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PRELUDE TO ANOTHER STALIN REGIME

AMID all the speculation over the latest developments in the struggle for power in the Kremlin, two central facts, one a corollary of the other, should be remembered.

One is that a totalitarian regime, if it is to rule long and successfully, must be controlled by a monolithic party or group, *i. e.*, one that exhibits solid uniformity and a harmonious pattern throughout. In other words, a totalitarian regime can brook no differences of policy, objectives and tactics.

The corollary is that a monolithic party must be headed up by one strong man who is so powerful that he commands the complete obedience of all party members, and stirs awe and fear among the people. He is the final determiner of policy.

Under Mussolini in Italy, Hitler in Germany, and Stalin in Russia, these characteristics of totalitarian rule were present. But since Stalin's death, there has been an uneasy balance of power in the Kremlin, with Malenkov, Beria, Molotov and Bulganin all jockeying for power and authority.

The Western world knows little about this grim struggle for power, but there is good reason to believe that it is following the classic Soviet pattern set by Stalin when he vaulted into the unchallenged leadership of international communism. If that is so, then the ousting of Lavrenty P. Beria is but an incident in a continuing sequence of events.

Without examining the internal struggle and studying its many ramifications, the West can look upon these developments with grave misgiving. So long as the balance of power in the Kremlin hung by a delicate thread, Russia's ability to move quickly and decisively was limited. But once the rule by a single man becomes a reality, whether he be a Malenkov, Molotov, Bulganin or some unknown "man on a horse," order and cohesion will be restored, and the danger from Russian imperialism increased.

Hence any feeling of satisfaction in the West over the toppling of the sinister Beria and the resulting unrest should be tempered by the realization that this may be the prelude to another Stalin regime, with its cold ruthlessness of strategy and tactics.

THE VINDICATION OF 'CHIP' BOHLEN

DURING the Senate debate in March on the confirmation of Charles E. (Chip) Bohlen as Ambassador to Moscow, a small group of Senators led by McCarthy of Wisconsin, Bridges of New Hampshire, and McCarran of Nevada fought unsuccessfully to block the nomination.

McCarran charged that the State Department security officer, Scott McLeod, had refused to clear Bohlen "on the basis of information received from the FBI", but was "summarily overridden" by Secretary of State Dulles.

Bridges called Bohlen an "exponent of appeasement and containment" and an "obedient and faithful subordinate of the Democratic Administration."

And McCarthy, saying that "Moscow is the last place in the world" for Bohlen, had the effrontery to demand that Bohlen voluntarily submit to a lie detector test.

But Secretary Dulles, for once, stood firm against the McCarthy-directed attack, and he was backed up by President Eisenhower who told his news conference on March 26 that Bohlen was the best qualified man to be Ambassador to Moscow, and that the nomination would stand.

On March 27, Bohlen was confirmed by an overwhelming 74-13 vote.

Now the wisdom of President Eisenhower's choice has been proved. While McCarthy and the other windbags were sounding off in Washington, Bohlen was in Moscow, carefully analyzing the developing struggle for power. The State Department announced yesterday Bohlen had tipped it off several days ago that the purge of Lavrenty P. Beria was coming, and that Bohlen had planned his vacation so as to be outside Russia and available for quick consultation. He was ordered home to Washington immediately.

If President Eisenhower is wise, he will now challenge McCarthy again by calling back into service that other outstanding expert on Russian Communism, George F. Kennan. Along with Bohlen, he should be able to give the Administration useful counsel and advice at this critical juncture.

Further, the President and Secretary Dulles should do something to stop the wholesale exit of experienced, career diplomats under the onslaught of McCarthy and his "informers" in the State Department. Great talent and long experience are needed desperately now in our diplomacy. But unless Secretary Dulles does something soon to improve morale and spirit in his department, he will have no one left but hacks, lackeys and nincompoops.

A PROBLEM FOR COMMUNITY STUDY

BEYOND QUESTON, facilities for unwed Negro mothers are one of the great social needs of this city, indeed of this region. These facilities could be licensed foster homes, served by case workers. Or they could be maternity homes, of which there are three in North Carolina for white girls, one of them, Crittenton Home, being here in Charlotte. There are, however, no comparable facilities for Negro girls in the entire Southeast.

Thus a local move toward establishment of a maternity home for Negro girls, as was announced Thursday, merits serious community attention, doubly so because the initiative came from the local Negro community, which has been lacking in civic and social leadership. Promoters of the proposed institution have received approval of the City Solicitations Committee for a public campaign to raise $5,000 to launch the institution.

However, despite the obvious need for some kind of facilities for the Negro girls, hasty action would be ill-advised. Action should be preceded by careful community study of the purpose and scope of the proposed institution, and its financing, in order to assure that it will accomplish desirable results.

It seems to us that before any action is taken, some responsible community organization—perhaps the Social Planning Council of the United Community Services—should study the problem thoroughly, seeking answers to questions like these:

1. Granting the need for some kind of professional aid to the Negro mothers, is the maternity home, the licensed foster home, or a combination of these two kinds of facilities, most desirable?

2. What minimum standards, as regards management of the home and use of trained social workers, should be maintained?

3. In the event that establishment of a maternity home is deemed desirable, from how large a surrounding area would girls be accepted? Because of the dearth of similar facilities in this region, girls from several states might seek admission. If they were admitted another obvious question would present itself: How much of the financing should come from the local community?

Some of the people who have worked closely with this problem for many years are not as eager about construction of the proposed Harris Home as they have been represented to be. But they, of course, recognize, better than the layman, the need for some kind of facilities.

Therefore, while endorsing whole-heartedly the idea of improved facilities for unwed Negro mothers, we suggest community leaders and social workers, white and Negro, sit down together and think and plan the thing through before action is taken.

HOGAN DID ALL RIGHT, TOO

A GAME may be only a game, but there are times when a game can be more important than anything else in the world. A heavyweight championship fight or a World Series can make Americans forget, for a time, that anything else in the world is of much importance.

Latest example of this strange mania of Americans for fevered anxiety over a sporting event came with the closing rounds of the British Open golf championship just completed at Carnoustie, Scotland.

The telephone at The News sports desk rang almost constantly Friday as golf followers queried eagerly, "How's Hogan doing?" And as the world now knows, he did all right.

An explanation? Probably a combination of circumstances in which Hogan had announced his probable retirement from competitive golf sometime this year, and a challenge flung out when some detractor remarked that he still hadn't won a British Open. And so the sports world took this little giant to heart when he said he'd take one crack at capturing the title.

In a day in which Beria was thrown from his post as leader of the Russian police, when negotiators in Korea reopened truce talks, when Eisenhower flew to the Texas drought area, the telephone on the news desk was almost silent.

But almost everybody wanted to know "How's Hogan doing?"

Among the brilliant assembly at the Writer's Tea was the author of "How To Save On Your Taxes." He is now working on a sequel entitled: "My Five Years At The Federal Penitentiary."—*Lamar (Mo.) Democrat.*

When a fellow lives in a ranch house and drives a ranch wagon it must give him a funny feeling to see a letter-carrier arrive on foot, toting a big load, and after dropping a few letters in the box on the front porch, strike out on foot for the next ranch.—*Lexington (Ky.) Herald-Ledger.*

Nation's pig crop will be 5 per cent short this Fall, the Department of Agriculture has figured out. But we'll bet there will be as many road hogs as ever.—*Shelby Star.*

People in debt usually have to settle down before they can settle up.—*Elizabethtown (Ky.) News.*

'I Want You To Shake Hands With — Say, What's Wrong With You Guys Anyhow?'

People's Platform

Letters should be brief. The writer's name and address must be given, but may be withheld from publication in the discretion of the Editors, The News reserves the right to condense.

Inconsistencies Charged

CHARLOTTE

Editors, The News:

AN Open Letter to Our Baptist Friends of the Opposition:

Your stand on the principle of the separation of Church and State interests me exceedingly, especially in its application to the tax funds expended in supplying heat, light, janitor service, etc., for the school classrooms in which elective Bible courses are offered.

Let us examine what you have said and the inescapable results of your position. You protest against the use of any public funds—"Tax Funds"—to promote the cause of religion. That's the issue.

From time to time all or many of you are asked to preach "Baccalaureate Sermons" or conduct "Religious Emphasis Weeks" on the campus of State owned schools and colleges. For this service you receive your "expenses" and often an "honorarium." These are strictly religious functions which you perform—admittedly so, baccalaureate "sermons"; "religious" emphasis! State schools and State colleges are supported and exist by virtue of tax funds. Your expense and your honorarium paid by the schools are therefore inescapably paid from "tax funds". The service rendered is admittedly a religious service.

Is this the "Separation of Church and State" for which you contend?

A few weeks ago three of your prominent ministers delivered the baccalaureate sermons to the graduating classes of our local schools, classes made up of "Jewish, Catholic and Protestant" students. I quote from one of the sermons—"If this world is ever saved and kept saved, you graduates must do it and you can't do it apart from loyalty to Jesus Christ!" Did this minister show due respect for those students who did not believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God?

Is this the "Separation of Church and State" for which you contend?

The local Armory-Auditorium is rented for any secular or commercial purpose for a given rent per day. This same auditorium is rented for a Baptist or other religious group for a religious purpose at a substantially lower rate. Is this lower cost, admittedly "religious" cause and the saving to the Church—not the city?

Is this the "Separation of Church and State" for which you contend?

Chaplains with our Armed Forces; chapels at our Army, Navy and Air Forces bases and posts; chaplains, chapels (and compulsory attendance!) at West Point, Annapolis, Jackson Training School, penal institutions, etc., etc., etc., supported wholly by tax funds and paid wholly by tax money—are these the "Separation of Church and State" for which you contend?

Or, possibly bringing home to all of us—Protestants, Catholic, Jews, Unitarians ("Religious Sects")—we all own property. Before we owned that property its former owner "paid taxes" on it. Since it is now "religious property" it is "Tax Free"! Who now pays these taxes which the State formerly collected on this property? The cost of Government has not been reduced by changing it from "taxable property" to non-taxed "church property"! Obviously, these former taxes are now collected from the general public in a little higher tax rate on secular property in order that church property be tax exempt. This conclusion is inescapable. Is this the "Separation of Church and State" for which you contend?

Or, to bring this matter even a bit closer home! The property of the Baptist Churches in the City of Charlotte would have a total value of substantially more than 2 1-2 million dollars. At current tax rates, the private citizens and business firms of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County are annually paying from $50,000 to $100,000 of taxes which they would NOT be called upon to pay, if our "church property" was not "exempt" but was required to pay on its value at our current rates! Is this inescapable higher tax rate on the citizens in order that churches go tax free—Is this the "Separation of Church and State" for which you contend?

No, Brethren, the founders of our nation and authors of our Constitution never intended the type of "Separation of Church and State" for which you contend. Their unalterable and sound intention was that there be no "State Church" such as the "Church of England' etc. Thomas Jefferson, the author of basic concept of separation of church and state—Thomas Jefferson proposed that the State of Virginia build on the campus of the University of Virginia at state expense a building for the special and specific use of the various religious sects of Virginia to teach their respective religions and theologies. (See note No. 11 McCollum case-par 8 Justice Reed opinion).

The Bible teaching in Charlotte may be declared illegal. I do not believe it will. However, if it is so declared, surely you should continue your campaign—refuse all expenses and honorariums for religious service in state schools and colleges; pay full price when you next rent the Armory; insist that chaplains be discharged and barred from our armed services, camps and posts—yes and from the lads at the front in Korea, remove all religious songs from school music: America, Star Spangled Banner, etc., Bibles from class rooms, and the words "In God We Trust" from our coins (the atheists say there is no God) insist that there be added to your church budget the full normal value of your taxes which are now being paid by; our citizens and business firms! Frankly:

Is this the "Separation of Church and State" for which you contend?

Consistency, Oh! what a jewel thou art.

Seriously, Gentlemen, if your proposal is carried to its inescapable logical conclusion it just doesn't make sense—does it?

TORRENCE W. ALDRED

Rebellion In East Germany May Be Great Turning Point

By STEWART ALSOP

BERLIN

WHAT HAS BEEN happening in East Germany has transformed the whole world situation. The best way to understand what has been happening is to consider in some detail certain recent events in the small industrial city of Bitterfeld, in the Soviet zone of Germany, as seen through the eyes of two brave men.

These men are Wilhelm Fiebelkorn, a schoolteacher who looks like a high strung, unhealthy, very intelligent American Indian; and Horst Sovarda, a skilled electrical worker who looks like a genial, ham-fisted football tackle. Fiebelkorn and Sovarda arrived a few days ago in the safe haven of West Berlin, after being condemned to death by the East German Communist regime. For Sovarda, the worker, and Fiebelkorn, the intellectual, were the leaders of a revolt which actually seized and for a time exercised power in the city of Bitterfeld.

THE STORY BEGINS

Sovarda tells the first part of the story. Towards the beginning of June, when the Communist regime was announcing all sorts of "easements for the population," the workers in the big Bitterfeld electro-magnetic combine learned that their "production norms" were to be increased.

Already, Sovarda and other workers' leaders had organized an elaborate cell system in their plant, precisely patterned on the Communists' cell system in capitalist countries. The time had come, they decided, to risk everything. The order to strike was passed through the cells, and on the morning of June 10 the whole plant closed down.

Sovarda and the others, expecting arrest, cannily refused to meet the Communist functionaries who came to the factory. Then on June 11, the Communists capitulated completely and astonishingly. All the workers' demands were met, and the men went back to work.

For three days the workers quietly absorbed this evidence of the regime's weakness. On June 15 they struck again, with increased demands, and again the factory closed down. Again, the regime failed to react with the expected violence. Then, on the evening of June 16, RIAS, the American radio station in Berlin, carried word of the construction workers' strike in East Berlin, and the word spread rapidly throughout Bitterfeld.

Until then, the strike had been confined to the electro-magnetic plant. Now every factory in the Bitterfeld area struck, and on the morning of June 17 the workers filled the streets of the city. Here the German instinct for order asserted itself. A mass meeting of workers elected Fiebelkorn, favorably known as a "militant intellectual," as chairman of the "Bitterfeld District Strike Committee." In a methodical manner, the committee set about organizing the city.

The Communist mayor was quietly evicted from his office. The workers took over the headquarters of the Communist party, the secret police, and all public buildings. Eighty-six political prisoners were freed from the jail, while six criminals were firmly relocked in their cells. The workers took over the telegraph office, where Fiebelkorn drafted and dispatched two remarkable telegrams.

The first was addressed derisively to the "so-called Democratic peoples' government in Berlin." It contained a list of eight curt demands, including free elections, the release of all political prisoners, the dissolution of the "so-called peoples' army," and the dissolution of the government itself.

The second was addressed to "the honorable Semyonov." This message to the Soviet proconsul was most polite: "We respectfully request that you will lift the seige in Berlin and proclaim your solidarity with the workers in the Eastern zone. We hope that you, sir, will act in accordance with our wishes, so that we can believe that you are the champion of peace, international understanding, and Democracy. With the greetings of the Strike Committee of Bitterfeld." Unlike the telegram to the government, this included space for a prepaid reply, as a further mark of respect.

REPLY RECEIVED

The reply came, of course, in the form of Soviet troops and tanks. By early in the evening of June 17, all public buildings had been occupied, martial law had been declared, and Fiebelkorn and Sovarda had been condemned to death as "criminal saboteurs." So ended Bitterfeld's great revolt.

But has it really ended?

Asked how such things could happen in a supposedly monolithic police state, Fiebelkorn shrugs his shoulders and replies that it is as though "a lighted match were thrown on a haystack." The haystack he explains, is the universal hatred of the East German people for the puppet regime which has ground their lives into misery. The match is the weakness of the regime which the workers began to sense soon after Stalin's death, and which they sensed with certainty with the sudden adoption of the policy of "easement for the populace." The haystack and the match — hatred and contempt — are still present.

What happened in Bitterfeld happened in almost exactly the same way in more than 75 other German cities (though Fiebelkorn's telegrams were unique). As this is written, moreover, it looks as though the haystack were again beginning to smoulder. Seventy thousand workers in East Berlin had proclaimed a sitdown strike, and the movement is beginning to spread to the Soviet zone. "We know now that they can't kill all of us," Sovarda says.

It would be very wrong to imagine, as some officials in Washington like to do, that a few blasts on the propaganda trumpets will now bring the whole Soviet empire crumbling down. The Soviet tanks which crushed the Bitterfeld revolt are still very much present. It would be equally wrong to imagine, as other officials are able to do, that what has happened here is an interesting but not very important phenomenon. It might well be, instead, a great turning point in world affairs.

THE QUEEN'S ENGLISH

(From The Chattanooga Times)

A BIT of a behind-the-scenes flurry over Queen Elizabeth's choice of words in her Commonwealth radio-broadcast ended up in our favor, the way we look at it.

The news service said the Queen began her address this way: "When I spoke to you all last Christmas . . ." Another had it Her Majesty avoided the "you all" and merely said "you." The same variance was to be found in their versions of her closing remark: "I thank you (you all) from a full heart."

Well, a newspaper man in Memphis—where else?—really wanted to know. He queried the news service's New York headquarters. York cabled London. London replied: "Apologies to you all down there in Memphis. Recheck shows Queen did say 'you all'." And what was to be expected from a kinswoman of Marse Robert E. Lee himself?

The very next time anyone from north of the M&D Line says a disparaging word about our use of "you all," we're going to reply, very firmly and not too politely: "You all just don't speak the Queen's English up there, bub!"

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

M'Carthy, Matthews Stir Religious Strife

WASHINGTON

CHIEF tragedy of the Senate dispute over J. B. Matthews and his charges that "the largest single group supporting the Communist apparatus are Protestant clergymen" is the cleavage it has caused between Protestants and Catholics.

Unfortunately Matthews' background, plus his support from Christian front and Coughlinite groups, plus the vigorous support given McCarthy by these same factions, has aroused bitterness in the Protestant world at the time when relations between the two great church groups appeared on the way to greater harmony.

Actually, many Catholic leaders disapprove of McCarthy; but unfortunately they have not been as vocal as his supporters.

Matthews' background is so well known that McCarthy must have realized what religious bitterness he would stir up when he hired him to direct his committee activities. Even if Matthews had not made his anti-Protestant charge in the American Mercury, it was obvious that Matthews would have aroused Protestant and Jewish resentment.

Among other things, Matthews was given credit in Senate testimony for leading the unfair and wanton attack on Assistant Secretary of Defense Anna Rosenberg when she was erroneously branded a Communist. He is a friend of Joseph Kamp, sentenced to jail for refusing to testify regarding his Constitutional Educational League. He was a contributor to Coughlin's newspaper 'Social Justice," officially recommended by the Nazi government before Pearl Harbor. He has had the backing of Allan Zoll of American Patriots, Inc., listed by the Justice Department as subversive, also of rabble rouser Merwin K. Hart.

Gala Dinner

THE American Mercury, in which Matthews' anti-Protestant article appeared, is now owned by Russell Maguire, once close to the Christian Front and backer of the recent anti-Semitic document, "The Iron Curtain Over America."

A gala dinner given in honor of Matthews at the Waldorf, Feb. 13, gives some idea of his supporters. Copies of the American Mercury were on every table. Senator McCarthy was the chief speaker. Columnist George Sokolsky was toastmaster. A message was read from Vice President Nixon.

The guest list included: Allan Zoll, Merwin K. Hart, Joseph Kamp, Westbrook Pegler, Alfred Kohlberg of the China lobby, Frederick Cartwright, financial agent of Sir Oswald Moseley, leader of the British Union of Fascists; Dr. Ruth Fischer, sister of Hans Eisler; John T. Flynn, Roy Cohn, counsel to Senator McCarthy; Mary Jung of the American Vigilant Intelligence Federation.

Walter Winchell bought a ticket but did not show.

Modest Fellow Traveler

MATTHEWS once testified: "I hope it will not appear immodest, but for a period of years I was probably more closely associated with the Communist Party's united front movement than any other individual in this country."

This has been Matthews' greatest claim to fame. He has cashed in on his mistakes in a way few people could cash in on rectitude.

After his erroneous information regarding Anna Rosenberg began to backfire, Matthews tried to slide out of all responsibility. He denied giving information to Benjamin Freedman, despite Freedman's testimony to the contrary. However, Matthews' letter to Russell Turner, assistant to Fulton Lewis Jr., really put him on the spot.

"Here are the photostats, together with a memorandum on the Communist organizations with which A. R. (Anna Rosenberg) has, according to the public records, been affiliated," Matthews wrote on Nov. 27, 1950.

"On the question of whether or not the A. R. of these documents is the A. R., I can report there is not the slightest doubt. I have made exhaustive inquiries and investigations, as a result of which I have established beyond any possibility of dispute that there had been only one Anna Rosenberg sufficiently known in public life to be listed with the well-known names in these documents, and that there has not been any other Anna Rosenberg of comparable fame, stature, notoriety, or what have you during the past 25 years. One of my sources is a Jewish organization which knows about these things."

The fact that the Senate unanimously reversed Matthews in regard to Mrs. Rosenberg and sent a special report to the Justice Department suggesting possible prosecution of witnesses for perjury should have been enough to stop Senator McCarthy from hiring him.

Catholic Anti-McCarthyism

INTERVIEWS with Catholic leaders develop the fact that many thinking Catholics are dead opposed to McCarthy, don't like the fact that he has never married, or the fact that as a judge he granted quickie divorces.

On the other hand, "Our Sunday Visitor," largest circulating Catholic paper, published two articles by Father Richard Ginder vigorously supporting McCarthy simultaneously with publication of the Matthews charges against the Protestant clergy.

Unfortunately these helped to overshadow the fact that "America," organ of the Jesuits, differed with McCarthy over Adlai Stevenson last Fall and that "Commonweal," Catholic lay weekly, published a stirring statement by Father Leon Sullivan, once imprisoned by Chinese Communists, which read:

"I would rather return to my Chinese Communist prison cell than avail myself of Senator McCarthy's 'protection.' He is as great, if not a greater threat to American freedom than the military might of the Kremlin, and believe me I do not underestimate either the Kremlin's might or its cleverness.

"My missionary career in China ended in a Communist court in which accusations were taken as facts, charges as proofs, and in which the police announced that 'defense is not necessary; we never make a mistake; when we arrest you, you're guilty; a defense is only necessary in corrupt bourgeois society where they have corrupt officials.'

"As a result of that experience," continued Father Sullivan, "I cling desperately to a principle that is one of the foundation stones of our democratic way of life, the principle that a man is innocent until he is proven guilty. God help all of us if we ever abandon that principle.

"If you must betray democracy in order to save it, why bother?"