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MONDAY, MARCH 28, 1949

THE END OF ISOLATION

With the formulation of the Atlantic Pact, the United States reaches out across the Atlantic Ocean to arm the nations of Europe...

Like 1870? No! But who among us can fail to see the necessity for it? Reprinted elsewhere on this page is an editorial from the New York Times...

We, all of us, have had the dubious honor of living in one of those centuries in the history of man in which profound changes are wrought in the complexion of existence...

Whether the world of 1949—with its great strides in medicine and equally great progress in destruction—is a better or worse than the world our forefathers fled in the seventeenth century is debatable...

In the seventeenth century one had simply to leave the turmoil of Europe—physically—to escape it. And for a while our fathers found peace in the vast and simple fields and forests of a new continent...

OBSTACLES TO REFORM

There are two major obstacles to a full-scale reorganization of the Federal Government along the lines proposed by the Hoover Commission...

1. The sheer bulk and complexity of the Hoover Commission reports, the volume of supporting evidence, the thousands of statutory changes which will be necessary to legalize the recommended changes...

2. The traditional reluctance of Representatives and Senators, as well as the Administration to disturb existing agencies...

NEW LOOK IN ROOSEVELTS

Hubey and Russell Long, Ole Vener Talmadge and Hummon—now FDR and FDR Jr.

Russell and Hummon have been widely castigated for the sins of their fathers. It has been suggested here and there that demagoguery is inbred, particularly demagoguery of the Long-Talmadge stripe...

So what about FDR Jr.? In some circles Franklin Delano Roosevelt and all his stool for are as zealously hated as he. In other circles, the philosophies of Talmadge and Long...

STOPWATCH ON LIFE

When he reached his eightieth birthday a Swiss recently took stock of his life with the aid of an unclocked stopwatch. The result was a surprising conclusion that he was moderately successful, or rejoice in his brief triumphs, or bemoan his many failures, indiscretions and stупidities...

First of all he figured that he had spent 22 years, 312 days, 18 hours and 22 minutes just in sleeping—about a third of his life, which is what is to be expected of any man. Work accounted for 21 years, 85 days, 14 hours and 40 minutes. He was angry or annoyed five years, 346 days and five minutes. He wasted five years, 302 days, 16 hours and 45 minutes in anterooms, hotel lobbies and other places waiting for men and women with whom he had appointments. Eating consumed almost as much time—five years, 346 days, five hours and 12 minutes. Shaving occupied 23 years, two hours and 40 minutes...

Francisco North America is not the same—and the world is not the same—not by a long shot.

And we say with conviction that no amount of wishing, no amount of self-deception will make it the same. Isolation—by necessity and not by choice—is as extinct as the dodo bird.

It is fortunate that we have in Washington a group of men who—whatever faults they may have otherwise—realize that in the physical sense if not in the political that we live in one world, one very small world. We live, they know, in a world which can be circled in a matter of hours by a bomber. We live, they know, in a world in which death from above—in Charlotte or in Moscow—is possible within the moment.

And because they know this they have formulated the Pact, a protective alliance of democratic nations. Not an alliance to wage aggressive war, not even an alliance to prepare us for defensive war. It is, in fact, an alliance to discourage war by threat of superior strength.

And for the wisdom that prompted its formulation, for the statesmanship of the State Department in negotiating (under great pressure from groups at home) to make the Pact a reality—for this, we should be grateful.

We of the United States—proud people, always—naturally have serious reservations about the use of force at any time, even the threat of force. But it is to the credit of the men who have made the Pact, will give us all the strength and wisdom to recognize the necessity of supporting this Pact to preserve peace.

One way to accomplish this is through a "big, national, non-partisan committee" of citizens to press for adoption of the reorganization. Plans for the formal organization of the committee within the next month have just been revealed.

It will be headed by Robert L. Johnson, president of Temple University, Philadelphia, a former president of the National Civil Service Reform League and ex-vice-president of Time, Inc. Invitations have been sent to scores of leading citizens, many of them members of the various task forces of the Hoover Commission. They are reportedly prepared for two, three, or four years work in translating into law and into action the recommendations of the Commission.

It will certainly take that long, and may take longer, to arouse the people of this nation to the need for such a comprehensive overhaul of the gigantic, sprawling Federal Government structure. There is no doubt, however, that so informed, the people will demand action.

DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACIES

THE United States is about to agree to a treaty under which an attack on any member of the North Atlantic community of nations will be considered as an attack on us.

The lesson we thus receive is that peace without war has not been a reality. It is not as if Mr. Truman and his advisers are not fully aware of this. We should not quibble on this point. The defense pact means that if it means nothing.

This country's conversion from isolationism has been slow. One can understand. Doubt seemed to be a natural and a privileged position between two vast oceans. Many millions of immigrants came here to escape the horrors of Europe. Democracy, it was thought, might flower here as nowhere else on earth, except from forces abroad.

Even after the First World War this illusion persisted. It was never broken down by argument or by the folly of isolationism. We harbored our adherence to the World Court—as harmless an attitude as any big-minded people could entertain. Only twelve years ago President Roosevelt had to abandon the stand he took in his famous "quarantine" speech in Chicago. The American people did not then admit that when anxiety stalks the earth there is no escape from isolationism or neutrality.

When we broke out in 1939 between Hitler and Western Europe, we had our second lesson in the folly of isolationism. We learned a little at a time: in 1939 we repaid the arms embargo which had been imposed on us. In 1940 we repaid President Roosevelt's 500 destroyer for bases in the North Atlantic. In 1941 the Lend-Lease Act was passed and the noble but as yet unlearned principles of the Atlantic Charter enumerated. But not until we were forced into it did we go war.

Sailor Beware



Through the early months of 1948 his confidential informants reported to Washington had foretold the impending disaster. The advice was given as head of the United States Military Advisory Group was constantly and repeatedly warning...

The incompetence of the Nationalistic generals went on to fanatical lengths. Thus, the Chinese armies were hopelessly divided and the Communist forces took the city with comparatively little effort.

Major General G. B. Barr's statement that an estimated 90 per cent of all American military aid to the Nationalist Chinese was taken by the Communist armies. At an earlier press conference he had stated that the Communists had got the "major proportion."

A great part of this military matter the Communists got without firing a shot. Gen. Barr told the committee that the United States had sent arms from this country which could have saved the Nationalist government from disintegration. The picture of sprawling chaos and disaster that emerged from the report of the military mission to the Chinese was not entirely gone.

Full Cycle Completed

(An Editorial from The New York Times)

THE United States is about to agree to a treaty under which an attack on any member of the North Atlantic community of nations will be considered as an attack on us.

The Charter of the United Nations came before Congress four years ago only two votes in the Senate, only fifteen votes in the House were cast against it.

Across the Atlantic and Pacific and all oceans and continents the waves are written and read, there is an increasing flow of air traffic. The oceans and the vast spaces of the world, measured in terms of time, have nearly vanished. We and our neighbors are now new neighbors defending our neighborhood against a common enemy.

Quote, Unquote

Memorandum to late but anonymous letters-to-the-editor writers who postscripted: do you want print this?

The average man speaks about 12,000,000 words a year. The average man speaks about 12,000,000 words a year. The average man speaks about 12,000,000 words a year.

OUR SECOND LESSON

When we broke out in 1939 between Hitler and Western Europe, we had our second lesson in the folly of isolationism. We learned a little at a time: in 1939 we repaid the arms embargo which had been imposed on us.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

TRUSS columns probably will be greeted by Irevia and G. B. Barr with screams of "warmer!"; while some people in this country won't like it, either.

Two major factors are behind this pessimistic conclusion: (a) With completion of the North Atlantic Pact, two lines of fortifications will extend across Europe—the armies of the West on one side, the armies of the East on the other. Eventually they may create a cold war from Russia's point of view to precipitate the clash between the Western line and the Eastern line.

Marquis Childs

WASHINGTON (The Senate Foreign Relations Committee in a hearing on the Atlantic Pact last night heard some hard facts about China.)

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Real Meaning Of The Pact

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