

Lack of Foresight Evident in Delay On Marshall Plan

By PETER EDSON
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WASHINGTON — Sometimes the politicians of the world—who are supposed to know how to run the machinery for the good of the common people—sometimes these important guys show just about as much breadth of mind and depth of vision as a bunch of officers' wives in some remote military post's Wednesday afternoon bridge club. They are petty and they are catty. But they are VIPs—very important people—so they have to be kow-towed to.

A case in point is now offered by the deference that has to be shown to the sensibilities of members of Congress who are hostile to the Marshall Plan for European recovery.

One of their main arguments against the Marshall Plan is that it won't work—that no outside aid will solve Europe's troubles—that the only solution is for the European people to go to work and to start co-operating with each other, like in the United States.

Well, look at the record. The Paris report of the Committee for European Economic Co-operation was drawn up last fall, when representatives of the 16 Western European countries got together on their own initiative. They made an inventory of what help they could give each other and what help they would need from the rest of the world.

These 16 nations have never

been self-sufficient in foodstuffs or raw materials. So it was in perfect order for them to list what imports they would need to re-establish their normal economy. The Paris report on European economic co-operation is therefore the basic document of the whole recovery program.

Ever since this report was made public, opponents of further aid to Europe have kept up their cries that there must be more European co-operation. European countries must do more for themselves. European countries must work out their own salvation.

Early in January, the French apparently got the idea that there should be another meeting of the CEEC, to report on progress. The French invited the 16 nations to send their representatives to Paris.

But immediately the cables from America began to burn. Undersecretary of State Robert A. Lovett politely suggested that the British and French call off their talks, and abandon any plans for another meeting of the 16-nation CEEC just now.

The reason? It was feared that some American congressmen opposed to the Marshall Plan might not like it. It was feared that some European statesmen might get up and say he did not like the way the U. S. Congress was proposing to interfere in the internal affairs of his country. That in turn might upset the congressmen, who would thereupon decide to call the whole thing off. Furthermore, it was feared that the mere holding of another meeting of CEEC might be misinterpreted by the Congress as talking too much for granted.

Futile Expectations
So the French and British were advised to cancel their parley

Veterans Loans Shown in Report

SALEM, Ore.—(AP)—The State Department of Veterans Affairs reports it granted 437 loans to veterans last year, totaling \$1,397,725, or an average of \$3,400. The loans were granted to help veterans buy homes and farms.

Since the department was created two years and three months ago, it has granted 831 loans totaling \$2,417,169.

The department last year conducted 30,156 interviews with veterans in its Portland and Salem offices, of which 5,284 were with veterans seeking loan information, 4,468 about educational benefits, 3,655 about terminal leave bonds, 2,859 about GI insurance, 2,195 about other type benefits, and 1,903 about apprenticeship under the GI job training program.

and not do anything to upset the applecart until the whole business had been decided by Congress. The British and French took the hint. They will not co-operate any further until the State Department tells them it's safe.

But does this position taken by the State Department make sense? If there is going to be European criticism of conditions to Marshall Plan aid, it ought to come out in the open now. And if the U. S. is going to expect the 16 European nations to do more co-operating, the sooner they begin the better.

If the Marshall Plan is finally turned down by Congress, or if it is materially cut down, it will be all the more necessary that the European nations co-operate. And if now the 16 nations must be expected to sit on their hands until Congress makes up its mind in April or June, then Europe is in a bad way indeed.

Yugoslavs Deny Death Of American Woman

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, Jan. 27.—(AP)—The U. S. embassy said today the Yugoslav foreign ministry had assured it that Mrs. Emma Debeljak is not under death sentence.

Such reports have been printed in some U. S. newspapers.

Further details have been asked. The U. S. consulate said Mrs. Debeljak, a native of Farrell, Pa., has been in Yugoslavia since 1920. She has a daughter, 10, and a son, 9. She is divorced from her Yugoslav husband. A consulate spokesman said she had asked for an exit visa on her U. S. passport more than a year ago. The visa was not granted. The consulate received reports of her arrest some time ago.

Bond Issue for Schools To Face Salem Voters

SALEM, Ore., Jan. 28.—(AP)—The Salem School Board decided last night to hold a special election February 17 on a plan to issue \$1,500,000 in bonds for a building program for the school system.

The bonds would require a 15-mill levy for 10 years.

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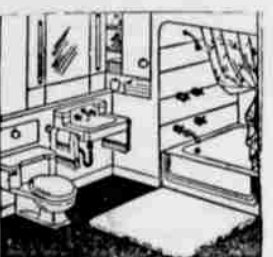
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