

The Week In Washington, D. C.

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The countries which, with our help and leadership, banded themselves together in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (abbreviated as NATO) were nearly all defeated and war-weary nations. After the war no one of them alone represented power worth mentioning either economic, military or spiritual. No one of them stood out as a strong influence, a leader, around which the others might rally to promote collective strength and security. Each was vulnerable—if not helpless—in the even of military attack. Each was on the verge of economic collapse, a condition due in part to lack of confidence, or what might be called spiritual decay, on the part of privately owned wealth in the several countries.

Meanwhile the Russian dictator was on the march and well on his way toward achieving the 30-year-old Soviet dream of world conquest. In less than five years they had expanded their political and economic control to include more than 800 million people—or nearly one-third of the population of the world. During this period, and until as recently as last year, our own government, the Truman administration, looked the other way—disbanded our military power and kept up the pretense that the Russian rulers were our allies and potentially good neighbors in the world. About all that we did during those years of Russian conquest was to pour money into Europe through UNNRA and ECA but without insisting upon unification or even internal cooperation in Europe.

Since 1916 we have been deeply involved in the affairs of Europe. By the end of World War II we were the strongest power and the obvious leader of the free world.

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We cannot escape or avoid our responsibility. Clearly our responsibility as the leader in the cause of freedom demands that we gather together in one co-re-sive and effective force the other free but weakened governments and thus present a powerful and united front against the predatory aggression of the Kremlin.

At long last that is what the United States government is doing. Economic success and prosperity follows peace insured by adequate military security. The significant fact is that with the building of what is called the Eisenhower European defense system, we and the Europeans are erecting a unified wall of security behind which capital ventures can be made and people can live and build homes and look with at least a little confidence into the future. Without a collective military defense system even the billions we poured into the various European countries did not remove the black cloud of fear of military attack. Capital went into hiding. Frightened people simply cannot create a prosperous economy.

Not long ago I visited the headquarters of General Eisenhower near Paris. I came away with an entirely new but an accurate understanding of what the General and we are doing in Europe in a military way. Our job there is clearly one of leadership. Our government is the unifying agency—or as they say in chemistry—the catalyst—which is drawing the forces of eleven other governments together for their common defense—defense against the Russians or any other power. We are, of course, putting in some troops, some naval units, and some air power. We are helping to provide arms, but the most important contribution we are making toward the security and peace of Europe is the leadership of General Eisenhower and the fine people in his organization. Without that leadership, which is accepted and liked by the other governments, such money and military force we might contribute would be mostly wasted—just as quite a few of our ECA dollars were wasted before NATO was formed and before we began to help put a military defense system together.

Remember the stories of the Old West in our country? There was not much future in cattle-raising or other business ventures while the highwaymen and cattle rustlers were knocking off one ranch at a time. But when the people got together and brought about law and order and a collective defense system against crime, the situation was reversed. There was then no future for cattle rustlers or highwaymen, and farming and business prospered.

LOCAL NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bush left Monday for their Parker, Ariz., home where they will spend the winter. They plan to return here the first of next June.

Bob Astin has leased the Hearthstone, across from the High school and is open after 11:00 a.m., serving sandwiches and shakes. It will be known as Spooks Drive-In.

Miss Cordelia Cantrall arrived Monday for a ten day visit with her brother, Howard. Miss Cantrall is on her annual vacation from her work in a Klamath Falls bank.

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Shrader returned last week from a six weeks trip to their former home in Nebraska. They report having a fine time, and no trouble on the road.

Mr. and Mrs. Santa Barbara is visiting at the home of his son, Max Hayes, for several weeks.



Grandma's steppin' out --to see 'em!

Haen't you heard the news? The Barbershoppers are coming to the ol' opry house Saturday night to hear all the song birds in their boiled shirts and plug hats give out with that mellow music.

Grandma has her seat—her ticket, anyway—and her main thought is to get down in the bald-headed row to see those handsome gents. Grandma's that way, you know, since dear departed Silas was once one of those guys—those ol' gents who tried their best t harmonize.

We have our tickets—have you?

Bunch On on the drag!