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Wronghorse Harry Rides Again

PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S current Secretary of State should always be supplied with picture postal cards of European capitals which he could send back home to Harry with the customary postal card message, "Wish you were here." For if Harry were there, a bare possibility exists that he might refrain from putting his foot into it at home.

Twice in his comparatively short period as President has he done it, done it notably and with the finesse of a man who has a flair for inspiness. The first time was in September 1946 when James F. Byrnes, then Secretary of State, was at a peace conference in Paris. Henry Wallace, not then fully appreciated for what he is, was Secretary of Commerce. Wallace made a speech at Madison Square Garden in New York City to an assortment of left-wingers, outright Communists and other freaks, and in this speech he said that our policy toward the Soviet Union was "too harsh," and that we should adopt a more conciliatory policy.

The wisdom of having one Cabinet officer outlining his notions of what our policy should be at the very moment another Cabinet officer was battling to effectuate the policy officially agreed upon by the Administration was—well, call it baffling. But, lo, and likewise behold, what did Wronghorse Harry do but say at a press conference the next day that he approved Wallace's speech in its entirety!

Byrnes hit the ceiling. By teletype and trans-Atlantic telephone he let Truman know the enormity of his blunder, and he told him that he would come straightway home if Truman did not repudiate the Wallace stand. Truman then demanded, and got, Wallace's resignation, but damage was done. The Russians had seen that the Administration was divided and that the President didn't know where he stood.

The Vinson business of last week-end was almost an equal stunner. After repeated failures to bring the Russians to reason over the critical Berlin situation, the Foreign Ministers of the larger powers had taken the step of handing the issue over to the United Nations, not so much in hope of getting a settlement there as in convincing the Russians of the gravity of the deadlock. Also, the Foreign Ministers did not know what else to do. At this juncture Truman again took over.

He conceived the idea of sending Chief Justice Vinson, a postgraduate Kentucky politician, to Moscow to do what all of the more experienced emissaries — Marshall, Bedell Smith and their opposite numbers in the governments of Great Britain and France — had been unable to do: to make the Russians understand that we really wanted to be friends and folksy. He was, on impulse, going to substitute Vinson's Kentucky drawl for the sharp, clear, succinct statements of this country's position which we had been drilling into the ears of the Russians for months on end.

And in the process of executing this brilliant stratagem, he was unavoidably going to demonstrate to the Russians yet once again that this country's foreign policy was under the direction of a President who didn't know his own mind or back up his own agents.

It was an inexcusable blunder.

Miracle Conservation Field Day

"Despite our progress . . . we must admit that we have only slowed the tide of land erosion and depletion. We are still losing the productivity of far too much land—far too many forests — year after year. We dare not rest until we have reversed the tide."

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WITH those words, written for the special Miracle Conservation Field Day supplement of THE NEWS, Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan wound up his story of the U. S. battle to preserve its fast-diminishing natural resources.

It is a grim story. We have run through our natural resources with the abandon of a drunken driver. Of the original total of some 500 million acres of cropland, one-fifth has been completely exhausted; another fifth is in critical condition; and still another fifth is in a serious condition. That leaves two-fifths, and half of that is subject to some erosion.

It is, perhaps, a natural result of an era of fast, lusty growth when always there were new frontiers lying ahead, new areas of cropland to open up. But now there are no more frontiers. No big blocks of land have escaped the plow. We have completed our jag.

Today America finds itself faced with the necessity of supporting an ever-increasing population of its own, plus the problem of helping to feed the rest of the world. To do that job we will have to continue the fight against waste and erosion in order to preserve what we have left while we are reclaiming other land which has already been worn out.

That's why the Miracle Conservation Field Day to be held in North Mecklenburg tomorrow is important. The thousands of Piedmont residents who attend the event will see just how efficient we can be in this country when we make up our mind to do a job and do it well. They will see work done in one day which would normally take years; they will see a wasted farm brought back to productivity.

Many companies and individuals, far too many to list here, have contributed time, money, supplies, and work so that the Mecklenburg Miracle could come about. To them all, THE NEWS extends a grateful appreciation and an acknowledgement that their efforts will bring before the Piedmont vividly and forcibly the realization that it is not yet too late.

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"The Mecklenburg County demonstration points the way toward a permanent agriculture — the way to permanent prosperity, to peace, to advancement toward a higher civilization and a better life."

—D. M. H.

France, The Barometer

FRANCE, beset by one crisis after another in postwar days, appears to have become a major battleground in the mounting struggle between the Kremlin and the democracies of the West.

The series of strikes now hampering every phase of life in the Fourth Republic patently is part of a pattern shaped by the masterminds of the Politburo and executed under the direction of the Cominform.

Strikes of coal miners and railway workers have delivered a severe blow to two major elements of French life — fuel and transportation. A reduction in electric power has resulted and practically all French industry is suffering. Dock workers and steel mill employees also have been involved in the walkouts.

Analyzing the present French crisis, Dewitt Mackenzie, the AP's foreign affairs expert, writes:

Obviously this new assault is aimed at the European Recovery Program. However, that is far from being the whole story, for dependent on that program is the military defense of Western Europe against further Communist aggression.

France is the key continental nation in the new Western European Alliance comprising Britain, France, The Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. With France hamstrung, the Alliance would be weakened to the point of near impotence. If the powerful Communist Party of Italy should at the same time make good its boast of being able to take over control of that strategic country, the Russians would be in a powerful position, both politically and militarily.

Thus while the Battle of Berlin simmers and Mr. Vishinsky proposes arms reductions at sessions of the United Nations in Paris, Russia moves to wreck the trembling economy, upset the shaky Government of France. It is well-nigh certain that success of the strikes will be reflected in a hardening of Moscow's attitude. As Mr. Mackenzie points out, "For the time being France is a barometer by which to tell how the storm goes."

From The New York Times

Northern Gold

PURPLE haze broods on the mountains. Pasture hillsides are brown and sere though river valleys cling to Summer's fading green. When October comes to the land other colors are a backdrop for the shining gold. The white maples, beeches, elms and birches change their dark Summer cloaks to the color that marks a season's end. Impersonal science says that the chlorophyll fades; colored pigments of carotin, xanthophyll and anthocyanin supplant the wonder-working green.

But chemistry and its test tubes are not important when the heart is stirred by the glory on the land. On upland pastures groves of gnarled white maples and patriarchal beeches hold spreading arms of golden leaves in October's mellow sunshine. Take a leaf in your hand and ponder the mystery of the never-failing cycles in Nature's year. That golden, symmetrical leaf represents hundreds of millions of years of change since the first green algae climbed from primal waters onto land.

Walk along quiet country roads and see the gold of the humble gray birches, the gold of the whites. Go to a peaceful brook-traversed meadow and see the vase-shaped elms, gold vases in the sun. Other trees make a pattern of reds and brown and bronze, but the predominant color in many northern regions is the soft gold. When the tenth month arrives one knows a cycle is ending. But when northland gold bursts over the countryside one can drink of the season's end glory and store memories to cherish while waiting for the snow to bring a different beauty to the land.

The thing that pleases us most about the current political campaign is that we don't have to worry about whom Wallace will pick for his Cabinet. — *Greensboro Daily News.*

Ceiling Zero

Marquis Childs

Policy Obscured

WASHINGTON

IN THE CONFUSION currently prevailing in Washington, it is difficult to tell who is making policy and what policy is from day to day. This is true in matters both large and small.

The latest and most obvious example is the proposal to send Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson as a peace emissary to Stalin in Moscow. This seems to have gone so far that free radio time was requested for a broadcast announcing the move, at which point Secretary of State Marshall persuaded President Truman to call it off.

Such a move would have been worse than futile. It would have cut directly across the whole position of the United States delegation at the UN meeting in Paris. And our partners, the British and the French, would certainly have been outraged by such a surprise maneuver.

One reason for the confusion is that so many voices are raised, often with conflicting views, at a time of gravest peril. The public can hardly be expected to discriminate between official policy and the personal views of officials who criticize or seek to persuade opinion to go in another direction.

ATOMIC POP-OFFS

In this column recently, attention was called to the argument advanced by two Air Force colonels in a technical publication of the USAF Press that a war can be won by a small fleet of planes dropping atomic bombs on the enemy's strategic centers. By this means, so the argument went, a war could be brought to a victorious conclusion from one to three months. This happens to coincide, more or less, with aggressive and sensational claims made usually off the record, but sometimes on the record, by Air Force officers of a much higher rank than colonel.

It seemed to me that this had become official policy. I am assured now that it is not official policy, and it is good to have that earnest assurance. In my opinion, such a policy advanced can only contribute to the peril of the present moment.

It can contribute to an increasingly dangerous attitude that is taking hold in this country. The best expression of it is, "Well, let's go and drop the bomb on those so-and-sos and get it over with."

The moral and Christian implications of killing ten to fifteen million human beings to try to bring peace and security to the United States need hardly be stressed. There is, however, a political consideration that bears precisely on the planning being done by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

TOP BRASS CAUTION

Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, the Air Force, and Gen. Omar N. Bradley, for the Army, are in agreement that an atomic attack might paralyze the enemy and bring a war to a relatively swift conclusion. But they also agree that in the event of failure it is essential to plan for a war that might last ten years or even, as Bradley has said, 30 years.

They also know, as does anyone with the slightest imagination or understanding, that a total war—and all war in the atomic age must be total—lasting many years would utterly transform the American economy and in all probability the American political system. We would almost be forced to accept a totalitarian pattern. Civilian defense planners in the Pentagon are completing a plan which would mean the regimentation of almost every phase of economic life with the outbreak of war, and that would be the beginning.

Loose talk about "dropping the bomb on those so-and-sos" does not come from men of responsibility who have soberly considered these possibilities. Gen. Vandenberg's difficulty is that so many propagandists for a super-duper, blitz type air force, both in uniform and out of uniform, have filled the air with their claims. They are highly articulate and they tend to obscure the more modest objectives of official policy.

Gen. Bradley's difficulty is that the persuasiveness of the air argument—both of the limited official side and the extravagant unofficial side—appeals to Congress and the public. It confirms a longing that war can be easily won by the Buck Rogers, push-button technique.

One point in the policy debate involves the right of men in uniform to express themselves freely on differences of strategy and tactics. On the technical level, this seems to me highly desirable. But when it impinges on top policy, and newspaper headlines about a three-months' atomic war certainly get close to policy, then restraint becomes necessary. Applying restraints without suppression is not easy. But in a time such as the present it is vital, and that goes for all departments of government.

People's Platform

Dictatorship Of Chiang Kai-Shek

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

IN YOUR editorial of Saturday, Young Republic (China) Fights for Life, you took the occasion to agree with Governor Dewey and to knock the policy of President Truman.

I was a GI in China, in December 1945, when President Truman made a statement on American policy toward China that has not been equaled since. He spoke for a strong, united, and democratic China, but he made no mention of supporting the unpopular Fascist dictatorship of Chiang Kai-shek against the wishes of the majority of the Chinese people.

Freedom of speech does not exist in China—there are no elections, and without our support by means of arms the dictatorship of Chiang Kai-shek could not survive. I have seen machine guns and other American lend-lease equipment stored in warehouses during the war—they were not used to fight the Japanese, but were reserved not only for the fight against the Communists but against the democrats and other non-party people who hate the present regime. It is not so much a war between Russia and the United States as you picture, it is Chinese against Chinese.

Here on the 37th anniversary of the Chinese Republic we find the reforms of Dr. Sun Yat-sen being carried out by the Communists. They have reduced land grants from 60 to 90 per cent of the harvest to an average of about 35 per cent—something Chiang Kai-shek could not do without losing the support of landlords, the small minority of reactionaries who have been in power for so long. There are many good democrats in the Nationalist Government, but they tremble in fear of the secret police and are thus forced to be yes-men.

I agree with you that on this birthday China is worthy of survival. I also agree with President Truman that the Chinese people are entitled to a government of their own. The Communists, the democrats, non-party patriots, and liberals in the Kuomintang want a coalition government in which the Fascist wing of the Kuomintang has little to say. he wants to stop Communism while at the same time he uses every conceivable method to establish New Deal Communism in the United States. Truman still permits the shipping of war materials to Russia and her satellites while at the same time our sons are being drafted to fight Russia.

As this very writing Russia is challenging us in Berlin with the very bombers we gave her. Very recently Tito received a large shipment of U. S. oil, only the transfer was made by Italy to keep the cover on the red herring in Washington. Since Truman is reminding us again of the Hoover depression, let me remind you of the New Deal slaughter of millions of our best men, and now while Truman is bellering about the Republicans he is drafting millions for another slaughter that was fired and prepared from Washington, D. C., with United States taxpayers' money which makes it double blood money.

—F. C. BURKHOLDER.

Praise For Gen. Clay

STATESVILLE

Editors, THE NEWS:

THE Merry-Go-Round column in the Friday, Oct. 8 issue of The Charlotte News is a masterpiece of news reporting. It clearly pictures the Berlin situation and it is a testimony to the intelligence of our representative in Berlin—Gen. Lucius Clay.

It was my privilege to meet General Clay while I was stationed in Munich, Germany. Little did I realize then, when only a few weeks before our outfit had shaken hands with Russian troops, that this man would be the center of world attention.

But the portion of the Merry-Go-Round item which impresses me most is the closing sentence by General Clay—"I am convinced that there will be no war if we stand firm in Berlin."

—W. EDGAR GALBREATH.

'New Deal Communism'

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

IF YOU have been listening to Harry S. Truman barking over the radio you have noticed that he gave the Republicans credit for the evil of sixteen years of New Deal Communism that Truman is still trying to force on the American people from behind his little iron curtain in Washington. The Un-American Activities Committee has barely touched the cover that shrouds the real Communist activities in the United States. The reason Truman shouts red herring hunt is because he well knows if the curtain was ripped away from the sixteen years of Communist support they would not only find a whole nest of red herrings but the poppa who has been giving them shield and comfort while devouring our liberty.

If what I have just stated is not true, tell me please, why? Truman has so continually insisted that we ship Russia materials for war. He said the other night he doesn't talk out of both sides of his mouth at the same time. Well if he doesn't he sure draws both sides to the middle and lets loose both barrels at once. He tries to make us believe

Quote, Unquote

Now that the folks across the bayou have a good road they will have to learn to share it and drive carefully to avoid accidents. There will be no telltale cloud of dust round the curve to warn them of an approaching car.—La Fourche (La.) Comet.

The American Way — President Truman and Governor Dewey are all set to prove that a great nation and a great state can be run by phone from a train.—Memphis (Tenn.) Press-Scimitar.

There is no legal ban to a woman's being President of the United States, and no earthly notion as to what her husband would call his column if one was in the White House.—Memphis (Tenn.) Commercial-Appeal.

A Chicago man contends that his wife is his "lawful slave." And who does he contend he is—Alexander, Caesar or Genghis Khan?—Greensboro (N. C.) Daily News.

"Do women belong to men legally?" inquires a headline. Well, we always thought it was better that way.—Quitman (Ga.) Free Press.

Sterling F. Green

Not Much Difference

WASHINGTON

NO MATTER WHAT the candidates cry in the heat of the campaign, some government economists think the election returns will have little immediate effect on price trends or business activity.

They see little chance of a new inflationary spurt if New York's Gov. Thomas E. Dewey gets to the White House. Nor do they believe the economic gauges will dance wildly if President Truman is elected.

For strictly non-political reasons, they think inflation will continue at least into the early months of 1949. Beyond that, they do not try to guess.

A government economist's reasoning on this subject may be sound even though he works under the Democratic Administration and cannot be quoted by name. He maintains his professional reputation by thinking straight—not wishfully—about economics.

He cannot overlook the tradition that favors businessmen over Republican rule. He must judge, in that light, whether a Dewey triumph would bring new confidence—a psychological "lift"—to industry. And whether such a lift could mean another upward shove for prices.

MINOR CHANGES

Here's what one Federal economist — a highly placed one — suggests:

If Dewey wins and business does get a booster shot, its effect probably will be minor and short-lived, for two reasons.

First, Dewey's election has been so frequently and so long predicted by pollsters that the outcome has been "discounted in advance."

In other words, it's unlikely that many people are waiting to read the election returns in the papers before investing money, expanding their businesses, or venturing into new fields of enterprise.

Those people probably made up their minds weeks ago. The novelty of a possible GOP return to power has worn off.

Second, business generally is aware that any Administration, Democrat or Republican, is in for no picnic during the next four years.

There are still the twin problems of labor and government spending. There is the threat that a recession, or even a depression, might set in before the term ends.

There is even a group of Republican lawmakers who think that some strong "standby" controls should be voted quickly to cope with emergencies which may lie ahead.

And there is the critical foreign situation.

Continual defense demands are causing an increasingly heavy drain on supplies of steel and other materials. Greater military outlays may be voted if Soviet-American relations worsen. It wouldn't take much more defense spending to upset the Federal budget decisively into the red ink.

Newly entering the picture is another proposal—to re-arm Western Europe for resistance against any possible aggressive move by Russia. This is still in the talk stage, but if it goes ahead as such a plan is voted, it will mean a still greater strain on the vital steel-using sections of the economy and more Federal dollars poured into the public's pockets.

To pile these new billions on top of the European Recovery Program obviously would be inflationary, the economists say. Nobody presumed to guess now whether this might mean restoring the Federal controls which were laid aside after the war.

On the other hand, economists see "some danger" developing in the nation's business life. Grain prices have dropped closer to the government support levels, some coal mines and textile mills have shortened their work weeks.

Will these soft spots develop, finally, into a recession? Or will Federal spending for defense strengthen the inflationary trend which now has the upper hand?

Congress has some of the answers. Premier Stalin has some of them, too. But the man who occupies the White House in 1949 probably will have to play it by ear, whether he wears the Democratic label or the Republican.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Lee, Glass, Vinson Confuse Policeman

WASHINGTON

CHIEF JUSTICE FRED B. VINSON is not going to Moscow and his name, therefore, will not become a by-word with the Russian people. Down in Virginia, however, his name is so well known that it caused a Virginia traffic cop to rub his eyes.

Among the students at Washington & Lee University happen to be the grandson of a late famous Virginia Senator, the great grandson of a famed Civil War hero, and the son of a Chief Justice. All three were riding near Lexington, Va. when arrested for speeding.

The policeman, proceeding to book them, asked their names:

"Robert E. Lee IV," replied the first student.

It happened that he was telling the truth. The traffic cop looked up quizzically, but wrote the name down, then asked for the next name.

"Carter Glass III," was the reply.

The cop wrote the name down, then queried the third student.

"Fred M. Vinson Jr.," replied young Vinson.

"Then my name's Napoleon," exclaimed the flustered cop, and let all three boys go.

NOTE—Mrs. Vinson, wife of the Chief Justice, suggested to her son that after graduating at Washington & Lee he might want to take his law degree at Yale. A Yale degree, she intimated, might give him a better springboard into the legal fraternity. Replied her son: "Little old Centre College (Kentucky) was good enough for Dad, wasn't it?"

'Kickback' Parnell Thomas

MOST readers of this column, judging by the mail, heartily disapprove of Congressman J. Parnell Thomas' system of salary kickbacks from clerks and stenographers. However, one or two readers have asked why I singled out Chairman Thomas.

The answer is that Thomas was not singled out. For many years this column has exposed kickbacks and nepotism among Congressmen whenever they existed and regardless of political party. Thomas got no worse treatment than the others. It merely happens that his record seems to be worse than the others.

The first Congressman this column exposed for salary kickbacks was Rep. Richard Kleburg of Texas, of the famed King ranch, largest cattle ranch in the world. Kleburg was a Democrat. The people of Texas promptly rose up and removed him from office.

Another Congressman exposed for kickbacks was Rep. Ed Rowe of Akron, Ohio, Republican, who required his secretary, Miss Margaret Nelson, to kick back around $112 a month out of her $212 salary to pay certain of Rowe's expenses. The voters of Ohio promptly saw to it that Rowe did not go back to Washington.

Contrary to some people's opinion, most Congressmen have clean, honest records when it comes to kickbacks. Only a small minority practice it. The salaries received by their clerks and stenographers are paid by the U. S. Government, not by the Congressmen, and the clerks and stenographers are entitled to the full amount. Most of them earn it.

Other members of the Un-American Activities Committee have clean records when it comes to kickbacks and nepotism. And their chairman is hurting the cause for which the committee was established—good Americanism—a small minority practices it. The salaries received by their

Taxpayers' Money Goes Up In Smoke

THE brass hats have kept it hushed up, but the Air Force wasted thousands of dollars taking worthless movies of the Bikini atomic bomb tests. For some unexplained reason, the job was turned over to inexperienced officers who fancied themselves moviemakers.

Brig. Gen. Paul Cullen, then a colonel, had charge of the Air Force camera crews at Bikini. His masterpiece was a glorified, technicolor, training film called "Able Baker Day," which he sent over to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer to be edited. But even after the Hollywood experts added their touches, the picture was such a flop and so hostile to the Army and Navy that it couldn't be shown.

Instead the top brass ordered all the extra prints burned, and only two copies kept for the files. Since Cullen had gone ahead and ordered 48 prints, this made an expensive bonfire—paid for out of the taxpayers' pocket. Cost of the film alone that went up in smoke: $48,000.

Since the Atomic Energy Commission had called upon all the armed services to co-operate in filming the Bikini explosions, the Navy was working on a similar picture at the same time Cullen was making "Able Baker Day." But Cullen was in such a hurry to finish the Air Force picture first and scoop the Navy that he sent an Air Force technical adviser under the pretense of helping the Navy, though with secret instructions to obstruct and delay the Navy picture.

The Air Force also made another $50,000 technicolor extravaganza of Bikini, called "Phantom Wings." This smelled so that it also was never shown again after the preview. It was produced by Major James L. Gaylord whose total photographic background, up that time, had been as a personnel officer.

And here is how the Air Force has rewarded the two officers who wasted so much of the taxpayers' money: Cullen was promoted from colonel to brigadier general, and Gaylord—in spite of his first flop—was placed in charge of filming the recent super-secret tests at Eniwetok for the Atomic Energy Commission. He was supposed to have finished 24 films by Oct. 1; so far, has delivered only five.

NOTE—The Air Inspector General is now investigating these cases.