The Times Recorder

A Republican Newspaper

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French Communists

Why do five-million Frenchmen vote Communist?

How does a party which stands for the most rigid regimentation attract people with a tradition of fierce individualism?

This is a question which has baffled many Westerners, including many of the French themselves.

Realities, a successful French magazine with a rising American readership, set about to find out the answers. With the aid of the French Institute of Public Opinion, a polling organization, the magazine carried out an extensive sampling of French voters' views.

It came up with answers which can apply just as well to Italy as to France. Here are some of the findings:

The average Communist voter is younger than those who vote for the other parties. Almost half of them are under 36 and three-quarters are under 50. Like youngsters in other lands, many consider themselves idealists.

The Communist voter, with rare exceptions, owns no property, has no automobile, hires no servants. But he does have a radio. He is most likely to be a laboring man, and his wife is likely to vote Communist along with him.

The slogan of the Communist party in France is "bread, peace and liberty." It shows an acute awareness on the party's part.

The survey showed that the Frenchmen who votes Communist puts bread first, then peace, then liberty.

It shows, also, that many French voters have lost faith in the other parties. Most of those who vote Communist, are not themselves dedicated to the party. On the contrary, many have only a fuzzy idea of what the party stands for. They have been won over by slogans and promises-promises on which the other parties have reneged.

The first concern of the man who votes Communist, the survey shows, is "improving the worker's conditions." He is deeply concerned with rising prices, with profiteering and the like. Some 76 per cent of Communist voters polled said they were certain that living conditions influenced the voters most.

"It is obvious," concludes the survey, "that Communist doctrine as understood by French Communist voters is poles apart from Communist doctrine as it really is. But anyone who wants to convince the Communist voters of the fact has a hard task before him."

The Office Cat

Wife to husband—I was just as unreasonable when we were first married, but you thought it was cute.—Pearson in Ladies Home Journal.

Elsie—Why do you walk. Why don't you take the train home?

Reuben—My wife won't let me take it in the living room.

Horace—I wrote myself a letter and was I disappointed!

Gordon—Why?

Horace—I sent it to the wrong address.

In a large park in one of the Eastern Ohio cities there are seats about the bandstand with this notice posted on them:

"The seats in the vicinity of the bandstand are for use of ladies. Gentlemen should make use of them only after the former are seated."

Actress—I can't think of leaving the theater (who had had nothing but bit parts for many years). I'm married to it.

Critic—Well, why don't you sue it for non-support?

They were in a conference over hiring a certain applicant for cook.

Husband—I don't like her looks.

Wife—But, consider the reputation for cooking she bears.

Husband—She bears? You know I never touch them!

Boss—Where have you been?

Workman—Having my hair cut.

Boss.—Well you can't have your hair cut on my time.

Workman—Why not? It grew on your time.

Ask The Times Recorder

A reader can get the answer to any question of fact by writing The Zanesville, O., Times Recorder Information Bureau, 1200 Eye Street, NW, Washington 5, D. C. Please enclose three (3) cents for return postage.

Q. When did the national debt pass the $100 billion mark? C. J. S.

A. In November 1942.

Q. When the Royal Observatory was moved from Greenwich, near London, was any change made in the location of the prime meridian? D. E. G.

A. Although the new location is a few miles distant from Greenwich, the move did not involve any change in the zero of longitude, which had long been fixed by international agreement.

Q. How many men have been drafted since the fighting in Korea started? I. J. L.

A. From the beginning of the Korean action through March 31, 1952, the latest date for which statistics are available, a total of 913,293 men have been drafted for military service.

Q. Did Walter Reed die of yellow fever? L. G.

A. No. The celebrated bacteriologist and sanitarian died of chronic appendicitis in Washington, D. C. on November 22, 1902. Absorbed in his work of teaching in the George Washington University Medical School, he neglected his own health.

Q. How many inventions are credited to Thomas A. Edison? G. M.

A. Thomas A. Edison, Inc., says that the inventor received 1,097 patents up to the time of his death. This number may vary slightly, because of three or four patents which were reissued and subdivided. Approximately 360 of Edison's inventions were concerned with various aspects of the electric light and power industry, and 80 or more had to do with improvements in phonograph machines, and the composition and manufacture of phonograph records.

It's Bound To Happen

Texans Used Recognized System

By WESTBROOK PEGLER

The New York Herald Tribune has been having sanctimonious hysterics over the frustration of General Eisenhower's mock-Republicans by the Old Guard in the Texas convention. The Old Guard recognized the Taft delegates.

Henry Zweifel, the Republican national committeeman, controls the machinery of the Texas convention under an old, recognized system, which governs the politics of many states and counties and all labor unions. Our machinery for presidential elections is irregular; in part obsolete, and, on the whole, seriously defective. Crude as it is, however, it is our own.

That the Herald Tribune should carry on about the shame and pity of it all as Mr. Zweifel put over his coup was expectable. This paper's editorial policy was dictated for critical and probably fateful years by Joe Barnes, the poor but proud protege of Frederick Vanderbilt Field, a notorious Red. Barnes himself is a friend of the Communists in Moscow as well as in New York and he was the political guide and social manager of Wendell Willkie on his pilgrimage to the Kremlin.

The H-T's book and drama departments have been tainted from the beginning of the New Deal and in all this time it has never shown the slightest initiative in the minimum duties of a journal with pretensions to moral leadership. It went out of its way to honor Eleanor Roosevelt instead of assigning its excellent city-side reporters to get the goods in the attempt to scare out of court John J. Glavin, a reputable Albany lawyer, who was preparing to file a divorce suit on behalf of Mrs. Earl Miller, the wife of Mrs. Roosevelt's favorite state cop.

Glavin has recounted these incidents in writing on his responsibility as a member of the bar and has charged that voice-recordings were taken of certain conversations without warning to him. The Herald Tribune has been a fellow-traveler of the New Deal under false Republican colors and now, having discredited itself, it is trying to compel the nomination of General Eisenhower by the Republicans in an obvious attempt to repair its own fortunes. That is motive enough to account for its unwonted chastity in the Texas case.

Such support is not necessarily to be held against the General. Many honest Republicans would vote for him, waiving their misgivings over his submission to Roosevelt's tragic partition of Germany, in the hope that Ike had now learned his lesson. The Herald Tribune and the New York Times, a strict, party-line Democratic paper with no standing whatever in Republican councils, typify the mock-Republican bumptiousness which Mr. Zweifel and the regular Republicans frustrated in Texas. These newspapers are not Republican but opportunist and those Texans who suddenly stormed the Republican convention in a body which Zwefel described as a mob were, in fact, Democrats suddenly determined to impose their influence on the Republican national convention in Chicago. They were thinking of patronage next winter and thereafter.

The Dallas News, a typical, other-handed Texas Democratic paper, expressed the impudence of this element six months ago. The News said these Democrats would go Republican if they could name the candidate. Its own candidate was Ike. In common with other Texas papers, the News put the proposition that the people of Texas were too stupid to vote for Taft even though he might be the best Republican but would vote overwhelmingly for Ike solely because he had glamor. No reliable way has yet been found to save the country from the folly of voters who like Ike for his grin alone. The best the Dallas News and its Texas contemporaries could say was that the people of Texas were not quite bright.

Mr. Zweifel realized that this was an attempt of a group of Democrats who knew the jig was up, to grab control of the permanent, substantial Republican organization. So he relied on a few simple, if cynical, rules which are standard in all parties and, as I say, in the unions.

In the Texas Republican organization, the state executive committee has the power under the rules to draw up a temporary roll of the state convention, declare its own adherents to be duly elected and seat them. These delegates then adopted a resolution validating their own election.

This is one familiar way of achieving a familiar political purpose. Another way, used by the Eisenhower faction in Connecticut, is to gather up the delegates at the local caucuses. I observe that the Herald Tribune sent an agent all the way to Texas to denounce with fearless indignation a process which, in Connecticut only an hour away by New Haven local, was worked unobserved for Eisenhower's benefit.

The regular Republicans have been soliciting votes in the south, but it would be folly to let the CIO take over, when the character of the intruders is as plain as it was here, without resort to the simplest political maneuver.

In union conventions, the method is even more direct. The boss goons name the committee on credentials, whose word is final. The committee seats only certified friends of the gang. The committee on resolutions is named by the same power. This committee decides which issues shall be admitted to the floor and which shall be ignored. And, by this method, the elections of officers are run by microphone from the chairman's table and undesirable characters are thwarted in disruptive designs.

I would be the last to deny that the subject of jobs for the faithful Old Guard Republicans was forward in Mr. Zweifel's thoughts. Otherwise, he would have been unworthy of his trust.

The Trend Toward Fascism

By GEORGE SOKOLSKY

It is not an altogether unexpected phenomenon that in both Germany and Italy, a reversion to Fascism should be apparent. The alternatives are Communism or the American form of capitalism.

In the United States, during the past two decades, a deification of the word, democracy, has been sponsored by both government and many organs of the people. Unfortunately, the word itself has so many meanings as to be meaningless. Certainly, to one who is not an American, the glorification of the word seems peculiar and even queer, because there is no evidence that any aspect of political, social or economic democracy, in definable terms, is practiced here.

The method employed by Americans to select public officials is remote from democracy; we enjoy a representative, republican government, operating through two mechanistic political parties. While the people can and do select, for president or many other offices, one of the two candidates offered by these parties, it is rare that anyone can be chosen independently of them. The choice of the people is funneled through the parties. There is no mob rule, no shouting of the Demos.

Similiarly, while capitalism is often referred to as free enterprise, its purpose is to produce goods and services but also to create reservoirs of privately owned capital by encouraging the accrual of private profit. The tendency of government to engage in competitive business with private individuals, either directly or indirectly by loans and subsidies, involves a movement away from the American economic system toward European Social Democracy. As this trend expands, particularly in the nature of controls, Europeans note that the United States is imitating Europe and not vice versa.

Socially, the American people reject the European concept of democracy, which is equality. Racial discrimination is not the only social barrier in this country. As long as the fundamental American concept of equality of economic opportunity prevailed, no elite class was able to survive long in this country, although it always existed. The graduated income tax is stratifying American society, for only those who possess inherited wealth or are corrupt can acquire the means to move toward social equality. The rest pay taxes and grow constantly poorer through depreciated currency.

Also, the militarization of this country by siphoning youth off during the most important formative years, a system we have copied from continental Europe, delays the opportunities of young people to establish themselves. To this delay must be added the dangerous increase of city population which tends to turn citizens into proletarians.

This the Europeans witness objectively. They are offered wonderful means to a non-existent democracy and are asked to imitate a system we do not use ourselves.

To Americans, our way is satisfactory with all its imperfections. In fact, most of us prefer the imperfections because they protect our liberties. As Estes Kefauver said in his book "A 20th Century Congress":

". . . Those multiple proposals rubber-stamped by a dazed congress did not alter the fundamentals of the American government. Proof of this fact lies in the high percentage of those hastily enacted laws that passed the test of constitutionality before the Supreme Court. Unlike another strong, but in that case malevolent, leader in a nascent democracy beset by grave problems, our executive did not demand goose-stepping, heils, and the absolutism of the fuehrer principle. That is fortunate. The people might have been tempted to try such nostrums."

It is because we are loose in our definitions and not very effective in our government that we have not gone crazy over the counterparts of Hitler and Mussolini or Stalin. We take out great men in our stride and recognize that no one is so big that he does not look pot-bellied and bandy-legged in the secrecy of the bath. At such things we laugh and we vote for them.

The Europeans say we are immature. They want a political, economic and social system that is orderly. Our use of the word, democracy, only confuses them. It is a disorderly word, meaning anything that anyone wants it to mean. I have waited for several years, for instance, for some philosopher of the Americans for Democratic Action to supply a precise definition of their basic philosophy in universal terminology.

They have not been able to do anything like that. Nor has the Voice of America. Therefore, Europe goes its merry way toward "ordnung," but now in the Fascistic form.

Pal Of Labor

By RAY TUCKER

WASHINGTON— President Truman's shotgun attempt to wrest a steel seizure law was defeated by congress because a majority of the legislators regarded as a desperate maneuver to appease labor leaders now reluctantly willing to admit that a friend in the White House cannot help them even when he dares to defy the supreme court and congress on their behalf.

It was looked upon as an effort to convince those two disillusioned oldsters—William Green and Philip Murray—that their current difficulties derive from the hostility of a conservatively controlled legislative branch, especially the Taft-Byrd faction. The president was also taking a sly poke at General Eisenhower, who has endorsed the unused Taft-Hartley Act by implication.

It was the second time in a few days that Truman tried to allay a restless labor's concern over their many failures to profit from the kind words and gestures of their presidential crony. Earlier in the month, he had called the AFL and CIO presidents to the White House to try to agree on a Democratic nominee. They didn't.

Some kind of a Truman triumph in the steel dispute is the major political problem on his desk in this re-election year. For the outcome will set the pattern for the wage scales, working conditions and terms of employment — the closed or open shop — in many key industries between now and the November voting.

Moreover, as is well known at the White House, the smarter and less partisanly minded leaders of AFL and CIO groups recently reviewed the Truman record on labor—his achievements rather than his "Whistle stop" speeches. They cited case after case in which his pro-labor proposals and actions had met with complete failure. It was an illuminating review that was not lost on Messrs. Murray and Green.

Every legal or illegal method he has invoked on behalf of labor, they recalled, had flopped. In their opinion, he has led the workingmen down a blind political alley.

He urged a draft of railroad workers when they struck during a period far less critical than today's, for he was then referring to Stalin as "Uncle Joe."

This formula for handling strikes under hangover, wartime legislation was blocked, ironically enough, by Senator Taft. He used the Taft-Hartley Act in several minor disputes, but that settled nothing permanently.

He socked John L. Lewis with an injunction and heavy fine, largely because they had become fierce enemies. He would not dare to roughhouse Green and Murray in that fashion, even if he possessed legal authority. John L. has only about 500,000 followers, whereas his rivals have 15,000,000.

When Truman took over the steel mills with praise for labor and catcalls for management in his radio address, a Roosevelt-Truman supreme court rebuked him roundly for this unconstitutional action. Labor is now right back where it started from, despite these all abortive presidential assists.

As a result of this series of failleaders throughout the country are looking at him without the Green-Murray myopia. They have lost faith in Truman as a friend and helper. This is especially true of each influential groups as the railway brotherhoods, the coal miners and the CIO-AFL electrical workers.

This background helps to explain the political purpose behind Truman's unexpected appearance before a joint session of congress to demand seizure authority which he maintains that he already possesses.

In the opinion of congress, he had three motives which had nothing to do with a satisfactory settlement of the steel strik. This appraisal of his gesture explains why the request was denied by the senate within a few hours after it was submitted. In the lawmakers' belief, his plans were:

(1) To obtain the kind of seizure law he described, which would have permitted him to raise wages and grant the open shop without commensurate benefits to the companies. He had already taken sides in his radio address on these questions.

(2) To force Congress to enact a harsh law, such as compulsory arbitration, and to regain labor's favor by getoing it. The boys ducked that one.

(3) To make Congress responsible for driving him to use of the Taft-Hartley Act. If that failed to end the strike, which was quite possible, he could assail it in the campaign as an "ineffective and discredited" statute.

(3) To make congress responsible for driving him to use of the Taft-Harley Act. If that failed to end the strike, which was quite possible, he could assail it in the campaign as an "ineffective and discredited" statute.

(4) To create such confusion that the present stoppage of steel production would continue indefinitely, and to throw the blame for jepardizing national defense during the Korean conflict and the "cold war" on the coalition of Taft Republicans and Byrd Democrats.

Here's Heaven For Housewives

By EARL WILSON

NEW YORK— A good old friend of mine is dying.

Potato peeling will soon be no more.

Women today are too busy to peel spuds. Or too lazy. Or too proud of their manicures. Science now peels them with chemicals.

I'm sorry—though I guess the GIs on KP won't be. As a boy in overalls out in the middle west, I was often called from the barnyard by my busy mother to help peel potatoes.

So I associate it with the old home place out on the dusty pike, and my grandparents, who are dead.

I never objected to peeling potatoes. For I loved sliced raw potatoes—with just enough salt—I'd consume almost as many as I peeled.

"Don't be spoiling your supper now," Mother would call . . . for supper was what we called the evening meal then . . . 35 years ago.

Oh, those "German fries" and "cottage fries" and "home fries" of years ago!

The years jetted past.

I forgot potatoes entirely until this shortage here, and down in Atlanta and in the Carolinas. And then we heard about "factory potatoes," the new thing.

When I found my Georgeous Mother-in-Law peeling potatoes the other day, I told her the practice had been abolished.

"Has it?" She went on peeling.

"Before long," I said, "nobody'll remember how."

"I will," she said.

They have these big potato-serveing plants. Potatoes are bathed, or sprayed, with a lye solution. And then heated.

The skins fade away like old soldiers don't. No hand touches the potato—except to take the eyes out.

These "ready peeled potatoes" are delivered by tons to New York restaurants. You can buy frozen potatoes, canned potatoes, already sliced potatoes, throughout our country.

One ex-GI, Jules Salzbank, pioneered the "reddy raw" potatoes over at the Potato Service in Brooklyn.

And, curiously, he never even did KP!

"What we need now," he said, "is a chemical that'll keep potatoes without spoiling."

Professors are struggling with it—just so women won't have to peel potatoes.

It's a little sad, though. A little like when you wanted a certain ball glove and couldn't afford it. One day you had the money to buy the ball glove . . . but you were too old and fat to play.

That's the way with potatoes. Mr. Salzbank sent me some of his ready-peeleds yesterday. I contemplated a potato feast.

A voice stopped me. The voice said:

"No potatoes. Remember your diet, dear."

THE MIDNIGHT EARL . . . Joan Blondell's ex, Mike Todd, and her new beau, dancer Nicky Darvas, resent each other — and there may be a clash. Nicky didn't like the wire Todd sent to Joan saying, "Happy hoofing."

"Papa" Senz, 83, is leaving the Metropollitan Opera after 52 years as wigmaker and makeup man. He'll fish. He made up Caruso.

Patti Page may take over the TV spot long occupied by a prominent night club owner . . . It could be a Paris wedding for Milton Berle and Ruth Cosgrove, who flies Pan-Am to meet him there. They'll do Europe 6 weeks . . . Snag Werris heard a woman arguing with a merchant over a bill. Finally she shouted, "I'll report you to Barry Gray!"

A famous B'way actor has made a pornographic record . . . Despite all the baloney about making up, Mrs. Robt. Merrill gets the divorce in 2½ weeks. (In Juarez, made famous by Ethel Merman) . . . Hedy Lamarr sighs, "I haven't been in love with anybody since I was married last."

Pat Wymore (Mrs. Errol Flynn) helps his parents with the Hotel Titchfield in Jamaica while Flynn makes movies abroad . . . Jose Ferrer's been having a last fling with Sherry Britton before going to Europe . . . Johnnie Ray returns to the Copa in January at $7,500-a-wk. His sister-in-law, Toni Morrison, who'll marry his mgr., Cy Kertman, will go along and make it a foursome when Johnnie and bride honeymoon.

WISH I'D SAID THAT: "A celebrity is a person who works hard all his life to become well known, then wears dark glasses to avoid being recognized" — Fred Allen.

Paulette Goddard's heading Europeward again. Likes the gents better there . . . Katharine Hepburn's legs are "discovered" again in "Pat and Mike," just as they were in "As You Like It." Seems people forget legs but not Jane Russells . . . Gary Cooper stands to make a bundle in "High Noon," the Stanley Kramer western, for he has a percentage deal.

EARL'S PEARLS . . . Roger Price has a summer suit so cool that if he stays in it too long he catches cold.

TODAY'S BEST LAUGH: "If a gal in a bathing suit looks good, a guy looks good" — Irwin Corey.

TAFFY TUTTLE is patriotic and would pay her taxes with a smile but, she told Lester Lanin, "they want cash instead" . . . That's earl, brother.

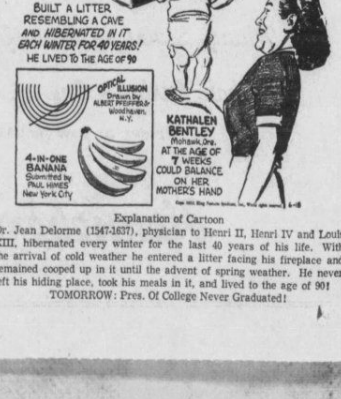
We Quote—

"Non-essential Federal expenditures must be eliminated; all expenditures must be reduced to the minimum necessary for the national interest; economy and efficiency must be achieved throughout the government." — American Farm Bureau Federation.

"High taxes are causing some farmers to think twice about the checks a seemingly generous government has put into their mail boxes. They see a connection between these checks and mounting tax bills." — Christian Science Monitor.

Believe It Or Not

By RIPLEY



Explanation of Cartoon

Dr. Jean Delorme (1547-1637), physician to Henri II, Henri IV and Louis XIII, hibernated every winter for the last 40 years of his life. With the arrival of cold weather he entered a litter facing his fireplace and remained cooped up in it until the advent of spring weather. He never left his hiding place, took his meals in it, and lived to the age of 90!

TOMORROW: Pres. Of College Never Graduated!