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The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

SAN FRANCISCO
BY all odds the most skillful diplomacy game at this conference has played out. The British, who have emerged as the friend of all sides, have managed to bring the conference to a successful conclusion.

In other words, Eden has completely reversed the previous role of President Roosevelt, who up until his death had acted as the mediator between Churchill and Stalin.

The Churchill-Stalin rivalry was not merely personal. It was historical. It was based not only on the fact that Churchill just after the last war, urged the sending of Allied troops into Russia to help the White Russian generals overthrow the embryo Bolshevik regime but that he fired with the Glavin act which in 1929 advocated war between Russia and Germany while England sat on the side lines.

This was the basis for the personal suspicion between him and Stalin. But historically, Churchill was carrying out a century-old British policy of isolating Russia. For 100 years, the country with the largest land mass in the world, Russia, had been kept without a warm-water port by Britain, the country with the greatest navy in the world.

That rivalry was the reason for the Anglo-Japanese alliance, whereby the British, working through Japan, helped to stop Russia from getting Manchuria and a warm-water port on the Pacific.

That rivalry was behind Britain's sphere of influence in Persia (now Iran) to prevent Russian use of the Gulf of Persia. That rivalry was also the cause of the Crimean War in which the British fleet and British troops actually landed on the same spot where Churchill, Stalin and Roosevelt later held their Yalta conference and waged a bloody battle to prevent the Czar from coming down to the Dardanelles and getting an outlet through the Mediterranean.

Finally this 100-years-old Russo-British rivalry was behind Britain's taking Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Finland away from Russia after the last war to block her outlet to the Baltic Sea.

Roosevelt In Middle

That rivalry, continued during the Tehran-Yalta conferences, with Stalin and Churchill both trading against each other and Franklin Roosevelt sitting in the middle.

At Tehran the argument was over a second front through the Balkans which Churchill favored, or through France, which Stalin favored. Churchill wanted the Allied armies to fight in the Balkans—Russia's sphere of influence and thereby keep the Russians out. He didn't want Allied armies ruling factories and silencing the population of Western Europe—which was to be Britain's sphere of influence.

Holding Us Down To Earth

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In the end Roosevelt tipped the scales in favor of Stalin—just a second round through France. One at Tehran, Churchill tried to pose a little fun at Stalin, said: "Marshall, I have noticed that whenever anyone is in contact with you, they become slightly plump." To which Stalin replied: "And Mr. Prime Minister, any good doctor will tell you that plump is the healthiest of all colors."

And Roosevelt, wanting to pour oil on the troubled waters, said: "Gentlemen, let me remind you that there is nothing more beautiful than all the colors of the rainbow."

But at the end, as Churchill bid farewell to Stalin, there was still tension between them.

"Well, good-by, Marshall," said the Prime Minister, "I'll see you in Berlin."

"Yes," shot back Stalin, "I in a tank and you in a pullman car."

Stettinius Loses Out

Roosevelt was shrewd enough to continue as middle man even at Yalta, despite the fact that he was slipping physically.

He kept both Russia and Great Britain in the position of playing up to the United States.

The loss of that strategic bargaining power is the most important development of this conference. Stettinius has lost what Roosevelt had and Anthony Eden has cleverly stepped into his place.

The United States has now slipped into the position of being the chief rival and potential opponent of Russia, while Eden has maneuvered so that England sits in the middle, able to throw its weight to one side or the other.

It is not healthy for any nation to get out on a limb as the chief opponent of another. And real statesmanship in the State Department should have steered away from these rocks during the advance conference conversations. The error can be patched up. Public opinion in the United States is too sane to let the unfortunate U. S. A. vs. U. S. S. R. clash poison our relations. The goals of peace are too important. But mistakes like this are expensive and we can't afford to make any more.

Australian Row

The two Australian delegates, though both members of the same labor government, have been rowing with each other. Deputy Prime Minister Francis M. Forde, Minister for the Army, has been established as head of the Australian delegation, but for a time there was quite a little debate as to whether he or Herbert V. Evatt, Australian Minister for External Affairs, should make the opening speech on behalf of Australia before the conference. In the end, it was Forde who spoke.

Evatt, a brilliant lawyer and a teacher before finally entering Parliament, is also Attorney General and the youngest high court judge Australia has ever had. He was appointed the Chief Justice at the age of 36.

One of the most charming failings of the new President's predecessor was his fondness for talk. He would keep a visitor long past the appointed time while other callers cooled their heels in the outer office. Often his talk was so engaging that the called would forget his real and and listen, enchanted, to the musical Roosevelt voice.

No contrast could be greater than Truman behind the same desk in the big oval office. Apart from old friends and McConaughy cronies, whom he has seen in numbers, most of the President's callers are experts of one sort or another—military, diplomatic, economic. He lets them do the talking, only occasionally prodding them with a question.

He is most at ease with old friends of his Senate days, such as Federal Judge Lewis Schwellenbach of Spokane, Wash., who has been staying with the Trumans. Truman and Schwellenbach were Junior Senators together. They sat the back row and, in the novice state, they became firm friends.

Schwellenbach, who left the Senate five years ago to take the Federal judgeship, is being reported as a candidate for a Cabinet post, perhaps that of Secretary of Labor. But here, too, Truman is proceeding cautiously.

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SIDE GLANCES



"That girl's parents are not very thoughtful, letting a soldier catch cold standing outdoors kissing her good night!"

People's Platform

Only a short while ago I was considerably disturbed to read of the sale of some \$2,000 worth of stocks to some down-east county where the stock in Bechtel Brothers is still legal. I have an idea as to the amount of profit which accrued to the county on this deal but I won't cheerfully wave a brace of Jeffersons that it was something more than chicken feed. But it is the precedent of profit taking through the sale of stocks established by this transaction. Imagine then, my blank astonishment upon reading in a valued paper—issue of 13 March 1945 (clipping enclosed), that Mecklenburg is petitioning the Legislature for authority to ban the sale of wine. Verily, the gentlemen behind this latest assault on our liberties must feel that a foolish consistency is the beguiler of little minds. How else may one account for this sudden volte-face? Flow come the ants in the county pants? Is there a ground swell of public opinion rising against the twined tendrils of this only another case of political thimblin'g by a small but vocal minority?

I am no little amused at the specious arguments advanced by those who are forever crying down the political rain barrel about the evils of drinking and eating alcoholic beverages. And experience has, I think, shown that intelligent regulation is a more effective method of control than attempted prohibition. How the proponents of this measure forget the sorry mess of prohibition! Would they again divert a legal trade into illegal channels and thereby assume the ox that trampled out the corn of Texas? And would they, the plucky claimers of Holy writ as well as of the Constitution, ignore the injunction set forth in 1 Timothy, v. 23?

Apparently, the chance of slipping into the gutter across while thousands of Mecklenburg men are about town, is not so great.

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Guns For Nazis?

Do you hear the piteous pleas of the German field commanders, as they beg that their men be allowed to keep their guns, in fear of that vengeance Germans might wreak upon them? And does it not wring your heart, to hear them? In the name of humanity, cannot we allow these beaten soldiers to keep their guns?

Guns that have been fired by murderers, that have spoken death to countless and nameless men, women and children, soldiers and civilians alike. Guns that roared in Lidice, perhaps. Guns that echoed at Dachau, perhaps, chilling the hearts of those who yet lived. Guns that fired that day in the snowy field in Holland, killing unarmed American boys. Guns that ruthlessly cut down fleeing mobs of refugees on all the roads of Europe.

Guns, indeed! Not on their lives! After unconditional surrender, let the men of the Wehrmacht shift for themselves. Let them face the Partisans of Italy, Yugoslavia, Holland, Denmark and Norway just as those Partisans have faced them through the long years of slavery. Let them learn what it means to be hunted day and night, to find death in a strange land where the light of freedom, strangely, cannot be extinguished.

Who are these Nazis, that they should beg for mercy that have never known it? And why should Allied commanders, settling for peace, go on of their way to protect Nazi soldiers from the people they have tortured so long? Let us maintain order as best we can, and try to stop the bloodbath. But let us brush aside the pleas against disarming the noble Wehrmacht. And if, despite all our precautions the vengeful peoples mete out justice to some of these brutes in uniform, let us shrug and forget it.

Scoop And Muzzle

When Edward V. Kennedy's flash came yesterday morning Associated Press newspapers throughout the land burst into frenzied activity. Soon, radio outlets were pouring the glad news of V-E Day to the people. The news raced around the world with lightning speed.

It was strange that the report was not verified. Managing editors, hanging over the teletype, scanned each line of the flash copy. They waited for a long time. They waited until SHAEF reported that no such announcement had been made, but they noted that there was no denial of Mr. Kennedy's story. Tacitly, the story was admitted to be true. From London came the message from King George, in congratulation to General Eisenhower and his armies. The story was to be released at 6:30 P. M. And then there came the clincher. It was announced that the proclamation of victory in Europe, peace on the continent, would be made on Tuesday. That confirmed everything Mr. Kennedy had written. The celebrations were not, this time, in vain.

But there was yet an anti-climax. SHAEF announced that the Associated Press filing privilege was suspended in the European theater of operations. The great news organization could no longer send out stories from the area under Army control. This was punishment for releasing the news early, for scooping the world on news everyone wanted badly to hear. This was punishment for violating censorship rules—on a story which had obviously been cleared and approved by every official source. This was punishment for telling what had happened, and telling it truly.

We were happy to see Associated Press fight this suspension with every resource at its command. For this is not censorship in the name of military secrecy. This was a political censorship, and attempt to hold every reporter, every newsman, every writer, every every news service, to the line that the official story might be released simultaneously, from the heads of state in Moscow, Washington and London. We cannot imagine how the life of a single

Ah, That Pierre!

Pierre Laval, lounging in the comfort of his prison cell in Franco Spain, has forgotten his fear—or so craftily seeks atonement. His latest pronouncement must have thrilled, perhaps, chilling the hearts of those who yet lived. Guns that fired that day in the snowy field in Holland, killing unarmed American boys. Guns that ruthlessly cut down fleeing mobs of refugees on all the roads of Europe.

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Prospectus

The Imperial General Staff in Tokyo must have had an uneasy time of it this last week and when it heard its U. S. counterpart blithely telling the American people its plan for the Pacific. Probably the most humiliating items were those which, with the Jap war looming, promised discharges to some 2,000,000 soldiers and a day's furlough to most of the combat troops en route from Europe to the Pacific.

What must have given the Japs acute forebodings was the identity of the men whose expert testimony outlined the Prospectus for V-J Day. General MacArthur and Admiral Nimitz were asked what it would take, and on the basis of the estimates of these two seasoned Jap-exterminators, the joint Chiefs of Staff drew it up.

The over-all size of the U. S. Army is to be reduced, as rapidly as possible, to 7,000,000. With these Germany would be occupied, supply of training services would be needed, the rest to be flung against Japan. Japan has more than 4,000,000 soldiers, with millions more to be impressed into service, if need be. But its armies are divided between the Japanese Islands, China, Manchuria, French Indo-China, the Malayan States; and there is no way by which the parts may unite to form a whole and do battle on the grand scale.

For the Jap has overreached himself, and in overreaching has left himself out on a limb. To top off the limb, we shall employ a sizeable yet compact force of skilled men armed as Japan cannot hope to arm. The remainder of the limbs will have to await their turn, or wither on the trunk.

Statesmen At Work

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

REP. RANKIN (Miss.) I rise to read a warning to the members of this Congress. You have been told the people are to bring out this P. E. P. bill, the most dangerous piece of totalitarianism, communism legislation ever proposed in the Congress of the United States. Already the people of this Nation are greatly disturbed over the prospect of the P. E. P. bill. I am sure that already the peaceful hardworking citizens of the country are disturbed because they would not want to see this country as this country has never known before.

While the communist representatives of another race are plotting the passage of this legislation, among patriotic members of this race, notably those whose families have struggled and toiled along with the rest of us through the years are disturbed because they know the trouble this measure would bring to them.

Every businessman in your district is disturbed. He knows what it means. He knows it means a disruption of the welfare of his district. He is sitting in his office, and he is sitting in your district that is in mine. Mr. MARGANTONIO (N. Y.) Mr. Chairman, I purpose to have heard every man in my district to reply to the gentleman from Mississippi.