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One Battleship on Duty

So the Russians are supposed to be building three big battleships and a fleet of 1000 submarines. But the Russians can't be doing that. The top brass in Washington, D.C., has figured that navies won't be important in another war.

Secretary of Defense Johnson has been won over to the idea that Major Seversky was right: Airpower can win a war alone, with the help of the atom bomb. So the United States fleet has become a nice little, unobtrusive section of the defense forces, kept for sentimental and historical reasons.

The United States and Britain together have but one battleship on duty. That is the U.S.S. Missouri. Perhaps if the Navy department changed all the names of its battleships to the U.S.S. Missouri I, U.S.S. Missouri II, U.S.S. Missouri III, and so on, President Truman might think the nation ought to keep its battle wagons from becoming museum pieces. Then the names of cruisers could be changed to carry the names of Missouri cities. One could even be called the U.S.S. Independence. Destroyers could be renamed for Missouri heroes. Submarines could carry the names of Missouri fish. And so on—in the tradition of name selection for various types of ships—all to make it so Truman wouldn't dare get rid of the fleet.

Russia is madly constructing subs and battleships. But apparently Moscow hasn't gotten the word. There's no use for such oddities on the sea anymore. Truman and Johnson have decided otherwise.

Of course, the history books still recall how German U-boats almost won World War I for the central European powers, and Hitler almost killed off the American flow of goods to Europe in World War II. In both cases, the Germans missed because they didn't have enough submarines.

Apparently Stalin has read the history books. Someone ought to send a couple of copies of those books to the top brass in Washington, D.C.

Kostov Reaped as He Had Sown

Former Deputy Premier Traicho Kostov of Bulgaria was hanged Saturday at Sofia though his fellow alleged accomplices escaped with imprisonment, by the Russian puppet regime because he had committed the supreme crime of communism, repudiated an extorted confession of working for a Bulgarian communist control instead of Kremlin control of his native country, as Tito has successfully done in Yugoslavia.

There was no question of his communism and no sympathy needed be wasted on him, for he was as merciless and barbarous in his atrocities against his fellow countrymen as Stalin is to the Russians, but was a traitor to Russian communism not only because of his nationalism but because he refused to follow the party line in staged trials, and therefore paid with his life.

Opposition to Russian domination of their country, as the Kostov prosecution said, is the supreme crime and there can be no mercy for such "traitors." But having risen to power by terrorism, his fate is one that can be expected by any communist who offends the Kremlin, and most of them take it as a matter of course.

The Bulgarian trial was similar in all respects to that against Hungarian nationalist communists, and those pending in Czechoslovakia, Poland and other satellite lands behind the iron curtain. The procedure followed is the same that Hitler followed—all are accused of being spies and agents of "Anglo-American imperialists."

As former American Ambassador to Russia Bedell Smith says in his articles being printed in the Saturday Evening Post, it is part of Russian propaganda to always accuse other nations of what they are doing themselves and the only imperialism is the combination of the revived czarist imperialism and communist ideology for a messianically conceived mission of world conquest.

Last of Nazi War Criminals

A British military court has sentenced former German Field Marshal Erich von Manstein to 18 years' imprisonment for atrocities against Poles and Russian committed by German troops during the war. He was the last of Hitler's generals to be tried by the allies. He declined to plead for mercy.

Von Manstein was found guilty on nine charges and acquitted on eight others. He has been imprisoned since the war. Three other German war leaders were also to have been tried by the British but either died or were incapacitated by illness and released. He will join two other German commanders-in-chief, Kesselring and Von Falkenhorst, who are serving sentences at Werk.

Von Manstein was the 938th German to be tried by British courts for war crimes and his trial ends war crimes prosecutions.

All of which shows the contrast between Allied and Russian justice. Every chance is given the accused by the Allies to prove innocence, even attorneys are appointed for their defense and tremendous volume of evidence is produced. Only a comparatively few, despite their war time guilt, are executed, whereas the Russians give the accused short shrift on trumped up charges and torture forced confessions and death or Siberian slave camps speedily follow.

LaGrande Cops Figure Laws To Be Violated by Santa Claus

La Grande, Ore., Dec. 19 (U.P.)—La Grande's police department, always on the alert for habitual lawbreakers, has taken the trouble to catalogue city ordinances violated annually by Santa Claus.

Police Chief Lester J. Sater listed the laws and maximum fines involved in the yearly visitation:

Tresspass—$300.
Noise in hospital zone—$300.
Whip-cracking ordinance, $300.
No navigation lights—$100.
Low flying—Suspension of license.

"Heavy federal fines," said Chief Sater, "also seem possible on grounds of failure to declare goods entering the United States, lack of passport and properly complete visas, and the federal communications ban on giveaway programs."

Sater, however, announced that he will waive local prosecution and pass the buck to state and federal authorities.

BY BECK

A Dog's Life

SIPS FOR SUPPER

Keep It a Quiet One

By DON UPJOHN

Snowflakes falling this morning with ice on the streets and sidewalks and a chill in the air which penetrated the thickest overcoat was quite a rude shock to us folks who expect it to be springtime the year around in our good old valley and presaged possibilities of a white Christmas for the coming week-end. But even the shivery, shuddery thoughts of a white Christmas wouldn't be so bad if they don't sing about it over the radio about every 15 minutes for the week coming up

Don Upjohn

Nostaglic Gift

Surviving members of the class of 1888-89 in old east school of Salem are each receiving a gift from Dr. Burt Brown Barker in shape of a copy of his book "The Letters of Dr. John McLoughlin, 1829-1832. "Inscribed on the fly leaf over Dr. Barker's signature are greetings and best wishes for the holiday with the following little verse:

Boys and girls together,
Frisky and happy and gay,
a little work
but a lot of play,
'Tis even so today.

We understand there are about a dozen of the old boys and girls who will get these books and we're told that the now staid historian and instructor at the University of Oregon was about the friskiest and happiest and gayest of the lot back in the old East Salem school days

Saturday when rain was falling in torrents around here we were hailed half a dozen times with the worn expression about it's being a good day for ducks. But the happy, care free time for the ducks didn't last very long as today may be considered quite a bad day for same—the open season on them starting at noon, December 19, which the calendar indicated is today. We hope they enjoy Saturday's rain to the fullest extent.

An eastern shoe designer in an article in a current magazine comes forth with the startling statement that the feet of American women are getting bigger 'n bigger and that the average has grown about two sizes in a generation. He says now more than 40 in 100 of our women wear size eight or larger while fewer than four women in a hundred wear size five or smaller. But, after all, maybe that isn't so starling when it is considered how the women have been putting their feet down on us men harder and harder as time goes by. No wonder they've spread the tootsies out.

A Most Paneful Sneeze

Hollywood, Dec. 19 (AP) — Sound technicial Leon Leon sneezes most "panefully."

He was making a record inside his sound truck yesterday when he felt one of those monumental sneezes coming on. Rather than risk spoiling the recording, he stuck his head toward what he thought was an open window and let go.

The window was closed and the sneeze—or maybe it was his head—broke the window and showered him with glass. Hollywood receiving hospital medicos stitched him up again.

MacKENZIE'S COLUMN

Duke and Duchess of Windsor Still Loved but Not Forgiven

By DeWITT MacKENZIE
(AP Foreign Affairs Analyst)

Thirteen years, almost to the day, have elapsed since youthful King Edward VIII broadcast the fateful announcement of his abdication for love of Mrs. Wallis Simpson, and still this event is ever present in the thoughts of the subjects who had idolized him, boy and man.

DeWitt Mackenzie

The London Sunday Pictorial has reviewed the matter with the pungent declaration that the now Duke of Windsor is "virtually an outcast from the nation to which he wholeheartedly dedicated so much so much of his life." The paper says an unofficial ban by the British royal family is responsible for this situation, the boycotting of the former king arising only "from the ostracism of his wife", an American-born divorcee.

"Sensible people," the Sunday Pictorial declares, "will ask 'why cannot a stop be put to this long-drawn-out stupidity?'"

Its true that the Duchess of Windsor isn't received at the royal court. For that matter no divorcee is received at the court, under rules of long standing. However, the matter probably cuts a good deal deeper than that, for the Dowager Queen Mary and some other members of the royal family have been "thumbs down" on the Duchess from the outset.

To understand this unusual situation one must know that divorcees are banned irrespective of any personal feelings the royal family may have. Why? Well, because the Church of England is against divorce. This is the established (state) church and the King himself is head of it as "Defender of the Faith."

And the ban on divorce doesn't stop there. A member of one of the crack guards brigades must offer his resignation if he is divorced. The same rule applies in the diplomatic service. This naturally doesn't mean that divorces never are tolerated in these circles, but they are the exception.

However, Edward knew all that when he defied law and tradition in his marriage. Moreover both the Archbishop of Canterbury and the then Prime Minister Baldwin (since dead) both warned the King and begged him not to take this step. Did Edward think he could make the church and government back down by threatening abdication?

We probably never shall know the answer to that. What seems clear is that neither side was bluffing. The King proved that he meant business by abandoning his throne.

Does Edward regret the course he took? These who know him well are firm in the belief that he is as much in love with his wife now as the day they were married. It was a real love match.

However, it seems rather obvious that he must be terribly hurt over the attitude maintained toward his Duchess. She must feel the same. Who wouldn't?

Moreover, the general assumption is that the Duke and Duchess remain away from England so much because of this unhappy situation. That must be a real tragedy for the Duke for, after all, Britain is his home and he is as English as John Bull himself.

It's tough for the public, too, because they love him. Still, it should be recorded that a host of those who love him feel he took the wrong course. Whether he will be forgiven is open to question. Certainly it would take some doing to get the court ban removed.

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Truman Still Broods Over Failure to Reappoint Olds

By DREW PEARSON

Washington—President Truman is still brooding over the licking he took trying to reappoint Leland Olds to the federal power commission.

Though it's too late to change the results, the President found another letter endorsing Olds and sent it right up to the senate the other day. He scribbled an accompanying note to Vice President Barkley, asking him to insert it in the congressional record.

Drew Pearson

The letter in favor of the lost cause was written by Senator-elect Lehman of New York to Ed Johnson of Colorado, chairman of the senate commerce committee which finally vetoed the Olds appointment. Johnson, who was against Olds, never made the letter public.

But when the President got hold of a copy, he sent to to Barkley with a note "to the Vice President" scribbled on yellow scratch paper.

"This is a copy of a letter Governor Lehman wrote Ed Johnson about Olds," wrote the President. "I don't think it saw daylight. Will you see that it goes in the record? We must have a complete record on this event.—HST."

NOTE: Since his appointment to the federal power commission replacing Olds, Truman's old friend, ex-senator Mon Wallgren, has gone back on him. Recently Wallgren voted to give electric power from Kingman's Canyon, in the central valley of California, to Pacific Gas and Electric, despite the fact that it is Truman's fixed policy to favor public power in this area.

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Brass Hats, Business—

Secretary of Commerce Sawyer published shocking figures recently about the growth of monopoly in the U. S. A. Yet not far away, in another government building, Secretary Sawyer could find one reason for monopoly.

It is the incorrigible, at times illegal, determination of the armed forces to place their orders only with their old friends, the big corporations.

All you need do is examine the published figures of the armed forces to see that the average businessman has no more chance of getting a government contract than he has of making an atomic bomb.

When you consider that military orders comprise the great bulk of our gigantic federal budget, you can understand how the company which gets on the inside with the brass hats, also gets the inside on monopoly.

Most amazing thing is that the military appear to be violating not only the spirit but the letter of the law regarding government purchases.

That law (public law 413) is supposed to provide all businessmen an equal chance, through competitive bidding, to compete for government orders. However, it specifies 17 minor exceptions where competitive bids are not necessary, and the military have now stretched these exceptions to cover 90 percent of all procurement.

In other words, 90 per cent of all army, navy and air force contracts are now let by private negotiation with favored companies which have done business with the Pentagon building in the past. Despite the law, competitive bidding is almost completely out the window.

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During the war, competitive bidding was abandoned on the excuse that speed was necessary. Huge contracts were let overnight on a cost-plus basis on the plea that the 30-day period to receive bids meant loss of life. But today the government is on a humdrum peace-time basis. Offices aren't open on Saturday. The brass hats get off for golf an extra afternoon a week. Stenographers start powdering their noses at 4:25 p.m., and there should be ample time for competitive bidding.

Nevertheless, it remains a fact that the big companies still have the inside track and get most of the contracts.

One way this is done is by hiring top army-navy executives to work for the big companies. Having been close to procurement while in the armed services, they know how to swing contracts to the private corporations they now work for.

For instance, able Gen. Harry Ingles, once in command of the signal corps, now works for the Radio Corporation of America, which manufactures a great deal of equipment for the signal corps. Or Adm. Andrew F. Carter, once executive officer of the army-navy petroleum board, now is employed by a subsidiary of the Arabian-American Oil company which sells oil to the navy.

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Another way the big military orders are controlled is by curtailing bid information. Naturally no company can get a military contract unless it knows what contracts are open, and this information is not easy to get.

Furthermore, the procurement brass hats have just drafted a new directive proposing even tighter restrictions on information.

So many loopholes have been written into the proposed new directive that the military could cut off contract information to newspapers almost at will. For example, before a newspaper would be eligible to receive procurement information, it must not only agree to publish all "synopses of bid invitation" but also publish them "in the same detail in which they are received." This is a condition few newspapers would accept.

Another loophole would permit the Pentagon to rule any newspaper in or out of the picture. In very small print it is stated: "The publication must cater primarily to manufacturers and producers of actual or potential needs of the armed forces."

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This tentative directive was drawn up by Rear Adm. Morton L. Ring of the munitions board, now in charge of Pentagon "procurement policy." When asked how the brass hats got away with violating the law by negotioting 90 per cent of all contracts, Admiral Ring's only answer was:: "That depends upon your interpretation of the law."

NOTE—Last summer, the senate expenditures committee staged a healthy probe of "five percenters," the influence boys who try to swing government contracts. As a result, Maj. Gen. Alden Waitt was eased out as head of chemical warfare and Maj. Gen. Herman Feldman, the quartermaster general, was also caught dabbling in favoritism. Though Maj. Gen. Harry Vaughan was revealed as a potent wire-puller, it is only fair to point out that his influence was used on the side of small companies.

Since September the committee has rested on its oars, but if it really goes into government procurement next January, the senators can perform a real service, not only for business but for the taxpayers who pay higher prices as a result of no competitive bidding.

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Latest West Europe Reports Show Why Reds Are Losing

(Editor's Note: This dispatch by the general European news manager of the United Press is based on reports filed by UP correspondents in all the western European nations. It shows that the west is winning a victory in the cold war against Communism, but that the trend can be reversed at any time the efforts of the democracies are relaxed.)

By R. H. SHACKFORD

London, Dec. 19 (U.P.)—The cold war is far from over, but at the moment Communism is on the retreat in western Europe.

The western democracies have won a round against the Russians in a two-year struggle west of the Elbe river.

This does not mean Communism is a dead force in western Europe. It is still a potent political factor in France, Italy and western Germany, and it could rise again in those three countries to the position of influence it held in the immediate postwar period. An economic collapse would be its strongest ally.

Two years ago communists held a total of 28 cabinet posts in western European nations. Today they hold none. Two years ago there were 244 communists holding seats in western European parliaments. Today there are 217.

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Reports from United Press correspondents throughout western Europe show that these are the main reasons why communist influence has declined:

1. The Marshall Plan turned the tide in 1947-48 by demonstrating to the people that the democracies were vitally interested in feeding them and putting them back on their feet economically.

2. Many persons who were ready to swing either for or against the reds became disgusted with communist-inspired strikes and obstructionist tactics in the hard winters of 1946-47-48.

3. The Catholic church's excommunication decree against communism gave pause to many persons who were moving toward the extreme left.

4. Marshal Tito's split with the Kremlin indicated to millions that a man who could defy the Moscow lightning and still survive.

5. The French government scored a success against a general strike in 1947.

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Communism has had its triumphs as well as its defeats in Europe.

Red regimes are firmly installed in all the satellite nations and any dissidents are promptly liquidated.

But the main battle ground of the cold war today is western Europe and it is there that the democracies are winning.

In France, the communist party organ, L'Humanite, recently deplored the fact that even threats of expulsion were no longer effective in maintaining interest and membership.

In Germany, the third largest stronghold of communism in western Europe, the West German elections, indicated a small drop in support. The communists obtained 1,360,443 votes, whereas in previous local elections in the three western zones of Germany the communists vote totaled 1,568,984.

The most startling setback for western communism occurred in Norway where in 1945 communists held two cabinet posts. Until this year the communists held 11 seats in parliament. They were stripped of all parliamentary representation in this year's election.

Only in Austria has parliamentary representation increased, from four to five seats. But in this year's election the communists combined with other extreme left wing groups to form the "left block."

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The most dramatic loss of influence has been in the elimination of communists from all western cabinets. In the years immediately after V-E day most of the western countries formed coalition governments around wartime resistance movements. The communists had been key leaders in the resistance.

In the two years after the war ended, France had seven communist cabinet ministers, including a communist vice premier. Finland had six. Italy four. Austria one. Denmark two. Norway two. Iceland two. Belgium four.

None of them has any communist ministers now.

BY CLARE BARNES, JR.

White Collar Zoo

The Office Wolf

POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Red Cent in Weight Machine Brought Answers to Problems

By HAL BOYLE

New York (AP)—Once upon a time there was a young man who was a tower of strength.

He had the stride of a panther, his cheeks were ruddy with health, his grip was firm. He never got upset over trifles.

When his acquaintances became disturbed by the weight of their private worlds and sought the balm of the psychiatrist's couch, this gent jeered:

Hal Boyle

"What a waste of dough. Why don't you solve your own problems?"

But he never told them the source of his own inner serenity—which was a weight machine in a drugstore near his office. This machine-age oracle told him all he felt he needed to know—for one red cent

Did some small trouble vex him? He stepped on the scales, slipped in a penny — and out dropped a card that gave his weight and said:

"You have an indomitable will power enabling you to overcome in triumph many trying circumstances." That restored his confidence at once.

Did he feel a little jaded and weary? The mechanical diplomat gave him its penny answer:

"A proper selection of food will help you physically."

Whatever the machine told him to do, he did. He had absolute faith in it. And he was as happy as a flea in a dog pound.

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And then a number of things happened to him in a row. He met a pretty girl on a blind date and wondered whether he ought to marry her. He put it up to the machine.

"You have a strong intuition which often causes you to form the right opinion of people at first sight," it said.

So he popped the question, the girl said yes, and he gave her a $1500 engagement ring. The same day a middle-aged man at the desk next to him put a proposition to him:

"Look, I've got a chance to make a real killing on a once-in-a-lifetime investment. Lend me $1000 for a week and I'll double it for you."

Out slipped our buddy and relayed his problem to the machine. It replied:

"You will stick to your friends even if the whole world is against them. A friend has a real pal in you."

So he drew out his last $1000 from the bank and loaned it to his friend.

The next week his girl ran off with another fellow, taking along his $1500 ring. And the "pal" he had advanced the $1000 to confessed he had lost it on a horserace and couldn't pay it back.

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On his way to work the sad young man decided he'd have to ask for a raise to recoup his finances. But should he? He dropped a penny in the drugstore scales, and got back a card saying:

"You are faithful to your employer and take pride in doing everything conscientiously and to perfection."

Relieved, he hit the boss up immediately, and the boss said:

"You certainly are worth more money, son, but not here. As a matter of fact you are fired. Your check will be in the mail this afternoon."

Trembling and miserable the young man ran back to the drugstore. He stepped on the scales, feverishly searched his pockets and found—one last penny. He dropped it in the slot. Nothing happened.

The young man shook the machine. Then he began to scream and to kick it. Then some cops came and held him. And then two men in white came and put him in a straitjacket and trundled him off to a psychopathic ward, still screaming.

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The druggist went over to the machine and rapped on it lightly. Out dropped a card. It said:

"You will soon have an opportunity to travel. If you do not go, you will miss a thrilling adventure."

Moral: Advice is usually worth just what it costs.

Irrigation by Mail for N.Y.

Bloomington, Ind., Dec. (AP)—A five-gallon can of this city's surplus water was on its way today to Mayor William O'Dwyer of water-short New York City.

Staff members of radio station WTTS and television station WTTV noted water was flowing over the waterworks dam here and decided to start what they called an irrigation-by-mail plan.

With New York's bathless-shaveless Friday decree in mind, they said in a letter to Mayor O'Dwyer, "hope this will be good for a few shaves, anyway."