had part of the story, and would like her help in substantiating all the facts.

However, Mrs. Craven flatly stated that she had paid no money at all to the Congressman. In other words, she lied. For on the witness stand this week, she stated just the opposite, admitting that she kicked back part of her salary to Brehm.

Congressman Storms

DURING Anderson's interview with Mrs. Craven she went into the kitchen on the pretense of getting some refreshments and while there apparently telephoned the Congressman. Shortly thereafter he came bursting in the door. At first he pretended merely to have been in the neighborhood and dropped by as incident. But he was too astute to keep up the pretense.

For he literally exploded. What did Anderson mean, he stormed, by snooping into his affairs? Did he know that he was a righteous, honest member of Congress?

Brehm was so worked up that he shouted at Anderson for about five minutes. Innocent men incidentally do not roar like this. Finally, when Brehm subsided, Anderson was able to get in a word edge-wise, he told the Congressman from Ohio that if he was as innocent as he said he was, obviously there was nothing to worry about. Even Congressman Parnell Thomas also had protested his innocence when we exposed his kickbacks—only to land in jail.

Anderson reported the whole incident to me next day, but he was a righteous, honest member of Congress? He expressed his opinion that Brehm was a scoundrel and that he was going to do everything in his power to develop all the facts regarding Brehm's kickbacks so that they were libelous and I could kick Brehm's ass. Even that day, Congressman Parnell Thomas also had protested his innocence when we exposed his kickbacks—only to land in jail.

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WASHINGTON

CONFRONTED with the Russian drive to the East, the West has reacted with a series of errors that add up to one thing close to disaster. These errors seem to me to have grown primarily out of repeated underestimation of the force of the Russian drive, as an ideology, as a Godless religion; as a system capturing the hopes and imaginations of millions.

In the long tragedy of errors two stand out with glaring conspicuousness. And what is more they suggest that a third manner arising from this same underestimation will be made if some powerful people have their way.

The first error lay in the effort of the British with a little help from the other allies, to put down the Bolshevik revolution after the end of World War I. Intelligence reports indicated widespread dissatisfaction in Russia directed against the little band of conspirators who were beginning to apply the technique of a new tyrant.

1919 ERROR

If the Western allies had been prepared to send a force of several hundred thousand trained and experienced men, the response of Russian people might have been different and the shaky Bolshevik regime overthrown. In the waterworks West, a force of that size and cost was out of the question. So the net result of the feeble Bolshevik intervention was to leave a heritage of resentment and suspicion among the Bolsheviks and disillusion among the Western powers to accept continuing sacrifices and restrictions.

THE second fundamental error was also, in my opinion, due to underestimating the force of Communism as an ideology fanatically bent on world conquest. The stakes of World War II derived from Roosevelt's belief that Stalin would be willing to live side by side with the Western powers to accept continuing sacrifices and restrictions.

THE long-term national interests of this country and of the world will coincide with such a goal regardless of its cost. But it cannot be done on the cheap and easy. It would call for military preparation far in advance of anything now planned. It would require a resolution and determination on the part of the American people which would permit them to accept continuing sacrifices and restrictions.

The Overall Situation Isn't One To Make A Fellow Happy

BY ROBERT C. RUARK

NEW YORK

TODAY I AM Harry Truman, and I don't know as I like the part very much. I am sitting in the White House and wondering all of a sudden if I am as smart as I thought.

Who would have figured when I first got into the office that it is going to make a political bum out of me? The way it stacks up, the people might as well be kicking dogs and attacking morking dogs. You would have thought I'd be the way I have been treated since the man came home.

I'm the boss, ain't I? I'm the Commander-in-Chief. I want to be a general, I like a general. I will do the letter writing around here, let MacArthur play soldier and stay away from that pen and ink.

I looked pretty good in the speech, when I made the speech. I thought the guy who got home for peace and what's right, and no guy can cross me when I get my head fixed for peace. I was thinking it, strictly according to my terms. But how am I going to know that the man with the circus has come to town?

Here I get Gen. Bradley to get up and make himself a lame speech just to take the heat off me. Mac might say Bradley goes right along my line on Korea and he lays in a couple good words about the Joint Chiefs of Staff. I figure I'm fixed and I got MacArthur's guns spiked.

BACON IN MY LAR

Then he gets up in front of my Congress, just as meek as milk, and kind of casually mentions that he has been thinking of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and throws the whole thing right back at me. He goes on to give me an argument on that one. All by itself, and in the meantime I am accused of firing a guy for obstructing justice. At least that's how the public sees it.

Who would have thought that the people would have gone nuts over the guy, like they did? They never made that much fuss about me. And don't mention baseball to me, either. I can still hear those fellows in the White House, the Yankees and the Senators. They like to tore the house down at the end of the game. The last President, I think, was Herbert Hoover, and they backed up the moving vans to the White House and stayed at the election. I wonder?

Where I make the big bet, is going out to Wake to talk things over with Old Magnificent. A president is a chump to go flying off to visit the hell, I should make him come see me, and taken some of the edge off this triumphal return. Planners fix two ways, and an still the loss man. Or I thought so.

I dunno. Somehow this hasn't been my day. Since I've been in twelve months have been full of nothing but grief. Every time I get one thing wrong, or if they put other else pops up. Like the RFC, if it ain't refrigerators it's milk cows.

Now the papers say I am running a smear campaign to discredit MacArthur. This thing could last a long time, and if they put that corn-cob pipe and spangled hat up for President, I'll be in a pretty tight place. What am I saying?

MacArthur's just one thing that comforts me a little. The opposition has got so damn many campaign issues now that they are apt to lose a long piece, and if they put that corn-cob pipe and spangled hat up for President, I'll be in a pretty tight place. What am I saying?

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Russian Submarines

GRIM warning has reached the Pentagon that the Communists may be preparing to throw a Sunday punch at American forces in Korea, including an air and submarine attack. The warning came from the Russians, who had 60 to 75 submarines in Siberian-Korean waters, plus at least 2,000 airplanes. And fear that they might be thrown into the battle of the Korean peninsula. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have hesitated about bombing Chinese bases. Should Russian ships and airplanes now be used, therefore, it might be a terrible mistake. The U. S. Navy has been ordered to the United States in the all-out war in Asia that MacArthur wants.

Latest Pentagon report is that the Communists may throw 650 planes and 70 submarines at the Korean war. The planes are already standing by on Manchurian airfields, and the submarines have been making mysterious moves along the coast of China. The Communists have been repairing North Korean air fields as fast as American planes can hammer them.

This may be a gigantic Communist bluff, but the joint chiefs of staff are serious. They have already agreed to retaliate against Manchurian bases—regardless of boundaries—if our ground troops are seriously endangered by the Chinese. They have also agreed to retaliate against the Chinese if they are seriously endangered by the Chinese.

NOTE—In spite of repeated warnings about the danger of a Communist air offensive, American ground troops have set up an air-raid warning net but have not bothered to camouflage their positions by day or black out all lights at night.