

United States of Western Europe Proposal Gets Further Support

By DEWITT MACKENZIE
AP Foreign Affairs Analyst

The idea of forming a United States of Western Europe—a modification of the generations-old dream of a United States of all Europe—has been given a further boost by France.

Early in August this column called attention to the sensational statement by Italy's free-thinking Foreign Minister, Count Carlo Sforza, that in order to effect a European union his country was ready to take the lead in accepting "curtailment of its political sovereignty, even in the most unexpected aspects." Simultaneously French Finance Minister Paul Reynaud expressed the hope that Britain would come out in full support of a United States of Europe next autumn after the dominions conference.

New French Secretary of State Francois Mitterand announces that the cabinet has decided to support a plan for convocation of an international assembly to draft a charter for uniting Western Europe under a federal constitution. This project is sponsored by the international committee for coordination of movements for a European union.

It is worth of note that the committee is headed by Duncan Sandys, son-in-law of Winston Churchill who long has been an advocate of such a union. Sandys' committee was appointed last

May by the Congress of Europe held at the Hague under presidency of Churchill.

Mitterand says France will begin negotiations soon with interested governments. Presumably he has in mind the nations which have subscribed to the Marshall Plan for European rehabilitation.

It strikes me as highly significant that Finance Minister Reynaud should interest himself in this project at a moment when he is struggling with the gravest economic crisis France has experienced. He is working with virtually dictatorial powers to meet this great emergency, and he obviously wouldn't pause to consider such a European union if he didn't regard it as being of utmost importance.

The Finance Minister believes a United States of Western Europe would bolster the Marshall Plan. Undoubtedly it would, and it would likewise tend to lighten the financial burden which America is bearing for European rehabilitation.

staff, incubators, oxygen tanks, sterilizers and other costly equipment, usually in a unit in a hospital.

The Children's Bureau agrees that it would be impractical for all communities, both large and small, to individually provide such elaborate services. But, by working through their state health departments, many communities can share jointly in this life-saving service. Officials say that in several states the health departments are establishing a network of centers for the care of premature babies.

Illinois, for instance, now has a number of centers in its network and plans to add more. In addition to the special staff and equipment in the centers, as in many other states, the Illinois Health Department receives financial and technical aid in administering the program from the Children's Bureau, Kansas, which has from 400 to 500 deaths from prematurity annually, is developing centers so that no premature infant will have to travel more than 50 miles to reach one. The state estimates that at least 50 per cent of prematures can be saved.

Colorado has a premature center in Denver, New Orleans, La., at its Charity Hospital, takes care of a daily average of 90 prematures. "Do prematures develop into normal children?" many folks ask. What about Victor Hugo, Charles Darwin, Sir Isaac Newton, Jean Jacques Rousseau, Voltaire and Winston Churchill? They were premature babies.

Emperor penguins weigh up to 70 pounds and stand 3½ feet high.

Americans Eating More Fish, Official Figures Disclose

By JANE EADS

WASHINGTON—It didn't require the recent experiment of a group of Maryland University fish-eating coeds to prove to the American public that fish, no matter how you dish it up, is as good for your system as meat. People are eating more fish and fish products every year. According to estimates of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Interior, the annual consumption of fish in the United States has been rising generally since 1932.

The figures show that in 1932 the consumption was not quite nine pounds per person. By 1947 it was about 11 pounds. With rising meat prices, it looks like the fruit of the sea will be an even more favored dish. Agriculture officials say that the greater use of fish has gone hand in hand with improved processing and distribution of this food. In the past, they say, people living along the sea coasts ate the most fish. But as production machinery has improved inlanders have been buying and eating more fish.

The wartime scarcity of meat and postwar meat prices also have encouraged fish eating, the Department of Agriculture says in a bulletin. "Many people have become acquainted with fish and fish products only lately," the statement says, adding that recent studies in about 20 inland cities that people prefer commercially frozen or packaged fish to fresh fish caught locally.

The Maryland coeds, six in all, submitted to an 11-week food test, directed by Shirley Wilson, 24, who conducted the research project as a problem for her mas-

ter's degree. The project was sponsored by the Fish and Wildlife Service in cooperation with the university. For the first three weeks the coeds ate anything and everything they had a yen for. They were then given a blood test to determine the number of red blood cells and their hemoglobin value. Hemoglobin forms the basis for the blood's red coloring. During the next portion of the food test two of the girls were allowed to continue on diets of their own choice, with meat as the main entrée. Four others were to eat fish for their noon-day meal.

At the end of the test, Miss Wilson said, it was found that the blood strength of the four fish eaters was the same as it was when they were on a meat diet.

Defiance of Draft Is Urged by Minister

ALBANY, N. Y., Aug. 24.—(AP)—A young Methodist minister, already under scrutiny of federal authorities, calmly repeated yesterday his appeal to draft eligibles not to register for selective service.

The Rev. Ernest R. Bromley, 36, told a reporter at his summer home in neighboring Nassau that he believed civil disobedience to military conscription was the only method of preventing a future war.

The minister projected himself into a controversy Sunday when he made this declaration in a sermon.

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Premature Birth Major Cause Of Infant Mortality

By JANE EADS

WASHINGTON—Premature birth is the biggest cause of infant mortality in the United States today. It accounts for the deaths of about a third of all babies who die during their first year. Specialists in the U. S. Children's Bureau acclaim the impressive reduction of mortality in infants since a third of a century ago, when 10 out of every 100 babies died. But they protest that today's three deaths out of every 100 are still too many.

It used to be that contagious diseases caused most of the infant deaths. To some extent the causes of these diseases have been eliminated and their spread controlled. The passage of the Social Security Act, with its grants-in-aid to state health departments, was a major factor in bringing about means of reducing infant mortality.

Premature babies weigh less than five and one-half pounds, compared to seven or eight for an average full-term baby. Furthermore, because they are not fully developed, premature babies have difficulty in breathing, sucking, swallowing and digesting food and have little or no resistance to disease. These facts mean that premature babies need highly specialized care. Such care requires a specially trained

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