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THE AIR FORCE STORY

IF the spokesmen for the Air Force accomplish nothing else in their day in court, the main objective of the Navy's presentation has been skillfully pinpointed.

The Navy centered its fire on the theory of strategic bombing and the over-emphasis on the B-36 as the chief weapon to deliver the atomic bomb.

Yesterday Air Secretary Stuart Symington denied outright that the Air Force was preparing for atomic bombing of civilian populations (which the Navy had described as "barbaric"). Strategic bombing, said Mr. Symington, would consist mainly of knocking out the enemy's military establishments and production facilities.

Then he set about proving rather convincingly that the B-36 had not been over-emphasized. Actually only four of the 48 or 58 air groups will be B-36's — just 120 planes and 39 in reserve. All the other groups will be made up of different types of planes.

The B-36 groups will take a mere 16.3 per cent of the money for all Air Force planes, and will cost less than 1 1-4 per cent of the defense budget for 1949, 1950 and 1951.

The Navy had called the B-36 a "billion dollar blunder" and argued heatedly that smaller, speedier tactical bombers and fast fighter planes were being neglected. Mr. Symington didn't give any information on these types, but presumably subsequent Air Force spokesmen will fill in the gaps.

In only one respect was Mr. Symington's presentation weak. He scolded the admirals for bringing the inter-service row out into the open. He expressed the belief the hearing would let possible enemies know "how this country would be defended."

Perhaps some of our "possible enemies" — and we can think of only Russia as properly belonging in that category at the moment— will glean some grains of information from the hearing. Even so, it is vastly more important that this inter-service quarreling be aired so that the people may know just how much national security their tax dollars are bringing them.

Some harm may be done; but irreparable damage would have been done by keeping this brawl cloaked in secrecy.

OLD CRONIES REWARDED

JUST when it looked as if that great billiard trick shot artist and practicing politician, Mon C. Wallgren, might be dropping from public view, up he pops again. President Truman has appointed him to another job — the Federal Power Commission.

It was back in March that Mr. Truman reluctantly withdrew the nomination of Mr. Wallgren as chairman of the important National Security Resources Board. He had finally become convinced that the Senate Armed Services Committee would never approve the appointment.

But he didn't forget. Mr. Truman never forgets a pal, especially one who has been rejected by the people of his own home State for a second term as governor after a campaign in which Mr. Truman participated personally.

The Senate Commerce Committee quickly approved the nomination. Mr. Wallgren was thought ill-prepared for the vital National Security Resources Board post, but the Senators apparently feel he will be harmless on the Federal Trade Commission.

We are not so sure about that. There were some things about Leland Olds' background which didn't quite add up. But he was without question a strong and able member of the Federal Power Commission, and he placed protection of the public above purely political considerations.

A strong man in needed on the FPC. The movement by utilities to eliminate all Federal control over their interstate operations and their interstate rates has ominous implications for millions of consumers. Mr. Wallgren is an affable gent, to be sure, but more than affability is needed in that job.

Mr. Truman's other nomination was on the same personal friendship plane. He sent the Senate the name of James M. Mead, former Democratic Senator from New York, as a member of the Federal Trade Commission.

Mr. Mead's reputation as an able man is somewhat better than Mr. Wallgren's, and he may be entirely acceptable.

But it is more than coincidence that both of these former Senators were members of Mr. Truman's War Investigating Committee, and, hence, old cronies. They fit nicely into the government-by-crony pattern the President has cut out for our Federal Democracy.

ONE BIG MONEY BILL

WE are not at all sure that Senator Harry Byrd's scheme for a single appropriations measure will bring order to the chaos of Federal Government financing. But nothing else has worked so far, and the idea deserves a trial.

It will get it next year if all goes well. And a rather opportune time it is, for the Senator estimates that expenditures will top revenue by $8 billion in 1950.

The Senate has already voted unanimously in favor of the lump-sum appropriations measure. Chairman Cannon of the House Appropriations Committee, where the spending bills originate, has said his group will follow the Byrd formula.

Heretofore, appropriations have been handled in separate bills, one at a time. There are nineteen big money bills at each session of Congress. Each is considered on its own merits, proponents and opponents of new spending heard, and a decision finally made. Usually the bills follow this procedure: (1) report by the House Appropriations Committee; (2) adoption by the House; (3) report by the Senate Appropriations Committee; (4) adoption by the Senate; (5) conference committee report to work out differences between the Senate and House versions; and finally (6) vote on the conference report by both houses.

More confusion is added because these big money bills not only authorize expenditures for the new fiscal year, but include contract authorizations for future years. And neither is pegged to the estimated revenue.

Under the Byrd proposal, all would be combined into one measure. It would be a tremendously bulky and complicated bill, and would require months of hearings. But at every stage in the process, the sum total of all expenditures would be before members of the Congress and the people for comparison with the Treasury's estimate on anticipated income.

The plan would promote economy, Mr. Byrd believes. If it failed to do that, it would certainly point up the necessity of finding new revenue to match the expenditures so that further deficit financing could be avoided.

There are weaknesses. Next year is an election year, and economy is never popular among members of the Congress who are seeking re-election. Furthermore, it may encourage "log-rolling" — that delightful practice whereby two or more legislators put their busy little heads together and pledge to support the pet projects of each other.

In spite of these dangers, the single appropriations measure seems to be the only logical way to go about spending the people's money. Its progress will bear close watching.

From The Philadelphia Evening Bulletin

BURNING DOLLARS

A MAN detected burning a pile of dollar bills or loaves of bread would probably be confined as a lunatic.

Yet many an upstanding citizen of Philadelphia is, according to conservationists, doing the equivalent when he rakes up and burns autumn's supply of leaves.

These experts make out a very good case, too. When a tree sheds its leaves it is returning to Mother Earth some of the vital minerals it extracted, plus organic food and wealth for man. Destroy the leaves and you are destroying a prime asset. True, it may be only a little; but multiply it by thousands and it is important.

The leaves should be saved, they say, and next fall they'll be ready to put in your garden or flower beds, or, in sifted form, on your lawn.

But there's no place to keep them, Joe Citizen protests. Oh yes, there's always a place for something so valuable. Rake them under a bush or into some corner, or make a pen for them of boards or chicken wire.

Objection: They bulk up into unsightly piles. Yes, when dry they do; but wetting and tramping on them will flatten them.

Objection: Decaying leaves smell. Yes, but it's a clean, wholesome, woodsy aroma, the kind you pay money to sniff in the Poconos. To the conservationist, a whiff of the woods, which may be objectionable to a city-dweller, is perfume; and the smell of burning leaves, fragrant to most people, is a stench because it reminds him of man's stubborn folly in wasting his priceless resources.

A neat bit of economy is being practiced in painting lines on the parking spaces in the business district. Instead of making the stripes solid they are put down as "dashes," saving paint and they work too. *—Columbus (Miss.) Commercial-Dispatch.*

Farmer Grimes says that if Oklahoma can spend the proceeds of a $35 million bond issue without increasing taxes, why doesn't it issue $200 million worth of bonds and repeal all the tax laws?*—Oklahoma City Daily Oklahoman.*

'Dear, Dear—More Labor Troubles'

Senate Speech Excerpts

Graham Urges DP Act Revision

(Here are excerpts from the speech made by Senator Frank Graham last Saturday in support of an amendment to liberalize the Displaced Persons Act of 1948. The Senate subsequently voted to send the measure back to committee, thus deferring action until next year.—Editors, The News.)

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MR. PRESIDENT, I wish to speak briefly for two things: First, the continuation of the study by the Judiciary Subcommittee of the over-all problem of displaced persons in the world; and, second, the passage now by the Senate of H.R. 4567. The Judiciary Subcommittee, with its staff, is making a comprehensive and thorough study of the problem of displaced persons in the world. The problem is global and complex and involves our religious responsibilities, our national obligations, and international settlements for a stable and peaceful world. I am grateful to the subcommittee and its overworked staff for the hearings which have been held, the mass of information which they have gathered, and the plans which they are carrying out for an over-all and thorough report on a world-wide problem. These plans will require many more months for fulfillment.

Meanwhile, time is running out on many thousands of unfortunate human beings uprooted from their homes by the marches and countermarches of the armies of ruthless Fascist and Communist dictators who brought on the Second World War. These human beings, their families and children, innocent victims of dictators, war, and the cruel backwash of war, call to the nations, the churches, and humanitarian agencies for continuing consideration and prompt action to save them from despair to salvage them from deterioration, and to help them to become productive and loyal citizens. Many thousands will lose out while we wait for a complete over-all report and a perfect bill.

As the months came and went, the Senate Judiciary Committee had no bill of its own ready and available for action in the present session. As a practical matter the only bill which gave any hope for action in the present session of the Congress was the House bill. As a last resort the Senate Judiciary Committee, with full appreciation of the work of the subcommittee, finally decided to do two things; first, instruct the Judiciary Subcommittee to continue its important and able over-all studies of the complex world-wide problem of displaced persons; and, second, to withdraw from subcommittee and report H.R. 4567 as the only available bill for present action at an hour when time is running out on thousands of homeless uprooted people.

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H. R. 4567 increases the number from 205,000 in 2 years to 339,000 in 3 years. The bill advances the date line from December 22, 1945, to January 1, 1949. It removes other restrictions by establishing the basic principle that the selection of displaced persons "shall be made without discrimination in favor of or against a race, religion, or national origin"; by deleting the 40 per cent preference for people from areas annexed by a foreign power; by removing the 30-per-cent preference for agriculture, but retaining farming as a preference; and by removing the preference for in-camp displaced persons.

The bill broadens the definition of "orphans" and enables admission of children now barred. It liberalizes provisions by extending the benefit of regularization of status to persons who had arrived in the United States prior to April 30, 1948. It aids American sponsors of displaced persons by providing a revolving loan fund of $5,000,000 to meet expenses of transportation and reception in the United States. It doubles the number of ethnic Germans who may be admitted under the law upon the adoption of the Douglas-Myers amendment—the bill provides additional protection of the security of the United States.

The bill should be enacted now because departures of displaced persons from Europe will drop, it is estimated by Chairman Carusi, Acting Chairman O'Conor, and their associates, from the present rate of 15,000 a month to 8,000 to 10,000 a month. They hold that this will result from the application of the preferences, priorities, and percentages of the law, which will cause a severe cut-back in the production of visas. They also maintain once the shipments are cut back, it may be impossible to get them up again soon enough to complete the job by June 30, 1950.

A cut-back in shipping commitments, according to a cable from the IRO Director General to the State Department, on October 12, 1949, may make it impossible to restore shipping schedules. Thus according to these statements, the effect of the restrictive provisions of the present law in reducing numbers arriving in the United States cannot be compensated for by legislation enacted next year. With no bill enacted now, it is held that we may not be able to complete the present program by June 30, 1950, and may be limited to only 150,000 to 160,000, instead of the authorized 205,000.

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HOUSE bill 4567, passed by the House of Representatives after hearings, study, and debate, in the absence now of any other bill, is worthy of consideration, debate and action by the Senate of the United States. If any organization, any religious groups, or other agencies have sought to use improper influence, they should be investigated and proceeded against according to the facts as established by proper procedure. I know of none. If there are any, they should be cited by name, along with a presentation of the facts involved. If any person has been guilty of fraud or misrepresentation or maladministration, that person should be cited and proceeded against through responsible channels, without fear or favor. If the administration of the act has been defective in any way, correction should accordingly be made.

With due consideration of all these matters, time should not be allowed to run out on those homeless human beings, who are victims of dictators and war, those who are guilty of no fraud, who are decent and responsible friends of freedom, and who would make likely and productive citizens in a land of freedom and hope.

Mr. President, the bill passed by the House of Representatives is one which lends itself to immediate consideration, discussion, debate, and action by the Senate. Even an imperfect bill which improves the present law is better than no bill at all. The present bill improves the present law. The further improvement of the present law can wait on the comprehensive studies and reports of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. President, for these reasons, I strongly support the continuation of the comprehensive and thorough studies by the Judiciary Subcommittee, and I favor the passage now of House bill 4567, which, as an improvement on the present law, will keep time from running out on disinherited thousands of unfortunate people whose tragic plight appeals to the conscience of America and the conscience of all mankind.

Marquis Childs

Defeat For Communism

(Marquis Childs, Washington columnist and commentator on international affairs, is in Norway on the first leg of an extensive European tour to study and appraise news trends, both political and economic. His analysis and impressions will be reflected in his daily column, of which this is the first.)

OSLO, Norway.

ONCE again there is dramatic proof that Communism cannot win free elections in a free democracy.

In the election just held here the Norwegian people have completely rejected Communism. It is one of the most striking demonstrations since the end of the war of the failure of the Communist Party to win adherents in an open contest, with the right to use every device of press and radio to appeal to the people. The number of Communists in Parliament was reduced from eleven to one.

Even allowing for Norway's system of representation, which penalizes cities in favor of small communities, it is a remarkable outcome in a country with a long tradition of radicalism. Pravda undoubtedly will scream about American imperialism and the bloody oppression of American cossacks. But while Marshall Plan aid was a vital factor in holding the economic line, this was in no sense a bought vote. Norwegians are far too independent for that.

The rejection of Communism here came as a result of the Communist coup in Czechoslovakia and the gradual realization of what it has meant for Norway and every other free country. Up until the Czechoslovak tragedy the belief had persisted that the Communists were just another party. Four years ago they received 12 per cent of the total vote and under a fairer electoral system should have had not eleven but seventeen seats out of the 150 in Parliament.

To judge by American standards, the election campaign was extraordinarily quiet. Yet nearly 90 per cent of the eligible voters cast ballots in the first national election in four years.

In many respects the election followed a pattern that is becoming increasingly familiar throughout the Western world. It may be taken as a kind of curtain raiser for the British elections.

As in Britain, the Labor Party here has been coping with hidden inflation and the devastating consequences of the war. At the same time, the Labor government, whose majority of one in now substantially increased, has been pushing reforms long advocated by the party and trade unions that are the backbone of the party. Among these reforms are three-week paid vacations for all workers, including domestic servants and farm workers. A law provides a 48-hour week for farm laborers with overtime for work beyond the 48 hours. Because of the acute housing shortage and high cost of construction, all real estate transactions are rigidly controlled.

The parties of the political right, led by the Conservatives, have sharply attacked the Labor government, charging regulation for the sake of regulation and lowered production as a result of their reforms. The campaign oratory often sounded like the attack of our Republicans on the Truman Fair Deal in America or like the blasts of the Conservatives against the Laborites in Britain.

But the Conservatives here did not seem to offer any positive alternative. They have been out of power for many years and they seemed to doubt their own capacity to govern, particularly in the face of divisions on the right which would have made an uneasy coalition necessary if the voters had shifted in that direction. Speaking privately, Conservatives are frank to confess that if they had been elected to office, they would have had to keep many regulations in effect.

This is a major irony of the post-war world, in which political choice seems increasingly circumscribed by the economic dilemma.

Premier Einard Gerhardsen and hard-working underpaid members of his government were surprised by the victory. The observer had the feeling that they might even have been relieved if the voters had turned them out and put the heavy responsibility on others. Gerhardsen, in a moderate statement, promised there would be no nationalization in the next four years, but said that a government commission would study the advisability of nationalizing banks and insurance companies, with the voters to decide at the next election whether that should be done.

The dilemma of the voter who sees little choice may account for the unexpected rise of the Christian Peoples Party. Its political appeal seemed to the professional politicians to be nil. Yet, this party of the church people went from almost zero to a vote that may in the final count give it seven or eight seats in the Parliament.

There is one thing America's economic assistance has unquestionably done. It has bought the time in which free citizens have come to learn the meaning of Communism —and that is supremely important.

Henry C. McFadyen

Boys Will Be Boys

(Mr. McFadyen is principal of the Albemarle High School. Editors, The News).

IN the column today I am talking about boys. I would not recommend this for girls, though it does apply to them within certain limits.

In advertising houses for sale, real estate men like to be able to state that the house is near a good school. That is not the kind of house I want. I want one that is a good long way from the school. I have two boys, and I would like for them to have to cross a creek, go through a patch of woods, pass a garage with a large assortment of junked cars, go by a machine shop, and climb through a large culvert on the way home.

My wife, being a woman and thus not able to understand boys completely, will disagree violently with this. I guess most of you mothers will side with my wife. Women usually want the boys to leave school promptly and come home like homing pigeons.

This is certainly contrary to boy nature, and I think it keeps the boy from having a lot of educational experiences. Not the kind he gets in school, to be sure, but educational experiences just the same.

I think a boy should have a definite understanding that he is not to take until 8 o'clock at night to cover the five blocks between school and home. On the other hand, I think he should be given a little time to stop and look at things on the way home, to watch the high school football team practicing, to hunt crawfishes in the creek, and to "drive" those junked cars a while.

Of course, I know that it is amazing how much time a bunch of boys can consume traveling a very short distance. But this loitering, scuffling, picking up stuff on the ground, and general messing that boys do has a value. Kids move in a rather highly organized little world. From 8:30 until 3 they are under regimentation, obeying rules, and working as a unit in a large group. Even when they go out for their play period, they will engage in organized games with a number of other children. As soon as they get home they are likely to have to submit to some more rules and regulations. There may be music to be practiced, a little work to be done, and probably a Scout meeting right after supper.

A boy needs some time on his own with nobody to tell him what he must be doing. He has to have some chance to do some exploring and to broaden his world. Let him take an hour to get home, even though you know he could easily walk it in ten minutes. He and the other kids he walks home with will amble along arguing and pushing each other and climbing all the steep banks they pass. That's how they learn to get along with each other.

They will have time to stop and investigate any fascinating thing that may be going on along the way. A street crew may be digging up the concrete with an air hammer. If your boy cannot take the time to stop and watch, how on earth is he ever going to learn how they tear up streets? That isn't taught in school. And if he cannot plunder around behind garages now and then, how is he going to get any ball bearings? Possession of a handful of "steels" can do a lot for a boy's playground prestige.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Navy Propaganda Mill In Operation

WASHINGTON

LAST year, the 80th Congress investigated an Army propaganda mill which used taxpayers' money to sell the American public on military conscription; while Senator Byrd of Virginia also criticized any branch of the Government that issued a press handout publicizing its operation.

But today there operates backstage in the Navy, a secret publicity bureau almost solely dedicated to smearing the Army and Air Force and disrupting unification.

The publicity bureau is called "Operation 23" and it consists of twelve officers and seventeen enlisted men, all on regular duty and officially assigned to this detail.

This underground unit takes orders chiefly from Adm. Arthur Radford, outspoken critic of the B-36.

Significantly, Operation 23 has been flooding newspapers with anti-Army propaganda at the same time an official naval board has been investigating another Navy smear—the secret memo which claimed that Secretaries Symington and Johnson ordered the B-36 because of personal or monetary gain.

This vicious myth, now completely exploded, was written by Cedric Worth, a civilian naval employee—or at least he assumed responsibility. Worth, it now develops, was a part of Operation 23. And even before the board of admirals had finished its probe of the Worth smear, more propaganda began flooding the newspapers—some of it sent through the medium of Naval Reserve Capt. James Stahlman, publisher of the Nashville (Tenn.) Banner.

Big Business' New Partner

IN THE battle to restore the basing-point system, big business has had a unique partner—Sen. Joe O'Mahoney of Wyoming, the famous trust-buster.

No one could believe that O'Mahoney would come out on the side of the big trusts. Hence, many liberals were lulled to sleep by the fact that O'Mahoney introduced the basing-point bill.

In the eyes of big business, this is the most important bill to come up this session of Congress. For it would amend the anti-trust laws so that the steel industry, for example, could charge the same price for steel from the blast furnaces of Pittsburgh, Pa., or Geneva, Utah. This practice of regulating prices by absorbing the shipping costs was outlawed by the Supreme Court, so big business turned to Congress to overrule the Court.

O'Mahoney made his bill sound so harmless that it almost passed the Senate without an objection. Only at the last minute, Senators Russell Long of Louisiana and Estes Kefauver of Tennessee, both Democrats, caught what was going on, and put up a fight against it.

Back in O'Mahoney's trust-busting days, he bitterly criticized the basing-point system as a conspiracy by the trusts to regulate prices. That's the reason his colleagues couldn't understand why he now introduced a bill to restore the basing-point system. In fact, because of O'Mahoney's reputation, many Senators still believe his bill would encourage instead of stifle competition.

What they don't know, however, is that O'Mahoney was sold a bill of goods by the Westvaco Chemical Co. of Westvaco, Wyo. This company has paraded as an independent which discovered large trona deposits in Wyoming and now hopes to build a new chemical business producing soda ash from natural trona.

Who's Fooling Whom?

THE Senator from Wyoming wanted to emphasize the independence of the company when he brought Robert D. Pike, an engineer for Westvaco, to Washington to testify.

"This is an independent plant, is it not?" O'Mahoney asked about the Wyoming plant.

"Yes, sir; entirely so," nodded Pike.

"It is not a subsidiary to any other plant engaged in the same business?" the ex-trust buster brought out again.

"No, it is not," replied Pike.

"So that if and when established to develop the potentialities of this deposit, it will be an independent competitive enterprise," O'Mahoney added.

"That is correct, Senator," agreed Pike.

Yet behind the legal red tape, the Westvaco Co. is not so independent. For the same record, in which this testimony was printed, identifies Pike—in fine print—as representing the Westvaco Chemical Division of the Food Machinery & Chemical Corp. This turns out to be a Delaware corporation with tentacles all around the world.

Mixed Up With I. G. Farben

IT IS described in business directories as "one of the principal producers of industrial chemicals in the United States," and it was involved in court action this year with the international cartel in alkalis. On Aug. 12, the mother company was slapped with a court injunction for violating the Sherman Anti-Trust Act through this cartel. Named as co-conspirators were I. G. Farben Co. of Germany, and Solvan et Cie of Belgium. The head of the British cartel, Imperial Chemicals Industries Ltd. of London, was also named as a defendant through its subsidiary, Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd. of New York.

The court charged that the co-conspirators had been parties since 1924 to contracts governing the sale of alkalis in the world market, and that the American cartel members had agreed to prevent other independent American firms from selling alkalis to foreign markets. This agreement was enforced by a policing system by which inspectors on U. S. docks bought up any materials likely to get into the hands of other exporters, it was charged.

So it now turns out that the Westvaco Co., which is shouting its independence, is actually tied to an international cartel.

Some Senators are now wondering where that leaves Sen. Joe O'Mahoney, the great trust buster