

Look Who's Protesting



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EDITORIAL PAGE

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Time For Inflexible Resolution

As the horrors of nuclear war grow more apparent to the civilian populations of the West, there is danger an attitude will gain wide acceptance that we should acquiesce in Communist aggression or appease Communist tyrannies rather than stand up to the dictators and possibly invoke a death-dealing missile barrage.

U. S. Sen. Paul Douglas (D-Ill.), writing in the current issue of the magazine Western World, said there is danger that this acquiescence and appeasement "will grow in direct ratio to the frightfulness of any alternative."

In reviewing the events that led up to World War II and the actions of the West in post-war dealings with Communist nations, Sen. Douglas said the record seems clear.

"Whenever the democracies have chosen to resist the aggressive spread of imperialism, they have been successful," he said. "Whenever they have yielded or appeased, this has merely caused more trouble later."

The senator believes that a dictatorship, whether Communist or Fascist, is expansionist by its very nature. To justify its internal suppression of civil liberties and political rights, he said, the dictatorship must create external tensions and provoke international incidents; to compensate for its failure to improve the material and spiritual conditions of its people it must seek to absorb their interest in foreign adventures.

Although these dictatorships may have their beginnings as party or class affairs they eventually become personal in nature. Because of the ultimate concentration of power in the personal dictatorship this form of government is directed to desperate ends.

Sen. Douglas argues that Communist aggression is far more likely to be checked by military, economic and spiritual resistance than by territorial acquiescence. This does not mean, he adds, that all non-Communist territory must be defended where such defenses would be untenable.

One such "untenable" position he would defend, however, is Berlin.

But who is to provide the checks to Communist ambitions? "Today," he stated, "the power of Soviet Russia and Communist China plus that of their satellites is so great that only the united, determined and prolonged resistance by all of the free world will be sufficient to check it, and we hope to set the whole world itself ultimately free."

There is too much of a tendency among the smaller nations at present to think and act as though the defense of the free world is virtually the exclusive responsibility of the big powers, Sen. Douglas said.

Unless these countries and the big powers can work in concert to check the ambitions of the Communist world and agree that the threat of fighting skirmishes now is preferable to fighting wars later, the forces of tyranny can snuff out freedom.

Of all the evils that beset the world today, tyranny seems to be the worst, Sen. Douglas said. He predicts an "ice age" of tyranny will set in if the doctrines of dictatorship are permitted to prevail.

The prediction seems too real to be ignored, too close to reality to idly hope that by making concessions to communism we will not have to face a more difficult alternative. This is not a time for inflexible diplomacy; it is a time for inflexible resolution.

Steel Industry Sets The Pace

Steel industry leaders have been trying to contend that it is false to assume that steel sets the inflationary pace in wage and price hikes. But now David McDonald, head of the steel union, says that if the steelworkers are denied a wage boost, "the precedent of standing still will be reflected in the pay envelopes of virtually every major group of wage and salary workers in the nation."

That's pretty plain. As far as McDonald is concerned steel is the "bell cow." It leads. Others follow.

Barbs

The most popular endurance contests are those on the telephone.

Doctors advise against scratching the skin. Why worry? We're not up to scratch these spring days, anyway.

The lighter the jockey the more weight he carries with some of the bettors.

The energetic man never knows when he's licked, unless he's married.

When speeding across the country there are two things to think about: the scenery you miss and the things you might hit.

Soon there'll be the old-fashioned skin diving — at the ol' swimming hole.

DREW PEARSON

Sec. Brucker May Resign Over The Missile Feud

WASHINGTON—Tension is so taut around the Pentagon that Secretary of the Army Wilbur Brucker may get the ax. Reason is the row over missiles.

Brucker, an ex-governor of Michigan and a potent power in the Republican party, has become so immersed in the Army feud with the Air Force over missiles that he authorized two "Nicker-son-type" Memos on the subject of missiles and made 12 public speeches between May 11 and May 16.

This may be more than Secretary of Defense Neil McElroy can take.

The issue is the same basic one which caused Col. John Nickerson to get court-martialed, namely the distribution of a memo spelling out the Army's demand that it share in building missiles. Nickerson fought the battle of the Army's Jupiter, an intermediate range ballistic missile, against the Air Force's Thor. Brucker is now fighting for the Army's Nike-Hercules, a short-range defense missile, against the Air Force's Bomarc.

One 12-page memo which Brucker sent to Senators is already well publicized. This memo No. 1 which went to Senators who were not members of the Armed Services committee. It was also given discreetly to the press. This made Sen. Dick Russell of Georgia, chairman of the committee, sore as blazes. He considered it an attempt to undercut his committee which already had taken a stand against the Army's Nike-Hercules.

Memo No. 2 has not yet leaked out, but this column has secured a copy. Dated May 19, it is addressed to Secretary McElroy from Secretary of the Army Brucker, urging that McElroy hold up production of the Air Force Bomarc missile until the "entire United States air defense effort for the 1960-1970 era" can be reviewed.

Both the Army's Nike-Hercules missile and the Air Force's Bomarc are aimed at protecting American cities from enemy supersonic bombers. The Army proposes to shoot down bombers over or near American cities. The Air Force claims this is letting enemy bombers get too close, and has designed the Bomarc missile to shoot down enemy bombers in a given geographic area.

However, when the weapons system evaluation group tested both missiles, it found that 85 per cent of the enemy's planes got through the Army's Nike-Hercules as against only 15 per cent which got through the Air Force's Bomarc. This was what caused the Senate Armed Services committee to curtail Army production of the Nike-Hercules. It also caused Canada to choose the Bomarc.

Note—Some critics, such as Sen. Stuart Symington of Missouri, however, claim that both systems are weak, that we must strike at the enemy before his planes even get near our cities.

Memos Instead of Missiles
With the Army seeing its entire air defense program going down the drain, Secretary Brucker began launching not missiles but memos. In memo No. 2, so far secret, he aimed indirectly at the curtailment voted by the Senate Armed Services committee.

"The very nature of these actions (by the Senate committee) have seriously degraded the true value of the Hercules system while at the same time providing a grossly distorted picture of the Bomarc system."

"Thus it has become imperative," Brucker added, "that the Army set forth its grave reservations concerning the ability of Bomarc to achieve operational effectiveness during the time frame..."

QUOTES FROM THE NEWS

CHICAGO — The National Safety Council, on the record number of Memorial holiday highway deaths.

"It is no explanation to say Memorial Day is the start of the vacation season. It's the start of the vacation season every year, yet this year's mark is the worst."

WASHINGTON — United Mine Workers President John L. Lewis, charging that the government, supported by the press, has tried and failed to convict Teamsters President James R. Hoffa of any crime:

"The pack is after Hoffa and hasn't got him and I'm not running with the pack."

NEW ORLEANS — A deputy sheriff, after evacuating 12 elderly persons by paddy wagon from a flooded home for the aged during tropical storm Arlene:

"They were glad to get out of there in anything. They didn't mind the paddy wagon."

WASHINGTON — Dr. T. H. Reed, Washington Zoo director, on efforts to capture an elusive black bear roaming the nation's capital:

"The trouble is we don't know where he is or where he's going to be."

under consideration.

"Up to the present moment, the Army has carefully avoided critical comment concerning Bomarc, even while being subjected to cross-examination as well as repeated and unwarranted attacks on the effectiveness of the presently operational Nike-Hercules air defense."

Brucker listed what he thought was wrong with the Air Force missile, then concluded: "Considering the changing nature of the air-breathing threat and the imminence of ballistic missiles, I believe that a disproportionate amount of money and effort is being expended on a weapon for defense against a relatively unsophisticated segment of the air-breathing threat."

He asked McElroy to review the rival defense systems.

"Pending this evaluation of the over-all defense effort," the Army secretary wrote, "I recommend that the Bomarc programs be reduced to a deployment which uses only equipment already funded."

So goes the civil war on the Potomac.

'Old Lady' Getting Gussied Up For Her 100th Birthday Party

VIRGINIA CITY, Nev. (UPI)—They are giving an old lady a birthday party on June 12, 13 and 14.

The old lady is 100 years old, and her veins long since have been drained of most of the fluid which brought her international fame. She is wizened now, and much of the glamour she had in her younger days has faded.

However, come June, she will be all dressed up in her finery, ragged and tattered as it is. She will have one last whirling-ding before she is whipped in the shrouds of memory and deposited in the limbo from which few return.

Yes, they're giving Virginia City, once known as the Silver Queen, a big party because she was born 100 years ago on June 11, 1859.

This Silver Queen was quite a gal in her younger days. She became a roistering youngster about the time the Civil War was being fought. It was the strength of her veins which supplied the largesse needed by the Union to pay the huge price which the conflict cost. Had it not been for the Queen,

there might not have been a United States.

San Francisco's Debt

Not only that, but the growth of San Francisco might have been delayed had it not been for the Silver Queen. Nabobs such as John Mackay, James Fair, James Flood and their bartender partner O'Brien, were given their start by draining the veins of the Queen and giving the Bay City the transfusion it needed to become one of the most thriving communities of the gold rush days.

There might never have been an Atlantic Cable, either, had not the wealth of the Silver Queen found its way into the hands of Mackay.

The Queen also nurtured a band of offspring who contributed much to the literary wealth of America. Such men as Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens), Dan de Quille, Sam Davis and others started their literary careers when the Queen was young and carried on their writings to bring credit and praise from the world.

There were others of her youngsters who won fame in other endeavors. Adolph Sutro, for

instance, whose Sutro Tunnel set up a new era in engineering. William Sharon, who became a stock manipulator and later a United States senator from Nevada. William Ralston, whose "ring" wrote a fabulous chapter in the banking history of San Francisco.

Famed Relics
There is the old St. Mary's in the Mountains Catholic church which was erected after one of the disastrous fires swept Virginia City. It is the church which was built with money which flowed into the pockets of Mackay and O'Brien, two of the big four of the Comstock Lode.

Then there are the famous saloons of the era where the nabobs and the peons gathered after their shifts in the mines to quench the big thirst brought on by working in the hot holes like the Savage, the Con Virginia, the Chollar and the Hale and Norcross.

Saloons, such as the Sarazac, the Bucket of Blood and others which nightly brought gruesome entertainment which usually ended in gunfire and another corpse.

Available also for tourists' view will be the famous Piper Opera House, where such stalwarts of the boards as Mazurka, Dickie Jose, Edwin Booth, Jenny Lind, the Swedish Nightingale, and a hundred others performed as silver dollars fell at their feet as tokens of appreciation from the "hot water plugs."

It will be an historic occasion that the Nixons—the Vice President and his wife—touch off, because it will observe an event which never will die as long as the history of the West is written and re-written.

RUSSIANS PUSH PRODUCTION OF STEEL AT A RAPID RATE

NEW YORK (UPI)—The Soviet Union in 1958 produced 60 million tons of steel, about 40 per cent of the present U.S. capacity.

A representative of the Soviet Ministry predicts the USSR will produce 10 million tons of ingots by 1960 and 125 million by 1975. The seven-year plan calls for 95 million to 100 million tons of capacity by 1965.

These are Soviet figures and no one has any way of checking their accuracy. However, the Russians are making steel and expanding their plants at a rapid rate, according to American steel experts who visited them last year.

This group headed by Edward L. Ryerson, director and former chairman of the Board of Inland Steel and Col. Merle R. Thompson, secretary of the committee of foreign relations, the American Iron & Steel Institute, has just published its findings in a book entitled "Steel in the Soviet Union."

The book is meticulously put together to include details of the steel making processes from mining of iron ore to the rolling mills. There are no marketing, advertising, or public relations problems in the Soviet Union to worry about. The one customer is the government. Also it owns the plants.

Although the Soviet Union may possibly have greater proven iron reserves than any other country, its ores are generally lean in iron content, the book points out. Many of the ore deposits are high in silica and some have an

objectionably high zinc content. Others are contaminated with arsenic.

The book adds that it will take a great deal of experimentation, planning and capital investment to bring the Soviet ore reserves into production.

Right now there is sufficient ore being processed to run the existing steel mills and more is in prospect. The steel plants themselves are said to be good ones but the steel produced would not be competitive with the higher quality made in the United States.

"The general designs of the rolling mills observed in the Soviet plants," the book says, "are quite similar to the older type American mills installed 20 to 30 years ago. Many of them are substantially duplicates of U.S. mills and produce about the same ranges of product for any given mill size."

Russian mills operate continuously and there is no trouble from strikes because the workers are told they own the mills and it would be folly to strike against themselves.

They have unions but nothing like ours. The big function of the unions in the Soviet steel industry is to develop and promote plans for increasing steel production.

The Soviet steelworkers' union is comprised of both workers and management people up to and including plant directors.

The unions also function in educational schemes and most of the workers study in their spare time to enable them to move higher in the steel making scheme so that they can collect higher bo-

Bud Abbott Says Tax Audit Left Him Completely Broke

HOLLYWOOD (UPI)—Bud Abbott, straight man of the Abbott and Costello comedy team, said today a government tax audit has left him broke.

"And all my so-called pals suddenly don't know me any more now that the booze has stopped flowing," the 63-year-old star told United Press International at his home, which is up for sale to help pay the taxes.

"The government took it all but peanuts. The thing that did it was when they disallowed a half million dollars of deductions. Then they put a lien on practically everything."

Abbott, white-haired, shorn of his mustache and heavier than in the days of his great successes, said in his rumpus room:

Gave Too Many Gifts

"One tax guy asked me, 'where do you get off wearing \$25 shoes? I pay \$9 for mine.' I answered, 'I make so much a week. How much do you make?' So he said, 'well, I'll allow you half.' He went down the line and picked out half a million. He said I gave too many gifts to friends—friends, ha—and that I spent too much money by having a chauffeur."

"I'm at a terrible disadvantage without the chauffeur. I don't drive, and Mrs. Abbott don't drive. I can't get off the property unless a friend comes, and the friends don't come because the booze don't flow."

"I was told people are like that, but I didn't believe it. Sometimes I laugh at myself when I think of the \$100 bills I handed out to guys who needed a touch."

Abbott said his former partner, Lou Costello, who died last March 3, also lost a great deal in the audit, which covered a seven-year period.

"But," he said, "at least Lou owned 52 TV shorts outright. I merely got a salary from him."

"They made me sell three of my four acres here," he said.

Sold Swimming Pool

"Do you see that swimming pool on the other side of that wire fence?" "That used to be mine, until I was forced to sell

off both sides of my property. I had a beautiful ranch up in Ojai (Calif.)—200 acres—and they made me sell that."

"Now I'm trying to get \$75,000 for my home—and if I sell it, they tax that too. It's the same as if I try to work—there's no use to it. They don't split the salary. They take it all, and you gotta pay taxes on top of it. Where am I gonna get the money to pay the taxes on the dough I can't keep?"

"It's like Joe Louis. He'll never get even if he makes a million a week."

Abbott said he, his wife Betty and their two adopted children—Bud Jr., 20, and Vickie, 18—are looking for "a small apartment or home somewhere, after we see what we get out of this."

May Try Producing

He's thinking of trying to become a producer. But meantime, he is going to see if he can sell 17 or 18 film chapters that he and Costello made for a now-defunct TV comedy hour. He thinks his best market is Europe.

Would he think of going back into show business with another partner?

"It don't make sense," he said. "It's too late in life to build a new routine. It took us 23 years to build the one we had. There'd be too much to criticize. Besides, it would be like building another empire—and how many empires can you build on a lifetime?"

"And I wouldn't try it alone. Lou went on his own at the end and laid a terrible egg. God rest his soul. I took a lesson from him."

FAVORS MISSILE PRODUCTION

TOKYO (UPI)—Defense Agency Director Shigejiro Ino said Tuesday that he favored producing the American Hawk ground-to-air guided missile in Japan, but without nuclear warheads. Reports that the Hawk would be manufactured in Japan touched off a controversy here whether such a move would make the nation a target for nuclear attack.

Reserve Shipyards Offered For Sale

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The Maritime Administration has announced that it is offering for sale reserve shipyards located at Vancouver, Wash., and Alameda Calif.

A Maritime Administration spokesman said Sunday that the yards must be used for construction, repair, conversion or scrapping of ships, or for other uses which will retain the shipbuilding characteristics of the yard.

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