THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1947

Daffy Way To War On Communism

AN honest and hard-hitting American imperialist is George Weller, foreign correspondent of the *Chicago Daily News*, and he makes you sit up and hat your eyes when he lets himself go, as he does for a whole page in a recent issue of his home paper.

Mr. Weller tells us we can't win over Communism by putting pressure on the Soviets through the United Nations and "squandering" billions under the Marshall Plan to rally Europe in the democratic cause. Then he tells how we can win and he makes the whole thing sound very simple.

First, you have to swallow Mr. Weller's assumption that the present economic feud between the US and the USSR is part of a whole war, "a military war", and there are no other forces in the world worth mentioning except these two powers. Everyone knows a military war must be fought by military means and, if the Weller analysis is correct, the U. S. must do the whole job practically alone if the USSR is to be successfully opposed.

What's the answer? Obviously, this country must turn itself quickly into a military state, a Goliath that bestrides the world on a scale envisaged by Hitler's mad dreamers. By this simple process we would put ourselves in position to crush the Communists or frighten them into some remote corner of Siberia. Mr. Weller doesn't say which of these eventualities would materialize.

Our imperialist planner has a 6-point plan which he calls a program "liberal in principles and realistic in military content." The liberal part would require us to do a lot of things we already are doing, such as "setting forth a clear moral doctrine of free government of peoples, including colonial peoples", "feeding the American zones in Germany and Austria and distributing food under American control in Italy", "offering purely economic credits, without political strings, at low interest rates, to cash-poor countries", etc. Expenditures for these purposes would run up to a pretty figure but of course Mr. Weller doesn't call this squandering billions. Anyway, this is only an incidental part of the program.

The main part is "rearmament", "universal military service", "standing American forces in Germany equal to the sum of the Soviet divisions in Germany, Poland, Hungary, Austria and Romania in equal condition of readiness", "establishing localized Naval and air bases overseas, with or without UN consent", and measures for "rapid decentralization of forces to worldwide bases and interception of enemies by air and sea before they leave the shores of Eurasia."

What will this bring us, besides bankruptcy, loss of our civil liberties, destruction of the United Nations, disruption of the European movement to stop Communism in Europe and desperate Russian countermeasures? It "would not give America peace," Mr. Weller writes. "But under these precautions the war in progress today might fizzle down into pinpricks. Eventually this war might be starved to death by being anticipated."

And this horrible fantasy is called realism.

Dangerous Confusion In America

REP. KNUTSON, the Republican financial wizard who heads the House Ways & Means Committee, asserts that the President's Council of Economic Advisers is as "confused" as Mr. Truman when it declares the United States can safely support the Marshall Plan to aid Europe and still reduce the national debt if it maintains the present Federal tax rates and partially restores wartime inflation controls.

Admittedly, everyone is confused as we approach the special session of Congress Nov. 17 which will deal with all these matters, but none quite so much as Congressman Knutson himself.

Congressman Knutson diagnoses the Administration confusion in these words:

"Even a grade school student knows that all the money we advance for relief and rehabilitation will be spent in the American market, in competition with domestic buyers, the net result of which will be further price increases all along the line. The whole thing looks to me like trying to put out a fire with fuel oil. The Council's recommendations, to the contrary, will in no way deter us from going ahead in our fight to give the harassed taxpayers relief.

The Congressman is horribly confused when he puts a tax cut ($4 billion) ahead of European emergency aid, the Marshall Plan and inflation control. The harassed American taxpayer of whom he is thinking deserves consideration, but there is reason to believe that he can hold out longer than the European who is living on a diet of 1,500 calories a day or less.

Mr. Knutson is perfectly logical when he holds that $6 billion in European aid next year will impose a drain on American goods that are in short supply and thus increase inflationary pressures. He isn't logical when he contends that increased purchasing power in the form of a $4 billion income tax reduction will not have an inflationary effect.

The Congressman is right when he says the Administration's program for Europe will place a dangerous strain on the American economy but he is wrong if he believes that failure to fulfill this program wouldn't deal an even more severe shock, both economic and political, to the American system. Even a grade school student can see that it would release a flood of disaster in Europe, wreck our foreign trade, create unemployment and cost us much more than $20 billion.

Finally, the Knutson confusion amounts to folly in the failure to recognize that the first order of business is Government action to check inflation.

Hold Your Hats For The '48 Run

MOST disturbing thing in the American economic picture is that the experts aren't disturbed about anything. It seems that they are bullish on optimism for 1948 largely because they were wrong when they were pessimistic for 1947.

Their forecast for '47 was off on all major points. They looked for a drop in farm prices, a decline in factory output, a slump in exports of farm crops. Wholesale prices were expected to go no higher than the level of August 1946 and it was believed that consumer demand for industrial goods would be satisfied except in motor cars and housing. Employment and incomes were expected to fall. In other words, we were to have a mild recession. Remember?

Three things for which the experts made no allowance changed the picture. The first was a catastrophic Winter and crop failures in Europe, which paralyzed postwar recovery, raised the twin specters of collapse and Communism, and called for huge American exports to save the day. That brought into operation factor No. 2, wage increases over here to meet the living cost rise caused by higher exports. The third factor was a short American corn crop.

These factors continue to operate to an extent which makes it easy for our economists to predict there will be no letdown before mid-1948, if then. Exports will stay high under the aid-to-Europe program. There is no chance for American industry, already producing at near capacity, to catch up. Farmers cannot fill the demand for their products in any of the major lines except tobacco. Labor unions are demanding a third round of wage hikes. Prices have no way to go except up. Profits now are at the all-time peak. Retail trade volume is the highest in history and will rise above $100 billion for 1947.

Everybody is working, everybody's spending, and nobody's worrying except the President's Economic Advisers, who don't have much standing outside the White House. The other experts say the only real danger ahead is a spiraling inflation, and we already are so far advanced on that dizzy ride it is doubtful if we will ever put on the brakes.

From The Winston-Salem Journal

Great Champion Of Peace

THE exemplary efforts which members of the Quaker faith make for the service of mankind both in war and peace long ago won for them the admiration of all and the gratitude of those distressed ones who have been helped.

In view of their many fields of service and their good works in the years of the recent war, no better choice could have been made, we feel, by the Norwegian committee for the recipients of the Nobel peace prize.

Two Quaker organizations, the Philadelphia Service Committee and the London Service Council of the Society of Friends, have been named joint recipients of the award for 1947.

In making the award, the chairman of the committee stated, "It may be noted that the Society of Friends is celebrating the 300th anniversary in this year, and their motto has always been to help people in distress, people who suffer from war and violence.

While giving aid to stricken people throughout war-torn Europe, the Friends also were cited for helping the Norwegians whose country had been plundered by the invading Germans. Other media through which this denominational group is proposing to help the cause of peace is its race relations committee, replacement service, housing project division, counseling service, work camps, and peace camps among Japanese-Americans and Caucasians. Certainly such services as these are among the most vital in the establishment of real peace, a peace of contented, well-fed, well-housed people and co-operative nations.

It is significant, we feel, that in the years since 1901, when the prizes were first given to leaders in several fields of achievement, the Quaker Church is the only church which has been awarded the prize for the advancement of peace, and that they have done it in the way that all Christian churches believe is the true Christian way—by helping people in need of help. This would lead us to assume that of all the branches of the Christian church, the Friends have been most successful on a world-wide scale in arriving at a working application of Christian tenets.

The honor this year has truly been bestowed on a well-chosen organization.

The idea of voluntary food rationing sounds good until we get around to who is going to start it.—*Greenville Piedmont.*

'Are You Suffering, Too?'

Joseph Alsop

Island Of Courage

VIENNA

THE heart of Austria is occupied by the Soviets. The leaders of Austria live always in the shadow of danger from an occupying power which includes kidnapping among the legitimate political methods. Under the circumstances, it is decidedly impressive to hear these men and their supporters boldly comparing the present grim times to the great days 300 years ago, when the Turkish advance into Europe was halted under Vienna's walls. Yet this comparison is a commonplace of political talk here.

To be sure the Austrian leaders of today conspicuously differ in manner and appearance from the Starhembergs and Sobieskis, the princes of the flamboyant past. They are plain men in worn business suits, who look rather incongruous amid the imperial portraits and rococo decorations that the Hapsburgs left behind them. They are also widely assorted. Vice-Chancellor Schaerf, for example, is an old-time Socialist who knew Lenin when he crept through the Vienna streets as an exile, while the young, tough Foreign Minister Gruber, of the Catholic Peoples Party, made his name in the resistance. Yet they are all entirely united on one point.

STAND BY LEADERS

These Austrian leaders will not be worn down in their resistance to the long, ruthless Soviet effort to destroy Austria's independence. And despite every kind of inducement, ranging from bribery of special groups to the most violent propaganda, the Austrian people are staying with their leaders.

Whereas in Western Europe the Communists command 20 to 30 per cent of the vote in most national elections, only 5 per cent of the Austrians vote Communist at polling places actually watched over by Russian troops.

Here is a riddle which demands to be solved. The solution is very simple. The Austrians are anti-Communist because they know what it is like to belong to the Soviet sphere. As they are able to continue the struggle for their independence because the United States and the other Western powers also have troops in Austria. Americans, British and French at the Control Council table in Vienna have almost daily checked the Soviets when they sought too flagrantly to breach their promise of Austrian independence. Both by their presence and more directly, the Americans, British and French, and especially the Americans and British, have also encouraged the Austrians to struggle for freedom. The result is the present situation.

For the Austrians, however, the present situation is a crucial stalemate. The Soviets say they will not leave Austria except on terms which will undermine Austria's sovereignty. These terms the Austrians and the Western powers will not accept. Yet the occupation is a dead hand on Austria, which will always prevent the revival of normal life.

HOPE FOR BARGAIN

The Austrians themselves think there is a remote chance that the Soviets will make a bargain at London. If they are right, the Soviets on the one hand will reduce their "German assets" stranglehold on the Austrian economy. On the other hand, the Western powers, and especially America, will have to guarantee the new Austrian long-term economic and political support. Political support will be needed to permit the Austrian Government to root out the various political mines and trip ropes which the Soviets have planted here and there.

As for economic support, something like $600,000,000 will have to be spent on Austrian reconstruction in the next four years if even a much weakened Soviet economic stranglehold is to be prevented from closing again. Power development, agriculture and forestry improvement, new industries to replace key plants lost to the Soviets, will all be needed to guarantee Austria's real independence. More porbably the Soviets will reject any reasonable bargain at London. Then the Austrians will probably ask the Western powers to liquidate military government in their zones, but to leave their troops in Austria as a protection for the state until the Russians go. They will also ask increased relief and rehabilitation allowances, to help their people through the hard time of the continued resistance.

People's Platform

What Delays Slum Clearance

CHARLOTTE

EDITORS, THE NEWS:

I READ with much interest your editorial Friday, Oct. 31st entitled "Council Sidesteps the Slums." Inasmuch as I introduced the motion to postpone any action at this time, relative to putting into effect the remaining part of the slum clearance ordinance, I feel it incumbent on me to challenge your statements.

Let me preface my remarks by saying that I am strongly in favor of building houses for veterans and non-veterans and bringing up to standard the houses we already have, but such a condition cannot be achieved by an ordinance of the City Council. It must await the necessary building supplies and skilled labor.

In your editorial you state that the Council offered no rebuttal to the evidence that materials are available to start needed improvements. In fairness to the four Charlotte firms contacted by Mr. Edwin L. Jones you should have stated that they all answered that materials were in short supply at present, but would be available over a three-year period. Can you imagine the chaos that would result if the Council required the owners of 12,000 substandard houses to compete for the short supplies? I refer you further to the statements of our leading steel manufacturers who state that the implementation of the Marshall Plan it will be necessary to ration iron and steel to domestic consumers.

As to whether or not property owners will elect to destroy many units rather than to bring them up to the standards required under the ordinance, you answer that question in your next paragraph. You state that little was said about the admitted obstacle of the exorbitant costs of extensive repairs or new installations in low rental homes. Obviously, any property owner will make his decision as to whether or not he will withdraw a unit from the rental market or bring it up to standard upon the cost of accomplishing this and the probable future return on his investment.

In conclusion, let me say that I have the highest regard for your very fine newspaper, and I believe I express the sentiments of all members of the City Council when I say that just as soon as adequate materials and labor are available at a reasonable price, we will pass a resolution placing the Standard House Ordinance into full effect. Unfortunately, this situation, in my opinion, is not in the foreseeable immediate future. Therefore, I introduced the motion to postpone indefinitely any action to rescind the resolution of the previous Council holding in a abeyance the enforcement of this section of the Standard House Ordinance.

—ERNEST S. DeLANEY Jr.
Member, City Council

A Noisy Gripe

CHARLOTTE

EDITORS, THE NEWS:

IN the Marines we had a chaplain to make our gripes to. Here at home The People's Platform appears to be a public chaplain. I wonder if the payoff is the same.

My pet gripe, at present, is in reference to Charlotte's so-called Anti-Noise Ordinance. As I understand it, it is against the law to whistle in a cute blonde on the street, or in case you hit a football parley Saturday night, a loud cheer will bring the guardians of the peace double quick.

The man who commits these devilish crimes is the same guy who finishes a hard day's work at 5 o'clock, wearily makes his way toward the Square to catch the inevitable, slow, small, rickety, crowded bus; and as usual he gets caught by the inevitable traffic light. As he patiently waits for the light to change, deeply engrossed in wondering how long it will take him to get a toe hold in a bus (or whether he can sneak out for a little game tonight), the air is rent with a shrill blast that would give competition to Gabriel's trumpet. When he finally manages to crawl out of the gutter (which he mistook for a fox-hole), he discovers that it wasn't an atom bomb, but the cop on the corner, blowing his whistle to notify everyone within the city limits that the light on his corner had changed, from red to green, or vice versa.

No doubt there are a few people in Charlotte who don't quite understand just what the red and green lights are for, but I believe our policeman will find that with this minority group a blackjack is much more effective than a whistle. I always thought an officer was given a whistle to use as a signal, usually in the case of an emergency. If a whistle was needed as an emergency signal in Charlotte, it would be lost in a chorus of seventy-leven other whistles just as loud and long.

As a suggestion; who can give a good reason not to allow eastbound traffic on Morehead, to turn left into College St. on a red light?

—R. E. CARMICHAEL.

Hope In Disunity

CHARLOTTE

EDITORS, THE NEWS:

TAKING very grave exception to a school of thought that bids fair to take us all exactly there, to the grave that is, I quote from Gabriel Courier's news column in the Christian Register (Oct.):

"Merschel V. Johnson (he writes) . . . warned that if the Assembly failed, the U. S. might consider the use of armed force in Greece to halt Communist infiltration and domination. That's pretty plain language. It's time the Russians heard language that was plain, for as long as they wield that veto power, that long do they delay the reconstruction of the world and the achievement of real peace. The veto was a mistake, it was being decidedly used the Russians with it. But it is not yet too late to halt the appeasement and crack down. What would Russia do if she found the world solidly united against her in the UN Assembly? We predict she would, and will, back down."

It would look like, with all the War-dead Memorial orators pleading for national unity "in this critical time," that I at least wouldn't take exception to the views of another Unitarian. But that is why I became a member of the Unitarian movement, that is, the several members who do not profess to be keepers of their brothers' consciences, which is the usual doctrinal interpretation of Cain's question.

And as for Uncle Sam, he needs unity at this time about as much as a drunken driver needs another drink. If it had not been for the Great Dissenter, Henry Wallace, we would be already embarked on the hundred-year war that appears to be in the offing. If it were not for men like Dr. Frank Graham, Wallace's voice would be hushed and we would to the slaughter go.

Yes, Mr. Courier, that's "pretty plain language," and language that I have been unable to discover in my copy of the New Testament. You predict that Russia would, and will, back down? I predict that she would, and will, back out — out of the UN, just as Italy, Germany and Japan backed out of the LN, leaving it a meaningless phrase.

I hope that we can achieve enough disunity to get us through this critical period in the nation's, and the world's, history. I will continue to be a Unitarian just so long as their assemblage represents "a meeting together of members and friends, in distinity, for the common good and the betterment of mankind."

—ALTON E. BASSETT.

Samuel Grafton

Civil Liberties

NEW YORK

CIVIL liberties are not static. They wax and wane with the changing flow of events. Therefore the question: "How does freedom stand today?" is always a good question for one American to ask another. It seems to me that a couple of important developments in our working (if not our theoretical) concepts of civil liberties have taken place in the last fortnight.

At the beginning of that fortnight it was, incredibly, still an open question as to whether or not it was proper for the Un-American committee to put a motion picture on the pan, and to consider its content from the viewpoint of conservative orthodoxy. Some of the first witnesses before the Committee on Un-American Activities did not defend themselves too vigorously on the ground that they had a right to make any kind of film they wanted, so long as it wasn't subversive. They defended themselves by saying that they had made nice, tabby-cat films, which the committee ought to like if it had any sense.

But by the end of the fortnight the industry had clearly swung around to the view that what it put in its films was its own business, and it was being decidedly snappy about saying so. It was enjoying saying so, too, the way all men enjoy and draw strength from the assertion of principle, once they acquire the moxie it takes to do it. That is what I mean when I say a development in civil liberties has taken place during the last couple of weeks.

* * *

In the working out of this drama, I do not see the committee in the role of devil. It is merely one of the protagonists in a complex story, in that butting together of heads from which a resultant has now arisen, the formation of a group judgment nobody could foresee at the beginning. Democratic processes, in other words, controlled by nobody, and sweet and true as ever. The committee became noticeably sensitive to questions of civil liberties, and increasingly defensive about the charge of censorship, as the days went by, all of which does it some credit. I don't know why it adjourned, but it would have been very embarrassing to go ahead and begin to pull movie scripts apart.

Some of the fogs, the grim vapors and sullen humors of two weeks ago have been blown away; we stand now in a better, clearer light. Large questions remain, such as how far it is proper to inquire into the political beliefs of an individual accused of a crime. Here, too, the conservative press covered itself with glory, by defending the rights of men with whose political views, whatever their labels, it can hardly have much sympathy. But the big thing now is for the motion picture industry to drive the present conclusions from the bracing experience it has been through.

It should ask itself why, for example, the book publishing trade never goes through such moments of fear as the movie industry felt two weeks ago. It should ask itself why it is a scandal to produce burning a book, while it is merely passing the time of day to suggest banning a movie.

The answer comes in several parts. First, the book trade has always fought back. Second, it publishes a great variety of books, so that the people have an instinctive feeling that in a time of difficulty their troubles will somehow find expression between covers; they dont yet have this feeling about the movies. Third, there is a kind of internal dignity in the book trade; conservatives will publish books by dissenting or unorthodox characters, and no fainting or hollering ensues; the idea of burning a somebody who works at Doubleday does not fly into a rage because of something that appears under the Random House label.

By considering its experience well, the movie industry can push back the boundaries limiting its growth. Odd thing is, it can fight Communism better, too, for you don't beat Communism on the cat-and-mouse level, or on the I'm-mad-at-you level, or on the whoops and hollers level. You beat it by establishing a climate in which it cannot grow, an immensity of freedom with which it cannot contend.

Finally there is the possibility that the Soviets will go even further, dividing Austria and refusing to recognize the government's authority in their zone. But no one likes even to speculate on this possibility. For such drastic Russian action will clearly inspire acute Russian preparation for early world conflict. All these are sobering thoughts for any American. Austria is one of the key points in the Western world, whether strategically or politically or militarily.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Army Brass Wins Colorful New Uniforms

WASHINGTON

THE GLITTERING uniforms of the South American military clique caught President Truman's eye during his recent visit to Brazil, and he came away determined to dress up the Regular State forces in matching splendor. Last week he put his whims into an order that punctured holes in the much-ballyhooed Army promise to dress its officers and GI's alike.

The President called for more gilt and garnish in officers' dress uniforms. He even instructed officers who have not outworn or outbulged their pre-war full dress bests to wear them at state functions until a joint Army-Navy-Air Corps committee can come up with a post-war dress uniform.

The order dashed aside a year-long survey by the Army Quartermaster Corps to find a common dress uniform for officers and men, tentatively decided as a medium blue blouse with contrasting light blue trousers.

While it did not scrap General Eisenhower's directive that men and officers should wear the same working uniform, caste-conscious brass hats were encouraged by the Presidential decree and felt that the whole idea of identical uniforms may die a natural death. They already had managed to postpone the promised day from June 30, 1948 to June 30, 1949.

The Air Corps can now free itself from the Eisenhower directive simply by adopting a separate uniform for itself. It is well known that such a plan is under consideration. But the inside story is that a final decision will be held up at least a year by lack of funds and objections from officers who wish to wear out their old clothes.

Letter From Texas

THIS columnist has just received a letter from Robert W. Stratton, 3509 Almeda Road, Houston, Texas. It began:

"When you receive this letter I will be dead."

A lot of interesting mail is received by any columnist, some of it containing crank warnings and ideas which are ignored. But because Mr. Stratton's letter contained interesting information: about a famous Washington lobbyist, I telephoned to Houston to see whether, Mr. Stratton had carried out his threat.

He had. The Houston papers carried a notation that Robert W. Stratton was found dead, a .48 revolver by his side.

The rest of this unhappy story pertains to John Monroe, famous as the lobbyist in the red house on S Street. Three years ago this column exposed Monroe's lobbying — how he entertained the late Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox, Senators Brewster of Maine, Austin of Vermont, Chavez of New Mexico, together with high-ranking Army-Navy officers; also how he was a frequent visitor at the home of Adm Ernest King, then Commander of The Fleet.

A Dead Man's Letter

BUT apparently not having read carefully these columns and been forewarned about John Monroe, Mr. Stratton wrote this tragic letter before he committed suicide:

"Make it your business to investigate Mr. John Monroe, your city," he said. "Mr. Monroe was once caught in a net there in Washington, and the title of the newspaper articles was The Little Red House On R Street, in 1943. He always told me he was too well entrenched with President Roosevelt and Senator Bridges, that was why it was hushed up so soon.

"I have known John for some time, the only the last year did I realize that he was crooked. He has been operating a clearing house (brokerage) on surplus material and I have been doing business with him. He quoted me on pipe advising me that his organization was composed of men from the State Department. On my last visit to Washington, he was serving a special dinner in his lavish set-up to a group of foreign representatives, whom I am sure were Russians, because he mentioned he had a big deal on with them thru Argentina.

"I served my country twice, war number 1 and war number 2 — I have a family of five children and a wonderful wife, but I can't go on."

Libel Suit

WHAT Mr. Stratton didn't know was that following my first expose of John Monroe, he sued me for libel to the tune of a million dollars. The jury dismissed the case after only 20 minutes deliberation. The facts were proved to be true.

Following this, Mr. Monroe was convicted of black marketeering and was sentenced to two years in jail. However, he appealed, and though one year has dragged by he is still out on appeal. In the interim Monroe has set up another Washington lobbying office, Advice, Inc., and despite a recent expose in this column, he still does business.

The wheels of justice grind slow.