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Plain Talk Always Safest

John Foster Dulles, foreign affairs adviser to the U. S. government, thinks the Russians stick to their agreements better when they're pinned down to details.

The idea is at least worth exploring at a time when numerous experts are convinced from past experience that no accord with the Russians has any value whatsoever.

In an interview with the United States News and World Report, Dulles says getting together with the Soviet Union on general terms means little because the generalities can be warped to fit widely varied interpretations.

He adds: "In order to have an agreement with the Russians that is at all reliable you've got to spell it out in meticulous detail to be sure there is a real meeting of the minds and no easy way of evasion."

"That was done to a very considerable extent in Austria. . . . I don't know what caused the difference—different people worked on it—but the Austrian set-up has worked quite smoothly."

"It defines in detail just what the respective rights and privileges are, what streets you walk on, what hour of the day you walk on them, when and where you get out of bounds. I have been told in Vienna there is little difficulty there."

In contrast, Dulles says, the arrangements between Russia and the West for the occupation of Germany are definitely inferior because they were couched in generalities.

If Austria is his only example, Dulles may be overlooking a prime factor. Tiny Austria, economically weak since its birth as an independent nation after World War I, may not figure too prominently in Soviet plans for control of Europe.

Would Russia observe even the detailed agreements in Austria if that country were a bigger prize?

Dulles concedes that no matter how the arrangements are phrased the Russians are "ingenious in thinking up ways to escape from consequences they don't like."

Skepticism seems a healthy, sensible attitude toward almost everything coming out of Russia these days. But that shouldn't prevent us from giving Dulles' idea a good try at some future conference with the Soviet Union.

Spelling out agreements to their fine details makes them rigid and often ill-adapted to emergencies where broad discretion ought to be used.

But in return for this loss of flexibility we might gain valuable practice in meeting Russian minds on down-to-earth levels where there can be no real misunderstanding.

If such agreements held up through many stresses and strains, a new climate of mutual trust might develop and provide an atmosphere for a major settlement in more general terms. Still, the Dulles idea has to pass some stiff tests before we reach that point.

'Liberalism' Is a Chameleon

By Bruce Blossat
What does it mean to be a liberal? In the 19th century, liberalism meant a high degree of freedom from government restrictions in both the economic and political realms. It set the stage for the commercial and industrial growth that made over much of the world.

In the 20th century, by an odd twist, liberalism seems to symbolize the very opposite tendencies: bigger government, more restrictions, less room for free choice.

How can the term "liberalism" have any worth if it can be stretched to cover these extremes?

Let's wade into the confusion surrounding this sadly overworked term and see if we can't determine whether it still has any value.

To have any continuing meaning, liberalism clearly must be defined in a manner that will make it adaptable to changing times and conditions.

To define it thus means to free it from any permanent association with a fixed pattern of ideas, whether social, economic or political. In other words, it can't be identified with a pat political doctrine, for political philosophies become outmoded and die.

Obviously, if liberalism means just the 19th century variety, it is practically dead today. If it means big government, it might wither away in some future time when trends perhaps veer in another direction.

Couldn't it be possible that liberalism is really an attitude, a way of thinking that shifts to meet the varying circumstances of an always changing society? But what sort of an attitude?

The record of history suggests an answer. The men who have earned the liberal label seem to have had in common a bold willingness to experiment, to try the new, to shatter old frameworks in quest of solutions to pressing human problems.

By contrast, conservatives appear most

often to search for answers within the existing structure of society. They may be no less concerned with solving human problems; they simply are pre-disposed to solve them without breaking new ground.

If a liberal is properly defined as a ground breaker, then in one era he may favor fewer governmental restrictions and in another he might seek more. His eye is on the problems facing society. He feels no allegiance to any cause but their solution.

Liberalism thus characterized is not a monopoly of any political party. It may exist side by side with conservatism—and does—in both major U. S. parties. By the same token, any individual may exhibit both liberal and conservative tendencies.

But the liberal attitude must show itself in action if it is to count. It is hardly enough to announce "I am a liberal," in the hope that you thereby establish yourself on a high plane of righteousness. You earn the label solely by seeking liberal solutions to problems.

Furthermore, it is just as honorable and important to be a conservative. Society is not always breaking new ground in all directions; much of the time it is busy nurturing and improving ground already broken.

Liberalism and conservatism represent our most fundamental attitudes toward life. They are natural tendencies that ought to be honestly expressed. Nothing is sillier than to regard liberalism automatically as a cloak of virtue. It is a sound, useful attitude; but it is not the only one a man of good will can have.

Reduced Sound Effects

Don't be puzzled if you hear a lot less from our senators in the next month or so than you've grown accustomed to hearing.

To permit repairs to their regular chamber, they've been squeezed into an old room in the Capitol last used by the Senate in 1859. Space for newsmen and the public is severely limited; hence statesman-like utterances may not carry as far as normally.

Some senators already have begun to balance this handicap. They are identifying themselves with Daniel Webster, Henry Clay and other illustrious predecessors who made laws in that old room.

If they can't get wide distribution, they'll shoot for the smaller quality market.

WASHINGTON LETTER

By Peter Edson
NEA WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT

Spectators Leave AEC Bout As Third Round Bell Rings

WASHINGTON — (NEA) — End of Iowa GOP Sen. Bourke B. Hickenlooper's great Atomic Energy Commission investigation is not yet in sight. Conclusion of AEC Chairman David Lilienthal's side of the story marks only the end of round two.

Round three will be fought more or less in the dark. That will be when chairman Brien McMahon takes the Joint Congressional Atomic Energy Committee into executive session. It will probe, off the record, some 25 or 30 AEC loyalty investigation cases which the committee previously refused to let Hickenlooper expose in open hearing. How long this phase of the investigation will take is anybody's guess.

Interest in this whole business has fallen to an extreme low. Even though the hearing room is air-conditioned and it's a good place to go to get out of the heat, it doesn't draw 50 people.

Some observers who have been following the hearings closely, however, are inclined to believe that Senator Hickenlooper won the first round of his challenge fight on points. They were not the original points that Hickenlooper set out to make. But his blows opened up these somewhat vulnerable spots:

A new junior high school at Richland, Wash., cost \$3,966,000 instead of the originally estimated \$1,786,000.

Sixty-five new construction projects being built by General Electric at Hanford, Wash., cost \$7,000,000 more than original estimates.

Contracts were made to buy natural gas as primary fuel for Oak Ridge, Tenn., when plenty of coal was available.

Some 350 leaky-roofed houses were built at Los Alamos, N. Mex.

Degree of "mismanagement" doubtful.

These and other mistakes exposed in the hearings thus far may show signs of some mismanagement. Whether they are evidence of what Senator Hickenlooper called "incredible mismanagement and maladministration" is something else again.

One effect of these disclosures has been that the Congress is slapping a new rider on the 1949-50 AEC appropriation bill. It will require Congressional approval on all future expenditures of over \$500,000 and all increases in such expenditures over authorized amounts.

AEC's justification of over-spending is that it is in a new business in which new problems are constantly being encountered and that much overtime had to be ordered to speed up the job. Also that the government, as sole owner of its "company towns," has had to do things which no private landlord could be forced to do by his tenants.

But even Senator Hickenlooper himself now says that these particular matters of mismanagement and waste are not what he is driving at as his primary objective. He says that the most important thing about the atomic energy project is the safeguarding of secrecy.

He makes three principal charges of laxity in security regulations:

1. That nearly 4000 employees were given access to restricted areas before they had been fully cleared by the FBI. (The AEC answers by saying this was a risk it had to take to speed up production. Only 29 of the cases revealed any irregularity and only five indicated disloyalty.)

2. That shipments of isotopes to foreign countries constitute a violation of the law. (The other interpretation of the law is that the ban applies only to fissionable materials, not isotopes. The two specific cases raised at the hearings involve shipment of one milligram of radio-activity equal to 50 to 100 times that of a gram of radium—of iron curies of various isotopes to Finland.)

3. The granting of AEC fellowships to young scientific students without security clearance. (Only three breaches have been indicated and only two identified—Dr. Isador S. Edelman of Brooklyn and Hans Friesdorf of North Carolina. AEC has announced that all 497 recipients of fellowships are being required to take loyalty oaths. Since then all but two of the 497 have taken the oaths.)

None of these charges would seem to be beyond correction. Charges of the loss of fissionable material have been pretty well debunked. Charges of exceptionally high labor turnover among AEC personnel reveal no greater employment instability than in many other government agencies.

Nevertheless, Senator Hickenlooper still holds that he has proved his case. But he admits it hasn't created much of a stir.

Sez Hel



Tompkins Asks Food Inquiry

PORTLAND — (P) — Morton Tompkins, Oregon Grange master, blames the middle-man for high food prices. He demanded a congressional investigation.

Tompkins charged that the farmer was being made the fall guy on the current market.

He said farm prices on many commodities are at a "ruinously low" level, while retail prices are being held high. These retail prices result from "high markups by processors and distributors," he told a reporter.

Tompkins said he had asked the secretary of agriculture and Oregon congressmen for a congressional review.

Tompkins took potatoes as an example. The retail price has held at 5 cents a pound both last year and this, although the support price has dropped from \$2.35 to \$1.40 a hundred pounds, he said.

The Grange master added that grower prices in strawberries fell 33 per cent, while the retail price of frozen strawberries went down only 13 per cent.

A letter he wrote to the secretary of agriculture said, "It would appear that food processors and distributors are retaining all of the high markups of previous seasons and taking whatever price adjustments seem necessary or expedient out of the pocket of the farmer, all the while letting him get the blame for high prices of foodstuffs. Frankly, we don't like it."

Royal Family Hosts at Party

LONDON — (P) — King George and his queen were smiling, chatty hosts to 7000 garden party guests at Buckingham Palace Friday in blazing sun.

The guests—diplomats, military and naval officers and just plain tourists—sweated freely as the royal family moved among them over sun-scorched lawns.

About 200 Americans were present.

Film star Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., and his wife met and chatted with the King and Queen, Queen Mother Mary, and Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret. The King remarked, "nice to see you again." Fairbanks received an honorary knighthood at the palace recently. Queen Mary asked after his children, Daphne, 9, Victoria, 6, and Melissa, 21-months.

Ambassador Lewis W. Douglas and his daughter, Sherman, strolled about the palace gardens, then joined the guests at the tea marquee. Also on the guest list were film star Robert Montgomery and his wife and Joseph E. Davies, of Washington, former U. S. ambassador to Moscow.

DAYS OF YORE RECALLED

SANTA BARBARA, Cal. — (P) — Original documents showing election procedure when California was under the Mexican flag have been uncovered at Santa Barbara College. One passage tells of a deputy selected in 1830 to attend congress at Monterey who was too inebricated to occupy his congressional seat.

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Washington Senators Seek Dam At Eagle Gorge on Flood

WASHINGTON — (P) — Sen. Warren G. Magnuson (D-Wash.) and Harry P. Cain (R-Wash.) have asked the Senate to authorize construction of the proposed Eagle Gorge Dam and reservoir.

They asked a Senate public works subcommittee to include the project in an omnibus bill for flood control and rivers and harbors which the committee is now considering.

Christy Thomas, spokesman for the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, told the committee that the project eventually will enable the city to expand its industrial

Airman Wins Jet Award

LOS ANGELES — (P) — Capt. Frederick M. Trappnell of the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Md., has been honored with the Octave Chanute Award for 1949 for his experimental work in jet propelled airplanes, the Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences has announced.

Trappnell, now coordinator of tests at the air test center, did research during World War II on aircraft-based jet planes.

The award is made each year "for a notable contribution made by a pilot to the aeronautical sciences."

Most Active Activian Named by Members

O. D. Martin was presented with a plaque at the Thursday noon meeting of Eugene Active Club as an award for his activities on behalf of the club the past year.

Martin was named the most active Activian by a ballot vote of members. Harold Miller, who donated the plaque, made the presentation. It is given each year.

Oregon Unemployment Figures Released

SALEM — (AP) — Oregon 588,000 employed persons and 40,000 unemployed, the State employment Commission announced today. The total number of persons in the labor force was 628,000. There were 32,000 jobless in June. The biggest drop in unemployment is in the lumber industry. 74,100 persons employed, 13,000 less than a year ago.

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