

Churchill, Lost Cause Hero, Portrays Mr. Empire Role

(Editor's Note: Here is another dispatch by the Washington manager of the United Press who is in Britain to cover the general election.)

By LYLE C. WILSON

Edinburgh, Scotland, Feb. 16 (AP)—Winston Churchill, old man and tired, seemed assured of wide popular support today for his big three plan even though the odds are against it.

The British are so under the gun that any chance may seem worth taking.

Frock-coated like an undertaker, and for a few passages without his mischievous grin, the Mr. Empire of British politics told an audience of conservative Scots that he would like a showdown with Soviet Premier Josef Stalin.

He made it a major issue of the campaign. He went so far as to commit himself that, if the conservatives win, he will try to persuade President Truman and Stalin to join him in a Big Three talk.

The odds against him are great.

First he must win the election and then persuade two presumably reluctant men to come along.

Churchill knew when he spoke that Prime Minister Clement Attlee would reject the idea. Attlee did that last month in a statement that such a meeting would raise false hopes.

The United States also is cool to the idea. Chairman Tom Connally (D., Tex.) of the senate foreign relations committee said the allies should not "rush into" any new talks with Stalin until there is good reason to expect results.

But Churchill, who likes lost causes, told the public what he would like to do.

"I cannot help coming back to the idea of another talk with Russia on the highest level," he said. "The idea appeals to me of a supreme effort to bridge the gulf between two worlds. It is not easy to see how things could be worsened by a parley on the summit if such is possible. But I cannot tell."

"At least I feel that Christian men should not close the door upon any hope of finding a new foundation for the life of the self-tormented human race. What prizes lie before all people if they are worthy of them—peace, food, happiness, leisure, wealth for the masses never known or dreamed of."

Old and tired as he is, that passage still is Churchill's near best. The audience was laughing and applauding close to an hour when Churchill abruptly paused. The old man seemed to be thinking. He hauled out his watch and had a look. He humped his shoulders and held the collar of his black frock coat far back from his heavy neck, from which his head and chin thrust forward.

Churchill had been pouring scorn on the "Socialists." There is no "Labor party" to him! To the listening Scots he ridiculed the government's claims that the British progressed to being a property-owning people under Attlee.

Churchill is a born actor. He asked his listeners to imagine a ration-controlled "average Socialist" getting pleasure each morning by saying: "Oh, ho, I own railways, I own coal mines, I own the Bank of England." Mr. Empire made it funny and the audience had another laugh. The laughter ceased when he held his watch. Solemnly he said he had come to the "imperial and ancient capital of Scotland to say a few words about world politics."

In the hush of close attention

Area Rent Director To Resign March 1

Portland, Feb. 16 (AP)—Area rent Director E. Daryl Mabee will resign March 1.

Mabee made the announcement late yesterday. He said he withheld it until the Portland city council made its decision on rent decontrol. He said he hadn't wanted his action to have any influence on the vote.

Mabee did not say why he was leaving the position but said the March 1 date was chosen for personal reasons.

The council yesterday voted against decontrol.

Both Morgans Ill

Pleasantdale — Mr. and Mrs. Fred Morgan of Lafayette, both ill, are house guests of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd McFarlane of Pleasantdale. Mrs. McFarlane went to care for her parents at their Lafayette home December 20, and returned Saturday to her home, bringing them to care for them here.

of store teeth clamping on that eloquent tongue.

He is as solid as John Bull, a bull moose of a man. He makes few gestures.

Although there is little motion in his body, the face is rarely still. It is pudgy, set in a vast expanse of pinkish flesh, and his baldness extends beyond his crown and ears to the fringe of hair which seems still to have a tinge of red.

Hands clutching his lapels, feet wide, is the way Churchill talks. His first stabs in an occasional semi-circle. From time to time he makes a two-handed gesture, as if measuring a fish which got away.

His words flow easily despite a lisp, a whistle and a half-stutter which often balks the beginning of a sentence.

He is a master of asides. Last night they were mostly extemporaneous cracks expressing a loathing of Socialism and the other policies of men he holds are presiding over the destruction of the United Kingdom and liquidation of the empire.

Critics Agree Volcano Is Only 'Stromboli' High Point

By BOB THOMAS

Hollywood, Feb. 16 (AP)—Hollywood critics generally agreed today that the picture "Stromboli" is not as good as the story behind its filming.

The most publicized picture of all time was previewed yesterday and a cross-section of reviewers' opinions indicates that it was a disappointment.

"I suffer, believe me!" says the star, Ingrid Bergman, at one point in the picture. That she does. For 81 minutes of the film's length she is made miserable. Her simple-minded husband (Mario Vitale) slaps her, the villagers ignore her and the bleak volcanic island depresses her.

All this makes for a picture that is grimmer than American audiences prefer. Another drawback is a confusion of the Italian and English tongues, which makes dialogue unintelligible in spots. However, most observers agree that the film will draw big business because of its publicity.

Nearly all of the critics interviewed in the lobby of the Pantages theater after the preview expressed dissatisfaction with the picture. Some of the answers were flip: "The volcano was the high point in the picture." "I think James Fitzpatrick (the travelogue maker) has done it better." "It would make a nice home movie." "I don't think it was worth the trip for Bergman or me."

More serious critics praised Miss Bergman's acting, but found fault with the story. Said one: "I don't think it is up to the high standards of Roberto Rossellini. The climax is weak; even the music was a let-down."

Most reviewers criticized the ending, in which the actress climbs the volcano, sleeps the night on a lava bed and returns to the village spiritually refreshed. "What mystery! What beauty!" she utters.

Said one critic: "The ending amounted to nothing but cutting off the picture with the comment—she's got religion."

Andy Devine was the sole Hollywood name noted at the showing. "I thought the picture was good," said the hulking comic. "But then I'm a push-over for all pictures."

Joseph Steele, Miss Bergman's former press agent, was also present. He remarked, "I think it's her greatest performance."

Only unscheduled laugh in the picture came when she became ill after watching a slaughter of tuna fish. "It's three months now," she confessed. "I believe I'm pregnant."

Elsewhere in the nation critical reaction was generally similar. The Chicago Sun-Times and the Washington Post: "Dull." New York Herald Tribune:

"Neither good Bergman, good Rossellini, nor good anything." New York Times: "Incredibly feeble, inarticulate, uninspiring and painfully banal." Philadelphia Inquirer: "Astoundingly bad."

The New York Daily Mirror critic found Miss Bergman's acting "above reproach... breathing life into scenes which... would be otherwise flat."

Navajos Reject Goat Loan Offer

Washington, Feb. 16 (AP)—At least one government loan program is going begging.

Last spring the Indian bureau made available \$100,000 to the Navajo tribe to be loaned to tribal members to purchase purebred milk goats.

The Navajos wanted none of it. All summer the tribe's advisory council tried to persuade Indians to borrow go money. It didn't receive a single application.

The story of the goat loan fund was told to the house appropriations committee by Albert Huber, assistant chief of the Indian bureau branch of extension and credit. It was made public today.

Huber said the Navajos were scared off by the \$75 to \$100 price tags on the purebred goats—fearing that they could not care properly for the animals.

Feed for Livestock Dumped From Plane

Portland, Feb. 16 (AP)—A ton of hay and 500 pounds of oats were dumped from an air force reserve transport plane to a snowbound ranch west of here yesterday.

The livestock feed for the sheep of Louis Chechmanek was the first the rancher had obtained since his place south of Clatskanie was snowbound January 13.

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Chicago Splash—This was the scene in Chicago as the worst day of the winter brought the "Windy City" wet snow, sleet and an over supply of rain. Many homes and buildings were deprived of light because of the estimated 1000 power lines snapped by the storm. (Acme Telephoto)

Oscar Loe on Soil Board

Oscar Loe, Silverton, was named chairman of the Silver Creek board of supervisors at a meeting of the Silver Creek soil conservation supervisors in Silverton. He succeeds H. A. Barnes, chairman since the formation of the board a year ago, who resigned because of ill health.

Fertility problems of the district were discussed in relation to the results of the greenhouse pot studies and field trials established last fall. In discussing plans for future work Harry Riches, county agent, said that another set of pot studies will be taken up by OSC and also pointed out that several new field trials have been scheduled to study all parts of the district.

He also reported on the Oregon Seed Growers' meeting with the principal grass seed needed by southern farmers alta fescue, a seed Oregon farmers are able to supply in quantity.

Barnes reported that the Silverton Chamber of Commerce, granges and community clubs of the area had voted donations to the office fund of the district and that installation of lights in local headquarters in Silverton will be completed immediately.

Members of the board discussed the problem of the use of lime as fertilizer and of the purchase of a lime fertilizer spreader for use of the cooperators and the plausibility of obtaining a whirlwind terracer for use in the district.

Chinese Trouble Just Beginning

Washington, Feb. 16 (AP)—Secretary of State Acheson said Wednesday that the Chinese communists' agreement with Moscow was just the beginning of trouble for the Chinese.

He said that China has been reported on the verge of famine with very bad crop conditions in many food producing areas. He called the Soviets' \$300,000,000 five-year aid program very meager in comparison with China's needs.

On the idea that the economic agreement is a starting point for trouble, Acheson said the Russians had made many such pacts with their European satellites.

These agreements, he said, have always resulted in long arguments over the goods to be delivered by Russia, with stalling and delays which made the aid relatively ineffective.

Acheson made clear that he believes there are secret agreements between Russia and the Chinese communists which go far beyond the provisions announced Tuesday night in Moscow and Peking. These secret protocols, he said, will be a long time in coming out.

Silverton Man Injury Victim

Silverton, Feb. 16—Frank Peery, 50, died in a hospital at Eugene Wednesday night at 11:25 o'clock from head injuries received during the afternoon in timber in the Swiss Home district. The body was brought here for services under the direction of the Ekman funeral home.

Peery, manager of the Marshall-Wells store here for the last four years, had mill and timber interests in the Swiss Home area and left here Monday for his property.

Details of the accident were not learned here other than his head was crushed and it is believed he was hit by a limb.

Peery came here from Morton, Wash., where he had engaged in the mercantile business after the loss of an arm in a mill accident. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Clara Peery, three daughters and a stepdaughter.

Final Pre-Lenten Dance

Mt. Angel—The Wonder Valley Boys of Salem will play for the dance to be held Thursday at the auditorium in Mt. Angel for the benefit of the Benedictine Art shop, which was organized about a year and a half ago. The program is headed by Crooked Finger parish, which is inviting everyone to attend.



Under Guard—Joan Cecil von Goetz, 26, of Washington, D. C., former secretary on the three-power military security board, has been sent under guard to the U. S. American authorities disclosed. Informants said she has departed after she illegally entered the Russian zone of Germany. Because of her connection with the military security board, Miss von Goetz was given more complete interrogation than usual when she returned to West Berlin Feb. 1 (Acme Telephoto)

Blind Welfare Head Under Fire

Portland, Feb. 16 (AP)—The state's welfare program for blind persons appeared headed today for an overhauling.

The Oregon state commission for the blind endorsed yesterday a committee report that was critical of Administrator Carl E. Smith. It hinted his tenure may be short lived.

The commission also okayed recommendations that Chairman Cecil W. Jones said would revamp the program. Among other things, the plan calls for the help of federal rehabilitation, health, education and social security agencies and the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness. They are to be asked to survey the Oregon situation and make recommendations.

Discussions involving Smith were not made public, but the chairman revealed one paragraph of a subcommittee report which read: "There is a question in the minds of the members as to the experience and the ability of the present administrator to properly carry out the functions of the position."

Later, Smith defended his work. He said the committee had not taken into consideration the conditions that existed at the East Portland home for the blind prior to his taking the job.

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