

Labor Gov't. Faces Rocky Road Ahead

THE first test of Britain's shaky new Labor government will come Monday with King George's speech from the throne on the formal opening of Parliament. The King's speech is written by the government.

Whether or not Prime Minister Attlee has decided to shelve his Socialist program of public ownership of industry in the interests of survival will become officially known. Until then there is only speculation and rumor.

If Attlee does agree to suspend his nationalization program there are prospects of a Conservative-Labor "gentleman's agreement" which might delay a new general election for the next few months. Such a political truce might permit the virtually deadlocked House of Commons to deal with pressing problems both at home and abroad. British Communists sourly referred to this prospect as a "backdoor coalition."

Temporary Truce

Such a truce, however, could hardly last more than a few months. The second test is likely to come with debate on the budget April 1. Conservatives campaigned for lower taxes. The Laborites asked how it could be done and still maintain the national defense program and the huge social service agencies.

Attlee has reshuffled his Cabinet, dropping five members of his pre-election government. There were no startling surprises, however. Some of his appointments constituted promotions and some demotions.

As expected, Attlee did not make any changes in his three top lieutenants. Ernest Bevin remains as Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Sir Stafford Cripps is still Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Herbert Morrison continues as deputy prime minister and leader of Commons.

Shinwell Moved Up

Perhaps the most important shift was the promotion of Emanuel Shinwell from Secretary of State for War to Minister of Defense. Shinwell replaces Viscount Alexander who became Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Although the Labor Party got a majority of seven seats in the House of Commons it won only 45 per cent of the popular vote. Labor drew 13,248,957 out of a total popular vote of 28,728,453—the largest ever cast in a British election.

The total vote of the combined opposition, including 12,450,403 for the Conservative and allied parties, was 15,479,496.

In the 1945 election Labor got 11,992,292 votes, the Conservatives, 8,865,586, the Liberals 2,238,668 and the Liberal Nationals 759,883.

Aerial

European Maneuvers

Not since the war have Germans heard the massive roar of so many huge American planes flying in mass formation over their cities. In the last two weeks, with clearing skies and winter ending, the V formations have become, to them, an increasingly common and ominous sight.

The U.S. Air Force explained last week it said the fliers, whose Berlin airlift jobs did not really end until last October, were training again to fly men and vehicles anywhere in the world.

Flights of 70 four-engine C-54 and C-82 carrier planes are being schooled in preparation for huge spring maneuvers the Air Force and Army will hold later this month. It will be under the overall command of Lt. Gen. John K. Cannon, Air Force commander in Europe.

Sidelights

● Hitler twice ordered the razing of the Vatican, according to Rudolf Rahn, last Nazi ambassador to Rome, testifying last week at a denazification trial in Frankfurt, Germany.

● At Harrisonburg, Va., a man escaped from a state prison camp by hiding in the trunk of a parked car. The trunk lid snapped shut as the car drove off. Next day the owner heard a thumping, called police to investigate, and the fugitive went right back into custody.

● Near Metamora, Ill., a truck slid off a road during an ice storm which broke all telephone wires. The driver appealed to William Brigg, a ham radio operator, who was unable to raise Peoria, only 15 miles distant, but did contact a radio operator in mid-Atlantic who relayed the call on another wavelength to the American Relay League coordinator in Peoria who did send a tow truck to Metamora.

● In Keene, N. H., a woman on the first floor of a two-family house got rid of a vacuum cleaner salesman by saying her neighbor upstairs might buy one. When the salesman went upstairs he entered an attic instead of an apartment and hit his head on a rafter. Incensed he fired a snowball through the first floor window, was arrested, hauled to court and fined. "If you were a four-year-old I could understand," admonished the judge.

● In Tokyo, Taki Kinoshita took a concubine—an old and widely practiced Japanese custom—but his wife swung an ax on the concubine when she found her in bed. At the trial for murder, the Japanese judge said the wife had acted defensively to prevent breakup of her home, and gave her a suspended jail sentence of three years.

The WORLD This WEEK

Marshall Plan Aid

COLD WAR: Mobilizing for a Long Pull

U. S. diplomatic leaders are reportedly convinced that the west may eventually arrive at a peaceful settlement with Russia—but only under conditions which may require years to establish.

The most important of these conditions are said to involve steel-nerved steadiness in dealing with the Kremlin, tightening of economic, military and political cooperation of the western powers, and agreement on a total cold war policy for the United States—which observers feel this nation now lacks.

U. S. Secretary of State Dean Acheson is said to be considering a major speech on foreign policy, particularly in regard to Soviet relations. This conceivably would expand Acheson's news conference statement of a fortnight ago in which he referred to a policy of matching American power against Russian power where possible, until world conditions are finally brought into balance.

Long 'Cold War'

Some State Department aids now believe that the cold war is going to continue for a long time and that no one now can prophesy accurately whether it will end in an atomic conflict or in restoration of tranquility around the world.

On the economic front some of the Administration's best informed advisers say that by 1952, when the Marshall plan is scheduled to end, the United States must increase its imports by about three billion dollars a year and resign itself to a foreign aid program of about a billion dollars a year for an unpredictable length of time.

Russia has revalued its ruble in terms of the dollar and switched from the dollar to gold as its international monetary yardstick. The ruble is now declared worth 25 cents, compared to the old rate of a little less than 19 cents.

Statistics

Illinois Central

Since 1900, Wilbur A. Cogshall, professor emeritus of astronomy at Indiana University, has been ascertaining the geographical center of population in the United States for the Census Bureau.

Through figures supplied by the Bureau he found the 1940 center to be on a fencepost southeast of Carlisle in Sullivan County, Indiana. Now, however, with the heavy wartime exodus to the west coast, Professor Cogshall predicts the precise geographical center of the U. S. population as shown by the 1950 census will be somewhere in southeastern Illinois.

Dr. Cogshall first determined the magic spot in 1900 as six miles southeast of Columbus, Ind. In 1910 it had slipped into the city limits of Bloomington, Ind. It was near Whitehall in Owen County in 1920, and in 1930 the center of population had shifted to near Linton in Greene County.



MOVING DAY—American soldier burns Stars and Stripes along with code machines as U. S. ministry in Sofia closes down after severing of diplomatic relations with Red-dominated Bulgaria.

The revaluation is apparently another step in the Soviet effort to establish the ruble as an international competitor of the American dollar and British pound.

Not Domestic

The decree of the Soviet Council of Ministers does not mean, however, that Russia is going on a domestic gold standard. There is no indication that the ruble will be convertible into gold internally.

Last week, the State Department followed up its break of diplomatic relations with Communist Bulgaria by

banning all travel of private American citizens to that country.

Bulgaria is the second Balkan nation to be placed out-of-bounds for American travelers. Trips to Hungary were barred last December when the State Department decided the Red-dominated Budapest regime was not giving normal protection to American citizens.

Growing Hate Campaign

There were other developments in the growing "hate America" campaign in the satellite countries behind the Iron Curtain.

The U. S. Embassy in Czechoslovakia reported the sentencing of a naturalized American citizen to a year in a labor camp for saying, "In America we throw away better food than they eat in Czechoslovakia."

The citizen of Slovak origin was visiting relatives in Topolcany, Slovakia. Embassy spokesman said he was arrested last December and sentenced to six weeks in prison and fined 2,000 crowns (\$40).

But after completing his prison term, he was rearrested and sent to the labor camp for a year.

Dates

- Monday, March 6
British Parliament reconvenes.
- Wednesday, March 8
Farm Day.
- Thursday, March 9
Connecticut Legislature convenes to consider new constitution.
- Anniversary (67th), U.S. Civil Service Commission.
- Friday, March 10
Anniversary (74th), telephone.
- Sunday, March 12
Birthday (38th), Girl Scouts.
Russian Parliamentary elections.
- Belgian advisory referendum on return of King Leopold.

Prospecting

20th Century Style

In this atomic age the oldtime prospector and his burro are as outmoded as the covered wagon. The Geiger counter has replaced the geologist's hammer. The plane and specialized truck have superseded the mule. The prospector himself is no longer a grizzled desert veteran but a spruce young college graduate, frequently with a Ph.D.

The government Geological Survey has been experimenting with airplanes equipped with Geiger counters under its wings for finding uranium, thorium and other ores used in the construction of new type bombs.

Scientists from the Department of Interior have been developing detecting apparatus shock-mounted in light trucks. One sensitive device reacts to radioactive gases from ore deposits.

Another prospecting method calls for mounting of two 42-inch Geiger tubes on the roof of a car, with a meter on the instrument panel to signal when atomic deposits are being passed. The signal is sufficiently strong to permit prospecting along roads at 30 miles an hour.

Another method is subsurface prospecting with Geiger-counter probes lowered into holes dug in the soil with earth augurs, or into holes drilled into solid rock as far down as 300 feet.

In Short . . .

Sentenced: Dr. Klaus Fuchs, top British nuclear scientist, after pleading guilty to betraying American atomic secrets to Russia, to 14 years in prison.

Ordered: By the N. Y. State Public Service Commission, a sweeping investigation into all safety procedures of the Long Island Rail Road, as a result of the head-on crash February 17 which cost 30 lives.

Declared: By Secretary of State Dean Acheson before a Senate committee, that he does not condone any offenses with which Alger Hiss was charged and found guilty.

Admitted: By Capt. William Brown, full responsibility for the grounding of the battleship Missouri January 17 in Chesapeake Bay.

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CONGRESSIONAL committees are studying the foreign aid program with economy axes poised.

In an election year, the urge to prune expenses is always keen. In addition there is the fact that Marshall plan funds are reviving European industries at the expense, in some instances, of American export trade. Some lawmakers are incensed that U. S. funds to Britain are bolstering Socialism at the expense of capitalism.

ECA chief Paul Hoffman told the House Foreign Relations Committee it might be 50 years before Europe is able to pay back dollar loans to the U. S. Hoffman opposed a suggestion by Rep. John M. Vorys (R-Ohio) that future foreign aid be mostly on a pay-back basis.

'Bad Paper'

"They can't pay," Hoffman said. "Bad paper is not an asset. It's only a headache."

W. John Kenney, head of the ECA mission to Britain, predicted England would earn about three-fourths of the dollars she needs in the coming year. He said the United Kingdom had built up its exports to the United States to 114 per cent of the 1938 level.

Recently Hoffman declared that the Marshall plan had been so successful in its first two years that a real danger is that Congress will consider the job done and cut off funds to keep the plan rolling.

Reports From Abroad

Before the Senate last week, Barry Bingham, ECA director for France, testified that Russia has ordered French Communists to intensify their efforts to wreck the Marshall plan.

Robert M. Hanes, ECA chief in western Germany, disclosed one of his bureau's big problems is to help Germans find a larger U. S. market for their goods. West Germany's dollar exports must rise dramatically, he said, if Germans are to achieve recovery.

Chairman Tom Connolly (D-Tex.) of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, denounced British attempts to do business with the empire (sterling) bloc at the expense of American exporters. He charged Britain had "ordered" sterling areas not to buy American oil.

Senator Henry Cabot Lodge (R-Mass.) noted that this country was encouraging British textile imports at a time when two Massachusetts textile firms have had to shut down.

The National Labor-Management Committee on Foreign Trade Policy issued a statement attacking the Administration plan to find American markets for an additional one billion dollars worth of European goods annually.

"Competition from Europe coming down the economic roof on our heads," the statement said. "This policy foreshadows the growth of ghost towns in American industrial centers."

Education

ABC's for Teachers

American school teachers are being advised to stop, look and listen to the public and then, if they are wise, to throw away the book of big, fancy words and use simple language.

The 1950 Yearbook of the American Association of School Administrators says the American public cherishes simple definitions, summarized reports and the "musical brevity of language."

Entitled "Public Relations for America's Schools," the book says: "Too many educators have assumed that the purpose of public relations is to sell the public their ideas."

"They have ignored the attitudes, opinions, drives and desires of the public itself."

It recommends the use of "55 instead of 664-words" in a campaign to secure public support and understanding of school problems.

Public relations is pictured as a two-way process in which educators talk to the public and give the public an opportunity to talk back. The book says:

"If the schools are to be people's schools in the truest sense, it is essential that the people share in basic decisions which affect them. The yearbook was distributed to 11,000 delegates last week at the association's annual convention in Atlantic City, N. J. It was prepared under supervision of Dr. Paul J. Misher, superintendent of schools at Glencoe, Ill.

Wildlife

Gobbler Comeback

The wild turkey which once ranged from Ontario to Mexico between the oceans is making a comeback with state and federal aid.

In cooperation with 13 states, the federal Fish and Wildlife Service is restoring the birds to their hereditary ranges.

Colorado, for instance, has increased its wild turkey population from 6,000 in 1943 to 18,000 last year. One of the benefits was that Colorado, which has not had an open season on turkeys since 1899, had a three-day season last October. Hunters were limited to one gobbler apiece and 30 per cent of those licensed got their bird.



NOTHING SOFT ABOUT IT

SCIENCE: Hydrogen Hazards

No Peace, No Victory?

"Frankly I'm scared to death. Sometimes I feel prayer is the only solution, and I wish I had a direct line to the Almighty to ask him for guidance."

Those are the words of Dr. Harold C. Urey, one of the world's leading nuclear physicists and discoverer of heavy hydrogen.

He said no one will know the effectiveness of the hydrogen bomb until one actually is set off and, he explained, no one knows if the bomb will work. "I hope it doesn't," he added.

Dr. Urey said he saw "absolutely no chance" of an agreement with

Russia on the atom and hydrogen bombs. The current Russian leaders, he explained, have created a revolution and must see it through.

Meanwhile four other American atom scientists agreed that a hydrogen bomb conceivably could be turned into a world suicide weapon capable of wiping out friend and foe alike. A cloud of radioactive dust from such a bomb could go round the world, they said, slowly but surely taking the life of every man, woman and child.

That creates the possibility that in war an enemy, faced with defeat, could threaten to loose a hydrogen bomb and wipe out the world.



RAISING THE ROOF