

# The News-Review

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## STARVATION APATHY

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Many millions of Chinese will starve before next year's harvest because of poor crops in Shantung province, Wayne Richardson, Associated Press correspondent, writes. Richardson is the news writer who sailed as a passenger aboard the Flying Arrow when it attempted to run the Nationalist blockade and gathered his information concerning conditions in communist-controlled China while the freighter was being unloaded at Tsingtao.

"The average Shantungese thinks even less of the Reds than he did of Kuomintang—the Nationalist party—but will remain apathetic," Richardson says.

It is perfectly understandable how a man forced to concentrate on finding enough food to stay alive would be apathetic about politics. When life narrows down to a dire struggle for existence, the victim of such circumstances is not apt to be too much concerned with theories of government nor the politics of his particular rulers for the moment.

Many of China's millions, we are told, have never known such a thing as a full meal. Starvation is common. Some commentators even go so far as to say that one reason for China's long period of internal war is the fact that soldiers usually get fed, even though others may starve, so there is little difficulty in obtaining recruits, even though the recruits have no enthusiasm, or even understanding concerning the cause for which they were enlisted.

But while scarcity may produce apathy in government, abundance likewise can dull accountability toward political theories.

While the Chinaman fails to exercise responsibilities of citizenship because he is too busy gathering bark, leaves and grass to feed his starving family, the American tolerates abuses of constitutional government because he feels a personal sense of abundance.

Why, for instance, should one worry about socialistic infiltration so long as he is making more dollars than ever before? Why worry about a national debt? So long as it is possible to get a fat pay check without the necessity of showing pride in craft or in volume of production, why be bothered about such things as an honest day's work for an honest dollar? Besides, the dollar isn't honest—its only worth 30 cents.

Some commentators and observers say that people are becoming more concerned about government; that voters are awakening to the magnitude of the public debt, the evils of deficit spending and the dangers inherent in an unbalanced budget; that people are becoming worried about the advance of Socialism and the loss of freedoms. We wish we could share the optimism of those observers. But we fear that too many people will not become concerned about governmental trends or political theories while free hand-outs continue, the pay check is well padded with inflated dollars, and while the boss must pay the worker's taxes, give free pensions, longer vacations, sick leave, hospitalization, etc., although the worker, in turn, is in no wise obligated to provide more efficient production or improve skill.

The political aspirant who would offer his candidacy on the basis of an honest dollar, a tighter belt until debts are paid, a closer economy, responsible leadership, and conscientious performance, might as well save the few dollars it would cost to file his declaration. He wouldn't get to first base.

We don't believe the people are ready to leave the party while the drinks are still free and plentiful.

The time will come, however, when, if we continue our socialistic course, we will begin to enter a period of scarcity. Then there will be an awakening. Changes will be demanded.

That condition could be averted if enough people could be stirred soon into realization of the pitfalls ahead. But it is questionable whether sufficient public consciousness of our danger can be aroused until too late.

While we revel now in abundance—in visions of Santa Claus and the free lunch—it is not beyond possibility that, sooner than we think, we could be like the Chinese, too engrossed with the problems of the next meal to worry about political theory or the party in power.

### Truman Squelches Questions About Case Of Hiss

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—(AP)—President Truman dismissed with crisp words of no comment Friday all questions on the Alger Hiss case.

He told reporters some questions were not asked with good intent.

The first question to Mr. Truman at his weekly news conference was this:

"Mr. President, regardless of the outcome in the higher courts, will you or will you not turn your back on Alger Hiss?"

No comment, Mr. Truman shot back, adding that that's not a nice question.

Secretary of State Acheson had said he would not turn his back on Hiss—the former State department official who was convicted by a New York jury of lying when he said he never slipped government papers to a communist spy ring.

Several Republican members of Congress have been flinging criticism at Acheson for his statement about his attitude.

After this first question and another exchange today, another reporter asked Mr. Truman

whether there was any point in asking any other Alger Hiss questions.

The President said there wasn't, that they weren't asked with good intent and that he didn't intend to answer them.

"And you pulled the covers off me because I wouldn't get up and 'do something' about it. Those cows certainly put on the darndest performance . . ."

"A dance routine in the bright moonlight. Like they were on long rockers. Bounding around the garden. . ."

Major Gen. Thomas E. Rilea, Oregon adjutant general, announced this, saying the army had approved the shift after he and Washington officials had probed living conditions at the Yakima site, which was used last year.

Some 2000 troops will take part in the training at the coastal camp near Astoria. They will be the 115th anti-aircraft artillery brigade from Washington, the 237th AAA group from Oregon and the 367th ordnance company from Portland.

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## It's His Baby and He's Stuck With It



TALK ABOUT FORMOSA—Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson (seated left) and Gen. Omar Bradley (right standing), chairman of joint chiefs of staff, appear in Washington, to testify before senate foreign relations committee as to whether or not Formosa is necessary to American defenses. Posing before the closed hearing are (left to right), seated Johnson and Chairman Tom Connally (D-Tex.); standing, Sen. Alexander Wiley (R-Wis.); Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. (R-Mass.), and Gen. Bradley. (AP Wirephoto).

### Soaps from the MENDING BASKET

By Vianett S. Martin

"Look, Algie," said Mrs. Bitwuns. "Remind you of anything?" Algernon duly looked out at the snow-covered landscape. Shook his head.

"More snow than I ever saw till I was grown and the Navy sent me ashore one time at Halifax. Waded in it up to my waist."

"No, no, Algie. See that Jersey cow peering in their living room window across the way. Don't you?"

"Oh, sure! The time you got up about two o'clock one morning to see what some 'funny noise' was, and you called the radio cops to tell them we had a couple of prowlers. Gosh!" Mr. B chuckled at the memory.

"Well, it was a funny noise! A snuffling, snorting noise right by my head! One cow had her nose right at the window, peering in at me. The other was right behind her."

"And you pulled the covers off me because I wouldn't get up and 'do something' about it. Those cows certainly put on the darndest performance . . ."

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### Forty-Hour Week For Congressman? Not For Awhile

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—(AP)—Congressmen already get pensions when they retire. Now they are talking wistfully of getting a 40-hour week while they work.

The matter came up at the hearing the Senate-House economic committee is holding in its study of the price of steel.

Alva Phelps, president of the Oliver Corporation, a Chicago farm equipment company, was explaining how the steel increase affected his business.

Rep. Rich (R-PA) was doing the questioning. Suddenly Rich asked:

"How many hours do you put in each day?"

"We put in a 40-hour week in the office, just the same as they do in the plant," Phelps said.

"First time I ever heard of an executive who could get by on eight hours a day," said Rich, who runs a woolen mill in addition to his duties as a congressman.

"I have always felt, congressman, that eight hours was about all a man could work—if he worked efficiently," Phelps said.

Senator Flanders (R-VT) cut in to say:

"I think that's true. Of course, here in Congress it's—"

Phelps nodded.

"You understand," he said, "I said, 'If he worked efficiently.'"

The next witness was Otis Brubaker, director of the CIO United Steelworkers' research department.

Brubaker toted along a 65-page statement. Obviously the efficient thing to do would be let him breeze right along and read it. But he hadn't got past a page before the interruptions started.

At the end of an hour he had struggled through 10 pages—and the committee then knocked off for lunch.

Thursday night Ludwig Dwyer, his clarinetist, fell dead.

## Both Offers For Control Of PP&L Rejected By SEC

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—(AP)—The Securities and Exchange commission Friday rejected two proposals to buy control of the \$77,000,000 Pacific Power and Light company of Portland, Ore.

The agency disapproved bids submitted by both B. J. Van Ingen and Co., Inc., and Allen and Co. to buy 500,000 shares of the company's common stock.

SEC based its action on the grounds that American Power and Light Co., which now controls the Portland utility, did not "maintain competitive conditions" in negotiating for the stock's sale.

The commission ruled, however, that it will leave the way open for a negotiated sale of the securities if "competitive conditions" are maintained in dealing with interested groups in the future.

"Under the circumstances here presented, we have concluded that an adequate showing has been made to justify an exemption from our competitive bidding requirements as to the sale of Pacific stock by American," SEC's decision stated.

The commission found, however, that it was "unable to approve either of the proposals now before us because of American's failure to maintain competitive conditions in the negotiations for the sale of the stock as required by the holding company act."

American Power had asked the commission to approve a contract signed with the Van Ingen syndicate to sell the Pacific Power stock for \$14,500,000 cash and proceeds from the sale of certain Pacific Power properties which could bring the purchase price to \$19,500,000.

The bid submitted by the Allen group was for \$15,000,000 cash and was contingent on SEC's rejection of the Van Ingen offer.

Electric Bond and Share company, parent corporation of American Power, had urged the commission to accept the Allen bid.

Proposed sale of the utility—which serves 101 communities in Washington and Oregon—has stirred a wave of controversy around the possibility that the Pacific Power properties would be resold to public power districts and thus removed from private operation.

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## Ambulance Drivers Given First Aid Instructions

Douglas Simms, manager of the local chapter of the American Red Cross, announced today that the first aid program sponsored by the State Industrial Accident commission in cooperation with the local Red Cross chapter is well under way.

Just completed is a course given by George Smith, field representative of the State Industrial Accident commission, accident prevention division, at the request of the Roseburg Funeral home. Mr. Smith, also first aid chairman for Red Cross in this county, states that all four ambulance drivers employed by the firm have completed the course in advanced first aid.

Certificates will be awarded to L. L. (Jim) Powers, proprietor, Norval Eastin, Vernon Little, and Meredith Wilson, drivers who passed requirements of the State Industrial Accident commission and of Red Cross.

Several other residents in the area have complained of prowlers.

General Credit Service is Awarded Judgments

General Credit Service, Inc., was awarded \$343.19 in judgments by default, from three defendants Tuesday in justice court.

Judge A. J. Geddes issued decrees against Mrs. Elmer Moser for \$42.97; James E. and Fredwyn Culbertson for \$57.22 and Henry and Loretta Stanley for \$243, plus interest and costs.

TRIANGLE CASE

PORTLAND, Jan. 28.—(AP)—Tiny Adams, 40, was indicted on a charge of first degree murder today because of the shooting of Roosevelt Clinton Ivory just before Christmas.

Adams, who left the shooting scene to go get a Christmas turkey for his children, said he found his wife with Ivory.

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