

'Preacher' Gets Early Start



The Reverend Marjoe Gortner married Raymond Miller and Alma Brown in Long Beach, Calif. Nothing unusual about that, except that the minister is only four years old, is said to be youngest minister on record to perform the wedding ceremony. Wedding was legal, since California law says that the ceremony may be performed by any duly ordained minister who can read the certificate, sign it and mail it to the county clerk.

Communist Offensive Calls For Many Years of Tough Resistance

By DEWITT MACKENZIE

Associated Press Foreign Affairs Analyst

America's direct-spoken ambassador to Moscow, Lt. Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, has given us a line which should be chiseled into every doorstep of Democracy—lest we forget.

Discussing Russo-American relations at a press conference in Pittsburgh, the general said he felt things might continue in their present state indefinitely without worsening or bettering. He added:

"We can't afford to allow ourselves to be lulled into a false sense of security; neither can we afford to become hysterical. . . . We must view this as a long term thing. The Russian Politburo (core of the Soviet dictatorship) also thinks in terms of years."

That puts the thing in a nutshell, not only for the United States but for all the Democracies. So, leaving the ambassador out of further discussion, let's examine the situation from that standpoint.

Constant Alert Needed
We are in for a long, hard fight. It might last another generation—two generations. There's no gauge by which to make an estimate.

But it could be fatal if we didn't recognize that our greatest danger lies in allowing ourselves to be lulled into a sense of security by any seeming slackening of the Moscow drive. We must beware of Red Trojan horses.

Communist espionage long has been going on in America and other nations. The Un-American Activities Committee of the House of Representatives stated a few days ago "the Committee knows . . . that there are Communists in government today."

The Red is straining every nerve to gain control of trade unions the world over. It is spreading insidious propaganda through schools. It is overlooking no bet—but it is reconciled to the idea that it is committed to a long-range fight.

Must be Handled as Crime
Because of the nature of this Bolshevik offensive it can be dealt with only as we would handle ordinary crime. We've got to hunt it down and treat it as we would any other gangsterism.

This doesn't mean that we have to refuse all dealings with Russia. While there is no hope of making any deal whereby the whole conflict could be called off, there are things on which the Communists

might compromise because of self-interest. These relatively minor compromises might delay or even avert another world war.

The grand strategy of the Bolsheviks is to knock us off one at a time. Therefore our cue, and the cue of all other Democratic countries, is to wage unceasing war against the inroads of Communism at home, while joining in the general defense in theaters like western Europe.

Republican Chairman Raps Truman's Program

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—(AP)—Republican National Chairman Hugh Scott Jr., said yesterday that "if Mr. Truman has his way, this will be known as the grab-bag and pay-off Congress."

Commenting on the program laid down in Mr. Truman's state of the union message, Scott said: "Mr. Truman is rolling high dice with the people's money. He proposes to the Congress unequal distribution of the nation's wealth to pay off every pressure group in the land."

"No one," he said in a statement, "can disagree with the statement that 'wealth should be created for the benefit of all' but it is required that this wealth be taken away from the individual in the form of new taxes and sluiced back to him after deduction of federal brokerage fees to support thousands of additional federal employees."

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Messenger for Recording Angel Reminds of Broken Resolutions

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK.—(AP)—The man had stayed late at his office. He sat alone, scratching moodily on a desk pad.

The pencil wrote: "I hereby resolve in the coming new year to—"

The man got up, walked across the empty office to the water cooler, pressed the foot pedal. The water, as usual, spurted up and hit him in the face.

"D—n!" the man said absently. He walked back to his desk and began to scribble out his resolutions:

"To drink bigger glasses of water and smaller glasses of stuff that isn't water.

"To read one good new book and one good old book every month.

"To quit yelling at my wife.

"To quit yelling at the kids.

"To quit getting to the office late.

"To take my wife out to dinner and an evening of fun at least once a week.

"To bet on horses.

"To save some money.

"To buy my wife a fur coat.

"To get eight hours of sleep every night."

One Wish Gratified
And so the man wrote on until he had 25 resolutions written down. By then the moodiness had left his face, and he was smiling.

He paused and looked over his work, and found it good.

"Not a bad list, if I do say so," he said smugly. "This would impress the recording angel himself—if I had a way to get it up to heaven."

He looked at the buzzer on his desk and a wild fancy came into his mind.

"What if—" he mused. Then he made a wish, and pressed the buzzer. Immediately the door opened and in came a tall stern figure robed in white. He held a file of papers in his hands.

"Any messages for upstairs, Sir?" asked the ghostly figure.

"Why, wh-wh-who are you?" stammered the man at the desk.

"I'm the angel of truth, now on special assignment as messenger for the recording angel," said the figure. "Didn't you just wish for a messenger?"

"Yes," said the man, "but we don't usually get that kind of service in this office."

"What did you want me to deliver?" asked the angel.

"My new year's resolutions," said the man. The angel took the list and scanned it quickly.

"I'm glad you brought this up," said the angel. "You've been causing us a lot of unnecessary book-keeping. I have here your previous lists for the last 10 years. Please look them over."

Reminded of Broken Promises
The man, abashed, did so.

"You will find, I think," said the angel crisply, "that all these

years you've been making lists promising exactly the same reforms."

The man at the desk held up one old list and said defensively: "Well, this one doesn't say anything about stopping yelling at the kids."

"That one was made out before you had any children," said the angel coldly. "But otherwise year after year you've taken up a whole page in the golden book making promises you haven't carried out."

"The recording angel is tired of this. He says for you either to start living up to your word—or just tell him honestly now you don't intend to, so he can just put in carbon copies to cover you for the rest of your life."

"Take up the list just once more," said the man. "I'll do my very best this year to keep my resolutions."

The angel took it, gave him a golden smile. There was a puff of light—and the angel was gone.

The man got up from his desk, put on his coat and hat and started for the door. He paused at the water cooler and pushed the foot pedal. The water spurted up—and hit him in the face.

The man started to say "D—n!" but then he paused. He remembered that the 19th item on his list of resolutions was to stop saying that word when the water cooler hit him in the face.

"Somebody ought to fix that machine," he said mildly, and walked out feeling better. It looked like the start of a good new year.

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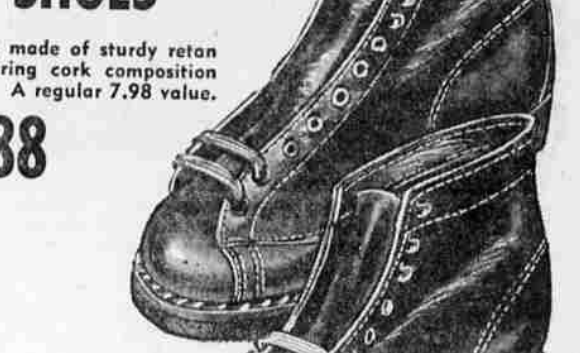
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