

TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 1946.

I Do My Best To Save Them?

Marquis Childs

The Jewish Appeal

THE other day, one of the wisest of the trial of German war criminals at Nuremberg testified about his part in directing the mass murders at the Czestochowa concentration camp. He took a kind of pride in describing how, under his direction, the efficiency of the place had been increased. That the production rate was stepped up from a few hundred inmates a day to several thousands.

Men, women, children—they were herded into the poison-gas chambers. Customarily, the Jews received into believing they were going into a delousing center. But they suspected that the gas would be used to make them dead that lay ahead, and then, as the witness calmly related the facts, there were no more Jews in the camp—and force was necessary to compel the victims into the death trap.

Today only about 1,500,000 Jews are left in Europe. Their fate is uncertain. They are imprisoned in a world in which all the doors of escape seem sealed shut by mistrust and fear.

A campaign is in progress here in America to raise \$100,000,000 to help these defenseless people. That campaign is being carried on by the Jewish organizations, and the appeal is to Jews to help the European members of their families who are threatened with extermination.

FOR CHRISTIANS TOO

But it seems to me that this appeal is not for Jews alone. It is also for those of us who are not Jews; for those of us who call ourselves Christians.

The conscience of mankind has been bludgeoned by the horrors of the past decade. That was part of Hitler's diabolical conspiracy—the great lie, the great crime, that would leave us bewildered and uncertain as to what to do next. It has been blunted and dulled by terror piled on terror.

It is too easy merely to point the finger of blame at the German people. That is the way of the Pharisee, the sanctimonious Jew who would look the other way. The crime of Gestapo is a crime on the conscience of the whole world. Many of us, it seems to me, are confused by the complexities of what is the most urgent of all the Jewish problem. The issue of Palestine as a homeland is overlaid with so much political dissension.

Samuel Grafton

The Negative Life

NEW YORK

WHEN Mr. Stettinius last week in the Security Council to open the high level talks of Spain, he began by noting that it was late in the afternoon that it was late for that made it necessary, as he somewhat obviously pointed out, to be brief.

Indeed, he murmured something about wanting Franco ousted, but that he had no internal trouble in Spain, and he sat down.

And it was not at all as if a great nation had spoken its mind to the world in this grave debate, but as if an unimportant one had squatted briefly for the record.

It was expected. The freeness of this contribution should tell us something about the dangers of the negative position we have adopted on the question of Spain. It is rather sad to find that a nation as great as ours is not hurrying to have its say, but seems, on the whole, to be content to let the cold war speak for itself.

UNLIKE OURSELVES

We appear flurried, and unlike ourselves, and these are the penalties which have to be paid by those who take up the negative way of life. Newspaper men with whose contacts spread the good word that what we really fear is Communism in Spain. The must ask the question: "What is the content of our foreign policy, which is not affirmatively to spread the word of Communism, but is defensively to resist Communism?"

One cannot get up and make hot speeches about one's fear of Communism in Spain; that might sound like a Frenchman's cry. It is a kind of unmentionable in the great council. So one is glad, if one is not listening for an hour, or one reaches for other soft little fuzzy negations.

But, for all the lateness and dispirited style, the specter of civil war in Spain, but that issue is not involved in the proposal to withdraw diplomatic recognition from Franco; and fear of this proposal is added to the fear of the negative champions of the world in using recognition and non-recognition as diplomatic weapons.

IDEOLOGICAL MESS

The only way in which a diplomatic break could lead to a civil war would be if a weakened Franco, which means we are perhaps a little afraid of weakening Franco, might mean that we are standing in an ideological mess way up to here.

There are high contradictions of our position at this time, and so we turn to ambiguous negotiations, to ever more strained and indirect ways of saying no; we want more time to study the facts; and Sir Alexander Cadogan, the British ambassador in London, has been speaking of the Kingdom, finds that the Franco regime is a domestic issue for Spain; and it is no and no and no; two great nations pettishly saying no, setting eagerly upon ever more complicated ways of uttering the hard little monosyllabic motto of the rich, full negative life.

But even if we stop Communism by obtaining by those flustered negotiations, we must ask the question: For the audience in the Council chamber has begun to laugh. It laughs at the negative position of the Australian delegate referred to the United States as having "a good mind to ask the question of the same delegate asked for the 'facts' on Spain, and the Soviet representative, who was asked to give a paper full of them at this time.

MIRTHLESS TITTER

The laughter is not good for us. It is a little bit of a negative position spread round the world, as pushed men watch us feverishly ready to be hit by the negative "No!" and hear us so earnestly bidding the oppressed to group themselves around the negative, without end under the curious pennant.

It May Be Practical, But--

YOU would assume, reading the constitution and statutes of North Carolina, that the Circuit Solicitor is a representative of the people. The illusion is fostered by the machinery of the courts, which requires the Solicitor to present the people's case against violators of the people's law. And, of course, at four year intervals the people—or a few of them at least—go to the polls and go through the ceremony of filling the office.

The process of selecting a successor for the late John Carpenter, theoretical representative of the people of Mecklenburg and Gaston, demonstrates the disparity between the practice and the theory. A covenant between the politicians and lawyers of the two counties, arrived at some decades ago, has held that the solicitor of this judicial district must come from Gaston County while the judge must come from Mecklenburg. There was nothing legal about this agreement, but it has been as binding as though it was wrapped in a blue folder and filed with the clerk of court.

When Mecklenburg's politicians recently decided to invalidate the old arrangement, they did so primarily because they felt that a local solicitor would provide the necessary political leverage to pry the two counties apart, thus forming a separate solicitor district for Mecklenburg. But Mr. Whiting, to oppose Gaston's sole candidate, Mr. Whitener. It has since been agreed, however, that the separate district may be achieved without a local solicitor, and that Gaston's politicians will even help bring it about. Therefore there is now a strong possibility that Mr. Whiting will withdraw and accept a post as Mr. Whitener's assistant.

Mr. Bowles Nurses A Forlorn Hope

IF the Senate should concur in the House's emancipation of OPA, Chester Bowles' rear-guard action against inflation will become a rout. It is not surprising, therefore, that Mr. Bowles' little bit of hope, as he predicts that the people will rise in their power and glory and rescue price control from the lobbyists. It is, we fear, a forlorn hope.

Mr. Bowles, we think, is correct when he says that the rank and file of the American people are behind price control. But, as always, are passive in their support. They would, perhaps, vote to continue price control if they had the opportunity to do so, but they will not deluge the Congress with letters and telegrams. That, unfortunately, is a pressure device that has become the exclusive property of the lobbyists. Mr. Bowles properly considers his natural enemies.

But, as a matter of fact, we are convinced that Congress has already heard the voice of the people. Evidence of the popularity of OPA is to be found in the House. The House used to kill it, but as in the emancipation of the draft-extension bill, there was no straightforward vote, and precious little straightforward argument

This is, we suppose, a very practical arrangement which may, in the end, work to the best interests of all concerned. There has been nothing underhanded about it; the political deals have been made quite openly from the beginning and the public has been duly informed at each stage of the game. A good many citizens have been consulted; the bar members of the two counties who, actually if not formally selected the two candidates; the reigning politicians of Gaston and Mecklenburg who gave their stamp of approval; the County Commissioners of Mecklenburg who are to decide today whether they will pay Mr. Whiting a salary as Mr. Whitener's assistant.

However, the people, who are to be represented, have not been consulted. Their solicitor is now being chosen for them; if Mr. Whiting withdraws they will have no option other than to elect Mr. Whitener, the sole candidate to appear on the ballot. We are not, however, condemning the gentlemen who are thus abridging the democratic process, for they seem to be doing so with the full consent and approval of the people, who have made no single gesture of protest.

This sort of disfranchisement—and it has applied also in the current Congressional race—will continue so long as the people's political apathy continues. If the courts of Mecklenburg do show improvement as a result of redistricting and the election of a new solicitor (we do not question the competence of either Mr. Whitener or Mr. Whiting) the full credit will belong to the lawyers and politicians who control these courts. When the people abandon their own responsibility, as voters, they have no reason to expect democracy to flourish.

People's Platform

The Veteran and Bonds

CHARLOTTE

BEING the wife of a veteran without suitable housing facilities, I read with great care and interest the ad of the Citizens' Committee which ends its diatribe against the bond issue with the noble slogan, "Veterans Want Homes—Not Public Buildings." Nowhere did I find any promise that these altruistic gentlemen were offering us a home should Charlotte voters say "No." And surely what might save on taxes wouldn't even buy us a garage. I can assure them that the veterans want good schools and library facilities for their children and a progressive community in which to rear them as well.

The chief argument against the bond issue seems to be that it will raise taxes. This seems self-evident. Therefore, there appears to be two problems to consider: (1) If we do not vote for this now, when will we vote for it? (2) What is the need which such an appropriation will fulfill?

In answer to the first question, there are those voices raised which cry loudly of inflation. Our money invested in community welfare will tend to decrease inflation. When prices are lower, tax money will be far more difficult to come by for us all have less. Since there are now three dollars in our pockets for every dollar's worth (a euphemism instead of goods on the market, according to current statistics, now would seem the psychological time to make such a levy.

As to the second question which opponents of the issue seem to ignore completely, I wonder if we have any alternative? Is this not Charlotte's opportunity to shake off the title of "the small town" and show that she is willing to accept the social responsibilities of the metropolis she claims to be? That each person in business and industry should and it seems a good thing that the more Charlotte has to offer, the more she will have to gain, both in terms of her individual citizens and in a business way.

It seems strange that the Citizens' Committee is willing to spend its money right after night for an advertisement against Charlotte's best interests, but is not willing to pay the rate in taxes which could not help redounding to its benefit and to that of every citizen.

—MRS. TABOR R. NOVAK

The Immortal Untruth

RICHMOND, VA.

THE right of collective bargaining is admittedly a hard right. The right to strike is a hard right. The right to work is a hard right. The right to peacefully enjoy the fruits of one's own property, acquired in peaceful industry and commerce, is a hard right. It is a sacred and inalienable right. To extinguish this sacred right is to invite inevitable consequences of evil. And today we surely have these.

From what sources have stemmed these present day evils in America? Below I set forth the answer to that question, as it appears to me.

I find the error fundamentally set forth in those immortal words which have fared on men and women alike: "ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL."

WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF EVIDENT, THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL, in the things of this world.

From this immortal untruth, from this magnificent

cent mistatement, has sprung the error which now begins to threaten our civilization, and which unless soon corrected will utterly destroy the America we strive so earnestly to build aright, the America which today is the land of hope and promise for all the world.

"All men are created equal"—never—self evidently never!

Free to become equal—ah, yes! That is the truth, that is a fact which we must strive to achieve in our body politic, to incorporate into our national life, to spread to all the whole world, equal opportunities for all, special privileges for none."

It is specifically recommended by the writer that the several states of the Union through their assemblies shall submit to their citizens amendments to their several constitutions, under which certain citizens may be awarded more than one vote each, in each election, for life or for limited period, as rewards for certain specific achievements in citizenship, with specific provision, also, that these extra votes may be forfeited by acts of disservice derogatory to good citizenship.

As something to shoot at:

1.—That each person who has been awarded one or more bronze stars during World War II be given one extra vote for a period of five years beginning January 1, 1946; and for each silver star, an added one vote each for a period of five years beginning January 1, 1946.

2.—That each graduate of an accredited high school be accorded therefor one extra vote for life, or until forfeited.

3.—That each graduate of an accredited college be accorded therefor one extra vote for life, or until forfeited.

4.—That each person holding a certificate as a journeyman in some skilled trade be accorded therefor one extra vote for life, or until forfeited.

5.—That each person in business and industry who has contributed the investment of a net worth of \$50,000, or more, for which such person is accountable, be accorded therefor one extra vote for life, or until forfeited.

6.—That each person returning an earned income of \$5,000 or more, be accorded therefor one extra vote for the year next ensuing.

7.—That each State may, by act of legislature duly enacted, accord to individual citizens for meritorious acts of supererogation up to 5 votes each for the period until the next legislature shall convene, not to exceed 10 such individuals in any one term of legislature.

(NOTE: Mr. Taylor's lengthy communication has been cut, and much of the explanatory matter removed so that his program for a limited franchise could be published in full. Whatever else it may be, it is at least the basis of a good argument.—Eds., THE NEWS.)

The People's Platform is available to any reader who can be induced to print it. It should be less than 300 words, typewritten if possible, and on only one side of the paper. It should be signed, dated, and contain anything good. Each letter must be signed, although, in exceptional cases and upon request, we will withhold the writer's name.—Editors, THE NEWS.

Drew Pearson's Byrnes Taked Into Changing Peron Policy

Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

THERE was an important secret conference between Secretary of State James Byrnes and four Senate leaders just before the State Department finally announced its change to a friendly Argentine policy.

The four Senators were: Tom Connolly of Texas, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; Walter George of Georgia; Wallace White, Senate Republican leader; and Warren Austin of Vermont, also Republican.

In order to avoid the press, the meeting took place at Blair House, the mansion across the State Department reserved for entertaining visiting potentates. Secretary Byrnes, however, did not resume full diplomatic relations with the Senators wanted to query him about Russia, he brought a portfolio filled with Russian data.

When he started to talk on Russia, however, Senator Connolly stopped him.

"Just a minute," said the gentleman from Texas. "We want to talk to you about Argentina."

Whereupon the Secretary expressed the vigorous opinion that a constitutionally elected Government in Argentina deserved U. S. recognition, and further intimated that if the State Department did not resume full diplomatic relations there might be some vigorous statements on the Senate floor. Among other things, the Senators paid tribute to chief Argentine critic, Assistant Secretary of State Spruille Braden—only the tribute was not of a kind he would appreciate. They kicked him verbally all over the lot.

Secretary Byrnes listened carefully and finally agreed that there might be some change in Argentine policy in order to further hemisphere unity. Next day he announced the change.

Democratic Caucus Battle

THE famous caucus of House Democrats called to protest Bob Hannegan's leadership of the Democratic National Committee received its first hot-temperament Representative when Representative Boren (Okla.) offered a resolution proposing that harmony matters be referred to the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

It was a slap in the face of the group who had been thirsting for Bob Hannegan's blood and they immediately responded. Representatives Boren (Okla.) and McNamara (La.) and La Follette (Wis.) all three savages taking Hannegan to task on various counts.

Finally the Kefauver resolution was voted down. This resulted in a statement, for Louisiana's McKenzie, who planned to offer a resolution sharply censuring Hannegan, to caution his colleagues on the need of a solid-front organization in the coming campaign.

Warning that Republicans might gain control of the House in the November elections, Kefauver declared: "None of us will rest easy if that happens. I know from experience, because I served twelve years in this body while the Republicans had a majority. To retain our control, we must re-elect Democrats and we must submerge our differences."

The speaker tossed this minor bombshell: "We must remember that any Democrat is to be preferred to a Republican—even a 'son per cent Democrat'."

The drum drew a wild burst of applause. But Representative Hook, two-flashed Michigan liberal, refused to join in.

"There are too many ten per cent Democrats," observed Hook. "Let's have some real ones."

Rankin's Ears Burned

THIS brought another round of cheers—from the liberal delegation. However, none registered a higher score on the legislative meter than Representative George B. Rankin (Mich.), who gave a brisk tongue-lashing to Representative "Silent John" Rankin, garrulous Mississippi iron-batter.

Another Voice

Too Much Democracy?

A light begins to break through the fog of emotions and perversities that envelop the actions of a large group, the majority perhaps, of Southerners in Congress, the gentlemen who insist that the Republicans when in opportunity comes to trample the American program, but who insist stoutly on their rights, privileges and immunities from criticism as Democrats. The latest of their spokesmen is Senator George B. Rankin, as pressed in a Democratic caucus of House members; but harmony, they say in the same breath, on their own terms.

You may come nearer to an understanding of their unrest and troubled aggression than you can from the news from Georgia that for the fourth time in that State, on four consecutive days, a broadened electorate was voting in large numbers and with progressive stirred by issues to re-organize and overturn tradition, has unseat-

ed a vested local political machine and laid the foundation of a new order of public representation. The most recent speaker was in Augusta where Roy Harris, Speaker of the Georgia house of Representatives, a colorful Republican, when in opportunity comes to trample the American program, but who insist stoutly on their rights, privileges and immunities from criticism as Democrats. The latest of their spokesmen is Senator George B. Rankin, as pressed in a Democratic caucus of House members; but harmony, they say in the same breath, on their own terms.

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