

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Ave"
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Middle Class Under Crossfire

If the American form of government ever is overthrown, it will not be by the extreme Left, or communists, but by the extreme Right, or fascists.

This is the warning made by a Nebraska representative to congress recently when he suggested the house set up a committee to investigate the right-wingers the same as the un-American activities committee is probing leftists.

It is the same warning New York Herald Tribune writer Leland Stowe sets forth in his new book "Target: You" (Knopf, 1949). Today the great, broad American middle class—everyone between the handful of citizens who might qualify as the proletariat and the small group of brahmins—is under the crossfire of Right and Left totalitarianism, he contends. And the problem for Americans is to steer down the middle way that will preserve both our domestic freedoms and our free enterprise system; that will keep U.S. conservatism free from fascists and liberalism free from communists.

Stowe's reasons why an American fascism is more likely than communism to become a serious threat to U.S. democracy are:

The overwhelming majority of Americans are aroused to the Red peril, while seriously undervaluing the dangers of Black reaction.

The American middle class is infinitely more susceptible to jingoistic extreme nationalism than to Marxism.

Anti-semitism and other racial prejudices are being recklessly spread.

Middle-class resentment against U.S. labor unions is widespread. Anytime a demagogue who promises to put "the Reds, the Jews, and the unions in their place" may whip up a powerful mass following.

Many American conservatives and reactionaries—as their taxes go up and their profits are acutely reduced through huge government expenditures—will inevitably be open to the kind of "special benefits" propaganda the fascists exploit.

Some wealthy industrialists can always be persuaded to contribute vast sums to a right-wing, anti-Red and supernaturalist movement. Rapidly increasing military influence in U.S. will inevitably tempt some of our generals and admirals to combine with and support reactionary movements.

Any future depression or future war will greatly increase the strength of the right-wing forces.

The Catholic church, strongly mobilized against communism, is not expending similar efforts to prevent fascism.

The American people as a whole don't know what fascism is and how it operates.

Extreme Left and Right have the same objectives: to sow dissension, disintegrate the middle class, overthrow the democratic capitalistic system and set up a dictatorship. Their tactics, too, are alike: persistent distortion of truth and inflaming prejudices and emotions by propaganda. The best counterattack is the slow, hard task of fighting emotionalism with logic and reason, promoting a broad popular understanding of the dangers of both totalitarianisms, and strengthening, improving our way of life wherever it has weaknesses.

Unexportable L'Allegro

Italy's contribution to the Western world—now that the Atlantic Pact and the Council of Europe have formally restored the Italians to the fold—could be, if not a recipe for joy, at least a reawakening of the need for it, writes British journalist Barbara Ward in the New York Times magazine.

Since "the Italian economy is poor in everything except its capacity to produce men," its material contribution to reconstructing the edifice of Western life, reinforcing its defense and rebuilding its economy will be small. But when the house is built, Italy can provide "the voice singing in the kitchen or from a corner of the vegetable garden," Miss Ward complains. "Modern living has brought the small family, mass production in industry, the tractor and the

mechanized milker. It has brought rationalism and Marxism and the supposedly comfortable assurance that the brief span of this life . . . is all to which individual consciousness can lay claim . . . Yet sometimes it is possible to feel today that Western man has forgotten even the face of happiness and would not recognize her if she came to him with open arms. Dusty poring over blueprints, grumpily analyzing the supply and demand curves, angrily discussing the socially significant, he would wave her aside. "Careful, static, hygienic" Western Europeans are skillful in planning "better" or more convenient living. In Italy, the standard of living is low, but the satisfaction of being alive is high. What the sociologists and economists call "the disastrous Italian birthrate" is what makes the difference. The cynical comment "if Italy had more cinemas, it would have fewer babies" is all wrong, "the vitality of Italy, its continued faith in the importance of being alive and giving life is one of the keys to its capacity for living," this observer says.

The prolific Italians, she notes, do more than sit in the sun and drink wine. They labor endlessly to live and feed and reproduce themselves on that barren soil, toiling too often without modern equipment, intensely cultivating the tiny terraced collection of carefully manured soil. And that "realism of living is combined with something which the western world has begun to lose," a two-dimensional view.

"The result of this dual vision is, naturally, that whatever else may be true of an Italian, he is still open on mystery and wonder, on the world of poetry and magic; he still sees eternity beyond the sky and feels that his life, dwarfed and humble perhaps, worn with work and warped with poverty, is surrounded by vast powers and is moving toward an infinite climax."

Nostalgic about "a twist of wisteria in a flowering Judas tree or sheep moving in a golden sunset under the rumed aqueducts of the Appian Way" Barbara Ward sighs that "to return, to Italy will be . . . to return to beauty, to happiness, to magic, to the life we know we are made for, the life that is so seldom ours."

And a good thing, too. Most Westerners, probably including Miss Ward, would not want to get any closer to the life of the Italian, or any other peasant, than to observe its picturesque-ness from a tourist's speedy convertible.

The Italians were just barely snatched from communist domination because the Marshall plan, in the nick of time, promised them those material aspects of Western civilization that Miss Ward disparages: farm machinery, etc. If the peasants were so happy with their lot they would not have given so much support to an alien and Godless dogma.

It is probably true that the Italian's l'Allegro, his joy of living, is his most precious possession, the part of his nature that makes it possible for him to bear his low standard of living. But it is doubtful that Italy can export this joie de vivre in the same way it has given Western civilization Roman law, great music, art and scientific achievements. Happiness is an individual and relative thing; and each man must find his own in his own way . . . Meanwhile, Italy can contribute to the Western nations its strategic location in the Mediterranean.

In coal mining there's no doubt who sits in the control tower flashing the green and red signals to go or stop. It's a big chap with bushy eyebrows.

The cotton crop for 1949 will show a 15 per cent increase according to an early estimate. And it is doubtful now if we can dispose of it by adding an inch to the Chinaman's shirttail.

Pelton dam on the Deschutes continues to get a pelting. The department of the interior is joining the fishermen in opposing the dam. With some more delay on Pelton McNary will get under (on) the wire first.

ANOTHER ESCAPE FROM PRISON



Your Health

Written by
Dr. Herman N.
Bundensen, M.D.

Infectious polyneuritis is one of the more serious forms of nerve inflammation. As the name indicates, many of the nerves are affected at once.

The exact cause of this disorder has not been found, though it is suspected that a virus, that smallest of disease-makers, may be at the root of the trouble. However this may be, about one-half of the cases seem to follow some infection in the nose and throat. Others seem to occur as the result of poisoning with lead or arsenic, or a severe vitamin deficiency, particularly of the vitamin B-complex.

In this condition there may be paralysis of the muscles of the trunk, back, neck, abdomen, and chest. During the acute or active stage of the condition, the patient may not be able to move the arms or legs, raise his head or feed himself. The muscles of chewing and those which move the eyes are rarely involved. It is common, however, to have difficulty in swallowing and talking. These are among the first symptoms to disappear as the patient recovers.

The amount of paralysis varies greatly in different cases. Once the power begins to return to the muscles, improvement occurs rapidly. There may also be such symptoms as tingling or numbness in the feet or hands, or even in the tongue or face. These symptoms may occur several days or even weeks before paralysis. Redness of the hands and feet, and sweating of the palms and soles may be present. Fever is also noted in some of the patients.

In treating patients with polyneuritis, good nursing care is ex-

tremely important. Pain may be relieved by the giving of drugs which the physician may prescribe. Hot packs afford relief from pain in many cases. It may be necessary in some instances to put the patient in a respirator. If mucus collects in the throat, it may be sucked out with the proper device. Splints may be employed to prevent the stretching of weakened muscles. Later on, massage and active exercise are of help.

It would appear that there is a great need for thorough study of this condition so that the exact cause may be found and more adequate means of treatment discovered.

Foster Father Of 28 Chosen For Honors

PORTLAND, June 11—(AP)—Henry Larsen, a 58-year-old farmer who has foster-fathered 28 children, was chosen "outstanding father of 1949" today by the Portland retail trade bureau.

Larsen, who has no children of his own, had reared a grand-niece now 19, since babyhood; adopted

another child, now 6; and taken care of 26 other children.

The others have come and gone since 1941. At present there are seven of them.

Larsen, who is a Bellingham native, disclaimed any credit for his big family. "It is all," he said, "my wife's doing. She wanted to do something when the war came along."

Brazil or Brasil was the name of a legendary island in the Atlantic Ocean and historians believe its familiar existence as a geographical location led to that name for the South American country.

Gunshot Frightens Tavern Patrons Instead of Bandit

PORTLAND, June 11—(AP)—A bartender fired a shotgun, attempting to frighten away a robber last night, but all that happened was the robber found things easier. The bandit, armed with a revolver, already had taken \$108 from the cash register and two customers, when Fienn F. Shores, sneaked to be back of the tavern and fired a shotgun into the air. It so frightened the customers that they dropped to the floor. This made it easy for the bandit to flee without anyone seeing which way he went.

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Red Sphere Has Economic Lumbago

WASHINGTON, June 11 — Even though business is growing worse in this country, and Britain and the other Marshall plan countries are running into new economic difficulties, there is at least one consolidation. The signs suggest that the Soviet sphere of the world is also suffering from the same economic lumbago, particularly in the satellite area in Europe.

In fact, this is believed to have been the cause of a rather acute political crisis in Czechoslovakia, only a few weeks ago. And from the Kremlin's viewpoint, this is particularly grave, since Czech industry has been relied upon, in all Soviet economic planning, to contribute heavily toward meeting the industrial deficiencies in the rest of the Soviet sphere.

In brief, at the time of the communist coup d'etat at Prague, the Czechs had the highest standard of living in Europe; their industrial potential had actually been increased by the German occupiers; and they possessed large foreign exchange reserves, both in cash and credits. Since the communists took over, however, the living standard has declined sharply. The reserves of foreign exchange have been exhausted. And the lack of cash to pay for goods abroad has produced a severe raw material shortage, which in turn is seriously impeding industrial output.

The problem evidently became a bitter issue between the two wings of the Czech Communist party — the more moderate and experienced group comprising such

men as President Gottwald and Foreign Minister Klementis; and the 300 per cent Muscovites like Slansky, the foreign relations "expert" of the party, Geminder, and the hysterical information minister, Kopecky. At any rate, such high feeling arose that the Kremlin's Czech specialist who supervised the Prague coup d'etat, the deputy minister of foreign affairs, Zorine, had to hurry to Prague to straighten matters out. According to reports, sharp re-reminders were exchanged. The Gottwald-Klementis faction is even said to have gone so far as to bewail Stalin's command that Czechoslovakia stay out of the Marshall plan, which was real heresy. It is still disputed whether they were so impractical as to suggest that Czechoslovakia might join the Marshall plan at this late date. At any rate, Zorine had a grim report to make when he got home.

This incident was part of a larger pattern, of course. The economic difficulties of the Soviet zone of Germany, the reports of resistance to land collectivization in Poland and Hungary as well as Czechoslovakia, the complaints of poor labor productivity at the recent congress of the Czech Communist Party, all fit into the pattern in various ways. The truth seems to be that the heavy burden imposed by Soviet re-arming, plus the effects of political isolation, plus the barrier of the American export controls, are taking a heavy toll. It is particularly interesting that our export controls are regarded as the most serious of all these unfavorable factors. We are carrying on rather successful economic warfare without knowing it ourselves.

These facts, in turn, are being used to explain the surprise that almost all the officials specializing in Russian affairs have been given by the behavior of Andrei Vish-

insky at the Paris Council of Foreign Ministers' meeting. What was almost universally expected of Vishinsky was a tremendous propaganda offensive centering around German unity and the end of the German occupation. Nothing of the sort has developed, and nothing of the sort is any longer feared.

Accordingly, recent Soviet tactics are now being interpreted by the prognosticators as mainly aimed to prepare for a truce on the economic front of the cold war. It is known that Mikoyan, the former Soviet Minister of Foreign Trade and economic specialist of the Politburo, thought Molotov was wrong in the first instance to walk out on the Marshall plan, and take the satellites with him. Those are steps that cannot be retraced. But the signs suggest that the European satellites, at least, are going to be turned loose from almost all political restraints, and authorized to obtain what they need from the west by any means open to them. Actually, however, it is likely to do little good.

If this interpretation is correct, the same thing is happening on the economic as on the strategic front. Militarily, both the Soviet union and the west are rearming, and the great question of the future is which side will fall behind in the rearmament race, and how far.

Literary Guidepost

By W. G. Rogers
TWO WORLDS AND THEIR WAYS, by I. Compton-Burnett (Knopf; \$3.50).

You will remember, and shame on you if you don't, the butler, grownups and children in "Bullivant and the Lambs," the last novel by this English author to be published here. In this new story you gratefully find their likes again: Aldom, the butler; Clemence and Setton, the children; Sir Roderick Shelley and his second wife Maria, their parents; Miss Petticoat, the governess; and grandfather Firebrace, eldest son Oliver, teachers, Lesbia and Juliet, all relatives of Maria's predecessor in the Shelley household.

Shall the little girl, 13, and the boy, 11, be sent away from Miss Petticoat to the schools over which Lesbia and Julia, with her husband Cassidy, preside? Maria is sharp enough to realize that the Firebraces need the fees, and sensitive enough about her status to suspect a scheme by the dead wife's proprietary family to interfere in her affairs.

The children leave for the fall term, both so determined to live up to their fond mother's expectations that they will not stop even at cheating to win marks of

which she can be proud. But in the world they have left, as we learn eventually, there are comparable deviations from the accepted ethical standards; and the moral is, that no sensible person, young or old, thinks honesty is the best policy if it stands in the way of love and happiness.

The irresistible fascination in this author, however, is not plot but talk. Perhaps it's true that she has to write about something, yet when she concentrates solely on getting along with her story, she may sacrifice some of her ineffable distinction. In fact, her work is best when the curtain rises, rather than at the climax when it falls.

It is talk for talk's sake at which she excels, for Miss I. Compton-Burnett is not yet 60, and inner ear at that. When she introduces the fumbling Shelleys, with grownups and youngsters mixed, or the merciless children at Lesbia's school, or the faculty at Juliet's . . . on such pages she fills her matchless dialogue with utterly unpre- dictable remarks, she flits amazingly from sense to nonsense, she swings you around and around until, helpless and happy, you hope she'll never let go.

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