

Little Note From Stalin

An Ultimatum To The United Nations

By Dorothy Thompson

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New Voice

Unorganized White Collar Group Finally Speaks for Itself

The designation of office workers as the white collar class originated, we are told by the advertisements, in the days of the first World War when gentlemen suffered their necks chafed by those stretched yokes of fashion. Times have changed, however, and so have the liss years of the class. In lieu of hard-cased hand-herders, there is the pinch of war. Until now, though labor groups and farm groups have been protected from the clamor of prices, there has been no pressure towards caring for men and women of the white collar. Unorganized, but making up a large and important part of the nation's society and economy, they have found no Moses. For them is the task of attempting to make normal conditions bear up under abnormal conditions.

Now, as a cheering note, comes the first little sign of help — or willingness to help. A campaign, begun in New York by the YWCA, has been aimed at the top. President Roosevelt has received an urgent request that the War Relocation Authority be instructed to consider the white collar case.

What the new sponsor seeks is more minimum wage legislation and a bargaining privilege for the class. Because it has been making a poor showing in the battle against rising costs, the class may have relief of some sort. A survey of some 60,000 white collar workers shows that the average average wage is between \$80 and \$90 per month. As against newly-adjusted Labor and Farm incomes, that is a "gross inequity."

Several leading women's organizations are preparing to aid the fight, and show an intelligent approach. Realizing, they hope the world's record to be held by our Senator R. Reynolds, but Mrs. Clara Booth Lee, Republican, keeps it up, she'll catch him yet.

Little Axe

Mrs. Luce's New Platform Holds Incomes to \$2,000

We know a lady Congressional candidate from Connecticut who can just open her pretty mouth and lose votes by the thousands. Just now, of course, we hope the good ladies gave her a little rest, but we think it is safe to bet that there was more than a little sly thinking going on, and some subdued muttering.

The lady Republican, nominated after a hot fight, claims that she understands this war of ours, because she's been close enough to see a war-bitten British population. On such a platform was she nominated. If she wants to be elected she'll leave the little fellows with the few shiekies they have left, and let the Congress shambles take up the burden if and when it comes.

Anyhow, she's nothing if not original — perhaps too original by \$23,000.

Dream Figures

Could Big Savings In Whipping Inflation Be Spent in Control?

There's probably not a man, right in the heart and mind, who wants to trifle with inflation. There's a bloc here and a bloc there guilty of striking out in its own behalf, but not in favor of the runaway values which bring ruin. All right, we're anti-inflation.

the past few years simply because we haven't had inflation.

To us that seem a huge field, where none should be certain of even one figure. How do they know, we say, how much we've saved? What's happened, anyhow, since the days when our dollars used to be worth a hundred pennies? Who's going to be the basis for the digits of disaster? It sounds a good deal like a physician telling his patient his health gain by percentages for five years, now that he's escaped coming down with beri-beri.

If we've saved billions, the nation should be happy. If, when the Office of Price Administration asks for an additional appropriation to aid in keeping prices down and inflation away, Leon Henderson argues that the price is cheap, who can say him nay? But who can say him nay?

This week, Washington, we note, Deputy Price Administrator Paul W. Porter said that the broadened program of price control would call for far more money than Congress appropriated this Summer. The \$120,000,000 (instead of the requested \$210,000,000) isn't sufficient to help save the billions of the dollar that the dollar is worth.

Mr. Porter refused to state the additional amount needed. He also said that experience had shown that costs of controlling prices taper off after the organization is set up. That's what we hope, too. Else we fear those indefinite costs might "soak" us up with those indefinite potential losses, and we'd wind up in such a mess that not even the dream-figure men could get us out.

The Very Young

War Industry May Take a Toll Of Children Without a Need

A suggestion by Judge E. Yates Webb in Federal Court here this week appears to raise again the question of children in wartime. Judge Webb, proposing that school children be sent into the fields to help harvest crops, pointed out that Cleveland County youngsters had picked cotton, had earned extra money, learned something of industry, and improved general farm labor conditions in the County.

In normal times, of course, such a procedure would touch off a minor revolution. Though farming is not hampered by child labor laws as other industries, a like pilgrimage in peace time would have raised an investigation. Toward these of tender age, our attitude has changed. If they must work for victory, they must work. There should be caution, however.

Already a responsible body, the Commission on Children in this writing, has recommended a general lowering of the bars for child labor: No child under 14 should become a hired laborer, no child under 16 should be engaged in manufacturing or mining, no children between 14 and 16 should be released from school except in labor shortage crises, children between 16 and 18 should be guided into proper occupations. The children are already going to war.

WASHINGTON It is impossible to gloss over the importance of the Stalin statement. It is not put in the form of an ultimatum but it is very nearly one. Nor is there any good debating what he means by "meeting obligations fully and on time." The answer to that question is given in the text of the statement. He means that he wishes the Anglo-American world to fight, and to fight now.

The Stalin statement must be taken in connection with the statement which Mr. Wilkie made from Moscow and has now repeated from Quanguing, urging the opening of a second front. Mr. Wilkie in his first statement also remarked that some military leaders might need a little prodding. Since Wilkie went to Moscow as a personal emissary of the President, there is only one conclusion to be drawn from that remark — namely that the Anglo-American political leadership does not see eye to eye on all questions with the military leadership.

This apparent disagreement between the military and political leadership is not confined to the Anglo-American world. There is a split between the Nazi leadership in Germany and the German high command.

This was indicated in the Hitler speech. A large part of that speech was a rationalization of the value of the German victories in Russia. Hitler in pretending to answer Allied leaders was answering what he has unquestionably heard from his own generals — namely that the acquisition of huge territories is not a synonym for winning a war. We know now that Marshal Fedor von Bock, who resigned with Brauchitsch after the last Winter campaign only to be reinstated, is again out, together with Bitter von Leeb.

Despite the gains, the German campaign in the Caucasus has failed. The timetable is off, and Hitler in the face of the Winter, is again obliged to go on the defensive — admittedly so, according to his own speech.

Stalin's statement also stated unequivocally that the Russian armies are as strong as those of any aggressor

power. The Russians have not been accustomed to overstate their strength. Their armies are intact after nearly fourteen months of war.

Marshal Goering's speech on Sunday confirms the rift between German political and military leadership as well in an indirect way. He states that no general who has been shot but he adds that the Government would not hesitate to shoot generals as well as soldiers if they were cowards. Being a coward means giving a bad report on Russia, and on the whole military situation. Marshal Fedor von Bock and General Ritter von Leeb are certainly not cowards in any other conceivable sense.

Stalin's ultimatum combined with his reiteration of strength can only mean one thing. It can only mean that he considers returning to the original Russian conception of fighting the Russian war alone — and making the Russian peace alone. He is saying in effect: If the Anglo-Americans do not come up to scratch and really fight "the fascist gangsters" then Russia will look out for herself.

In considering what obligations the Anglo-Americans may have given Russia it is well to consider what obligations Russia took in return. Russia took two: to stay in the war and not make a separate peace, and to abandon any program for the Communist revolution in Europe.

If Russia has to fight for all major military purposes alone, such of these reciprocal obligations may fall into the wastebasket.

The Anglo-American world has, up to now, neither made a major military offensive nor a major political offensive. The political offensive has been the limited and equivocal Atlantic Charter, which was still born.

Nevertheless, the Russians have scrupulously fulfilled their political obligations, as well as fighting a war of unexampled effort and reckless heroism. Everywhere in the world the Communist Party support the war effort to the fullest. Everywhere the Communist Party

has been against strikes and against the sabotage activities of Gandhi — while American "liberals" have been giving him every possible aid and comfort.

But the Russians have not forgotten Munich; it has not passed unobserved that international persons in this country controlling a powerful press still apparently consider Russia as enemy number one. Although I am absolutely convinced that no political considerations whatsoever but purely military questions should govern the attention of the American commands, Russia may not be so sure. The Russians know that their armies are in the long run the instruments of political policy.

The record shows that Stalin abandoned the idea of the Communist revolution as an instrument of war policy and that if tomorrow Stalin should attempt to consolidate the revolution in Russia along more conservative lines. But if Stalin believes that Russia must fight alone, then he has a powerful card to play.

For the German European masses are Socialist. Dr. Goebbels had to precede Hitler with an extreme left wing speech to which far too little attention was paid here. And if tomorrow Stalin should attempt to raise the banner, and "workers, soldiers, and peasants of Europe unite for the all-European union of Socialist and Soviet republics against Fascist gangsters and their Anglo-American stooges," he would have something to say.

And the German army is not anti-Communist. The German people is distinctly anti-Communist. The Russians have never been so politically unsteady as to announce as we have done in the Atlantic Charter the unilateral disarmament of Germany.

The Russians know that this war is a revolutionary war. They know that the German army and the Nazi leadership are not necessarily the same. They judge armies by what they are fighting for.

There is more than one way to bring down Hitler.

Our War Position Not So Bad

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON. A LOFTY military authority (not Mr. Roosevelt) has written a personal letter to some Senators taking a much more optimistic view of the American war position than has been expressed publicly by the President in his speeches.

This letter contests specifically the view set forth by Lieutenant General Somervell, in his St. Louis speech, that we are losing the war. "The war has been some time too long. So far we've lost nearly every major struggle. If we continue to lose a little while longer, it will be too late to save ourselves, America and civilization."

The letter presents a change of official emphasis, along the line suggested by Mr. Roosevelt, after his trip, when he stepped down hard on all his sub-officials who have said the war is being lost.

Although the President named no names, among the eminent those that must have felt the crunch, aside from Somervell's, were those of Navy Secretary Knox, various assistant secretaries, and, I believe, even the right-hand man, Harry Hopkins.

Up to now, officials have tended to blacken up the dark side of every picture publicly, for the ostensible purpose of goading the people to greater effort. Mr. Roosevelt's tone seems to have convinced him that line is no longer necessary or desirable, if it ever was.

When you look at it right side up, the strictly military picture is by no means dismal. We have suffered major setbacks, few success, true. But we have had a good deal of success, too. We were not ready at the start. We were caught off guard. We had a one ocean navy and no army.

Now we have an army in the final stages of preparation for the Pacific. The Navy is still building up, but ahead in the prospect that our naval building will put us eventually on a two-ocean status. The next ten months will tell the tale in the Pacific.

The Stalin and Wilkie statements have brought "second front" to the fore again. Any efforts by commentators or military analysts to ferret out their true meanings or intentions can only be considered persiflage.

The Russians (and Wilkie) gave the situation its only new recent turn, by implying that the timidity of British and American military officials is responsible for the present situation.

If that is a sincerely held Russian opinion, the Kremlin is clearly in its diplomacy this time than ever before. I cannot remember another diplomatic occasion when it proceeded toward its purpose so straightforwardly.

On the other hand, if it is an attempt to deceive Hitler and to conceal the immaturity of a blow by it, it is cleverly in line with usual Red diplomatic tactics.

The actual situation on a second front is plain to all. It is to our advantage to strike as soon as possible, and has been for the past ten months. Even before that, it was to the advantage of the British to attack.

I do not know why the British did not strike. I confidently assume it was because they were after military "realities" which must be considered "goals." I assume the same thing has been going on up. After all, we have been in this war only ten months.

"Go To Hell" No Suckup

From Colliers

MR. IGNAZ JASCAWISCH is a South Dakota farmer who finds it a "trouble to write letter." Nevertheless, he has written one and we think it is worth a try. "I have a letter to write," he says. "I am a good man if I will vote for them and send my dues because they will get more money from the Army and the government for the crops and sell it to the government. I am a good man if I will vote for them and send my dues because they will get more money from the Army and the government for the crops and sell it to the government. I am a good man if I will vote for them and send my dues because they will get more money from the Army and the government for the crops and sell it to the government."

"I am a Polish born, I am American naturalized. I am a farmer. I do not take sholekin and say pay me more money for crops Uncle Sam because this is a suckup. Two sons by me are in the Army. I do not write yet I vote for them and I send more dues. I have sold me Uncle Sam pay me more money for the crops. I say go to hell and by God I will give Uncle Sam my crops if it help knock hell out of Hitler and his lap."

"I say by God I give my sons for fight. I say by God I give myself for Uncle Sam and write some old man. I say by God to them I would vote rat catcher. I say by God I am Polish born American farmer, two good sons and one good farm thank God. Where I once live in Poland I was a good man and I say pay me more money for the crops. I say go to hell and by God I will give Uncle Sam my crops if it help knock hell out of Hitler and his lap."

"Good neighbors I please excuse me are dead by German Army. It is a trouble to write letter. Please excuse me but I write to them go to hell because I no vote for sholekin for my wheat just because anyway I am American not politician so go to hell by God I tell them."

This Hardship We Can Take It

The New Yorker BY way of a preview of the popularity of the ability to withstand further wartime rationing, we want to tell you about what the family of Little East Side Milton we know went through. Some weeks ago he had a fare for a sharp ending-in-ing in the food situation, ending it, got worse. She'd call her husband a just a cockle-outside and be forced to settle for pork chops, beefs, cello, eye bread, and no cocktail outfit.

Inducted



This Appeasement

When Does It End?

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON. AS to the bare-trading politician Laval will hold on to a French fleet as long as he can. So the surrender of the French fleet will be determined by bargaining between Hitler and Laval.

Our State Department makes one good argument against breaking relations. It is that our embassy at Vichy is a useful listening post. By the same token the Vichy embassy in Washington is a good listening post for Hitler. But Hitler probably has others here, so the closing of the Vichy Embassy here would not plug the leaks to the Axis.

Maybe we are wise to keep an embassy in Vichy. But there is no reason why we can't be rough in every other respect. Take their radio station over here. Take Dakar if we can get it. The British have taken Madagascar and we have approved it. Why not do the same ourselves? This Vichy crowd means no good to us. Laval thinks the Germans are going to quit. He thinks he can string us along and become a broker between Germany and the United States when the war ends. But he expects to be paid by Hitler, not by us. So why should we continue to give him any breaks?

This is war, so we hear. If so, why go on treating Laval as if these were still the days of the lost paradise before Munich?

Visitin' Round

The Doc Was Easy On 'Em (Luck Item, Marshall News-Record) Lester Thriner and Gailie Hunter had a car wreck Sunday. They were taken to the doctor at Waynesville but were not seriously hurt. Thirty Cents' Worth, Eh? (North Wilkesboro News-Record) An addition to the height of the yard wall to the residence of Dr. P. C. Casper was completed Thursday. Thirty cents per hour is the cost of a small job like this. Would That Be Her Thrown? Arm? (Hot Springs Item, Marshall News-Record) Mrs. Eda Sanders's arm is getting along so nicely she and her children are expected to move soon to Miss, where Mr. Sanders has a position.

Visitin' Round

Laval tried to get 150,000 French laborers by volunteer methods. That failed, so Hitler forced Laval to draft labor. Of course, Laval has an explanation that it really isn't a draft. They will be forced to go, and if they refuse they will not be forced to go. No, no, Vichy will place on a Government list of undesirable people. So if they know what they are doing, French workers will go to Germany to work when they are drafted.

Our Government has taken the position that if we broke with Vichy we would force us into the arms of Hitler. Well, Hitler is doing a good job of that as it is. We say if we speak crossly to Vichy the French fleet will turn over to Hitler. I hear one good answer to that argument. It is that Vichy's big bargaining point with Hitler is that the French fleet can bargain with Hitler. When he loses it, then he has no more bargaining leverage.