

EDITORIAL PAGE

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Optimistic Sort of a Guy, Isn't He?



TODAY'S TEXT

Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath; for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. —Romans 12:19.

Strings on Loans

It is said that Premier Stalin would like the United States to lend Russia \$6,000,000,000 to help rebuild that war-torn country and raise its living standard. Final decision on such a request will surely require, as Senator Russell of Georgia has said, "a good deal more than snap judgment."

Congress may insist upon knowing how the money is to be spent before any rehabilitation loans are made to foreign governments. And it would seem reasonable that before any billions are lent to Russia, this country should have definite assurance that the Comintern will not be revived here.

Of course the Comintern is officially dead. But the American communists quickly reverted to political action and their party lines after a spell of 103-percent Americanism which lasted only as long as Russia was involved in the European war.

America, being committed to free speech, has tolerated the American communists long and patiently. It has protected them while they preached revolution and the overthrow of capitalism. One might safely guess that the Moscow government would have been considerably less patient with a revolutionary movement in Russia to set up an American capitalistic system.

Whatever communists in Russia or

socialists in England may say about capitalism, they cannot deny that the war products of America's capitalist industry helped their countries considerably during the war. Nor can they deny that the billions of capitalist America's dollars that their countries are seeking would be equally helpful now.

But what Russians or Englishmen say in their own countries is none of our business, even though their oratorical bites at the hand they hope will feed them can be somewhat tiresome and irritating.

The resumption of Russian support for American communists' revolutionary activities, however, would be our business. For Americans to finance even indirectly such a program would be absurd, to say the least. It would be as if the goose in the fable had voluntarily contributed a few golden eggs to a fund with which the farmer hoped to buy an ax and kill the bird.

There is scant danger that American communists will start a shooting revolution. But there is a legitimate fear that Russian support of their incessant sniping at our social system, at a time when Russia was rebuilding with the help of American dollars, would so righteously infuriate the American people that peaceful relations between the world's two greatest countries might be jeopardized.

Americans have no quarrel with the Russian type of government for the Russians. If Premier Stalin and his people will maintain a like feeling toward us, lasting peace will have a better chance of becoming a reality.

Funny Business



SO THEY SAY

I believe we can look forward to a period of at least five years of prosperity such as this country has never witnessed before. —Herman W. Steingraus, Bridgeport, Conn.

An ancient truth is worthy of serving as an universal motto: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." —Ashland, Ky., Independent.

I think the Japs are reacting as we thought they would. They are trying to ingratiate themselves and get back into our good graces through bowing and scraping. We should not forget their true character—the Japs are entirely different persons when they are on top. —Lt. Col. James Devoreux.

Parents must make a special effort this year to get their boys and girls into school. It never has been more important. —Albany, Ga., Herald.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, has been making progress toward friendship with the Russians, but got a setback the other day.

U. S. officials entering Eisenhower's office found him despondent. He was holding a copy of "Time" magazine.

"Look at that," he said, "six weeks' work gone."

Eisenhower pointed to a picture of a female entertainer in a Berlin night club standing on her head, legs apart, holding a picture of Stalin between them. "Time" had reproduced the picture.

"And just as I was making some progress with Marshal Zhukov," Eisenhower mourned. "First he would scarcely see me. But recently we have become pretty good friends. When I go into his office he says, 'here's to Ike.'"

Eisenhower went on to tell how Zhukov was blazing mad over the "Time" magazine picture. He had just come from seeing the Russian commander who had demanded:

"What are you going to do about this?"

"Nothing," replied Eisenhower.

"What! You let the American press make mockery of the marshal?" exclaimed Zhukov.

"That's what we fought the war for—the right to criticize, the right for people to say what they please," said Eisenhower.

New Supreme Court Justice

President Truman really let his hair down with Senator Burton when he called him in last week to tell him he was being nominated to the supreme court.

Catching Burton just before the Ohio senator was about to leave for Cincinnati, Truman told him that he had actually promised the supreme court job to another man, Robert Patterson, now secretary of war, but changed his mind.

"Harold," said Truman at the start of the interview, "I've made up my mind to appoint you to the supreme court."

"You were always my first choice," Truman continued, "but I had some vacillations. I considered appointing Phillips of Denver, Parker of North Carolina and Pat-

terson.

"Finally I decided to appoint Patterson and told him I was going to appoint him."

Truman then explained it was better to leave Patterson in the war department to replace Stimson as secretary of war.

"One of the things that disturbed me about your appointment," Truman continued, "was the probable claim that I might be playing politics in order to get a democrat senator from Ohio. (Truman had in mind the fact Governor Lausche of Ohio, a democrat, now can appoint a democrat senator to replace Burton, a republican.)

"So I talked it over with Alben Barkley, Truman explained, "and he advised that if I was convinced you were the right man, I should appoint you and let political consequences go hang."

Army Run-Around

Here is the army run-around again to one group of 182 air force personnel—all with more than 100 points. Unfortunately it is typical of the run-around given to a great many men entitled to immediate discharge.

This group of 182 airmen arrived in New York harbor last July. But despite their points, most are not out of the army yet. Here is the play-by-play history of what happened.

1. From New York, the group was sent to Camp Kilmer, N. J.

2. Fifteen hours after arriving in New Jersey, they backtracked north again to Fort Devens, Mass. There they were taken off the train, given physical examinations and other red tape until 5 a. m. At 7 a. m. the job was supposed to be completed. But after loafing around for three hours, waiting for the last papers, they were ordered home on 30-day furloughs.

3. After the 30-day furloughs, they were ordered to report to Greensboro, N. C. There they were told they were not essential and would be released. Greensboro is a separation center, but they were not released there.

4. Instead, the group was ordered all the way north to Devens, Mass., again. Before this happened, however, they loafed around Greensboro for three weeks.

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

A publicity story from an AAF redistribution station in an eastern city says the air force returns rate American women tops when it comes to poise, smartness, make-up and femininity—but...

They claim English girls are more sincere, more unspoiled, and more domestic-minded.

They say the Dutch can't be beat for natural beauty. The Australian girls are plenty good to look at. And Italian women have a certain exotic quality that has its own appeal.

Aren't American women going to get fed up pretty quickly with being compared with the women of all the other countries American servicemen have visited during the war? The subject is really dynamite—and you would think the men would realize it.

But maybe we can stop the comparisons with a few sweetly spoken comments and questions.

It ought to be easy to halt the man who is raving about the chic and sex appeal of

the French women with, "Isn't it too bad the Frenchwomen were so unappreciative of American men's admiration that they came out with all those remarks about American men being lousy lovers?"

And after listening to a man rave over the natural beauty of Australian girls a few minutes, a woman ought to be able to turn the talk quickly to other things with "But do tell me about the Australian men; are they really as handsome as they look in the newsreels?"

But maybe the whole subject isn't worth bothering about. For once the men are home the enchanting qualities of the girls of foreign countries will be no more competition than the charms of pin-up girls.

For after all, a man can't run over to England for a date with a domestic type of girl just because he is at the moment fed up with the independence of American girls.

Once he is home—he is stuck with us. And we'll have to do.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D. C.—If there is one man who has had official Washington buffeted all through the war, it is general of the armies, Douglas MacArthur. But things have come to a show-down now and it's possible to see a little more clearly who's who in Japan.

MacArthur entered the war as a symbol. In that respect he was a good bit like Gen. Charles de Gaulle. You either cling with hope to the symbol or there wasn't anything to cling to.

Any man who becomes a symbol is in danger of falling. He is in danger of falling into the belief he's pretty important. MacArthur was no exception. War correspondents began to bring back reports—stories they were kind enough not to print—that this man's arrogance was pretty hard to take. It was reflected in seven stanza bit of doggerel called "Doug's Communique" circulated all over the Pacific.

One sample stanza ran: "My battleships bombard the Nips from Maine to Singapore. My subs have sunk a million tons—they'll sink a billion more; my aircraft bombed Berlin last night. In Italy they say 'Our turn's tonight, because it's right in Doug's communique.'"

But the need to maintain MacArthur as a symbol was reflected in Washington by official kow-towing. When one correspondent wrote a war review story saying the amphibious operations in the Pacific were planned by the combined chiefs of staff in Washington, it was discreetly suggested that the copy be changed because if MacArthur ever saw the story he would protest against the idea that anyone planned his operations for him.

This same deference to the general was carried over even after the surrender of Japan. Officials in Washington who were asked about detailed plans for the occupation of Japan gave the reply it was not in their hands—the board principles were laid down at Potsdam and after that it was up to General MacArthur. Such an answer did not make sense on its

face for the simple reason that the detailed plans for occupation of Germany had been carefully worked out in Washington and were handed complete to General Eisenhower for execution. And it was known that a joint committee of state, war and navy department experts had been working for a year on plans to occupy Japan, and break up the old imperial government. Officially, however, the fiction was maintained that General MacArthur was Mr. Big in the Pacific.

Shortly after Secretary of State Byrnes went to London for the big five conference of foreign ministers. Dean Acheson held his first press conference as acting secretary of state. He was asked about the occupation policy in Japan because MacArthur was already being criticized. Acheson replied that MacArthur had the power to say what was done in Japan.

Questioned further on the point as to who told MacArthur what to do, Acheson replied that this was up to the president. Less than a week after Acheson made these statements, General MacArthur as supreme commander in Japan announced only 200,000 troops might be needed for occupation within six months. Acheson cracked down on him and this time a different answer was forthcoming. A state, war and navy committee coordinated American policy on Japanese occupation and instructions were going to the occupation forces through military channels from the president. MacArthur wasn't mentioned by name, but there was no doubt as to who was meant.

MacArthur has been severely criticized for this soft policy of occupation and the apparent slowness with which the Japs have been made to feel that they lost the war. With acting secretary of state Acheson's new statement, however, it now becomes clear if the occupation policy in Japan isn't working, it may not be so much the fault of General MacArthur as it is the fault of the state, war and navy bright boys who made the plans in the first place.

Side Glances



What difference does it make for me if they split the atom? I'll be interested when they bring on something that will split wood without me swinging an ax!

McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY America's Card Authority

THIS HAND TAXES YOUR IMAGINATION

When discussion of a bridge hand develops into an argument between experts, I always lend an attentive ear. Recently I heard an argument about the hand shown today. I am not giving you the spade holding in the East and

♠ Q J 9 8 5 3	♥ 8 3 2	♦ A 9	♣ 7 4
♠ 7 7 7	♥ Q J 10 7	♦ 8 5 2	♣ 9 3 2
♠ 7 7 7	♥ 8 5 2	♦ 9 5	♣ K Q J 7 4
♠ 9 3 2	♥ 8 5 2	♦ A K Q 8	♣ J 10 6 5

Duplicate—E-W. vul.			
South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	1♠	2♦
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening—♦ K. 26			

my West played low. How should North play the spade suit? Everyone agreed that his first play should be the jack of spades, and let us say that East wins this with the king. A diamond return is ruffed by North, a heart led to dummy's ace and another spade led.

If West plays low, what should North play now? Has East the ace as well as the king? If so, the eight-spot should be finessed. However, the majority of experts claim that the queen should be played at this time, hoping to split the honors.

Unfortunately, in this particular hand, the queen lost, as East held the blank ace-king. The finesse probably should be taken in this case, because of East's vulnerable overall of two diamonds, which would hardly be justified without the ace-king of spades.

IN FORMER YEARS

Thirty Years Ago

There are plenty of indications the reported big crop of grain in Wallowa county is all that it has been represented. The local threshing machines have hardly been able to cope with the situation. Today there is being loaded on a flat car at Alicec the Twidwell threshing outfit, consisting of the separator, traction engine and other equipment, for shipment to Wallowa county where there are threshing contracts awaiting that will keep the machine on a continuous run of 20 days or more.

Fifteen Years Ago

Union county joined with Cove last night when the \$8000 Cove high school gymnasium, built this summer, was formally dedicated at a program of music and addresses.

The prune harvest in Union and Cove districts has reached its peak and four or five cars are being shipped daily.

Ten Years Ago

Three or four months will be required to complete the \$90,000 undergrade crossing on Spruce street, connecting La Grande-Wallowa Lake highway with the Old Oregon trail, it was announced here today. This, providing a stopping of work is not required during the winter.

This Curious World



BASEBALL CATCHERS PLAY IN FEAR OF THE PITCHER, BUT THEY SHAL ALWAYS BE BEHIND HIM. —L. H. DANIELS, Knoxville, Tenn. 1938

THE WORD MAGNET COMES FROM THE FACT THAT LODESTONE, OR MAGNETITE, WAS FIRST FOUND IN THE PROVINCE OF MAGYESSIA, IN ASIA MINOR.

NEXT: How wolves are identified.