

The News-Review

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INVESTIGATE SANTA

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Many persons have been brought under the searching inquiry of congressional committees investigating communistic spying, organization and influence. Our ever-alert radio commentators have uncovered much sensational information to fuel the hunt for Reds and bare their activities. But for all their astuteness, radio commentators, with their generals, majors, captains and corporals volunteering as witnesses, have, we believe, overlooked one of the most obvious of all characters for congressional inquiry as to his communistic connections.

Must we be the first with sufficient courage to demand this investigation? Are our Red seekers so preoccupied they have overlooked the obvious? Is there malicious intent behind failure to pursue the course so clearly indicated?

If we must be the first to make this sensational expose, then, be it so.

Why hasn't Congress investigated Santa Claus? Is he a Communist, and thus dangerous to the safety of our government? Have our national leaders closed their eyes because Santa Claus is so influential in our administration and a guiding spirit in policy making? Has he been given the loyalty test? Are politicians afraid to do their duty because Santa Claus has such great popularity and prestige that they are afraid of reaction from voters?

These questions demand answers. Santa Claus has long been an honored and revered character. He is beloved by children and adults alike. He is a giver of gifts, a distributor of happiness. His appeal is universal. He has for ages been a patron saint of children. But are these virtues a cover, a "front" if you please, for communist leanings and activities?

Let's consider, briefly, some of the evidence at hand. In the first place let's take his name—Nicholas. Isn't that a common name in Russia? It seems we can even remember some Russian rulers by that name. That they have been replaced by people with much more common names—"Joe", for instance—doesn't lessen the implication. And haven't the Russians been raising "Old Nick" for years?

Then, take the asserted location of Santa's home. He is said to live at the North Pole. But did our Admiral Peary find him there? No mention of Santa Claus is found in the report from the intrepid explorer. Is it not significant that with all our Polar exploration the abode of Santa Claus has not been found in the area where he is represented to make his home? It is too far-fetched to believe that the Russians, with their penchant for moving people and things, are harboring Santa Claus behind the Iron Curtain?

Now, let's consider Santa's method of locomotion. Santa Claus, we are told, travels in a sleigh, drawn by reindeer. He travels through the air at such incredible speed that he can cover the entire earth, during his anticipated nocturnal visitation, in one 24-hour period.

The Russians not only admit but allege that all major inventions had their origin in the brains of Russian men of science. Nothing has ever been invented, designed or made that some Russian didn't conceive it first and make it better, the Communists declare.

Certainly our capitalistic American inventors haven't yet been able to develop a system for putting a sleigh, six reindeer and thousands of tons of gifts into the air, to travel at a speed greater than that of light, so—*quod erat demonstrandum*—the invention must be Russian in origin. The Communists probably would admit it. Isn't it possible, therefore, that the Russians have an horrendous secret weapon, and that they are permitting Santa Claus to make use of the principle of this terrible device? Are we to continue ignoring the possibility?

And now to the clincher! What is the dominant communist color? Red, of course! And what color is Santa's habitual garb? Ahaski!

Cost Of Eating Is Likely To Become One Of Most Bitter Disputes In '50

By SAM DAWSON

NEW YORK—(AP)—The cost of living is likely to become one of the most bitter disputes of the new year. It is also likely to become even more an artificial thing, strictly manipulated.

Since 1950 is an election year, there seems little chance of the year seeing a big break, price-wise, for the eating public. The anticipated declining farm income will disturb both Congress and the merchants in the farm belt. And whatever you may save at the grocery, chances are you'll be asked to make it up later at the tax collection office.

Signs of the big fight ahead are plentiful today. Farmers and politicians are choosing up sides on government subsidy plans. Cotton growers have just voted to accept government control over how much they can plant in return for guarantees of how much they'll get for their crop. Wheat, corn, peanuts, rice and potatoes also have moved over into the area where the government will say what is planted, what price is paid.

High Or Low? But the price of food—should it be high to please the farmer, or low to please the city folk?—isn't the only digestive pain the government is going to have. There is the matter of storing the growing surpluses of farm products and of getting rid of

them later on. After the war the rest of the world was eager to get all it could of American food, but the world's appetite for midwest corn and southwest wheat grows steadily less, as production rises abroad. And since devaluation of foreign currencies, the price tag on American food is higher in terms of other money.

There is also the politically painful matter of controlling the acreage which farmers will be permitted to plant. Not only does it bring up the matter of re-planting of that traditionally rugged individualist, the farmer, but also it frequently sets neighbor against neighbor, when one feels hurt more than the other. The current battle of the ten Texas cotton farmers against acreage allotments shows how difficult the matter can be.

Large Harvest Washington has just reported that this year's total harvest was second only to last year's record. The acreage harvested was the largest since 1933, reflecting the natural tendency of farmers to plant as much as possible when

It Still Guides



Scrapes from the MENDING BASKET
 By Viannett S. Martin

I do wish we could have here in Oregon, in Southern Oregon, perhaps in Douglas county specifically, a calendar-book similar to the beautiful book of views, one for each week, collected into such a book by the New York State Junior Chamber of Commerce. The pictures which have appeared in the News-Review would find a permanent way of display. Some of them are so worthy of wider distribution!

(I vote right now that the picture of the little girl making Christmas cookies be given one of the December pages! If that isn't an Oregon "scene"—what is? Not landscape, but childhood-scapes! The expression which Paul Jenkins captured with his camera stays in my thought. Although I have never seen Kathy Corkrum, I shall not soon forget that picture!)

There is, of course, a Northwest Calendar book which includes the Pacific coast states and Montana and Wyoming and Idaho. Lovely views, too! We gave a number of them for gifts last year to out of state relatives and friends who wrote enthusiastically about their pleasure in the views. The ones who had been here enjoyed 'remembering'; the others wanted to visit them!

I sent one to a New York State cousin, and back came this N. Y. book and have I enjoyed the many, many familiar scenes; they bring back so many memories! Mary said she hadn't thought to send one out of state until the receipt of the Northwest Calendar gave her the idea. They are very subtle advertising. Chambers of commerce, please note! Let's have an OREGON book!

Speaking of pictures of children: Oh, aren't they precious, twenty years or so later on! We took literally hundreds of our "twins." Now I am matching each picture that comes of our grandson with the same-age picture of his daddy, and the uncle whom he will not see here . . .

I always tried to get story pictures. There's one where one toddler is roaring lustily, flat on his back on the grass, his picture book still held in both hands, while a triumphant brother stands over him with a "that'll teach you!" look.

I'd like to offer one modest suggestion at this point: In this country, we aren't likely to pass a law decreeing that the party in power shall be the only party permitted to have candidates on the ballot and that no write-ins shall be allowed. With our glorious tradition of freedom of the individual to choose the kind of government he prefers, that couldn't come about short of say half a dozen generations.

But if the political estate of the Republic party should fall so low that NO REPUBLICAN COULD EVER HOPE TO BE ELECTED we would drift automatically and more or less imperceptibly into the ONE-PARTY system that now prevails by law in the behind-the-iron-curtain countries of Europe and Asia.

PERSONALLY, I'm going to go on being a Republican—PARTLY BECAUSE THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IS THE PARTY OF OPPOSITION and without a party of opposition we could fall in time into all the evils that are inherent in one-party government.

SEX SLAYER CONVICTED FRESNO, Calif., Dec. 22—(AP)—Paul Montes Gutierrez, 25-year-old cotton picker, was convicted yesterday of first degree murder in the rape slaying of 17-month-old Josephine Yanez. The verdict of Superior Judge Arthur C. Shepard, who heard the case without a jury, was without recommendation, making death penalty automatic. Judge Shepard also ruled that Gutierrez was sane.

In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

ing place, his name was checked against a registration list. He was handed an unsealed envelope which he carried into the secret voting booth. There he picked up his ballot, WHICH CARRIED ONLY THE FATHERLAND FRONT CANDIDATES, sealed it in the envelope and dropped it in a closed ballot box.

"OPPOSITION COULD BE REGISTERED ONLY BY HANDING IN AN EMPTY ENVELOPE, OR ENCLOSED AN ODD SCRAP OF PAPER ON WHICH NO NAMES COULD BE WRITTEN."

THAT helps to explain the splendor I did vote the communists got in Bulgaria. When there is only ONE TICKET in the field, and no write-ins are permitted, and failure to vote at all is regarded with great suspicion, the incumbents can roll up majorities that are extremely impressive.

THIS is about the only possible comment: That is what happens when there is only one party—as in Bulgaria, and in ALL of the countries run by the communists. It is another evidence of what happens when too much power is placed in too few hands.

4 CHURCHES ON ONE SITE MALINES, Belgium—(AP)—Workmen clearing away the ruins left by a wartime V-1 bomb have unearthed the remains of four churches, all built on the same site. The discovery was made in what is left of Saint-Lambert church, Muzen-lez-Malines.

NOTED INVENTOR DIES BUFFALO, N. Y., Dec. 21—(AP)—Gerritt Van Damm, 56, a prominent inventor, died Wednesday after an illness of six months. A native of Amsterdam, Holland, Van Damm came to the United States early in the century and was placed in charge of engineering projects at the Panama canal. Van Damm was credited with inventing the device used by the Allies in World War One which synchronized with an airplane propeller and discharged bullets through the revolving blades.

GLAMOR FOR DOG TAGS LAS VEGAS—(AP)—Next year's dog tags in Las Vegas will be in the shape of fire hydrants, for males, and hearts, for females. Dog Catcher Bill Burke says he hopes, by "glamorizing" the tags, to triple this year's sale of 1300 tags.

Russia Getting Navy Ambitions, Admiral Notes

BOSTON, Dec. 21—(AP)—Admiral Forrest P. Sherman, chief of U. S. Naval operations, said today there is "ample evidence" of a reawakening of Russian "maritime ambition."

He added, pointedly, that America's superior force of aircraft carriers must be maintained to keep open vital sea lanes. In a speech delivered to the Boston Chamber of Commerce, Sherman said that Russia has more cruisers in active service than this country, and that Soviet shipbuilding capacity reportedly is double its 1940 level.

"Although Russia is predominantly a land power and air power, there is ample evidence of a reawakening of maritime ambition," declared the top-ranking U. S. Naval officer. "Since 1935, heavy surface ship construction has been in progress and within the past year, the number of cruisers and new destroyers in the Russian fleets has increased."

Sherman said the modern cruisers built in Soviet shipyards are heavy ships of high speed armed with a standardized rapid firing high velocity 7.1 inch triple turret battery.

He placed the total number of Soviet cruisers at 14. The United States now has 13 cruisers in active service and 60 more in its "mothball" fleet. Of the laid-up U. S. vessels, 32 are light cruisers.

Sherman gave the Soviet fleet's known strength as three old battleships, 14 cruisers, 110 destroyer types, and about 270 submarines.

In addition, he said, it included a force of motor torpedo boats, submarine chasers, and minesweeper craft in peacetime which exceed the numerical strength of equivalent types in all other navies combined—including the United States.

"Our outstanding superiority over the Russian fleet lies in our carrier force," Sherman said. "The maintenance of our carrier force is essential to our uninterrupted use of vital sea communications. It is also essential to naval support of the army and the air force. It is the core of the offensive power of the fleet. It is the most mobile tactical air force in existence."

At present, the United States has 15 aircraft carriers in active service. In addition, it has 87 "mothballs", including 62 small escort carriers. According to available information, Russia has no aircraft carriers.

Holy Communion Celebration Set For Episcopalians

The annual midnight celebration of the Holy Communion will be held in St. George's Episcopal church Christmas Eve, Saturday, beginning at 11 p.m. The change in time should be noted, the service beginning a half hour earlier than in former years.

A Christmas sermon will be preached by the rector, the Rev. Alfred S. Tyson. Christmas music will include "Gesu Bambino," by Pietro Yon, as the choir anthem, as well as the familiar hymns and carols.

On Sunday, Christmas day, there will not be the usual early celebration of the Holy Communion at 8 o'clock, nor will the church school meet. There will be a choral communion at 11, at which the junior choir will join the adult choir in singing "Rejoice and Be Merry."

Christmas parties will be held for the church school and for the choir on the Wednesday following Christmas. The church school party will be in the Parish hall from 2 to 4 in the afternoon, and will be under the direction of Mrs. Frank Webster, Mrs. S. L. Groong, and Mrs. H. H. Garner. The choir party will also be in the Parish hall, beginning with a potluck supper for choir members and their families at 6:30 p.m.

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America, Allies Agree On Uniform Types Of Arms

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Secretary of State Acheson announces that a "substantially complete" agreement has been reached on the types of arms the United States will send to its European allies.

He reviewed at a news conference the status of the program for \$1,000,000,000 of American military aid to nations joining

with this country in the North Atlantic pact. In summary, these were the main points:

1. There is a fairly complete understanding as to the kinds of weapons wanted and to be sent.

2. Some differences still remain as to the wording of the agreements which will govern the uses of those weapons. Negotiations are continuing on this.

3. He expects the North Atlantic council to meet early in January to approve a statement of the defense strategy of the Atlantic area.

Under the arms aid legislation, the program cannot begin until agreements covering the use of the weapons have been completed and the statement of grand strategy approved.

Two Suits For Money Filed In Circuit Court

Veterans Sales Outlet has filed suit in circuit court demanding judgment against Tom and Charles Gilkey, doing business as Gilkey's Trading Post. The plaintiff alleges the amount is the unpaid balance on merchandise purchased by the Trading Post.

Minnette M. Belle has filed suit demanding judgment against Percy M. Varney for \$800, plus interest and costs, for alleged non-payment on a loan.

ON DESERTION GROUNDS

HOLLYWOOD, Dec. 22—(AP)—Clark Gable's fourth wife, the former Sylvia Hawkes, was divorced in London June 15, 1948, by Lord Stanley of Alderley on grounds of desertion.

She did not obtain the divorce herself, as stated in a previous Associated Press dispatch.

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