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Veterans' Pensions: The Costly Paradox

WHEN the veterans lobby is on the prowl in Washington, it is well for the timid to bolt doors, shutter windows and lie low until the wrath has passed.

Unfortunately, it's that season again. Pressures for a new pension grab are building and, at least in Congress, seldom is heard a discouraging word.

No one, but no one, would begrudge truly deserving veterans adequate benefits. Servicemen who are seriously disabled during military hitch are due every reasonable consideration. There is a monstrous incongruity, however, between this fine ideal and the manner in which veterans pensions are handled in the United States. Millions are being poured out to veterans with insignificant disabilities—men who often have suffered no loss of earning power whatsoever. Meanwhile, seriously injured veterans who do need generous help are being shortchanged. It is a tragic and costly paradox.

Few congressmen have the courage to challenge it, much less correct it. It is far easier to extend pensions to the undeserving than to restrict them to the deserving and, incidentally, give the really deserving veterans a fair shake.

John E. Booth, writing in this month's *Harper's* magazine, lacks neither courage nor candor in approaching the problem. His article, showing how the most powerful lobby in Washington is bleeding every taxpayer to subsidize veterans who neither need the money nor deserve it, should be required reading for every T. S. voter. Mr. Booth himself has a 10 per cent disability for a minor ailment.

Yet as Mr. Booth points out, those who are 100 per cent disabled, lying flat on their back at home, unable to work and a burden to their families, the rest of their lives, receive a maximum of \$225 a month. In some cases it can go higher but, even so, it usually proves to be inadequate.

The system should be completely overhauled. Pensions for the 100 per cent disabled veterans should be increased by cutting down on low-disability payments to servicemen who have suffered no loss of earning capacity.

Yet the major veterans organizations and their powerful lobbies are generally opposed to this approach. Congressmen find it difficult to resist their political pressures.

It is time for a little pressure from the rank and file—including rank and file veterans—who view a grotesque waste of the taxpayers' money with considerable and wholly justified alarm.

That's One . . . Shall We Try For Two?

NOW that statehood for Alaska is a certainty, Congress can properly turn its attention to the equally convincing case of the Territory of Hawaii. It is presenting for statehood. As a matter of fact, most of the arguments advanced in Alaska's behalf also apply to Hawaii.

Both Democratic and Republican platforms have called for statehood for Alaska and Hawaii. President Eisenhower, in his 1957 budget message, repeated requests for Hawaiian statehood, said Alaska should be admitted "subject to area limitations and other safeguards for the conduct of defense activities."

Hawaii's 1950 population was 499,794—more than double that of Alaska. Both territories have great economic potential that can be utilized fully under their own administration. Opinion polls of the American people, often repeated, heavily favor Hawaii's admission. The House has passed Hawaiian statehood bills by heavy majorities in 1947 and 1950. And with Alaska coming into the fold now, continuity has lost its steam as an issue.

Some honest fears have been raised about Communists in Hawaii, stemming largely from a Senate subcommittee's

1957 report on "conspiratorial forces" allegedly controlling two labor unions. But no evidence of Communist participation in government has ever been revealed. Furthermore, a 1953 House report said there were no more than 90 Communists in all of Hawaii—a territory nearly twice the size of Texas—in 1950. Hawaii, traditionally Republican, in 1956 elected its first Democratic delegate since 1934.

At present, a Hawaiian statehood bill is bottled up in a House committee. It would frankly be difficult to obtain final action before Congress adjourns. But the matter clearly deserves early and earnest consideration.

Vice Presidency

"A WOMAN vice president? I think that would be a mistake right now. Although a woman could do very well what Dick Nixon is doing—go around and be friendly."—REP. FRANCES BOLDEN (R-Ohio).

If the job's not big enough, m'am, just say so.

Can Nothing Be Done About Summer?

THAT summer has few poets, we suppose, is her own fault. A scorched earth policy couldn't possibly flutter the wings of even the most lyrical soul. The muse, mayhap, is mortally, takes its vacation in this season.

There's a lot written about summer, of course, but mostly it is about summer, past and the quaint practices then prevailing. There's the standard piece about pulling the butter milk out of the well and having a draught, about making ice cream in the old hand-cranked under the cottonwood tree and about the joys of the old swimming hole. Nobody has much to say about the weather—and weather is what summer, more than any other season, is all about.

Summer is just full of weather and quite remarkable weather in that it is

all about the same. It's hot. But do people talk about this fascinating aspect of the season? No, they do not. They think about it, but they talk about something else. And want everyone else to do likewise. The weather by unspoken consent, simply is held too loathsome to discuss.

It's entirely understandable, but then if no one talks about it, how are they to do anything about it? The Atomic Energy Commission frankly admitted the horrors of the atom bomb and promptly went out and made a "clean" bomb. The iniquity of socialism has been discussed so thoroughly that we now have the sensible suggestion that crime be socialized in order to prove that it doesn't pay.

Can nothing be done about summer?

From The London Daily Mail

'A LITTLE MORE HUMILITY'

WE HAVE a vast complex of curative and welfare services. Yet crime flourishes. Really bad crime. The jails are so full that the inmates are crowded out. The symptoms of our Age of Reason are not getting what we hoped for. Something has gone wrong.

Nor is this the only paradox of our period. We lavish money on education—and produce the "blackboard jungle." The symptoms of our Age of Reason are also to be found on a much wider stage. Thus, human right was once taken for granted, but not now. Now we have to write it down.

There never was a golden matrimonial guidance, and so many divorces; so much knowledge of the mind and so much mental illness; so many victories over disease, and so many violent deaths.

Never before have people been able to mingle with those of other countries so easily, nor been so restricted when they do.

It is said that such personal contacts should make for good will. But we have seen the two most terrible wars ever fought. And now that no one can see into nation all nations can be silenced for ever.

It would be easy to become cynical.

Instead, let us be analytical. Let us try to find the reason for our paradoxes.

It would also be absurd to repudiate our theories and philosophies. Such things as psychology, modern ideas on the upbringing of children, the treatment of criminals, and so on.

These are more than fads and fancies. They embody thought and advance. But we must not regard them as the beginning and the end of knowledge.

For example, it is wrong to hold that psychology alone can deal with criminal tendencies as it is to say that punishment alone is the answer.

We need a sense of proportion. While recognizing that new methods are of great value we should also admit that older ones have their place.

We should try to believe that our own generation does not know everything and that perhaps a nugget or two of gold is still to be mined from the wisdom of the past.

Our age has invented many marvels but, it has not yet discovered the secret of human perfection. Until it does, it is less arrogant, a little more humility might give us the key to many problems.

Mr. John Foster Dulles Can't Save Lebanon By Himself

By JOSEPH ALSOP

THE critically dangerous Lebanese situation has produced at least one good result. It has given the best insight on record into the strengths and weaknesses of the character and situation of John Foster Dulles, who now makes American foreign policy almost alone and single-handed.

From the foreign angle of vision, as this reporter has already recorded, Foster Dulles looks like a most regrettable Secretary of State. Seen from Washington, however, he looks quite different. Here in Washington, you might say John Foster Dulles looks like the only tussler in the swamp.

Dulles plays his tussler role, when the trouble in Lebanon began, at once showing the firmness and decisiveness that sets him apart from the rest of our present government. Quite promptly, without any limitations, Dulles joined the British foreign secretary, Selwyn Lloyd, in making a mortally grave commitment to the Lebanese government.

If the need arose, we told the Lebanese, and if the Lebanese

HENRY CABOT LODGE
Take The Soft Line

government asked for help from its friends in the West, an Anglo-American military expedition would be sent to protect the independence of Lebanon. This was about as serious a promise as the Eisenhower administration has ever made to any government abroad.

Before making this promise, Dulles of course informed Secretary of Defense Neil McElroy—but it would be exaggerating to say that he consulted McElroy. Equally, of course, Dulles obtained the consent of the White House—but the President nowadays almost automatically consents to anything Dulles proposes. At bottom, in fact, the whole responsibility for promising the Lebanese to send in John Foster Dulles alone.

EYES WIDE OPEN

Dulles made his promise with his eyes open, too. He knew quite well that Anglo-American military intervention in Lebanon would be a most unpleasant and risky business. But he quite correctly argued that, if worse came to worse, intervention would be less risky and unpleasant than the total destruction of all the vital Western interests throughout the Middle East. And this kind of general Middle Eastern catastrophe was, and is, the virtually sure price of allowing Egypt's Nasser another victory in Beirut.

Thus Dulles started with a decision that was very bold but also wholly logical. But it is amazing, indeed, it is almost criminal, to make the sort of promise that Dulles made to the Lebanese, unless you are also ready to be held in drawing the logical consequences from your own actions.

Having made such a promise, a great power must show it means every word of it. A great power



"I HAD A FRIEND AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE..."

may wait a while to see whether such a promise really has to be kept. A great power may experiment with purely political

situation detonates and gets out of hand.

The British government tried to draw just the consequences listed above from the promise that has been made. The American government instead insisted upon delay after vain delay. The main trouble was that just about everyone in the American government except John Foster Dulles heartily disliked the promise that Dulles had made.

EXACT OPPOSITE

The most important opposition came from our U.N. delegation and the Pentagon. The chiefs of the armed services indicated their position at the outset, by doing the exact opposite of showing we meant every word of our promise. For some time after, the promise was given, the Marines on duty in the Mediterranean were actually left to vacation on Spanish beaches, several days sailing from the Lebanon.

At the U.N., too, our secondary foreign policy-maker, Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, had committed himself to a soft, parliament-of-man line when the American government was making its decision. He now took the same line about the Lebanese crisis. Lodge should apparently get most of the credit for the U.N. mission to Lebanon, which has turned out to resemble the shameful Runciman mission to Czechoslovakia that prepared the road to Munich.

A Middle Eastern Mission is now quite likely. Foster Dulles still insists that the United States and Britain will send troops to Lebanon rather than permit a Munich there. But if we intervene now, we shall be doing so after the price of intervention has doubled and quadrupled and occupied. One must conclude, therefore, that the only tussler in a swamp cannot support the weight of such a policy decision as Dulles made.

Revival In Russia Is More Political Than Religious

By MARQUIS CHILDS

NO ASPECT of this extraordinary revival in Russia is more puzzling for the Western observer than the status of religion.

While it has been reported that something resembling a religious revival has been taking place, with more and more young people attending church and participating in church ceremonies, this would

seem to be definitely an exaggeration. But in religion, as in so many other fields, communism is rediscovering the past and adapting it to its own objectives. The past of religion, as the Russian past, or to put it more precisely, the elements of that past which serve Communist aims.

A striking example of what has been taking place can be seen in Kiev, a capital of the Ukraine, which was once the chief center

for both the Christian and Jewish religions and was known as "The Russian Jerusalem." To visit the Monastery of Lavra on the outskirts of Kiev is to have some idea of the transition taking place and of the remarkably different layers of development that exist side by side.

Lavra, part of which dates back to the 11th Century when its deep caves were occupied by famous hermit monks, was before

the revolution one of the two or three holiest places in Russia. After the revolution, in the phase of aggressive atheism, electric lights were put in the caves and the mummified saints and other objects of religious veneration were made a kind of chamber of horrors to illustrate the superstition and backwardness from the Communist perspective of religion.

Since the war part of Lavra, including the caves and one of the churches, has been restored to the church. The electric lights have gone and the devout as well as tourists and sightseers carry lighted tapers that shed a soft glow on the columns, where their glass lids containing the mummified bodies of elders and venerated saints in richly embroidered vestments.

DEEP VENERATION

For the faithful, mostly older peasant women from the surrounding countryside, these saints are the dearest veneration. They kiss the glass cover of the coffin and fall on their knees and cross themselves repeatedly before going on down the dark winding corridor to another recess where rests another saintly mummy.

The courtyard at the principal entrance to the caves looks like a scene out of Dostoevski. Bearded monks, some of them young, come and go, kerchiefed peasant women all by the white-washed wall or lie sleeping on the ground, some of them having traveled considerable distances for this pilgrimage. Young priests are being trained in a seminary which is part of Lavra.

BELL TOWER

In the section of the monastery retained by the state, steel scaffolding surrounds the old bell tower. Restoration is to be completed next year. The Germans, four months after they occupied Kiev, tore the bell tower down, and two years—blew up the 11th Century Cathedral of the Assumption with its only frescoed interior. So thorough was this act of wanton destruction that it cannot be restored.

The restoration of Lavra and the work being done by religious movements in other cities represent a considerable investment at a time when the state is straining every muscle to build industry and agriculture. One can only conclude that since nothing is done here for whom or because the investment—small, of course, in relation to the vast sums being

spent on industry and transportation—was considered worthwhile it was considered the greatness of the Russian past.

LITTLE RISK

In rediscovering the past, which is part of the theme of patriotism that is an important element in today's ideology, the Communist party is taking little or no risk. Young people, even a haggard, tell the visitor that in Russia very few people believe in God.

Yet at the same time a search for new forms to give life a broader and even a happier content suggests that there is a realization of the need for what the church has given by church authorities here closely paralleled those of the state.

INSTRUMENT OF STATE

The Russian church has more often than in times past been an instrument of the state. At the time of the Hungarian uprising and the world indignation that greeted its suppression, the state was given by church authorities here closely paralleled those of the state.

But religion, however one may minimize its significance under present circumstances, is a major fact. Russia claims to be the fourth Moslem power in the world, and this is not unimportant. Communist relations with the Arab world.

On his recent tour of the Soviet Union President Gamal Abdel Nasser of the United Arab Republic is said to have been deeply impressed with the status of Moslems in Central Asia.

HEAVY TOLL

Elsewhere in Eastern Europe the German invaders took a heavy toll of the Jewish population. In 1941, for example, in the Ukraine alone, 80,000 Jews in Kiev alone, one synagogue is functioning in that city today.

With so much of the past destroyed in one way or another, the Russian people seem to cling to what remains, particularly as they see in the "classical form" in literature, the ballet and the theater, with an almost passionate desire. And if they have any problems in rescuing the past and the present, they are not visible on the surface.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

THE public is getting so accustomed to hearing that Project Vanguard has failed to get off the ground again that they scarcely pay any attention to the routine announcement that "the second stage failed to ignite," with another 20-inch satellite going to the bottom of the Atlantic.

The latest failure of Vanguard, however, was the worst scientific defeat the United States has suffered in its now-top-heavy race with the Soviet Union. The small gold-plated "moon" which Navy scientists were trying to put in orbit was jam-packed with instruments which they hoped to ferret out vital secrets of space. The Russians, by putting on three very large satellites, one carrying a dog and the last a veritable flying laboratory, have been learning vast amounts of information about outer space.

Data Withheld

They have been tantalizing U.S. scientists by hinting a few things they have learned, but are not giving us any real

Vanguard Failures Prove Soviet Lead

ly significant data about cosmic rays, submicroscopic particles, etc. Especially they have not turned over any data concerning conditions that may affect the ability of human beings to live in outer space.

American scientists have been able to pick up the radio signals from Sputnik III and analyze them. But they do not know how the instruments inside the Sputnik are calibrated, therefore can reach few scientific conclusions. Reluctantly they have concluded the coded information by Sputnik III can be interpreted only by the Russians.

Last Satellite

Unfortunately, the 20-inch ball that went into the ocean last week, is the last of the fully instrumented U.S. satellites. The Naval Research Laboratory had ready to send into outer space. They were waiting for the instruments to be working, but it won't be ready to go before October. They are desperately rushing work on others but two years of patient work on instrumentation went

into the drink when that second stage failed to fire.

The United States will now try to fire a couple more satellites. One is scheduled to be launched in the near future. Another will be equipped with a TV instrument to test how satellites can be used to scan clouds and help make weather forecasts.

Facts Pyramid

If these satellite findings are successful, the American public will be kept superficially satisfied. But these satellites won't let us the kind of vital data the Russians are now picking up from their Sputnik III.

In silence, the discovery of some facts quickly leads to others. These facts tend to pyramid.

The Russians already months ahead of the United States in space technology, are now lengthening their advantage by many more months. It will not be until October that we can begin to discover some of the information the Russians already know.

Further Behind

But our scientists are getting desperate. One way or another, the Russians may also be getting ready to put men into space and that, with their superior knowledge of conditions beyond the earth's atmosphere, they are in a position to design more efficient rockets and expand their superiority over the lagging United States.

In short, despite the complacency of the Eisenhower Administration, we are not catching up with the Russians.