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Purge Slaps Back

One reason for President Truman's interest in the defeat of Rep. Slaughter of Missouri for renomination to congress reveals itself as the house special committee investigating the government's methods of disposing of surplus war properties progresses. As chairman of that committee Rep. Slaughter is digging up some scandals in the handling of surplus goods, which, from a political standpoint, are highly embarrassing to the administration.

As a starter in what promises to be a startling series of disclosures between now and the November elections, Slaughter called Benjamin F. Fields, ex-convict, Washington promoter and broker, to testify before the house committee regarding his experiences in dealing with the surplus property board. Fields told how the war assets administration rejected his offer of \$800 each for a sizable number of refrigerators and told him they could be purchased for \$295 each, at which figure he bought up 181 refrigerators and saved himself \$91,400 at the government's expense. This, according to Slaughter, is only an isolated instance that his committee will expose. Hundreds of thousands of dollars of federal funds, he alleges, were squandered in these transactions.

The disclosures of wartime profiteering being made by Slaughter's committee and by the Mead committee in the senate are, unless they are throttled, going to result into some highly explosive revelations before election day rolls around. As Lindsay C. Warren, comptroller general of the United States, told the Mead committee that "it looked as if everybody and his brother were out to get the government during the lush war years" and that loopholes in war contracts had cost the government "untold millions."

It was Warren who first charged that "with some high officials of the government the acceptance of entertainment, including cocktail parties, hotel bills and even travel from the contractor, while at the same time drawing travel expense and per diem from the government, was the rule rather than the exception."

The Real Issue

Bulking large in the struggle between the United States and Russia at the Paris peace conference is the question of the duration of allied occupancy of conquered European territory. That issue, of which not an inkling has been uttered around the peace table so far is sure to be one of the principal bones of contention before the parley ends.

On this issue the Americans and Russians are fundamentally at odds. It is the first consideration of the American delegates to arrange settlement of differences between the allies and Germany and her satellites so that occupation forces may be withdrawn at the earliest possible date. That, according to Washington sources, was the final and most emphasized of President Truman's instructions to Secretary of State Byrnes when he departed for the Paris meeting. This policy will accomplish two things. It will speed up the economic recovery of the occupied countries and remove one of the principal obstacles to normal social relations, both within and between the nations affected.

The second reason is more easily understood. It is that continued occupancy by armed forces breeds hate, which in turn generates trouble. No nations, and most certainly not Germany, can ever be reconciled to the continued presence within their boundaries of armed occupation forces. It is two different things when a vanquished people are rendered incapable of making war, or when they are prevented from doing so by the presence of their armed oppressors.

With Russia it is another matter. The Kremlin is more concerned with extending communism throughout eastern Europe than in the economic rehabilitation of Germany, Austria and the Balkan states. This process of communicating these conquered people can most effectively be accomplished under military occupation. Until this issue is decided the conference at Paris can reach no final solution, and the peace of Europe will be left dangling in midair.

Dam Projects Postponed

The district army engineer has announced the indefinite postponement of the request for contractors' bids on construction of Dorena dam in Lane county and requested no award on bids for relocation of the North Santiam highway in connection with the proposed construction of the Detroit dam on the Santiam river. Both are included in the proposed Willamette Valley project.

The postponement is the result of the 56 days moratorium on public works contracts announced last week in Washington by Reconstruction Director John R. Steelman at the request of the president. Advance notice will be given prospective bidders 30 days prior to the new date for opening bids.

The bids on Dorena dam were invited August 5 and were to have been opened September 4. The return of plans and specifications is requested. The high bids on the Santiam highway job, far beyond estimates, as well as the restrictions and limitations on expenditures now in force account for its postponement.

These government projects compete for skilled labor and materials with private enterprise and needed expansion of industries and housing projects and it is wise to delay them until needed to ease unemployment when it materializes.

Lack of materials is now bogging down 75 percent of new building in Oregon and elsewhere. There is shortage of cement, lumber, steel, nails, and other building necessities, and half finished structures are everywhere. And there are applications for \$315 million worth of construction permits on file with the Civilian Production Administration construction review committee for Oregon.

LEGAL

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO IMPROVE THAT PORTION OF SAGINAW STREET FROM THE SOUTH LINE OF OWENS STREET TO THE NORTH LINE OF LINCOLN STREET IN THE CITY OF SALEM, OREGON.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Common Council of the City of Salem, Oregon, deems it necessary and expedient, and hereby declares its purpose and intention to improve that portion of Saginaw Street from the South line of Owens Street to the North line of Lincoln Street in the City of Salem, Oregon, by bringing said portion of said street to the established grade, constructing Portland Cement curbs, and paving said portion of said street with Asphaltic Concrete pavement twenty feet in width, in accordance with the plans and specifications therefor, which were adopted by the Common Council on the 31st day of August, 1946, now on file in the Office of the City Recorder, and which are hereby referred to and made a part hereof.

The Common Council hereby declares its purpose and intention to make the above-described improvement by and through the Street Improvement Department of the City of Salem, Oregon.

LEGAL

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO IMPROVE THAT PORTION OF NEBRASKA STREET FROM THE EAST LINE OF 15TH STREET TO THE WEST LINE OF 20TH STREET IN THE CITY OF SALEM, OREGON.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Common Council of the City of Salem, Oregon, deems it necessary and expedient, and hereby declares its purpose and intention to improve that portion of Nebraska Street from the East line of 15th Street to the West line of 20th Street in the City of Salem, Oregon, by bringing said portion of said street to the established grade, constructing Portland Cement curbs, and paving said portion of said street with Asphaltic Concrete pavement twenty-four feet in width, in accordance with the plans and specifications therefor, which were adopted by the Common Council on the 31st day of August, 1946, now on file in the Office of the City Recorder, and which are hereby referred to and made a part hereof.

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A Dog's Life

By Beck

I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU GET THAT MEAN STREAK TORTURING THOSE POOR ANIMALS LIKE THAT. LOOK AT THEM DRUGS. COME IN THE HOUSE TILL YOU'VE FINISHED EATING. YOU OUGHT TO BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF.

Sips for Supper

The gentleman visiting in our midst for a day or two who is on his way to pushing a wheelbarrow around the world no doubt is causing envy in the minds of a lot of our hometown boys because he thought of it first. Pushing a wheelbarrow around the world seems to be quite an intriguing idea and our thoughts will go with him as he picks up one foot, puts it down and does the same with the other, through valleys, over mountains, across plains and around swamps until he finally gets back to his old town up in Washington. Gosh, wouldn't that be fun. It seems like such a jolly good way to pass the time that we're doggoned if we don't go home this afternoon and push a wheelbarrow load of compost across the yard and dump it around some shrubbery like our wife asked us to do with it early last spring. There can't any guy from Ellensburg, Wash., come down here and have all the fun pushing a wheelbarrow around. In the meantime we send our regards via the wheelbarrow pusher to the little new king of Siam, provided he's still alive when the wheelbarrow, et al, pass through that country.

Novelties In the News

We understand that under present prices a dollar is really worth only about 33 cents. This sorta gives one pause. For if a dollar is only worth 33 cents, then it stands to reason that 33 cents is only worth 11 cents, and so on down the line. It brings us out holding up the fact by the tail that a dollar isn't worth a darned thing which we've been finding out in buying groceries, et cetera lately. But that isn't going to keep folks from grabbing all of same they can get hold of.

Cautious

Seattle, Aug. 13 (AP)—Navy Comdr. W. N. Thompson is in the eighth year of an international chess game that still doesn't appear near an end. Thompson recently notified his opponent, Alfred Milner of Didsbury, England, of his 47th move. Thompson originally took over the competition when a friend died in 1938, but he and Milner started a new game after a couple of exchanges of correspondence.

Municipal Cleanup

Montello, Wis., Aug. 13 (AP)—This community of 1,200 has "cleaned out the city hall"—to make way for a washing machine manufacturer.

LEGAL

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO IMPROVE THAT PORTION OF MILL STREET FROM THE EAST LINE OF 15TH STREET TO THE WEST LINE OF 18TH STREET IN THE CITY OF SALEM, OREGON.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Common Council of the City of Salem, Oregon, deems it necessary and expedient, and hereby declares its purpose and intention to improve that portion of Mill Street from the East line of 15th Street to the West line of 18th Street in the City of Salem, Oregon, by bringing said portion of said street to the established grade, constructing Portland Cement curbs, and paving said portion of said street with Asphaltic Concrete pavement thirty feet in width, in accordance with the plans and specifications therefor, which were adopted by the Common Council on the 31st day of August, 1946, now on file in the Office of the City Recorder, and which are hereby referred to and made a part hereof.

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MACKENZIE'S Column

Peace—poor lady—is having a tough time trying to do her lofty balancing act because so many folk are joggling the tight-rope.

Nations, big and little, are contributing to the dangers—undoubtedly without malice but nevertheless deliberately because the rope happens to be in their way. They don't want to see peace fall—as witness their establishment of a United Nations cordon to protect her—but having set up this safeguard they now are breaking through the barrier in order to take short-cuts to desired objectives.

There have been numerous instances in recent months of joggling the rope. The latest worry about a joggle from a new source has been occasioned by a British spokesman's statement that John Bull stands ready to take unilateral action, without recourse to the United Nations, to quell any "violent or sudden" threat to his interests in oil-rich Iran (Persia). This is doubly startling because the Chesterfieldian John is a staunch champion of peace and moreover he is a member of the big three upon whom the tranquility of the globe depends.

What Has Happened

Here's what has happened: Russia, Britain and America all have heavy interests in Iran. During the war the three powers had troops in Iran, as was clearly evident when I was there in 1943. Last December, during the big three parley at Moscow, America and England agreed to withdraw their troops and urged Russia to do likewise. The Muscovites refused, on the ground that they had a treaty permitting them to retain troops there.

The Yankee and British soldiers were pulled out. Then came the Iranian government's protest to the U.N. security council against the presence of red forces. After many heartburnings the Soviet announced withdrawal, and since then there seems to have been what diplomats might refer to euphemistically as a rapprochement between Moscow and Tehran. Russia has been granted large oil concessions in northern Iran, stronghold of the Soviet favored Tudeh party which has been given three posts in the Iranian government.

In Iranian Oil Fields

Meantime in the southern Iranian oil fields, where John Bull's interests lie, there have been bloody disorders involving the Tudeh party. Britain has moved Indian troops to Basra, in Iraq, on Iran's front door-step. England termed these troop replacements, but the Indian government stated they were "in order to safeguard Indian and British interests" and protect lives in southern Iran. The Teheran government has protested the movement of these troops to Basra and has requested their removal.

The British foreign office spokesman who gave out the news of possible unilateral action said the presence of British troops at Basra represented a "precautionary measure in the event of complete collapse of law and order in Iran." He said there might "not be time to consult the United Nations." British circles at the security council in New York take the attitude that an attack on British nationals and property in Iran would be an attack on Britain itself and hence military action could be taken in self-defense under the United Nations charter.

Of course that immediately raises an argument over the meaning of the term "attack" as employed in the charter.

Pfc. Edward Burton Rapp

Listed as missing in action since the Roer river crossing in Germany last year Pfc. Edward Burton Rapp has now been declared officially dead by the war department. The serviceman, a graduate of Salem high school with the class of 1933, was an employe of Swift and company at the time of reporting for duty with the army. Surviving Rapp are his wife, the former Mary Ann Heine, who formerly resided here, a son, Denny, and his father, E. B. Rapp, all of Portland.

LaFollette's Entry into GOP Main Issue in Wisconsin

(By the Associated Press)

A three-way gubernatorial contest and Senator Robert M. LaFollette's bid for republican nomination after 12 years as a progressive lent sparkle today to Wisconsin's primary. With the LaFollette senatorial scrap spilling over into the arena of national politics, the Wisconsin balloting outshone the selection of GOP candidates for governor and senator in Vermont and a free-for-all for the democratic nomination for governor in South Carolina.

Both LaFollette and the 83-year-old republican governor, Walter S. Goodland, were snubbed when they sought the endorsement of the Wisconsin GOP convention for additional terms. But they went after nomination in the primary, anyway, against these men backed by the party organization.

For the senate, Circuit Judge Joseph R. McCarthy, former marine captain; for the governorship, investment banker Delbert J. Kenny.

Also in the senatorial race is Perry J. Stearns, Milwaukee attorney. Third man in the gubernatorial field, with LaFollette's blessing, is Ralph M. Emmel, veteran of two wars and former state adjutant general.

LaFollette carried into his battle nearly 21 years' experience in the senate and a name lustrous in Wisconsin politics for two generations.

But his attempt to force his way back into the republican fold, which he deserted to organize the progressive party, got no welcome from the state machine.

Thus a LaFollette victory would weaken Chairman Tom Coleman's clutch on the state republican organization. And it would shunt the senator into a position where he could help pick Wisconsin's 24 delegates to the republican national convention in 1948.

That could be important to two potential presidential nominees. There have been demonstrations of friendship between LaFollette and Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio, and there has been evidence of coolness between some of LaFollette's following and Harold E. Stassen of neighboring Minnesota.

Gives Barbecue For 300 G. I.s

Cougar, Wash., Aug. 13 (AP)—Mrs. P. A. Mulkey always wanted to have those 335 GIs she corresponded with during the war come to dinner some day. Next Sunday she's going to. Up here in the Mount St. Helens foothills, she's arranging a barbecue for 300 guests: the boys she could locate and their families.

"I don't have all their addresses any more, but I wrote and invited those I could," she said. "We're figuring on about 300—and one boy's coming from Atlanta, Ga."

"Mom" Mulkey started writing GIs in 1942 and "just kept it up. Pretty soon I was writing 35 letters a day and sending presents whenever possible. . . . I don't know now where I did get all 335 names. Sometimes we'd pick up hitch hiking servicemen and we'd get to talking and find they and their buddies weren't getting any letters, so I'd just put them on my list."

Fifteen of Mom's "boys" are dead—there'll be gold stars after their names on a plaque she's going to dedicate to the 335 men Sunday.

"I never enjoyed anything so much as writing to those boys," said the gray-haired woman. But come Sunday, she's counting on something even nicer: seeing the youths she corresponded with so long. "I'm looking forward so much to meeting them," she said. "Seems like I know them, every one."

EXECUTRIX NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Olive H. Blake has been, by order of the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Marion County, appointed executrix of the estate of Rika Melgaard Bjork, deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are requested to present them with proper vouchers, to said executrix, at 310 Pioneer Trust Building, Salem, Oregon, within six months from the date of this notice.

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