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Dead Cats Should Be Buried

IN A CARTOON on this page recently, Herblock pictured the Bricker amendment as a dead cat. While four senators stood around puzzled about what to do with it, John Public, clothespin over his nose and a spade in his hand, asked "Want a suggestion?"

The amendment ought to be buried once and for all. But there are still people in Congress and out who want to revive this particular dead cat. One of our contemporaries, for example, is still arguing about the migratory bird case, although Sen. Bricker himself has dropped from his amendment the controversial "which" clause that was aimed at nullifying any such rulings in the future.

The fact is that no amendment whatsoever is needed. There are already ample safeguards against abuse of the treaty-making power. Sen. John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts listed them in a speech on the Senate floor recently. The NEW YORK TIMES summarized his speech in these words:

"He reminded the Senate that a vote of one-third plus one of its members can prevent ratification. Even if the Senate ratifies a treaty, it may do so with reservations. The Senate can stipulate that the treaty requires further legislation to give it effect as internal law. The President or the Senate can provide that the treaty is effective only in those states whose laws so permit.

"After ratification Congress can modify a treaty's effect as internal law by legislative act requiring only a simple majority, or it can refuse appropriations necessary to carry it out. If it violates constitutional rights the Supreme Court can nullify its internal effect in whole or in part. The President and members of the Senate can always be impeached if they violate their oath to uphold the Constitution."

The framers of the Constitution argued the very questions raised by Sen. Bricker. They knew that the general powers vested in the executive, legislative and judicial branches could be abused. But they also knew that the Constitution could not be a detailed blueprint, spelling out the precise answer for all problems, present and future. So they guarded against abuse of power by setting up a division of powers, a system of checks and balances.

To the President, they gave great authority to run the executive department, yet they gave to Congress the control of funds for the executive branch and to the Senate they gave the power of confirming Presidential appointments.

To the Congress, they gave the authority to make laws, but left it to the chief executive to enforce and to the judiciary to interpret those laws.

To the Supreme Court and lower courts, they gave authority to interpret laws, yet enforcement of the court's rulings was left to the executive branch and the payment of the salaries of the officers of the court was placed in the hands of Congress.

And recognizing that the United States, as a sovereign nation, must be able to negotiate treaties and agreements with other foreign nations, the framers of the Constitution established the treaty-making power. They prohibited individual states from making treaties by giving that power to the President and two-thirds of the senators present at ratification. And they set forth very clearly that the Constitution, acts of Congress, and treaties made "under the authority of the United States" should be the "supreme law of the land."

Furthermore, the framers of the Constitution had a specific reason for using the phrase "under the authority of the United States." Under the Articles of Confederation, this country had already negotiated treaties. It was necessary to validate those treaties; hence it was specified that treaties should take precedence over state constitutions and state legislative acts. Those treaties were not made "pursuant to the Constitution" because the Constitution did not then exist.

And flimsiest of all arguments advanced by the Brickerites is that abuse of the treaty power might lead us unwittingly into some form of world supergovernment. The fact is that the world is already one great community, albeit a chaotic one, and that the only ways to preserve order are (1) to establish a world supergovernment, or (2) to negotiate treaties and agreements based on reason and justice. Instead of speeding us toward a supergovernment, the treaty-making power is the best protection against a supergovernment.

The Bricker amendment is, as Herblock described it, a dead cat. And the sooner it is buried, the better off the country will be.

TVA And Reds Are Of Public Concern

WHILE North Carolinians and residents of some other state have seen their state legislators start to pull down a curtain of secrecy, that curtain has been descending even more rapidly in Congress, in matters which do not warrant the secret treatment for security reasons. There were two good examples of the practice this week.

Wednesday a House appropriations subcommittee (of which, incidentally, Rep. Charles R. Jonas is a member) heard appeals, from Tennessee Valley residents, for more TVA funds. There of course was no need for this committee to conduct the hearing in a closed session. But it did. The story of what went on in the hearing—or at least a congressman's version of what went on—was duly publicized. But the reporting was necessarily second hand.

Meanwhile the enterprising Alsop brothers finally jarred loose the story on State Department Security Officer Scott McLeod's admission that he had not, during a year of searching, found a single Communist in the State Department. This information had likewise been given to a House appropriations subcommittee. It, too, conducted the hearing in secret. Apparently—it's hard to know what went on when public affairs are so conducted—subcommittee members were instructed not to divulge what they heard. Then, after the Alsops dug out the story, the wire services corroborated it with attribution to unnamed Democratic committee members.

The penchant for secrecy in Congress is nothing new. During the first three months of last year congressional committees and subcommittees met 659 times, exclusive of House appropriations subcommittee meetings on budgetary matters. Of the 659 meetings, 217 (32.9 per cent) were closed to the public, 22 (3.3 per cent) were partly closed, and 420 (63.7 per cent) were open. In addition, House appropriations subcommittees held frequent closed meetings.

Members of both parties seek to infringe the people's right to know. The Republicans being in power, it is proper to remind them now of their platform promise:

"We pledge not to infringe by censorship or gag order the right of a free people to know what their government is doing."

Good Start

BY HIS PLEDGE to adhere to the Young Democratic Clubs' code of ethics, senatorial candidate W. Kerr Scott has started his campaign off on right note.

The YDC code is not overly idealistic; rather it is a fully practical statement of ethics for political campaigns. Even so, it will be difficult, in the heat of a campaign, for a candidate to adhere to it fully. It will be even more difficult to restrain overly-eager campaign lieutenants.

Mr. Scott says he'll stick by the code. Will Sen. Lennon now speak up on the subject?

From The Salisbury Post

ROUND NUMBERS

ONE of the Rockefeller heiresses—40 million dollar level—is reported to have adopted two little boys who will eventually inherit 20 million dollars each.

That strikes us as a pretty wonderful thing.

Parents of America have been at a loss for some outstandingly high-grade ambition with which to infiltrate the young ideas, since the fear that little Johnny might grow up to be President replaced the hope that he might.

Hope of being adopted by wealthy foster parents, now, may be a suitable passion.

Time will tell, however, whether the concept of adopting two children to inherit 20 million dollars apiece is preferable, or a million children to inherit $40 a piece more desirable.

Any way you look at it, there is the seed of an idea there, and a very nice idea too.

John L. Lewis has his own Taft-Hartley law amendment. It would strike out the enacting clause.—MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR.

"Everybody kept telling him he should face reality, and one day he did."

An East Side Vignette

The Painter And The Peddler

By HARRY GOLDEN

In The Carolina Israelite

JAMES Montgomery Flagg, the artist, once made a tour of the Lower East Side of New York. He had nothing particular in mind; just "browsing." Suddenly he stopped dead in his tracks. There, a few feet from him was what he was looking for. To the average person, the peddler, who so excited Mr. Flagg's interest, may not have looked any different than the dozens of other peddlers standing beside their pushcarts, but apparently Mr. Flagg saw something very special. The peddler's name, if I remember correctly, was Mr. Jacob, and he was about 60 years old, with a full black beard which was streaked with gray. He had a wide-brimmed black fedora-type hat, and, this being the early summer, he wore a regular suit-coat of black shiny alpaca.

Once the great artist called attention to the man, it was easy to see that he had an unusual face and head. His eyes seemed to be smiling all the time; the face of the humorist rather than the scholar. His face told the story that has enraged the enemies of the Jews for centuries; that no matter what these enemies do, no matter what new methods of persecution they may dream up, the Jew remains completely unimpressed and when the pogrom has finally run its course, the one remaining Jew will probably write a book of humor. Such a man was this peddler of James Montgomery Flagg. And finding an interesting man, or even a "great" man among peddlers and "old clothes" men was not a bit unusual. It has not yet been adequately explored, but among the peddlers and "old clothes" men were many respectable scholars, ex-prosperous merchants, and hard-working artisans and skilled mechanics. They were willing to eke out a pittance in order not to be forced to desecrate the Sabbath. By self-employment as peddlers and "old clothes" men they reserved for themselves the opportunity to follow Orthodox Judaism without the crossing of a T, or the dotting of an I.

RAGGED LECTURERS

It was not unusual to see a man who peddled fruit, or maybe sorted rags in some cellar all week, lead the congregation in prayer or deliver a lecture on the Sabbath. These were the elderly orthodox Jews who were quite willing to turn their children over to America. Somehow they sensed that this (America) was all to the good, even when they realized that it meant less and less adherence to the old orthodox laws and rituals; but for themselves they wanted to go along as did their forefathers, and in this great industrial and commercial dynamo that was America, the only way they could really observe all the rituals, and the prayers three times a day, was to be a self-employed peddler, or an "old clothes" man — and incidentally that is how the "junk dealers" really got started. They could go out on their own time and collect odds and ends of metal, make a few pennies, and willing to make this sacrifice in order to go to schul, when necessary or when they felt like it, and in other ways live up to their religion without any compromise whatsoever.

CROWD GETTER

Let us get back to James Montgomery Flag and Mr. Jacob. As usual, any stranger in the neighborhood who stopped to talk or ask a question always brought a crowd; and soon there were about five or six other peddlers encircled around the artist and peddler Jacob. This also meant five or six interpreters, each offering a different version of what was being said. But Mr. Flagg did succeed in getting his message across, as each of the interpreters, including Mr. Jacob himself, nodded his head in agreement. Mr. Flagg wanted Mr. Jacob to pose for him; to come to his studio at such and such number on Central Park South; to take the Fifth Avenue bus; and he wanted him to come the following Monday morning at 8 o'clock. As the other peddlers congratulated Mr. Jacob on his good fortune, the artist indicated he would more than make up for Mr. Jacob's loss of earnings during his visits to the studio. Mr. Flagg carefully repeated all the instructions on a card and said goodby.

Mr. Jacob went home that afternoon in high spirits. He told his family the whole story of his appointment the following Monday morning with the great American artist on Central Park South. The family was elated. It was indeed good fortune. You can never tell what else could come from such an honor.

But suddenly, as if by pre-arranged signal, Jacob's wife and two daughters lapsed into silence. They looked at each other seriously as if in deep thought. Finally one daughter spoke: "Look, papa, you can't go to pose for that great American artist in those old clothes." His wife joined in, "Of course not, no, not even your Sabbath coat is good enough. We can't help it. It will cost a little money, but don't worry, we'll manage." The second daughter chimed in, "Papa, let's not be disgraced in any way—"I'm working now, and I'll do it myself; I want you to make a good impression when you go up there on Fifth Avenue." And so it went. The next afternoon before it got dark, they took the old gent and bought him a new blue serge suit, American-style, with cuffs on the trousers; then they discarded the old wide-brimmed hat and decked him out in a nice new black derby just like Hymie, the Tammany district leader, wears.

The wife and two daughters now looked at old Jacob in his new togs and again as if by mental telepathy, the same thought struck all three of them at once. This time the other daughter spoke up first, "Papa, now don't get mad at us, but this is America—and a great man has asked you to pose for him—how will it look if you go there to a fancy place on Fifth Avenue, with all those Americans, and you wearing that big beard and covering up the new necktie we just bought." The argument went back and forth, far into the night.

Finally the old gentleman had to give in; he was persuaded; in the interests of this great new association with a foremost American artist in the interests of the United States of America, even his religious scruples would have to go overboard; and God, Blessed be His Name—will just have to understand, that's all. The following morning Jacob was all set — blue serge suit; white shirt; red necktie; derby hat and cleanshaven. As a finishing touch, one of his daughters had borrowed a pair of pince-nez glasses from a neighbor and she showed her father just how to carry them on his thumb if he had trouble seeing through them; and as he started down the street to the trolley car which was to transfer him to the Fifth Avenue bus, the other daughter ran after him with a rolled-up umbrella, which she said was a very nice thing to carry when visiting on Fifth Avenue, and so he was finally on his way.

THE RECEPTION

All Mr. Jacob could ever tell about his trip to Central Park South was that he had been fooled by a crazy man. He told how he rang the bell that morning of the appointment, and how the same man who made the appointment, Mr. Flagg, had come to the door. Jacob then told how he dutifully presented the card the artist had given him, that Mr. Flagg had then asked him several questions which he understood and answered correctly, he said, but that suddenly Mr. Flagg began to talk to himself louder and louder; his face became red, his eyes began to roll in his head; and finally he let out a terrible scream and ran back into his other rooms. Mr. Jacob told how he heard many doors slamming and he also heard the sound of breaking glass; that he had stood there for 20 minutes more in front of the open door, but finally when nothing else happened he took his umbrella and black derby and just went out and returned home. The wife and daughters resigned themselves to the fact that it had all been a fake, while Mr. Jacob, standing beside his pushcart, kept wondering how long it would take for his beard to grow back.

Tennessee Valley People Resent Incessant Attacks

By MARQUIS CHILDS

CHATTANOOGA

HERE IN the Tennessee Valley you get a different perspective on the Tennessee Valley Authority. It looms so large, it touches so many lives, that it cannot be summed up or dismissed by a political slogan such as "creeping socialism."

Valley people are increasingly resentful of the incessant attack made on their TVA. And this appears to be true not alone of politicians but of many businessmen and ordinary citizens aware of the changes that the great power and flood control project has wrought in their region. They tell you of a citizens' organization formed for the defense of TVA which in a few months received voluntary contributions of $40,000, most of it in amounts of a dollar and two dollars.

What they resent particularly is the charge that TVA is a handout for the benefit of Tennessee's hillbillys. That line of propaganda, which is widespread in the country, is indignantly rejected by most people in the valley. They believe that TVA is a national asset, contributing to the security and well being of all the country and not just one part.

TVA HELPED AEC

They cite yards of statistics to prove this. There is the fact that shortly more than half of TVA's total power will be used by the Atomic Energy Commission for production of the raw material going into the weapons on which America's military-foreign policy is based. No other source for that power was in existence and if it had not been available, then the whole atomic program would have been slowed down.

Oak Ridge, the huge wartime atomic project, was located in Tennessee for two reasons. It was remote from possible attack by enemy bombers. But just as important, power was available in the large amounts needed for the fission of uranium. Two plants to process titanium, essential for jet airplanes, are being located in the valley and again the reason is that power is at hand.

Besides the half that goes to atomic production, a considerable of the balance is used in other plants that need large amounts of power to process aluminum and other metals going into the defense effort. Where would we have been in 1940, where would we be today, the valley resident wants to know, if we had not had such a system capable of expansion to produce more and more low cost hydro-electric power?

But such claims of vital, practical benefit to one side, there is a sharp divergence of approach between Democrats and Republicans over the TVA idea. In the TVA concept is the recognition that government under certain circumstances must be a partner in economy; a limited partner, but nevertheless where a project involves social benefits such as flood control and navigation, beyond the range of private enterprise, a partner.

The TVAers will show you how out of revenues—two hundred million next year—the government investment is being repaid. But it was a government investment and the need for such government participation is just what the Republican administration rejects. Secretary of the Treasury George Humphrey, who determined administration fiscal policy, has again and again stated his belief that private business, if given the proper stimulus, can provide the necessary expansion without government help to make more jobs and more income.

GOP OPPOSITION

This is the issue raised over TVA's budget for the next fiscal year. The Republicans are opposed to including funds for new steam power plants to firm up and expand the TVA system to meet the expanding needs of the valley. As an alternative, they propose to relieve TVA of up to five hundred thousand—or six hundred thousand kilowatts of the load being furnished the Atomic Energy Commission, letting private utilities build plants to make up this deficit even though it will cost the government more in the long run.

This is the issue, too, in the selection of a new member of the board of the TVA who would become chairman. The term of the present chairman, Gordon R. Clapp, expires in May. Clapp succeeded David Lilienthal when the latter became head of the Atomic Energy Commission and is therefore in the tradition of the dedicated, public service type of administrator. In the TVA system, which is the largest in America, these men work for salaries that are mere fractions of what a big private operation would pay. Beginning with Lilienthal's stand against the patronage raids of former Sen. Kenneth McKellar, they have worked to keep TVA on a civil service basis.

Now leading Republicans in Tennessee have proposed a successful business man active in Republican fund raising, Harry C. Carbaugh, as Clapp's successor. Founder of the biggest chicken and egg business in the South, Carbaugh is widely respected. Yet he will be opposed by many convinced that this is a radical departure from the TVA concept. It is a phase of the struggle between past and present.

Liz And Her Husband Do A Great Public Relations Job

By ROBERT C. RUARK

SYDNEY, Australia

SINCE IN America we are not given to mass adulation of anyone but aviators, channel swimmers, and crooners, it is a trifle difficult to comprehend the complete pandemonium that surrounds the visit for the first time of a queen to these shores.

The parks and streets have been packed. Some two million pounds have been spent to create arches and crowns, and buildings have been draped with bunting. More than 50,000 people sat up for hours — ranging from 12 to 48—with no shelter, just to get a brief peek at their sovereign here.

There was little pageantry in the actual procession — a few motorcycles, mounted escort, cars, politicians, and then the beautiful young queen with her handsome young escort. It was almost a family outing, bar a few score politicians and the attendant crowd.

BAND PLAYED 'DOGGIE'

The band which waited for hours for the queen to lay a wreath on the cenotaph here played a rather unusual series of pieces. There was most of the "Can Can" music, most of the score of "South Pacific," and one inspiring ditty called "Doggie in the Window." And her main state dinner was held in David Jones', a department store.

Considering that my wife lived in Washington, D. C. all through Mr. Roosevelt's many terms, and never saw him once, I am rather impressed by the bond of strength that will bring out such masses of people, the majority of whom never saw England, to greet a sovereign who "by designation" is only a figurehead of a state, England, which has very little to do with a continent at the other end of the world.

Considering our complete, or nearly complete, lack of inspired fetishism for our own Presidents, I am still impressed with the pomp and circumstance that can inspire such mass hysteria on the part of the people. In this day and age it is healthy.

Boiled down to its simplest terms, a normal little girl has become queen and has married a normal young man who was a naval officer. Their job is one of purest public relations, fostered by the press and rebounding off the people.

Perhaps the thronging crowds are merely satisfying their own egos, so that they can tell their grandchildren "long before you were born I saw the queen and she was wearing . . ." One knows that the queen and her husband were only going through the paces for which they are paid a whacking sum to perform for a purpose, and to perform well, as salesmen for the empire and its symbolic chairman of the board.

Nevertheless, as an American I was thrilled when I saw the lovely young woman, and when we are both much older I shall remember that it was a sunny day in Sydney and the band played "Doggie in the Window."

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Gouzenko's Predictions And Advice

WASHINGTON

IGOR GOUZENKO, the Soviet code clerk who exposed the spy ring in Canada, had some potent advice to offer during my second interview with him. The advice should be particularly appropriate now that the U. S. Army in Japan has wooed and won another high-up member of the Soviet espionage apparatus, and now that purges are taking place in two important parts of the Soviet Union.

What Gouzenko told me boiled down briefly to the following:

1. There will be war between the United States and Russia in 10 years if it's left to the Soviet military and unless the United States does something to penetrate the Iron Curtain.

2. Scores of highly placed Russians would be glad to desert communism and join the west if they were given proper security.

3. The way to convert American Communists away from communism is by persuasion rather than terrorism before the spotlight of congressional committees.

4. The free world hasn't begun to scratch the surface in wooing the peoples behind the Iron Curtain. This is the real Achilles' Heel of communism and the way to prevent war.

Gouzenko also said that he had never heard the name of Harry D. White mentioned while he was coding and decoding cables for the Soviet spy ring in Canada. This is probably one reason why the Senate Internal Security subcommittee has said so little since coming back from interviewing Gouzenko in Canada. The senators went up to Canada after various public statements about rooting out American spies, but have been strangely silent since their return.

Gouzenko did tell me, however, that he had heard from one of his colleagues returning from Moscow that the Kremlin was cooperating with an assistant to Secretary of State Stettinius during the San Francisco Conference. Alger Hiss was chief assistant to Stettinius at that time.

For Voice Of America

Gouzenko is a sincere, volatile, somewhat nervous gentleman who talks with his hands to supplement his sometimes imperfect English. Incidentally, he objected strenuously at first to wearing a mask during the television interview even though failure to wear a disguise would have increased the hazard of Soviet recognition and revenge, under which he lives constantly.

"The best way to reach the people behind the Iron Curtain is by radio," Gouzenko insisted, despite Sen. McCarthy's constant belittling of the Voice of America. "Of course only a few people hear American radio broadcasts, but they tell other people. The news gets around. All people behind the Iron Curtain," he said, "are hungry for news. You must not neglect this."

When I told Gouzenko that the State Department was working on a plan of perfecting a small radio set about the size of a cigarette pack which could be dropped behind the Iron Curtain, he remarked:

"That is admirable. The Russian people will keep that and use it. They would never give it up. They like tangible gadgets from the West."

Wooing High Reds

When I asked him what he would suggest to encourage more Russians, Poles, Czechs and others with important military or diplomatic information to come over to the free world, he talked at some length.

This, incidentally, was the chief point he emphasized to Senators Jenner and McCarran when they went to Canada to interview him for the Senate Internal Security subcommittee. So far, their report has not been made public.

"In front of every potential escapee there is a problem," Gouzenko told me. "He has to think, 'will he be accepted as a member of society in the free world?' So you must give him assurances in advance. He must be sure of a job, of police protection, and of material help.

"There is also a matter of human dignity involved," he continued. "Sometimes a high Russian military attache or general would like to come over to the West, but he continues on with the Soviet simply because he is afraid he will be humiliated here, and perhaps be put to work as a janitor or a doorman in front of a New York night club."