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PEACE TALKS FROM THE REDS

Chinese peace offers, first revealed over the government radio from there, prompt two questions: 1. Do they mean it, and 2. If so what is the motive?

The Reds started the war nearly three years ago and they've kept it going all this time despite our almost pitiful attempts to reach a compromise settlement in which we did all the compromising. Why this sudden change of front, if there is one? Is the offer intended only to initiate another of those protracted "negotiations" that will lead to nothing, or are the Reds seriously interested in stopping the shooting in Korea?

One can only guess at this stage, and the Reds' past record does not suggest too much optimism as to achieving an early peace. But the proposal for an exchange of sick and wounded prisoners of war does offer an opportunity to test their seriousness rather quickly, for if they mean business we should be able to reach an agreement promptly. If we do there will be every justification for reopening negotiations for the end of the war. Certainly we should leave no stone unturned if there is any prospect of success.

The Reds could want the war in Korea ended. It is a heavy strain on them as it is upon us. Malenkov might see a prestige advantage to him within Russia to bring peace so soon after his accession to the throne of the great Stalin who was unable to do so. We say unable because he always claimed to want to, and the Russians probably credited him with sincerity. So in their eyes Malenkov would be credited with doing what Stalin couldn't.

Peace proposals for Korea may be expected to split the U.N. camp, and to discourage vigorous war preparations in the western nations, while Russia would presumably continue preparing with all her might. One bad thing about the Korean war from the communist viewpoint has been its stimulating effect on military buildup in all the western countries.

The Reds may have an even more sinister reason for wanting to end the Korean war. They may want to divert the military effort to other areas, Formosa, Indo-China, Burma or India. The U.S. would probably resist an attempted Formosa invasion but probably wouldn't send ground troops to the other theaters. So the same amount of effort there might pay off much better—for them. But disastrously for our side.

Yes, it is entirely possible that the Reds want to end the Korean war. We'll soon know. If they do they'll find us more than willing. But their ultimate aims are unchanged, only the means by which they intend to realize them—if indeed even the means has been changed. We'd better not be lulled into any "peace for our time" delusions.

BIG TRUCKERS AT IT AGAIN

The big trucking interests in the state have succeeded in having a bill introduced that would place a floor on railroad freight rates, an action that brought immediate protest from shippers from various parts of the state.

As an alternative to this legislation, the shippers have drafted a bill that would remove the floor on rates of all carriers, railroads, buses and water transportation engaged in hauling freight.

The bill will be offered to the senate committee on transportation Wednesday, when it may be substituted for the original bill.

Shippers, who must pay the rates, which in turn are passed on to the ultimate consumers, feel that placing a floor on the railroad rates will destroy competition among the freight carriers in the state and therefore feel that in fairness to all carriers, the bill prepared by them should be adopted.

There is no justice in attempting to hamstring one industry in order to give a more favorable position to a competitor.

Either the legislature should ignore the truckers "Trojan Horse" bill entirely, or adopt the suggestion of the large segment of shippers and put all carriers on competitive basis.

WHAT ABOUT WALLY NOW?

Now that the venerable Queen Mary has been placed in her tomb, the young Queen Elisabeth can if she wishes reverse the royal court ban on the Duchess of Windsor, American wife of the former King Edward. It is generally understood that Queen Mary was behind the continued refusal of the royal family to accept her.

Queen Elisabeth has shown that she has a mind and will of her own, and she is said to be very fond of her uncle. If she values the throne she must realize that she owes it to these two and their romance, else Edward would now be king.

There is little doubt that the British people would welcome a letting of bygones be bygones and the return of Edward to his homeland. He is represented as determined to leave England for good if his status is not altered, being sick of this 16-year ban on his wife.

We should soon know, possibly before the coronation, whether Mary and her rigid views still dominate.

Contract Gets McKay's Okay

Seattle, Ore.—Interior Secretary Douglas McKay yesterday approved a \$49,850 contract for the clearing of right-of-way and access roads on a 26.6-mile section of the McNary-Ross 348,000-volt transmission line, according to V. M. Murray, Northwest manager for the Bonneville Power administration.

The contract went to the Coos-Bend Trucking service, allowing 470 days for completion of the job.

The section to be cleared is chiefly in Clark county. Wash. BPA Project manager will be William McClary, whose headquarters will be in White Salmon, Wash., Murray said.

To Withhold Ore. Tax From U. S. Jobholders

Portland, Ore.—Most federal offices in Oregon will be deducting state withholding taxes from employees' checks by the end of this week in compliance with a recent state-federal government agreement, Ray Smith, chairman of the State Tax commission, said today.

Federal agencies were not able to withhold state taxes from employe checks until last year when a federal law was passed allowing such action by agreement between states and the federal government, Smith explained. Oregon signed such an agreement, effective Nov. 25, 1952.

3,000 MEN RETURNING
San Francisco, Ore.—More than 3,000 Korean combat veterans were scheduled to dock in San Francisco late today and tomorrow.

LEGISLATORS as Seen by Murray Wade



WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Noted Scientist Ousted; Cracked Down on Wrong Man

BY DREW PEARSON

Washington—Dr. A. V. Astin, director of the bureau of standards, and a noted scientist, has been trying for several weeks to get an appointment with his chief, the new secretary of commerce, Sinclair Weeks. As the head of one of the non-political, scientific bureaus of government, he wanted to discuss future problems.

Secretary Weeks, however, did not see him. But last week, Dr. Astin suddenly was summoned to the commerce department by Assistant Secretary Craig Sheaffer, head of the fountain pen company, and fired. He was asked to turn in his resignation within three days.

He was also lectured regarding the bureau of standards' diagnosis of battery additives, a system of injecting epsom salt, supposedly to pep up auto batteries. The bureau had officially found that these battery additives or hypes to give a battery new strength were of no value. Sheaffer didn't like this diagnosis and told Dr. Astin the bureau of standards in the future was to be run on a businessman's basis.

Behind this is some highly interesting background. First, it should be known that the first director of the bureau of standards, Samuel Stratton held office for 25 years under both republicans and democrats. Another director, Lyman S. Briggs was appointed by Herbert Hoover, republican, and reappointed by Franklin Roosevelt, democrat. Politics has been kept out of the bureau.

BATTLE OVER BATTERIES
Second, it should be known that the bureau of standards is called upon almost every week by the post office department or the federal trade commission to test some article which may be falsely advertised or may be involved in fraudulent use of the mails. Such examinations are routine. They are also welcomed by most business firms. Willard, Exide, and other standard battery manufacturers, for instance, have supported the bureau of standards in its work of diagnosing battery additives.

As such routine, the bureau was asked to examine AD-X2, a battery additive manufactured by Pioneers, Inc., of Oakland, Calif., which claimed AD-X2 could restore jaded or semi-worn-out batteries. The bureau made such an examination, and reported that "the addition of AD-X2 to the acid solution of storage batteries decreases rather than increases the electrical conductivity of the electrolyte."

This report immediately was contested by Jess M. Ritchie, president of Pioneers, Inc., who began to pull wires in Washington. Eventually his wire-pulling contributed to the sudden firing of the director of the bureau of standards.

How powerful was Mr. Ritchie's wire-pulling is indicated by what happened after the post office department issued an official mail fraud order against AD-X2 on March 3, putting it on the mail fraud list.

That night the secretary of commerce himself argued and pleaded with Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield, persuaded him to suspend the mail fraud order. Thus in the official postal guide of March 3 it is stated that AD-X2 is placed on the list of mail frauds, while two days later, March 5, the postal guide suspends the order and says AD-X2 is not a mail fraud after all.

It was one of the quickest reversals of fraud seen around the post office department in many years.

That is only part of the story, however. Assistant Secretary of Commerce Sheaffer of Sheaffer pens has said that he came to Washington to help business. Apparently he was not interested in helping Exide, Willard, or other standard battery manufacturers, but rather the makers of battery hypes.

Pope to Deliver Address on Easter

Vatican City (AP)—Pope Pius XII will address thousands of Romans and visitors here on Easter, it was announced Tuesday.

He will begin speaking at 2:30 a.m. PST. His address will be broadcast by the Vatican radio.

POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Child Should Be a Rebel, Says Hal Who Hasn't Any

By HAL BOYLE

New York (AP)—If I had a child, the quality I would most want it to have is—rebellion. Parents I tell have this to say:

"Well, then, I wish you had one of mine. You don't know what you're talking about. There is nothing that saps your strength like a rebellious child. They keep you worn down all the time."

Probably so. But, on the other hand, they keep a family stirred up, too. And what is sadder than a child that is overly tame?

Of course, a child can express rebellion in other ways than by trying to kick his harried mother in the shins. He has to be a little rebel almost from birth. If he didn't revolt against his own vast ignorance, he would never have the incentive to grow up.

Rebellion is the mark of youth and health. Only by questioning authority can a child find out what is actually so and what is just adult say-so.

It is annoying to have to answer a curious child's eternal "Why? Why? Why? But wouldn't it be even more terrifying to have a child that did everything you told it to, believed everything you said, and never once asked—"but why?"

Personally, I like a kid who, when you tell him that two and two make four, looks up at you sunnily and says, "Prove it." You have a wild urge to hammer him with a slipper, but you have to admire him, too.

A civilization may be torn apart by too many rebels, but it will never die of dry rot. And no civilization can grow and flourish without a full quota of sturdy rebels.

OPEN FORUM

Writer Relates How Some Protect Teeth

To the Editor: A number of cases of sound teeth have come to my attention which should be of interest to others.

Insisting that his bread be hard-roasted was one man's method of retaining his teeth throughout a long life span. Another supplemented an ordinary diet with vigorous biting on cloth, or on hard rubber erasers, and in his 90's had lost only one tooth. A youngster of 8 prefers hard tack to ordinary bread and has a splendid set of teeth.

Our soft foods are contrary to nature's laws; but assisting our teeth with methods such as above pays good dividends. SAM J. HARMS, 1740 State Street.

Coast Guard Picks Up 3 Missing Fishermen

Coos Bay (AP)—Three Langlois, Ore., fishermen, missing overnight, were found drifting in their 24-foot boat by the Coast Guard Monday.

The boat, with both anchors gone, was near the Rogue River Reef on the Southern Oregon Coast, the Coast Guard reported.

A search for the three—Arthur Aldropp, Lex Cope and Arthur Slocum—started Sunday night when they did not return from a fishing trip.

BY BECK

A Dog's Life



Salem 29 Years Ago

By BEN MAXWELL
March 31, 1924

Oregon's compulsory public school law has been declared unconstitutional by an opinion rendered today in a federal court. The bill provides that all children between the ages of six and 18 must be sent to public schools.

Ellsworth Kelly, "Oregon" Jones and Tom Murray who made a bold escape from Oregon State penitentiary on Friday are yet at large. C. M. Weekly, one of the six escapees, was taken without resistance near Stayton this morning.

Earl Fisher, state tax commissioner, believes that the state income tax will yield near \$1,500,000 for 1923.

R. Blaine E. Kirkpatrick believes Salem's gambling ordinance is a mighty good one, that it can and should be enforced.

The reward of many great rebels in their own lifetime is ignominy, ridicule or even persecution. Others—such as Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison and Carl Sandburg—get their laurels while they live.

For every rebel who is remembered a thousand are forgotten. It takes vast courage and endless work to force mankind to overcome the inertia of the commonplace and try something new and better. But without rebels civilization would rust in its own shackles.

If I had a child, I would treasure his signs of rebellion, and maybe even encourage them. He might grow up to be just another unsuccessful bank robber. But there is also the chance he might come up with an idea for a better mousetrap the world desperately needs.

A new home to be erected at 255 N. Capitol street for Mrs. Claudius Thayer will cost \$24,000. This pretentious home, in every respect, will be of

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