THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Timid Men Around The President

AMONG the many ominous signs written on the early September skies, perhaps none is more disturbing than the evidence of timidity and uncertainty on the part of the Truman Administration in dealing with the problems of American inflation and emergency aid for Europe.

Some of President Truman's top advisers reportedly are arguing against the calling of a special session on the European relief question. They say that the European nations probably can pull through on their own until the Marshall Plan long-range recovery program can be put into effect next year. They point out that the reconvening of Congress would be a potentially dangerous move for the President to make for domestic political reasons.

These same advisers doubtless are the ones who have convinced the President that the Administration is doing enough to resist inflation with its price investigations and anti-trust proceedings. They think that this country, like the European nations, "probably" can ride through its own economic disturbance at least until next year without anything being done which may arouse political opposition. They are optimists and dreamers who believe it is just as easy to have two miracles as one.

The political situation admittedly is bad. It is so bad, in fact, that there is a question whether the Administration can win the support it needs for adequate remedial measures for Europe and the United States. While it hesitates, the situation deteriorates both abroad and at home. The Marshall Plan already is many months late. A program to control the inflation in the United States is long overdue.

American prices and European needs are parts of the same problem. The world crisis has been aggravated by spiraling prices of goods produced and sold in this country. Our inflation is a large factor in the acute dollar shortage which has hit England so hard, injured France and Italy, and reduced foreign trade. Reduction in the dollar's buying power daily is increasing the size of the European relief and rehabilitation bill we must pay and is delaying recovery abroad. And now the price squeeze is jeopardizing our own immediate security as well as the future of what remains of democratic Europe.

The country is not yet facing these issues squarely and there is little chance that it will do so if the councils of timidity and complacency prevail in the Administration. It is up to Washington to arouse the American public to the nature of the dangers and the gigantic tasks confronting us, and it has been apparent for some time that the risks in delay are greater than the possible advantages. If Mr. Truman's advisers are so intimidated by the political opposition that they are unwilling to have a showdown on the matter of emergency European aid, then the outlook for bold and courageous action on the larger issues of European recovery and American price control is bleaker than we have supposed.

Pious Talk And Power In UN

THE fight between two worlds moves to the halls of the United Nations General Assembly today to the tune of something like a moral crusade for peace, but this is largely a sound effect produced by John Foster Dulles.

Mr. Dulles, the Republican peace evangel who has contributed so much to our "no appeasement" policy on Russia, admitted yesterday that he was not surprised that the Soviet Union used the veto eighteen times in the Security Council in her dispute with the United States. "It was never expected that the Security Council could act decisively when great powers were on opposite sides," he said.

As a churchman, Mr. Dulles places his faith in the spiritual force of the United Nations which is exercised through the Assembly, in which he is a member of the American delegation. Preparing to go there for the new test with Russia, he happily observed that the Assembly would or could render a "public judgment which none could veto—for it would be the conscience of the world."

His confidence in the power of the "conscience of the world" is strengthened by the fact that every Government now realizes "that if it goes against a strong prevailing moral judgment it may suffer grievous penalties." Just what those penalties might be were made a little clearer a day earlier by Secretary Marshall in a speech warning Russia indirectly that if it did not abide by the Assembly's judgment it may expect a little stronger treatment. That probably would be collective action against an "aggressor" nation under Article 39 of the UN Charter.

All this was in the way of a warm up for the next round in the battle over Greece, in which the United States will attempt to find a way around the veto in the Assembly and get the other nations to support us in action that will restrain Russia and her Balkan satellites. In view of our own and the British record of intervention in Greece, it is unlikely that the Russian and Balkan cynics will be impressed by the high-sounding oratory which they will hear from Delegate Dulles and other Western moralists who denounce Communist aid to the Greek guerrillas. There seems to be small chance that the Reds will be moved to abandon their campaign to bring Greece into the Soviet orbit by anything short of military measures.

In other words, the power struggle enters a more intense stage with the meeting of the Assembly today and this attempt to invoke the "conscience of the world" appears to be a most dubious undertaking for peace.

Eisenhower 'Surge' Goes On

GENERAL EISENHOWER'S boom for President is provoking a new wave of speculation as a result of his statement of last week declaring he would have nothing to do with a "draft". Since such a draft is impossible without artificial stimulus, as the General himself observed, this led a few observers to conclude that the retiring Army chief had eliminated himself from the political picture.

It is notable, however, that the General waited until the movement for him had advanced to the point where it could proceed on its own momentum before he declared his aloofness and asked that the formation of Eisenhower clubs be stopped. Actually, it seems to us that he has not abandoned the political field but simply engaged in an expert maneuver that improves his tactical position.

The situation that now exists is accurately described by one of the General's principal supporters, Roy A. Roberts, president of the *Kansas City Star*.

"If Truman gets stronger, or the GOP candidates begin chewing each other up, the Eisenhower movement will surge because there is latent strength all over the country," Roberts writes in *The Star*. "The surge will come whether General Ike wants it to or not."

With President Truman still gaining in popularity and Taft and Dewey heading toward a convention deadlock, there is nothing now in sight to stop the Eisenhower surge. Meanwhile, the General is going into a sphinxlike silence from which he has indicated he will not emerge until after he leaves the Army in January, 1948, to become president of Columbia University. His soldierly reticence may be expected to improve the popular impression of him while other factors behind his boom continue to operate.

What is happening is that Ike Eisenhower is being drawn in to fill something of a political vacuum created by the lack of a dynamic personality in the Republican leadership. Party and public awareness of that void has grown while Dewey ponders the issues and hedges, Taft proceeds along his ultra-conservative and isolationist ways, Vandenberg immerses himself in foreign affairs and Stassen wanders along the Willkie trail. The other Presidential hopefuls will have to show more life and magnetism than they have exhibited to date if they expect the "surge" for Ike to decline between now and convention time.

Another Voice

The High Sheriff Speaks

AS SOME cynic once observed, it would be a dull and tedious world if all law enforcement officers suddenly decided to enforce all laws. This wry observation comes to mind as we read, and re-read, the statement of Sheriff J. Clyde Hunter of Mecklenburg County. Summoning his deputies in extraordinary session, Sheriff Hunter told them in part:

"Gentlemen, I have called you together for the purpose of ordering you to enforce the criminal laws of the State in this county to the best of your ability. You cannot pass that responsibility to any other law enforcement agency . . . The people of this county, and the people alone, are the ones you are responsible to . . . The mere fact that there are other law enforcement agencies in this county does not relieve you of your responsibility in any way . . . You are constitutional officers, created by one of the greatest documents ever written, and as such the burdens of enforcing the laws are on your shoulders . . . And I want you to enforce the laws impartially and without fear or favoritism. This office, as long as I am Sheriff, will never be operated on a vote-getting basis, with favor shown to certain individuals . . ."

For the High Sheriff of Mecklenburg we have put aside, under ice, a brace of braves pending a further progress report. *The Charlotte News* suggests the statement heralds a new departure in Mecklenburg policing since "for many years the Sheriff's department has centered its activity in serving court papers and in supplying the bailiffs for Superior Court."

What motive prods or possesses Sheriff Hunter we do not know. Perhaps it is none of our business. In some counties, though not to our knowledge in Sheriff Hunter's, there has been a marked disposition to shove off on the State Highway Patrol and other agencies the meaner tasks of criminal law enforcement. And there is the matter, of course, of the sheriff's department in a metropolitan area impinging upon the duties and prerogatives of municipal police.

We suggest, however, that Sheriff Hunter and his deputies be left to their own devices with his fine testament ringing in the public ear. After all, things in Mecklenburg might not turn out to be so dull.—*Asheville Citizen.*

Maybe They're Both Right

People's Platform

Presbyterians And Catholics

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

I HAVE been reading your fine paper for eleven years and always look forward to evening time when I can sit down and relax by reading your entertaining paper. But I cannot overlook the story you printed in Thursday's paper and say nothing in defense of the Roman Catholics. In the first place I'd like to ask the Presbyterian Synod what's wrong with the Roman Catholics. If they and you expect unity in a country, which is necessary for survival, I can't see how stories like the one you printed in Thursday's paper will help achieve that end.

I happened to be a Roman Catholic and I married a Presbyterian girl, born and reared in Charlotte, whose family dates back three centuries as Presbyterians. We have been married now going on eleven years and expect to be with each other till we die and we've been happily married for eleven years and have three fine daughters, which we thank the Lord for.

Now, please tell me what was wrong in my wife marrying me, just a mere Roman Catholic? Do you think she would be better off with a Presbyterian man? I've given her and my children a fine home and support them to the best of my ability. I've never abused my wife in any shape of form; I never drank intoxicating liquors or smoked in my life and some of my friends I know get drunk frequently, do not support their children, and more than often beat their wives, and run around with other women. Does the Synod prefer men of that type for husbands?

I happen to know of another Roman Catholic whose name is John Basilone. I think if you'll refresh your memory he's the fellow who led an attack on a Jap field and was killed after he had a chance to stay home after winning several medals. Do you think he would have made a good husband for some Presbyterian girl?

The Presbyterian people are fine people and I have a lot of Presbyterian friends, and I also belong to a Presbyterian Church and I cannot conceive any of them saying anything like what was in your paper, though I don't know what they'll say after reading this letter. No, I'm not going to be narrow minded and quit my Presbyterian Church over that story (although I may be asked to turn in my membership) because I love my Church and like to go to it and I highly respect my preacher but I could not turn my head the other way after reading that story.

—SOL BADAME.

'Why All The Fuss?'

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

THE Rev. H. L. Ferguson is disturbed about your editorial, "American Bigotry in Rome", and your copy of President Truman's letter to the Pope.

Catholics have been paying taxes for years for Protestant childrens' bus fare and school support, and then paying again for their own. Why all the fuss because they are getting a little of their own money back to transport children to schools they have built themselves and support (saving the State money untold)?

I was born and educated in England where all parochial schools receive financial support from the State. Nobody thought it a crime, or talked of it being a scheme to tear down the separation of Church and State. The question of its being equal to using tax money to transport Baptist children to Sunday school is too ridiculous for further comment.

Since President Truman is a Baptist and Myron Taylor a Protestant one would expect their own people to have enough faith in them to trust they would never allow private American relief funds to be used to further Vatican interests.

The papers have always received funds to carry on the welfare of the poor and oppressed from their own people. Facts prove that during the last war Pius XII sheltered, fed and clothed Jews and Christians alike regardless of creed or color, and still continues to do so.

The Catholic Church teaches us that though we may not agree with our neighbor's convictions, we must at least respect him, never ridicule or malign him.

—THOMAS CROWE.

Burkholder Views The East

MARTIN, W. VA.

Editors, THE NEWS:

I DON'T know if my articles are missed, but I do know that I miss the Charlotte papers, and I also know that our Charlotte daily papers rate with the best in the U. S.

I am touring the East viewing conditions in general, etc.

While coming through Harrisonburg, Va., where we saw thousands of turkeys last year we saw none. Even at the high cost of meat last year most turkey raisers had a hard time making a profit and they went out of business with a loss. From Frederic to Flinstone, Md., we saw hundreds of dead cherry trees. Locust trees are also on the sick list. We happened to come into Washington between 4 and 6 P. M. to find all street parking prohibited, due to the excess traffic caused by Truman's over populated office holders.

In an editorial of a very popular magazine the editor very strongly supported the Marshall Plan and in the very same article made the statement, that all the world is looking to the U. S. for help, gifts, loans and grants, and if we gave all that we had it would be only a fraction of their needs. This writer is urging our people to support the Marshall Plan, and yet he admits that we would go broke trying and still leave the world starving new deal fashion. There is confusion in Washington, there is confusion in the church, in the home and in the mind of individuals such as has never been known in the U. S. and I guess the new dealers would like to blame the Republicans for the confusion brought on the world in the last fourteen years.

—P. C. BURKHOLDER.

The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to mount it. Communications should be less than 300 words, typewritten if possible, and on only one side of the paper. Libel and obscenity will be deleted—otherwise anything goes. Each letter must be signed although, in exceptional cases and upon request, we will withhold the writer's name.—Editors, THE NEWS.

Quote, Unquote

The supreme tragedy of the Arab-Jewish clashes is the inescapable fact that in any likely settlement of the Palestine problem, the Arabs and Jews will have to live together.—Asheville Citizen.

Joseph Alsop

The American Role

ROME

THE grave urgency of the economic crisis is the first and sharpest shock to the visitor to Rome. The time for action is very short. But when one has recovered from this first shock, a second follows. This is the shock of learning the extraordinary importance, the far-reaching influence, of the American role in Italian internal politics.

No hasty traveler may venture to speak as an expert. Yet it is perhaps permissible to draw firm conclusions from the discovery of virtually complete unanimity among political leaders of every colors. Ministers amid the moth-eaten grandeur of their palazzo offices, Left-wingers in grim little walk-up apartments, centrists and churchmen, rightists, technicians and journalists—all have made the same point. Even the harassed, serious and high-minded Premier Alcide de Gasperi minced no words. Without hesitation, he stated that his Government was "based on close links with the United States."

ACCIDENTAL POLICY

Premier de Gasperi spoke nothing but the truth. To be sure, this last and most important chapter in the story of the growth of the American role in Italy has the kind of comically accidental beginning that might be expected, in view of the strong trace of sleep walking that tinctures American policy making.

Early last Winter, de Gasperi was invited to a rally of statesmen held in Cleveland by the Luce publications. The embassy here learned that de Gasperi was American-bound, when he applied for a visa. Nevertheless, his trip to the United States was quickly given a semi-official flavor. While he was in Washington, William McChesney Martin and other Export-Import Bank directors were bludgeoned into making a hundred million dollar loan for Italian industrial reconstruction. And de Gasperi returned with his character as a pro-American leader strongly accentuated.

Then came the crisis which led to the formation of the present de Gasperi Government. The main issue was whether to continue the previous system of a Government of all parties, including the Communists, or to establish a regime not subject to Communist sabotage.

ASSURANCE OF U. S. AID

It can now be stated on absolute authority that de Gasperi gained courage to form his Government without the Communists from positive assurances of American support given to him by official representatives of our Government. His parliamentary majority is slender and he has tried repeatedly and is still trying to broaden his governmental base by including non-Communist Left-wingers. Our representatives have continued to take the position, with unqualified frankness, that liberalization of the regime was extremely desirable, but that the United States could do little for an Italy with Communists in the Cabinet.

In the present crisis, the highest members of the Government have informed this correspondent without equivocation, that they can survive if we in the United States make good our promises of support. Equally, they have admitted that the Government must fall if the dollar famine and resulting import famine are permitted to reduce Italy to a condition of cruel unemployment and widespread starvation. "We cannot last if we cannot give our people bread," is the leit motif.

Nor does the American role end there. Ivan Matteo Lombardo, a leading Socialist of the main, Nenni wing of the party, recently negotiated in Washington the settlement of American war claims against Italy. He returned to an important movement for Socialist independence of the Communists. The movement is promising, but will admittedly come to nothing if want of dollars now plunges Italy into conditions of despair. Even the present sharp Communist offensive against the de Gasperi Government (of which more later) is obviously motivated, at least in part, by a desire to strike before large-scale American aid stabilizes the Italian situation.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

All this adds up to staggeringly heavy responsibility for the makers of American policy. Clearly a Congress dubiously ornamented by such fiddle-headed statesmen as Senator Styles Bridges of New Hampshire cannot be induced to take action overnight, even in the present emergency. But the certainty of an Italian ration cut at the end of October is conditional on the need to conserve more food for the Italian people through the Winter.

If the Italian Government receives firm enough assurance of future aid, it can spend its existing grain stocks immediately. The whole of the American $120 million grant in aid for Italy can also be poured out during the months directly ahead. Decent conditions can thus be maintained until January. This gamble, coupled with a special session of Congress to provide additional funds to meet the European emergency, appears to be the only course open. Now that America is the leader, America must lead.

Samuel Grafton

The Party Is Over

NEW YORK

IT HAS been a fine party, it has lasted a good long time, but now we are afraid of the cock's crow that means the jig is up and reality.

That is why we are afraid of a special session of Congress to consider aid to Europe. For the mere calling of that session will be an admission that we went slack too fast after the war ended, and turned too eagerly to the trumpeta and the gin of peace.

We went private too fast, and now we have to become public again, public in our thinking and our planning, and the prospect rips us apart along a dotted line of indecision.

* * *

Our Government ended rationing when the war stopped and told us to eat; it ended gasoline controls, and told us to drive, and we fell for like suspicious people convinced this was our night to howl. A little later we threw off price controls, a real signal, this, that life had become private and individual again; to a starving world we shouted our joyous and bizarre belief that the exchange of food and commodities was no longer a matter affected with a public interest.

Never in history had there been such a massive turning from public to private concerns, from organized group effort to individual reaching and jollification.

When signs of unrest appeared in Europe, we sought for some easy way to protect ourselves and yet keep the party going; a bit of food and some guns for Greece, maybe, a few boatloads for Turkey, some sporadic loans and credits spread about. We wanted a wall around our privacy, our fiddles and our fun.

Now about another tax cut, fellows, and one of the good old songs?

A little later, waddling defensively backwards, we cooked up the plan for a largely revived Germany, to cut the cost of not solving the world's problems and to make failure somewhat more economical. Any doohickey to maintain the gay impromptu revel, and to keep our new private fun still private and still fun. A stronger Germany, and we will dance until dawn.

But now the great disorder reaches nearer. It touches us now. Western Europe is caving in. There is music in only one house on the street, but the sound is a little doleful. And dollar butter isn't a private matter, there is no way in which you can keep dollar butter a private matter, any more than you can keep murder a private matter.

And the President thinks of calling a special session. But he hesitates, because that means we shall have to stop being private, and will have to be public again. A special session can't concern itself only with aid to Europe. It will have to go into the questions of how much we have, and what we've done with it, and what kind of housekeepers we've been, and who gave the signal for a party when there was so much to do.

You can still hear the fiddles, in the only house on the block given over to private concerns. They play with less conviction, but the President hesitates to lift his hand and stop them.

"The party's over," is what he'll be saying if he calls the special session, and he doesn't want to say it.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

• Watch Aranha At United Nations Meeting

WASHINGTON

AS the General Assembly of the United Nations meets in New York today, two men hold the spotlight as its possible presidents. They are:

Oswaldo Aranha of Brazil, ex-gaucho, ox-Foreign Minister and best champion of the United States in South America.

Herbert Evatt of Australia, great champion of small nations, twister of the Soviet tail, and an original architect of the United Nations.

Though General Marshall and the Russians will retain the power, Aranha and Evatt will represent the hopes and dreams of millions that somehow may lead the world away from the widening chasm that yawns between the communist and capitalist worlds of the USRR and the USA.

Aranha, who served as president of the United Nations Assembly at its special Palestine session, is so strongly pro-American that it has hurt him in Brazil. As Ambassador to the USA he came to know and love this country. He visited the Kentucky Derby with Jim Farley (and incidentally won $1,500); took in both Republican and Democratic conventions; inspected Boulder Dam; played roulette at Elko, Nev., put his children in American schools, toured the USA from one end to the other.

An impatient, indefatigable ex-cattleman from the ranches of South Brazil, he spent one year in the saddle, sleeping outdoors, leading a revolution; has one bullet in his shoulder, one heel shot away. No ordinary diplomat, Aranha chafes at delay, has been the only man able to put Soviet Ambassador Gromyko in his place. In New York last Winter Gromyko would keep the UN Council waiting a full hour, arrived whenever he felt like it. Courteous US delegate Warren Austin patiently waited. But not Aranha. When it came his turn to preside over the Council, Aranha delayed not one minute for the tardy Russian. And when Gromyko attempted some of his fancy sabotage, the Brazilian nearly bit his head off.

Australia's Evatt

HERBERT EVATT, the other outstanding diplomat in New York, is equally pro-American, equally anti-Russian, very much the champion of the smaller nations. At San Francisco it was Evatt who foresaw the danger of what now has nearly wrecked the United Nations—the veto. He fought it to the bitter end, was just as much the critic of the United States on this point as he was of Russia.

When the battle was all over and Peruvian Foreign Minister Manuel Gallagher proposed a standing vote of tribute to Evatt, the Australian cynically replied:

"There are many things I might say at this moment, but I am afraid someone might exercise his power of veto over me."

One year later at the Paris Peace Conference, Evatt was fighting side-by-side with Jimmie Byrnes against the Soviet's sabotaging tactics. In fact, Evatt sometimes seemed to be goading Byrnes into action.

Evatt married an American, loves American baseball, collects American books. At the age of 36 he was a member of the Australian Supreme Court, since 1940 a labor member of the Australian Parliament, since 1941 Foreign Minister of his country.

Jap Appeasement

IN London, the British don't particularly like Evatt, consider him too pro-American. On one thing, however, he emphatically disagrees with the USA—the future of Japan.

En route to New York, Evatt stopped in Tokyo, visited General MacArthur. It was predicted the sparks would fly. For Australia, fearful of another Japanese invasion of the South Pacific, is harsh in criticizing MacArthur's so-called Japanese appeasement.

Australians believe Japan cannot be trusted, cannot be allowed to rebuild her industry, must be kept a third-rate power. Many Americans on the other hand, led by MacArthur, consider Japan an Asiatic base against Russia.

Arriving in Tokyo, Evatt and MacArthur were photographed together, walked arm-in-arm together. Rumor had it that Evatt had fallen under MacArthur's magic spell. Underneath, however, Evatt still remains a staunch Australian, still turns an emphatic thumbs-down on a soft peace for Japan.

New York's Great Problem

FOR the next three months delegates to the United Nations will window-shop, visit zoos, sample New York night spots, and gripe at high U. S. prices. Also, they will tackle three all-important problems affecting the peace of the world. They are:

1. Greece—Here the British will pull out if the country is partitioned into Arab-Jewish states, meaning that the United States will be called upon to send the already thinly spread American Army. Instead, Evatt contends it would be to have an international UN police force. But persistently, deliberately, the Russians have sabotaged our efforts to create such a force. They want world chaos. Obviously a UN police force would help prevent chaos.

2. Greece—Here the General Assembly can operride a Russian veto and act collectively to put down an aggressor—if General Marshall can muster a Democratic majority. Russia, which has stirred up Yugoslav, Albanian, Bulgarian attacks on Greece, is considered an aggressor, and the USA proposes to have the UN act. This will be the greatest test of the United Nations so far.

3. Can the United Nations work?—Basically this is the most important question to be decided in New York. Scores of diplomats, millions of non-diplomats are getting discouraged, disgusted with the UN Council. They see it as a futile debating society, made impotent by Russia's unreasonable rain of vetoes. It has blocked peace rather than promoted it.

The big question now is: Can greater powers be pumped into the United Nations by the General Assembly? If not, the hopes of millions may go glimmering. That's why this session of the United Nations is so important.