

Columnist Comments Sharply on Crises

By MARIAN LOWRY FISCHER

With Stalin dying, what lies ahead for Russia, what of that country's relations with the rest of the world?

"That is something we all would like to know," was the frank answer from Dorothy Thompson, noted journalist and commentator, who lectured in Salem Wednesday night.

Information from the Kremlin is so meager since reports first broke about Stalin's stroke early Wednesday, clues are so tenuous, no one can say at this time if developments will be for the better or for worse, was the summary of her answer in an informal interview following her lecture.

Miss Thompson said she is sure the recent purges were not anti-Semitic. "I believe Stalin's successor already had been named before this, that the purges have been going on to eliminate those who would question the authority of the successor, whoever he is."

No one was more surprised than Miss Thompson that in the short question period following her lecture no one asked about the Russian situation. She admitted she was glad no one had asked the question because with so little information given out on the turn of events in Russia, the question would have been a difficult one to answer.

For nearly an hour and a half, Wednesday night, Miss Thompson addressed a very attentive audience at Salem high school, analyzing and piecing together trends from World War I days resulting in present day situations, her topic being "Our Crucial Times."

Only question asked following the lecture was "When and How Are We Going to Get Out of Korea?"

"The United States should make a peace proposal—not an armistice—a peace proposal that would conceivably be acceptable to Korea, China, Japan and Russia," she answered.

The speaker suggested neutralizing Korea, a plan she also favors for Germany. In this neutralization, there would be an army for defense but the country could make no treaties or alliances with other countries.

The speaker covered all fronts. Among highlight comments were:

"I can think of nothing that would be more to the interests of the Soviet Union as a great power than a war between the United States and China, a war into which we may inevitably be drawn via the Formosa government. Such a war would inevitably cement the ties between Russia and China more firmly than ever. . . it would weaken both China and the west, which would be wholly to the Soviet interest. Sheer American and western self interest should counsel avoidance of war with China at any cost."

Turning to Europe: ". . . The weakness and disunity of Europe is the result of war. And anyone who thinks that Europe can be cured by another dose of the same medicine, can not be thinking at all. How really serious is the threat of a Russian military attack on Western Europe? Rightly or wrongly, Europeans do not anticipate it. . ."

On the construction of a new Europe: ". . . Franco-German reconciliation is absolutely essential. It is, indeed, Europe's last chance. But here again, you can not reconcile states; you must reconcile peoples. . . To bring about Franco-German reconciliation, it is necessary to build up the peace-loving, constructive, European forces. The very idea of a new German army undid overnight much of the work of reconciliation which has already been achieved. . ."

The idea that nations can be welded together by a common army, before even their outstanding political differences have been settled—such as the difference between the two countries over the Saar—is simply to put the cart before the horse."

As to American policy there (in Europe): ". . . American policy has overridden deep reservations in the European mind. The concept of neutralizing Germany is rejected before it is even explored. . . Furthermore, the idea of a European army, commanded by an American general, runs false to the whole spirit and history of Europe. The very soul of Europe is unity with diversity. . . Incidentally, a mass army of the kind envisioned is precisely the kind in which the Communists, who are a truly international organization, will be able to do the best job of infiltration. . ."

"The policy of the United States has given the Russians a monopoly on the idea of peace. It is today the greatest ideological asset of the Soviet Union. The American attitude is that the campaign is fraudulent. It is a Russian political asset. . . Whereas, two or three years ago the Russians were genuinely considered the greatest menace to European peace and development, today, and not only among Communists, thousands of people believe that America is the real warmonger."

"The failure of the United States to come out for the most far-reaching plans of disarmament—total, simultaneous, and universal; the continual war talk in our press, as something that will only be averted by Russian fear and is probable anyhow. . . the rush to rearm both Germany and Japan, in advance of any attempt to reach a settlement on this matter; the insistence in congress of limiting all economic aid to purposes of armament—all these are furnishing the Russians with their chief talking points to the masses of the European people."

"I do not believe the leaders of America in either party want war; I do not think that even our military leaders, with a possible few exceptions, want war; and I do not even anticipate another World war. . . It is nevertheless true that our only notion of combatting communism is by superior armed force; that we are leading essentially from a combination of fear and braggadocio; and that we are setting events in train that can not be reversed or overcome. Fear is the worst of all advisers. . . and the military are the worst of all political advisers because political thinking is foreign to their nature and training."

"And I do not say this against President Eisenhower. He is less likely to be dominated by the Pentagon than was Truman, who simply couldn't resist a four-star general!"

"The enunciated American policy, not yet reversed by the new administration, is to reach a settlement with the Russians. Once we are strong enough, so goes the argument, we will sit down with the Russians and talk terms. But what terms? . . . Does it mean that we intend to talk terms at the point of a gun, in the form, that is to say, of an ultimatum?"

"Or, are we to accept the theory that says we must stand armed to the teeth as long as there is a communist government in the world?"

"Weapons are obsolescent tomorrow — obsolescent the moment one's opponent discovers or perfects a mightier or more ingenious weapon of warfare. The prospect of arming and rearming and ever more preparing for war will turn this country into a military state, war or no war. And if communism is, in essence, total, highly militarized state power, we can have its content without its name. It will be the end of the American Republic. . ."

"In any war, history is a casualty," the journalist said in her opening remarks. She criticized the "Unconditional Surrender" stand of the Allies to wipe out Germany and Japan.

"When the fruits of war-time arrangements, which ripened on the tree of Unconditional Surrender and a universal over-reaching of themselves by the Allies in sight of victory, fell, as they rapidly did, into the hands of the Russians, the awakening was hysterical. Suddenly, the obvious was discovered—that with the total elimination of Germany and Japan as power factors, there existed but one great land power in Eurasia."

"The Soviet Union is a 'different kettle of fish' from other power-ambitious countries in history, the speaker continued, adding:

"Russia is a revolutionary power. . . To the Russian Communist, all history is the history of class struggles, and Communist domination is to be achieved, not by old-fashioned wars on the lines of Alexander, Ghengis Khan, Napoleon or Hitler, but through civil conflicts in which, when the time is ripe, the Motherland of Communism can intervene as the decisive factor. One has here a new kind of imperialism, an ideological imperialism which is a strong shot of religious fanaticism, for even atheism can develop the fanatic traits of a religious crusade. . ."

The speaker then went on to discuss the interrelationship between war and revolution. "Every violent revolution of which history has a record has been the result of war. . . Every communist revolution in the world today is the direct offspring of war, not wars initiated by Communism, but wars out of which communists pulled the victory," Miss Thompson said.

So far, the Russian tactic has been to encourage only wars not directly involving herself, hoping that the economic bankruptcy and intensification of social strains resulting from war or preparation for war, and international strains between the western Allies would create revolutionary situations that could be exploited, Miss Thompson added.

The revolution in Asia and the Middle East has been brewing ever since World War I and is a revolt of fundamental nature, the journalist commented as she went on to recite history of the white men's domination for the past four centuries there. That domination has not been wholly unbeneficial, however, she said, pointing to many advances brought to those countries. The white men did something else, however, they uprooted traditional ways of life, she commented, adding they also brought their own notions of political freedom. "In short, the west, itself, through centuries of imperialism, prepared the ground for the inevitable revolt of the vast Eastern world," Miss Thompson said, commenting, also, that two World wars, fought between nations of the white race, greatly accelerated the process.

"What should have been, and should be, the role of the United States in Asia?" she asked.

"I think it should have been a role of general benevolence toward the forces at work, and

of non-intervention, except where questions of American security were directly involved," Miss Thompson said.

"War conditions stimulated colonial revolt, made it possible, heightened its violence. And it would have occurred had there not been a communist state in the world," the speaker declared.

"Neither Russians nor communists created it, and all they have done so far has been to foresee it, to align themselves on the side of the rebellious forces, and, very shrewdly, to pick and back successful leadership in China," Miss Thompson added.

"And if I were a leader in Russia, I would not be able to sleep at night worrying about the Chinese entering Russia. If the Chinese go into Russia, they will stay," the speaker commented, adding: "One may impose the Russian pattern upon small, weak states or upon half-peoples, without strong inner homogeneity, but it is unthinkable that China, a vast civilization much older and deeper rooted than the Russians should become, or stay, a satellite of Russia."

The lecture was sponsored by the Salem branch of the American Association of University Women for benefit of its scholarship and fellowship fund.

Silverton Holds Health Clinic

Silverton—Dr. W. J. Stone, assisted by the public health nurse, Miss Viola Eisenbach, was in charge of the Tuesday all day well-child conference at the Eugene Field health rooms; local helpers were Mrs. Olaf Paulson, Jr., Mrs. Mildred O'Brien, both of Silverton; and from Scotts Mills, Mrs. E. Nicholson, and Mrs. P. Caster.

Hearing and ear diseases was the theme for education. The diagram of the ear and "How We Hear" posters drew considerable attention. Pamphlets requested by parents were distributed.

March 24, the nursing conferences and immunizations will be held.

The next well-child conference will be April 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Eugene Field school rooms. For appointments, telephone Mrs. M. B. Ford, Silverton, 4052. Crooked Finger area groups will assist.

Parents are being reminded that examinations for the coming fall term of school, may now be made at any time.

FLU CLOSES SCHOOLS
Vernonia (AP)—Grade and high schools here closed Wednesday in an outbreak of influenza. The closure was ordered after 43 of 2000 high school students and 75 of 475 grade students were absent.

Ada Jordan Dies in Seattle

From Seattle has come word of the death there Monday of Mrs. Ada M. Jordan, daughter of the late Dr. Augustus D. Richardson, one of Salem's early practicing physicians. Death followed an extended illness.

Mrs. Jordan had been a friend of the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Meyers, and was a frequent visitor here. She was married in 1897 in the Edes' home which is now the Daniel Fry property. Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Charles W. (Helen) Craig and one grandson, Peter Jordan Craig, both of Seattle.

Private funeral services are being held in Seattle and will be followed by private interment in the City View cemetery, Salem.

Cartoonist's Brother Killed

Indio, Calif. (AP)—Cartoonist Bill Mauldin's brother, Preston, 20, died Wednesday of injuries he sustained in the crash of his auto with a truck near Mecca Tuesday night.

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Confirms Walsh for Education Board

William E. Walsh, Coos Bay attorney and former Senate president, was confirmed unanimously by the Senate Wednesday on his appointment to the State Board of Higher Education.

Gov. Paul L. Patterson appointed him to succeed Frank J. Van Dyke, Medford.

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