

Eternal 'No' Is Typical of Russians

Soviet Assistance Termed America's 'Great Mistake'

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An army officer, back from a long tour of duty in Germany, called on me the other day. He was pretty grim about the situation in Europe and into every few minutes of his conversation crept the word "Russia."



"I like to talk about America's great mistake," he said. "Germany is supposed to have lost the war by making mistakes; by attacking Russia, by not invading England after Dunkirk, by this and by that. I contend that America's great mistake was not staying out of Europe until Germany had licked Russia. I mean staying out in every way. Because without American supplies Russia would have been beaten."

I reminded him of the fact that America wanted a short war, that we had opposed Churchill's plan for attacking Europe through the Balkans and thereby obtaining possession of the trouble-making strip of territory which the Russians now dominate from the northern border of Greece up through Berlin. We wanted to shorten the war by leaving the eastern front to Russia while the western allies smashed the German power entrenched in France, the Low Countries and Italy. Thus, millions of American lives would be (and were) saved.

Churchill Foresaw Balkan Influence

Churchill probably foresaw the difficulties which would arise with a Russia able to expand her influence up to the fringes of western Europe. Roosevelt believed that the war must be won quickly and he thought that by giving the Russians everything they asked for in the way of military support their suspicions would be removed and that they would play ball with the Allies in the peace and after. He believed that Stalin needed peace so badly that he would come around.

General Eisenhower himself didn't achieve any more of a realistic viewpoint in regard to Russia than Roosevelt did—if we are to believe his somewhat verbose Boswell.

Mr. Butcher, in his 900-page diary. Butcher writes:

"Ike said he felt that . . . the more contact we have with the Russians the more they will understand us and the greater will be their co-operation. The Russians are blunt and forthright in their dealings and any evasiveness arouses their suspicions. It should be possible to work with Russia if we follow the same pattern of friendly co-operation that has resulted in the great accord of allied unity. . . ."

Roosevelt and the generals were proved right when they said Stalin needed peace. But they were wrong when they thought he would come around. The state department understands the situation now and, as the recently concluded meeting of the foreign ministers demonstrates, appeasement has been over for some time. We know Russia can't fight and doesn't want to. Russia knows we can't fight whether we want to or not. She is acting accordingly and according to historical precedent.

Tragic History Inspires 'No-ism'

But anyone who studies Russian history knows that the eternal "no" which seems about the only answer the Russian statesmen are allowed to make, comes from something far deeper than mere stubbornness.

This "no-ism" is only one of the many typical characteristics which the Soviets have revealed. It has nothing to do with the fact that they believe in a theory of political economy which is opposed to our own. It is a deeply implanted quality which is Russian rather than merely Soviet or Communist.

And so when you read "Soviet Russia evoked the veto for the sixth time in security council history. . . ." (maybe the 16th time by the time you read this) . . . remember it's an old Kalmuck custom. Mother Russia has taught her children from the days of the invasion of Ghengis Khan, that when a stranger beckons, the only answer is "no, no, a thousand times no!" In fact, a Russian seldom says "no" once—it is always "net, net, net!"

Of course, Ghengis Khan didn't take "no" for an answer. Which is good for the course the rest of the world can follow—if it can. Let's hope the process won't be as rugged.

OPA Battle Has Political Side

Whatever one may think of the intricacy of the economic theory behind the OPA, its political implications are a thousandfold more difficult to assess.

As congress battled over the tattered remains of the price control law, many a congressman who thoroughly detested the whole set-up began to worry a little as to what might happen back home if he were held partially responsible for wrecking the agency.

It was all right for the representatives of farm communities. The farmer would reap the reward of higher prices first. By the time he felt the effect of higher prices on the things he had to buy, OPA probably would be forgotten. But congressmen from industrial centers were in quite a different position. These communities are heard from the moment the missus encounters a markup at the corner grocery. That is the reason that a number of Republicans supported the administration stand on OPA. If the Republican party is to capture the house of Representatives next November, it will have to pick up votes in the cities.

Congress Scans Types of Closing

It took some time for congress to make up its mind whether it would adjourn "sine die" (without date set for reconvening), as they usually do when a session comes to an end, or whether they would "recess." When congress merely recesses it can reassemble without a special proclamation by the President.

When the President calls congress into session he has to issue a proclamation. That's all the Constitution demands. He doesn't have to deliver it. Out of courtesy, however, the White House always telegraphs the president of the senate and the speaker of the house.

But the proclamation is not good unless the Great Seal of the United States is affixed thereunto. Nobody can do that but the secretary of state, for he is the keeper of the seal. So along with the proclamation, the President has to issue a warrant, ordering the secretary of state to do the affixing.

I might say that the secretary of state usually delegates this task, which reminds me of a story, which, I believe, never has been printed. When Secretary of State Hull had been in office 12 years, there was a little outburst of congratulations.

President Roosevelt, as they were talking privately, remarked: "Cordell, you are the sole guardian of the great seal, as you know." He paused, and Mr. Hull replied: "Yes, Mr. President." Then the President, looking him straight in the eye, asked: "Where is it?"

It was Hull's turn to pause. "I don't know," he admitted. "I've never seen it."

Barbers to Boost Vocabulary Too

It is probably fitting that along with the dollar haircut which has made its appearance in metropolitan barber-shops, we may find the barber presenting us four-dollar words. Barbers long have been known for the quality of their verbal output and in some cases for the quality as well. Now they may have a chance really to reach the heights, for the leader of a barber's union has offered to "enlist the aid of 10,000 barbers" in a campaign to get some of the facts of atomic life across to the customer.

Officials of the airlines have instructed their stewardesses to translate, for curious passengers, the name "Grand Teton," tall peaks in Idaho, as "Sweater Girl Mountaintains." That's what Business Week tells me.

ASTRONOMICAL FIGURES

War Spending Hits High Peak

Further evidence that wartime spending soared to astronomical peaks is contained in a treasury department report disclosing that nearly a trillion dollars was spent in this country during the six defense and war years. Figures computed by treasury analysts show that the exact amount spent through the calendar years 1940 to 1945 was \$87 billion dollars.

The burden of arming and fighting costs accounted for unprecedented spending by the federal government, with a total outlay of 365 billion dollars, or about three-eighths of the total.

Expenditures of state and local governments, cities and counties amounted to about 50 billion dollars. The remaining 572 billion dollars was accounted for by spending of individuals and corporations, the figure including 317 billion dollars

for consumers' goods and services and 55 billion dollars for production equipment.

The federal government was the only unit which went deep into the hole, the treasury report reveals. While spending 365 billion dollars, the federal government took in only 156 billion dollars in taxes, leaving a deficit of 209 billion dollars.

State and local governments took in 58 billion dollars in taxes, winding up about 8 billion dollars ahead as their expenditures amounted to only 50 billion dollars.

Individuals and corporations fared best, with a profit of 201 billion dollars. Their income after taxes were paid totaled 773 billion dollars while their other expenditures were reported as 572 billion dollars.

The 8 billion dollar surplus ac-

cumulated by state and local governments and the 201 billion dollar surplus piled up by individuals and corporations exactly equalled the federal deficit of 209 billion dollars.

That is not a coincidence, according to the treasury analysts, who insist that "total spendings and total income really are the same figure—they are the head and tail of a coin." In other words, one man's expenditure is another man's income.

These figures, the treasury declares, explain the origin of the enormous federal debt. The federal government was required to borrow to pay the excess of its spending over its income. It still owes that money plus some extra borrowing and some prewar debt, amounting in all to more than 268 billion dollars.

NEWS REVIEW

Atom Bomb Blast Sinks Battleship and Carrier

CROSSROADS: Heavy Damage

Although accompanied by none of the fanfare of the first surface test, the underwater explosion of the atomic bomb in Bikini lagoon produced equally startling results, with the one A-charge sinking no less than ten ships and heavily damaging six others.

Hours after the blast, the water of Bikini lagoon remained too hot from radioactivity set off by the bomb to permit close inspection of the damage. Clouds along a 30-mile front became contaminated with atomic particles and naval observers disclosed that rain from the mass could be deadly.

A massive column of water, hurtling more than a mile into the Pacific sky, and a thick sheet of spray and steam that rose to 9,000 feet, followed the detonation of the bomb, which was touched off by radio from beneath a medium landing ship.

Veteran of two world wars, the 21,000-ton battleship Arkansas sank within five minutes of the blast, and the 33,000-ton aircraft carrier Saratoga also went down. The battleship New York, the Jap dreadnaught Nagato and the destroyer Hughes and transport Fallon were severely crippled by the charge.



UNDAUNTED VOYAGER
Unwated by his Australian mother, 2-year-old Daniel Joseph Sprague Jr. traveled alone to San Francisco on the S. S. Monterey with 688 other children and war brides. Aboard the ship, the blond, wide-eyed little boy was "adopted" temporarily by Mrs. Edna Mayerhofer, 22, who will join her husband in Brooklyn, N. Y.

ATOMIC CONTROL: Russ Rejection

Even as Bikini reverberated with the explosion of the second atomic bomb test in the Pacific, Russia turned thumbs down on the U. S. proposal for international control of the atomic energy.

Addressing a closed meeting of the United Nations atomic energy committee on controls in New York, Soviet Representative Gromyko asserted that the U. S. suggestion that the veto be eliminated in atomic regulation could not be accepted by Russia because it would tend to destroy the principle of unanimity among the Big Five in preserving postwar peace.

Gromyko also rapped the proposal for establishing an independent agency for the control of atomic energy, declaring that the U. N. security council consisting of the Big Five as permanent members possessed both the power and means to deal with the problem.

OPA: Back in Business

No sooner had President Truman signed the compromise OPA bill extending the agency until June 30, 1947, than it swung into action to stabilize the national economy, which strained with the removal of controls.

Passed after the President had vetoed an earlier bill, the compromise measure contained many provisions designed to assure both producers and distributors of adequate working margins. However, it modified the original Taft amendment, which Mr. Truman charged would allow manufacturers unwarranted profits, by setting up ceilings based on 1940 prices plus increased costs.

PALESTINE: Hit Terrorism

Hitting at the use of violence designed to alter Britain's position in the ticklish problem of setting up a Jewish homeland in Arab-dominated Holy Land, the Labor government released a white paper in London purporting to show that prominent leaders of the Jewish agency for Palestine had unified underground organizations for a reign of terror.

Basing its contentions on intercepted messages between high agency officials in London and Jerusalem, the government said that the first co-ordinated outbreak of violence closely followed a communication revealing that the three main underground groups had been linked together for joint action.



MISSIONARY GETS POST

WASHINGTON.—Here's the inside story on the sudden appointment of John Leighton Stuart as new American ambassador to China.

Originally, President Truman planned to appoint Lt. Gen. Al Wedemeyer as ambassador to China. As a matter of fact, Wedemeyer's nomination already had been typed and was on the President's desk. However, last week General Marshall sent Truman an urgent cable advising that he finally had found one man who could act as ambassador and who was on good terms with both the Communists and the Chiang Kai-shek group. Marshall also pointed out that Stuart had lived in China for 50 years and spoke fluent Chinese.

So, 24 hours later, President Truman nominated J. Leighton Stuart to be American ambassador to China.

ARGENTINE ATOM BOMBS

The fascist Argentine government has completed elaborate plans for going into the atomic-bomb business on a scale parallel to that of the U. S.

The Argentine Scientific association has proposed and received approval of the Argentine war and navy departments to finance importation and operations of the best nuclear physicists in the world, including German refugees.

The Argentine government is guaranteeing these scientists unlimited funds, complete scientific liberty and absolute personal security from police terror. The head of one important Argentine scientific group informed the Peron government that Nazi scientists are doing well but still are not operating rapidly enough to satisfy the Argentines.

ATOMIC RAT RACE

U. S. atomic delegate Bernie Baruch has confided to friends that he is much opposed to having chairmanship of the atomic commission rotate each month. This means that Australian Foreign Minister Herbert Evatt, United Nations dynamo, now steps down as chairman.

The Australian is about the only member of the atomic commission who has Soviet Envoy Gromyko afraid of him. The other day Gromyko opposed a decision by majority rule, proposing a two-thirds vote instead. Evatt was on the Russian in a flash.

"It's not necessarily true, Mr. Gromyko, that the majority is always wrong," rebuked the Australian.

On another occasion, Gromyko was protesting against the Baruch plan. Instead he proposed immediate destruction of all existing atomic bombs and release of the atomic bomb secret by the U. S.

When Bernie Baruch, listening through his ear phone, heard this he became almost apoplectic. But before Baruch could speak, Evatt took on the Russian again. "You know, Mr. Gromyko," said Evatt, "not all the parliaments in the world would approve all the proposals that you make here. If they did, it would be a different world."

NO CONGRESSMAN IS GUILTY

The case of Andrew Jackson May and his backstage wire-pulling for war profiteers illustrates two defects in our politico-congressional system which sooner or later must be cured.

1. The almost - life - or - death power of the chairman of any congressional committee over executive branches of the government.

2. The fact that certain congressional districts are so dominated by political bosses that no matter what a man does in Washington he can't be defeated for reelection at home.

Congressman May comes from a district in the Kentucky mountains, many of whose people now regard him as something of a hero. They believe that Jack May can do no wrong. Prior to May's incumbency his district sent a Republican, John Langley, to congress. He landed in jail for bootlegging. But even after he had been convicted, Langley was re-elected to congress. And when it became clear that Langley could not adequately represent his district while behind bars, his loyal constituents sent his wife to congress.

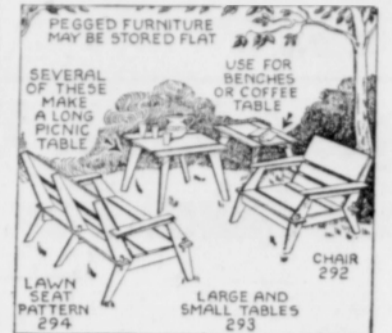
Actually, the great majority of congressmen are absolutely honest. Misguided and frequently wrong they may be, but most of them are honest.

BIKINI AFTERMATH

Air Chief General "Toughy" Spaatz is not happy over the air force's role in the first Bikini test. The bombardier and pilot, who dropped the bomb more than a thousand feet wide of the mark, are in the doghouse permanently. Both will be transferred to routine assignments. General Spaatz feels there is no excuse for their wide miss. . . . The British cabinet has decided to settle 250,000 anti-Russian members of the Polish army in England permanently.

Pegged Lawn Bench Is Easily Dismantled

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In Australia, turtle riding is a popular form of beach recreation. Bathers who sight swimming turtles usually pursue them and, approaching from behind, climb aboard a husky specimen.

The turtle never approves of this mounting technique, but a special rope halter keeps its head where any angry turtle's head belongs. Many skillful surf-board experts ride the turtles standing up—a feat requiring unusual skill and balance.

After a refreshing cruise, the turtle-riding enthusiast may decide to make soup of his old mount.

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Your kidneys are constantly filtering waste matter from the blood stream. But kidneys sometimes lag in their work—do not act as Nature intended—fail to remove impurities that, if retained, may poison the system and upset the whole body machinery.

Symptoms may be nagging backache, persistent headache, attacks of dizziness, getting up nights, swelling, puffiness under the eyes—a feeling of nervous anxiety and loss of pep and strength. Other signs of kidney or bladder disorder are sometimes burning, scanty or too frequent urination.

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