

# Capital Journal

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## WEST GERMANY'S COMING ELECTION

The election to be held in West Germany September 6 may be the most important held on the continent of Europe since the end of the war and the result may determine the winner and loser in the cold war. It may also determine whether this war will continue cold or change to hot.

At stake is the government of Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, who is probably the outstanding political leader of Western Europe at the present time, including Britain. He has wisely piloted what began as a virtual puppet government into a virtually free government which the western allies do not control. He has also piloted West Germany to the fastest economic recovery of any nation in Europe bar none. He has been both a shrewd politician and a wise statesman.

Since Adenauer's sympathies are 100 per cent western, Moscow has a tremendous stake in his success next month. We have been showing our sympathies in the food donation, which Adenauer's government is distributing and for which it receives credit from the East Germans, just as we do.

Moscow has shown its alarm by two recent moves. First, Malenkov made a bitter attack on Adenauer, asking West Germany to defeat him, charging that he is leading his country into war. This is a threat that Russia will attack if Adenauer remains in office. It is at once an order to West German Communists to vote against Adenauer, which they would have done away, and a threat to the others to vote against him or risk a Russian invasion of their country. It really puts German courage to the acid test.

Then Moscow made a conciliatory gesture in the form of an agreement with puppet East Germany for a relaxation of restrictions that have maddened the East German people to the point of desperation. The inference of this forced "generosity" is that it will be possible for a West German government friendly to Moscow to secure union with East Germany by accepting a neutral, disarmed status similar to Switzerland's.

The obvious risk of this course is that Russia can move an army into a disarmed West Germany at any time after the American and British occupation forces are removed. West Germans with any political sense will avoid this course as they would a plague, but the Russians assume many to lack political sense. Unfortunately past Germany history gives them only too much ground for feeling this way.

If Adenauer wins, West Germany is virtually certain to be rearmed and to become an active partner either of the NATO group, or if it falls by the wayside, a military ally of the United States, with whom it will share responsibility for the defense of Western Europe. The U.S. is said to have given assurance to Adenauer of equipment for all the divisions Germany is willing to arm.

The danger of this to Russia is obvious. A rearmed Germany hostile to Russia means the end of Russian hopes to occupy and communize West Europe. Whether Russia would fight now to prevent this happening no one knows, but probably not, as the riots in East Germany have shown a desperate internal situation that would become steadily worse if Russia went to war.

Russia's danger is our opportunity. If Adenauer wins we can probably create enough military strength to discourage a Russian move at any time in the foreseeable future. If he loses to a political group willing to "do business with Russia" our program for the defense of Western Europe may collapse, for France and Italy have become worthless as allies and Britain much less reliable than she was.

So September 6 is the next big date to watch for. History will be made.

## FORESTALLING A RECESSION

Appointment by President Eisenhower of Walter Williams, Seattle banker, undersecretary of commerce as special economic full time advisor, and trouble shooter to warn the administration of any developing trouble in the nation's economy to head-off any trend toward a business recession, emphasized the president's objective of keeping the country and its people prosperous.

Williams is to put together a nationwide network of businessmen, industrialists, labor leaders and others whose task is to give warning of any economic weakening in their areas. To this will be added information from all other areas and those from government bureaus, such as the commerce department, the federal reserve board and other agencies to prepare counter measures to offset any impending economic slump.

All of these precautions are being taken when the news reports are filled with accounts of prosperity. Almost all the figures being released tell of good times, of new record highs being set in employment, in sales, in personal income, in total production of goods and services.

These government reports show how things were in the first half of the year and during July, but they give faint indication of how business will be in the future. The stock market has been trying to guess though still a bull market. But in the midst of glowing reports on earnings, dividends, sales and production, stock traders have taken a cautious view of the future of stock prices, fearing that production will exceed demand and force a slow-down as business inventories are at record highs.

If a slump should start, there are several things that could be done to try to lessen its impact. Tax cuts, such as those already scheduled for next year, would offer a measure of quick relief. The supply of money and credit, now being kept fairly tight, could be eased. Government spending could be channeled to areas and to industries most affected.

In the meantime inflated prices, higher labor costs, farm and other subsidies and prolonged strikes and demand for dollars harass the economic structure based on unbalanced budgets.—G. P.

## Gunman Makes Three Visits

Denver (AP)—Denver has a persistent gunman. He returned three times to rob an East Denver gasoline station last night, once while the attendant was telephoning police and again while police were closing in. The first time the robber appeared, Miron J. Ritchie, the station attendant, grabbed for a pistol. The weapon discharged grazing his finger. The bandit fled, Ritchie said, after he grappled with the man. As he phoned police, the bandit came back, picked up his cap, pointed a gun at Ritchie and scooped up \$25 in the cash drawer. A few minutes later, as police and nearby residents converged on the station, the bandit came back again. This time he only waved his pistol and fled.

## RUSSIA A KOREAN-PEACE DELEGATE?



## POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

**Brace Yourselves; Here's Another Report on Women**  
By **RELMAN MORIN**  
For Hal Boyle  
New York (AP)—Brace yourselves men. Here comes another report on American women.

Almost a week ago, the reports on Doc Kinsey's new book hit the public prints. Since it is about women, and has statistics and things you would imagine they would be talking of nothing else these fine summer days. That just goes to show how much we know about them.

A brief little announcement from Paris, a white back, about Dior's dictum on the length of skirts still seems to be topic A among the ladies. It appears that although, not sex and dresses, not didoes are still uppermost in their minds.

Well, this column today was going to be about reactions to Kinsey, but if they want dresses and Dior, here goes: Brother Dior, as I understand it, is an interesting result of some factors which, at first sight, have very little to do with bodies and necklines.

A combination of war, politics and the hard facts of economics put him in a position where, today, he can hand the word that skirts are going up—and they go up.

The Second World War practically blanketed out Paris as a style capital. If you've ever seen the price tags on the models in a "collection," you have a rough idea what that meant in terms of dollars and French economy.

So they set out to regain the pre-war position. Dior, a very able guy with the drawing board and a mouthful of pins, was picked to spearhead the operation. French backers gave him enough money so that he didn't have to worry whether his creations were immediately successful on the market.

The important thing was effect, something new and spectacular, and he gave them that. He took over where Vionnet and Paul Poiret left off and the result was that when he came out with the "tulip silhouette," Madame wasn't happy until she went around looking like a walking tulip.

Now what about the higher skirts this year? Clare Potter, one of the hottest American designers, says it will have an effect on fashions over here. "But not as much in America as elsewhere," she said.

"Skirt lengths have almost always been higher in this country. The reason is perfectly simple, American girls have the best-looking legs in the world."

Mme. Potter is a devotee of what, I discover, is known as "the American look." She says women all over the world are more or less envious of our ladies and the way they can wear clothes. Hence, in raising skirt lengths, Dior is not only reversing a trend, but falling in with a prevailing trend.

But she agreed with Michelle Murphy, research consultant for design at the Brooklyn Museum, about the effects. Neither of them expected skirts to be elevated very much over here, no matter what Brother Dior says.

"The American woman is pretty solid," Mme. Murphy said. "She doesn't go to extremes. If anything, there is a tendency among women to buy what looks best on them, regardless of what happens in Paris."

They both felt that Dior's announcement, as well, was aimed to cause a sensation, and they said he has gotten a lot of mileage out of it.

## HOW TO FIGHT FIRE

Cincinnati, O. (AP)—Robert St. Clair discovered a fire in his basement yesterday and reached for the handiest substitute for an extinguisher. He scooped up an armload of laundry-soaking in a tub and dumped it on the blaze.

## WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

### Ike Hastened to N. Y. to Placate Baruch

Washington — There was an interesting backstage factor behind the President's long flight from Denver to New York to dedicate the Baruch housing project.  
Bernie Baruch, the 83-year-old elder statesman, who supported Eisenhower last fall, has been wavering. Irked at some of the Eisenhower economic policies, especially the increasing price rise and higher interest rates, Baruch has been reverting to his original democratic faith.

And shortly before congress adjourned, elder statesman Baruch held a secret breakfast conference with 16 democratic senators at which he laid some scathing things to say about the administration's fiscal policies and the fact that the national debt was being increased by the treasury policy of paying higher interest rates on government bonds.

Baruch was particularly critical of Randolph Burgess, special assistant to the secretary of the treasury, who is in charge of floating government loans and who has recommended the increased interest on government loans.

Burgess is a former official of the National City Bank, and Baruch told the democratic senators that when he had learned of certain Burgess policies, he withdrew his account from the National City Bank. The account was for \$1,500,000 and the next day, Baruch said the bank telephoned to ask the reason for the withdrawal.

The elder statesman replied that if a bank followed the policies of a man such as Burgess he could have no confidence in it.

Baruch also warned the senators that the United States faced a deflationary period, and that deflation could always be dangerous. However, he said that if the government was cautious and careful, we could weather the storm.

He laid special emphasis on the importance of building up our defense pacts with Europe and felt that NATO could be not only a steady influence from the point of view of defense but from the viewpoint of heading off too drastic deflation.

The 16 democratic senators came away from the breakfast conference convinced that Baruch had definitely returned to the democratic fold, that his economic wisdom was as sound as ever and that he had his fingers crossed about the Eisenhower administration.

Through the breakfast was supposed to be secret, news leaks quickly in Washington, and this was the biggest reason why Ike flew back from Denver to New York.

**BARUCH SEES DEFATION**  
During the Baruch dedication ceremonies, N. Y. City Planner Bob Moses, a republican, let out some scorching criticism of Eisenhower housing policies right in front of the president.

"I take this occasion to plead for the courageous, clean-cut surgical removal of all our old slums," Commissioner Moses said just before Ike spoke.

"Unfortunately recent cuts by congress have indicated a deplorable resurgence of hard-boiled reactionaries to whom acreage is more important than people. As a result, Baruch Houses, among others, have been cut in two."

Moses referred to the fact that the Taft public housing project in New York City was being cut in two.

**Saleam 39 Years Ago**  
By **BEN MAXWELL**  
August 25, 1914  
Naruh had fallen into German hands, ending all hopes for a speedy termination of the war.

Austria had declared war on Japan.

Beaten in the first mighty battle of the European war the Franco-British allies were on the defense.

A forest fire northeast of Foster in Linn county had been burning for 12 days and had covered 5000 acres to become the largest one reported for 1914.

Ladies of the G.A.R. had honored R. R. Ryan's 68th birthday with a fine banquet dinner in R. R. Ryan's Market building.

A German dirigible dropping bombs on Antwerp had been shot down by an aerogun and its entire crew of 25 captured.

At the Toggery men's suits were priced at \$15, \$20 and up.

A 150 barrel oil tank for capitol heating had been installed.

The Louvre had received an art collection worth \$20,000,000 from the estate of Baron Schlichting, a Russian nobleman long a resident of Paris.

Work on repair of Lausanne hall to make it presentable as a home for Willamette University girls during the winter had started.

Sislaw Fisherman's association had asked permission to use dynamite to destroy a seal herd camped at the mouth of the Sislaw because the creatures were charged with herding salmon away from the mouth of the river.

E. M. Barstow, manager of the F. W. Woolworth store on Commercial street for a number of years, had been promoted to another store in Tacoma. A. H. Fox had been named his successor here.

## Something Wrong

Corvallis Gazette-Times  
Someplace Secretary of Commerce Sinclair Weeks is off base.  
Friday evening he announced the reappointment of Dr. Allen V. Astin as head of the National Bureau of Standards. Weeks fired Astin last March for saying a battery rejuvenator known as AD-X2 had not the stuff in it to back up its claims.

At the time the postal department put the AD-X2 on the spot for using the mails to defraud—saying if the manufacturing company could not back up the claims it was defrauding the public.

Now, Weeks has rehired Astin who said the battery booster is no good and the post office has dropped the order which would have barred use of the mails for promoting the product.

It is a cinch the government can't be right in both instances. Either Astin was right and the promotion should be excluded from the mails or Astin was wrong and it was all right to promote the product in the mails.

**TO VEND POLITELY**  
Chicago (AP)—The National Automatic Merchandising Association reported today that a "polite" vending machine may soon make its appearance.

When a person buys a cup of coffee or a package of cigarettes, the machine says: "Thank you."

It's done with a tape recording.

## Filipinos Play Politics for Blood, Reporter Learned

By **DAVE CROWMELL**

Carlos P. Romulo, former president of the U. N. General Assembly and Ambassador to the Philippines to the United States, Friday withdrew from the presidential race in the Philippines.

This makes the second well known and highly respected Filipino politician to bolt President Elpidio Quirino's Liberal party, the other being Ramon Magaysay, recently resigned secretary of defense.

There is probably no other place in the world where politics is taken as seriously as in the Philippines. Yet, there are few in which there is more graft and corruption.

Talk of forthcoming elections, and for that matter, campaigning itself starts to roll—not months before an election as in the United States, but years before. And it's not passive and polite conversation and campaigning either. Politics in the PI is always "dead serious." It's not a business for the timid or the meek.

This writer can recall an occasion last November in which the Filipino political temper was well demonstrated.

One afternoon while resting in the large open air lobby of the Manila hotel, MacArthur's headquarters before the Japanese invasion, an American airlines employee was observed to have walked up to President Quirino and to have made a mildly caustic remark. No sooner had the words left his mouth than a nearby Filipino bodyguard charged the American while at the same time reaching for his pistol in a shoulder holster. The American instinctively started to run, and had not the Filipino accidentally dropped the gun while attempting to take aim, there would have been one less American in the PI.

"We know that by fighting alone we would only divide the strength inherent in people which is needed to overcome entrenched power of that clique which the people want removed and repudiated," Romulo told a news conference Friday.

Perhaps these two liberals, pulling together, can win the presidency. If fair elections were held, their chances would be good.

If the ballot boxes are not tampered with, and if the Quirino forces do not use the army and the constabulary for their own gains, then the political future of the Philippines will certainly become brighter.

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