EDITORIAL PAGE

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Fire With Fire

We have faith that the amazing proposals before the Southern Presbyterian Church assembly at Montreat will not be adopted, but they've been made, and by churchmen of obvious sincerity and determination.

Among the proposals is one which directly assaults the Catholic Church, and provides that Presbyterians who marry non-Protestants (particularly Catholics) shall rear their children in the Presbyterian Church, and refrain from marriage ceremonies conducted by any others than Presbyterian ministers. The overture, presented by Macon Presbytery, says, "The subversive and false claims of the Roman Catholic church should be squarely challenged . . ."

At best, adoption of this proposal would add a narrowing, restrictive influence. It is surely not in keeping with the broad Christian tradition; it smacks of the bigotry which belonged to another day. We look for no good from it, though it may receive only the most casual consideration by the assembly.

These Presbyterians, in effect, propose that their church combat the traditional bigotry of the Catholic church in this matter with bigotry of its own. It would amount to an extension of intolerance and religious isolation. It would deny the growing trend toward inter - denominational understanding and co-operation. This is a poor choice of weapons.

Better Late

No less than expected was President Truman's axing of Attorney General Francis M. Biddle. The President probably knew more about this inherited Cabinet member than he cared to discuss.

He had learned a good deal about Biddle's methods of doing business from the days of the Truman Committee. Their trails had crossed once, skirted against each other on another occasion. Both involved a number of the same factors, among which were (a) unmistakable wrongdoing by private concerns which (b) had employed Tommy ("The Cork") Corcoran as influenceman to get them out of trouble, and (c) settlements by the Attorney General which were severely criticized as mysteriously lenient.

In the old days when Tommy was a brain-truster, one of the Happy Frankfurters, Biddle had been just a political opportunist. Tommy brought him along, got him his promotion from Solicitor General to Attorney General. Whether or not Frankie repaid him at the expense of the Treasury, not to mention the Justice he was entrusted to dispense, never was established. No Federal agency ever had the nerve to render a judgment on the two affairs.

But it was shown that Tommy operated from the office of the Attorney General himself, and it was specifically charged by an assistant attorney general that the settlement of one of the cases was "completely dominated by Tommy Corcoran through his influence over Mr. Biddle," marking "the lowest point in the history of the Department of Justice since the Harding Administration."

President Roosevelt fired the outspoken assistant. President Truman has got around, we believe, to firing the right man.

The New & The Old

President Truman, shaking up his Cabinet, has stacked it with "liberals", according to the popular meaning of the word in Washington. And the three new members, Tom Clark as Attorney General, Lewis Schwellenbach as Secretary of Labor and Clinton Anderson as Secretary of Agriculture, got those "liberal" reputations as investigators, trust-busters and prosecutors. Each of them, as revealed in Drew Pearson's sketches today, has shown a complete fearlessness of the great in looking after the affairs of government.

There was Tom Clark turning up war frauds, and handling, in important instalments of big firms. There was Senator Schwellenbach, a fighting investigator of the early Roosevelt days, starring in the investigation of lobbyists which put Howard Hopson behind bars. And there's New Mexico's Anderson, now to be charged with control and production of food, subjects he knows well as an investigator. He's a man who stood against the big insurance companies in their anti-trust fight, though he is a successful insurance man himself.

We suppose the appointments will meet with general approval, even before the characters of these three become well known. There may have been a popular desire for new Secretaries of Interior and State, and a lesser craving for a new Secretary of the Treasury. There is still a chance that Secretary Stettinius might be replaced, but the signs are that the President is through now. He has retained three of the original members of the first Roosevelt Cabinet: Wallace, Ickes and Morgenthau.

Ickes is an old man, probably too old, and has doted on enmities. Morgenthau, having served nobly during the difficult days of war finance, had expressed a desire to retire. Wallace must be considered a new member, having scarcely settled down in Commerce. Stimson and Forrestal, in War and Navy, are wartime fixtures who will certainly remain. Bob Hannegan, as Postmaster General-Party Chairman, is also a new hand who will ride with the party.

Thus it becomes virtually a new Cabinet. Only Ickes clings to his old job; all others have been replaced since the beginning of the war effort—and Wallace has changed jobs after a four-year respite. And only Ickes and Stimson are old men, and these two are yet vigorous. It is an all-Party Cabinet, so to speak, drawing its greatest strength from the Mid-West. It looks to be adequate to the tasks ahead, with two major points of conflict removed. It is a further promise that President Truman will head an aggressive and independent Administration.

Franco Again

Almost every communique coming out of San Francisco these days can be linked up somehow with the sad case of Spain. When the big powers speak of regional security, of the rights of individual nations to combat aggression as it appears, it puts you in mind of Spain in '36, when only Russia dared to intervene and fight the rising power of Germany and Italy in that stricken land.

You can test the Frisco plans pretty well by harking back to Spain, to wonder what effect they might have had in that case. For there, in the time of the short-lived Republic, the world faced a situation it must face again and again. There, the good intentions of the great powers were put to test, and the democracies, cringing before the challenge, failed miserably to halt a world war. This week, thoughts must go back to Spain.

Mexico is ready to suggest that no government which came into existence through help of the Axis shall be allowed to join the world organization. And that, you see, would eliminate Spain. The scheme is aimed directly at Franco's regime. And at the moment Spanish Republicans are organizing a government-in-exile, to be ready for recognition. If the proposal gets into debate, there will be some furious sessions. Russia will back Mexico. The United States and Britain, if present signs are accurate, might oppose the plan. And the Russians will hold the bitter knowledge that Franco never could have come into power except for the tacit consent of Britain and the United States.

For Franco rose through cynical use of "non-intervention" by France and Britain. Even the help of Mussolini and Hitler might not have defeated the Republic had France not closed her borders to supplies for the government forces. It was the first time in history, Sumner Welles recalls, that a legal government, resisting rebellion, had been deprived of the right to import arms for its own defense.

And debate this week will go back to that time in Spain. The principles involved there will never be invoked in growing disputes between nations. If we believe in peace we must do something about Franco.

Statesmen At Work

(Serious, facetious and comic excerpts from the Congressional Record).

DURING House debate on the meat shortage:

Mr. JONKMAN (Mich.) The gentleman has stated that he does not believe enforcement will increase production. Does the gentleman feel that enforcement can destroy the black market?

Mr. GORSKI (Ill.). It probably could; but no matter how much you enforce the regulations, that will not solve the problem so long as there is a shortage in the meat supply. For instance, Mayor La Guardia said that you could have an OPA agent in every store in New York City. You can see how many men it would take to try to enforce the job there.

One of the agents was in a store while a lady was buying a chicken. The retailer said, "You owe me $4." She started to pay him the $4, when the agent said, "I would like to have you weigh that chicken." Just as he said that, the retailer said, "You know you owe me a dollar from the week before."

Mr. JONKMAN. Is not Mayor La Guardia's statement an admission that you cannot destroy the black market by enforcement?

Mr. GORSKI. We had that experience in the prohibition days. I do not believe it is enforceable at all, no matter how many men you put on the job. The scarcer food becomes, the more profitable it becomes to operate in the black market.

Mr. GROSS (Pa.) The gentleman believes, then, that increased supplies of meat will be the best medicine for the black market?

Mr. GORSKI. Yes; I do.

Mr. GROSS. Does not that apply also to inflation, that the best guarantee against high prices is a generous supply of food?

Mr. GORSKI. Yes.

Mr. GROSS. The more food goes to market, the cheaper it will be.

Mr. GORSKI. Yes.

Mr. KELLY (Ill.) Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GORSKI. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. Kelly. One of the reasons for black-market operations is that many small slaughtering houses in the small communities are not affiliated with the packing industry and are not Government-inspected, and they are the source of black-market meat. They are supplying meat constantly to the black market.

Mr. GORSKI. That is absolutely true.

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON

IN picking Tom Clark as his new Attorney General, President Truman followed his old yen for exposing war frauds. Clark, astute, crusading former head of the Justice Department's war frauds unit, has a notable record, had prosecuted some of the cases which the Truman Committee first exposed. . . . Also he originated many cases of his own. Clark prosecuted the Anaconda Copper Co. three times for manufacturing faulty wire for the Armed forces; also moved against the Durham manufacturing Co. of Fort Wayne, Ind., for covering up cracked shell bases made for the Navy; also convicted one company in Truman's home town, Kansas City, the Baker & Lockwood Co., for war frauds against the Air Forces.

Clark has served as Assistant Attorney General in charge of anti-trust, succeeding trust-busting Thurman Arnold, and later as Assistant Attorney General in charge of the criminal division. . . . If the big city bosses who put Truman across at Chicago are looking for someone to pull their chestnuts out of the fire in the Justice Department, they may have a hard time with young Clark. He once indicted one of the men who nominated Roosevelt at Chicago in 1932, ex-Governor James Curley of Boston, now a Congressman.

Clark faces some interesting and important city boss cases almost immediately. One is the case of Mayor Kelly's friend Bill Johnson, the big gambling boss of Chicago, who has been convicted but is still out on appeal. Another is whether to prosecute further ex-Governor Leche of Louisiana, who faces parole soon but has three other indictments standing against him. . . . Another is the case of Freeman Burford from Clark's home town of Dallas, still facing a criminal indictment in connection with hot oil and bribing Governor Leche of Louisiana. . . . Tom Clark was sold on Truman chiefly by Bon Hannegan and Speaker Sam Rayburn of Texas, both his very close friends.

New Agriculture Boss

New Mexico's Clinton P. Anderson, new Secretary of Agriculture, is one of the newest members of Congress and one who has made a notable record in a very short time. . . . Anderson is an Albuquerque insurance man who voted against the insurance companies consistently when legislation aimed to exempt insurance companies from the Sherman anti-trust laws was before Congress. . . . He is one of the toughest, most liberal members of Congress, has an A-1 standing with his colleagues, and was given the two important jobs of investigating food and also probing campaign expenditures last year. . . . In the latter job he did his best to expose wealthy flag-waving groups which tried to get around income taxes by making political contributions in the guise of educational gifts. . . . Anderson's appointment will be a blow to New Mexico's Governor Jack Dempsey, whose place in Congress he took when Dempsey became Undersecretary of the Interior. The two have long been ardent political enemies. On the other hand, Anderson is close to New Mexico's idealistic Senator Carl Hatch. . . . Anderson is a crack horseman, likes to relax on his ranch near Albuquerque.

Though a successful business man, Anderson has been a consistent battler for labor. . . . One remarkable speech got absolutely no publicity shortly after Pearl Harbor when he accused big business of a carefully planned conspiracy to crack down on labor to divert public attention from huge war profiteering, refusal by business to convert to war production and the operations of dollar-a-year men in the War Production Board. . . . Anderson especially blasted Arthur Bunker of Lehman Brothers for operating inside WPB to hold up a Government magnesium plant because it would compete with the Dow Chemical Co.

New Labor Boss

New Labor Secretary Lew Schwellenbach was one of the so-called young Turks during the early days of the Roosevelt Administration. Along with Senator Sherman Minton of Indiana there was almost no job too liberal or too politically dangerous for Schwellenbach to tackle. He was especially vigorous in supporting Roosevelt in his Supreme Court battle in which time he also had the support of Senator Truman. . . . The Washington Scene tor also served with Senator Hugo Black (now Justice Black) in his lobbying investigation which eventually sent Howard Hopson of Associated Gas to jail. . . . Schwellenbach's appointment to the Cabinet will bring no joy to Seattle Collector of Customs Saul Haas, formerly Schwellenbach's campaign manager, who turned against him. It was partly because Haas vowed to defeat Schwellenbach for re-election, and because the Democratic Party in Washington State would have been split wide open that Lew retired from the Senate to the Federal bench.

Schwellenbach's most notable Senate achievement was breaking a filibuster by the late Huey Long. In those days almost no one dared brave the Kingfish's vitrolic tongue. He had veteran Senate leaders completely cowed by threatening to enter their states to defeat them. Once when Long was stasing one of his filibusters and other Senate leaders had thrown up their hands in despair, Schwellenbach took command of the fight, forced Huey to stay on his feet for fourteen hours and finally drove him from the floor. . . . Schwellenbach was proposed for the labor post by Dave Beck of the Teamster's Union. Originally, the AFL wanted Dan Tobin to get the job, but the CIO was opposed. Therefore, the AFL, fearing a CIO candidate might be appointed, withdrew Tobin's name, and got behind Schwellenbach.

"Try to keep them looking decent till you get home at least, so your father won't think I've used his coupon on second-hand shoes!"

No Reconversion Problem Here

Race-Baiting In California

By Marquis Childs

WASHINGTON

THE War Department is following with deep concern the recent outbreaks in California against Japanese-American citizens who have left relocation camps to return to their homes. The War Department fixed the policy, over the firm opposition of the Department of Justice, of taking one group of American citizens on the basis of their racial origin and placing them as a group in detention camps.

It is this responsibility, in setting a precedent contrary to all American tradition, that is worrying civilian heads of the Department. Moreover, the Army recognizes a duty to returning veterans, and they are wondering how far they will have to go in protecting Japanese-American veterans, a high proportion of whom have Purple Hearts, when they return from the war.

About fifteen terrorists attacks on returned Nisei have occurred thus far. There have been four cases of attempted arson and seven threats. In the most recent instances reported to Washington, cars have driven by Nisei homes at a high rate of speed and the occupants have fired into the house.

When I was in Italy recently, American officers without exception spoke in praise of the 442nd Infantry Regiment, which is made up of Japanese-Americans with their officers of non-Japanese descent drawn mostly from the Middle West. And loudest in their praise were the officers serving with the Nisei.

Beginning with the landing at Salerno, they went through all the hell of the Italian campaign. The 100th Infantry Battalion was one of the first to receive a unit Presidential citation. The Nisei were cited again for an outstanding performance at Belvedere and Sassetta, when they neutralized a German strong point and sent the enemy reeling in disordered retreat.

These men coming back from the war deserve something better than hoodlumism. They regarded themselves as Americans—most of them could not even speak Japanese—and they fought like Americans.

The number of Nisei returning to the West Coast is very small. The recent attacks cannot possibly be justified on the ground that the returned citizens constitute any threat to the security of the community. Latest reports showed that 1,824 had returned to California, 349 to Oregon and 364 to Washington. The large majority of those being released from relocation centers are going to the east and middle West.

Americans on the West Coast have one of the greatest opportunities in history. They can assume the leadership of the Pacific world. Persons who have talked recently with Gen. Douglas MacArthur tell of his conviction that America's future lies in raising the standards of sub-standard peoples in the Far East. MacArthur, who did so much to help make possible the gallant stand of the Filipinos, believes that increasingly our national opportunity will lie in the Orient.

But that can come only if we assume mature leadership. It cannot come through force. We have made an excellent beginning in the Philippines by helping a dependent people to achieve independence. That example shines out in the Pacific world.

Its meaning, however, can be completely eclipsed if we permit the poisons of racial and color hatreds to come to the surface here at home. In only one instance, in Placer County, have the terrorists been brought to trial. There, according to reports to Washington, the defense attorney argued that this was a "white man's country" and it should be kept so. The jury freed the defendants.

Anything Goes

AMERICANA, as reported by the old American Mercury of Mencken's days:

New York: Social note from the halls of higher learning in Syracuse:

Syracuse University co-eds in McCarthy Cottage are charging fees for good-night kisses, as a means of raising house funds. Escorts must drop a coin in a silver bowl for every kiss. Special-weekend rates are in vogue and the whole thing is on a cash basis; no credit.

North Carolina: The swarm of prospective jobholders becomes almost embarrassing, according to the Waxhaw Enterprise:

The Editor and the rest of the Waxhaw delegation had a very enjoyable trip to the Democratic convention in Raleigh. The only drawback was the number of candidates there. A delegate put his hand out of the car to signal for a turn and fifteen men shook hands with him before he could draw back.

Oklahoma: A native son introduces a new note in boosterism:

The Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce is considering Roscoe E. Dickson's plan to stimulate civic pride. At an announced time each day, Dickson suggests, all fire sirens should howl simultaneously. Thereupon every citizen should turn to the person next to him, shake hands vigorously and exclaim: "We're living in the finest city in the United States!"

People's Platform

Editors, THE NEWS:

That story out of Miami about Mrs. Zinke being killed by dogs—unless you're one of those who love dogs and hate people—must have twisted your heart.

Did you notice the part which said that the dogs would be held at the pound pending a decision as to their future? Anyone not completely crazy would have known what to do with them at once. And would have an opinion as to what to do with the owner, too.

Another place: "A leading veterinarian commented 'No dog is born vicious.'" A bigger half truth (lie) was never told. That is like one of Hitler's lies. No animal is vicious until it gets strong enough to be so.

Reminds me of the case in which one of those cute, harmless little puppies managed to get to a completely paralyzed man. He chewed a hole in the man's stomach. (That puppy was sent to the country as a punishment.) All dogs are dangerous under any condition where one isn't able to defend himself! They are just one stage from the wolf.

Do you think dogs are necessary? Do you believe human life comes before dogs? What is your position on the whole subject?

Remember, as long as there are dogs, such things will happen.

—L. R. (SLIM) ALLEN

Charlotte

P. S. Dogs kill more people than snakes.

(Editor's note: We hold a middle-of-the-road dog policy. We're for some, against others, but our position as a whole is somewhat to the left of pointers. At the moment we frown on pit bulls, mastiffs and dachshunds. We're strong for spaniels, shepherds, various terriers—and think Great Danes and St. Bernards probably eat too much to be worthwhile.)

Real Education For Our Youth

Editors, THE NEWS:

When people talk about delinquent children, it brings to mind a discussion about illegitimate children that took place in Texas several years ago. One woman got up and said: "There is no such thing as an illegitimate child, but there are illegitimate parents."

Perhaps, in many cases, it is not the child that is delinquent, the delinquency lies somewhere else. It is worth while to look into this matter with care, and consider the child's place in the great cities of today. Compare it with the condition of the boys and girls on the farm. There they take their place in the family economy, they do their share of the work, contribute materially to the family support and have no time to become delinquent. In the cities, the boys and girls are dependent infants with very little opportunity to contribute to the family support until they are eighteen years old. Laws passed, supposedly for their benefit, have often had the opposite effect. Their natural ambitions to do something worth while are thwarted in many directions by opposition, prejudice and custom.

Just as much interest and effort should be taken in providing real productive and remunerative employment for our young people as is expended on their schooling. Practical employment under healthful and moral conditions would be a valuable part of their education.

The boys and girls of today will be the men and women of tomorrow, and it is our duty to give them every opportunity to become good and useful citizens.

—JAMES EMERY BROOKS.

Glen Ridge, N. J.

The Nazi Artists

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK

THE high Nazi leaders have shown a truly ape-like passion for art; they have collected paintings like coconuts, holding them in their arms until the last minute, and jibbering savagely at those who would take them away.

Ah, culture! It must be a low fellow who has to reassure himself by stealing $200,000,000 of paintings and one thinks of Goering, especially, as a hog in chiffon, drinking tea with his pinky up and pretending that he never really liked mud. I am especially fond of the story of the picture which he gave to his wife's nurse. He said to her: "Take this, and you'll never need money," and he handed her the Jan Ver Meer "Christ and the Adulteress," worth at least a million. It was a princely gift, but not, in this case, given as a prince would give it, but, rather, as a barbarian would give it, a barbarian with the free run of a museum.

It is from these final anecdotes that one realizes what a set of racketeers the top Nazis were, and how basically unimportant, as people. So many of them seemed to behave, toward the end, like characters in a Damon Runyon story, one of those tales in which the criminal element takes over a town for a day. There is the confidential secretary's story of how Hitler, hiding in his Berlin bomb shelter in April, received a telephone call for Von Ribbentrop.

"Hey, chief," said Von Ribbentrop, or words to that effect, "I got a hot tip. The Allies are going to declare war on Russia."

"That's what you say!" said Hitler. And bang, he hung up. See you! says the Chancellor to the Foreign Minister. It is like little Caesar barking into a telephone in a hotel hideaway, while a manicurist works on his toenails to show to all observers that he understands the finer things of life. And Hitler's associates, it is now said, never told him how many airplanes America was making. They just kept it quiet. He would have been angry, and it would have made for a lot of noise around the joint.

And Goering, trying frantically to load a twenty-car train with art, before making his attempt at escape. These were fellows who would even steal decorations. They didn't care about Germany, except for as much of it as they could carry.

Suddenly one aces what the structure of the German state really was, and how these Nazi leaders were merely hired gangsters, working for other and more sinister characters. A fire is sometimes as good as an X-ray, and the great holocaust, lighting up the Nazi leaders in their comically larceneous final moments, tells us a lot about Germany. These were only the hoods, the bully-boys, the dressed - up yokels. It is true they sometimes made free with their Junker betters; if one plays with gangsters, one must expect to get a knuckle-rub now and then.

But the really menacing sight in Germany today is not the spectacle of Nazi leaders, stuffing their pockets with silver spoons and running down the road. It is the dignity with which the Junker Generals have met the end. That is really frightening, for these are the irrevocably committed, the never-say, die, the men who have no futures except to try to change the future of the world. They are already at work again, and the anecdotes of the final days tell us who was really who in Germany.

The Nazi leaders have lost the right to live, but as between a Goering stuffing twenty leather-lined railroad cars with pictures, and Von Kleist telling us blandly that we must use him, we want a stable Germany. It is the latter which is the truly terrifying sight, if we make us hold to our chairs while our eyes pop in horror and dismay.

Heaven Is Here

WHEN the celebrated critic Matthew Arnold died, someone remarked, "Poor Matthew; he won't like God." If this wit had said, "He won't like heaven," more of us might have understood. I've never been able to get excited about heaven myself.

There are many conceptions, of course, ranging from streets of gold on down—or up—to the Buddhist state of forgetfulness. I shouldn't care for gold streets, and there's little I want to forget. Nirvana would make a greater appeal to me if it were a place of more vivid remembrance, where you could look at the stars and the sea with ten times the thrill they give you on earth. I'm afraid the Mohammedan hours would bore me to tears.

The truth is less that I don't believe in any of these heavens than that I don't care whether they exist or not. To me, the question isn't important—I'm much too concerned with what I do while I live. The only heaven that really interests me is the heaven that could be made right here.—Channing Pollock, in The North American Review.