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PANDIT NEHRU'S VISIT

PANDIT Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India and one of the world's most popular and respected individuals, is in this country on what he calls a "good will tour." The attention that is being accorded him in Washington is proof that his good will is fully reciprocated.

While he is here, it is a good time to consider anew our policy in Asia and to evaluate the stabilizing role a democratic and prosperous India can play in the troubled affairs of that continent.

Our policy of bolstering the Koumintang in China has failed miserably. The wisdom of building up Japan as the bulwark of the East and a buffer against Communism is questionable.

In teeming India — alone in Asia — we find a governing class with an outlook and liberal ideas substantially like those of the Anglo-Saxon countries. Pandit Nehru is the most Westernized of Indian leaders. His tutors were English and his education was at Harrow and Cambridge.

A center of Asia, a land of immense resources, India's problem is underdevelopment. Industrialization has been first among the Government's postwar goals. The Prime Minister, who drew much of his early inspiration from Marxist writing, was originally cool to foreign assistance for India's industrialization, but lately he has been more amenable to private foreign investment. In any respect, his government is bitterly anti-Communistic.

President Truman's Point Four, greatly expanded, and dollar loans through the World Bank for machinery — these, along with the more favorable atmosphere for foreign investors, may be part of the answer.

Yet big problems remain — tension between India and Pakistan, India's huge sterling balance with Britain, and the immediate problem of feeding, housing and educating India's millions.

It would appear that the soundest thing we can do in Asia at the moment is to concentrate on helping India overcome its difficulties and complete the transition from a former British colony to its certain role as the leading nation of the East.

Pandit Nehru's visit will focus attention on that goal.

UNDEMOCRATIC VICES

WE can't for the life of us get very excited about the "revelation" that a goodly number of slot machines bearing $100 Federal tax stamps are gobbling up pocket change in North Carolina private clubs.

Of course they are. Anyone who has been around at all knows that. There are also bars in some of the clubs, and poker games going on in private homes, and bets placed on the nags, and wagers laid on the football parlay sheets.

There is nothing immoral about slot machines. They are simply not covered by the moral codes of most people. Nothing but a sense of caution and an appreciation of the odds against him will steer the average gamester away from them.

Still, they're specifically forbidden by a State law which makes no distinction between their operation in public or behind closed doors. If the law lacked public sympathy and support, it might well be repealed. But few things will stir up the people like wide-open operation of the "one-armed bandits" — perhaps because such a system generally results, as does wide-open bootlegging, in fat profits for unsavory characters who, turned wealthy, like to throw their weight around in political and law enforcement circles.

So, as long as we have the law on the books, it ought to be enforced. There are several valid reasons, not the least of which is that it's plumb undemocratic to reserve for private club habitues the little vices that others would enjoy, too.

NEGRO SCHOOL NEEDS

GOVERNOR SCOTT put his finger squarely on the greatest single North Carolina school deficiency when he told a group of educators this week that the State needs better facilities for Negro school children.

It has been said before; it needs to be said over and over until our Negro schools are brought up to standard.

Ever since the Education Commission report of last year showed how the local boards have discriminated against Negro schools in the allocation of building funds, the State's attention has been focused on the problem.

The State Board of Education, using the authority granted to it by the Legislature, has sought to allocate the funds from the $25 surplus on an equitable basis, and will do the same thing with the $25 million from new school bonds, when they are marketed.

For instance, the board allocated $1,087,000 for school projects at its last meeting, $508,000 or nearly half of which was for such Negro school projects as a new $90,000 building in Carteret County, a big new Negro consolidated school in Currituck, a new $112,000 building in Gates, two projects in Lee County totaling $81,000, and two new buildings in Wake County totaling $187,000.

In addition to allocating State money, the Board of Education has to approve local projects paid for with local money. And it is the opinion of Dr. Clyde Erwin, superintendent of public instruction, that local school boards are "becoming acutely conscious" of the Negro school needs, and are spending their money on a fair proportionate basis between the races. Says Dr. Erwin:

"As a general statement, I would say that through the local and State effort in the next few years we will eliminate a large number of the small, inefficient Negro schools in North Carolina and replace them with modern facilities. We are determined as a matter of conscience to do that."

North Carolina has many reasons to be proud of its equalization of State funds for teacher salaries, school buses, and textbooks from the State Treasury. When we reach the point that local school boards are just as firmly wedded to the principle of equal treatment, our conscience can rest.

HOSPITAL FOR ALCOHOLICS

ONE of the most meritorious projects to come out of the State Legislature in many a year — a new hospital for alcoholics at Camp Butner — is finally beginning to gather momentum after several months of preliminary study.

On Friday of this week a special committee will meet in Raleigh to work out plans for the unit and for its method of operation. Already the encouraging word has gone out that the committee is considering a non-medical type of building with no bars on the windows and no guards around. Patients would look after their own rooms and plan their own activities, according to the Raleigh *News & Observer*.

The 1949 General Assembly made available for the project the sum of $300,000 after a little gentle pressure by leaders of Alcoholics Anonymous and other persons interested in better treatment facilities for alcoholics. The amount is believed to be adequate while the enterprise is still in somewhat of an experimental stage.

It has long been apparent that our mental institutions are not the proper places for alcoholics. They have been used simply because there was no other place.

The proposed hospital at Butner offers the brightest hopes yet that North Carolina will be able to forge ahead in the solution of a problem which is nationwide in scope.

From The Richmond Times-Dispatch

ON SMOKING IN BED

FOR years a man in Nashville, Tenn., sprinkled his bed with water every night, explaining to neighbors that he liked to "water it down" to reduce the fire hazard. Last Monday night his house burned to the ground, but the chances are the flames didn't start in the bed.

The Richmond committee promoting Fire Prevention Week, October 9-15, probably doesn't recommend sprinkling your bed with water before retiring. But it does most earnestly urge Richmonders to survey their homes to check up on possible fire hazards.

Eleven thousand Americans die in fires each year, and smoking in bed accounts for the largest loss of life. In fact, the National Board of Fire Underwriters estimates that nearly a-third of all fires are caused by careless smokers. The most dangerous age for fire is from 1 to 5; more than 2,000 children in that age group are killed by fires, burns or scalds annually. If you have children in the home and if you leave matches within their reach, you are inviting disaster.

Fibber McGee's overstuffed closet is funny on the radio, but piled up clothes, magazines and other household articles in a closet, attic or basement make excellent fuel for a carelessly dropped match or cigarette or for a spark from a furnace or defective wiring.

Inflammable liquids cause many home fires. A trailer parked just off Petersburg Pike caught fire because a bottle of cigarette lighter fluid was left in the inside window sill. The sun shining through the window caused the bottle to burst and the fluid ran down into the pilot light of a stove. The trailer was shut up so tight that the fire went out of its own accord from lack of oxygen, but that wouldn't happen in your home.

There are 800,000 full-time municipal fire fighters in the United States, but if there were 10 times that many they couldn't prevent fires caused by carelessness. Seven hundred dwellings are destroyed or damaged by fire every day. Don't let your home be one of them.

Joseph & Stewart Alsop

Hugger-Mugger Farm Politics

WASHINGTON

IF IT is to succeed at all, President Truman's Welfare State will first of all demand exceedingly sober, clear-headed and practical political leadership. Without some self-discipline, the Government cannot safely venture into almost every sphere of the national life. In this absolutely fundamental respect, the story of the agriculture bill is far from re-assuring.

This enormous measure has not attracted very impassioned attention, except among the farmers themselves. Yet it will cost the nation a number of hundreds of millions of even billions of dollars that even its sponsors have not tried to estimate. It is exactly the kind of measure by which an increasingly planned national economy will stand or fail and to all intents, it has "growed" just as haphazardly as Topsy.

There was nothing haphazard, to be sure, about the original bill proposed by Secretary of Agriculture Brannan. Despite the hysterical attacks upon it, there was really a great deal to be said for the Brannan bill. It accepted the inevitability of subsidizing American agriculture, which has now become habitual with both political parties. At the same time, it provided for the consumers consuming the surpluses, which is surely preferable to burning them or stuffing them in cellars. And it faced up to the central fact, that no economic activity can be indefinitely subsidized by the state, without being submitted to rather strict state control.

After all, if anyone going into the oyster shell industry was to be guaranteed an annual profit of $10,000, three-quarters of the country would shortly be engaged in oyster shell production, if production quotas were not fixed. This is the kind of truth that is not always apparent, however, to farm organizations. Except for the left-wing Farmers' Union, Brannan was therefore not supported by any of the powers of the farm lobby; and the powerful Farm Bureau Federation actually led the envenomed attack upon him.

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SINCE Brannan had also made the remarkably foolish mistake of failing to consult any of the Congressional farm leaders, the Brannan bill was shortly sunk without trace. After considerable comedy, the House passed the Gore bill, guaranteeing the farmers a flat 90 per cent of the mythical parity, which simply meant promising particularly large and entirely rigid farm subsidies. The Gore bill made no mention of controls. Thus the farmers were to be stimulated to over-produce by high, rigidly guaranteed prices, with no further restrictions than the controls of the old 1938 farm law.

In the Senate, Secretary Brannan's predecessor, Senator Clinton Anderson of New Mexico, then offered still another bill, providing for subsidies on a sliding scale from 75 to 90 per cent parity, according to the conditions of farm production and of the economy. Again no further production controls were included. Senate Majority Leader Scott Lucas none the less got behind the Anderson bill, together with the Administration's other Congressional chieftains. The Anderson bill looked like a moderate compromise, and all seemed to be in order — until the key vote on the amendment by Senator Russell of Georgia, restoring the 90 per cent parity provision of the House bill.

This vote was even, thirty-seven to thirty-seven, which would have killed the amendment. But the amendment was dramatically saved, when Vice-President Barkley cast his ballot for Senator Russell. The immediate results were decidedly bad relations between Senator Lucas and the Vice-President, plus a determined effort by the Administration leaders to get the Russell amendment stricken out again.

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SENATOR LUCAS, presumably acting for President Truman, actively dragooned the faithful into line. Senator Anderson made one or two concessions in his bill, to win a vote here or there. The word "shorn" was removed, for example, from the clauses governing subsidy payments on wool. This means that the packing houses would get such subsidies on the wool that had not been shorn from sheep and lambs sent in for slaughter, and the gift of $6,000,000 to $7,000,000 to the packers won a couple of votes.

By such means, Lucas and Anderson carried the day against the Russell amendment. Then, at this precise moment, President Truman chose to indicate that his own Senate leader had been wrong all the time, and that he too preferred flat 90 per cent parity payments instead of the Anderson sliding scale. No explanation of why the unfortunate Lucas had been permitted to fight for the opposite policy was even hinted at. Nor was such an explanation needed. It was quite clear that the President had rather belatedly decided which scheme was the best politics, and had torpedoed his Majority Leader in order to do what was politically expedient.

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The situation has been so rolled up that any prediction of the outcome has become foolish. One point has already become very clear, however. If the great decisions of the Welfare State are to be taken in this hugger-mugger, politics-and-propaganda-ridden manner, the Welfare State will run into trouble before it is even established.

Quote, Unquote

Possibly it was an old bachelor editor who wrote: "Don't think that every sad-eyed woman has loved and lost—perhaps she got him." —**Pittsburg (Tex.) Gazette.**

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A new weekly newspaper has been started at Yazoo City calling itself "The Democrat". Sage Editor Edgar Harris of the West Point Times Leader is pestirbed about it. He says: "It doesn't explain whether it belongs to the Deep Freeze or the Dixiecratic faction." —**Eupora (Miss.) Webster Progress.**

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A half dozen oysters a day will help keep the doctor away, says the Federal wildlife service. At a little greater expense, prosobly. —**New Orleans (La.) States.**

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Statistics recently released at Washington expose Mississippi at the foot of the national ladder in per capita income. But we are still eating high up on the hog, and both white and black seem to be doing pretty well in spite of the lack of one of the money-earning "leading sixty families." —**Eupora (Miss.) Webster Progress.**

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An automotive invention that is greatly needed is brakes that will automatically get light when the driver does. —**Starkville (Miss.) News.**

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Mr. Ralph Lindsey has purchased a new Cadillac, making about 8 total for Omega and giving somebody a good reason to put up another service station. —**Omega (Ga.) News.**

Marquis Childs

Early Spring

WASHINGTON

ALTHOUGH this is a year with no Congressional election, the race for 1950 has begun so early that in many states it is already past the warm-up stage. The candidates are out peddling their political wares with a fervor rarely seen even in Congressional election years.

This means, of course, that those Senators who came up in 1950 and all the members of the House are more and more unsteady as the session of Congress drags on. If they permit themselves to be tied down here, the opposition back home can get the upper hand.

One of the most interesting situations is in New Hampshire, where the redoubtable Sen. Charles W. Tobey is up for re-election. By his forthrightness and his insistence in digging into messy situations Tobey has offended powerful interests.

The mildest epithet they apply to him is "psalm-singing old so-and-so," a tribute to Tobey's wide knowledge of the Bible. Rural audiences in New Hampshire delight in the way in which he can produce an apt Biblical quotation for almost any occasion.

One of the powerful interests Tobey seems to have offended is his own New Hampshire colleague, Sen. Styles Bridges. Thus far, the only suggested opposition to Tobey in the Republican primary is Wesley Powell, Bridges administrative assistant. Asked about his intentions, Powell replies with: "No comment."

Bridges suspects Tobey of being responsible for the line of inquiry in a Senate investigation which brought to light the fact Bridges is being paid $35,000 a year to serve as trustee for the United Mine Workers pension fund. As a matter of fact, Tobey had nothing to do with it.

The busy Bridges, who has more irons in more fires than almost any other Senator, is reported to be preparing a speech in which he will defend not only his own position but the way in which the John L. Lewis trust fund has been administered. Although the fund has now dipped heavily into the red, the cozy rules of that comfortable club, the Senate, are such that none of Bridges' colleagues is likely to challenge him.

One thing Tobey has hammered away on during the past two years is the Reconstruction Corp. He has brought to light some unsavory deals showing that political influence seems to be increasingly a factor in the RFC's lending.

This has begun to worry influential and alert members of the Administration who are aware of how timid and weak is RFC's board of directors. The pattern set before the war in the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad loan has too often been followed.

That is for a group inside the RFC to push through the approval of the loan application, and then, once it is approved, to turn up on the company's payroll at salaries three and four times what they had been paid by RFC.

The B & O case was the most extraordinary thus far, with a number of RFC insiders scrambling into B & O executive positions. At recent Senate hearings into the RFC, a witness testified that B & O bonds held by the Government agency could not be sold "except at a loss of from $12,000,000 to $35,000,000."

But there have been similar instances on a smaller scale. One is the Lustron Corp., which up to last June had received $27,500,000 from the RFC. Merle Young, an RFC employee with an inside track to the Democratic National Committee, was given an $18,000-a-year job with Lustron.

Since last reported on in this space, Lustron received another $7,000,000 in June, $2,000,000 in July, and $2,000,000 in August. The company, which has a lease on a war surplus plant in Columbus, Ohio, for manufacturing prefabricated houses, is seeking an additional loan of $16,000,000.

Sen. J. William Fulbright of Arkansas introduced a bill to forbid RFC employees taking positions with any company for two years after the company had received a loan. The Senate passed it, but for some curious reason it has been held in a House committee. Fulbright has opposed a measure to double the RFC's lending power on the ground that it would be $6 billions instead of $2.5 billions.

The cynical, the "realists," find Tobey intensely annoying. You have to, they say, allow a little latitude to a man on a Government salary. But if there weren't a few Tobeys, I think we might wake up here one morning and find the dome of the Capitol missing.

Robert C. Ruark

Easy On The Brain

NEW YORK

I AM as sorry as sorry can be that the World Series is over, because now I got to go back to thinking about that heavy stuff again, and I never did have the head for it.

I know people, people just like you and me, who can sit down and rattle off reams about the pound devaluation and sterling block areas and parity in Italian lettuce, just as easy as pie. I know a whole kennel of experts on the atom, and a covey of economists and more experts on military matters than Communism and whither the globe than you can shake a stick at.

For a time I had a fast try at duplicating this omniscience, and never quite got away with it. I read Time and Newsweek and The New York Times and a million dull books about everything from aphids to zebras, and still felt real dumb and awful phony when I laid down the heavy law on the machine.

That's a funny thing, how the typewriter reacts to an operator who is pulling an act. When I am writing something I know about first hand, like merchant ships and stripteasers and baseball and the night life of Sydney, Australia, the mill clicks along as sweet as cash register. When I go global on the stuff I know at arm's length, the keys stick, the ribbons twist, and it all comes out eatonishrdlu the next day.

Baseball was a business, I always thought I knew, and respected as an exact science, and it was always awful easy to write. Baseball made a lot of sense. They rarely changed the rules on you, for one thing. The experts couldn't ever expert it very hard, for the simple reason that no expert, sitting on a bench, could expert a wild pitcher into chipping the corners of the plate, or expert a .215 hitter into belting one out of the park.

At the opposite corner I never felt easy writing football. Football seemed as loose as psychiatry. They changed the rules to fit the situations. It was hard to see what was happening on the field, even on a clear day. Football coaches are chronic liars, as a group; football press agents are worse; referees and the other officials operate by inspiration.

Any member of my firm who has ever seen an expense account submitted by me will know why I cannot profundify on the pound devaluation. As a man who never satisfactorily explained a blown fuse or a gummed-up carburetor, I cry quits on the atom. In three years of more or less hitting it, never once approached comprehension of navigation.

This used to fret me, quite a lot, until I met a newspaper man who couldn't add a column of figures or make a living outside the Government for a college. I met marital experts who couldn't manage their own problems in the dovecote, and all shades of professional advisers who didn't hit their hat size in practice.

So now we are back with baseball. The game, I do believe, was met more enthusiastically by more non - habitual baseball fans than ever before, and for the very good reason that baseball is simple and uncomplicated and reassuring in its basic components. We are a nation of people who confuse easy, and who puzzle easy, and who welcome the non-complex.

You cannot confuse Joe DiMaggio with allegations of Communist infiltration or capitalist tool-ism or conjecture as to Jackie Robinson's batting ability with an ideology. Robinson is a Negro and any ball he hits out of the park sails as far and counts the same as if it were hit by a member of the first white family of Charleston, S. C. Three strikes is out and on four balls you take a walk.

The drama of a series is clear and easy to the brain. DiMaggio plays a bum series, because he is a sick man, still. Then he hits what should be a triple, and is robbed by Duke Snider. So then he hits one into the seats, next trip, and who can argue that one in a Congressional committee?

I believe I know why we all so utterly embraced this series. In a world of woolly and frantic confusion, a series is so easy to understand; is satisfyingly free of the irritants of global double-talk and the uncertainties of remaining alive.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Constructive Criticism Wanted Of Navy

WASHINGTON

THE public now knows what happened when Adm. Arthur Radford testified at an open session of the House Armed Services Committee. But they don't know what happened at the closed-door session which preceded his testimony.

After Adm. Radford read his confidential statement — later repeated in the open session — of gripes against the Air Force and Defense Secretary Louis Johnson, Congressman Paul Kilday of Texas remarked to him:

"Admiral, I am disappointed that you did not come here with a definite statement of what the Navy can do, instead of a criticism of what the Air Force can not do."

"I'm just the leadoff man," replied Radford. "Later on we'll have some witnesses on the affirmative side."

"That's my point," shot back Kilday. "The Navy has chosen to lead off by criticizing the other fellow, instead of telling us what the Navy can do and how much you need in surface ships, submarines and air power."

"It's obvious to me that you want to promote all this discord, which must be of no little comfort to a potential enemy. I'm for ending it right here and now, without letting this committee be used to carry on such bickering at an open hearing."

Secretary of the Navy Matthews didn't open his mouth until after the committee overrode Kilday's protests and voted 9 to 6 to give the admirals an open hearing. Then he remarked to Chairman Carl Vinson of Georgia, who sided with the admirals: "The responsibility is now yours."

"Mr. Secretary," interposed Kilday, "you might as well cancel out your court-martial of Captain Crommelin. He is not promoting discord any longer. This committee has taken over for him after the vote today."

Germany Is Still Nazi

JUST back from Germany, Sen. Lester Hunt of Wyoming warns that it will take an army of educators following up the army of occupation to defeat Nazism in Germany.

"There is no such thing as de-Nasifying a Nazi," the Wyoming Democrat insists.

The only solution, Hunt believes, is to place an American superintendent or principal over every German school and an American president over every German university. "It would cost us less," he promises, "than the first month of World War III."

Free Air Ride

THE Democrats were tipped off that this columnist was checking on what Air Force planes might fly to Kansas City for Bill Boyle's big homecoming jamboree. Possibly this had something to do with the fact that not a single Air Force plane made the trip.

However, a few high officials still got a free ride — in a plush, private plane owned by Phillips Petroleum Co. This plane was put at the disposal of the Democratic National Committee by Phillips' chief lobbyist, R. C. Joplin, and its free passengers included Secretary of Labor Maurice Tobin, U. S. Treasurer Georgia Neese Clark and Assistant Secretary of Commerce Tom Davis. The plane also stopped at St. Louis to pick up Vice-President Barkley who had been courtin'.

After the party, Phillips Petroleum flew Barkley and Tobin back to Washington, then the plane returned to its home base in Oklahoma.

NOTE—The oil companies have been lobbying for control of tidelands oil and against Leland Olds' confirmation to the Federal Power Commission. But if Mr. Joplin was in a mood to lobby, he didn't get a chance with Vice-President Barkley. For the VP slept both ways.

Senator Miller's Vote

THE sudden death of Sen. Bert Miller of Idaho may hold up displaced-persons legislation until next year.

The bill removing religious discrimination from the displaced persons act was supposed to come up for Senate debate this week, but now the Catholic Senators will be expected to attend Senator Miller's funeral in Boise.

Since this is the committee handling the displaced persons bill, it may prevent the bill from reaching the floor at all.

However, there is one thing the Senate ought to know. The evening before Senator Miller died, at one of his last wishes, he told Senator Magnuson of Washington that he wanted to vote for the displaced persons bill. Undoubtedly Senator Miller would have preferred his fellow colleagues stay in Washington and vote to aid thousands of refugees who are still alive, than mourn over him in Idaho.

Japanese Competition

WHILE the State Dept. plans to lower tariffs, a New England manufacturer is getting ready to put the blast on Gen. Douglas MacArthur for encouraging Japanese production of cheap, competitive goods for the American market.

He is Alfred F. Reilly of Providence, R. I., president of Evans Case Co., biggest U. S. producer of cigarette lighters. Reilly will demand a Congressional investigation of MacArthur on the ground that he is using U. S. taxpayers' money to build up Jap industries at the expense of American business and labor.

Reilly will charge that MacArthur has encouraged Jap production of cheap cigarette lighters to a point where American manufacturers are in serious jeopardy.

The Japanese, he says, have made exact models of the Evans, Ronson and other American lighters, using a copper mold, thus saving research, tool and die designing, and other costs American companies have had to pay.

They now plan to go into large-scale production, using inferior materials and cheap labor, unless Congress blows the whistle on MacArthur.