

'For the Good of the Country'

The purge of Admiral Denfeld, chief of naval operations, is a staggering blow to the United States navy. The man who dealt that blow, President Truman, should have realized that. And, as if to add a touch of irony to the affront to the officers and men who sail the nation's ships, Truman picked October 27, formerly known as Navy day, to announce Denfeld's removal.

Truman's reason for the purge should have prompted him not to bounce Denfeld. The president said he was exiling the navy's number one man in uniform "for the good of the country."

Truman said he was acting on the advice of newly-appointed Secretary of the Navy Matthews. Matthews' three months in office should have been sufficient time to have cautioned him against any such move aimed at a naval officer whose record of 41 years in the service was of the highest type and ability as an administrator was such as to keep him close to Washington during the war. Perhaps, however, Matthews' row-boat type of experience in Nebraska convinced him that the navy should be relegated to a subordinate position in the nation's defense.

The country has a right to know why, for its sake, Denfeld should have been picked for oblivion. The admiral was called before the house armed services committee several weeks ago to testify on the issue of national strategy and unification policies. Chairman Vinson of that house committee had assured officers of the services that arrangements had been made for them to speak with complete candor and with no threat of reprisals for statements made.

But, regardless of that assurance, Denfeld got the axe. Why?

Was it wrong for the chief of naval operations to say that "the principles and objectives of unification are not being realized because the navy has not been admitted to full partnership therein"? At the hearing he blamed the difficulties of unification on "the fact that unification processes have not thus far been in accord with either the spirit or the concept" of unification.

Was it wrong for the ranking officer of the navy to point out that control of the seas is just as important to the nation as control of the air in time of war? The specific reason for a fleet is control of the seas so that national power can be exerted against an enemy. Even though the Japanese fleet had been destroyed for all practical purposes at the time of the Okinawa invasion, for instance, the U.S. offensive against that island demanded the greatest fleet of warships in our nation's history.

If Russia is strong in submarines, how can the United States reduce this threat except by the means of the navy to combat the subs and then for the ships of the navy to carry the troops and supplies overseas?

All that Admiral Denfeld has asked is that the navy be given equal place in the nation's defenses. For holding out, and speaking his mind, for a balance among the armed forces, Denfeld has been purged.

Unity of the services is crippled by such high-handed methods from the "top side." To make matters worse personally, Denfeld learned about his being ousted not from the secretary of the navy but from his aide who read the news on a press association news ticker.

The "Denfeld case" is a threat to the nation's defense. It is also a major blunder for Truman—and for the country itself.

The German Problem Intensified

What is happening now in Czechoslovakia, has already happened in other Balkan states, and happened in Yugoslavia until Tito's revolt, can be expected to happen in Russia's new puppet state of East Germany, which can be expected to be as restive and unreliable as other Moscow satellite states, though much depends upon what the western powers do with and through the Bonn government of West Germany.

As Anne O'Hara McCormick, foreign correspondent, remarks in the New York Times.

"Russia's methods do not change. Her techniques are as overworked as her adjectives. She has given herself a year to transform Eastern Germany into an amenable satellite, and the process should be easier than elsewhere because she has had absolute control of the life of the zone for more than four years. There will be action squads, a pervasive police force, youth brigades, treason trials, mass arrests and concentration camps—all very familiar to the Germans—before the people are judged ready to vote 'yes' on the regime. By that time all opposing elements, including the non-communist 'dummies' in the present cabinet, will be well out of the way."

However, the prediction is that the East Germans from now on will get preferential treatment, to offset the brutality which has created a state of sullen rebellion with hate of the Russians, inborn in the people. They will be encouraged to rebuild their industries which Russia long ago dismantled and carted off as reparations, also encouraged under the pretense of partnership in the Soviet program of "liberating and uniting" Germany under the Kremlin.

So conditions in West Germany, unless wisely handled, are going to be more difficult, with the campaign in East Germany for unity. It is a complicated problem since there are some nine million deportees from East Germany in the western zone.

What Constitutes a National Emergency?

President Truman, who sees a national emergency justifying his personal interference in the military unification dispute justifies the purging of top navy officers and war heroes, sees no emergency justifying his interference in the coal and steel strikes which are slowly paralyzing the industries and economy of the nation now pushed down to the lowest point in 3 1/2 years.

At the same time he fired Admiral Denfeld, naval chief of operations for expressing his honest opinions at the request of congress. Mr. Truman said that he wouldn't invoke the Taft-Hartley law in the two strikes for some time yet. Labor experts believed he would exhaust every other means, including use of his personal prestige, before using the law as a cudgel to batter through a settlement of the twin stoppages.

The president told a news conference that he would not hesitate to use the law if he felt that a national emergency existed. However, he said, he's convinced the nation is a long way from a crisis.

All which raises the question, what does the president consider a national emergency, a dispute between military top brass, or the economic strangulation of the country by labor bosses and coal and steel operators over a question of non-contributory pensions?

BY BECK  
Frankly Speaking



SIPS FOR SUPPER

A Slight Slip

BY DON UPJOHN

Mr. Sprague in his column this morning offered the sage observation that "if your property tax is higher this year than last (for Salem property) it is due to an increase in assessed valuation not to increase in millage." It seems he stepped off a little on one foot with this assertion. As a matter of fact if the assessed valuation in the city of Salem hadn't been upped about 25 per cent the tax would have been 90 mills this year instead of 72.1 mills for the overall tax in Salem. The county levy would have been up to 25.6 mills instead of 19.9 mills and the school levy would have been up about 10 mills. In some individual instances the taxes may be up because of higher assessed valuation but the other fellows' are down in proportion. What makes the tax bills higher is because more money is being spent and that's all that ever will increase tax bills. It's simply a case of when pudding is being eaten somebody has to pay for it.



Don Upjohn

Our remark of last evening about the Christmas spirit being already abroad in the land was further exemplified when C. F. Purdum, route 2, he of the Diamond brand Delicious apples, left a nice box full of same for the edification and gastric delight of folk hereabout. These Delicious apples take about the same place in the Delicious apple world as do the eggs. Jim Uebelmann left have in the poultry world. It looks to us as if a few boxes of these apples hanging on the limbs would bust down most any apple tree and they are as alluring and tasty as they are big. In fact we think we'll save one for Christmas eve and leave it by our sock for good old Santa. We were going to say, in our sock, but they don't make socks that big.

Reminds us of the war days. A printed report said that coffee prices were going up. Instantly there starts a run on coffee. At any rate, it's good merchandising, as it were.

Dead But Not Forgotten

White Plains, N. Y. (AP)—Westchester county jury commissioner Ralph Mumford got this letter: "I reside at Woodlawn cemetery. I was pronounced dead, and buried in February, 1928. However, as you seem to be very hard up for jurors, it might be arranged for me to serve. Please contact St. Peter." The note, carrying the signatures of a Mamaroneck man and presumably written by his wife, said in a postscript he just had received his third jury notice since death.

POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Happy Birthday to Our Big Pin-Up Girl, Statue of Liberty

By HAL BOYLE

New York (AP)—Happy birthday today to America's most glamorous girl! She's 63 years old, but isn't looking forward to her old age pension. She still carries a torch for every man in the land, and she is true to each one that has stayed true to her.

A chubby lass who always wears the same old-fashioned dress, she has welcomed more people to New York than Grover Whalen. She never lifted her skirts for a cheesecake photo, but she has posed for more snapshots than Greta Garbo ever hoped to avoid.

This national sweetheart—the number one U. S. pinup girl—is Miss Liberty, the statue that stands gazing seaward from Bedloe's Island, a 15-acre welcome mat outside the golden door. Every year she has a birthday party and, of course she's troubled an uneasy year. Mayor also will this troubled and uneasy year. Mayor O'Dwyer and the French ambassador will be there to make speeches, and a lot of other people. It would be a pleasant change if Miss Liberty made a speech herself for a change. She's a strong silent woman.



Hal Boyle

She's had quite a time of it—some career—our girl. She has greeted more than 60,000,000 immigrants to our shores, and ought to know how these newcomers felt, entering the land of opportunity. Perhaps she had an even harder time getting set up here than the average immigrant. The idea of the Statue of Liberty was conceived by a French historian in 1876 on the 100th anniversary of American Inde-

pendence. Or it could be because nobody but a midget could crawl through the windows in her crown.

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND  
U. S. Convinced That Stalin Plans Showdown With Tito

By DREW PEARSON

Washington (U.P.)—U. S. diplomats from the Iron Curtain countries meeting in London this week had before them conclusive evidence that Stalin now plans a showdown with Tito. The showdown will be undertaken, as far as possible without leading to war, but if war is necessary the Kremlin apparently has decided to risk it.

Here are the factors which led American diplomats to this conclusion: 1. Tito's nose-thumbing at the Kremlin has become contagious. Other satellite countries are figuring that if Yugoslavia can get away with it, they can too. Tito, once trained as an NKVD agent, has sent his own agents out to work against Moscow in Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Rumania.



Drew Pearson

2. The end of the Greek civil war was not because the guerrillas were defeated, but to rest them for an attack on Tito. Seven thousand Greek guerrillas already have been transferred to Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia to get re-equipped. 3. A brigade of the East German people's police has been sent from Berlin to Bulgaria. They were previously trained in Yugoslavia during the German occupation, know how to fight Tito.

4. One attack on Tito has already taken place, though no news was published in the Yugoslav papers. The U. S. embassy reported that Russian guerrillas crossed from Hungary, fired a few shots and then retreated. Tito hushed it up to keep from alarming his people.

5. Just as Adm. Richard Conolly got some U.S. diplomats sore by making a special courtesy cruise to visit Dictator Franco in Spain, so Adm. Barbery made a special courtesy call on Trujillo. Furthermore, he did so after Governor Munoz Marin had strongly advised against it.

Gov. Munoz Marin, educated at Georgetown University, U.S. A., is one of the best friends and cultural links the United States has with Latin America. And he pointed out to Adm. Barbery that Dictator Trujillo had slaughtered hundreds of Haitians, had instituted a reign of terror, and that if the United States really believed in the democracy it talked about, so also should its navy.

Despite this, Barbery took his warships to call on the Dictator. Afterwards, Trujillo wanted to send one of his warships on a return call to Puerto Rico. The state department asked Governor Marin what he thought about it, then proceeded to ignore his advice and permitted the Dominican navy's visit. Whereupon, Adm. Barbery added insult to injury by asking the Governor to give a reception for the visiting Dominican navy.

Instead the Governor "went fishing." And the Dominican sailors were given a frosty reception by an acting governor. All of which has raised a furore in the Caribbean. On top of it all, Adm. Barbery has gone on the radio to denounce Governor Marin and his land-use policies, with the result that Marin has now decided to ask for the admiral's recall.

History shows that Hitler never would have invaded the Ruhr if he thought the French would have fought. He guessed right. France wouldn't fight at that time.

Again Hitler figured that the Western Allies would not fight if he invaded Austria, then Czechoslovakia. Again he guessed right. They didn't fight.

By that time Hitler was getting brash and bloodthirsty. Perhaps he might not have invaded Poland if he had thought the British would fight. In any event, he guessed wrong, and World War II began.

The situation may be the same regarding Yugoslavia. Its in-

Plunged Into Trouble by Neckline

Washington (U.P.)—A plunging neckline plunged Mrs. Jonell Williams right into trouble with the law. She was arrested—and convicted—of carrying a concealed weapon when her low-cut dress revealed to police that she had an ice pick in her bosom.

Marion County Recollections —Banking in Earlier Days

By OSWALD WEST

Some of the old-time banking methods and customs were amusing, but they produced profitable returns—from 10 to 12 per cent interest. And in the real early banking days, in and around Portland, 36 per cent—3 per cent per month.

Along in the 1890's at the Ladd and Bush bank in Salem, I was witness to an amusing transaction.

An old, early-day, political side-kick of Asahel Bush (founder first, of the Oregon Statesman and later, of the bank) called to pay his respects and to discuss and laugh over early day political events and characters.

He was a rancher-stockman from down around Paisley, Lake County. He had disposed of his land holdings and was retiring from the cattle business. Through a public sale he had auctioned off his ranch equipment taking, as was customary, his neighbor's note payable at a later date.

Before leaving, he extracted from his wallet a \$500 note—one taken at his auction sale. "Here Bush," he said, "Cash this note for me. I'm short of spending money."

Said Bush, "we don't discount outside paper. Our loans are all made direct and inscribed on our own blanks. Furthermore, we know nothing as to the financial standing of the maker of that note."

"Well," said the old stockman, "you're going to cash this note. Of course, you don't know anything about his financial standing. But I do. You don't suppose I would be a damn fool enough to take it unless I knew it would be paid, do you? Come on get me the cash."

"Well," said Bush, "we will have to step around to the cashier's window." Arriving at Cashiers Gatch's wicket, Mr. Bush instructed him to take up the note at its face and accrued interest. This was done, and the proper entries made. As the note fell due, the usual notices were sent, to which no attention was paid. When long overdue, Gatch called the matter to the attention of Mr. Bush who told him to "send note down to old Bill So and So, at Paisley, and tell him I said to collect it." This was done, the letter of transmittal being substituted for the note in the bills receivable pouch. Around a month later, the maker of the note dropped in, and headed for Gatch's window, saying: "I want to pay my note"—giving his name and address. Gatch turned to the bills receivable pouch which disclosed that the note had been sent to Paisley for collection. Not wishing to disclose the true state of affairs, the cashier said: "I don't seem to be able to put my hand on that note. So, I'll give you a receipt for the money and mail your paper to you later."

"Oh," said the Paisleyite, "old Bill So and So handed it to me a few weeks ago, and told me to stop in and pay it the next time I was up this way." So out came the note, which was handed to Cashier Gatch with the money to pay it.

BY GUILD  
Wizard of Odds



MacKENZIE'S COLUMN

Shoe-Shining Immigrant Says: 'Thank God for America!'

By DeWITT MacKENZIE

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, in his capacity as president of Columbia university, has urged his big army of students to seek opportunity rather than security.

"The best example of perfect security," he said, "is a man serving a life term in a federal prison."

General Ike was speaking for a lot of us when he said that.

Of course, everybody wants reasonable security. But what terrifies the average citizen of any country which encourages private initiative is the thought of a regimented security—a security which puts him on the selfsame plane with everybody else—a security which he can't escape because it's just too darned good.

One encounters this thought in many quarters these changing days. I ran into an interesting example of it down in the subterranean labyrinth of passages and stores beneath New York's Rockefeller Plaza in which the AP headquarters building stands.

Among the shop-keepers of the underground city is Joseph Suozzi, a friendly Italian-American of 72 who runs two shoe-shining and quick repair establishments. I dropped in on him for a shine and found him fuming over a newspaper headline.

"Why is it," he exploded, "that there are people, many of them from foreign lands, who are out to turn this wonderful country of opportunity into a totalitarian state? Heaven itself couldn't provide greater opportunities than this wonderful America! They should have had my experience!"

"That's the sort of thing that can happen in America. Well, things moved along all right with me. I got married and there were five children. We returned to Italy for a bit to be with my people, and there I experienced the evils of the Mussolini dictatorship. We were glad to get back to free America.

"If immigrants told their children of their experiences and what America offers, there wouldn't be so many subversive elements at work. Here we have freedom and opportunity. Thank God for America!"

How to Paint 336-Foot Tower

Moultrie, Ga., (U.P.)—Officials of radio station WMGA wondered how a Berlin, Ga., painter could make such a low bid on painting their 336-foot antenna tower, but they gave him the job.

Yesterday they learned his secret. They found him loafing around instead of working and asked him if he wasn't ready to start.

"Yep, but you're not," he answered. "You haven't taken the tower down for me."

Advertisement for BEVERLY TEANUT BUTTER. It features a smiling woman's face and several jars of the product. The text says: "Wish I could tell all mothers how my children 'go for' stabilized BEVERLY. They love its rich-roasted taste and it is such good food." It also includes a testimonial from Mrs. J. C. Barton of Wichita, Kansas, and a Safeway logo at the bottom.