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AMERICA'S 'SOFT' POLICY IN GERMANY

A FEW years ago anyone who traveled through the U. S. zone of Germany could not but be impressed upon entering one of the "American Haus" libraries maintained by the U. S. Government. There he could see hundreds of Germans—young and old—avidly reading American books that for years had been denied them.

In his final report as High Commissioner of Germany, John J. McCloy last Summer said that one of the basic tasks of these libraries was to combat the intellectual stagnation cultivated by the Nazis, to counteract "the effect of 12 years of isolation and one-sided information."

His successor, James B. Conant, expressed a similar faith in the worth of intellectual controversy, in his final report as President of Harvard.

"It is the freedom to disagree," he said, "to quarrel with authority on intellectual matters, to think otherwise, that has made this nation what it is today. Indeed, I would go farther and say that our industrial society was pioneered by men who were dissenters, who challenged orthodoxy in some field and challenged it successfully. The global struggle with communism turns on this very point."

The man who appointed him, President Eisenhower, voiced a similar view. "If our system is as correct in its basic principles as you and I believe", he wrote a Texas friend prior to his nomination, "it can well stand the most pitiless and searching examination—even by our enemies."

The philosophy expressed by these three men, with which we concur, is not being carried out by the U. S. Government in Germany today. Now not even this country's friends are permitted to make "pitiless and searching examination" of the American system.

Gone from the shelves are the writings of Vera Micheles Dean, of Walter Duranty, of the late Richard E. Lauterbach, who wrote *These Are The Russians*, of Theodore White and Anna Lee Jacoby, the *Time*-team who authored *Thunder Out of China*. Gone too, are the works of Edgar Snow, former *Saturday Evening Post* associate editor, of Jean-Paul Sartre, the French playwright-existentialist, and Russia's Ilya Ehrenburg.

Why have these writers' works been removed from American libraries? They are "controversial", comes the answer. Which means they contain some nice things about the Russians, or the Chinese Reds, or some bad things about Chiang Kai-shek.

Thus the United States, the big, once-bold United States, which thrived on controversy and nurtured democracy and inquiring minds among the Germans, fearfully adopts one of the practices of the Nazi regime this nation fought to destroy, and of the Communist regime.

Which, we ask, is the soft and ineffective policy against communism—one that invites the world to practice democracy, to read conflicting viewpoints and think out opinions, or one that, in totalitarian fashion, tries to forbid the world to know that Americans can think independently, and disagree with each other?

NO REASON TO DELAY SCHOOL BOND VOTE

SEVERAL members of the General Assembly are quoted as saying the $50 million school bond issue should be postponed until after the Supreme Court hands down a ruling on segregation. Governor Umstead indicated he, too, may be thinking along those lines when he said he wanted to "study the matter and confer with a number of people" before deciding whether to call the election this year.

We don't get the connection.

The Legislature authorized the election because it felt that additional school buildings are needed for children of both races. It felt, further, that some counties are unable to provide the classrooms they need, and that the State should extend a helping hand.

While we are not sold on the precise formula worked out for dividing the $50 million, it is abundantly clear that more classrooms are needed. And they are needed right now. Not next year. Not in 1955.

Furthermore, the extra classrooms will be needed whether segregation stands or falls. The kids must have some place to go to school. If the Legislature should be called into special session and vote to delay the school election another year or two, local authorities in many communities would be inclined to hold up their own plans, pending the election. That would make the shortage even more acute.

The segregation issue arose in the first place because facilities for Negro school children all over the South were woefully inadequate. North Carolina has made tremendous progress toward equality of facilities, but the objective is still to be reached. This is not the time to slacken our efforts. Rather it is the time to redouble them, for without real equality of facilities, segregation cannot possibly be justified, legally or morally.

Governor Umstead should call the election, as he was authorized to do, and leave it up to the people to decide the basic question: whether the State should go farther into the school building business, which was a local responsibility prior to 1949.

WORTHWHILE CHANGES IN VETERAN POLICY

THE House Appropriations Committee is standing up to the powerful veteran lobby fairly well. Thursday the committee proposed a Veterans Administration budget of just over $4 billion, a reduction of over half a billion from the Truman VA budget, over a quarter of a billion from the Eisenhower VA budget.

The committee voted more money than either President requested for the VA hospital program. And in one case the committee made a meaningless attempt to economize by "saving" $300 million budgeted for veteran compensation and pension payments, funds which surely will have to be restored before the fiscal year is over.

But the committee made some strong recommendations that are long overdue, proposals that other legislators have refrained from making because of their fear of the potent veteran lobby.

The committee authorized the VA to see for itself whether veterans with non-service-connected disabilities can afford non-VA care. At present a veteran's statement of inability to pay must be accepted as final. As a recent report by the Government Accounting office showed conclusively, many rich or moderately well-off veterans, with non-service-connected disabilities, are swearing that they can't pay for treatment, which they then get free from the VA.

Further, the committee called for a study to see whether the Government can still afford to give any free medical care to ex-GIs with non-service connected ills, such as tonsilitis and appendicitis.

The committee wants the VA to "make full use" of available beds in hospitals owned by other government agencies in some parts of the country. This proposal at least nibbles at one of government medicine's most wasteful practices, the independent operation of some 30 Federal medical systems.

The committee also voted to reduce substantially VA's out-patient dental care program, and to save $56 million a year by eliminating a provision of the GI Bill of Rights under which the VA gives every veteran who buys a home, farm or business about $160 to help him with his first year of interest on the loan. These two veteran "fringe benefits" are at least worth a critical examination.

Congressmen are now under much pressure, from the major veteran lobbies, to reverse the recommendations of the Appropriations Committee. It is passing strange that the big veteran organizations do not appear interested in correcting abuses, and cleaning out fat, in the present veteran program, so more funds will be available for deserving veterans.

Many veterans who do their own thinking, instead of listening to their lobbies, are concerned over this abuse and waste. It is these independent veterans who should speak up now.

ROLAND F. BEASLEY, EDITOR

THERE were few men in the editorial writing business who could match words and wits with Monroe's Roland F. Beasley.

Student, historian, thinker, philosopher, he brought to bear on the topics of the day a vast knowledge, an understanding tolerance, and whimsical sense of humor that made collector's items of his Page 1 editorial columns.

If there was any one characteristic about Mr. Beasley that set him apart from most other contemporary editorialists, it was his deep faith in the traditional human liberties and his quiet confidence that human civilization, despite its ups and downs and its frequent aberrations, was ever moving onward and upward.

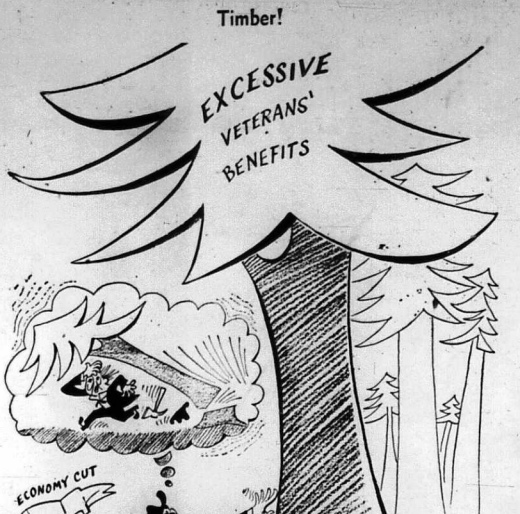
In part, that faith and confidence stemmed from a deep-running religious philosophy; in part, it stemmed from his own careful, painstaking, searching analysis of the evolvement of secular institutions; in part, it stemmed from a comprehension of the frailties and eccentricities of human nature.

Mr. Beasley was always calm, always unhurried, always reflective. Other men around him became angry and impatient, but he would puff quietly on his pipe, reach into the far recesses of his great experience, and array the new against the old and the eternal to produce a work that would stand the most critical examination.

He lived and worked most of his life in Monroe, but his thoughts roamed the whole world and his works were widely reprinted and commented upon. Monroe, Union County, North Carolina and the nation are richer because of his full and productive life, and will sorely miss his sage counsel in the turbulent days ahead.

We have not yet attained the goal of Huey P. Long of every man a king, but at least we are rapidly reaching the point where every Senator is his own Secretary of State. —*Lexington Herald.*

If the Russians ever come to hate us as much as some of our allies seem to be beginning to, we may be in for trouble sure enough.—*Greenville Piedmont.*



People's Platform

Letters should be brief. The writer's name and address must be given, but may be withheld from publication in the discretion of the Editors. The News reserves the right to condense.

Democracy In Action

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

THE Baptist petition is a remarkable example of democracy in action. It is a reassuring sign of tolerance and freedom of thought voiced by an institution that is convinced of its own creed but wise enough to understand that the opportunity to choose a religious standard is more important than the majority opinion of the community. The Baptists are to be congratulated for their public statement. The world at present needs this tolerant understanding. The important idea is in the fact that all are allowed to express what they believe.

—W. L. VENNING, M. D.

Bible Study Means Much

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

PLEASE let's do something against abolition of Bible teaching in the schools.

As a past student, I can look back on my high school curriculum and honestly say that my one year of Bible study has meant more to me than any other elective subject.

I realized exactly how much I didn't know about the Bible and the Christian faith. I learned more about the spiritual and educational knowledge in the Bible, of how to apply daily the Bible and its meaning, than I had ever learned in my life of regular attendance at Sunday School and Church.

If Bible in the schools is taken out, many young people will really suffer. They will truly be deprived of a wonderful experience of learning about the inspired Word of God. Many will never feel the nearness and closeness of a Heavenly Father, for if their home has failed and also the church, how will they be reached?

It seems to me that it's up to us, the people of Charlotte, to pray and do all we can that this work can be continued so that boys and girls of today can be taught from His Word.

—JUNE ROGERS.

'More Power To The Baptists'

MT. HOLLY

Editors, THE NEWS:

AS a Unitarian whose 13-year-old child has for seven years been subjected to orthodox Christian prayers and Bible stories in the public schools, I want it known that I wholeheartedly approve of the Baptist resolution expressing disapproval of the teaching of Bible in the public schools.

It has been my experience that the Bible cannot be taught without bias, unconscious perhaps, but there nevertheless. The teacher's emotional outlook is so bound up in her belief's regarding the Bible that she cannot possibly see the subject objectively and teach it from the historical viewpoint using what has been called the "higher criticism". If this were possible, I'm sure there would be fewer objections, at least from the religious liberals. On the other hand, were this procedure followed the orthodox would no doubt object violently.

I would be overjoyed if the subject of comparative religions were taught in the schools, but here again it would be extremely difficult for orthodox Christian teachers not to compare the beliefs of others unfavorably with their own. Still, I do believe we are illiterate both regarding the history of the orthodox Christian churches and the beliefs of other peoples. Being illiterate, we are also intolerant.

Another possibility would be the teaching of ethics (completely divorced from theology). We do not have to have a certain set of dogmatic theological rules or beliefs in order to treat other people right. Think how many children live in homes where there is constant fighting and drinking and where the consideration of others is never taught, nor is there any good example for them to follow. Psychologists tell us that a good example does more good than any amount of talk.

But you say, "Your child could walk out when Bible is taught. She doesn't have to stay". In answer to this, let me ask you what you would do if you were the lone Jewish, Catholic or Unitarian child in a room of 30 or more Presbyterians, Baptists and Methodists—conscious of all eyes upon you when the moment came for a decision? Unless you were exceptional, you would stay in order to keep from being different from the other children, even though you knew that the teachings might conflict with those of your church and home.

This situation doesn't make for an integrated personality. Of course there are Unitrians in your Bible classes, as well as other minority groups. We parents often give our consent because we realize that it is even more important sometimes that our children not feel different and isolated.

More power to the Baptists as they guard the separation of church and state. Although they, by their great number, are probably capable of maintaining a good, strong wall, we small minority groups will add our little bits of gravel and sand to help them.

—RUTH MARTIN TEETER.

Defeating A Great Purpose

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

I'VE just finished reading the article published in today's News with reference to the teaching of Bible in the public schools. This article certainly leaves room for a question in my mind whether my own denominational leaders know what they really want.

Let's look at the question like this. The Bible is an elective subject. Students can take it or leave it. Why deny the privilege to those who want it? The teachers are highly qualified, and I personally know of some children who have learned more Bible in one year in school than they learned in church in 17 years. I know because I have four boys, and I hope this privilege will not be denied them, although they are regular attenders and active in the Baptist Church.

I've never quite understood how many people, having no children in school themselves, can always tell you how to raise them and what they really need. I imagine and believe that there are children in Mecklenburg County who studied the Bible in school who have never been visited by some of those signing the petition, for I doubt if they would condescend to visit in homes that did not meet the qualifications or requirements of their station in life.

Fellow Baptists, would you still want this removed from our schools if the movement were sponsored solely by the Baptist Church? The children who receive Bible teaching in school have a privilege that many will never have, yet are we to sit idly by and see this taken from them?

There are many children who will never be reached in any other manner because Point 5 of the petition (teaching of religion is a task of home and church) will never be realized until every parent has become Christ-minded, which cannot be possible unless our children are taught to live in a manner pleasing to God.

Gentlemen, you who should be our leaders and our guides are defeating a great purpose.

—J. C. NEWELL.

Book Burning, U.S. Style, Cleans Out Library Shelves

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

THE BURNING of the books is now progressing merrily in all American diplomatic missions abroad, for all the world to see. The State Department's book-burning program, undertaken in craven fear of Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, even has certain amusing aspects—if one disregards the fact that it is making the United States an object of derision all over the world. Consider, for example, the books banned from the United States Information Service's Libraries in two sensitive Far Eastern posts, Calcutta and Bombay.

The Bombay list of books consigned to the flames is headed by "Washington Witchhunt," by Bert Andrews, the able Chief Washington correspondent of the New York Herald Tribune. Andrews is a bitterly anti-Communist and distinctly conservative man. But what makes the banning of his book particularly piquant is the fact that Andrews was in very large part responsible for bringing to light the facts which led to the conviction of Alger Hiss.

HELPED ON HISS CASE

Andrews worked closely with Richard Nixon, now Vice-President, throughout the Hiss case—and although he had nothing to do with it, McCarthy's rise may be traced to the conviction of Hiss. Yet Andrews' book is banned for "bias"—and it cannot be denied that the book does reveal a certain heretical bias against the persecution of innocent people.

Some books on the Calcutta or Bombay index expurgatorius — like "Mission to Moscow," by former Ambassador Joseph E. Davies, "Union Now," by Clarence Streit, or "The Stilwell Papers," by the late Gen. Joseph Stilwell—might properly be criticized for fatuity or tediousness. But it is difficult to see how they might sully the minds of the English-speaking residents of Calcutta or Bombay.

Other purged books include the admirable "The Loyalty of Free Men," by Alan Barth, an able editor of The Washington Post; the Lynds' classic "Middletown" and "Middletown in Transition;" and "Rising Wind," by Walter White, the strongly anti-Communist president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored people. Presumably recognition of the existence of a race problem in the United States is evidence of the harboring of dangerous thoughts.

The selected works of Thomas Paine were banned because Paine's works were edited by the boring left wing novelist, Howard Fast. Thus Thomas Jefferson's old friend stands convicted of guilt by association. Then there is Isaac Deutscher's remarkable biography of Stalin (the late Russian dictator's name is no doubt considered unmentionable); "As We See Russia," by the members of the Overseas Press Club, ordinarily considered respectable fellows; a number of books by the Nobel Prize winner, Pearl Buck — and so on and on.

Nor are only books suspect. The Calcutta mission has virtuously reported to the State Department that two magazines, "The New Republic" and "The Nation," have been forever removed from library shelves. Another magazine, "The Reporter," it was promised, would be continuously "subjected to close scrutiny."

At least two American diplomats have had the courage to protest this vicious nonsense. One is James B. Conant, former president of Harvard and now American High Commissioner in Western Germany. When Conant received the original idiotic State Department directive banning the use of material by "controversial figures, Communists, fellow travelers, etcetera," he cabled a brief but appropriate request to the State Department. Please define etcetera, Conant's cable read in paraphrase.

A longer and more passionate protest was cabled to the State Department by Ellis O. Briggs, formerly Ambassador to Czechoslovakia and now Ambassador to South Korea. Those in the State Department who have read Briggs' cable, describe it as a classic of its kind, eloquent and genuinely moving, a personal re-affirmation of faith in the American tradition of free thought and free inquiry.

Briggs recalled his own first-hand knowledge of the slave state, and warned that the State Department's book-burning was an outright betrayal of everything for which America stands.

The Briggs cable will no doubt henceforth gather dust in the State Department's classified files. But surely it is time for other Americans, who also cherish the American traditions and who can speak more freely, to get at least a little angry, and to make their voices heard.

For the standard of judgment employed by the State Department's book-burners is clear. No publication containing views or facts which might conceivably irritate Senator McCarthy or his admirers is to be permitted abroad under any circumstances. A little more of this cowardly knuckling under to the political yahoos, and the same standard will no doubt one day be applied in the United States as well.

Some Members Of Ike's Team Aren't Listening To Signals

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

IN HIS MINNEAPOLIS speech to the Junior Chamber of Commerce President Eisenhower developed a theme that has long been paramount in his thinking. It was the subject of many a lecture to visiting Congressmen and newspaper correspondents during Ike's nearly two years as Supreme Commander at NATO.

This is Eisenhower's deeply held conviction that the United States must in the interest of its own security accept responsibility for sustaining freedom in the world. At this SHAPE Headquarters outside Paris when he warmed up on this theme Ike would have an aide pull down a series of maps showing America's dependence for its very existence on essential minerals shipped from far parts of the earth.

These charts underscored the need to keep the sea lanes open to the commerce of the world. So in Minneapolis the President talked about "our need to receive . . . from the rest of the world such essentials as manganese and cobalt, tin and tungsten, without which our economy cannot function."

THE OPPOSITE LINE

But what the President may not realize is that an important element in his own party disagrees with him on this fundamental proposition. In fact one of the members of his own Administration took exactly the opposite line in a speech made a few days before Eisenhower spoke. Assistant Secretary of Interior Felix Edgar Wormser in a commencement address at the Montana School of Mines in Butte told graduating engineers there was no need to worry about running out of metals and minerals.

"Eventually we may run out of metals and minerals," Wormser said, "but that day is a long, long way off. Notice I say may. Don't let it worry you. Our mineral resources are virtually inexhaustible. If we preserve our freedom we shall find all the metals and minerals we require because, as scarcities appear, an open market will reflect this condition and prices will rise. Incentives are therefore increased to find more of the product. Consumers are compelled to use less of it."

While Wormser stated that his were "personal views", it is hard for an official to stand aside from an Administration of which he is part. The Assistant Secretary expressed his opposition to international agreements seeking to achieve price stabilization.

He said that the international wheat agreement, which Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson has entered into for this country, had cost the United States over $600,000,000.

"Fortunately," Wormser told the graduates, "I think this trend has been checked. I say I think so, but I am not too sure. The United States is still participating in the international metals conference which was designed to allocate the production of scarce metals and minerals to whatever country the conference, in its judgment, desired to distribute them."

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Churchill Reports To Dominion Ministers

WASHINGTON

LONDON'S most important event, next to the coronation of Queen Elizabeth, took place with the public barred—the meeting of commonwealth ministers with Prime Minister Churchill. However, it was almost as helpful as the coronation in bringing British unity.

Churchill discussed the affairs of the far-flung empire and handled the dominion prime ministers like a skilled musician leading an orchestra.

Prime Minister Nehru of India, who in a private conversation with Churchill had staged a bitter argument urging that Premier Malenkov be invited to the Bermuda Conference, on this occasion was amenable. He advised Churchill to invite Eisenhower to join in a later meeting with Malenkov, but urged that, if Eisenhower declined, then Churchill should meet with Malenkov anyway.

Secret Soviet Talks

PRIME Minister Churchill revealed that Soviet Ambasador Malik in London had come to see him with the message that Malenkov would be perfectly willing to meet him outside Russia, and suggested that Scandinavia would be a perfect meeting place during the Summer months. Ambassador Malik also suggested that the Bermuda conference draw up no hard and fast commitments for the subsequent Big Four conference. Obviously he did not want Malenkov to face a united Western front.

Churchill gave quite a pessimistic report to the commonwealth ministers on the European Defense Pact, and indicated it would not be ratified. Of course Churchill has not been for a united European army of late anyway.

However, Churchill was more optimistic regarding the desire of Russia to get along with the rest of the world. He told how the Chinese Red invasion of Laos in Indo-China had started without Moscow's knowledge. Following this, he said he had got in touch with Moscow and was able to get the Kremlin to withdraw Chinese Communist troops.

Revised Taft-Hartley

FOR a long time Sherman Adams and other White House advisers have been telling the President that he will never placate American labor until a "new face" other than that of Sen. Bob Taft takes charge of the administration's labor program in Congress.

The man best qualified for the job, Ike's advisers have insisted, is brainy, popular GOP Congressman Samuel McConnell of Pennsylvania, chairman of the House Labor Committee. A Republican liberal, McConnell gets along with AFL and CIO, is much more acceptable than Taft to Secretary of Labor Martin Durkin.

Last week Eisenhower finally acted on this advice of quietly calling in McConnell and handing him the ball. In a meeting so secret that McConnell left by the back door at the White House to avoid a drumfire of reporters' questions, the Pennsylvanian was given a double assignment.

First, he was instructed to begin missionary talks with labor and business leaders in an effort to iron out areas of disagreement in the Taft-Hartley Act. Secondly, McConnell was delegated to draft legislation on labor-management relations that both sides can live with, but primarily in the public interest.

Ike thus made it plain that he wanted McConnell's name on the legislation. But it was not determined whether the bill finally drafted would provide a complete new program of labor relations to supplant the Taft-Hartley law, or simply revise and amend unworkable sections of the Taft-Hartley law. Ike left this up to McConnell.

"There's no need to hurry," said the President, indicating that the next session of Congress, in 1954, would be time enough for congressional action. "The timing of this job is not as important as how it is done. It is my earnest wish that we give the people a good program, consistent with the public interest, that will provide a solution to the controversies between management and labor."

"I have no intention of hurrying, Mr. President," promised McConnell. "There would be no sense to the extended hearings my committee recently completed if we turned around and tried to jam an ill-considered bill through Congress. I think I can also assure you that the differences between management and labor are not as great as some people believe and that both sides will be reasonably co-operative when it's time to start selling the legislation we draft."