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ERP and Self-Help Can Win
By JAMES THRASHER

As American supplies finally start rolling under the ERP, the governments that are its beneficiaries have formally set up the machinery for handling the program in Europe. This is as good news as the creation of ERP itself, for the program must be a partnership if it is to succeed.

If this Committee for European Economic Co-operation lives up to its promise, we may look for results beyond the immediate problems, which, naturally, must come first.

There must be relief of actual hardship. More abundant supplies of food and other necessities must be had from domestic production as well as import, to curb black markets and quiet unrest. A stimulation of trade among these countries is needed to reduce unemployment and raise living standards.

No one believes that it will be easy to meet these and other current requirements. But the CEEC seems confident and, working thus far in encouraging agreement, seems eager to tackle Europe's problems as a team.

Along with this there may also come a treaty of mutual defense. Some have suggested that from this unanimity there could develop the long-discussed United States of Europe, but created by agreement instead of force.

That is for the future to decide. In the meantime, the ERP governments appear to be going about their task with a good deal of horse-sense as well as friendliness. They have admitted the western German zones, represented by members of their military governments, into the new organization.

They have also realized the necessity of increased trade with eastern Europe, and they will work with that objective in mind. There is some hope of success in that plan, in spite of the present Soviet attitude. The Communist empire, for all its vast territory and resources, is not self-sufficient. A doctrine of economic isolation, or even semi-isolation, in the modern world might be fatal. A freer exchange of goods, provided it did not endanger western Europe's security, could be a valuable contribution to world peace.

Beyond the hopes and promises, there is encouragement in the very spirit which marks this new venture. Probably Europe will never again attain its great position at the core of world affairs. Yet certainly its governments must pull themselves out of the rut of frustration, incompetence and factionalism in which they have been floundering. And they now seem to be making a concerted effort to get started.

But they must function with a new sense of responsibility as well as a new unity if they are to survive.

Communism in Europe has gained millions of followers because workers and peasants with limited political vision have found the Communists' promises of a better life under regimentation more inviting than the poverty, uncertainty and lack of opportunity they know under nominal freedom.

The eventual goals of American aid and European self-help must be liberty, justice, stability and prosperity. If they are reached,

the danger of Communist infiltration and Communist war will be greatly lessened.

Mr. Martin Volunteers

Speaker Joe Martin, having made John L. Lewis behave, says he is now ready and willing to talk to Dictator Joe Stalin about settling some bigger differences.

We can understand how Mr. Martin, flushed with triumph, feels ready to tackle anything. But we still think that if tough old John L. would only be as zealous of his country's welfare as he is of his miners', he'd be the logical choice for a conference with the boss man of Russia.

WASHINGTON LETTER
BY PETER EDSON
NEA Washington Correspondent

UN Food Mission Reports

WASHINGTON—(NEA)—One of the frankest reports on conditions behind the Iron Curtain has just been made public by FAO—the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations—after a special mission survey on the farm situation in Poland.

The report indicates that Polish agriculture is in a pretty deplorable state. There is insufficient grain production to give the Poles an adequate diet. Though the Polish government has been trying to export grain to western Europe in exchange for consumers' goods which are also needed, Poland really is importing grain. The yield of grain from Polish land is decreasing, due to lack of fertilizer. The Polish diet is also inadequate in proteins, fruits and vegetables. Food spoilage and waste through improper canning and handling methods is tremendous.

Cattle are tubercular and milky distribution is unsanitary. Eighty per cent of the children showed a positive reaction to tuberculin tests. Thirty per cent, or about 3,000,000 children, particularly the war orphans, are undernourished, rickety, undersized, or deformed.

Too large a percentage of the population is said to be tied to the farms. Too many women who should be employed in housework, looking after their families, are forced to do farm field work.

Housing is still inadequate. Many of the privately-owned farms are too small to support one family and so cannot produce surplus food for sale. Big estates confiscated by the Communist government and operated as collective farms are poorly run, with the tenants or farm laborers ill-housed.

Private Enterprise Is Penalized

The government is trying to operate these collective farms side by side with privately-owned small farms. The privately-owned farms are over-taxed. The rate is based on a theoretical yield of rye at an assumed price. Part of the tax must be paid in grain. The lower the yield in bad crop years, the harder the farmer is hit. Many farmers were in arrears on the past year's taxes.

The government has frequently complained because its collections of grains from the farms have been below expectations.

Farm workers are not represented in the government. Though the report does not say so, this is apparently due to liquidation of the pre-war peasant parties by the Communists. At any rate, the farmers have no means of remedying their plight.

All this and more is topped by a vicious double-wage scale and two-price system that has disrupted the economy. Government workers and employees of the government-owned, communized industries, are paid low wage scales. But they have ration cards which permit them to buy food at low prices in government stores. About 42 per cent of the people have these ration cards. Everybody else must scramble for food at high prices in the free market.

What Ought To Be Done
The FAO mission report of 150 pages is stuffed with more than that many black-type recommendations of what ought to be done to remedy these and other bad conditions. For instance:

Install a uniform rationing system with a single free-market price. Use more fertilizer to make up for the manure shortages resulting from reduction of livestock numbers. Grow more green and leafy vegetables and change the Polish diet to a higher protein content. Boil the milk until it can be pasteurized. Reform the land-holding and land-use system. Divorce agricultural schools from political control. Reform the tax system. Expand the salt-water fishing industry in the Baltic. Allot gardens to factory and office workers. Double the timber cut to build more houses. And so on.

How much attention will be paid to these recommendations is unknown. The 10-man mission of farm experts which made the survey was under the leadership of Noble Clark, FAO deputy director, former associate director of the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station.

The FAO mission had to operate under peculiar conditions. All 10 of the western experts came from non-Communist countries. They had to divorce themselves from considering what might be wrong with the country politically. Their job was simply to find out and tell what might be done to increase food production.

Their report is considered important in that it indicates there is still some contact across the Iron Curtain and that at least one branch of the UN is doing something constructive, not just talking.

Springfield's Budget for Year Adopted Without Any Objection

SPRINGFIELD—The city council in a meeting here Monday night officially adopted the city budget for the 1948-49 fiscal year after a public hearing. There were no objections to the budget as advertised.

Voters here on June 15 had authorized the budget committee to exceed the statutory six per cent limitation by \$94,933 in order to meet budget requirements in the new fiscal year which starts July 1.

The total tax levy, including estimated delinquent taxes and debt retirement, is \$140,171 which will require approximately the same millage rate as the current budget's 23.3 mills.

The council discussed the city's trailer house ordinance which requires a city license of \$5 per year per stall in trailer parks.

Some members expressed the opinion that the figure was out of proportion to other city license requirements and should be altered. The matter was referred to the finance committee for study and recommendations to the council.

To Legislate
On the suggestion of Councilman John Boeshans, the council instructed the city attorney to draft a resolution to the next state legislature recommending that

the state perform more adequate and rigid milk and meat inspection in order to avoid duplication of inspection facilities by cities.

The city budget committee had turned down a proposal to participate in a uniform milk and meat inspection service with the city of Eugene under county health department guidance because they felt it was a duplication of service supposed to be done by the state.

To Governor

Boeshans also recommended that copies of the resolution be sent to the governor and to the League of Oregon Cities in order that other cities in the state might follow Springfield's lead.

It was mentioned during the discussion that even when cities have meat and milk inspection service and regulations of their own, they do not regulate the fringe areas adjacent to the cities, especially in regard to meat.

In other action the council:

1—Granted a class B beer license to the Greenwood Lunch for its new location on Twentieth and Main Sts., and granted the same type of license to Frassens' Cafe (former Greenwood Lunch) at Twentieth and Main Sts.

2—Authorized the city's police association to sponsor a carnival after Sept. 1.

3—Discussed but took no action on a proposal to purchase for the city library at a cost of \$250 the National Geographic Magazine dating from 1917 to the present.

Davenport's & Chairs Cleaned. Electric Cleaners, 1210 Willamette.

Shrine Marks Magi's Grave

PHOENIX, Ariz.—(UP)—A shrine is planned here to mark the grave of Paul Valadon, "father of modern magic" and one of the greatest vaudeville performers of his day.

Valadon's exit from the show world at the peak of his career 35 years ago was a mystery as puzzling as his theatrical stunts. A few days ago, his unmarked grave was discovered here by the Magicians Guild of the United States in a storybook climax.

According to Julian J. Proskauer, New York, past president of the guild, "Valadon was the Houdini of his day—a great sleight-of-hand man."

His grave was located by a study of yellowed vital statistics.

The story of his tragic end then was supplied by his son, Paul Valadon, now a Phoenix city employee.

Young Valadon said his father was a headliner on the Orpheum circuit for many years after he came to this country from England. Thurston and Keller, also great magicians of their day, were his partners at one time. But his greatest fame came from the spectacular illusions he invented and staged with the help of eight assistants.

The famed illusionist's wife died in 1908. Not long afterward he slipped away from the glare of the footlights.

Miserably ill with tuberculosis, he came to Phoenix with his son but was unable to shake off the disease. He died in 1913 at the age of 46 without fanfare in a young, bustling town already accustomed to victims of the malady.

Union High Job Bid Rejected

SPRINGFIELD—The Union High School board of directors in a meeting here Monday night rejected the bid of the W. H. Shields Co. of Eugene to construct a building for an agricultural shop and homemaking unit at the high school plant here.

Shields' bid, the only one presented, was for \$122,952.96, according to, Guy Lee, assistant superintendent of schools.

Lee said the board did not feel the bid was out of line for the type of structure but was more than they planned to put in the structure at this time.

He added that the board will meet again July 6 to give further study to the building which they want to retain as it is planned. However, Lee said, the board thinks minor alterations in the proposed building could reduce the cost.

The building is to contain agricultural shops and classrooms and a two-story portion in the front with classrooms for a homemaking unit. It is to be constructed of pumice block and concrete.

County, State Man To Visit 18 Farms

A total of 18 farms will be visited Wednesday and Thursday in the seed certification program. Assistant County Agent W. H. Parker and Elmer Johnson, assistant state seed certification specialist, will make the inspection.

The farms to be inspected will be those which have entered seed for certification. However, County Agent Fletcher said Tuesday that applications for certification would be acceptable until Tuesday night.

Crops to be inspected include 378 acres of alfalfa fescue on 15 farms; 30 acres of ladino clover on 2 farms; 82 acres of Rainier red fescue; 7 acres of perennial rye

grass; 6 acres of Tualatin oat grass; and 8 acres of Santiam barley.

Mint Fields Viewed By Agriculture Men

W. B. Parker, assistant county agent, and R. W. Every, extension entomologist, were inspecting mint fields Tuesday for damage caused by the strawberry root weevil.

Parker said that some growers have already used poison bait to fight the pests and the results of such control measures will be observed. The two men will try to determine the exact type of weevil doing the damage.

Following this, certain truck farms will be visited in an attempt to identify the worm which has been cutting off corn.

Two Free Movies Set for Wednesday

Two free movies will be shown Wednesday at 8 p. m. in 207 Chapman Hall on the University of Oregon campus as part of the summer session recreation program. The public is invited to attend.

The pictures will be "Heart of Spain," a documentary account of the front line medicine practice by Dr. Norman Bethune and "Night Mail," the story of the train which travels from London to Glasgow.

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