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WHERE WE CAME IN

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Should UN forces in Korea stop at the 38th parallel?

That question is assuming much importance in the world situation. It will be the subject of increasing debate. The favorable turn in military action indicates that it must be answered soon. The decision will have far-reaching effects.

We should, as we consider the issue, examine why the 38th parallel figures so prominently in the Korean situation.

Japan had conquered Korea and had a large army on the peninsula on V-J day. As a matter of courtesy to Russia, which had entered the Pacific struggle only a few days before the Japanese capitulation, Russia was invited to accept the surrender of Japanese troops in North Korea. The 38th parallel was fixed as the mark above which the Russians were to act.

The invitation extended to Russia was purely a gesture of courtesy. As proven by later events, it was another of the several blunders made in accepting Russia as a friendly and cooperative ally.

It was intended that as soon as the Koreans had established a government of their own, all foreign troops would be withdrawn.

Russia Decided To Stay

But Russia decided to stay in Korea. She "occupied" the northern half of the peninsula after the Japanese surrender and set up a puppet state. Instead of protesting this action and enforcing our policy of a free Korea, our appeasement-minded State department set up a South Korean government and withdrew our military forces. Russia then goaded her North Korean puppets into an attack on the South Koreans.

Thus the 38th parallel has no importance except as a line set up to mark the area where Russia was to accept the Japanese surrender. It has no place as a political subdivision in Korean government.'

There was no international intent at any time to divide the government of Korea. Division resulted entirely from Russia's defiant action in setting up arbitrary control over the northern section. It was generally understood that Korean people would be left free to elect a government for their entire country. Undoubtedly the present situation could have been avoided had our State department adopted a stern attitude in enforcing the original plan.

Cannot Show Weakness

Asiatic people have no tolerance for weakness. They recognize only power. Either Russia or the UN—more especially the United States—will lose face as a result of the Korean struggle. If the Reds are chased out, Russia will suffer loss of prestige. If, on the other hand, we do not chase the Reds completely out of Korea, we will be accused of fear and weakness and will thereby lose confidence of Asiatics.

If we fail to cross the 38th parallel we will, in effect, be tacitly recognizing the division of Korean government arbitrarily imposed by Russia. Failure to bring all of Korea under one command automatically would open the door to continued division resulting in renewal of conflict at some later date.

We exhibited weakness in Korea once. Because we failed to be tough and strong, we lost face. We invited aggression. We will repeat our mistake if we stop at the 38th parallel now. We will have achieved nothing. We might as well say: "Here is where we came in."

If a Korean government is to be established, free and independent, the people of that country must have the right to determine the form of that government and select their leaders in a representative election. It should be a government for all of Korea. The peninsula cannot support two hostile governments. The Korean people must have protection until their government is formed and functioning.

If we are to be honest in our responsibilities to the Korean people, we must disregard the 38th parallel as a political boundary, provide protection for elections, then withdraw our forces as quickly as possible, but preserving on nearby Japan enough military strength to discourage any new aggression.

Scraps from the MENDING BASKET

By Vivabnett S. Martin

Before steam power entered into the picture, Curtis Stratton had the brilliant idea of finding relief for the farmers and stockmen of the Roseburg area whose markets were at times inaccessible. He would float their products down the Umpqua on rafts, or flatboats, and having arrived at the ocean, would sell the craft for whatever the lumber would fetch.

To prove the feasibility of his idea "this bold navigator," says Walling's History of the five southern Oregon counties, "made his experimental voyage in a small skiff, manned by two or three persons, and for the sake of impressiveness carried a flag and a tin horn whose tootings resounded through the wooded hills and rocky canyons of the Umpqua." (A hundred years later some Boy Scouts did the same thing in canoes. I presume they used bugles however rather than tin horns.) The trip discouraged the Stratton party.

Then came the Swan, under steam, which actually docked at Roseburg in 1858. Captain Hahn (Haun?) reported that vessels such as the Swan could navigate the trip seven months out of the year, providing a few hundred dollars were spent on improving the channel.

The Merchants & Farmers Navigation company was incorporated with directors: J. C. Floed, T. R. Sheridan, J. C. Hutchinson, D. C. McClellan, and S. W. Crane, Asher Marks, Treas., James Walton, Secty. The Enterprise was built under Capt. Hahn's direction —$8,000.

The F&M Co., advertised freight rates from Gardiner to Scottsburg, $3. per ton; to Calapooia, $10; to Roseburg, $12.; to landings above there, $14. It was confidently expected to reach Canyonville!

In February 1870 the Enterprise steamed up river from Gardiner, but returned to Scottsburg after giving up at Sawyer's rapids. The winter proved to be uncommonly dry; water was low.

In March, 1871, Congress awarded $22,500 for work on the channel. Things were still booming from the effect of seeing the Swan at Roseburg: "That same month," says Walling's History, "the Plaindealer said: 'We are confident that before two years have elapsed Roseburg will have daily steam communication with the coast for seven months in the year. Farmers, plant grain!' "

"In the rainy season the newspapers argued in favor of steamboats on the Umpqua. In summer, with the diminished floods . . . railroads were their topic." And then —the railroad came. . . and demand for river traffic ceased with it.

Fishing With the Right Bait

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

(Continued from page One)

bados, in 1751. (Barbados is one of the island that we group roughly as the West Indies—down where the waters of the Caribbean Sea meet the waters of the Atlantic.)

At what in these days we'd call a cocktail party, Washington was asked what he thought of the island's rum. He answered that it was of excellent quality but was extravagantly dear in price.

The going price of Barbados rum at that time was two shillings per gallon, and in 1751 two shillings were equivalent to 45 cents in U. S. coin!

At any rate, the incident proves to us that the Father of Our Country was a strong believer in getting his money's worth.

Boy! How I wish his recent successors in the city of Washington had gone along with him in that.

By the way, how do you pronounce "Caribbean?"

People who have been down there on a cruise usually come back calling it Ca-REEB-ean. Saying it that way sounds like you've been places and know your way around. But Webster's Intercollegiate Dictionary pronounced it CA-rib-BE-an.

I've just learned through the medium of a dispatch from Moscow that the editor of Pravda is a big shot in the communist party.

That settles Pravda's hash so far as I'm concerned. I want no truck with newspaper men who are also political poohbahs. A good newspaper man's place in politics is on the outside looking in—NEVER on the inside looking out.

This dispatch from Tokyo intrigues me:

"Ambassador William Sebald, General MacArthur's political adviser, left tonight for three weeks of conferences in Washington.

"Sebald said his trip had no particular significance at this time."

Hold your hats, men. When a government guy says that, it usually means that BIG STUFF IS IN THE WIND.

Simple, sincere question:

Wouldn't it be WONDERFUL if we could believe everything our government tells us?

Closing Of Tax Loopholes Would Put $500 Million More In U.S. Treasury

By PETER R. EDSON
NEA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON — (NEA) — Closing of tax loopholes is only one of the very tough tax problems which President Truman has now tossed to Congress. He asked that these loopholes be closed a year ago. Congress partially closed a half-dozen of them, but left the biggest wide open. Closing them would add an estimated $500 million to government revenues from higher income corporations and individuals.

Depletion allowances granted to the oil and mining industries, preferential treatment on capital gains, estate and gift tax exemptions are things that don't figure in the life of the ordinary citizen.

But when the $60-a-week guy with a family is being asked to pay more taxes, it is only fair for him to know that nobody in the higher brackets is being exempted for special privilege. If these loopholes are ever closed, this would appear to be the time to do it.

Otherwise, President Truman's request for a (with) tax rise is in the nature of a slick trick. It is also a confession that the administration itself doesn't know how much more taxes will be asked for eventually.

In other words, the $71 billion budget which President Truman requested in January is just a preliminary request. This is evident in the $40 billion estimate for national defense expenditures in the next year, plus another 20 billion authorization to make contracts for military spending in 1953. These are nice round numbers, as yet unsupported by any breakdowns on what it is intended to buy with this money.

More Requests Coming

The President's tax message hints that requests for still more defense appropriations will be made later on. As these supplemental requests pile up, there will be corresponding requests for supplemental taxes. That's where the second bite will come in. And if necessary there will be a third bite.

While all this is called a "pay-as-we-go" tax plan, it would perhaps be more proper to call it a tax-as-we-go payment plan.

What's more, there is a hint in the President's tax message that he would like to have these high taxes continued for the duration of the emergency. "During World War II taxes were not high enough," the President told Congress. "As a result. . . . . we paid in inflation for our failure to tax enough."

What that seems to imply is that this is not just taxation for revenue only. It is taxation to control inflation and he wants it continued as long as there are inflationary pressures.

Browder To Act As Own Attorney In Contempt Case

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Earl Browder is boning up on the law.

The one-time No. 1 Communist in this country is getting ready to serve as a defense attorney. The defendant? Earl Browdr, under indictment for contempt of Congress.

In obvious preparation for this role, Browder has been an intent but almost unnoticed—spectator in Washington courtrooms.

During the past four days, two officials of the United Electrical Workers(U. E.) have been on trial on contempt charges. The verdict was delayed in the first, and the second has not yet been completed.

A reporter caught the former Communist chieftain as he was leaving the courtroom. About all he had to say was that all contempt of Congress cases are similar.

But he reiterated he does not intend to use as his defense a contention he declined to answer questions because he might incriminate himself. The constitution guarantees a man's right against self-incrimination.

Browder was indicted for refusing to answer questions of a senate foreign relations subcommittee which investigated charges by Senator McCarthy (R-Wis) that Communists had infiltrated the State department.

Browder contends the questions he didn't answer were not pertinent to the inquiry. A date for Browder's trial has not been set. Contempt is punishable by one year in jail and a $1,000 fine.

During preliminary proceedings before Judge James R. Kirkland some time ago, Browder said he wanted to act as his own attorney. The judge told him he could.

Later, however, Judge Kirkland told Browder he would appoint an able attorney to represent him, if he lacked funds to employ one himself. Browder still said he wanted to be his own attorney.

Unchanged Meat Prices, Higher Egg Costs Noted

By The Associated Press

Retail food prices presented a mixed picture this week: Most price-ceiling levels in the majority of stores, eggs were up two to four cents a dozen and several fresh vegetables were lower as supplies increased.

Meat trade sources reported that consumer resistance to high prices had slowed demand for the better cuts of meat. Retailers were clamoring for lower prices for their wholesalers, and holding their purchases to a minimum.

As a consequence, said an Agriculture department marketing specialist in New York, wholesale prices for several cuts, particularly beef, veal and lamb hindquarters, eased somewhat below wholesale ceilings early this week.

He said this would give some retailers a chance to trim prices on a few meat cuts this weekend and probably would show up in advertised "specials."

Higher egg prices were attributed again to good demand as housewives turned away from costly meat.

Some auhorities say the supply situation points to even higher prices for eggs in coming weeks. Cold storage holdings in the nation are sharply smaller than they were at this time last year.

Vegetables Ease Situation

For the budget-minded shopper, the best food news this week was the abundance of fresh vegetables. Lettuce was selling at the lowest price in months in most places as supplies poured in. This salad staple was headlined this week on the agriculture department's list of plentiful foods for thrifty buying, along with apples.

The only major vegetables in somewhat short supply, and hence higher this week, were bunch beets, cucumbers and eggplant.

Delegates to the national canners association convention in Chicago predicted higher prices for canned fruit and vegetables.

The National Peach council estimated at its convention in St. Louis that the 1951 peach crop would total around 57,315,000 bushels—larger than last year but 11,000,000 bushels below the five year production average. They blamed the hard winter weather.

Refugee Official Nabbed In Smuggling Attempt

FRANKFURT, Germany — (AP) —An attempt to smuggle $40,000 worth of gold into Germany in meat cans has led to the arrest of an American official of the International Refugee organization.

U. S. District Attorney James F. Phelps of Houston, Tex., told an American court that U. S. agents arrested IRO administrative officer Arthur Gershon when he picked up several cans marked "Kosher meat" at the U. S. army postoffice in Bremen.

Phelps said the cans contained 40 pounds of gold with a black market value of $40,000.

SOLVED AFTER 40 YEARS

CANBY, Ore. — (AP) — Adam H. Knight has received a letter of apology and a $10 bill from a Portland man who confessed that it was he who shot and killed one of Knight's geese 40 years ago.

The old-time culprit signed his name to the letter, too. Knight, Canby postmaster for many years and a former county commissioner, said he wouldn't reveal the man's name, but he knows him well.

"I always wondered who shot that goose," he said.

Fulton Lewis Jr. WASHINGTON REPORT

(Copyright, 1951, King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

By FULTON LEWIS JR.

WASHINGTON— The latest and silliest excuse offered by the State department for not using Chiang Kai-shek's troops on Formosa to attack the Chinese Communist mainland is that Formosa would be left undefended.

As far as I can determine at the Pentagon or from Gen. Douglas MacArthur's headquarters in Tokyo, no responsible military leader has proposed that all of Chiang's 500,000 troops be loaded on landing craft for a massive attack on the Communists. State department military "experts," however, have assumed, for purposes of blocking an attack by Chiang, that this is what Gen. MacArthur meant when he asked for a diversionary raid from Formosa.

Chiang Kai-shek has hundreds of airplanes sitting on Formosa. He has his own fleet units, plus the U. S. Seventh fleet. An amphibious landing in force — with 100,000 men — would not leave Formosa undefended, despite military geniuses on Secretary of State Dean Acheson's staff.

With the Seventh fleet in Formosa waters, with one-third of Chiang's aircraft remaining on the island, and 400,000 troops in defensive positions — the Chinese Communists would have a rough time mounting an amphibious attack on Formosa.

The State department can get confirmation of this at the Pentagon. Department officials might also take a look at Gen. MacArthur's Tokyo cables to Washington, to get the views of a military leader up front where the shooting takes place.

An attack on the Communist mainland by Chiang would be diversionary — a blow to distract the Reds, determine the strength of Nationalist guerrilla forces, plus their needs in the way of equipment. Long ago the Communists moved their combat divisions from the coast opposite Formosa to the battlefields of Korea.

Backing up Formosa, on Okinawa and on other island bases, are hundreds of U. S. fighters and bombers. They have a mission, along with the Seventh fleet, of preventing a Chinese Communist assault on Formosa. The assignment was handed to the air force and the fleet by the United Nations in June, 1950. It is still in effect. It is a strong deterrent to a Communist attack on the State department's "undefended" Formosa.

White House revenge:

President Truman's sense of revenge is now partially satisfied. Ever since southern Democrats started balking at Fair Deal measures in Congress, Mr. Truman has held up the appointment of postmasters in the South. In fact, since 1948 he has bowed to hardly a single southern senator's demands for these traditional patronage appointments.

On February 15, however, Mr. Truman sent Congress the names of 168 men and women for postmasterships, most of which were for Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

The President's avidity for getting even with recalcitrant southern congressmen has not been completely dispelled, however. And the outstanding proof of this is H. B. Harris, of Berryville, Va. Harris has been acting postmaster of Berryville since 1948. Mr. Truman's chief congressional critic is Senator Harry Flood Byrd, Democratic senator from the state of Virginia, the town of Berryville.

Twenty-six postmasters were nominated for the state of Virginia. Some were cleared politically in the various congressional offices less than four months ago. But Harris, standing by for the appointment for two years, was passed by again.

Southern Democrats are not hoodwinked by the President's sudden loosening of the postmaster patronage strings. They interpret his move as a bid to the southern senators to be good to a number of individuals whose appointments he has submitted to the Senate that are hanging fire.

A large number of postmaster nominations are still on the President's White House desk. If the southern members of Congress perform well in a "be kind to Truman appointees" week, more post masters may be tossed in the patronage hopper. If not, there will be a long wait ahead again.

For Mr. Harris, only the political defeat of Senator Byrd will release him from White House bondage. Berryville, Va., is not too far for Mr. Truman to go to get his revenge.

U.S. War Casualties In Korea Near 50,000

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Announced U. S. combat casualties in Korea have risen to 49,132, an increase of 1,097 in a week.

The total, representing casualties reported to the next of kin through Feb. 16, included 7,408 killed in action, 32,230 woundetl, and 9,494 missing in action.

The cumulative wounded total included 853 who later died of their wounds. The overall figure for missing included 85 known dead, making a total of 8,346 combat deaths.

The missing tally also included 955 men who have since returned to American military control and 110 known prisoners of war, leaving 8,344 currently listed as missing.

Car Shortage Forces Cut In General Mills Output

BUFFALO, N. Y. — (AP) — General Mills, Inc., has halved production at the world's largest flour mill and said the acute boxcar shortage made the action necessary.

The firm's Washburn-Crosby plant here had been operating at its full capacity, 3,700,000 pounds daily. A company spokesman said half the 1,000 employes would have to be laid off within 24 hours unless the situation improved quickly. Other mills said they were apprehensive about production curtailments.

NEW STATE SCHOOL AIDES

SALEM — (AP) — Two new elementary school supervisors have been appointed by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Rex Putnam.

They are Irene Hallberg, who has been consultant and curriculum coordinator for three years at Bellevue, Wash., and Dora Crouter, who has been consultant in education of visually handicapped children for the State department.

Portland Halts Issue Of Tavern Licenses

PORTLAND — (AP) — Portland will not issue tavern or night club licenses—not even renewals—for the next month.

That was the edict from Mayor Dorothy Lee and City Commissioner J. E. Bennett and Ormond R. Bean, the latest development in Bennetts' campaign to reduce the number of liquor outlets in the city.

The three agreed to accept no applications for licenses in the next 30 days. They expect to ratify their decision in a council session today.

The 30-day period is intended to give them time to review the night club and tavern situation in Portland. Bennett, maintaining there are too many now, tried to blame the situation on the State Liquor commission last week. The commission struck back with the assertion the responsibility for licenses rested on the city council.

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