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America's Role, 1920-1948

PRESIDENT TRUMAN, on his Western tour, strikes a disturbingly prophetic note with his statement of the question that is uppermost in the minds of the American people, "Will there be a permanent peace?"

There is a distinct Wilsonian flavor in Mr. Truman's conditional answer. Speaking before an Indiana audience, he said:

"I can say to you categorically that there will be a permanent peace if the United States of America assumes the role that God Almighty intended the United States of America to assume in 1920."

Nineteen twenty was the year when the United States surrendered the role of world leadership which had been thrust upon it in the global war of 1914-18. It turned away from Woodrow Wilson's League of Nations and his New Freedom for America, and took the road of Republican normalcy and isolation with the amiable do-nothing Warren Gamaliel Harding, who was elected President by a landslide vote.

By 1923, the calamity that was being prepared for a leaderless world and a great nation that ignored the challenge of the times was clear to astute observers, who vainly warned people and governments of the consequences of uncontrolled inflation, cut-throat international trade rivalries and arrant nationalism. The shape of things to come apparently was distressingly plain to the sick and soon-to-die Woodrow Wilson, whose ideals had been tossed aside by a people who wanted easy solutions and had no heart for the sacrifices and effort required by world leadership.

On Armistice Day, 1923, Wilson emerged from his bitter retirement to speak before a crowd that called at his home. A band played "How Firm A Foundation" and the hymn deeply stirred the religious and visionary former President, who was moved to make one of his famous utterances.

"I have seen fools resist Providence before, and I have seen their destruction, and it will come upon these again, utter destruction and contempt; that we shall prevail is as sure as that God reigns."

The first part of the Wilsonian prophecy has been borne out in a great depression and another global war, much more destructive than the first. We may be sure that the second part will be fulfilled in time but at this moment we seem as far as ever from realizing the promise that a new order of justice and security will prevail on earth. Indeed, the rising threat of a third world war is evidence that we already have taken the wrong road again.

As we read history, Providence intended that the United States should lead the nations into a world union, an international government based on law. We responded by shunning the League of Nations. We now are trying to make up for that disastrous mistake in a United Nations hedged in with the veto and other devices to preserve full national sovereignty. The record of three decades is that such a limited world organization will not produce permanent peace.

It is too early to even guess when the American people will demand that this nation fully assume the role for which it is destined. Meanwhile, it must be admitted regretfully that neither President Truman's party nor its political opposition is providing the plans or the leadership which will enable this country to carry out the grand Wilsonian design.

Europe's Man Of Good Will

COUNT FOLKE BERNADOTTE of Sweden, selected by the United Nations to mediate between the warring Arabs and Jews, is a man of good will who inspires new hope in the United Nations and justifies faith in humanity.

A nephew of King Gustav of Sweden, the 53-year-old count stands on ground above nationalistic, imperialistic and class interests. He is, in fact, a Christian citizen of the world, whose words and deeds have earned international respect and admiration for his wisdom and integrity. He lives by the philosophy expressed in a motto which he coined: "We do not live to be happy ourselves, but to make others happy."

Bernadotte's qualifications for his new role have been demonstrated on other occasions. In the Second World War, he was one of the few men who were able to talk to leaders of both sides and was entrusted with important secrets. He took an active part in effecting an exchange of prisoners between Germany and Allies, making dangerous trips into the Reich at a time when it was being heavily bombed by the Allies.

The emergence of this man of peace as mediator for the United Nations is indeed an encouraging sign. He was selected by the Big Five powers, America, Britain, Russia, France and China, at the request of the United Nations. That step constituted a powerful demonstration of unity and determination on the part of the leading nations to effect a compromise and restore peace in the Holy Land.

Since the Count took up his new task, there has been increasing speculation on the possibility of a bargain between the Jews and the Arabs. If he is able to effect an agreement to a four-week armistice, the hope for a settlement securing permanent peace in Palestine will be bright. Success in his venture would represent a dramatic and perhaps epochal triumph for the forces of reason and good will. It would end the danger of a world conflagration spreading from the war in the Holy Land, save countless lives, preserve the sacred shrines of Jerusalem from destruction and restore the world prestige of UN.

To good Count Folke Bernadotte has been given the mission which may show this war-weary world the way to a happier day.

Control For America's Voice

CONGRESS may be satisfied with the new arrangement for the State Department's "Voice of America" program but we are not happy about it.

Under rigid controls established by the Department, we are assured there will be no more broadcasts which might offend Congress. It is announced that the Department itself will write and control all official news and commentary beamed to foreign listeners. Entertainment and special features such as the travelogue series in Spanish for Latin America, which so upset some of our Congressmen, "will be tailored to official specifications and carefully reviewed."

We don't like the idea of propaganda in any form and our distaste for controlled news, commentaries, entertainment and special features isn't lessened by the assurance that the informational and cultural offerings are tailored to the Congressional standard.

The world ideological conflict provoked by the Communist challenge makes it necessary that steps be taken to counteract the distortions of Soviet Russian propaganda. However, a democracy loses more than it gains when it adopts totalitarian methods to engage in this competition. We hope that our Voice of America directors will abandon all ideas of matching the Communists in propaganda and confine their programs to regular news broadcasts, as Britain has done for years.

As the *Asheville Citizen* puts it, "the story of America is a story of facts" and "nothing beats the simple truth told without any fancy garnishing."

From The Washington Post

Women In Politics

THE virtual naming of Representative Mary T. Norton as chairman of the credentials committee of the Democratic National Convention means that women have made a little more progress toward crashing "smoke-filled room" councils. This is the first time a woman has been made top chairman of a convention committee, though women served in 1944 as cochairmen.

Women's recognition in convention politics—and all other kinds—has been small-like during the 28 years they have had the vote. Many States still do not give them 50-50 representation as delegates to national conventions. Though there are now one and a half million more women of voting age than men, the proportion of women in Congress and even in State and city legislative bodies is very small. Only seven women in addition to the seven who now hold seats are running for Congress in the present campaign, an eighth having been defeated in the primary. And women political leaders have seldom if ever exerted much influence in inner party caucuses.

One reason for this is that women are not as politically active at the grassroots as are men. The National Education Association recently released a simple study showing that, in 1940, 75 out of every 100 men voted, but only 61 out of every 100 women. And when it comes to working in parties, polling precincts, running for office, women trail men at much greater length. They are more inclued to work for welfare goals through their clubs. Representative Norton, who has been in politics 24 years, decries this, insisting that the more direct way to their ends is through their party organizations. Probably women shy away from this because they possess, more than do men, the American social prejudice against "going into politics." Polls show women find it harder to go places in man-run political organizations than in their own clubs.

Yet women have a great stake in politics because of their concern for their children's future, and because they own about 70 per cent of private wealth. They have more leisure than men to work at politics. And, according to aptitude experts, politics should be their natural field because they are specially endowed with insight, tact and human understanding. What is chiefly lacking is an interest in public affairs. This, it might be remembered, came to the women of Europe the hard way.

June 15 Is Deadline

Your Estimated Income Tax

By JAMES MARLOW
Associated Press Staff Writer

WASHINGTON

BY June 15 between 5,000,000 and 7,000,000 people must do something about their 1948 estimated income tax. That deadline—because of the new 1948 tax cut—means:

1. Some won't have to pay any further estimated tax. But they must show why by filling out form 1040-ES and sending it to their internal revenue collector.

2. Some will pay less estimated tax than they figured they'd have to earlier in the year. They, too, must show why by revising their 1948 estimate downward on form 1040-ES.

Here is the story:

By last March 15 those 5,000,000 to 7,000,000 people had to start making the first of four payments on their 1948 estimated income tax. The other payments are due June 15, Sept. 15 and Jan 15, 1949.

You had to do this if:

1. No tax was to be withheld from your 1948 income. That applies to lawyers, doctors, and landlords for example. It meant paying in four equal installments the full tax you estimated you'd owe for 1948.

2. Some, but not all, of your 1948 tax was to be withheld from your income this year. This meant paying, in four equal installments, the difference between the tax withheld from your income and the full tax you estimated you'd owe for 1948.

But, since March 15 when the first estimated tax payment was made, the new 1948 tax cut has gone into effect. So—like people who paid an estimated tax will have to make either no further payments, or reduced payments, depending on the size of their income.

* * *

IF you want to find out whether you pay less or no more at all, look on the back of form 1040-ES. For those making under $5,000, there's a table. You can find your tax there. For those making over $5,000, there's a step-by-step way of figuring your tax on the back of the form.

Here are some points to keep in mind:

The under-$5,000 people get a 10 per cent cent deduction—not to exceed $500—for contributions—but it's already figured in the table. You don't have to worry about it.

But for the over-$5,000 people—

Under the old law anyone with income over $5,000 automatically could take a $500 deduction without itemizing any of it. Now those over-$5,000 people automatically—and without itemizing—can take a 10 per cent deduction on their income up to $10,000. For example: A person with a gross $8,000 income, could take an $800 deduction. A person with a $10,000 income, automatically and without itemizing, can take off a $1,000 deduction. But anyone who wants to take more than a $1,000 deduction, must itemize, no matter how big his income.

Under the old law, except in community property states, a husband or wife could not claim part of the other's income in making a tax return. Now, under the new law, husbands and wives everywhere can do that. The purpose of this part of the new law is to help reduce married couples' taxes. So if you have to do something about your estimated tax by June 15, you may reduce your tax or save yourself from any further tax by filing a joint revised estimated tax return with your wife, letting her claim half your 1948 income.

The way you do it is explained on the back of form 1040-ES).

EVERY taxpayer, no matter what his age, now gets a personal exemption of $600 for himself, $600 for his wife, and $600 for each dependent. It used to be an exemption of only $500 for each. If you're 65 or will be in 1948, you get an extra $600 exemption. So does your wife if she's that old. Example: A couple, both 65, get a total exemption of $2,400—$1,200 for him, $1,200 for her.

People's Platform

Saving Lives In Charlotte

Editors, THE NEWS:

A HUMAN life is worth saving. With this we will agree. Let's all wake up to the fact that Charlotte and surrounding area is about to lose a wonderful organization that is so well-staffed and equipped to save lives . . . maybe out very own.

The Charlotte Life Saving Crew Inc., a group of approximately twenty young business and professional men, over a year ago came into existence. Quietly, they have worked very unselfishly, at all hours, saving lives, administering first aid and teaching safety and first aid.

This is a volunteer non-profit, non-salaried, organization, whose services are available 24 hours every day, to every one, regardless, of race, color or creed. It has been heartily endorsed by the Mecklenburg County Medical Society.

The Charlotte crew is patterned after the Roanoke, Va., crew, which was established in 1928 and is still functioning. During this period of years the Roanoke crew has saved approximately 300 lives. Should this not give us definite proof that such an organization is greatly needed here?

It's up to you and you and you. The Charlotte Life Saving Crew needs $5,000, badly, right now, which will have to be raised from voluntary contributions by our citizens and business firms . . . meaning you. This amount is needed to meet payments, now delinquent, from creditors who furnished the equipment necessary to equip this crew.

Won't you give today? Just any amount will help. Mail your contribution now to P. O. Box 6002, Charlotte, N. C.

—L. P. LEWIS.

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

Alabama's alphabetical position gives it first place in the nominating rollcall at Philadelphia—a circumstance of preferential treatment not conducive to Mr. Truman's peace of mind. Mr. Truman not being a Favorite Son, Favorite Cousin, or Favorite In-Law of Alabama Democrats. In fact, were it possible, Truman might revise the whole nomenclature of collective-Dixie and vote it, if it must vote, in the alphabetical order designated Zolid Zouth.
—Nashville Banner.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Congress Blind To Illiteracy Threat

WASHINGTON

THE census takers have unearthed the shocking fact that 10 million American adults cannot read or write.

Yet Congress, willing to spend billions to train young men for war, has bottled up the $300,000,000 aid-to-education bill to train young men and women for peace.

Georgia's Democratic Congressman Don Wheeler has been begging for 218 of his House mates to sign a discharge petition to force the Federal-aid-to-education bill out of the Education & Labor Committee where it has been sulted away by the GOP leadership. But he has not been able to scrape up more than 43 names!

Chief obstacles are Speaker Joe Martin and majority leader Charlie Halleck, who have ordered the committee not to let the bill out. Also, they have passed word to Republicans not to sign any discharge petition. So far only one Republican, Clifford Case of New Jersey, has defied these orders—North Dakota's Bill Lemke, who joined with 42 Democrats already on the petition.

Meanwhile, Minority Leader Sam Rayburn also has quietly blocked the petition and has succeeded in keeping Texas and Virginia Democrats from signing.

Less Literate Than Russia?

MEANWHILE, literacy in the United States has sunk to an alarming low—probably lower than Russia. What the public doesn't realize is that the nation's 10 million illiterates over 20 years old are not Southern Negroes, but many of them are native-born whites. Official statistics show that 4,200,000 adults, who cannot read or write, are whites born in this country. Another 3,100,000 are foreign born whites, whereas only 2,700,000 are Negroes. The remaining handful are Latin Americans and Orientals by birth.

Furthermore, illiteracy isn't found exclusively in the South. For example, more than one million illiterate adults live in New York, another 696,000 in Pennsylvania and 462,000 in Illinois. However, 36 per cent of Louisiana's total population cannot read or write.

During the war, the draft boards weeded out 350,000 young men who could only sign their name with an X. Of these, 150,000 were physically fit to serve in the Army but were disqualified because of lack of education—a loss to the country of approximately fifteen divisions.

Yet House leaders are not willing to spend a few million dollars on a bill already passed by the Senate and which would again make America the most enlightened nation in the world.

State Depts. Feeble Voice

NOT in years has Congress been caught with a better case of being wrong than in the current squabble over the Voice of America. Yet the diplomats haven't been able to make the public realize that Congress, not the diplomats, are to blame.

Last year Republican economizers cut the Voice of America's appropriation to ribbons, told the State Department to broadcast through private radio channels. The State Department obeyed. It farmed out Latin American radio programs to the National Broadcasting Co., which then proceeded to concoct a series of slipshod programs that insulted Senators.

Now the Senators are mad because the State Department carried out their orders. They are also mad because the State Department didn't have enough money to hire men to monitor the daily deluge of words which NBC and other private radio networks sent abroad.

But the State Department is so meek, mild and inarticulate that it hasn't told the Congressmen in decisive, reverberating language that it was all their own fault.

NOTE—The more you see of the State Department's propaganda operation, the better Elmer Davis' job looks. Davis was wartime head of the Office of Information, got kicked around by Congress, did an effective job just the same.

Joseph Alsop

GOP Form Sheet

WASHINGTON

IT is early yet for the boldest to begin forecasting the pattern of events that will unroll amid the bustle, jubilation and confusion of the Republican Convention at Philadelphia. This, therefore, is emphatically not a forecast. It is, rather, a report on what two or three of the most highly placed Republican professionals are inclined to think may happen, after peering into the chipped old crystal balls, thumbing through their almanacs watching the flight of birds, and using other expedients to pierce the dark mystery of the future.

On the first ballot, these wiseacres think that Governor Thomas E Dewey will show 300 plus, Senator Robert A. Taft 200 plus and Governor Harold E. Stassen 150 plus, while Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg will get the 43 Michigan votes and a handful from enthusiasts elsewhere. This is a balance of strength pressaging a deadlock, in a convention which requires 548 votes to nominate.

The second ballot will bring out the aces in the hole, which the stronger candidates, Dewey and Taft, will have carefully concealed with a view to impressing everyone with their irresistible strength. (A candidate who did not hide his aces in the hole would be regarded as a man who did not play our curious political game according to its curious rules.) When the aces have been triumphantly slapped upon the table, Dewey is expected to rise to about 370 plus, while Taft goes to 250 or above. After his recent misfortune, Stassen's aces are not considered to be numerous, despite the game fight he is making.

TAFT'S PEAK

The Taft strength is thought likely to come near its peak on the second ballot. ("Taft-backed among the Republicans are already developing an ominous tendency to speak lovingly of Speaker Joseph W. Martin and longingly of Senator John Bricker. Either of these, being far more biddable, would suit the Republican conservatives better than Taft in any case.)

On the third ballot, local patriotism would weaken; the desertion of the favorite sons will begin. Dewey is credited with enough attraction for this group of delegates to bring him at least to 450 and perhaps as high as 470 votes somewhere between 80 and 100 short of nomination. Meanwhile, the swing to Vandenberg should also begin on the third ballot. It is even possible that Stassen, who will most likely stop if he cannot be nominated himself, will quickly accept elimination and take his place in the Vandenberg camp.

The beginning of the swing to Vandenberg will provide the test for Dewey. Dewey will then somehow have to obtain the support of a couple of big delegations, in order to go over. It will not be easy. In Pennsylvania, with 73 votes, Governor James Duff favors Vandenberg. So does Governor Driscoll in New Jersey, with 35 votes. In Illinois, with 56 votes, Col. Robert R. McCormick will be trying to nominate Senator Taft or the next best thing, although Governor Dwight Green will be looking for plums to pluck from the pie. Again in California, with 53 votes, Governor Earl Warren is a candidate himself.

DEWEY'S GRASP

None the less, Dewey will have a powerful appeal. In the words of one of the wiseacres whose analysis this is, "People like making a President next best to being a President." Because he will be so near to nomination, Dewey can tell the chieftains of the big delegations that they have only to lift their fingers to put him over. A change of heart by Governor Duff, or Governor Warren, should alone be enough to put the great prize in Dewey's eager grasp. His chances are not to be discounted.

The fourth ballot should show whether Dewey has gone over. If he has not made it, this will be the beginning of the all-out Vandenberg phase of the convention, while the name of Speaker Martin is also loudly shouted by the kind of Republicans who favors the little man from Massachusetts. Vandenberg has three immense assets. First, he is without doubt the most eminent single figure the Republican party boasts. Second, he is everybody else's second choice, after themselves. And third, although he has no organization, and is still driving his supporters almost wild by firmly not conniving, he has some very shrewd operators who want him nominated.

If Dewey does not go over, the odds on Vandenberg will be very heavy indeed.

Marquis Childs

Campaign Expenses

WASHINGTON

IN a Presidential election year it was certain that the opposition would make capital out of President Truman's "non-political" tour of the country. The taxpayer, so the accusation goes, is paying for what is actually a campaign trip.

That is essentially true. But when the facts are looked at in relation to the whole picture of political spending, the trip is seen to be a small item of the cost that, in the final analysis, is dumped on the long-suffering John Q. Public.

To begin with, the bill for the President's tour will be comparatively small. The total cost for the President, his aides and the stenographers who do typing and mimeographing of speeches and statements, will be under $15,000. The military and naval aides have their own travel allowances, and the cost to the Secret Service is paid out of Treasury appropriations.

What the public seldom realizes, seeing a fifteen or sixteen-car Presidential train, is that the newspaper and radio correspondents and the technicians who accompany them always pay their own expenses. Thus, the 40 or more correspondents who make the circuit will pay approximately $500 each in railroad fare alone.

NOT ENOUGH

The President will pay for his share out of the allowance of $30,000 a year for travel and entertainment included in the White House budget. Although this allowance has been increased to $40,000 for the coming fiscal year, it is still inadequate, being less than the amount allowed the British Ambassador in Washington for those purposes.

Since the cost of the trip to the President is so small, it would have seemed far sounder political judgment to charge it up to the Democratic National Committee. If that had been done, the President might have said that, while this was essentially an inspection tour, he was bending over backward in a political year and was not putting it on the White House budget.

Under those circumstances, Mr. A significant fact, of course, is that the Democratic treasury is nearly empty. Mr. Truman's chances of re-election seem almost nil. Of the 50 Washington correspondents polled by Editor & Publisher, only one predicted Truman's "non-political" tour of the country. The taxpayer, so the accusation goes, is paying for what is actually a campaign trip.

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