

Mr. Stalin's Health

WASHINGTON
RUMORS of the impending death of Generalissimo Stalin are an annual crop, and the present heavy harvest has produced a customary reaction among the American experts. They will believe the story unless they are told otherwise.

In the first place, those Americans who have been told that Stalin has been far from completely well for some years are expected to write conferences, he actually confided to President Roosevelt that he had trouble with both his heart and lungs. After Tehran his plane was unexpectedly grounded in Gakona, Alaska.

CHANGES IN POLICY
Whatever reliable facts can be obtained on Stalin's health, the news is not good. Stalin's death is in fact considered likely to produce a change in Soviet foreign policy.

But if such signs are the starting points, at least occasionally, are always there in the background.

Marquis' Childs

Real Statesmanship

WASHINGTON
As a send-off for the European Recovery Program in its journey toward Congress, another example of the MANWU foreign policy. The Republican leadership in the House could not do better than to study this latest object lesson and profit from it.

Quote, Unquote

Judging by the number of holiday deaths from traffic crashes and the many homes which were cold, the Russians are very hot and hot and gasoline—Greenleaf's friend.

Drew Pearson's Three Sore Spots Threaten World Peace

From home into these three trouble spots. And a lot of them argue that if anyone is looking for war, we are. But ducking under the rug, they would no longer need the three sore spots. These three trouble spots are, taking them in reverse order:



Russia Follows American Campaign

INCREASING Russian pressure in the Eastern Mediterranean area is timed significantly with the rise of the 1948 domestic political battle in the United States. This is also reflected in the fact that the period of American preoccupation with home affairs is being used by the Soviets as an opportunity to bold moves which Russia would not risk if the American people were united and alert to the world situation.

From Turkey comes an ominous sign that menacing over an attack in the event of overt Soviet action has both emboldened Russia and weakened resistance there. Turkish Foreign Minister Sadak was quoted as saying in a recent speech that the constitution of political blocs did not affect his country, which remained faithful to only one bloc—the United Nations. This has been interpreted by some British observers as a serious sign that Russia is determined to obtain control of the Dardanelles Strait between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean and that the only way of avoiding catastrophe is to come to terms with Moscow.

Russia now has fully set the stage for a showdown on Turkey and Greece which, if followed through successfully, would be the prelude to a vast extension of Soviet influence in the Mediterranean and the Middle East. Greece has already been on the western flank of the Straits and if it should fall to the Communists the position of Turkey would be desperate. The Red threat to Greece has been increased by the

Ike Eisenhower And Bob Taft

GENERAL EISENHOWER re-enters the GOP Presidential picture with his endorsement of the New Deal. He is expected to lead the drive to line up his state's eight votes for Eisenhower in the primary election March 9. Senator Tobey's leadership in the movement for Eisenhower is being used to lead the Army Chief of Staff in the anti-Taft camp of the GOP or it will do so unless the General takes steps to call off the fight that is shaking up the party.

From the beginning, it was apparent that the Eisenhower boom was conceived by Republican politicians who fear that Taft is too conservative for the American public and who believe that Taft and party seriously needs a candidate who will appeal to the Independent voters. Ike Eisenhower answered their prescription to a large degree. His demagogic speeches and utterances have created a widespread impression that he is a liberal. His aloofness from political rivalries, his popularity, his dynamic personality, his war record and his leadership in the Senate have led to recommend him to Republicans who were thinking that isolationist Taft could not win in '48.

The Senator Wasn't Amusing

SENATOR MELVIN GASSAWAY ASH-TON, as portrayed on the screen by William Powell, failed to attract many votes in his recent campaign and in his indiscretions in the "Senator Was Indiscreet," conceived by three of Hollywood's cleverest wits, Charlie MacArthur, George S. Kaufman, and Nunnally Johnson, and mercilessly lampooned U. S. Senator Melvin Gassaway, the politician who created them. Charlotte movie-goers weren't impressed, however, and The Senator left town after four days of a sensational run.

A local news item reports that Charlotteans are "still wondering what it was all about," which observation, if correct, gives an alarming insight into the state of political maturity hereabouts.

Boss Hague Again

LAST JUNE, as you may remember, Mr. Frank Hague resigned as Mayor of Jersey City and by an interesting stroke of fate he has taken the step in Jersey City announced that his successor would be his namesake and nephew, Mr. Frank Hague, Jr. There may or may not have been a conscious irony in Mr. Hague's explanation that he had taken this step "in service to my city and my family." Theoretically and legally, it was not for Mr. Hague but for the City Commission to say who should be mayor for the remainder of Mr. Hague's term. But the short-cutting of the normal respects, the Jersey City commissioners are not incapable of taking a hint, if it is a sufficiently broad one. Accordingly, they elected Mr. Hague, Jr. as mayor for the first time in a full generation. Mr. Hague had a reasonable excuse for exempting himself from his customary New Year's ordeal of shaking hands with his innumerable henchmen and admirers.

People's Platform

'A League Of Honest Men'

NAZARETH, N. C.
Editor, The News:
I AM interested in the editorial "Poppe, a 1948 Disgrace" which appeared in your paper and was reprinted by The News & Observer of Raleigh. Somehow I miss the point. I am unable to decide just what was intended. Was it meant to be a barb at Catholics, a plea for isolationism or a plug of an alien philosophy of life and government? Or am I off the track altogether? If you will patron a friendly letter from someone too dense perhaps to see a point cleverly made, I wish to congratulate you on this example of double talk.

Seriously, what was the point? Is it possible that you actually believe that there are no honest men in the world—not even in Russia? That sounds like a complete joke.

And, were you actually so naive as to suggest that the Pope should designate the procedure to be followed by a "League of honest men" and state how both kinds of such action may be carried out? We both kinds of such action may be carried out? We both kinds of such action may be carried out?

That's what I say, you prove yourself a wizard of subtlety in the closing paragraph. It is almost a masterpiece in the way you did manage to get along with the wrongs of the West. May I presume that you refer especially to the un-Christian and undemocratic behavior of the "honest men" could they to which they are guilty are indeed disgraceful and appalling, but if your intention was to imply that this kind of behavior is a failure of Christianity, you are the same about Russian Communism. Of course it affords little consolation to our anxious generation that it is waging an unending battle against a foe whose goal is finally attained. It will be far superior to anything that we could do.

You, know, I got only one point out of your editorial, and I want to be the first to admit that it was very good. It is this that in "Poppe, a 1948 Disgrace" the technique of Communist propaganda was at its best. He told that Walter Lippman for his part would begin to hate it, or pointing out our wrongs and injustices so as to divert attention from the greater wrongs of the world. You did a bang-up job, comrade. Had a Red Communist composed that subtle masterpiece, he could not have done a better job. Thank you very much, and best wishes.

Editor, The News:
I HAVE been lonely for years and months for not having anyone to communicate with. So I hereby write to you to help me by publishing my name and address in your interesting newspaper. I shall answer all letters, reading, correspondents, and all other goods with those who wish to correspond with me.

Thanking you again and hoping to get letters as from you soon.
—EDWARD B. ISAACS.

Chief Trouble Spots

LOOKING over Europe and the adjacent Near East there are three potential powder kegs where this could happen: 1) Northern Europe, where the Communist drive is along with Turkey and the Near East. Of course, Europeans argue that the United States had stuck its nose a long way



Lonely In Nigeria

23 Abington St. Lagos, Nigeria West Africa.
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