

South Answers The Challenge

SOUTHERN GOVERNORS, at their conference in Washington, D.C., have given the most effective answer possible to President Truman's civil rights challenge by adopting a program for regional colleges in the South, including both white and Negro schools. As the Governors properly note, this represents a long step toward "the most important development of the past century in the history of the South," through it will accomplish much more for civil rights and the extension of true democracy than is promised by all the legislation suggested by President Truman.

The Governors are setting a notable example for all Southern politicians and leaders by taking the positive rather than the purely negative approach in meeting the civil rights issue. They have not endorsed this point by putting into the cooler the proposal advanced by Gov. Fielding Wright of Mississippi for a Southern "revolt" from the national Democratic Party over Mr. Truman's ill-advised recommendations for new Federal legislation to ban State poll taxes and Jim Crow laws on trains and buses, to make lynching a Federal offense and to set up a Fair Employment Practices Commission.

In sidetracking Wright's secession plan, the Governors are not abandoning the South's traditional close unity to avoid a party split that might result in defeat in the national Democratic ticket in November. Rather they are advancing the South's interests by directing the movement toward intelligent, constructive, practical action by every State in the Union. It is but one of many examples of the great change in the South which is coming through education and the economic improvement in this section.

The new regional college program gives added impetus to this movement which is demonstrated by the fact that the Governors need no Federal supervision, but only understanding and encouragement. Democratic leaders in Washington and throughout the South will make a grave mistake if they do not see the South as the leader of the Governors at Washington.

Trade Crosses Another Frontier

ANOTHER sign that we are on the road to economic restoration and peace comes with the reopening of the French-Spanish border for the first time in nearly two years.

It was in Spain, in the four years of fighting between the leftist Republican rebels and the Fascist rebels led by Franco, that the world witnessed the most complete rehearsal. The return of Spain to the community of Europe, which is foreshadowed by the move to renew trade relations between France and Spain, will mark a long step toward stabilization of the Western world.

Communist sources greet this development with the cry that it opens the frontiers to the spread of "totalitarianism." "Totalitarian" Spain the Marshall Plan, the United States is sponsoring and planning to finance. To Moscow, this is further evidence that reactionaries or Fascist influences are behind the plan and that it is a "war program" directed against the Soviet Union.

Although there is no evidence that this French-Spanish rapprochement occurs at "the bidding of Washington," as the Moscow radio charges, it is clear that neither Washington nor London are objecting to the move. They had no hand in the border which has been reopened.

To us, this isn't evidence that Washington and London now are looking more toward France and the Soviet Union than toward the West. Rather, it represents hard-headed and far-sighted statesmanship. The big powers are proceeding in the knowledge that economic restoration of Europe must come, and that the political and economic or ideological compromise is possible.

Secrets Too Deep For Soviets

IT IS instructive to read the Soviet Information Bureau's statement which describes some of the high points in secret German documents that will be released by the Russians. This latest Moscow broadcast comes in reply to the secret documents which our State Department recently published to acquaint the world with details of the Soviet-Nazi collaboration in the first years of the Second World War, 1939-41. The papers to be disclosed by the Russians cover the period climaxed by the Munich agreement in 1938, when the Western powers tried vainly to satisfy Hitler by looking the other way while he took Austria, Czechoslovakia, etc. etc.

As was the case with our "secret" papers on the Soviet-Nazi imperialism and spy activity, the Russian "secret" papers on our bombing and skullduggery apparently tell nothing new. They are interesting and illuminating to us only for the interpretation which the Russians place on them, or rather for the lessons which the Marxists seem to be reading from them. The account from Moscow simply strengthens our opinion that there is some great Marxist theory which keeps the comrades from learning anything in the study of history.

This reading of the "secret" documents reminds us forcibly that we are not making the same mistake we made in the Munich period by attempting to appease an aggressive totalitarian power. It also reminds us that we are not repeating the blunders of 1918-19. By year we have been getting better and more of everything. —Including trouble. —Sanderfile (G.J. Progress.

It'll Be Easier To Carry You A Piece 'At A Time'



American Policy Vitaly Important

Poland Today And Tomorrow

By SUMNER WELLES
Former Undersecretary of State

ARTHUR BLISS LANES book on his recent mission to Poland, published this week under the title "The Polish Problem," is a timely and provocative work. He will be attacked by the extreme Left as prejudiced and by the extreme Right as the more hysterical Right as added proof that only the use of American military power can solve the world crisis.

But to those who believe that if our present foreign policy is to succeed the public must be kept in the dark, the book is a masterpiece. It is a masterpiece in that it shows the Polish people in the light of their own history and the history of the world.

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The history of Poland is long and complex. I took part in the earlier discussions, when that true patriot and statesman, General Eisenhower, was in Poland. He was a man of high caliber and his book is a masterpiece.

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Marquis Childs
Vandenberg's Future

WASHINGTON
SENATOR Arthur H. Vandenberg sits in the ornate red and gold Vice-Presidential room in the Senate floor and ponders his own future and the future of the current political tide filled with uncertainty, with high promise and at the same time with potential peril.

Looking out at the snow-covered landscape the Capitol dome is the first sentence of his statement in Life magazine of nearly a year ago. When he said "I am not a candidate for the Republican Presidential nomination," it is harder now to run for President, the Senator said, than it is to run for that office.

Everything that has happened since seems to prove the truth of this paradox. It was Gen. Eisenhower's experience. If the General had been content simply to stand by, saying nothing, the Eisenhower boom would certainly have continued to expand. Now that Eisenhower is out, the focus is again on Vandenberg in spite of his real reluctance and the deep doubts that trouble him. The draft-Vandenberg stimulus has been down to the instance of Eisenhower, from those who feel that the times demand a man above and beyond the ordinary political mold.

BASIS OF ACCEPTANCE
In a dedicated convention Vandenberg could be drafted. But he would be expected to meet two conditions before he accepted such a draft. The Vandenberg terms are:

- 1. That he would be a one-term President to be elected in 1952.
- 2. That he make no barn-storm tour to coast campaign.

The picture that Mr. Lane gives of present-day Poland is necessarily painted in dark colors. Yet the sight of an unquenchable national vitality are unmistakable.

By no means the least significance of these was to be seen during the annual Congress of the Polish Socialist Party a month ago. When the Polish Party of Mikolajczyk was defeated in the national elections of 1947, the Communists gave the Socialists a large share in the Government. The Socialists were named Prime Minister. The Communists have since tried to force the Socialists to lose their identity as a Communist front.

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