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TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 1957

Spartans Live On

The Achievements Of Terror

By JOSEPH ALSOP

FOR any Western visitor with a reasonable freight of intellectual curiosity, the iron Soviet society has the same sort of intense interest that the harsh, drilled, polished, planned society of Sparta used to have for the free Athenians.

PARIS with a backward nation largely populated by an illiterate peasantry. In under 30 years... they have created out of almost nothing a strong, technically progressive managerial class.

the level of life is still very low by our standards, but it is also quite certainly and rather conspicuously improving. In a way, you can compare the present state of the Soviet industrial revolution to the second stage of our western industrial revolution, when for example the worst horrors of Britain's 'Black Country' began to be mitigated, and the workers' share in the total product began to be somewhat increased.



Teacher Pay: Gov. Hodges Faces Facts

GOV. Hodges has made a wise decision on teacher pay increases. Higher hikes than he and the Advisory Budget Commission had recommended were inevitable.

could not or would not provide teachers an added measure of security, the state clearly had to do so.

The governor, in his philosophical acceptance of political facts, spoke of placing "emphasis on a short-term necessity and" adjusting "long-range plans to the short-term emphasis."

Education might be primarily a local responsibility. Its salvation might depend on assumption of more of that responsibility by individual Tar Heel communities.

But the present fact was that the financial plight of the teachers had resolved itself into a state problem of the first magnitude. Morale in the profession is low. Teachers are being lost to other professions.

This historical comparison was much in this reporter's mind in the concluding weeks of his long visit to the Soviet Union, for a rather simple reason. In brief, had the very interest and novelty of the experience somewhat distorted one's judgment? And had one perhaps been too much struck by the successes and too little observant of the failures?

Public interest is the first requirement for any successful school program. Obviously there is a great deal of interest in preserving and strengthening the teaching profession. The governor will have to capitalize on that interest to sell his program to the communities.

Meantime, increased state minimums can be regarded as a stop-gap expedient.

Happy Choice For The Highest Court

TO fill the latest vacancy on the United States Supreme Court, President Eisenhower has chosen a member of the judiciary, just as he said he wanted to do. The President was wise to follow the dictates of his conscience.

Charles Evans Whittaker of Kansas City, Mo. has had a commendable career as a trial lawyer, trial judge and, finally, as an appellate judge. He is well qualified by background and experience for a seat on the highest court in the land.

It is just regrettable that other distinguished U. S. judges with high qualifications could not have had a similar opportunity.

We would hesitate to argue that only veterans of the judiciary should be permitted to serve as Supreme Court Justices. Such a rule would have deprived the court of some of its finest minds.

notably Marshall and Hughes — would even have had difficulty meeting the tests of "qualifications" often laid down for Supreme Court membership by Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr. and others.

The selection of judges for the high court does usually insure that the candidate will have what is called a "judicial temperament." But even more important can be read such learning to look for the "not irrelevant." To be a true judicial statesman, a member of the Supreme Court must possess broad and deep knowledge, together with a practical experience with people and affairs.

Soft Ride

AT THE rate the federal government is spending money," says Sen. Harry Byrd, "we're going to hell in a Cadillac."

The Virginian is more comforting than he intends to be. It has been our continuing impression that the journey was to be made in a five-year-old jalopy with 13 payments still owing.

Uplift Needed On The 'New Frontier'

AFTER his famous tour of the United States in the 1830s, Count Alexis de Tocqueville returned to France to write a monumental tome on American institutions. He spoke of "a small distressing motion, a sort of incessant jostling of men, which annoys and disturbs the mind without exciting or elevating it."

Purely cultural enterprises were having a difficult time of it. They were barely able to survive among a people "accustomed to the struggle, the crosses and the monotony of practical life."

Things have not changed too much in a century and a quarter. A valuable cultural institution such as Charlotte's Mint Museum of Art is today fighting to keep its head above water on a different kind of American frontier—a frontier of economic drive and industrial opportunity.

The Mint's 1957 membership campaign had a goal of 5,000. When the drive ended last week only a few more than 700 new memberships had been added.

of the campaign should give shame-faced Charlotteans an opportunity to make amends.

The Queen City, for all its hustle and bustle, needs the Mint. It needs the opportunity the Mint offers for busy minds to be elevated by the very esthetic values Tocqueville had in mind during the early 19th century.

We urge all who neglected to contribute in some way—however small—to the Mint's support last month to do so now. It will be a contribution to a better way of life on the new frontier.

Head Of A Pin

NORTH CAROLINA'S Thomas Wolfe was modern America's greatest writer, says William Faulkner, because "he ventured more and tried hardest to describe the whole history of man's heart on the head of a pin."

Wolfe was indeed great, as every Tar Heel schoolboy knows. But remembering the undisciplined torrents of prose he unleashed, we can only conclude that the head of his pin was roughly the size and depth of Lake Okechobee.

Roman Fairness Is Reaffirmed

Editors: The News: AMONG recent efforts to sustain the fallacy that Jesus was crowned with thorns, one particular contender attempts to construct a case favoring the premise on the grounds that "the Romans had two sets of laws... one for themselves and another for their subjected peoples."

False in every phase and degree, the statement could evolve only from a source (misinformed) of Roman jurisprudence and equity of administration. Every historian of notes belies the falsehood of discrimination in the Roman courts.

Another writer assumes the crown of thorns legend is true because the Bible says so... because a passage of the assumed authority alleges "all scripture is given by inspiration of God."

Waiving the question of authenticity and mistranslation, the passage obviously refers to the Old Testament only, which certainly makes no formal claim to divine inspiration. Neither does the New. Even if they did the contradictory and unscientific character of the writings would refute the claim.

Critics Of Crown On Slippery Ground Gaffney, S. C. A WORD, please, about a crown of thorns we have been hearing so much about the last few days.

I want to say that if people doubt the recorded testimony of holy witnesses, who God ordained to be

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

THERE is more than meets the eye behind the sensation parade of narcotics addicts, underworld characters, petty gamblers, and madams that Sen. McClellan of Arkansas has brought before his committee during his probe of the teamsters.

Tape Recording

One of the most interesting, and on the surface inexplicable features is tape recordings of alleged conversations linking the district attorney of Portland, Ore., William Langley, to alleged teamster contributions from Big Langley took contributions from Big Jim Elkins, convicted narcotics smuggler and user.

Was D. A. Framed In Racket Probe?

Langley is a Democrat. He comes from a family of Democrats who were Democrats in the 1920s... a Democrat in Oregon. His father before him was district attorney. Both had excellent reputations, both were considered somewhat anti-labor.

The Other Side

I happen to have known the Langley family dating back about 30 years. The story of young Langley's laboring as a Democrat in Oregon... Here is his side of the case, a story which I believe to be true.

John McCourt was a liberal Republican who had been strong for labor since he had received the support of Langley had not. But toward the end of his last election race in October 1954, the teamsters phoned his father to say that they had discovered McCourt was backed by Big Jim Elkins, the leader of the gambling world, so they were coming out for Langley. They did.

Big Noise

However, the noise the teamsters made for Langley in those last two weeks probably did not overcome their previous 25 years of opposition.

Senate's Ailing Lone Ranger Hitched To Hospital Bedpost

By CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

ILLNESS has befallen one of the stormiest men in the Senate—William Langer of North Dakota.

The galling, political lone ranger from the western prairie has been seriously ill with pneumonia and pleurisy since Feb. 4 when he entered Bethesda Naval Hospital.

Senators say his illness has robbed them of their most faithful ally. He has been in the hospital for over a month.

His presence is missed markedly by other senators. Who else, for instance, can chain-smoke cigars during a committee hearing where he presides?

Even his party affiliation is of ten doubtful. Listed as a Republican, he often pays less attention to the party line than to his own private requests than any other senator.

CARE FOR CONSTITUENTS

So how did someone with so much independence get so far in the back-slapping profession of politics? He breaks all the political rules but one: Take care of the voters back home. He voted against the Marshall Plan and the United Nations, but the records don't show him subordinating North Dakota's interests.

To get the picture of the man who is so colorful that he comes into the spotlight just because he is not active these days, you have to go back to his first taste of politics. That came in 1890 when he was not yet four years old.

His first election to public office was in 1914 when he became state's attorney for Morton County, North Dakota. He won the state's attorney generalship in 1916 with the backing of the Non-Partisan League, at that time a newly formed farmers' political organization that controlled the Republican party.

After a slum-bag career in those legal posts, he ran for governor in 1920. He lost then but ran again in 1932, emerging as the only Republican governor elected

in a state that supported Franklin D. Roosevelt. He no sooner sat in the governor's chair than he became a headline figure from coast to coast.

As Langer himself put it in a speech last year before the West Virginia Bar Assn.: "I want you to know that I was up for disbarment twice. I was arrested and sentenced to 18 months in the penitentiary. But I didn't serve the sentence. We had the right kind of supreme court."

The trials forced him out of the governor's chair in 1934 but he regained it in 1937. In 1940 he ran for the Senate and won. But his earlier escapades caused him to wait 15 months before he could take his Senate seat.

A group of North Dakotans Feb. 2, 1941, filed a suit petition alleging "Langer is, and long has been, openly, notoriously and admittedly corrupt in his official and public life."

The investigation unearthed legal escapades that rivaled a Hollywood two-reeler for brass and resources. There was a long time, for instance, when Langer held up a telephone office to make sure he did not tip off a disorderly house his men were raiding.

The Senate voted 52-30 to seat Langer.

SEN. LANGER He Beats All Raps

From The New York Times

ONE thing Bernard Shaw never lacked — not that the very great man ever lacked much — was a sense of publicity. Reading now that a British court has invalidated the clause in Shaw's will directing a large sum to the adoption of a forty-character phonetic alphabet, one is struck again by Shaw's ability to make people talk about him. Of course, Shaw plugged for more efficient English spelling more of his life. So you can't say that the grand iconoclast was actually pointing a final finger from the grave at a seeming absurdity which he had no genuine hope of correcting.

What makes one suspicious, however — and certainly Shaw knew this — is that money can't change language. Or, better, that immense amounts of it can sometimes change language. Thus millions spent in advertising may make the brand name of a product interchangeable with the name of the product itself. It may even engrain the brand name, in low case, in the dictionary. But stop manufacturing the product and soon the

A B C

old generic term is revived—if not spontaneously, then through the efforts of surviving competitors serving the cause of verbal purity.

The only way language changes is by usage. Now if Shaw, after his fame and audience were assured, had chosen to have his own phonetic alphabet printed only in a forty-character alphabet, he might have begun the semantic ball rolling—that is, if publishers didn't wait until copyrights expired in order to regress to the ancient A. B. C's. But he didn't.

Appropos of "sensible" spelling, many people feel that the European metric system of linear measurement is superior to our own because of its arithmetic efficiency. And yet architects like Le Corbusier point out that the inch-foot-yard system is better for creative uses because of its nonabstract, organic base. Well, maybe the ancient fumbling spelling of English, and of Shaw, has creative advantages for the same reason.

Kissing the children good night is a wonderful practice—if you don't mind losing a lot of sleep to do it.—GREENVILLE (S. C.) FREDMONT.

