

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us No Fear Shall Awe"
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Letter From Santa Claus

Was the response of Uncle Joe Stalin on the day before Christmas to the queries of James Reston of the New York Times a letter from Santa Claus? Did the avuncular premier of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, the Father-god of the Communists from the Elbe to Bering Strait and to Canton put on a long-bearded mask, a fur cap with bells (his suit already is red) and essay the role of genial Saint Nick to the nations of the West? Did "good old Joe" recall the instructions of his youth and out of the depths of memory draw the inspiration of the Christmas season, and seek to emulate the proffer of the Prince of Peace?

We do not think so. Though Stalin with his familiar mustache and pipe seems a more comfortable figure than some of his wooden-faced colleagues, he is no Santa Claus, and no saint of any kind. His recital: Yes the USSR and USA can live "peaceably"; No, war between them is not "inevitable." Yes, I would like to talk with representatives of the new Eisenhower administration; and would cooperate in a diplomatic approach to end the war in Korea,—this is almost in exact parallel with what Stalin has said before.

And what else really could he say? One would hardly expect him to say that war is "inevitable," or to decline to cooperate, or disclaim any meetings with Eisenhower. As the claimant to the original patent for peace and prevention of a third world war he could not well scuttle his propaganda campaign by becoming a war-fatalist.

The only thing significant in the Stalin reply was its timing. The queries were presented on Dec. 18th and the replies were received on Christmas eve. Such promptness is most unusual. The explanation may lie in two factors: first, a desire to get in a plug with the new administration; second, an eagerness to regain ground lost in the recent Assembly of United Nations where the Soviet block stood out alone against the Indian resolution for concluding an armistice in Korea. Its final, last-minute thrust with a vicious resolution against the United States over the use of force in suppressing prison camp riots in Korea was rejected decisively denying to the Communists the propaganda advantage they wanted. Stalin appears simply to have taken the favorable Christmas-time to make a fresh gesture for peace, squeezing out what propaganda value he could at a time when it was needed.

Uncle Joe need not have waited for Christmas if he wanted the war in Korea to end. He could have played a vital part in concluding an armistice if he had radioed Vishinsky to make a speech at UN approving the resolution of wearing the mask of a false Santa Claus.

Secretary-designate Dulles gave the right answer (which in turn is similar to that of Secretary Acheson on previous occasions), let Stalin evidence his good faith by concrete proposals.

It still is not too late to join hands with other

nations in urging Red China and North Korea to accept the offered terms of an armistice.

Though we are skeptical of any good intent in Stalin's answer to The Times we should not for our part just file the correspondence in the waste basket. In due time, the new administration should seek to explore (in full cooperation with Britain and France) the avenues of diplomatic approach to Russia, hoping to find one path that may lead to peace without appeasement.

Heavy Drill for the Eisenhower Team

While the Eisenhower team hasn't started calling the signals it certainly has been getting in plenty of heavy drill preliminary to the "kickoff" on January 20th. It was a smart move on the General's part to name his cabinet and principal assistants early. This has thrown them into the political arena rather abruptly but it has eliminated the usual run of speculation over who will be chosen, and it has enabled the prospective appointees to prepare themselves for their new assignments. Since it is important that there be no serious interruption in the running of our vast governmental machine this procedure will make for a more orderly transition of power.

The great advantage, however, lies not in letting each appointee study up on his particular assignment. Rather, it arises out of the opportunity for welding a team. The conferences out in the Pacific with military leaders and the civilian officials-designate must have been of great value in spelling out a policy on the Korean war. The later conferences now centered at the Eisenhower offices in the Commodore Hotel, New York, are likewise devoted to weighing courses of action, hearing the counsel of informed men and women, and holding consultations which naturally precede important decisions.

The country can look forward to a shift of the governmental gears with a minimum of grinding. And promptly it will take note that firm hands are on the controls. We can anticipate that authority will be exercised with a clear sense of direction and that there will be a positive drive to reach the goals which have been selected.

Eisenhower is not to be rated as a miracle-worker; but measuring the "horsepower" of the "manpower" he has chosen for his team the country can have great confidence that it will achieve results good for the country and for the world.

Prime Minister Churchill is coming for a brief visit with Eisenhower. Some one now may revive the gag of his previous coming: Hang two lanterns in the tower of the old North Church in Boston. ("Two if by sea" ran Longfellow's poem on Paul Revere). However, this great Britisher is always a welcome visitor in the USA.

Eisenhower's Defense Department Chiefs Discovering Economy Won't Be So Simple

By JOSEPH AND STEWART ALSOP

NEW YORK (AP)—Next to the foreign policy line (which it must deeply affect) the character of President-elect Eisenhower's Defense Department is the most important thing to know about in the new administration.

The evidence, as disclosed by careful inquiry among the men around Eisenhower, is extremely conflicting. On the one hand, there are strong hints that the new President expects the civilian chiefs of the Pentagon to supervise procurement and production, while the uniformed Chiefs of Staff make the "military" decisions.

This is suggested by Eisenhower's selection of five exceedingly able and important business leaders for the top Defense Department offices. It is also suggested by Eisenhower's well-known intention to bring into the Joint Chiefs of Staff a team of men who command his personal confidence. The most often mentioned are Gen. Alfred Gruenther for the Army; Gen. Lauris Norstad for the Air Force; Admiral Arthur Radford for the Navy; and Gen. W. Bedell Smith as chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

On the other hand, returns of a rather different nature have now come in from the Washington briefing of the prospective Defense Secretary, Charles E. Wilson, and his staff by incumbent Secretary Robert A. Lovett and his co-workers. One of the day's more significant moments occurred when Wilson asked Lovett how much time he would have to devote to problems like Congressional relations, relations with other nations arising from the foreign military aid program, and so on. Lovett replied that these would take about half his time. Wilson then asked how much time he would have left for the production program. About 10 per cent, was Lovett's estimate.

There is no doubt that the new Eisenhower defense appointees originally thought they would mainly busy themselves with organizing production and enforcing economy. But already, this illusion is passing. Already, it is becoming plain to these key men of the Eisenhower Cabinet that there is no such thing as a purely "military" decision on the highest level. Already they are grasping the central point that all so-called military decisions on this level have the most extensive political implications, both at home and abroad.

A symptom of this growing awareness is the desire of Wilson to avoid a complete break with the past. At least two of the key civilian officials in the Pentagon are to be kept on, in effect in civil service status.

Meanwhile, President-elect Eisenhower himself is also giving some pretty striking indications of his own viewpoint on defense organization. At the moment, for instance, he is giving serious consideration to a plan for transferring final authority over all promotion of the higher general officers to the civilian Secretary of Defense. Control of promotions is, of course, the secret of supremacy. When this very great increase in the power of the civilian Secretary was first proposed to him, Eisenhower is reported to have reacted with a characteristic, "By golly, now we've got them."

By "them" Eisenhower unquestionably meant the great numbers of men in the services who place service interest ahead of national interest. The need for true unification is a subject on which the incoming President is very hot under the collar. He talks often, and he talks indignantly, about it. On this point also, a reliable source has quoted him as follows:

"No one who hasn't been in the middle of it can possibly understand how bitter and how costly the rivalry between the services is. That's what killed poor Jim Forrestal—that and the fact that he could always see both sides of every question."

Altogether, it is hard to believe that "the civilians are to do production and the generals are to do military" in the Eisenhower Defense Department, as one happy general hopefully forecast. Even if some traces of this conception of defense organization survive at the outset, they are bound to be wiped out by the pressure of events.

OLD CHINA HAND



Comes the Dawn

Well, this old fellow came into the newsroom and sat down wearily. He leaned his sickle against the legs of the chair and tucked his long white beard into his bed-sheet toga. He said: "I'm ready to go quietly." "Go where?" we asked. "My name," said the old boy slowly, "is A. (for annual) D. Fiftytwo. I've had a rough, nerve-shattering 11 months and 27 days and frankly I'm ready to call it quits. They can't fire me—I resign." He fiddled nervously with a rolled-up calendar. "Four more days," he grumbled, "and it'll be all over."

"Oh, it hasn't been a bad year," we said or something like that. "Bad!" the old man snuffed. "Are you kidding. Look what I've been through. I inherited the Korean War. Then came the political campaign—with TV yet. Everybody got excited in Europe. The British will always remember me darkly because their king died during my reign. The Democrats are already trying to forget me. You people in Oregon are sore because I brought you that long dry fall and your worst power shortage in history. Bad! Ha!"

"Yes," we said, "but there were some pretty good things too, during your stay here, Mrs. Fiftytwo. Remember Capt. Kurt Carlsen and the Flying Enterprise last January? And the Republicans loooooove you. And how about all those flying saucer yarns you brought us newsmen? And the British get a cute queen. And some things, like Hollywood, divorces and scandals in government, aren't really your fault. These things go on all the time. Of course the TV deal in Oregon WAS your baby."

"Yeah," said Mr. Fiftytwo bitterly. "Already people are looking forward to the new year—hoping for better treatment than they got from me. They'll never learn. It isn't we years that solve all their problems. Why I remember way back in January when I first came into the world, full of hope, vigor and a clean record. I remember all the New Year's resolutions everybody made. If people would have kept all those promises I would have been a pleasant—if somewhat dull—year for them. The trouble is, I didn't get any cooperation from people."

A tear disappeared into his whiskers. "Some people used me right, alright," he conceded. "And they had a happy time with me. Others let me slip through their fingers. And some used me as a sort of bridge between New Year's Eve parties. They made a mess of me and now they all think that novice, 1953, will end all their troubles. Phooie! He can't do anything unless they want him to—only he don't know it, and neither do they. Picking up his sickle (he had apparently worn it down from a full-sized scythe) he walked out. He was singing something about "when it's roundup time up yonder . . ."

Congressional Quiz

- Q—How did most Congressmen "bring home the bacon" before they became legislators? A—Ninety per cent of the Senators and 60 per cent of the Representatives in the new Congress have previous experience in civic service and politics. In both chambers, 58 per cent are lawyers. (Percentages total more than 100, since many lawmakers have engaged in more than one vocation). Figures in other fields: Agriculture, Senate 21 per cent, House 14; business and banking, 30 and 34; journalism, 10 and 9; veterans, 64 and 56; teachers, 15 per cent in each chamber.
- Q—Why will the new Congress be the 83rd? A—It is the 83rd Congress to take office since the first Congress convened March 4, 1789. A new Congress is elected every two years, when the terms of all House Members, and a third of the Senators expire.
- Q—Which has more women members, the U. S. Congress or the United Nations General Assembly? A—Women's progress apparently has not been too rapid in either national politics or international policy making. The 83rd Congress will have 12 women Members. The present General Assembly of the United Nations will include 10 women delegates before it ends.
- Q—Will the new House of Representatives have any Negro Members? A—Yes, the two Negroes who served in the 82nd Congress won re-election to the 83rd. They are Democrats William L. Dawson (Ill.) and Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. (N. Y.). But Dawson, first Negro ever to head a Congressional Committee, will lose his Chairmanship because Democrats no longer will be in control. The group he has headed now is called the Government Operations Committee.
- Q—Will Eisenhower be the 33rd or the 34th President? A—Although each Congress is numbered officially as the 81st, 82nd, 83rd, and so on, there is no official numbering of the Presidents. The next President will be the 33rd person to take the oath of office, but he will be designated unofficially as the 34th President because Grover Cleveland's two terms (1885-1889, 1893-1897, were separated by the term of Benjamin Harrison.
- Q—I heard that one Representative who was elected to the new Congress on Nov. 4 has died. Is that right? A—Yes, Rep. Adolph J. Sabath (D-Ill.) died the day following election. He was 86 years old when he died and had served 23 terms in the House. (Copyright, 1952, Cong. Quar.)

Literary Guidepost

By WILLIAM GLOVER

ALAN HYND'S MURDER by Alan Hynd (Duell, Sloan & Pearce-Little, Brown, \$3). A fancy and intriguing dozen of real life homicides have been gathered from police blotters and court files by Hynd for a highly interesting addition to the crime library.

Putting aside the classic group of cases which Roughhead, Bohlito and Woolcott's plus endless imitators—made famous in necrology, Hynd has found a fresh group of untrammelled slayings and woven around them a constantly interesting documentation. In the style of other writers on the subject, he has injected the standard whimsical humor that every such volume seems obliged to carry. The method at least relieves the tension and horror implicit in such deeds.

Hynd has selected his dozen cases, with only a single exception, from the subgroup catalogued Murders of Passion, passion as restricted to the purple definition concomitant with easy virtue and lusty living. In point of time and space, the chapters span from the Oregon of 1904, to the New York of 1937 and the Quebec of 1949. Most of the stories appeared previously in magazines.

THE FREE AGENT, by Paul Murray (Holt; \$2.95)

Gordon Teague, young American who travels and writes books about it, is coming from Rome to Florence for a rendezvous of a few days with Francesca when he meets Eve Wyndham, sister of the Julia with whom his London rendezvous had lasted a winter.

It was a winter he hasn't been able to forget, and though Francesca helped, Eve, a reminder hard to overcome, has been in Cairo, is returning to London with her young son, stops for a night in the city on the Arno, is found dead. Looks like suicide, then looks suspicious, then looks like murder, and the boy, Julia, assorted acquaintances in Bohemia and in business, Arab and Jews are all involved before the first and the last of the numerous deaths are solved. It's a mystery, but not just a bare bones of a mystery, there's flesh on the skeleton in this closet and the people are commendably credible.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT: Photography by Henri Cartier-Bresson (Simon & Schuster-Verve; \$12.50).

Some more pictures of France, but also of Spain, Italy, England, Egypt, China, Burma and of many people and places in the United States are included in this handsome volume under a title that indicates this photographer's purpose in recording a scene or action. Among the people lucky to be his sitters, no less than he is lucky to have them "sit," are Faulkner, Steinberg, Capote, Bernard, Sartre, Rouault, Matisse. Cartier-Bresson says he learned with a box camera, went to movies for lessons, studied Atget, now uses a Leica. He is no man for gadgets, trick poses or compositions, he just aims and fires. I don't blame the publisher for being most enthusiastic.

Four more portfolio editions in the Library of Great Painters have just been released by publisher Harry N. Abrams. At \$1.50 apiece these good buys include 10 color plates with text. Titles and authors are "Utrillo," Alfred Werner; "Picasso," William S. Lieberman; "Rouault," Jacques Marjain; "French Impressionists; Herman J. Wechsler.

Your Health

Most mothers do not realize that migraine headaches can occur in children as well as adults, although the complaint most often does develop later in life. If you know someone afflicted with migraine, you may have found out how these severe headaches are dreaded, and how they can disable a person. When the sufferer is either a child or an adult, there is usually some hereditary background. The child may have a strong tendency toward allergy, while other members of his family may also have migraine.

At the same time, the attacks are somewhat different in children. The headaches as a rule become as prolonged and stubborn as they may in adults. Many adults go without a migraine attack for months. With children, the attacks seem to come very frequently, in many cases as often as two to three times a week.

Usually the child complains of one-sided headaches which are almost unbearable. Before a headache occurs, the child may see spots before the eyes, have a fainting spell, smell a strong odor, or have some other type of warning that an attack is on the way. Once the attack starts, the headache is severe. Usually the child becomes nauseated and has severe vomiting.

Many of these attacks can be relieved before they even get started with a drug known as ergotamine tartrate, combined with caffeine. Usually a headache can be avoided if the child is given a certain number of the pills as soon as he senses the warning sign of an attack. The drugs known as the antihistamines have also proved helpful in treating this disorder in a number of cases.

Not too infrequently, children suffering from migraine also have convulsions or mild epilepsy. Usually these children re-

spond to small doses of dilantin or pheno-barbital, drugs used to prevent convulsions in epilepsy. It has also been found that many children with migraine who do not respond to other forms of treatment are helped by dilantin, even though they have no convulsions. Of course, all these drugs must be prescribed by a physician and taken under his careful direction, as the exact dose must be adapted to the patient. Prompt treatment is also important for a child with migraine headaches. If the condition continues too long untreated, it is much harder to remedy.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

C. M.: Can a wen ever develop into cancer?

Answer: A wen or sebaceous cyst is due to occlusion of the sebaceous gland duct to the skin. It is a cyst filled with an oily-like substance. Usually there is no likelihood of it ever developing into cancer. However, it is unsightly and can easily be removed by surgery. (Copyright 1952, King Features)

Red Guerrillas Kill Ten Persons

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Communist-led guerrillas ambushed and killed 10 persons including two women and a child on their way home from Moslem prayers in Johore State Friday night. The guerrillas tossed a grenade under an armored estate car returning from a mosque with a party of Malays. When the car sped on, they threw a second grenade, overturning it. Twenty guerrillas then opened fire on the occupants.

Realty Views

Mrs. Fuller phones. "Show me a few nice homes that \$2,000.00 will handle. We are desperate. So please come right away." Naturally, my curiosity was aroused. She volunteered more information as we drove to a nice home. "We've been renting from a friend. No lease, a couple of weeks ago, he called and said for us to move right then. He had decided he wanted it again. So we moved—two days before Christmas. Never again," she said. Her husband nodded and they decided on an attractive, suitable home. "But what are the payments?" he asked. "\$54.20 per month. That includes principal, interest, taxes and fire insurance. "Good," he replied. "It's better than I'd hoped for."

"Yes," Mrs. Fuller added, "We've been married 7 years. Paid rent all that time—from \$65 to \$95 per month. Lot's of money." Mr. Fuller interrupted. "Figured it out last night. We've paid \$3950 rent. Even though we're still young, that's half a house." "Needless to say, they bought it. "We're settled," she said with a smile. "And saving money," he added.

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