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'Excellent' Chance For Peace

PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S cheering word that he regards the chances for world peace as "excellent" strikes our ears as something more than whistling in the dark. It is one of numerous signs and portents of recent days indicating that the United States and Russia have come to a clearer realization of the fact that neither can move the other out of either Berlin or Germany without a war which neither side wants and for which neither is prepared.

There still is no guarantee that a settlement of our differences over Berlin and other points will follow immediately or soon. However, the change in the picture of the last week conditions have been created for a new diplomatic approach with a more reasonable atmosphere prevailing on both sides.

The President's statement underscores the declaration Wednesday by Secretary of State Marshall that this country will not consider resort to force in the Berlin crisis until all measures of peaceful negotiation have been exhausted. Mr. Marshall's calm but firm words put a muffler on belligerent talk that has been emanating from some American circles, including United States officers and officials in Germany.

This turn toward moderation on the Western side obviously has been influenced greatly by evidence that our European allies feel they are too weak, too exposed to Russian punishment, to make a warlike stand at this time. The good sense of this concern is emphasized by the fall of the French Cabinet this week over the military and political situation in the Balkans, and the assassination of the Communist leader, Togliatti. The hesitancy of Britain, France and the Benelux countries is heightened by the absence of positive military aid from the United States and the unorganized state of our own preparedness program.

There now is substantial reason to hope that developments of the last week have

cleared the air sufficiently for a fresh start on negotiations which will result in lifting of the Soviet blockade in Berlin, to be followed by more purposeful exchanges on the whole question of Germany. Our costly experience with this blockade makes it unlikely that we will want to see it resumed, and that attitude should stimulate efforts to work out an acceptable settlement with the Russians.

Indeed, as the situation now stands, our whole experiment in setting up a separate German state in Western Germany appears to have been a failure. Neither our European Allies nor the German people themselves like this American-sponsored plan, and it was our decision to go ahead with the partition program that brought about Russian retaliation in the form of the Berlin blockade.

Although we have made it clear that in future negotiations we will yield nothing which would permit the Communists to transform Germany into a Soviet state, all the developments and facts brought to light in the Berlin crisis show that there can be nothing but chaos in Germany without a working agreement between the officers and officials of the United States and the United States.

For the moment at least, this checkmating of our effort to rebuild Germany without Russian participation rates as an important Soviet victory. In the so-called "cold war," such an outcome would intensify rather than ease international tension but for the fact that Russia now appears to be in no position to press her victory to extremes. Russia is having troubles of her own with her satellites behind the Iron Curtain and her influence in the West has declined sharply since the crushing Communist defeat in the Italian elections last April.

Events have demonstrated impressively that the two great power rivals have overestimated themselves and created an excellent opportunity for diplomacy.

Truman On The Price Spiral

THAT astute calculator of political trends and prospects, Jim Farley, now is convinced for the first time that Harry S. Truman has a real chance of being elected President in November. Farley, the former Postmaster General, believes that the Democratic nominee improved his case with the voters considerably by calling the special session of Congress to get final action on price controls before the special session and other measures that appeal to a wide assortment of citizens.

Since observing the upward bounding of the price spiral in the last few days, we are inclined to agree with Jim. Inflation is back in the main picture again and inflation is the one issue before the special session on which the Republicans now appear to be at a large disadvantage.

Mr. Truman already has announced that a program for price and wage controls and rationing will be No. 1 on his list of recommendations to Congress. The special session has let it be known that economic control is the one thing for sure that this Congress will not present the voters.

Inflation is working for President Truman. It is the one thing that has created considerable part of his popularity, and wages and profits have provided the full explanation that historically makes the

electorate reluctant to vote for a change of Administrations. On the other hand, the growing price pinch makes the housewife and the man of limited means very irritable with politicians who can crank up a thousand reasons why price controls are undesirable but can't produce one idea for an alternative. They may not look on Truman's program as a cure for their pain but certainly it will strike them as better than nothing.

The GOP won the 1946 Congressional elections with the chant that OPA was irksome, inefficient, undemocratic, uneconomical, etc. The same arguments are being going to make much appeal to a people who realize painfully that the cost of living index has moved up from 133 to 177 since mid-1946. When Germany was lifted, and has started on another long climb.

It has become a widespread habit to speak of Mr. Truman's ineptness and for some time he appeared particularly futile when he could not repeatedly for price controls before a Congress, a party and a people that were not listening while the dollars rolled in. Perhaps this dazed mood will continue until the prosperity bubble bursts, but the latest round of wage and price hikes leads us to wonder if the Republicans haven't discounted Mr. Truman and inflation too long.

Dream Of A Winter Day

IT WAS a cold, cold day in January. In the middle of our family cluster with a blanket tucked around our legs, a sweater and a smoking jacket not enough to keep out the chill wisps of icy air that sprang from some mysterious source in the kitchen. We propped our feet on the radiator and complained loudly about the furnace, although it was blazing away merrily down in the basement.

Outside a gray rain pelted down, alternating with little crystals of ice. The rain drove a crust over the patches of snow and slush that lay in the streets.

We put down our books and looked through the misty windows at the bare, glossy silhouettes of trees, snow resting where the branches left the trunks. A deathly

wind slapped the rain onto the trees and we imagined for just a moment that it was Summer. Summer with birds sitting quietly in the sunlight among the thick green leafiness of the elms and the oaks.

Some red faced children ran by on the sidewalk, bundled in heavy wool jackets, sweaters and toboggans, sliding on the patches of ice, waving their arms to keep warm. Behind them a woman bunched quietly in the wind, walking carefully. Winter will never do, we told ourselves. Summer is the only time of the year. We don't care how hot it gets, we told ourselves. A hundred degrees. Anything is better than freezing to death.

Guess how we feel today.

From The Christian Science Monitor

New Name For An Old Foe

WE REFUSE. Crazy Horse it was and Crazy Horse it remains, though a thousand students of Indian history should tell us that the proper translation of the name is "Red Cloud." It may be that a rose by any other name would smell as sweet. But Crazy Horse by any other name would be colorless—just another colleague of Sitting Bull in the Little Big Horn Battle.

That was the battle which called Custer's Last Stand, but the emphasis has shifted from the "hero" to the "villain." The "villain" is the Indian's point of view. And so we have a gigantic Crazy Horse Memorial to be cut out of the Black Hills of South Dakota, and we have the lines from Archibald MacLeish's poem:

"You ask why he should fight? It is his country."
But the Tongue there were no herds to be hunting.

He cut the knots of the tails and he led them in:

He cried out, "I am Crazy Horse! Do not touch me!"

There were many soldiers between him and the sun glinting . . .

Yes, it is all in the name—the pathos and the desperation, the tragedy and the savagery, the hint of hope.

His heart would be big with the love he had for that country.

And all the game he had seen and the "villain" from the "hero" to the "villain."

Call it history; call it myth. The fact is that America is richer for Crazy Horse's "spirited" defiance.

Not all of us can speak disparagingly of the "hero" and "villain" days when we remember that the old swimming hole and the nearby water catchment went with them—Greenleaf (S. C. Piedmont).

"What Does Brownell Mean By A 'Rump Session'?"



ABC On The Draft

Delays in Selective Service

By JAMES MARLOW
Associated Press Staff Writer
WASHINGTON

THEXED up about the draft? Here are some answers to questions you may have in mind.

To begin with, plenty of points about the draft still are vague, and direct answers can't be given right now to all questions. That's because selective service still is in the process of getting organized.

For example, 4,000 draft boards—well, at least 3,000 more than are now in existence—will be set up by September 1. But, first, all the state directors have to be appointed. Then the members of the draft boards have to be appointed. And they have to find office space to set up shop. All this is expected to be finished by the end of August because—men over 18 and under 26 must start registering with those boards Aug. 30 and the registration ends Sept. 18.

The 25-year-old men start registering first.

(There'll be continuing registration after Sept. 18, of course, for youths as they reach 18. About 100,000 reach 18 every month. . . .)

UNDER the law, as passed by Congress, actual drafting of men must start before Sept. 22. But because of various delays—such as time needed for classifying the registrants, and so on—the draft probably won't start before Oct. 1 at the earliest.

Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey suggested vaguely that maybe the first men to be drafted will be those 25-year-olds.

(If the Army wants to get the 25-year-olds off the list of service by 21 months, they can wait until they reach 26 and are thus over the draft age.)

But that idea of Hershey's at this moment is very vague indeed. Hershey at this point frankly says he doesn't know whether the 25-year-olds will be called first.

In case you have doubts about it, keep this in mind:

All war veterans under 26 must register between Aug. 30 and Sept. 18. That doesn't mean they'll be drafted. But they must register. So must all members of the armed forces. And they can be under 26—unless they're on active duty.

Another thing that hasn't been worked out yet in detail is the matter of deferments. Some kinds of deferments—such as youths studying for the ministry—are clearly stated in the draft law. But there are various kinds of deferment still to be worked out under interpreted by selective service.

UNDER the draft law only men over 19 and under 26 can be drafted. When they are drafted, their length of service is 21 months. And they can be under 26—unless they're on active duty.

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Marquis Childs

Unhappy Position

THE arrest of top officials of the Communist Party in the United States puts Harry Wallace in a most unhappy position. On the eve of the convention of this Party here, he is being forced to make a decision that he has long sought to evade.

It is a decision, he has no choice. He has gone so far with the Party managers who operate in the fringes of Communism, that only one course would seem to be open to him. He must resign as cause of the Communists who are raising the cry of persecution.

William F. Foster and the others have scarcely been arrested when the national committee of the Communist Party issued a two-page statement. The significant passage of that statement said:

"Terrified of the growing support for the Wallace-Taylor ticket, the Democratic high command is seeking to brand the new party as 'criminal' because among the opponents of Wallace are two well-known party and their candidates are the Communists, who also join a few other progressives in supporting the new people's anti-war party."

The significance lies in the identification of interest between the Communist Party and the Wallace-Taylor ticket. From the beginning this same strategy has been clear. The Communist Party has been trying to initiate the Wallace movement and every effort has been made to build up the relationship.

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