

In Unity There Is Strength

American Protestants have launched another effort for church unity, a single Protestant church in the United States. This is the result of the conference just concluded at Greenwich, Conn., after months of preparation and three days of actual session. The problem of unity is still unsettled.

The conference did not try to rush things, like a similar proposal in 1920 when the completed plan was wrecked by the first veto from a single church. So instead of an actual plan for union, "a plan for a plan" materialized.

So the conference gave its name to a permanent official organization that will try to evolve a plan for unification during the next year and present it at a new conference in 1951.

Seven churches with more than 14,000,000 (members) sponsored the conference, and seven other churches and the four great inter-church councils lent their moral support by sending observers. American Protestantism as a whole has nearly 45,000,000 members. Methodist Bishop Ivan Lee Holt of St. Louis, a veteran of the long Methodist struggle for unification, was named to lead the conference as chairman of the continuing executive committee.

The permanent Conference on Union will enlist seven representatives, from each denomination. The inter-church councils will have two consultants each. This will be the general executive body.

Under it will be another committee with two members from each of the sponsoring churches. Other churches interested in merger may also join it. This is the group that will draw up the plan for union.

Before any final action is taken, the conference will send representatives to the many Protestant denominations. These representatives will listen to what the individual churches have to say and carry their words back to the conference on union.

The unity plan faces a hard task. It was attacked during the recent conference when one church group, the American Council of Christian Churches, with 1,500,000 members, called it "totalitarianism in the raw" and a "brand of socialism more enslaving than that cursing England—the current disease of unio-mania."

Bishop Holt looks for rough sledding. He said: "Those of us who have participated in the conference are under no illusions. It may take a good many years before we realize the dream of creating a larger Protestant church in this country... but we are being led in that direction."

The conference also hopes to stimulate smaller unification plans already in progress, such as that of the Evangelical and Reform churches, and the Congregational and Christian churches and the proposed merger of the Presbyterian and Episcopalian churches.

'World-Shaking' Event

What is the most "world-shaking" event of the first half of the 20th century? A Harvard historian says it is the emergence of the United States as one of two dominant world powers.

Professor Arthur M. Schlesinger gives this reasoning for his choice:

This assumption of world responsibility is both dramatic and significant in that the U. S. was forced into this position against its own wishes—without experience or preparation.

The last four words of that quotation—"without experience or preparation"—will determine what the United States does in the next 50 years as a result of the dominance thrust on the nation in the first 50 years. It is going to take a new kind of leadership within the country to assume the responsibility of the moment and of the coming years.

For instance, President Truman showed signs of realizing that responsibility when he made his declaration of policy toward helping countries threatened by communist aggression. That declaration was quickly tagged the "Truman Doctrine." Then again with the blockading of Berlin, the air-lift was an inspiration of the moment. But these spasmodic rulings for specific areas were not enough—and still are not—brilliant though they may be.

Take a quick look around the world today for a moment. The western allies admittedly have no answer to the real threat of an East German army, backed by an iron rule of the Russians over Poland. What if Moscow offers to give back to East Germany those areas given to Poland? What if Russian troops are withdrawn from the eastern zone in Germany?

What is the answer to Russian domination of China? Or to loss to the Reds of the island of Formosa which juts into the American line of island defenses in the far Pacific? What will the United States do if communist forces continue their advance on the Asiatic continent down into Indo-China? Or, into Burma?

If any of these events come to pass, and some seem quite likely to do so, what will United States leadership offer in the way of answers? No one in Washington can act surprised if any of those events do happen. And yet, what will this nation do to counter such moves?

If Washington has any solutions to these problems, no one back there has revealed them. But the United States can't keep its unwanted global leadership, "world-shaking" as it may be, without internal leadership to meet the repeated crises of the next 50 years.

The Airplane's 47th Birthday

This is the 47th birthday of the airplane and is being celebrated not only at Kitty Hawk, N.C., when Wilbur and Orville Wright made the first flight in a heavier-than-air, power-driven machine, but also at Dayton O. The government is also celebrating the occasion by the first day sale of a commemorative six-cent air mail stamp honoring the Wrights at Kitty Hawk, whose tiny post office was swamped by 300,000 first day covers.

Though the initial sale of the stamp was denied to Dayton, its stamp collectors are guaranteeing themselves first day covers cancelled in Dayton by flying 15,000 of the stamps to Dayton from Kitty Hawk by a jet fighter flying to Kitty Hawk and back with a special letter for cancellation, making the round trip within three hours—less time than was required by the telegram announcing the first successful flight to travel from Kitty Hawk to Dayton.

Aviation has come a long way since the Wrights' flimsy craft flew 120 feet in 12 seconds. This airplane has wrought a revolution in transportation, industry and warfare and almost daily faster and bigger and better airplanes are announced for both commercial and war uses. It has been both a blessing and a curse to humanity—but such is progress.

BY BECK
Modern Youth



THE FIRESIDE PULPIT

Shut-ins Need Friends At This Time of the Year

BY REV. GEORGE H. SWIFT
Rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church

John the Baptist was serving time in prison. He was behind bars, not because of his misdeeds, but because he had the courage of his convictions and spoke out against local conditions too boldly.

In prison, John was discouraged. He was disheartened. He was lonely.

Like so many others when they are incarcerated in jails or institutions of one sort or another, John had become "the forgotten man." He needed sympathetic and understanding friends.

"Where are they now?" he asked himself. "Where are the disciples? Where is the Messiah?" John sent messengers to find Jesus and Rev. George H. Swift to ask him, "Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?"

Christ understood his discouragement. He sent this message back to John: "The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he whomsoever shall not be offended in me."

Sometimes a man or woman belongs to a club, lodge, or social group (or church) who may be the most popular in his (or her) set gets into some difficulty which means incarceration in prison or an institution.

Then, like John the Baptist, he becomes the forgotten man. He looks for a visit from the old pals, the people who crowded around and made him feel important. Where are they now?

We are approaching Christmas. It is doubly hard for shut-ins to have no attention from friends at Christmas. If any of your former friends are going to spend Christmas in prison or hospitals or institutions, visit them if you can. Remember them at Christmas time.

"I was sick and in prison, and ye visited me" are words of deep and boundless gratitude. Without discounting the value of an exchange of presents among relatives, an exemplification of the meaning of the Christmas spirit may carry one into hospitals, institutions, and wherever the unfortunate may



Rev. George H. Swift

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Jimmie Byrnes Doesn't Figure Truman's Any Caesar

By DREW PEARSON

Washington—Accidentally this column has got mixed up in the row between President Truman and his old secretary of state, Jimmie Byrnes.

Some time ago, Byrnes wrote this columnist a letter regarding the circumstances under which he resigned from the state department. It was this writer's belief that Byrnes, who had done a great job as secretary of state, had been eased out because of friction and jealousy which even then was evident between the two men.

Jimmie Byrnes, however, contending that he resigned purely because of ill health, sent Truman a carbon copy of his letter to me. And Truman sent him in reply a significant letter which ignored the issue of why Byrnes resigned, and dwelt instead on Byrnes' conversion to dixerat-ism.

"I have read your Washington and Lee speech," Mr. Truman said, and then went on to comment on the manner in which Mr. Byrnes was deserting the political philosophy of Roosevelt and Truman. As an afterthought, the president wrote at the bottom of the letter the following postscript:

"I now know how Caesar felt," he said, referring to Brutus' famed stab in the back, "when he said 'et tu, Brute?'"

When Mr. Byrnes replied to this letter, he addressed himself chiefly to Truman's postscript. He explained at some length that he did not consider himself a deserter from the democratic party, but remained a devoted supporter of its fundamental principles. Then Byrnes polished off his letter with this crack:

"I am not a Brutus, and neither do I consider you a Caesar."

GAMBLERS EVADE TAXES
In the opinion of this columnist, tax fraud and tax evasion are now more prevalent than at any time in years. This means, of course, that those who do pay their taxes have to pay more to make up for those who don't.

There used to be one category of citizens against which the treasury never pulled its punches—the underworld. It took an income tax case to send gangster Al Capone to jail, while various underworld figures have been caught in the income tax mesh after all other avenues failed. Today, however, even the underworld is safe from income tax prosecution—provided they know the right people.

Here is a case in point. Most notorious gambling network in southern California operates under the name of The Guarantee Finance Company of Los Angeles, which serves not only as a respectable cover, but loans money to bookies and acts as a payoff center.

Recently Los Angeles county indicted 12 members of this cover agency. Prior to this indictment, however, the federal government through conscientious internal revenue agents on the west coast had caught four of these big-time gamblers in what appeared to be a clear case of tax fraud.

Governor Warren's forthright California crime commission was responsible for the original clue. The crime commission had seized some of the gamblers' books and turned them over to the T-men.

Before doing so, however, the California crime commission specifically asked the U. S. treasury whether it would be willing to cooperate in cleaning up the California gambling racket, and got an affirmative answer.

Accordingly, T-men Dan E. Goodykoontz, internal revenue intelligence agent for San Francisco, Ralph Read, another intelligence agent, and Walter M. Campbell of the chief counsel's office in San Francisco, got busy. The evidence they assembled appeared conclusive.

In 1948, The Guarantee Finance Company listed in its income-tax return \$248,000 paid to "Lopez," and another \$108,000 paid to "special." No further explanation of these huge expenditures was given, but it appeared from treasury investigation that \$108,000 was paid to runners, and that the \$248,000 to "Lopez" was probably paid for police protection.

The gambling company's 1947 income-tax return was somewhat similar, with \$247,000 paid to "Lopez" and \$109,000 paid to "special."

After preparing what they considered an airtight case, the west coast T-men came to Washington where they recommended the prosecution of Marvin Kogus, Albert Kogus, Harry Rockwell and Phil Covert, the chief partners of The Guarantee Finance Company.

In Washington, a treasury conference took place between the three west coast T-men, together the Charles Oliphant, general counsel of internal revenue; W. H. Woolf, head of the intelligence unit; and Riley Campbell,



Drew Pearson

BY CLARE BARNES, JR.
White Collar Zoo



"Don't tell me my job!"

MacKENZIE'S COLUMN

Mystery of Yugoslav Hero Solved; Deal With Tito Pends

By DeWitt MacKENZIE
(By Foreign Affairs Analyst)

The mystery of the voluntary exile in America of Ivan Mestrovic, world-famous Yugoslav sculptor who has been playing diplomatic tick-tack-toe with an anxious Marshal Tito, has ceased to be a mystery.

The dynamic Mestrovic, who now is head of the department of sculpture in Syracuse university, came down to New York City and we got together for a long talk in which he "told all."

I reported a previous conversation in this column, but he was cautious and reserved then. So should I be if I were matching wits with Tito.

The Yugoslav dictator has been sending frequent emissaries to Mestrovic—the most recent within a few days—urging the sculptor to return home.

Why? What does the two-fisted Tito want who is opposed to communism?

In order to get the full significance of Tito's move you must know Mestrovic.

This striking personality is the bearded prototype of the Yugoslav patriot who always has battled for liberty. Indeed, Mestrovic was widely known in his country as a patriot before he achieved fame as a sculptor, in token of which he was thrown into prison by Hitler's minions after the Nazi invasion of Yugoslavia during the world war.

However, Mestrovic has no intention of going home until religious and political freedoms are restored in Yugoslavia.

And in his mind the oppression is symbolized by the case of Archbishop Alojzije Stepanic, head of the Roman Catholic church in Yugoslavia, who in 1946 was convicted by a people's court of sponsoring an organization of terrorists and was sentenced to 16 years in prison where he is now. This case stirred the whole civilized world at the time.

Stepanic and Mestrovic have been great friends for years. So strong is the bond between these two that the sculptor is making the release of the archbishop a requisite of compliance with Tito's pressing invitations to return home. Mestrovic speaks firmly, though without heat, regarding the situation.

"I have no prejudice against Tito," he told me, "Nor do I wish to harm the interests of my country which commands my love and loyalty as much as Tito's. My sole intention is to illustrate the case of a just man and the errors of people's courts."

"However, the freedom of conscience and the respect of human dignity, which the people claim, do not exist at present. My sympathies are with Tito even now when he has taken a stand against Moscow in defense of the independence of the country."

So the next move is up to Marshal Tito—the release of Archbishop Stepanic.

"Then you must not be able to count over nine!"

The farther she got in her memory book the deeper I got in the doghouse.

"And you promised to eat and drink less, and—"

"Didn't I go on the wagon six times?"

"Didn't I go on a diet four times?"

"Yes you lost a total of 35 pounds in four tries—and gained 40. At that rate you'll weigh 206 pounds by the end of 1959."

I put the catalog of broken vows in my pocket after breakfast.

POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

The More Hal's Wife Recalled Deeper He Got in Doghouse

By HAL BOYLE

New York. (P)—Frances shook me awake this morning and said:

"All right, Rover, you don't have to try to hide from life today. I've got an idea for you to write about. It's a nice easy idea, too."

I controlled my enthusiasm. There had been a certain wifely tone in her voice—a tone she uses on days when I am something less than her favorite husband.

"What's your big idea, dear?"

"Isn't it about this time of year that people like you write one of those so-called funny pieces about New Year resolutions?" she said.

I couldn't see what was coming, but I could tell it wasn't good.

"Well, it's a week or two early for that," I said, "and besides I haven't any material yet along that line."

"I'll save you a trip to the public library," said Frances. "I think I have all the material you need."

She left the room. When she came back she was "thumbing a small notebook in which, from time to time she chronicles the hits, runs and errors (all mine) of our marital life."

"Take your head out of the blankets," she said. "Let's look at the record, Rover."

"Can I have an aspirin first?"

"Take two—You'll need 'em!" She opened the notebook.

"On last Jan. 1st—it says here—you promised to get home for dinner on time every night in 1949. Do you know how many times you've been late?"

"Maybe 25 times!"

"No, 158 times."

"It says here also that we would dine out at a different restaurant at least once every week. How many do you think we've been to?"

"Oh, 27 certainly."

"No, just six—unless you want to count that hotdog you bought me in the orange room at Nedicks."

"You also promised we'd see a new play or movie. What do you think the total boxscore is on that?"

"So many I can't recall them



Hal Boyle

Santa's Salary Garnisheed

Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 17 (UP)—The beard was the beard of Santa Claus, but the voice was that of R. A. Moser, Miss Bonnie Key said to herself in a department store.

She went to a lawyer and the lawyer went to a judge. The judge signed an order garnisheeing Santa's salary, and Santa went to see Miss Key.

Today he paid half the \$25 judgment against him, for failure to pay her wages as a waitress last summer, and promised to pay the rest "soon."

SIPS FOR SUPPER

Cheerful Note

By DON UPJOHN

Today we got a letter from our plumber. It came in one of his regular business envelopes and we all know what a letter from a plumber means when it comes along in one of his regular business envelopes. But as a rule these come along right after the first of the month. Naturally we thought he might be a little hard

pressed for Christmas cash and was rushing them out a little early. But, anyway, with the usual trepidation suffered on opening of letter from the plumber we tore this one open and was greeted by one of the happiest surprises of the season.

It was just a letter of Christmas greeting and wishing us well for the new year. That is probably one of the high spots of the Christmas season and we plan to put this letter well up on the tree with a star attached to it, maybe. We hope the one we get New Years will be the same.

The Oregonian this morning in its sporting section referred to "Portland's Joe Kahut." That was when he won. Yesterday, when there was some doubt as to whether he'd bowl over his San Francisco challenger he was referred to as "Woodburn's Joe Kahut." If Joe should happen to punch his way to the championship some day, as we all hope, Portland will grab him fair but we all know up



Don Upjohn

here where Joe comes from.

Yesterday New York made a 30 per cent saving on its water use by everybody refraining from taking a bath. It shows that the big town is still as provincial as those in the outlands and that the other 70 per cent of the folk still take their baths on Saturday night like all good Americans have been doing since the days of the bath in the wash-tub in the kitchen. What New York needs is half a dozen mornings like we had here today.

Our Chris Kowitz, Jr., was out early this a.m., and succeeded in putting over another typical Chris Kowitz, Jr. stunt. He was walking along High street and happened to glance up at the courthouse clock. As he was looking at it he saw the hand move, and then it stopped, promptly a few minutes before 6 a.m. "I've heard about the guy ugly enough to stop a clock," said Chris, "and now I believe it."

State Treasurer Pearson picked a bad time to distribute his million dollar checks which caused such a furor. They'd all sure come in handy in the holiday season right now.

Hap Hazzard was Haphazard

Los Angeles, Dec. 17 (P)—William B. (Hap) Hazzard was in jail today on suspicion of burglary.

Police accused him of entering a cocktail lounge after hours via a skylight, drinking three bottles of beer, wrestling an hour with the cash register trying to open same, drinking three more bottles of beer, finally lugging cash register outside and hiding it.

During all this he failed to notice he had dropped his wallet, with his identification, officers said.

A haphazard job, they called it.