

Wider Vista of U. S. Policy Hinted

Nation May Be Embarking On Major 'Peacefare' Effort

By BAUKHAGE
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WASHINGTON.—It was a sizzling day in the capital. The town moved slowly like a lazy setter stretching and hunting the shade. Even the trees were half asleep. The air pushed hard against your brow and cheeks. The asphalt yielded to one's footfalls like brown grasses in a trodden field.

But we had to attend the regular press and radio conference of the secretary of state. Nature languished, but we knew the dispatch room was spluttering and sparking in sharp shudders with the news of an anguished world. America we sensed (but didn't understand quite how) was embarking on a colossal undertaking.

We walked down the air-cooled corridors of this new state department building which in wartime housed the brass hats of the high command. For those working for peace, it is a little depressing to pass those stark murals depicting war at its worst—or best, which is probably the same thing.

We were still interested in the implications of the statements on foreign policy. Each statement pulled a little wider the curtain on the theater which was neither a theater of war nor a theater of peace. Again and again the questions came in like darts. Efforts to pierce what we all felt was a screen concealing vistas much wider than the formal statements had yet revealed.

Was there a greater plan lying behind this program for aid to stricken countries—the program outlined by Secretary Marshall at Harvard? The question was asked although we knew that even if the secretary had a vision wider than ours, he could not reveal it—yet.

His answer, frank enough under the circumstances and not unexpected, was that if there was some further plan behind the one already revealed piecemeal, he was not going to talk about it.

He did reveal that Russia was not outside the pale of America's rehabilitation efforts—in theory at least. This was surprising to some who had studied President Truman's, Marshall's and Ben Cohen's most recent statements, and yet not so surprising as we recalled the nature of other talks, not public, which had hinted at larger things.

Is this a real effort to achieve a fair understanding with Russia? (Rapprochement is the diplomatic word.)

Words. I am wondering whether those unspoken words of the secretary of state could possibly describe the immensity of America's task, the task which is envisioned in the plans which Secretary Marshall "would not talk about."

I say this because I have learned a new word which, it seems to me, might bear within it a vital, a hopeful concept. Like Hauptmann, in "The Sunken Bell" when he said: "Tear! All the gladness, all the sorrow of the world sparkles within it."

Think of the dynamic quality of other words: Fame—Riches—Fair Play—Charity—Honor!

Building Plans Spur Inquiries

I don't know how interested you readers have been in my reports of what American ingenuity in different communities has done to make brick (and other building material for veterans' homes) without the straw (and readily available materials and labor) which we seem to lack in this otherwise rich and prosperous land of ours. But I can tell you that a lot of people who thought they could go and do likewise were heard from.

Yakima, Wash., whose achievement was the first described in this column, has had requests for information from 41 cities and 18 states. Nearby communities have sent people to Yakima to get first-hand information in person. Delegations have come to Yakima from Spokane, Seattle, Walla Walla, Ephrata, Pasco, Prosser, Ellensburg and Bremerton in Washington, and from Portland and Pendleton in Oregon.

The Salem plan, under which the city is subsidizing the conversion of extra space into new apartments, has drawn comment from a number of other Massachusetts towns. Gloucester already has copied part of the plan, and inquiries have come in from five other cities in the Bay state, and from state offices of Amvets, VFW and American Legion.

The veterans' co-operative which has been so successful in building moderate cost housing in Albuquerque, N. M., has been busy answering questions, too. Requests have come from Houston and Amarillo, Tex., from Syracuse, N. Y.; Chicopee, Mass.; Las Cruces, N. M.; Great Falls, Mont.; Erie, Pa.; Berkeley, Calif.; Oklahoma City, Detroit and elsewhere.

This new word of mine (which Marshall might have used, had he known it) is "peacefare."

It was used in a paragraph of a "letter to the editor" in the New York Times. The writer was A. M. Meerloo, wartime chief of the psychological branch of the Dutch war ministry and a member of the inter-Allied psychological study group in England. This is the paragraph:

"In those (wartime) days, when the success or failure of the war was at stake, psychologists and specialists in allied fields mobilized every weapon at their command to wage psychological warfare. Why cannot we now, when the peace is at stake, mobilize as carefully for psychological warfare?"

All right, there you have it—"peacefare." Not simply "psychological" warfare now, but economic and political and moral warfare. That is what I am hoping and praying the unspoken plan of Secretary Hull will embody.

A hard, long, expensive campaign. But one launched not against anybody but for everybody; a campaign to stop war to save humanity.

I say "everybody" because Marshall pointed out that he envisioned Russia as a part of this plan for the economic rehabilitation of Europe. Without this economic rehabilitation, there can be no rehabilitation of the body politic or the body (and soul) moral.

It must be a campaign to banish fear—fear of the atomic bomb which we possess for the moment; fear of the far more terrible weapons of destruction that any madman might put to use.

It is a campaign to banish the hate bred by fear. A campaign to nourish the body so that bodily things may be forgotten and man may pursue his spiritual destiny toward freedom, toward decency, toward a world where the major effort is dedication to the common good.

Nothing like this has ever been attempted before. Nations have loaned money for the purpose of earning a neat dividend or to wring some political advantage from an impecunious princeling or bankrupt government. Many fair promises and high sounding ideals have been written into covenants signed only to be broken when opportunism dictated a reverse English.

But here is something new and different. Something rather bright and idealistic has been added, what we hope is an honest effort to wage peace, to outroot the malice of the few, in the spirit of charity toward all.

It may be all eyewash, I know. I've seen a lot of castles fall. But my feeling is that if we get out of the scuffer's seat for a moment, if we drop the cynic pose and put peace into the national vocabulary, we may make it work.



DESIGNED FOR THE LIVING . . . First up the ramp to the new model paraplegic house, built as a special housing unit at Halloran hospital on Staten island, N. Y., is Louis Novelli of Machanqua, Pa. He is being wheeled by Michelle Parker, Red Cross nurse. Plans of the unit will be made available to any paraplegic who desires to build his own home.

NEWS REVIEW

New Farm Plan Studied; Fruit Crop Favorable

FARM CONTROLS: Opposition Grows

American Farm Bureau federation, powerful farm group which sponsored most of the agricultural legislation now in force, is considering recommendations for total abandonment of all farm price and crop controls by the government.

Edward A. O'Neal, president of the federation, said the board is not satisfied with the old AAA, established during President Roosevelt's first term. He revealed that a better agricultural program than the one the farmers now have is being sought. The AAA authorizes payments to farmers for reducing acreages in the basic crops of wheat, corn, cotton, rice, tobacco and peanuts.

Farmers from the North and Northwest have consistently opposed federal subsidies, and sentiment was reported to be growing among the producers for letting farm products seek their own price level as a permanent policy.

In the South, however, cotton and tobacco growers are known to be satisfied with the situation as it stands, favoring tight controls if prices start to slip.

One of the federation's economists predicted at least a 10-year period of good prices for farmers at levels slightly below those prevailing now.

But in a formal statement the committee added that if a report cannot be made ready by July 28, it will attempt to have a report prepared for congress when it convenes again.

Decision of the senate group was reached as the Very Rev. Edmund A. Walsh, a member of President Truman's universal military training commission, told a house committee that "the politburo in Moscow is not going to adjourn for the summer as its forces creep across Europe."

Father Walsh said that America is definitely on the Soviet agenda of conquest, and Russia will be ready to start her "shooting war" as soon as her atom bombs are in production.

TAX PLANS: To Think Over

Congress has been presented with four tax-revision plans to think over until it gets ready to have another go at the income tax problem.

The treasury department has given the house ways and means committee studies of four plans to equalize federal income taxes on married couples in all 48 states.

One of the proposals would save 4,900,000 couples three-quarters of a billion dollars annually by giving those living in 38 states the same "income splitting" rights now enjoyed by couples living in 10 states which have community property laws.

Secretary of the Treasury John Snyder has indicated that the administration considers the proposed plans to be among the "right kind" of changes in the tax setup.

WIDESPREAD INCREASES

Relief Cases Double 1945 Low

WASHINGTON.—As evidence that public assistance problems are becoming critical throughout the nation, American Public Welfare association reveals that general relief caseloads have reached a level more than 50 per cent above the low point of 1945.

Current unemployment is centered among unskilled workers who have been displaced by skilled veterans, according to the report. Marked increases in unemployed rolls have been reported from 22 major labor centers.

Minnesota's family relief caseload increased 35 per cent in 1946, highest current increase in cities is reported in Washington, where

FRUITED PLAINS: Apple Outlook Rosy

Despite a late spring and some frost damage in eastern fruit areas, prospects continue generally favorable for this year's crop of apples and other deciduous fruits, a department of agriculture report has disclosed.

The 1947 strawberry crop is estimated to be nearly a fourth larger than the 1946 crop, but still a tenth below average. However, the peach crop in 10 early southern states is expected to set a new record of more than 25 million bushels this year, the third successive large crop from those states.

In California, the sweet cherry crop of 29,000 tons is 15 per cent smaller than last year, but still 16 per cent larger than the 1938-44 average. California's 92,000-ton plum crop is slightly below 1946.

TRAINING: Hearings Begin

Although congress is scheduled to adjourn July 28, the senate armed services committee has voted to proceed with hearings on universal military training.

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THE two somewhat weird and woolly pennant races in the two big leagues belong to the factors that make sport what it is. This means its uncertainty, its various breaks of luck, its sudden and baffling swings. Without this uncertainty, sport would be a drab affair.

Several letters have come our way recently, asking us to explain why it is that the Cardinals, world's champions, have been in last place with the tail-end Giants of 1946 battling for the top? Why the pennant winning Red Sox of last year have been working their tongues out to get a toe hold in the first division? Why the Athletics, who finished 55 games behind last year, are only a few games from the top of the American league? Why Bob Feller and Hal Newhouse, the two star pitchers of the last few years, have taken so much punishment? Why Stan Musial, a normal .365 hitter, has been trying to pass .200? Why the Dodgers with so many erratic pitchers and only one .300 hitter—have been leading or challenging for the top? This fusillade of queries goes on and on.

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