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THOMAS L. ROBINSON............Publisher
J. E. DOWD............General Manager
B. S. GRIFFITH............Executive Editor
WILLIAM M. REDDIG............Editor

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Promise Of The Passover

ONE THOUSAND, eight hundred and seventy-seven years ago, Roman soldiers were passing ploughshares over the foundations of Jerusalem. Where the temple of Solomon had stood, the Roman Emperor Hadrian was laying the foundations for a new Capitolina in honor of the pagan god Jupiter. The Jews who resisted were massacred by the tens of thousands. Those who submitted, were sold together with the horses at the Fair of Hebron. What had been a citadel of learning and a foundation for the worship of God was now a ruin. Palestine was a barren desert. Israel, at last, was destroyed.

Today a fierce battle is shaping up between Jews and Arabs for possession of Jerusalem, now the holy place of three great religions—Christianity, Judaism and Mohammedanism. Jewish and Arab armies are drawn up on the southern edge of the city and men all over the world are wondering if the Holy City will be laid waste again. Many also are wondering if humanity or civilization has made any progress at all in the nearly 2,000 years since the Romans destroyed Jerusalem.

There is no clear answer to the first question but the answer to the second question is, we think, written boldly in the story of Jewish survival. It is a story of one of the real miracles of human history, an epic of the indestructible quality of man's hope and aspiration. Down the centuries, time and again the Jewish people were subjected to the indignity of the ghetto, persecuted, massacred, expelled, deprived of the right to earn a living, slaughtered in countless numbers. Yet every generation has seen the Jew walking across the stage of history, preserving his cultural and religious entity in every conceivable circumstance of adversity and oppression.

The spirit of this movement is notably expressed in the observance of the Jewish festival of Passover, which began at sundown last Friday and will be concluded this Friday. It is an observance of the deliverance from Egypt of the Jewish people under their leader Moses.

When the United Nations last year approved the partition of Palestine, providing for the establishment of a Jewish state, it appeared that the promise of liberation in the Passover had been realized. Since then, Arab opposition to partition has created a state of civil war in the Holy Land. American-Soviet rivalry in the Middle East has tied the hands of the United Nations from preserving peace and implementing partition.

Thus, for the time being, force and hate have prevailed again over the good hopes of men. However, when we consider how prayer and faith have sustained the Jewish people since the dispersal of 70 A. D., we can read new significance in the promise of Passover, "Next year in Jerusalem." It is clear now that this ancient problem of Palestine is the supreme test of the United Nations. Mankind's universal hope for peace and justice has at last created an instrument which promises to bring a new day to Israel and all the nations. We cannot doubt the outcome when we consider the miracles that the spirit of men already has accomplished.

'They'll Fortify The Moon'

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FORRESTAL delivered a deserved rebuke to the big brass in his department and called attention to a real danger when he asserted that if the defense program is left "solely to the military, they'll fortify the moon." His protest was registered this week before a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee in the hearing on the Air Force expansion program.

Under questioning from a Senator, Secretary Forrestal admitted that a 70-group Air Force, which is being proposed in Congress over objections of the Administration, could not be classed as "fortifying the moon." However, the Secretary's testimony makes it clear that the proposal is extravagant and that the armaments drive in Congress is getting out of hand, elevating the military to a position where its influence is upsetting the traditional and constitutional primacy of the civilian authority in peacetime.

It's a curous spectacle to see a Cabinet officer urging Congress to economize and the novelty of Secretary Forrestal's position in this matter is a good indication of the extraordinary character of the economic problem involved. Although there does not seem to be a great difference between a 70-group force and a 66-group, it must be remembered that the nation's economy already is as tight as a drum and there is very little margin left in materials, manpower and Government financial means.

The men who are responsible for our strategy and policy originally determined that a 55-group was adequate for security purposes, maintained the proper balance for all the armed services in the preparedness program and could be financed without unbalancing the budget. Under pressure from Air officers and Congress, the Defense chiefs upped the figure to 66 groups, which means there must be an expansion in the services all along the line to keep the establishment in balance. It is, in all, a very expensive operation.

Congressional sentiment for the larger Air Force obviously is encouraged by the notion that it may serve the purpose of showing Russia we mean business in preparedness, and thus enable Congress to put off the unpopular draft and/or Universal Military Training. In this, the Congressmen are deceiving themselves and the public and not fooling Stalin.

The 66 or 70-group Air Force will immediately require manpower which only a draft can provide and it will not impress Russia that we understand the immediate problem and have the determination to make the necessary sacrifices. In the not distant future, or soon after the election, Congress will realize that we must have the draft and UMT. Meanwhile, precious time is being lost and unnecessary billions are about to be squandered on air arms.

Our Loyal Government Workers

THE GOVERNMENT'S drive to find disloyal Federal employees isn't finding many, the Associated Press reports. More than 1,000,000 of the 1,800,000 Government workers have been checked by the FBI. Less than 1,000 have needed further investigation—77 out of every 100,000 checked—and many of those who get a complete investigation are found loyal. Others quit their jobs before the investigation is finished, and who can blame them? Many can find as good or better jobs in private business, and no matter how innocent of subversive tendencies one may be, it must be rather uncomfortable to know that the FBI is going into all the minutiae of one's past. Everybody has made mistakes.

For instance, if a routine check of an employee's fingerprints shows he was once a member of the Ku Klux Klan, he is marked for a full investigation.

While not for a second apologizing for Klan purposes, we might point out that at various times and places it has been for or against a variety of things. There are probably few older men in public life in the South who have not at one time or another been a member of it or sympathized with some of its projects. A present member of the United States Supreme Court whose loyalty is above question was once investigated for membership in the Klan.

The FBI reports on those who are investigated to agency heads, the agencies hold hearings and decide whether to fire those investigated. A discharged employee may appeal to the President's Loyalty Review Board. If the decision is upheld there, all he can do is go to court.

With considerably more than half of all Government employees having been checked without a single exposure of a dangerous subversive, it would seem that the common sense of the average agency head in his hiring and the general loyalties of employees have been amply vindicated. We think the organizors of this subversive hunt owe an apology to our Government employees for all the suspicion and harassment to which they have been subjected, and another to the public for all the unnecessary alarm and expense of this operation.

From The Raleigh News & Observer

Ridiculous Position

THIS country has been placed in the ridiculous position of not yet having joined the World Health Organization, an agency of the United Nations which has already begun to function.

The position is ridiculous because the United States took the lead in forming the United Nations and seeks to maintain that leadership. In fact, this country sponsored the World Health Organization. The position is all the more ridiculous because of the reasons assigned by the House Rules Committee for pigeonholing the necessary legislation, which has long since been passed by the Senate.

That reason is the learned gentlemen who decree what bills will be and will not be considered by the House fear that World Health Organization will promote "socialized medicine." The joke of that is that the American Medical Association strongly advocates membership in the World Health Organization and has officially termed the failure of the United States to join the organization "an embarrassment to American leaders in the field of health." The American Medical Association can detect "socialized medicine" (without the aid of stethoscope or other apparatus) as far as the human eye can see, and sometimes farther. Surely the doctors of this country do not need any guardianship at the hands of the House Rules Committee to protect them from "socialized medicine."

The truth is that the House Rules Committee is the last stronghold of isolationism in the United States.

The Objector

Power To Keep Peace

Pax Americana For World

NOTE: A series of articles by proponents of world government was published by THE NEWS. In the following article, a scholarly discussion of the peace problem is presented from the opposing viewpoint. It is reprinted from The Monroe Journal and its author is the editor of The Journal.—Eds., THE NEWS).

By R. F. BEASLEY

THE riots, fighting, murder and destruction of property in Bogota, the capital of Colombia, which nearly destroyed the Pan American Conference in session there, is a modern version of the Gunpowder Plot recorded in English history. The plotters of that day were crude in their methods. The plan was to sneak barrels of gunpowder into the vault under the government house and blow up the king and court, the House of Lords, and the House of Commons in the blast. The plotters employed a gentleman of fortune by the name of Guy Fawkes to touch off the match. The government picked up Guy just before he had the chance of touching her off, and in due course hanged him and those who had employed him.

The Gunpowder plotters of 1605 had more in their favor than the modern plotters have. They were at least rebelling against oppression and injustice. The modern plotters who use TNT in the place of crude gunpowder are not rebelling against oppression and injustice but for the purpose of establishing them in their own behalf. The danger today is more from the criminal conspirators, both domestic and foreign, with their unlimited means of destruction, than it is from atomic bombs. Communists in every country are potential criminals and wait only for opportunity and support from Moscow, to stage their riots and revolutions.

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I NEVER made a mousetrap, so the world has never made a path to my door on that score. But I have made a prediction and repeated it from time to time, about the futility of expecting world peace either as a certain product of the United Nations, or through a world government. By the time the babies of today have cut their wisdom teeth, and long after my feeble efforts at prophecy are forgotten, the world will have found it out. I believe in the United Nations as a valuable association which will be useful in helping the peoples of the world to better understand each other and as an instrument for solving minor difficulties. Also as a means of cultivating friendship, economic co-operation, and possibly as a means of preventing local wars. But as a possibility of preventing a war between first class powers, or against a big power which is determined upon aggression, we have the evidence before our eyes that the United Nations is helpless and must remain helpless.

The whole world recognizes this fact and is acting accordingly. The visionaries who are talking of a world government say that the United Nations is too weak to enforce peace. Of course it is but the supposition that a world government could be established is too credulous to be discussed except by people who would cheerfully undertake to prove the green cheese theory of the moon. Why is the United Nations too weak to enforce world peace? Because there is one aggressive power with its satellites which is too strong to be coerced, and which has the power to frustrate all the measures of justice, friendship and good will within the United Nations, and the power and determination to defeat all its undertakings unless they are in accordance with its own aggressive desires. The United Nations cannot even enforce peace in Palestine and Greece because it does not know whether or not it would be permitted by Russia to do so.

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It is perfectly apparent that if the United Nations is to be effective in maintaining peace at all it must be by some powerful support outside of itself, and while the theorists are talking about a strong world government to supersede the United Nations, or as some United States Senators are talking of getting rid of the veto power, the practical statesmen of the world are going ahead in preparing for peace in the only way that peace may be had; that is by creating a military power greater than the military power the aggressor state. That is the meaning of the union of the Western states of Europe, their backing by the United States, and our efforts to consolidate peace and co-operation in the Western Hemisphere. When Russia is confronted by a unity of power so strong that she cannot take a chance on war, there will be peace, and not before. That is the principle of the balance of power which the infant class in world history so often refers to as obsolete power politics.

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IT IS true that the position of the United States as the nucleus and chief strength of this military alliance will entail burdens upon us. And since we dread to contemplate for long the burdens of great armament, our only hope at present is to make them so great that Russia will in the end decide to give up her mad schemes and turn to peace. In his study of the rise and fall of civilizations, or societies as he calls them, the historian Toynbee, whose studies are now enlightening the world a great deal, notes certain facts of great significance. One is, throughout history every state that attained the status of a distinctive civilization tended in its time and place and circumstances to become universal. That is, it became powerful enough to mantain peace on its own terms so long as it retained its internal virility. When it ceased to be actuated with the energy which had brought it farward, it soon became a prey to internal or external guerrillas.

Russia's policy is to provide both the external and the internal guerrillas to gnaw at the vitals of sister states. The most commanding example of the universal state in Western civilization was the Roman Empire. Pax Romanorum invested the Western world for centuries. Its only counterpart has been the British Empire. Pax Britannica pervaded the world from the downfall of Napoleon to the years preceding the First World War. For a hundred years the British Navy kept the peace of the world and broke down only when modern science had destroyed the power of navies.

If we go on as we are now going in arming and rallying around us the strength of the democracies around the Atlantic Ocean, including South America, Pax Americana will be the sole hope for world-wide quiet for the next hundred years. The two great divisions of power in the world will be balanced and neither would dare drive the other to extremities.

Democracy is spreading around the world except in the Russian orbit and the combined sea and air power of the democracies of the Atlantic Ocean, led by the United States, can keep Russian land-locked power, huge as it is, circumscribed within its own borders until its own people have had time to free themselves of the cancerous growth of Communistic tyranny. It's the only hope of the world.

Marquis Childs

Needling Congress

WASHINGTON

IN THE PRESENT period of stalemate, the Republican Congress is frequently blamed for refusing to try to co-operate with the Democratic President. This being a political year, the temptation to play politics with legislation and with Presidential appointments is almost irresistible.

The other day the President himself seemed to be guilty of doing just that. And the issue at stake could hardly be of greater concern to each and every one of us.

In reappointing the five members of the civilian Atomic Energy Control Commission, President Truman appears to have deliberately tried to pick a quarrel with the Congress. At least that is the way his action is being interpreted by responsible Republicans who have tried to keep atomic energy out of politics.

STAGGERED TERMS

Under the McMahon Act putting atomic energy under civilian control, all five commissioners were named for a term of only one year. Then, after that first year, the appointments were to run for one, two, three, four and five-year terms. The latter arrangement was, of course, to insure continuity of direction in the vast undertakings of the commission.

With the terms of all the commissioners expiring in August, the President had a problem to work out. He could have waited until after the present Congress had adjourned in the Summer and then he could have reappointed all the commissioners. In that way the present commissioners might have served until the Nov. 2 election had determined the new President and the new Congress. If another President did not like the appointments, he could have withdrawn them.

What President Truman did do was to send up the five appointments, with Chairman David Lilienthal named for the five-year term. He did this without consulting Senator Bourke B. Hickenlooper, chairman of the Joint Congressional Atomic Energy Committee.

There is nothing in the Constitution to compel Mr. Truman to consult in advance with the Congress. But the fact is that Chairman Hickenlooper has for his part tried to work with the Executive in keeping the whole shattering business out of politics and trying to insure that there would be no break in the continuity of control.

When Hickenlooper got word that the appointments were about to be sent up, he rushed to the White House. He suggested that there was a way out which would avoid controversy.

This was to give Chairman David Lilienthal of the Atomic Commission the one-year appointment. It was around Lilienthal that the quarrel of a year ago centered. But the Senate, Hickenlooper suggested, would accept the present chairman for another year so there would be no interruption and no renewal of the bitter feud which did so much harm.

IGNORES SUGGESTION

The President ignored this suggestion. He went through with his original plan, with the reappointments being speeded to the Capitol so fast that they got there almost before Hickenlooper had time to return from the White House.

This has a special irony in that Lilienthal had told several members of Congress that he would be happy to accept the one-year reappointment. The hard-working chairman is naturally not anxious to go through again the trial by fire he endured last year. He indicated that the one-year appointment would be an acceptable compromise, since it would carry the term of the chairman into the middle of 1949 and thereby give the new President ample opportunity to decide what he wished to do.

To push the present nominations will cause a quarrel. Perhaps in the end the reappointments could all be confirmed. But, in Hickenlooper's belief, a public feud would do almost more harm to the development of atomic energy—and particularly certain projects now under way—than the bitter quarrel of a year ago.

Therefore a suitable way out is being sought. It may lie in a bill now under study. This provides that the appointments of all five commissioners be continued for a year after the date of their expiration this August.

Such a bill could be passed with little difficulty, it is believed. If it were vetoed by the President, then all hope of confirmation of atomic appointments would be ended. In many ways this would seem to be a reasonable compromise. Above all, it is important to try to avoid the kind of blowup which might seriously hamper the developments of atomic energy.

Samuel Grafton

Evaporating Power

NEW YORK.

THE United States has power in this world, great power. It had enough power to lead the United Nations, last November, toward setting up a Jewish state in Palestine. But the United States has changed its mind since November. It now no longer wishes to set up a Jewish state in Palestine this Spring; it is trying to use its power to put over a trusteeship instead. And a very strange thing has happened. The United Nations listens to us carefully, but does not act. The power we had seems to have evaporated.

And in Palestine, the Jewish state, supported by Jewish arms, comes closer to reality.

In other words, while we had the power to set up the Jewish state, we don't seem to have the power to block it. What a peculiar thing our power is! One has the strong feeling that our power is something which climbs to its peak when we are on the side of right, and diminishes rapidly when we are on the side of wrong.

WHERE IS POWER?

We led the world last November. We looked very good in there, at the General Assembly, putting over partition. But today we, exactly the same people, the same United States, are trying to stop partition, and we don't look nearly as impressive. The Assembly seems paralyzed and confused, after listening to our feeble trusteeship ideas; its national representatives stare numbly at each other, wondering what to do next. The Australians want partition upheld, in direct opposition to us, and they want Haganah, the Jewish Army, legalized. Several states plan a move to denounce Arab aggression. Where is the power with which we led the nations of the world last November?

It seems fairly clear that the Jewish state will be proclaimed within the next three weeks. And we had the power to assist at its birth. We had the power to give it life. But we don't seem to have the power to give it death. And from these facts it seems to me important that we should draw certain conclusions about the nature of our power in this world.

Our power is not entirely a matter of tanks and guns and bombs; nor is it like a wad of money, good until spent, valid for any purpose which comes to mind. It is more like a special instrument which is created at the moment of use, and to a degree determined by the purpose for which it is being used. Our power is enormous when it comes to helping a shattered people find their independence; but it slumps badly when it is a matter of thwarting an independence movement for the sake of what we fancy to be our national interest.

NO MYSTICAL CHANGE

It is an illusion to feel that, because we have great power when we are on the side of right, we shall have equal power when we move blithely over to a different, and opposite and wrong policy. The power we had last November was given to us because we had taken an advanced and progressive position. But you cannot close out that kind of an account and continue to draw checks on it.

It is not necessary to make a mystical thing of it, either, to explain why it should be so. The small nations of the world, and the minds of independent men everywhere, will be drawn toward us when they are convinced we are for them, even when it costs us something; and they will pull away when we act obviously for ourselves. And when they pull away, we necessarily lose power in this world. More, perhaps, than Arab oil can balance and make up for. Where did it go? We had it in our hands, just now.

Among the most helpless feelings is that of the newspaper workers asked to locate a small item the inquirer thinks maybe was in their paper six years ago, though it might have been seven or eight.—**Memphis Commercial Appeal.**

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Solon Bucks Truman To Save War Plants

WASHINGTON

THE inside story of how President Truman continued to sell U. S. war plants while he was demanding the draft, UMT, and huge Army-Navy appropriations, is one of the most amazing in months.

Despite his speeches about a war emergency, the President had gone right ahead demobilizing the nation's industrial power and allowing war plants to be sold tool-by-tool on the auction block—until, finally, Alert Rep. Lyndon Johnson of Texas pin-pricked him with a couple of stinging notes.

At first the President wouldn't listen to Johnson, would not even admit the error of selling war plants. However, the persistent Texan kept after him and, in the end, Truman ate his own words.

After receiving Johnson's first letter warning that war plants should not be demobilized while men were being mobilized, the President blandly replied:

"The matter . . . has been taken care of by the contracts under which these properties have been sold to private individuals. In case of emergency, they immediately revert to the Government."

This, however, was not the fact, and Johnson know it. Anyone who had taken the slightest trouble to check the facts would never have written such a letter. Moreover, the letter obviously was written by the President himself, for it included some purely personal references.

Texan Rebuts

REP. JOHNSON didn't exactly like to argue with the Commander-in-Chief, who is supposed to know all about defending the nation. Nevertheless, he wrote back to Truman, bluntly disputing his letter.

"Plants have been and are now being sold without any provision for Government recapture," the Texas Congressman warned, "notwithstanding the fact that you have information that these properties immediately revert to the Government."

Johnson then listed nine categories of World War II property being sold piecemeal that the Government could not recapture. These included such vital works as shipyards, aircraft factories, iron and steel plants and air bases.

Next day, Johnson called upon the President personally, urged him to step in before the Government frittered away all its war surplus. At that point, Truman finally moved.

Belatedly, Secretary of Defense James Forrestal, War Assets Administrator Jess Larson, Munitions Board Chairman Thomas Hargrave, and National Security Resources Board Chairman Arthur Hill held an emergency meeting.

Hargrave was president of Eastman Kodak, director of the National Association of Manufacturers, and was appointed chairman of the Munitions Board by Forrestal because he was supposed to be an expert on industrial mobilization.

Hill, another Forrestal appointee, was chairman of the Greyhound Bus Corp. and its far-flung subsidiaries, and was made head of the Resources Board because he was supposed to be an expert on industry.

But, though the Administration had bombarded Congress with plans on manpower mobilization, these two men reported they weren't ready with any recommendations on war-plant mobilization. However, they did agree to freeze war plant sales for 30 days.

These are the men supposed to be guarding the nation's war power, but who still would be selling war plants had it not been for the persistence of one defense-minded Congressman.

No More Wheat Rust

SO MUCH emphasis is placed on atomic energy for military purposes that we don't hear much about its peacetime possibilities. Also not much money proportionately, is spent on development of peacetime atomic energy.

However, one thing Chairman Lilienthal didn't tell the press when he came out of the White House the other day was that his Atomic Energy Commission has developed a way to wipe out wheat rust and other crop-destroying fungi.

Scientists working with the Atomic Energy Commission have been irradiating wheat rust and successfully changing the genetic pattern of the rust's growth. They have actually found a means, through the irradiation process, whereby the fungus attacks ragweed and other weeds, instead of attacking wheat.

Where Stassen Gets Dough

HAROLD STASSEN'S backers are passing the hat among small businessmen for campaign contributions up to $1,000.

However, in their eagerness to raise money, the Stassen boys sent one of their form letters—believe it or not—to Sen. Theodore Green of Rhode Island—who happens to be a Democrat. Furthermore, Green is a member of the Senate Rules Committee which keeps an eye on Presidential-campaign expenditures. In fact, Green was chairman of the committee which examined the 1944 campaign books.

So, in reply to the Stassen letter asking him for money, Green politely requested a complete report on how much money Stassen had raised and whom it came from.

Southpaw Truman

WHEN President Truman opened the baseball season last week, he confided to friends that he had planned to use his right hand rather than his left.

Actually, the President throws much better left-handed, but he planned to toss out the first ball with his right just to keep the boys guessing.

However, the group of ball players waiting for the catch was so far away that at the last minute Truman decided he had better throw left-handed if he hoped to make the throw on the fly. To toss a grounder, he figured, might prompt press comment, so Truman switched to his more reliable southpaw.

Texas Revolts

THE political fifth columnists, who tried to sabotage the Texas Democratic machinery in 1944 by throwing their votes against party favorites, are stirring again in the Lone Star State.

Their unofficial leader is Merrit Gibson of Longview, who slipped away recently for secret meetings with anti-Truman factions in Mississippi.

The Texas group now is circulating propaganda calling upon Texas Democrats to "free ourselves from national domination in party affairs.

"Since effective political expression in this state is largely limited to the affairs of the Democratic Party of Texas," the propaganda preaches, "we must organize the party and adopt an intelligent plan of action that will free us from the domination of Washington politicians, Northern machine bosses, and minority groups."