

FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 1946

The Unreality In Washington

WINSTON CHURCHILL'S Westminster address has gained in importance as a starting point for official American discussion of our painfully strained relations with the Russians; it has served, as has no other public statement since the end of the war, to underscore the schizophrenic that seeks official Washington to denigrate to talk about Russia with reluctance to back our harsh words with force.

Mr. Churchill, of course, is a frank imperialist, and imperialism, whether it be Russian or English, does not set well with Americans. He has, therefore, come under the fire of even those Congressmen who share his Tory view of Russian "expansion."

And inevitably, he has been condemned by such liberals as Senators Pepper, Kilgore and Taylor, who are dedicated to the proposition that Russian Communism—and we set it in democracy that we would not have the same world. There is a frightening unreality about both these positions.

Yet even while the Senators were drafting their public statement, the Canadians were releasing the details of Russia's espionage in that country. The Kremlin, we learn, had not only instructed its Ottawa attaché to pick up the formulas and technical details, but also admitted keeping secret, but had ordered him to check on radar development, the United States army's three-year-old electronic artillery fuse, and the details of American troop movements from

the European to the Pacific Theaters. There is no reason for being shocked at Soviet espionage to determine atomic secrets, which we have invited by our avowed secrecy, but the fact that the Russians also want to learn about these other military devices is most revealing. The Senators speak of unity, when in our joint effort with Russia to counter the attack on our ally those developments in radar and artillery fuses that might have materially shortened the war, and when we kept secret from our ally in the war against Japan the size and formation of the army we were moving against the common enemy.

We believe true and lasting unity with the Soviet can still be obtained when the United States and Britain honestly and sincerely desire it. But it seems to us a foolish and dangerous error to assume that it does exist when it obviously doesn't, to pretend that we are the only nations when every friendly official word on either side is matched by an unfriendly official act.

If we reject Mr. Churchill's frank and accurate appraisal of the world we are now building, and the means he suggests for its maintenance, we are then in a most, in the terribly short time left to us, embark on a course of honest, white-heated co-operation with the Soviet Union. It will mean sharing the secret of the atom, it will mean cutting Russia in on the world's oil supply, it will mean dismantling part of the British Empire and relinquishing part of the Russians' territorial claims in the Pacific, it will mean mutual disarmament, it will mean abandonment of all preferential trade treaties in the Western Hemisphere as well as the Eastern, it will mean contributing some of our own sovereignty to the U.N.O. These are the conditions upon which voluntary peace between the Russians depends, and until we are prepared to meet them we are accomplishing nothing by pretending that we have, by becoming U.N.O. lodge brothers with the Soviet Union, wiped out the threat of war in our time.



People's Platform A Rough Rider Remembers

Now is the time to act, not twenty or twenty-five years hence when these criminally insane masters of certain peoples plunge the world again into a sea of blood and brutality.

I know the plea Mr. Davis puts up for reduced rates in taxes will strike the public with many, but dear people, if you vote for liquor and a drunk runs your car and you have to look on dead faces of your loved ones, you will forget about taxes.

General Bradley's Private Office

WHEN Commander John Stelle of the American Legion wanted to discuss the affairs of the Veterans Administration with its Director, General Omar Bradley, he invited the General to appear before the Legion's Executive Committee, an invitation that smacked of a summons. General Bradley very properly rejected it.

The conference ended with the General and the Commander posing together, with great big smiles, for the photographers who waited outside the door, and for a while it appeared that the hatchet had been buried in some spot other than General Bradley's back, where Commander Stelle originally tried to place it.

All this has led The Greensboro News into what seems to us an irrelevant discussion of the need for turning the spotlight on public officials, in Washington and elsewhere. Says The News, apropos the Stelle-Bradley meeting:

Some of these Washington big shots and, for that matter, some of these big shots not in Washington, can get themselves and the public assignment with which they are entrusted, they are to be pitied, for falling to do the obviously common-sense thing in the first place.

The Symphony Also Needs Support

It certainly doesn't deserve any such formal title as a membership campaign, but there is a sort of general movement underway to raise funds for the Charlotte Symphony. The orchestra, which works its musical miracles on a budget that would hardly keep the Briarhoppers in guitar picks, has retained (if that's the word) its conductor, Guy Hetschko, for another season and has brave plans for becoming one of the finest musical organizations in the South.

Harris E. Gaffney, the Symphony's business manager, believes that no campaign of solicitation will be necessary to raise sufficient funds. Charles W. Tillett, speaker at the concert, promises the next night concert expressed the hope that 1,000 members would beat a path to Mr. Gaffney's doorstep at 210 North College Street, and if they do a successful 1946-47 season is assured.

The orchestra is no Johnny-come-lately, of course. Its 1938 concert was its 97th in Charlotte, but its audiences have been conscious of a marked improvement in the past season. Perhaps the prettiest compliment paid it came from Dick Pitts, music critic for our distinguished competency, who returned recently from the army to conduct the orchestra for the first time in four years. He was, he reported, "surprised over the vast improvement in the

suspicion, however unjustified the latter may be.

Agreeing that maximum publicity should be given every general undertaking, we still fail to see why General Bradley should invite reporters into his office when he sits down for a talk with Commander Stelle. If he had done so, he would have conferred upon the American Legion a sort of quasi-official position in Veterans' Administration affairs, a position it once held to the VA's detriment.

The records of the VA are public, and we have heard no claim that General Bradley has attempted to conceal anything from anybody, or that he has made any effort to infringe upon the American Legion's right to publicly criticize his administration, even though that criticism has been intemperate and premature.

We can think of no reason why the General should be jockeyed into a public debate with the American Legion. This, we think, would have resulted in a far worse man than he now faces, for he would have been admitting that he is answerable to a private organization of veterans, rather than to Congress. In his few months in office, General Bradley has made a valiant effort to divorce the muddled Veterans' Administration from the Veterans' groups—American Legion, VFW, AMVETS—and all the other simple-minded entities that have cluttered its past. His treatment of Commander Stelle is in line with that effort, and it seems to us not only proper, but highly commendable.

The Dead Faces

When liquor was voted in Long Carolina the wretches said "We are going to do away with the bootleggers." We have miserably failed. Mr. Davis tells us that the people of South Carolina are so sick and tired of it all they don't know where to get a thousand strong against it but nothing done yet.

Mr. Davis tells us that no sugar is used in liquor. Surely, he knows a few folks in Columbia are talking of building a place for our inebriates. (When we had prohibition, the Keeley Institute built a new way and split the building would take should be used to help pay teachers, and so should the large sum paid to two or three men in S. C. to locate the liquor business. Mr. Davis tells us how many great things they can do with the revenue. Someone said if we had a church to spend for liquor, wine and beer, we could build a school house beside it and everyone could have a decent house to live in.

Very handy, we should think, having the U.N.O. around New York, in case the Dums of Brooklyn or Mel Ott's Giants wish to appeal the decision of a low umpire. The bones of a prehistoric giant, larger than any of the present races of man, are dug up in Nevada. Evidently the first, or the heavy coffee drinkers.

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Drew Pearson's • The Business Clique Around MacArthur

In approximately six weeks, the Philippines hold their most important Presidential election, and shortly afterward—July 4—the Filipino people cast off from the United States a colony, the last independent republic—the first in the war-torn Pacific.

Millions of eyes in the Dutch East Indies, French Indo-China, and India are watching this historic experiment. The building up of a free, independent Philippines in 50 years is something of which the American and Filipino people can be justly proud. Yet, to have independence succeed, there must be no mistakes of surrounding nations.

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Another Wee Toddy . . .

I REALLY enjoyed the Burke Davis articles on the ABC stores for Mecklenburg County, after all, most of the people here in Charlotte drink and pay the high prices the poons charge for it.

Let the peoples of these countries know what we are about and they will co-operate. There will be more volunteers than can be accepted, just as in the Spanish-American War; those who prefer liberty, justice, excitement and adventure; who like to live will be over in 90 days as was that war.

We can feel the world if we act quickly, just as we did Cuba. Cuba co-operated. We can make the world into a united front and give the people secure without fortifications as between Canada and the United States or Mexico and the United States.

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The Business Clique Around MacArthur

entire block of Manila warehouses, and who plays close to Gen. Manuel Roxas, who is considered MacArthur's personal confidante, is the name of the man who controls the Philippine economy.

Soriano owns gold mines, lumber companies, and two large breweries in the Philippines, together with two other big businesses. He was one of the men who controlled the Philippine economy during the war.

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Mobilization Call

NOTES ON MR. CHURCHILL'S SPEECH: I. We must remind ourselves, at every moment, that relations between Russia and the United States are at a critical point.

If Russian expansionism has called forth Mr. Churchill's speech, Mr. Churchill's speech, delivered in the presence of Mr. Truman, will, in its turn, call forth more Russian expansionism.

Even Mr. Churchill's failure goes even deeper than this, however, for, as you know, his speech says to us that there is no solution. If his speech "catches on," so to speak, historians of the future may well say that with Mr. Churchill's address, the Western world finally decided that it could come to no other terms with Russia, and began to mobilize against it.

Subtly, and in spite of saving words and phrases, there is a difference between Mr. Churchill's speech, and those of Mr. Vandenberg and Mr. Brewster, who have since addressed the possibility of a solution, while Mr. Churchill's speech has been interpreted as a declaration of no solution.

Biggles, then chief of the Philippine Air Corps, who told me that he, in turn, had received his orders from the top. I was stationed there during the war, and I know the details of the gasoline and expenses of the flight. It was generally accepted in Manila that Gen. MacArthur had a financial interest in the matter.

Col. Villamor is the man whom MacArthur sent into the Philippines on Jan. 14, 1942, to organize a spy network and help co-ordinate the work of the Filipino guerrillas who had been active in the Philippines since the Japanese had taken over.

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