

Bricker's Rejection Of Knowland
Compromise Discloses Real Motive

In an editorial on the Bricker amendment yesterday, we charged that its sponsors have used the phrase—'treaties are the supreme law of the land'—out of context as a smokescreen to obscure the real issue. We believe the charge can be documented.

Last July, Sen. William Knowland of California, GOP majority leader, proposed a compromise amendment which was acceptable to the White House. It met all of the avowed purposes of the Bricker amendment.

Sen. Bricker and his supporters have argued, for instance, that various pending United Nations pacts, if ratified by treaties, would nullify the Bill of Rights. There is nothing in the Constitution or in past decisions of the Supreme Court to justify that contention, but Sen. Knowland offered to meet the objection with this provision:

...and any international agreement which conflicts with the Constitution shall not be of any force or effect. The judicial power of the United States shall extend to no case in law or equity, in which it is claimed that the conflict described in this amendment is present.

Yet Sen. Bricker refused to accept the Knowland compromise. Bricker and his supporters have also argued that unwise treaties might be pushed through the Senate when a small number of Senators is present and voting is by voice. This could be changed by amending the Senate rules, but Sen. Knowland was willing to include this section in his compromise amendment:

Section 2: "When the Senate consents to the ratification of a treaty, the vote shall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of the persons voting." Why should such a measure be entered on the journal of the Senate?

Yet Sen. Bricker refused to accept the Knowland compromise. Bricker and his supporters have complained that treaties automatically become internal law. Although the Senate already has the power to attach reservations to treaties, a power it has exercised on many occasions, Sen. Knowland included this section in his compromise:

Section 3: "When the Senate so provides in its consent to ratification, a treaty shall become effective as internal law in the United States only through the enactment of appropriate legislation by the Congress."

Yet Sen. Bricker refused to accept the Knowland compromise. When he endorsed the Knowland version, President Eisenhower said it was his belief "that the reassurances contained in the Knowland amendment met all legiti-

mate demands that have been made in this field of foreign relations." That is our opinion, and it leads to the further conviction that all the loose talk about treaties nullifying the Constitution is a smokescreen to cover up the real intent of the Bricker amendment, contained in Bricker's Section 3 which says:

"Congress shall have power to regulate all executive and other agreements with any other foreign power or international organization. All such agreements shall be subject to the limitations imposed on treaties by this article."

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"It has been argued that because of the works whirling around us, we need to take unusual precautions to protect our institutions against the possibility of a council of fear; and the foundations of this Republic have been laid, not in fear, but in faith and in courage." Why should we be in this position? "The disordered condition of the world is no reason for retreat into isolationism. It is a challenge to world leadership; and, if we are to exercise that leadership, we must not hamper ourselves by undue restrictions on the treaty-making power of our foreign relationships."

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"Under the present provisions of our Constitution we have grown to greatness. There is no reason to think that, now that we are great, we can no longer trust in them. The President and the Senate have not betrayed us. Why should we think that they will betray us in the future?"

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"If the Bricker amendment reaches a vote on the Senate floor, North Carolina's two senators, Clyde R. Hoey and Alton E. Lennon, should stand together with their distinguished fellow Tar Heel in opposing this dangerous and misguided attempt to tie the hands of President Eisenhower at a most crucial moment in the world's history."

Should U. S. Sell Butter To Reds?
ORDINARILY any foreign offer to buy U. S. butter would be received with a shrug. Thanks to high price supports and the productivity of U. S. cows, butter is in oversupply, and the growing surplus is both an economic and a political problem of major proportions.

Such an offer has now been received, but it came from the Soviets. They want to buy 150 million pounds of butter, and a large quantity of cottonseed oil, more or less in oversupply.

The offer has caused much consternation in official Washington. One group in the administration feels that with the lessening of military tensions, a measure of trade in non-strategic materials with Russia and her satellites is inevitable. But there are other administration leaders who hold to the conviction that any items of trade that are useful to Russia, strategic or not, aid the Soviet government in strengthening its economy and its hold over the Russian and satellite peoples.

Through some error of transmission, only part of this statement was reported which, as you can see, destroyed my meaning completely.

The price gap further complicates the problem. The supported market price of butter in this country ranges from 69 to 75 cents, yet the Russians propose to pay the world price, which ranges from 40 to 50 cents. To sell Russia butter at a lower price, while forcing American consumers to pay a higher price, would be an unpopular political move. Secretary of Commerce Weeks seized on this point when he declared, rather impetuously, that "we are not going to have the American housewife paying any material amount more for butter than anyone else."

Personally, and the National Licensed Beverage Association officials, are vigorously in favor of the most stringent measures in connection with a licensee's sales to minors when they occur. It is skeptical about this, since no evidence has been uncovered linking flying saucers with other planets.

It is a difficult problem for the Eisenhower administration. But if the application of the President's "enlightened self-interest" yardstick measures a greater ultimate benefit to this nation than to the Soviets, there is no reason why normal trade in non-strategic materials should not be encouraged.

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"He just wants to be ready if the public school segregation issue becomes a hot one."

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.

Boulevard Lights Need Adjusting

CHARLOTTE
Editors, The News: I beg to suggest that the traffic signal at secondary streets crossing Independence Blvd. give the side streets too long a green light, particularly at Hawthorne Lane, Louise Ave. and Baldwin Cir. In last Friday's heavy rains, I noticed while traversing the boulevard that 20 or 30 cars would be held up by a red light while cars using the side streets were already across and gone.

Prices Stay Up

JOHN GET
Dear Editor: Democracy is one of the few letters this reader has seen in that section that warrants front page space.

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Editors, The News: The editorial "The Public Be Damned" (reprinted from the N. Y. World-Telegram & Sun) which appeared in your paper recently represents a serious injustice to myself and to the 144,000 tavern owners of America.

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Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON
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Events Of The Past Year Have Aided Russian Cause

By JOSEPH ALSOP

WASHINGTON
WHERE DO WE really stand at the end of the year that saw the death of Josef Stalin and the inauguration of Dwight D. Eisenhower? Is the world situation better or worse? Above all, are we fooling ourselves here in the United States, when we proclaim that the Communist threat to the free world is now growing weaker?

My reporter has been puzzling over these momentous questions in the course of an attempt to sum up the lessons of a long journey around the world. Infinitely wiser men could give positive answers. Only the future can do that. But hard facts, plainly observable around the world, at least suggest tentative answers. They may not be popular, but here they are:

First, the Kremlin has benefited importantly from Stalin's death. The removal of the aging tyrant has allowed the Kremlin's new masters to be much more flexible and much more common-sense. For instance, Stalin had been impossibly obstinate in the matter of a satellite in the Balkans. That matter was taken care of at his funeral.

Again, Stalin had been practicing tyranny for tyrannies sake in his dealings with his own people. Since 1951 at the latest, the Soviet Union's national income has justified more generous treatment of the Russian masses. Huge strategic stocks of wheat, other foodstuffs, army clothing and the like had already been accumulated long before Stalin's death. The Kremlin's new rulers therefore ordered greater liberality to the people, which they could well afford.

Then, above all, Stalin's diplomacy had long been the principal asset of Western diplomacy. Whenever the free world was about to commit an act of great folly, Stalin's tactics would forcibly restore the unity of the Western allies and spur them to new efforts. That kind of blundering has been carefully avoided by the Kremlin's new masters, with results which should already give satisfaction in the Kremlin.

Second, there is no real proof, as yet, that the Soviet empire has been weakened by the convulsions which followed Stalin's death. All the supposed "signs of weakness" can in fact be read in two ways. Every informed man knew the Germans hated their Russian masters with a deadly hatred. But when the Germans gave vent to this hatred last June, the incipient rebellion was brought under control by the most trifling of the forces. In the same manner, Lavrenti P. Beria was liquidated.

Eisenhower Backs Sponsors Of St. Lawrence Seaway

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON
EVERY President for 30 years—including President Eisenhower—has blessed the idea of making the St. Lawrence River a seaway for ocean going ships to travel between the Atlantic and the Great Lakes.

For a week the Senate has been debating a bill to make the United States a partner with Canada in developing such a seaway. This would mean deepening the channel and building some locks at a cost of \$8 billion dollars to this country, 175 million to Canada.

This issue has bounced around in Congress since the end of World War I. But whenever it came to a vote, sometimes after weeks of debate, as it did in 1924, 1944 and 1948, the Senate vetoed it down. It may not do so now. In this session the House has not yet acted.

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