

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1945

## A Pressure Group Is Born

Charles G. Bolte has been a returned veteran of World War II longer than most; he left Dartmouth College six months before Pearl Harbor, joined a British regiment as a foot soldier, and lost a leg at Alamein. This, of course, terminated his military career, and gave him time to consider the American veteran and his peculiar problems.

Some time ago he founded the American Veterans Committee, and in informal fashion he has been recruiting membership through the medium of personal letters addressed to fighting men in far places. Last week he published a book setting forth his ideas—"The New Veteran"—and in it he devotes two chapters to blasting the existing veterans organizations which, he says, devote themselves to bonuses, alcoholic conventions and class legislation designed for the exclusive benefit of the membership.

Mr. Bolte regards the veteran as a citizen by his years under arms, but who seems likely to emerge from the war with an awakened democratic consciousness. He realizes that the AVG, if it succeeds, will inevitably become a pressure group, but he believes that it should be a more democratic and prosperous America and a more stable world. This theory, of course, might have been lifted from the charter of any of the veterans organizations Mr. Bolte dams, but he explains:

"The organization must, in short, be a pressure group for the common welfare. For the welfare of veterans is inextricably bound up with the welfare of the nation."

## The Return of Mr. Lindbergh

A footnote to the war, and the turbulent years that preceded it, turns up in Jacksonville, Florida, where returning naval officers publicly praise the courage and high skill of Charles A. Lindbergh, who spent long months at one of his lonely Central Pacific bases.

When there was a need for a heavier bomb load on the navy's Corsair fighters, Mr. Lindbergh, present as a civilian representative of United Aircraft, went into the shops and with his own hands designed and built a jury rig that would enable the Corsair to mount a 4,000-pound bomb. Then, when the navy's little planes could actually fly with such a load, Mr. Lindbergh climbed into one and took off.

"He got the Corsair with that two-ton bomb load off the ground in about a minute," said a navy spokesman. "He did it in," Navy spokesmen reported. And he added: "When he came to the island... he was coolly received by both the officers and men who had heard of his isolationist speeches. But I want to say that when he left, he left with the respect and admiration of every officer and man on the island."

## Alaska Comes of Age

It is customary for veterans to include in their broad declaration of intended action upon return to civilian life a statement to the effect that they will never stray outside the good old U. S. A. again so long as they live. Certain incidents in Washington, however, indicate that they will never set foot off the pavement. And certainly we would never have suspected that any who had the dubious honor of serving in the barren, boring wastes of Alaska would be eaten up with a desire to return.

Apparently we have misjudged our purchase from the Russians, which was once called by the Republican opposition "a national icebox." The Governor of the territory, Ernest Gruening, has written to Washington asking for help in the face of a threatened influx of veterans. There are so many of them, he thinks, that screening stations should be set up in Seattle to prevent any but the most worthy from making the long journey north.

From The Washington Post:

## Wearing Bell-Bottom Trousers...

The present style of uniform for enlisted men in the Navy is still the subject of controversy. The story has been passed about that it was designed in the bad old days of press gangs, bouzouks, cats, yardarm hangings, keelhauling, wormy bile, maggoty pork and beef, and the sole purpose of discouraging mutinies. No matter what the provocation, it is said, a man dressed in such a silly fashion was incapable of working up his courage to the point of rebellion. Besides, the tight-fitting costume made it impossible to conceal weapons.

There is no truth in any of this. Almost every detail of the uniform had some eminently practical reason. It was tight-fitting, because if it were not, the wind would be blown overboard. The trousers were cut wide at the bottom so they could be rolled up when decks were to be swabbed. The curious square collar in the back, protected the neck from the uniform from the quarrel was tarred for the very sensible reason of discouraging lice.

The sailor's hat, however, is something of a mystery. It is said to have been originally worn by the costume

up with the welfare of America; and if the new veterans organization tonight of this fact, if it becomes a pressure group for veterans as a class apart from the rest of the citizenry, it is in the last part in vain attempt to recapture it. If it becomes an organization for the sake of organization alone, it will have failed to fulfill its hopeful promise of a new generation thrown in. And the organization which degenerates into an alumni club and a protective association.

There is, we think, an inherent weakness in the sort of organization Mr. Bolte proposes. It will require the disgruntled veterans who find no place in the cheerful, blowy confines of the Legion, the Amvets, or the VFW, the lean and serious thinkers who will promptly establish some sort of ideological line, and who will become the target of the anti-liberals. In the end, we fear, they will convince no one except those who are already convinced.

We agree with Mr. Bolte that a good many veterans have attained a maturity and a democratic understanding that should be an asset to the country. But we have an idea the temporary influence they will gain by organizing will be offset by the suspicion that will greet their effort to create a mass voice. The fact of their service, and the fact of their respect, and the fact that they will render a far greater service if they remained private citizens, individuals who could, when the occasion demands, arise in their own communities to support the sentiments that have motivated Mr. Bolte.

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It's a big place, of course, but Governmental Gruening doesn't think there's room for the thousands of ex-servicemen who might be prompted to accept the late President Roosevelt's invitation to move to Alaska and help settle the last frontier. As a matter of surprising fact, Alaska has 7,000 veterans, they say, and the State Department's most optimistic estimate of job opportunities is only 15,000 in the next ten years.

Nobody, it appears, should purchase a lot and build for the Redoubt without at least \$2,000 in cash, and even then the prospects are dim. Jack London's been dead a good many years, Dangerously Dan McGrew is only a memory, and the Lady Known as Lou no longer plies her trade. Mr. Roosevelt was wrong when he called Alaska the last frontier—it's just another state community of businessmen trying to figure out what in the world to do with its own local problems, and desiring no assistance from the outsiders.

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By Drew Pearson

**WASHINGTON**  
PRESIDENT TRUMAN's home town took his casting vote for the Republican Convention in Texas for poker and bourbon with very little comment.

Truman is a member of the Baptist Church, to which about one-third of the town's population belong. The world convention held annually in Independence draws from 5,000 to 10,000 Saints from all parts of the Western Hemisphere. In addition there are more than twenty other churches inside the city limits of Independence.

Despite this, Independence citizens don't see anything sinful about a little poker-playing now and then. They took the criticism of Texas Baptists in their stride. In fact, Dr. Walter Pope Hines, president of William Jewell, a Baptist college at Liberty, Mo., said the school would confer its honorary degree on the President whenever it is convenient for Truman to visit the college. The college affiliated with both the North and South branches of the Baptist Church.

**NOTE**—Independence is regarded by the Latter Day Saints as Zion City—where Christ will return to establish His Kingdom and govern the world. According to the reorganized Saints, the huge temple in Independence is to be the site for His return to earth. If an outsider makes the mistake of referring to the Latter Day Saints as "Mormons," he is set right in a hurry. The split between Brigham Young, who took the Mormons to Utah, and Joseph Smith, who remained in Missouri to organize the reorganized church, occurred in Independence.

## Army Nepotism

Congress is not the only place where nepotism flourishes. It now develops that some generals also have a yen for putting their relatives in cushy jobs on the public pay roll. One of these is Maj. Gen. William Key, head of the U. S. Military Mission in Budapest.

Gen. Key has given his son a spot promotion as a commissioned officer (without precedent except in combat) and put him in the comfortable post of "Aide to the Commanding General." Formerly Lt. Key was an enlisted man serving in Italy. Other enlisted men, with no fathers serving as major generals, are burned up. Back in Oklahoma, where Gen. Key lives and once served as WPA administrator, the General achieved a unique record. He built more WPA armories throughout Oklahoma than built in any other state—a total of 56. Apparently Key leaned toward favoritism early, for in Oklahoma City he erected, with WPA funds, a club for National Guard officers featuring a large ball room, ladies lounge, several private dining rooms, dinettes, and pine-paneled smoking rooms—but not open to enlisted men.

## Limping Good Neighbors

With the national spotlight focused on our diplomatic policy, most people overlooked our limping Good Neighbor Policy. Army headquarters in Europe have been taking our Latin American friends for granted, and—as wives sometimes remind their husbands—no one can be taken for granted.

## A Test Of Strength

It was a lucky fumble of fate at Pearl Harbor that saved one of the Navy's most famous carriers together with three heavy cruisers and four destroyers. If it had not been for a broken tow-line and a fouled propeller, they too would have been blasted by the Japs. What happened was that Admiral Halsey, commanding the carrier Enterprise, together with four destroyers and the cruisers Salt Lake City, Northampton and Chester, had gone to Wake to deliver the airplanes with which Major Doolittle had made his heroic stand against the Japs. Coming back they ran low on fuel, and some of the destroyers had to refuel at sea from cruisers.

In this operation, the Northampton broke a tow-line, and in throwing a new line over the side, the eyespice caught in the propeller and a diver had to go over the side to repair it.

This, together with bad weather, slowed up the scouting force. They had been due in Pearl Harbor just before the attack. But because of this delay, they arrived just afterward. Thanks to this narrow escape, these ships later became the important nucleus around which the shattered U. S. Fleet rallied to fight the Japs.

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**WASHINGTON**  
Today Latin American nations are boiling over because of a speech delivered by U. S. Ambassador Adolf Berle mixing in Brazilian politics; also because U. S. Ambassador Spruille Braden interfered in Argentine politics.

Braden is now back in Washington as Assistant Secretary of State in charge of Latin American affairs, and the Latin feel more in control. They know that when he was Ambassador in Cuba he mixed in Cuban politics to such an extent that twice President Batista secretly demanded his recall. Cordell Hull, however, refused.

Actually Braden is able, knows Latin America, has a broad liberal viewpoint. Many believe that once he gets the feel of things he will dispel Latin American fears. But at the moment they are anything but dispelled.

U. S. Ambassador Berle, who also churned the waters, was well-intentioned, but bone-headed. He made a speech stating that he was confident President Vargas would proceed with his promise to hold national elections. What very few people know is that Berle took the precaution of showing the speech to President Vargas before he delivered it. Vargas said okay.

But after the speech was delivered, Vargas issued a blast against Berle for meddling in Brazilian politics. Actually Brazilian politics were just too fast for Berle. He didn't understand them, got his fingers right in the middle of the buzz-saw.

## U. S. Diplomatic Need

All of which illustrates that the U. S. needs top-notch ambassadors abroad. Berle was sent to Brazil because Ed Stettinius wanted to get him out of the State Department. There are plenty of able Americans who would make outstanding ambassadors without using our embassies as a dumping ground. Mayor La Guardia would be immensely popular in Brazil or any Latin American country. Herbert Hoover would add prestige and dignity to the American embassy in any country where he served. Henry Morgenthau, ex-Ambassador General Biddle, Leo Crowley, the heads of various universities, all would make distinguished, able ambassadors.

Those are the ones we don't pay our money enough; also Bob Hannegan is on the lookout for political plums. However, we must pick good diplomats as carefully as we pick good generals if we are to avoid another war. Our foreign relations list is now our No. 1 front.

## Pearl Harbor Luck

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"I don't think he knows much about doctorin', Pa—when old Doris Perkins wasn't sure what's wrong with me he said to have my teeth out!"

## As Others See Us

By Samuel Crafton

**NEW YORK**  
WHAT is our foreign policy, according to the specter of Big Three unanimity. The foreign spectator (the isn't very likeable, really) would have this conclusion on the facts that we are forever setting up international conferences in which the Soviet Union is clearly outvoted and outvoted, and that we have joined in a bilateral arrangement with Britain concerning the atomic bomb. The foreigner would fail to note that those who are certain to believe the bomb to be in righteous hands; righteousness is another thing, and that there are certain wines, rather badly, and always a suffer a sea-change.

## LIKE A CLUB

That the United States uses the Bill of Rights like a club, endorsing it for Romania, and denying it in Korea. The foreigner would find this a very peculiar efficiency in Korea, just as we take a dim view of any possible Russian craving for efficiency in Romania.

5. That the United States is opposed to free political democracy in Asia, as witnessed by its interference in the Chinese Civil War; and condonation of repression in the Indies.

But enough. Throw the man out, whether he is a politician, a motive, and he is perhaps not the constructive type. And yet there is just this much sense in his vitriolic findings: we cannot develop a foreign policy merely out of our own motives; we must look outward too; our policy must make sense outside our borders, on the world stage.

## AMERICAN INDIFFERENCE

It seems to me that there has been a curious growth of American indifference to what the world thinks, and that this shows more clearly than anything else how our policy has deteriorated. It is based more and more on a feeling of national prestige at home, and less and less on the needs of the world. It has ceased to be a policy of world peace, almost morbidly subjective. Subjective foreign policies are dangerous. The world is a very useful to step outside for a good view; we have been building slapdash large structures until now know how the things look.

## The People's Platform

## The Long Voyage Home

By M/SGT. H. G. WALLIN

Following is the "iron" page, account of another incident appearing in our Daily Pacific for Nov. 25.

It is our wish that these factors be brought to the attention of the folks back home and to our illustrious Congressmen. Representatives who have so far given us the "brush off" to our personal letters.

## SHIP MAY RETURN EMPTY

"MANILA" — A ship capable of carrying 1,500 returns to the West Coast with a good cargo, leaving for the West Coast with only a ballast load, unless various factors and civilian agencies get together within the next few days.

The startled situation came to light when officers and crew members of the SS Marguerite Le Hand, a large C-3 cargo ship, now at Pier 5 here, told yesterday how they had tried without success to get the ship to return to the United States in using their vessel as a troopship.

When an effort was made to find the reasons underlying the Army's alleged lack of interest, confidential statements came from all sides.

"Col. R. B. Lincoln of the Plans and Requirements Section, WESCAP Transportation Corps, told a Pacific reporter that it was not feasible to use ships like the Le Hand because they have an insufficient water carrying capacity. Col. Lincoln also stated that the departure of the vessel from San Francisco, if it were to be delayed about "three days," would make it impossible for the ship to return to the United States before the ship was needed for other purposes.

"When asked about this latter

statement, R. A. MacDonell, acting regional director of the War Shipping Administration here, declared that the War Shipping Administration was not in a position to request for ships."

"MacDonell failed to state whether his office had been asked to convert the Le Hand, he said, but that the War Shipping Administration officials had radioed the War Department yesterday morning for WD permission to use the vessel. Col. Lincoln also said that a communication had been sent to Washington.

"MacDonell estimated that it would take five days for the ship to reach officers here, and that before the permission is received from Washington.

"After the objections that the Le Hand was not suitable for troopship conversion, crew members of the ship, who are to carry about 1,500 troops under 'fairly comfortable' conditions, the ship would have to be refitted to hold 500 tons of water. It has ventilated holds. It has ample large storerooms and is in operation.

"In addition, the crewmen said, the ship has its own evaporators capable of producing about twenty tons of fresh water daily.

"Meanwhile the Le Hand is scheduled to leave for the States in ballast unless orders are changed beforehand."

**Quote, Unquote**  
The investigation of the news columnists' criticism of the War Shipping Administration (by the House Un-American Activities Committee) is a complete victory for the critics. The ship is to be scrapped. When we intimidate people by scrutinizing what they say, we cut off the very thing we are trying to stop in the open.

—Rep. Ellis T. Patterson of California