

'I Hope The Russians Are As Confused As I Am'

Indians Trying Prohibition; Getting Familiar Results

By ROBERT C. RUARK

BOMBAY, India—The people of India, in their reasonably new democracies are enjoying some other benefits of self-determination, including the old adventure in idleness that we call the noble experiment or prohibition. It's a piecemeal experiment, of course, and reaching only personal views of a party in power.

Calcutta is soaking wet, and so is Delhi. Bombay's dry as dust. The reaction to the road blocks, for shakedown searches of luggage, for contraband hooch, see the newsmen's teeth immediately, whether or not he has a bottle of Eau de Jolie tucked away in his reticule.

The thing about tourists is that they like to kick up their heels a bit, and if they are Americans they are reasonably accustomed to a slight nip now and again. The reaction to the road blocks, for shakedown searches of luggage, for contraband hooch, see the newsmen's teeth immediately, whether or not he has a bottle of Eau de Jolie tucked away in his reticule.

They go on a point in the visitor going abroad after dark, to scatter his shekels for the greater gain of the local sharks, because there is no money to be had here. It is almost impossible to believe today that a people can be so stupid. It is almost impossible to believe today that a people can be so stupid. It is almost impossible to believe today that a people can be so stupid.

An Old Problem Bobs Up Again

FROM time to time, we have had something to say in this space about the tendency of the American press to paranoize the controversy, to single out the sensational, in order to catch the eye and the attention of the reader.

It is, perhaps, inevitable. For the old saw, "the conflict is the news," is simply an inversion of the proverb, "no news is good news." And in singling out that which makes the news, the papers not only reflect the human qualities of the people who put them together, but also of the people who buy and read them.

Nor is this penchant for probing the area of disagreement limited to the newspapers. Television and radio are equally faulty, and perhaps more so.

What brings it to mind again is the continuing agitation in the news reports regarding to Vice President Nixon's unguarded comment last week that he, personally, would favor the use of U. S. troops in Indochina in the unlikely event that the French should withdraw.

By any definition, the statement was news. No other high administration official had publicly admitted to the possibility of using American troops in Indochina, though the possibility had been implicit in many previous statements on the threat to Southeast Asia. Mr. Nixon simply put the obvious into words.

We know of no way, within the framework of a free and competitive press (and the alternative is unthinkable), to avoid the overemphasis of controversy and disagreement. But in the specific instance, the news in the vice president, it was doubly unfortunate:

1. It unnecessarily prompted a good deal of unwelcome shooting-from-the-hip on Capitol Hill, to the confusion of the American people and the dismay of our free allies.

2. It took the spotlight away from the vice president's magnificent statement of America's interest in protecting Southeast Asia from Communist aggression and eventual conquest.

One of the jobs of the editorial page is to try to restore some order to the fast-moving events that dominate the front page. The real significance of the vice president's speech was in the broad view of administration and its predecessor on the nature of the Communist threat. Mr. Nixon set out to show why our security is wrapped up in the security of Southeast Asia, just as our security was in the Communist invasion of South Korea. It will be more difficult, because of the recent controversy, to get the point across to the American people.



Vaccine May Be Tested Here

THANKS to the combined efforts of County Chairman Sid McAden and Health Officer M. B. Bethel, Mecklenburg County youngsters may get the protection of the new Salk polio vaccine this year.

State Health Officer J. W. R. Norton had decided against using the vaccine in North Carolina this year, on the grounds that there would be insufficient time for the immunization to take effect before the normal epidemic period.

Guilford County, however, got permission from Dr. Norton to go ahead with its plans. And when County Chairman McAden heard about that, he got in touch with Dr. Bethel who was attending a health meeting in Florida and suggested that he renew Mecklenburg's application for an allocation of the vaccine.

Dr. Bethel's efforts may be in vain. There is not enough of the vaccine to go around. Its use was originally planned in N. C. counties with a high 1953 polio incidence rate—Guilford, New Hanover, Catawba, Caldwell, Durham, Rockingham and Buncombe.

But the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis is anxious to see the vaccine tested in all geographical areas of the state. And if the local health officers in the other N. C. counties don't follow Guilford's example, Mecklenburg's application may get favorable consideration after all.

The Salk vaccine holds out the dramatic promise of ending the threat of the dread polio. We shall keep our fingers crossed while awaiting the outcome of the McAden-Bethel move.

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.

Professional Advisers Get U. S. Into Trouble

Hamlet, N. C. Editors, The News

HAVING JUST read your editorial advocating to your readers intervention with U. S. arms and men in Indochina, I would like to ask you a few questions. For to me, your arguments are far from adequate to warrant so sweeping a decision.

You say the war in Indochina is now a civil war. If we enter it, it will certainly lead down the bars for other countries, China and not possibly Russia, since their interests are no less involved than ours; even more so, considering the proximity of Indochina to their own boundaries.

Your idea then is for the United States to intervene in order to induce a "major aggression" to be not said Mr. Eisenhower's "massive retaliation," the much vaunted H-bomb. In such a case, who would be the original aggressor in the nation's opinion?

Our allies don't think too much of this little plan as Mr. Dulles has in his recent conversations with them, they are thinking possibly of the re-retaliation features.

We come now to the "professional advisers" to Mr. Eisenhower mentioned in your article. This, I think, is the crux of the whole matter. (The term "professional advisers" can cover a lot of ground.) Who are they, and what are their names, and professions, and purposes?

If you want to give your readers something really instructive, enlightening and worthwhile now is your chance.

Who is the power behind the throne — the power that first made "The world safe for democracy" with poor old deluded Woodrow Wilson? Who with Churchill's help, decided Roosevelt into precipitating Pearl Harbor so that Congress could declare war? Who found it imperative to drop the hell-bomb on Hiroshima, even though Japan was already capitulating?

Who spawned the so-called Marshall Plan that impoverishes our own workers in pour money into rat holes all over the world?

Who pulled the strings that anti-

dated Truman into undertaking a war on his own initiative, a war that could not be resolved? And now we come to the latest question who were the strategists that planned intervention in Indochina even before Eisenhower was prompted to pull out of Korea.

Not Congress, not the people, not the military, but these mysterious "professional advisers" as you call them. Faceless and nameless, accountable to no electorate. They are power-drunk new on the atom bomb, and there's no telling what they will not only advise but decree. For these are the supreme rulers of our country, behind Congress, Cabinet, and President in the hollow of their hands. Why are they?

Only name them, Mr. Editor, and I'll guarantee that our readers will have a clearer understanding of how this country is run than any four year university course can give them.

Incidentally, it couldn't be that the old bogey-man "depression" peeping in the Republican window, would have any bearing on the urgency of the Indochina situation could it?

D. M. HARNELL
 (Note: Reader Harrell read too much into our editorial of April 9. It did NOT advocate intervention; it said that if President Eisenhower would have any bearing on the urgency of the Indochina situation, it pointed up the cruel dilemma that a "major aggression" by China in Indochina would pose. The "professional advisers" phrase referred mainly to military and diplomatic officials who advise the President on such questions.—Eds., The News.)

Hoover's Plan For Balanced Budget

IT WAS the fashion among Republican orators for nearly 20 years to blame the Roosevelt and Truman Administrations for deficit financing and the resulting economic inflation. In his formal address to the American Society of Newspaper Editors, former President Herbert Hoover carefully avoided placing any blame for continued deficit financing on the Eisenhower administration. Instead, he placed it where it has belonged all the time—directly on the U. S. Congress, which consistently spends more money than it is willing to collect in taxes.

In fact, Mr. Hoover went out of his way to poke a particularly sharp jab at the present Republican Congress in the handout philosophy, he said, was once "tax-and-tax, spend-and-spend," but now the formula reads "cut taxes, cut taxes, spend-and-spend."

With dry wit, Mr. Hoover added: "This is a philosophic improvement, but does not cure the deficit."

It is Mr. Hoover's thesis that a balanced federal budget is essential to end inflation, and that the only way to balance the budget is to hold taxes at the present schedule until expenditures can be reduced to the level of revenues.

There are economists, of course, who take the other view. In a recent issue of the WASHINGTON POST, Seymour E. Harris, Harvard professor of economics, argued quite convincingly that continued deficit financing does not mean that the country is heading for bankruptcy, and

that our ability to carry the national debt as measured by our national income is steadily improving.

This process of rationalization, however, ignores a very important probability—the fact that the nation's economic health would be even better than it currently is if Uncle Sam were operating in the black. Canada, for example, has just wound up the eighth consecutive year with a budget balance. And there are signs of the signs of an economic boom in Canada.

Said former President Hoover:

"We could both cure the budget deficit and many of the pains of taxes without lessening our effectiveness in defense or in the needed functions of government if we could now have a period of self-denial and patience."

His words had the ring of authority, but they echoed in a vacuum of political unreality. We have seen no signs that Congress will show more courage in exercising its constitutional power over the public purse than it has shown in the past two decades.

An Appreciation From Junior Woman's Club

Charlotte

THE NEWS: The Junior Woman's Club may I take this opportunity to thank you and all of the others on your staff who through their kindness and cooperation helped us to make our past year a successful one.

DOROTHY TRITMAN
 President

Freedom Has A Price, Which May Be War

Cheraw, S. C. Editors, The News:

FOR ONE, do not want any more wars, as I have never approved of the destruction war brings to the world. But I say as a free person there is a price to pay for anything you get, whether it be good or bad, and we should always live up to our

An Ohio man was arrested after robbing 23 homes in a single town. Overlook isn't good for anyone, whatever his profession. — Greenville (S. C.) Piedmont

It is significant of the times that a penny lay on our living room floor in my home. I had been ready to pick it up. — West Branch (Iowa) Times.

Nixon's Speech Apparently Reflected NSC Discussions

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON

ADMINISTRATION spokesmen worked hard over the weekend to isolate and sterilize Vice President Nixon's now famous remark that the United States might have to send troops to Indochina if the French quit fighting there.

The vice president, they contended, did not state a new policy.

He administration, including the President, to its logical conclusion. If Indochina must not be given to the Communists, then it is certainly possible that the unpalatable step mentioned by Nixon must be taken.

Vice President Nixon attends the meeting of the National Security Council where the policy makers review the stubborn facts. The matter came up as he was in the process of studying his mind on Asia — a mind filled with facts, possibilities and alternatives.

It is not a new phenomenon in Washington that officials spill out what is on the top of their minds. Harry Truman did it all the time; reporters who understood what problems had reached the White House desk had very little trouble provoking him into a discussion of them.

The vice president is a working politician. He has been presiding over the Senate during some very hot times; he has presided over the debate on Indochina designed to get the answer to just how far we intend to go to do it.

His reply to the editors indicates that in his own mind, he has decided; if it comes to troops, troops it must be. It is not idle speculation to suggest that if the use of American troops had been utterly ruled out in discussions with the National Security Council, the White House would have made exactly the same reply.

RETALIATION'S DRAWBACKS

Unless a gigantic storm of opposition develops from the weekend, the National Security Council speech, the administration can be expected more and more to develop its argument that Indochina is crucial to the peace of the world. It is difficult to see how it then can refrain from stepping up defense, since the National Security Council continues to say that "massive retaliation would not work in Indochina and it applied to China itself, might provoke the gravest of the situation in Asia especially with respect to Indochina.

The trouble with all this fuller explanation is that the vice president carried the argument which has been made consistently by

ENGLISH AS SHE IS SPOKE

MISS BEATRICE COBB in the MORGANTON NEWS-HEARLD complains that colorful speech is vanishing in the mountains nowadays—too much book-larin', we reckon, leas'tways that's what we hear tell.

However, all is not lost. People still make nouns do the work of verbs and vice versa—and why not? Thus:

They churched Pitt for tale-bearing. Granny get faultin' us all day. I don't confidence them dogs much. I didn't do nary thing contrary her. I didn't bear no give-out at the meetin'.

A letter-writer in the CHAPEL HILL WEEKLY gives a wonderful example for a sentence ending in a mess of prepositions:

What did you bring me that book to be read to out of from for?

We don't mind sentences ending in prepositions but that sounds like a little too much of a good thing to go for.

Editor Louis Graves of the CHAPEL HILL WEEKLY reminds us that the "tantamount" season has begun again. It always begins when somebody writes that "victory in a Democratic primary is

Discovery!

PHIA OFFICIAL Clyde Powell, who questioned in connection with the revelations of exorbitant profits and shady deals in the housing program, refused to answer senator's questions on grounds of possible self-incrimination. Aha—a Fifth Amendment Capitalist.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

THE international and political tor kicked up by Vice President Nixon's speech before the American Society of Newspaper Editors has now subsided, leaving two main points very clear.

1. The Nixon speech was more and more definitely as the man Eisenhower has picked to succeed him in 1960.

2. There is no question whatsoever that the Eisenhower administration contemplates the use of armed force in Indochina if necessary. Despite a modifying statement by the State Department following Nixon's speech, both the use of American ground troops and small atomic bombs have been under discussion.

Degree In Oratory

The Nixon speech before the editors was not only a masterpiece, it was calculated to win him recognition from a powerful group of opinion-makers. Even Democratic editors who didn't like Nixon came away admitting that the college degree he took in public speaking was paying dividends. Jim Bassett, Nixon's old public-relations man, now PRO for the GOP national committee, faced up to things, Nixon warned it would be more expedient to communicate with Red China as a seat on the United Nations.

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Nixon Is Getting Build-Up For '56

He was not partisan. The first half hour was devoted to a disarming exposition of the problems of Southeast Asia, interlarded with a measurable variety of personal "I was there" observations.

For instance, he told about the difficulty of getting along with cantankerous but courageous President Syngman Rhee in Korea. Then in almost the same breath he quoted a British general who was asked what was needed most in Indochina.

Nothing would stand us in such good stead," said the general, "as another Syngman Rhee."

Jungle Problems

The latter part of Nixon's talk was devoted to the difficulties faced in Indochina, the political problems of the French Laniel government which could easily be overthrown because of Indochina; the great problem of creating a spiritual leadership among the native peoples, and the U. S. alternative policy of appeasing Red China by admitting its Communist government to a seat on the United Nations.

Some editors figured the Nixon aside that was a mere trial balloon sent up by the administration's No. 2 man, so that Eisenhower himself, if necessary, could deny it later. This writer deduces differently for the following reasons:

A. Ike has repeatedly, deliberately refused to speak for him, no later than the reply to Adlai Stevenson. He has also let Nixon carry the ball as negotiator with John F. Kennedy, as the pacifier on Capitol Hill, and as the all-around political handman of the administration.

This organ part, because it gets both bored and tired while Dick is in eager beware, partly because it doesn't understand politics and Dick's lowly political, partly because it hates political

chores and the vice president is a job where time hangs heavily on one's hands. Subbing for the President began as an emergency measure, but has now become a habit likely to be recognized when the Republicans start looking for Ike's successor in 1956.

B. The plan to stand firm in Indochina, with U. S. forces if necessary, was drawn by the National Security Council to which Ike normally gives major decisions on foreign policy. Its Indochina decision has now become the hard-and-fixed policy of the Eisenhower administration, as reported by this column April 8, eight days before the Nixon speech. The current education campaign to prepare the American people for the war in Indochina was preceded by a special study by the National Security Council. . . . The sending of ground troops has been under discussion. They would replace French metropolitan troops, thus relieving the political furor in Paris where it's demanded that French troops come home. . . . U. S. admirals propose sending two or more airplane carriers. (The carriers are now in the Pacific, as the pacifier on Capitol Hill, and as the all-around political handman of the administration.)

The White House has made careful but pointed overture to Democratic leaders to get their support in case the Eisenhower administration becomes militarily involved in the jungles of Indochina.