

Capital Journal

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BRITAIN DEFIES RUSSIA'S THREATS

Britain seems to have abandoned the spirit of appeasement toward Soviet Russia and the Communists and has realized that "you can't do business with Malenkov" any more than you could with Stalin or before that with Hitler. At least two of the developments of Tuesday would so indicate. Replying to the Russian threat to abrogate their 1942 friendship treaty with Britain if Germany is rearmament, the British official spokesman rejected the proposal outright. At the same time Britain took a firm stand toward close alignment with a United Western Europe that ties her to the Schuman Plan coal and steel pool. Both moves make for the solidarity of the West.

Britain branded as rude in both manner and context Russia's threat to break off the treaty made during World War II. At the same time Russia also threatened to break off the similar mutual defense pact with France if the National Assembly, now debating German rearmament, agreed to bring the Bonn government into the Western Defense program.

The British spokesman said Britain would be sorry to lose its friendship treaty with Russia because the country felt it was a good pact. But in straight diplomatic tough talk, the spokesman "deplored" the Russians' method in threatening to abandon the treaty. He continued:

"The British government cannot accept the arguments used in the Soviet note. There is no justification of the Soviet contention that the Paris agreements are incompatible with the treaty. Her Majesty's government will continue to pursue their chosen policy of consolidating Western European unity."

Britain has been traditionally wary about joining any form of European federation, but the treaty just signed links it with the European coal and steel community, the "Schuman Plan," the first European federal institution with wide economic and political powers. Last summer Foreign Secretary Eden committed British troops to continental defense for the first time. The Schuman Plan was devised in 1950 to merge Western Europe's coal and steel industries to eliminate traditional causes of war. Britain was invited to join but wanted to see how the plan worked.

The community was formed and the six nations pooled their industries by eliminating trade barriers in steel and coal. It set up common markets which resulted in increased exports, reduced prices and greater prosperity. Later the community set up a high authority directed by Monnet with powers to prevent friction and to explore ways of associating Britain with the scheme.—G. P.

MOVING TRAGEDY OFF PAGE ONE

Frank Jenkins of the Klamath Falls Herald-News has inaugurated a "no bad news on the front page" week. Beginning Monday all tragedy is to be studiously kept off and, a pleasing, Christmasy picture is to be presented until Christmas comes.

This should be an interesting experiment and worth while for this reason, so everybody can see how it works. But we are sure neither the Klamath publisher nor anyone else who reads his paper will be deceived into believing that the nature of the world or its people has been thereby changed. Tragedy will continue to happen. The only difference will be that the Herald-News readers will have to turn to page two and beyond for it. The advertisers should appreciate the higher readership of inside pages.

We recall one Christmas morning many years ago when the newspapers came out with their front pages loaded with a horrible list of tragedy that had occurred the night before. Nobody grieved it that way. It just happened. News editors weren't aware till they saw their front pages what a Christmas greeting they were giving their readers. There was quite a public outcry. Many an editor resolved never to let anything like that happen again, and some newspapers inaugurated a one day custom of no tragic news on the front page Christmas day. This will not bother the Capital Journal, which does not publish on Christmas.

But keeping the seamy side of the old world off the front page for a whole week seems to us like carrying matters to an extreme. We are disposed to accept old Charles A. Dana of the New York Sun as right when he said he would print anything the Lord would let happen. Printing the bad news isn't the cause of it, nor will moving it inside keep one little bit of it from happening. It will be interesting if the Herald-News will canvass the reaction of its readers after Christmas. Will they be relieved, or feel that they were cheated out of something?

MENDES-FRANCE STILL ON TOP

French Premier Mendes-France reminds one of the acrobat who "glides through the air with the greatest of ease." And he lands right side up, just as his foreign friends have about given him up as a goner.

The premier won an important vote of confidence Monday, 310 to 172. It came on his budget for Indo-China, a sore spot with France. His enemies are laying for him, making it as tough for him as they know how. He called for a vote of confidence, which if lost would have meant the resignation of his government. This in turn would have meant the end of any hopes for French ratification of the pact for West German rearmament for this year at least. And before France could have been warmed up on the project by a new leader Germany would be sure to be out of the notion.

The premier's victory looks encouraging. The fact that the opposition did not have enough votes to unseat him suggests that they mean to ratify German rearmament, grudgingly, some of them sullenly, with Mendes-France the goat if things do not work out according to French wishes.

France is a dubious, uncertain ally, but much more of an ally under strong, vigorous leadership than under the kind France usually has. Americans should hope for a long tenure for Mendes-France, but one fears he won't have it. For he is gradually acquiring more enemies, as each French premier does and as each one eventually falls before.

If France does ratify within the next few days Adenauer's chances for pushing ratification through the German parliament will be brighter. He too, faces hostile political factions that seem to be gaining ground against him, but perhaps not fast enough to defeat him on this program which is so crucial to the free world.

CANADA MAY DIVERT THE COLUMBIA

We've heard here in Oregon of alleged California schemes to divert the Columbia river down there where water is so desperately needed, usually followed by California denials.

But there is no secret about Canada's interest in diverting waters of the Columbia into the Fraser river in British Columbia. The Canadian government will conduct an investigation of feasibility next summer. Since the Columbia is only seven miles from the Fraser watershed at one point the idea is likely to prove feasible.

Two possibilities occur, one favorable, the other not. On the first, couldn't waters be diverted as the flood period in the Columbia approaches, averting dangers along the Columbia in Washington and Oregon? A relatively small diversion should be a big help.

On the unfavorable side, the river belongs to Canada before it enters the state of Washington. Enough water might be diverted to injure us. But the river carries so much water and Canada is a friendly country, so we doubt that fears are in order. More likely it is benefit to both countries.

TREND OF THE TIMES



POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Hal Finds a 'Man of the Year' Who Isn't Famous

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (AP)—A stranger in a worn topcoat came up to me as I sat at my typewriter with a preoccupied air.

"Excuse me," he said, and as I looked up with a start, he added, grinning:

"Did I wake you?"

"Certainly not," I said indignantly. "I wasn't sleeping, I was thinking."

"What about?"

"Well," I replied, half annoyed. "I was about to pick my man-of-the-year candidate. It is one of the chores of columning. Every columnist who wants to get ahead in the world has to do four things during the year—praise motherhood, alert the public to the menace of poison ivy, discover a new sure cure for hay fever, and pick the man of the year."

"Who you going to pick?" he asked.

"I'm in a quandary," I said. "I'm torn between Pope Pius, President Eisenhower, Winston Churchill, Pierre Mendes-France and Carl Sandburg."

"I knew it!" exclaimed the stranger, taking off his battered hat and throwing it on the floor.

"You're just like all the others!"

"What do you mean—I'm like all the others?"

"You're like all the other typewriter jockeys when they get around to picking the man of the year. You always play it safe with a headline name."

"Is there anything wrong with the men I mentioned?"

"Not a thing," he admitted. "They're all fine men. But they're already famous. They don't need any more honors. Why not be different? Why don't you pick a dark horse for man of the year?"

"Well," I said, thinking that was a mixed metaphor if I'd ever heard one. "Who you got in mind, mister?"

"Me," he replied. "I told him, looking around for help. 'But would you mind telling me why I should name you man of the year?'"

"Don't think I'm not important," he said. "I'm 45 years old. I got two kids in school, I got a wife. I also got a 3-year-old car that's paid for, and a house that isn't, but it will be. I got a television set, a refrigerator, a radio, a washing machine, and \$7,500 worth of insurance."

"Well, bully for you."

"Maybe that don't impress you," he said. "But I keep all those things together on \$72.50 a week, and I give money to the church and the Red Cross and the Community Chest."

"Well, bully, bully for you, but—"

"But nothing!" he stormed. "I see you still don't know me. Listen, you pavement pundit, if it weren't for me every store in America would close its doors, every wheel in every factory would stop turning—and there wouldn't be any elections, nor no baseball games either. I can tell you. Now do you know who I am?"

"You face is familiar, but I'm sorry I don't quite recall your name."

"You don't?" he said, exasperated. "Well, you should. You and the other ivory domes gave it to me. I'm the guy you're always patting on the back in print and calling the common man, the average American, and—oh, yes—the little fellow. Well, once in my life I want to be the big fellow."

"By golly, you are!" I told

him, putting another sheet in the typewriter. "Everything you say is true, and if it makes you any happier—you're tops on my list, the real man of the year."

He shook hands, started to leave, then turned back uncertainly.

"Anything wrong?" I asked. "No," he said. "I was just thinking about the little lady. Anything good I done was all on account of her, and I wouldn't feel right getting this honor if—"

"How about us making her woman of the year?" I said.

"Now you're really talking—gee, will she be surprised?" He left smiling, but as he reached the door he turned and said, "You wouldn't kid me, would you? I really won't believe it until I see it in the newspaper."

Well, here it is in the newspaper: To Mr. and Mrs. Average American, man and woman of the year 1954—and twin bulwarks of a free world in the terrible and wonderful 20th century.

CHIEF'S CLOTHES BURNED
KELLER, Tex. (UP)—Fire Chief M. B. Stevenson was unusually unhappy about a fire today that swept a cleaning establishment and destroyed clothing

belonging to 40 persons—including the chief.

U. S. in Dilemma, When to Save, When to Spend Money

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON (AP)—Many an old man, tossed out on the street because he couldn't pay his rent, has spent the rest of his days reflecting mournfully on his folly with money in his early years.

Looking for dividends to keep him in his old age, he had invested his money long ago. Wisely, he thought. He learned too late his judgment was bad. His had put too much into one stock, not enough in another.

This country is still young, as nations go, with a lot of money. The Eisenhower administration, present custodian of it, is trying to avoid for the American future the fate which overtook the old man.

It is trying to economize to save money and at the same invest where it thinks there will be dividends in the long run. Both the saving and the investment are a guess and a risk.

In the 1952 presidential campaign the Republicans talked of balancing the budget. They promised economy and they practiced it in many areas. But they still haven't been able to hit a balance.

The country is 278 billion dollars in debt now, most of it money borrowed to fight World War II and communism afterwards. Balancing the budget would not wipe out the debt. It would only mean the administration had found a way to keep the debt from getting bigger.

Some presidential advisers—particularly Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey and Joseph M. Dodge, former budget director—are pictured as stern partisans for more economy and a balanced budget, and for this reason:

That if the United States is to retain the power in the long fight against communism it must be economically sound by living within its means and meeting its responsibilities within a balanced budget.

But there is another side to this tortured problem for the Eisenhower administration:

Salem 22 Years Ago

By BEN MAXWELL

December 21, 1932
Pacific Northwest had experienced the worst influenza epidemic since 1918. Salem reported 1200 ill with the flu.

Gov. Julius L. Meier had announced that he would not issue Christmas presents to penitentiary inmates in the form of pardons.

Portland law enforcement officers were wondering whether a slot machine worked for the player or the house. A thorough test conducted by police demonstrated what \$40 in nickies returned the player \$24.63.

Organization of unemployed workers and farmers had been set for a meeting at Union hall, 435 Court street. Organization was regarded as a preliminary to the proposed "hunger march" upon the city, scheduled for January 8.

A band of 30 men and women Toledo, Ohio, had stormed a Wonder Bakery Co. truck and carried away 250 loaves of bread.

J. F. Darling, director of Midland bank, important English financial institution, had proposed that wheat be used as a basis for money. He suggested that this solution would double the price of grain and provide a swift avenue for the return of prosperity.

Deliberately Designed. Ike's timing of major decisions and actions, as in this instance, is designed deliberately. He pursued what Senator McCarthy calls a "soft" course until the imprisonment of our fliers had aroused and angered every segment of the American public. He thought it wise to suppress indignation until he was certain

'SANTA' GANG CAPTURED
YOKOHAMA (UP)—Police announced today the capture of the "Santa Claus gang" who entered homes by way of chimneys. Police charged the four gang members stole more than \$20,000 worth of goods.

NATIONAL WHIRLIGIG

Ike Recognizes U. S. Must Be Stronger in the Far East

By RAY TUCKER

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21—The friendliness which characterized President Eisenhower's recent legislative conferences with Republican leaders from Capitol Hill belatedly recognized and acted upon the Knowland warnings that the administration must strengthen its military and economic position in the Far East. Ike has also placated the so-called Korean school of military men—MacArthur, Van Fleet, Clark, etc.

It has been their contention that the White House and State Department have shown too much concern with Europe, and not realized the gravity of developments in Korea, China and Southeast Asia. Indeed, this same fear lies behind the latest McCarthy charge that the President has been "soft on Communism."

While Eisenhower still shies away from the Knowland demand for a tight blockade of the China coast, pointing out that it would divide our United Nations Allies and possibly lead to war, he has accepted and framed high policy in accord with the theories of the bloc headed by the Majority Senate Leader from California.

No Comment! Highly placed but unnamed officials in State no longer talk even confidentially and off the record, of the possibility that Communist China may yet be admitted as a member of the U.N. with American support. However, Dulles has sold Britain on opposition to Peiping's membership, even though the British Government has recognized the Mao Tse-tung regime.

The administration has concluded a new and stronger treaty with the Chinese Nationalists on Formosa, and has also stepped up military assistance and training. Recent Congressional visitors to the island have been impressed with the improvement in Chiang Kai-shek's forces.

Washington has taken the lead in organizing SEATO, the alliance designed to prevent further Red expansion in Southeast Asia. As a token of his greater concern with this area, Eisenhower has sent his closest military adviser, General J. Lawton Collins, to Indo-China as a trouble shooter.

Air to Far East. President Eisenhower and Secretary Dulles now plan increased economic aid to the Far East, even though it has annoyed the budget-balancers in this family, including Treasury Secretary George M. Humphrey. Despite the latter's mild criticism of the Dulles-Stassen program, Ike showed his sympathy by recalling Joseph M. Dodge, former Budget Director, to co-ordinate all forms of overseas grants and loans.

It is significant and typical of Eisenhower that he did not reverse himself on this problem until after the announcement that Peiping had imprisoned American airmen as spies, and until after he received reports that the Vietnam Communists were violating the Geneva truce in Indo-China. Both events had an immediate and angry reaction at the White House.

Deliberately Designed. Ike's timing of major decisions and actions, as in this instance, is designed deliberately. He pursued what Senator McCarthy calls a "soft" course until the imprisonment of our fliers had aroused and angered every segment of the American public. He thought it wise to suppress indignation until he was certain

of general support without regard for partisan feeling. In the same way, the President deferred for many months any expression of his real scorn for McCarthy. Not until the latter's Senate peers had voted "condemnation" by three to one did he publicly praise Senators Arthur V. Watkins of Utah and Ralph E. Flanders of Vermont, who ran the Wisconsin Senator to the ground.

Privately, of course, the President had expressed his attitude to McCarthy and the Chinese Communists in extremely picturesque language. But, as he explained in his famous discussion of every honorable means to avoid a possibly global war, he recognizes that Eisenhower, the Man, and Eisenhower the President, are two different people.

McCarthy's Hunt Ended. With Congress on a Christmas holiday and McCarthy away, the latter's five-year, controversial hunt for Communists has finally ended. Despite his charge that his investigation had been blocked for 10 months by the White House and Senate, he attended the post-condemnation inquiry for only 19 minutes, and then only to read his denunciation of Eisenhower!

THEY COULD SHOCK 'EM
Sherman County Journal
If there should be any farmers in need of a mule skinner with vocabulary in good trim we suggest he hire a senator. Some of their language would hurry any mule along.

BUSMAN'S HOLIDAY?
SPOKANE (UP)—Police said today a man who posted a \$5 bond after being ticketed for parking in a bus zone explained his violation was the result of habit.

He listed his occupation as bus driver.

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Little White Life Lines

Seattle Post-Intelligencer
Every motorist knows the life-saving value of white lines on pavement. Highway center and lane marks pay for their paint many times over in averted accidents, particularly in the night hours and the "most dangerous" driving hours of twilight and early dawn.

The state of Connecticut now is making a further life-saving advance. Highway Commissioner G. Stanley Hill, after conducting careful experiments, has ordered white lines painted on the right-hand edges of both the Merritt and Wilbur Cross highways.

His experiments showed that such lines resulted in increasing both speed and safety.

Movement of traffic at night was notably improved.

Everyone who drives will cheer this innovation. We hope it can be extended quickly to main arteries in our own state and throughout the nation.

SNAPPER



If Santa hadn't felt the extra weight and set the bag down for a minute I might have been someone's little Christmas gift by now. I've gotten into a lot of unlikely places so I guess being stuffed into a stocking wouldn't be so bad.

But anyhow... here's wishing you a

Merry Christmas

from the whole gang at Coburn Cameras...

HARRY HOWARD
PAT TUTTLE
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AND SNAPPER

See you next week, SNAPPER

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