

'Sons of Freedom'

That strange religious sect the "Sons of Freedom" Doukhobors, are reported on the rampage again, this time near Nelson, B.C. Periodically, they stage their antics, men, women and children parading in the nude and putting all kinds of buildings to the torch, including their own dwellings.

Thursday at the "dogpatch" village of Krestova, some 200 naked, chanting fanatics burned down with gasoline soaked torches four of their own homes, and one car and were preparing to fire eight more unpainted wooden frame buildings, when the police roared in on them and arrested five men and three women, who seemed most active, and extinguished the fires.

The Doukhobors were protesting the arrest of 38 Sons on charges of arson last week. All their belongings had been taken out of the houses and piled in front, and they were ready to sprinkle gasoline inside the dwellings.

This arson orgy was only the latest of a blazing chain of fire raids in the district 250 miles east of Vancouver. As the police left, the chanting, dancing Freedomites fired two more homes a short distance from the main Doukhobor community.

Meanwhile, in nearby Nelson, Peter Khaladinin, one of 36 Freedomites charged with last Friday's burning of the \$50,000 home of John Veregin, leader of 15,000 orthodox Doukhobors, told a court, "I have done my sacred duty in taking part in these burnings."

Peter Elasofof, another of the 36, said "the burning of John Veregin's house was done in the name of 15,000 Doukhobors and now our mission is fulfilled—open the doors and let us go."

"I would burn the courthouse tomorrow night if I felt the divine urge," Mike Voyken, another of the Doukhobors charged with arson, told the court. "I was inspired by an act of God."

The Doukhobors (spirit wrestlers) started in Kharkov, Russia, about 1750, and spread rapidly in the Dnieper provinces. They regard it as sinful to read or write, printing being a snare of the devil. They hold as every one's action is being dictated by God, it cannot be wrong. They formed a colony on the Sea of Azov in 1801, and their crimes led to their deportation (1841-44) to Transcaucasia. Their migration was permitted, the main body going to Alberta, where they have been a constant source of turmoil. There are about 10,000 of them in the Dominion.

The Doukhobor sect was founded by a German, just as the communist cult was, and both have been spread over the world by fanatical Russians. One is as senseless as the other and proportionately destructive. But why should either cult appeal to Americans to the extent that they will play traitor to their own country for its destruction and enslavement. There may be an excuse for the ignorant Russians seeking an illusory Utopia in the name of freedom but there is none for our intelligentsia with their espionage for the Soviet paradise.

'Mistaken Identity'

West Coast Airlines, which is seeking permission to serve Salem, has called the Capital Journal's attention to an incorrect reference to an RFC loan of \$5 million to West Coast. The reference was made in an editorial of April 1 which commented on the delay in a decision on Salem air service.

Herb Munter, executive vice president of West Coast, described the RFC reference as a "question of mistaken identity." He went on to say that "we call specific attention to the fact that West Coast Airlines has no RFC loan whatever—nor has West Coast Airlines ever had an RFC loan."

Munter said further:

"We are particularly distressed with this type of information since the inference is that because of this loan, which doesn't exist in fact, the government may be considered prejudiced on behalf of West Coast Airlines."

"Not only, then, is the statement entirely false, it's implications are likewise without basis, even if a loan should exist."

The incorrect RFC reference to West Coast is regretted by this newspaper.

No criticism has been made by the Capital Journal of West Coast Airlines' service. Those communities in the Pacific Northwest served by the feeder-line have only good words for the type of service offered by West Coast.

As for Salem in the current Civil Aeronautics Board hearings, the city has fought to keep United service, The CAB, by its show-cause order, indicated the possibility of substituting West Coast service for United Air Lines here. Salem had no alternative but to fight to keep United Mainliner service, with transcontinental connections. The CAB did not ask if West Coast should come into the state capital as an additional air service. The CAB implied in its show-cause order a choice between the two services.

Under those circumstances, Salem signified its need for continuing the United Air Lines service.

Soviet Renews Cold War

Russia is apparently stepping up its cold war offensive in Europe. The latest is the accusation that the western powers are turning the free territory of Trieste into a military base. The charge is probably designed to upset the effort to settle the Trieste issue peacefully.

Russia reopened the Trieste dispute last night in notes delivered in Washington, London and Paris. Its accusations were interpreted as part of a series of Kremlin power plays along the eastern European front of the iron curtain.

Recent Soviet cold war offensives are listed as follows:

- 1. The United States was charged with "deliberate international provocation" in sending a bomber over Soviet-occupied Latvia, which opened fire on Soviet fighter planes. (The U.S. position is that the Russians shot down an unarmed American plane over the open Baltic sea.)
2. A campaign to wipe out American influence in eastern Europe which was culminated in the closing of American "libraries" in Czechoslovakia and the ouster of a U.S. embassy attache on "spy" charges.
3. The long-dormant Soviet campaign to gain control of the Dardanelles flared anew as the controlled Moscow press attacked Turkey and demanded revision of the Montreux convention designed to keep Russian warships out of the Mediterranean.
4. Increased pressure on Finland to force her more firmly into the Russian orbit through thinly veiled charges that Finnish-Americans are spying on the Soviet Union.

In its Trieste note Russia declared the situation had become "intolerable," that the Italian peace treaty had been violated, that no governor had been appointed for the free territory of Trieste by the UN security council. The fact that the UN could not agree on a governor because of Russian opposition was ignored.

BY BECK

What to Do?



KRISS-KROSS

Favorite Anecdote: Last Laugh on the Pranksters

By CHRIS KOWITZ, Jr.

With spring at last upon us, and happy kids roaming the playgrounds once again, I am reminded of a certain incident I observed at Olinger city playground several years ago... not a very timely tale, perhaps, but it's a story that I haven't told before... though it has remained one of my favorite anecdotes for years.



Chris Kowitz, Jr.

Near the Olinger swimming pool once stood a wooden pole... about 15 feet high... I never did know exactly what the pole was there for... but some practical pranksters found a new use for it one summer day.

The pranksters in this case were a group of about seven or eight boys of grade school age... as they walked near the pole, one of their members happened to notice a bicycle standing nearby... the boy who had spotted the bicycle eyed it carefully, then eyed the pole... his eyes lit up with a mischievous gleam... he obviously had a plan.

He explained his plan to his companions... take the bicycle, lift it to the top of the pole, then let it down to the ground, with the pole passing through the frame of the bicycle... then when the owner of the bike came after his vehicle, he'd find a pole growing right through it... and he'd have to lift the bicycle clear over the top of the pole before he could ride it home.

The pranksters walked away from the scene... I couldn't help but laugh... it was a funny sight indeed... a bicycle sprawled on the ground with a 15-foot pole seemingly growing right up through its frame.

I stuck around to observe the reaction of the bike owner... my patience was rewarded just a few minutes later... a little fellow who couldn't have been a day over 8 years of age walked up to the pole and bicycle... he took one quick glance at the situation... then, without the slightest bit of hesitancy, he took hold of the pole, yanked it out of the ground, picked up his bicycle, replaced the pole in the ground, got on his bicycle and rode home.

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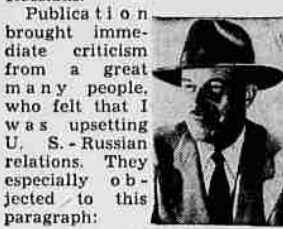
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WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Public Opinion Has Reversed Itself Since End of World War

By DREW PEARSON

Washington—Five years ago today, this column broke one of the most sensational and unpleasant stories of the war. American troops had reached the suburbs of Berlin, I reported, and then been ordered back to the river Elbe because of a demand by the Russians.



Drew Pearson

Public opinion brought immediate criticism from a great many people, who felt that I was upsetting U. S. - Russian relations. They especially objected to this paragraph: "At the height of the rapid U. S. advance (toward Berlin), and just four days before Roosevelt's death, Stalin sent him a brusque note accusing the United States of making a deal with the Nazis in order to advance more rapidly through Germany. The note was couched in most caustic and critical language. The inference was that a U. S.-German deal had permitted the Nazis to transfer more troops to the eastern front and thus kill more Russians."

I mention this now, because that critical mail came from about the same general type of people who are now writing me letters upholding Senator McCarthy and denouncing everything even remotely Russian.

In other words, the pendulum of public opinion, having swung violently one way, has now swung just as violently the other way. Five years ago some people loved Russia too much, now some people hate Russia beyond the point of objectivity.

Sometimes we get better objectivity by thumbing through the pages of the past. And here are some situations taken from the old files of the Washington Merry-Go-Round which illustrate:

Canadian Spy Expose

Situation No. 1.—On Feb. 18, 1946, I published another anti-Russian story which few believed and which made a lot of people sore. It read: "Secret revelations are stirring in Canada. They will make people hold their hats and run for the diplomatic storm-cellars. The biggest story of espionage and intrigue since the war is about to break... the Canadians have taken over a Russian agent, who has given the names of about 1,700 other Russian agents; also has put the finger on certain officials inside the American and Canadian governments cooperating with the Soviet... Photographs showing payments to U. S. and Canadian officials have even come to light."

"The state department is anxious not to disrupt relations with Russia. One Russian agent named Shimishenko was negotiating for the purchase of the blueprints of an American jet-propelled plane. The justice department proposed arresting him, but the state department said no. Shimishenko sailed with his wife and child Jan. 6. He did not get the blueprints."

This, I repeat, was published Feb. 18, 1946—four years ago. Once again there was a deluge of critical letters... "Russia could not have done such a thing..." "You are disrupting our relations with a great ally..." so ran the criticism.

Maryland Spy Ring

Situation No. 2.—On Sept. 7, 1947 I published another expose telling how a little group of government employees had operated a spy ring in a Maryland suburb basement, stealing blueprints of the B-29, photostating them, and sending them by courier to New York and thence to Moscow.

The story was considered so sensational that many newspapers did not publish it. One year and a half later, it made headlines when officially revealed by a congressional committee.

Situation as of now—today the American people are harassed, worried and sometimes seething mad. They don't know whom to believe—McCarthy, Tydings, or who? And I don't particularly blame them.

Instructions Fail to Aid Census Takers in Fairbanks Country

Fairbanks, Alaska, April 21 (AP)—Census takers are supposed to count noses.

But—what do they do when the nose belongs to a buffalo? They do just what Mrs. Martha Lundstrom did recently in the big delta region, apparently.

Her path to a cabin was blocked by an obviously unfriendly buffalo. The buffalo turned tail and headed right into the cabin and eat brandied cherries.

I'll add the cost of the cherries to the bill. It has totaled just under \$40 for customs, veterinary fees, taxi fares, and cabbos."

Sincerely, Davidson.

Here was one of many experiences described today by Mrs. Lundstrom and Mrs. Julia Mayfield, whose task was to enumerate in the Tok junction area also southeast of here.

One of Mrs. Mayfield's problems was crossing 10 lakes and

BY CARL ANDERSON

Henry



4-21



Carl Anderson



Carl Anderson

MacKENZIE'S COLUMN

Labor Party in England Puts Brakes on Welfare Spending

By DeWITT MacKENZIE

(AP Foreign Affairs Analyst)

British Chancellor of the Exchequer Sir Stafford Cripps—a socialist who makes his idealism measure up to realities—served notice in his parliamentary budget speech Tuesday that the ceiling has been reached in welfare service expenditures.

"We have, in the last four years, taken on by way of social services and benefits all that we can possibly afford until such time as there is a large increase in our national production," declared Sir Stafford, adding:

"Even then I have no doubt that the individual will want to retain a very considerable proportion of that increase for his own spending."

The narrow margin by which the socialists won the last general election was due in part to public disapproval of the socialist nationalization program. Since then the government has been treading circumspectly, and the use of the curb on the welfare program is part of this caution. So was the action in granting the middle class taxpayer an income tax cut amounting to \$33.-25 a year.

Whether the budget brings cheers or sneers, Sir Stafford Cripps won't display emotion. He has become inured to hard knocks through having to play the role of "Austerity Cripps" to a hard-pressed nation since the war.

Sir Stafford is one of Britain's outstanding statesmen but, curiously enough, the general public isn't well acquainted with him. He lives within himself a great deal, which is rather a pity because he is a personality who should be known both at home and abroad.

Cripps the socialist reputedly is (or has been) a man of great means. Before the late war he was said to be the highest paid corporation lawyer in Britain, earning the equivalent of a quarter million dollars a year. However, he gave that up because he is a personality who should be known both at home and abroad.

The 61-year-old Cripps is a six footer and has a pleasant smile. However, he is reserved and lacks the warmth of a "mixer." He never touches alcohol and is a vegetarian.

Religion plays a great part in Cripps' life. He is a devout member of the Church of England and often preaches in parish churches.

I met Sir Stafford in London in October of 1942 when he was a member of Prime Minister Winston Churchill's war cabinet. At that time Cripps was the most talked of man in Britain, next to the great Churchill, and there were many who predicted that Sir Stafford would one day be premier himself.

Sir Stafford's fame having spread to the United States I asked for an interview with him, and had a chat with him in his office. At the outset I told him frankly the reasons for my call were that I wanted to meet the man who had stirred the imagination of the American public—and I liked to size folks up for myself. He smiled, and we got along famously.

My outstanding impression of Sir Stafford was that he was frank. I looked him squarely in the eye and read sincerity there.

Churchill summed Cripps up in 1947, when the latter was made chancellor of the exchequer in the socialist government, as "the greatest brain in the (socialist) administration." The famous wartime prime minister was then leader of the conservative opposition in the house of commons.

Real Estate Tax Return Comment

Litchfield, Minn., April 21 (AP)—The county treasurer today wondered just how to take this note which accompanied Theodore B. Larson's real estate tax return:

"The cannibals had a way of solving high taxes. When they got higher than the cost of food, they ate the tax collector."