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Brighter Day For A Dark World

As this is written on a balmy sunlit afternoon, there has come a break in the tense international situation, centering around Cuba, which on the surface at least—and caution must be exercised until action supplants words—lets the bright rays penetrate the dark clouds of war which have hung menacingly over the world since early last week.

The hopeful has been given no time for exultation. This country, members of the Western Hemisphere neighborhood and the Free World do have basis for new faith and courage in their determined and successful stand for what they believed to be right and essential to their security and peace. It affects not only them but all mankind in a world which has grown so small that no part may be isolated and no nuclear strike localized.

There can be no attempt yet to evaluate what has happened and the world-wide consequences to which it may lead.

It suffices to note, with a relief which we hope and trust will prove permanent and expansive, that Russian Premier Khrushchev has met, in so far as his own statement is concerned, the conditions which President Kennedy laid down last Tuesday evening in his address to the American people, and from which he has never swerved, for peaceful solution of the worsening Cuban situation. With Russian medium and intermediate missiles in Cuba and their launching pads rushed toward completion, a shooting war, leading to a holocaust beyond imagination, could have exploded any moment. The President insisted, with courageous concurrence of Western Hemisphere nations and our allies throughout the world, that two conditions be met, beyond doubt, before any negotiations would be possible: Russia's halt to the sending of offensive weapons, missiles and possible nuclear warheads to Castro's Cuba, dismantling of weapons already there and return of their component parts to the U.S.S.R.

These two conditions Premier Khrushchev has told the President, the Russian people and the world, he will meet. The dismantling and shipment would be left

to U.N. supervision so that the basic principle of inspection has been established.

The 1,000-word letter from the Russian leader to President Kennedy, written in a reasonable tone and with a sense of responsibility which it is pleasing to see even masters of the Kremlin must meet, reveals how carefully Premier Khrushchev has been seeking, since the country's obviously determined stand, to find a way out of the squeeze in which he found himself. It came in his acceptance of President Kennedy's assurance that Cuba would not be invaded if certain conditions were met. Since Russian missiles, considered offensive weapons by this country and its hemisphere neighbors, had been sent there, in the U.S.S.R. realignment of policy, to prevent an invasion, President Kennedy's conditional promise made their presence no longer necessary. It is significant that the President stood firm and that the Kremlin had to find a way out of the corner into which it had been pressed.

President Kennedy's response struck for the first time since the crisis became acute a note of optimism. Premier Khrushchev's letter the chief executive viewed as "constructive and statesmanlike." This country expects its commitments to be carried out and is ready to proceed, through established channels, with the United Nations and its good offices once again to the forefront. The President even goes so far as to hope that with the Cuban crisis eased the way will be cleared for dealing with the whole spectrum of problems which led to world tensions and ensuing deadlocks over armaments and nuclear controls.

What started as a bleak Sunday for a worried world, in the light of history, emerge as one of its brighter days. World peace is not a distant, delicate and trying task still lie ahead for diplomats and world leaders. But diplomacy is most likely to achieve success when it rests upon courage, firmness and a strength which is ever required to back up the right.

Issue For Judicial Review

The North Carolina statute which denies unemployment benefits to employees who are out of work because of a strike is now headed for the State Supreme Court and testing of its constitutionality.

The case at point involves some 700 Eastern Air Lines workers who were idled by last summer's strike of flight engineers. When these employees, largely clerical and ground help, were denied compensation by an E. S. C. hearing examiner, they took their case into the courts. Earlier this week Judge H. L. Riddle, Jr. found for the plaintiffs in Mecklenburg County Superior Court. He agreed with employees' counsel that the act under which unemployment benefits were denied is unconstitutional.

E. S. C. spokesmen said that their agency acted in accord with a statute, growing out of the bitter Henderson textile strike, passed by the 1961 General Assembly. Again at the Charlotte hearing before Judge Riddle, chief counsel for the commission, which had backed up the ruling of its hearing examiner, reiterated that his agency was "in sympathy" with the E. A. L. employees but that it was bound by the statute. Judge Riddle com-

mented that the law was "unduly harsh," and on the constitutional issue found with the plaintiffs. Now the case will go to the state's highest court. If the finding of the lower court is sustained, the 1961 statute will be thrown out as unconstitutional. But whatever the high court's decision may be, the matter should be clarified in time for the 1963 General Assembly to be advised of the situation and to take corrective action in law and equity.

The court battle has already shown the inadvisability of legislative action in haste or irresponsibility. There is always danger of allowing a specific incident to bring measures which have to be general in their application.

The feeling generated by a bitter strike hardly creates the best atmosphere for fair and reasonable legislative action. The courts are the proper place for redress when any agency of government oversteps itself and the constitution. Appeal to the courts from such quasi-judicial agencies as the E. S. C. is the ultimate safeguard of all parties concerned, merging ultimately into the general public.

Next: The Biological Sputnik

While Cuba and Berlin snare the headlines, biologists prepare the announcement of a biological sputnik powerful enough to capture the world's attention.

Their project—foreshadowed last week by the award of the Nobel Prize in medicine to three researchers in the field of biochemistry—centers on the creation of life in a test tube.

Such possibilities seemed only a science fiction fantasy less than a dozen years ago, like the idea of a trip to the moon, but they are science, without fiction, today.

The three Nobel Prize winners, two Englishmen and one American, are working toward unlocking the basic chemical secrets of the living cell. They have moved so far now that success is quite near and may, indeed, come at any moment.

The biochemists are working on the synthetic production of the "mother molecule"—a chemical called DNA which contains the genes, the fundamental units of heredity. DNA shapes and directs the machinery of life. It orders the genes to send messages of heredity to the cells, which in turn manufacture complicated tissues in tiny single-cell animals and man—from the smallest part of an eyelash to the heart and brain.

The cells' ability to take amino acids from food and put them together to form proteins is the basis of growth and maintenance of life. The cell's ability to produce an exact duplicate of itself, passing along its protein-making powers to the new cell, is the basis of heredity.

If scientists can discover how the cells make proteins, they believe they will have the key to understanding growth and heredity. They are convinced that the mysterious chemical substance DNA is the blueprint for proteins. It also contains the genes which act as a code for heredity. If scientists can pro-

duce DNA synthetically (and they have already produced one form of it, a DNA-type material), they believe they can, indeed, create life.

The implications of such a discovering, radiating out far beyond the realm of science, are not lost on the wisest scientists. They should be able to control the forces of nature be used? Should scientists alone decide whether to interfere with the life-creating process? Should they experiment with the possible generation of whole new forms of life? Who, if anybody, should be in charge of directing the control of heredity or the altering of human characteristics—to offset inborn defects, produce children of specified sex or with other specified characteristics, control the growth of cancerous cells and perhaps harness the troublesome virus?

Leonard Engel, in Harper's, quotes Alfred E. Mirsky of the Rockefeller Institute on this subject:

Most of us can agree that it is all right to alter the heredity of plants and animals. After all, man has been doing that by selective breeding for a long time. Many of us can also agree that it will be good to alter human heredity to eliminate congenital defects. But what about altering human heredity for other purposes? That is a different proposition. Before we begin we have to decide whether we want chemical control of human heredity—chemical eugenics—and if so, how it should be exercised. There are problems that are much too important to be left to scientists alone. This is one of them.

When man learns the innermost workings of the genetic code, he will discover a secret far more stupendous, in the long run, than the fissure of the atom or the conquest of outer space. He will, in effect, be playing God and controlling his own future in a most delicate area until now beyond his ken. Such knowledge will require a larger measure of intelligence and faith than he has yet exhibited.

"You See Anything Real Plain Yet?"



DREW PEARSON

Cuban Embassy's Job

WASHINGTON—In the files of the American embassy in Havana, now in the custody of the Swiss government, is some highly interesting information which might intrigue the voters of California and, in fact, all the American public. It bears on two important questions:

1. Was the American embassy devoting sufficient time to the ticklish Cuban problem in the years prior to Castro in order to head off Castroism?

2. What favors did Richard M. Nixon do for the man who collected the \$18,000 personal expense fund for him?

The correspondence in U.S. embassy files is rather lengthy and shows that embassy personnel were kept busy-part of their time in advising on a gambling debt incurred by Dana C. Smith, the Pasadena attorney who collected the \$18,000 Nixon expense fund. Nixon says in his book "Six Great Decisions" that General Eisenhower almost threw him off the G.O.P. ticket because of this fund. This writer has been able to obtain copies of the U.S. embassy correspondence and believe the American people are entitled to know what is in it.

On Sept. 19, 1952, the embassy in Havana wrote the Department of State as follows: "The embassy received on Sept. 3, 1952, a letter from Mr. Dana C. Smith, assistant secretary of the transmitting letter from Sen. Richard Nixon. Senator Nixon informed the embassy that Mr. Smith is a highly respected member of his community and that the senator would appreciate any aid the embassy might be able to give him in his problem. There is enclosed a copy of Mr. Smith's letter referred to above."

The Smith letter told how he had been dining at the Sans Souci night club, one of the hottest gambling casinos in the old Batista days, and lost some money playing roulette.

Smith did report to the embassy that he had stopped payment on his check. He told the embassy that he understood the game Cubola was illegal in Cuba and asked the embassy to answer a long list of questions including: "Is the game legal? Would the courts of Cuba render a judgment for the night club? Is the game considered fair gambling? Do you have any information indicating that the game is not honestly conducted?"

Cubola is legal. When a U.S. senator takes the trouble to write a letter to an

Uncle Sam lost no time in letting Russia know that it wouldn't talk Turkey. It looks as though the political campaign may have been at least partially quarantined.

The only thing that will satisfy the U.S. is to catch those missiles off Cuban base. Fellow who lays it on the line expects somebody to walk the ditty.

Under our Cuban blockade the blocs came tumbling down.

Attendance at State Fair last week exceeded 800,000. But any person who attended still isn't one in a million.

American embassy on Sept. 29 sent another report to Washington which began:

"It is believed sufficient for the present that the embassy acknowledge directly to the Cuban ambassador the receipt of his letter of Aug. 21, 1952, and convey to him in general terms its comment on the four points raised by Mr. Smith, along the following lines:

"The embassy then reported that Cubola is legal in Havana, that the gambling casino had the protection of the law, that the American embassy had no information regarding a gambling debt incurred by Dana C. Smith, and finally that the embassy was in "no position to offer observations as to the conduct of the game."

The letter was marked "Cleared with Mr. Wellman, Mr. Loveland and Ambassador Beaulac."

However, this didn't end the matter. There is also in the embassy files a memo from Paul J. Reveley, the consul general, to Mr. Wellman of the embassy in Havana, dated Sept. 29, stating: "Mr. Wellman . . . said that it was the ambassador's wish that a reply be sent as soon as possible, and, if possible, that afternoon."

That was how important a gambling debt was to the American embassy. It was a matter of life and death, and how the embassy spent its time when it should have been trying to head off Castroism.

The interesting thing is what happened to the head of the Sans Souci night club who tried to collect his debt from Dana Smith. It is an important revelation which will be told in a future column.

Generous Behavior

(C. P. Snow in Harper's)

Turgenev had great literary success, young and in fact remained successful all his life. He was 10 years older than Tolstoy, and when they first met, Turgenev was the most distinguished writer in Russia, and Tolstoy a beginner.

Fairly soon, that position changed. Tolstoy published "War and Peace" when he was in his late thirties, and was, with surprising speed, recognized as the greatest novelist not only of Russia, but of the world.

Turgenev was not simply a fine writer. He was a man of acute critical perception. He knew, and said, that this estimate was just. It cannot have been easy. Turgenev had lived for his art more than most men—much more than Tolstoy had—and it cost

him great suffering to admit that he had been surpassed. And yet his heart was large enough. As he was dying, he wrote Tolstoy one of the most moving letters in all literature, begging him to return to writing novels, calling him the greatest writer of the Russian land."

Men can behave magnanimously as well as meanly. Sometimes, in the blackest moments, one finds oneself thinking that the whole motive force of humankind consists of two factors, envy on the one hand, and on the other the brute desire of the flesh to perish.

But that is not quite true. No, it isn't true at all. We have all met living exemplars to the contrary. You had only to meet Tolstoy to know that he was not true. Or to put one nose inside any of the great physics laboratories of the world during the 1920's or 1930's, the heroic age of physics: Franck's, Goettingen, Bohr's Copenhagen, Ernest Lawrence's Berkeley, Rutherford's Cambridge. In those places one saw men trying to be, and more generously than comes easily to most of us.

Once there was a dispute between the Cavendish laboratory and Paris, about whether Rutherford or Langevin had got in first with a not unimportant discovery. Rutherford intervened, at the top of his enormous voice: "If the discovery is the discovery it is, then it is discovery is Langevin's!"

Dear Rutherford, he had his frailties, but so many of us owed so much to him. Just, perhaps, by seeing how creative genius worked, how easy it was, how happy and how magnanimous it made him.

HENRY BELK

Financing Industry

ASHOKE—Members of the Eastern North Carolina Press Association held what they saw in Robert L. Stallings Jr., lately come to the director of the State Department of Conservation and Development.

Stallings was the speaker at the annual dinner of the association here last night. He was only too ready to use the policy of no special tax concessions or rebates to industry to secure plants. North Carolina has depended upon its stability of government and its favorable tax picture and good labor supply in attracting industry. While North Carolina has adhered strictly to such a policy, most other states now have some type of financial attraction through government to offer new and reliable industry. Stallings declared. He mentioned New York and Pennsylvania, leaders among industrial and progressive states, as examples. He said that such a practice was general among states east of the Mississippi.

A special committee named to study the problems of financing industry or helping with incentives has been at work for months, Stallings recalled. Though he did not say so his implication was that this body might come up with recommendations on the subject to the next General Assembly. The former New Bern mayor plainly had much more information on the subject than he was in a position to reveal at that time. Whatever is suggested, he declared, must be "acceptable."

Ashoke and Murfreesboro, with the Parker Brothers and friends and Chowan College as leaders, made such general hotel in the newsmen will want to come back to the towns often.

The dinner served at Ashoke brought visions of the Thanksgiving of the Pilgrims to the first Thanksgiving. The Methodist women cooked and served the dinner and helped with the cleaning. The country ham was of a perfect leanness and sweetness. The accompanying sliced turkey was tender, juicy but not too juicy. The dressing had herbs and other accents that were just right. The string beans had known the presence of a ham knob, and the corn pudding melted in your mouth. A crisp mixed salad and homemade tomato juice had started the meal. For dessert there was strawberry shortcake with ice cream. Beverages were piping hot coffee of an expert's brew and iced tea. Diners felt at peace with the world after the dinner.

Bliss And Personalities Much missed at the session was Josh Horne of Rocky Mount. He was only recently out of Duke Hospital where he had been confined for several days of convalescence. Some of his friends quipped that he had strained his eyes at the sight of the newsmen. His son attended on a recent tour.

The Parker brothers had as guests at the dinner the members of the Legislature from Hertford and a half dozen other counties in the region. Other special guests included natives of the section who had returned to the home of the president of the association, gave the light touch to the dinner when he said at the outset that it appeared to be nervous he was for the first time.

The General Manager and I had a delightful visit with Nita Sizemore, former Goldsboro newspaper editor of the Parker Brothers' paper in Rich Square. We couldn't take it in that her daughter, Shelia, is this year a freshman at East Carolina.

Financing Industry Stallings in his talk said that a major campaign for expanding and expansion of industry in North Carolina has been that of financing. North Carolina has adhered strictly to a policy of no special tax concessions or rebates by counties or municipalities for

the primary? Now he is talking about the need for a Democratic Congress to help the New Frontiers.

In the spring, Mr. Kitchen seemed to be suggesting there was something sinister about the groups supporting the new frontiers. In the fall, Mr. Kitchen is carefully cultivating these same groups.

MRS. JAN S. MULLER Charlotte.

Greensboro Planning Editor of the Daily News:

This committee fully respects the fact that well-qualified architectural and planning people have been hired to make recommendations for our city. We are also well aware of the fact that members of the Downtown Improvement Committee have been making several thousand miles, both in the United States and in foreign countries, getting ideas for our downtown area.

The downtown area of any city can be most important to all its people. The appearance of this central area is most vital to all concerned. However, in our feeling that this matter should be approached from a very practical standpoint. Those people who invest their money in the project have a right to expect a fair return for its efforts. In this regard, we suggest that every possible effort be made to provide adequate parking and ease of accessibility. We feel sure all people concerned will take these and other important practical thoughts into consideration.

This committee would like to go on record as complimenting the Downtown Improvement Committee for the efforts for downtown improvement.

Clyde Rudd Charlotte.

Civic Improvement Committee Greensboro Lions Club Greensboro.

Mr. Kitchen started out as a "true" conservative. Remember