

Washington Digest

Voluntary Help Can Save Europe's Dying Children

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator

WASHINGTON—What to do until the doctor comes. Pretty important to know that. Pretty important to be willing and able to do it. There are 230 million children in this world today who need first aid. The European recovery plan (E.C.A.) will help a lot of these children who have the stamina to outlive the ugly interim period when, dirty, almost naked, they must roam the countryside or live in cellars and hovels, hungry or starving.

But the E.C.A. is a huge undertaking, and like all great bodies, it moves slowly. Anyhow, its chief purpose is to provide the means to restore normal conditions to the stricken areas of Europe. It is largely indirect aid, not gauged to individual cases. Meanwhile thousands upon thousands of these children will die. Some will be saved by individual help.

your help. To make that help effective the many humanitarian organizations which seek to save as many young lives as possible have been merged into one great Crusade for Children. Local groups are organizing in the cities. In the rural districts, the Farm Grange, Farm Bureau federation, Farmers' Union, Council for Farm Cooperatives, U.S. department of agriculture and other groups are furthering the movement.

To anyone who has seen this tortured young generation, the effect is as staggering as the sight of a battlefield. To a young soldier, there is no shock like the sight of your first dead comrade. That still form, wearing the same uniform you wear, lying crushed against the earth. To me, the shock of the sight of European children moving upon them was a terrible thing too.

I can remember getting off a train in what once had been one of the great railway stations of Europe—rubble ground into black mud, the ghastly smell of those buried deep under the foundations of ruined homes and shelters. Military police, hardened to the sights around them, walked back and forth. In the sinister shadows of the ruins the ghostly movement of little wraiths slipping in and out of sight, bent on any mission, no matter how fair or foul, that would win some chocolate, a piece of K-ration, a cigarette that might be traded for some bit of food.

No matter what the sins of the fathers, they could not be great enough to justify the punishment inflicted on these children. There is only one way their bodies and their souls can be saved. That is through the groups which are supported by individual donations, until economic life is restored to a degree of normalcy when society can be rebuilt, broken homes mended and the institutions which can care for the homeless put into operation as a part of a healthy community existence.

Government aid, like E.C.A., cannot establish direct contact with the individual. It is a matter of arrangements drawn up between nations. It means dollar credits which make it possible for the receiving nations to buy supplies.

Some of this money, of course, goes into food. But it takes time for the machinery to get into operation, and even after it is in operation, it is inadequate to satisfy the needs of the whole people. Much of the assistance goes into material things such as the reconstruction of factories, replacement and modernization of tools, machinery and agricultural supplies.

Frequently, supplies of such simple things as rakes and shovels are



This tiny child, long in need of medical aid, is now in a hospital supported by the U.N. International Children's Emergency Fund. Funds are being raised through the Crusade for Children of American Overseas Aid-United Nations Appeal for Children.

so short that farms can't be worked until they are furnished. Later they will be manufactured. But that means machinery for the factories comes first.

Crusade for Children is a well-organized private effort which has the backing and cooperation of the United Nations, and the sponsorship and approval of the government from the President down.

It provides direct citizen-to-citizen aid which is administered carefully with experienced personnel on the scene — personnel which cuts red tape and is free from many of the rules, regulations and restrictions which a government necessarily must employ. As a matter of fact, when the European recovery plan was first drawn up, it was contemplated that voluntary private aid would supplement it.

As an example of the type of thing Crusade for Children is designed to further: In Europe at present, there are some 50,000 distributing points, such as schools, child clinics and hospitals serviced by the International Children's Emergency Fund of the United Nations.

At schools and child centers, particularly through dried milk, ICEF makes a supplementary contribution to the noon meal, which costs the fund about three and a half cents per child. The entire meal



An Austrian orphan waits on snow-covered steps for the daily meal provided for him by the United Nations' International Children's Emergency Fund. He is one of millions who would starve without this vital service.

costs only seven cents per child. One hundred dollars provides 7,500 hungry, undernourished children one glass of milk each at every meal. But because of limited funds, ICEF is feeding only four million of Europe's 30 million hungry children.

Here are some of the sickening facts, carefully collected and checked by United Nations authorities:

Infant mortality in Europe and Asia has jumped from 40 deaths per 1,000 live births to as high as 330 deaths per 1,000—compared with the United States rate of 38.3 per 1,000.

Tuberculosis has doubled in many areas, especially among children. Lack of food has vastly increased such diseases as rickets, scurvy and pellagra.

Physical examinations in one zone (of Europe) showed that boys 14 years of age are three inches shorter than boys of the same age four years ago. This is the direct result of malnutrition.

In some areas half the physicians were killed; teachers, nurses and those trained in child care are lacking.

I have sat in the office of a German physician—one room left livable in a bombed house, windows boarded up to replace the smashed glass, operating room, consultation office, bedroom, living room, all together with an endless line of patients with nothing to pay for the doctor's services which would buy anything for the doctor. That doctor told me that because of the hopeless fate of children, abortions were the rule rather than the exception, with sickness and death as the result.

Not the government, but private, voluntary agencies can alleviate these conditions. One may feel that Europe has brought much of its anguish upon itself, but it is not the children who are to blame.

As Secretary of State Marshall said: "Voluntary aid supplements the general relief which only governments can provide. It affords the things and services, including spiritual comfort, needed by the weakest of the war victims."

Secretary of State Marshall has warned South American countries that there will be no Marshall Plan for them. It appears that they either must go out and obtain private financing or work up a good Communist threat to share in Uncle Sam's largesse.

A modern president spends more effort trying to get what he wants into the papers and on the air than in finding out what's there already.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

Low-Cost Housing Bill

FOUR MEN deserve chief credit for senate passage of the Taft-Ellender-Wagner bill, which will provide low-cost public housing for an estimated 500,000 families in the next five years. They are: G.O.P. Senators Charles Tobey of New Hampshire, Co-Author Bob Taft of Ohio, Ralph Flanders of Vermont and Democrat John Sparkman of Alabama.

Only insiders know how tirelessly Toby worked to get the housing measure out of the banking and currency committee, which he heads. Almost equal credit belongs to Flanders, who chairmanned the sub-committee, and who teamed with Taft in blocking last-minute efforts by the real estate lobby to gut the legislation.

Sparkman is a pillar of strength on the Democratic side. So was South Carolina's Burnet Maybank, who did yeoman service lining up Democratic support both in committee and on the floor. Democrats Alben Barkley of Kentucky, senate minority leader, and Scott Lucas of Illinois also struck some potent blows for war vets and others affected by the housing shortage during the floor fight.

On the "debit" side, the colors of the real estate lobby were carried by G.O.P. Senators Joe McCarthy of Wisconsin and Harry Cain of Washington. Both battled to the last against the long-range public housing program. G.O.P. Sen. James K. Eastland of Mississippi and Spessard Holland of Florida, Democrat, gave them vigorous support.

Major house opponents of the housing bill are Banking and Currency Chairman Jesse Wolcott of Michigan, who has persistently blocked house action, together with Charles Fletcher of San Diego, Calif.

Backstage in Italy

NOW THAT THE ITALIAN elections are over, some of the backstage developments can be told.

One factor which influenced Italian votes was the state department's offer to return Trieste to Italy—an offer which the Russians eventually turned down.

What wasn't known was that Tito had been planning to make exactly the same offer himself—on behalf of Russia. But U. S. intelligence services picked up this fact, and we beat Tito to it. This was some of the fastest footwork the state department has put across in some time.

Another factor was Ambassador Dunn's insistence that the American fleet get out of Italian waters. Some of the military men around the White House didn't like this advice, thought the fleet should remain. But Dunn argued that its presence gave political ammunition to the Communists. He was right. The fleet was withdrawn, and the Communists had to pipe down.

One thing which nearly upset the appellate was the amendment by Congressman O'Konski of Wisconsin making Marshall plan money available to Spain. Until this was reversed in the senate, it had a bad back-fire in Italy.

Alien Smuggling

THE CLOAK - AND - DAGGER sleuthing of a Pennsylvania congressman soon may blow the lid off a notorious racket—smuggling aliens into the U. S.

Congressman John McDowell of Wilkesburg, Pa., has been making personal trips to Panama and Mexico tracking down the border-hopping of Communist spies, war criminals and other undesirables. He has uncovered organized rings that smuggle political riff-raff into the United States for a fee, often with political string-pulling.

For some time, McDowell has wondered how the dregs of Europe could get into the United States, while deserving refugees were barred.

Worst hole in the dike, he found, was Windsor on the Canadian border. A parade of notorious Europeans passed right under official noses, armed with hand-out visitors' permits, good for only six months. Once on the inside, however, it was a simple matter to get the visas extended.

Other undesirables took a less legal route, secretly flew across the border without any papers. In one case, a Frenchman brought a load of Communists and ex-Nazis across the Atlantic in the same boat.

McDowell predicts that his investigation will shock the country when it becomes public. The state and justice departments already have asked to see the secret testimony of one border official, U. S. Consul John Bankhead at Windsor.

After word leaked out that Bankhead had talked to McDowell, he received a bottle of poisoned whisky. Later a mysterious assailant fired two shots at him and fled. McDowell has called upon the justice department to protect Bankhead's life.

As a result of McDowell's investigation, the United States has closed both borders, except for persons with overwhelming proof of their business in this country.

Farm Topics

Beetle Is Voracious Enemy of Potatoes

Dusting or Spraying Will Control Menace

Ranking as the most serious threat to the grower of potatoes and other vegetables is the Colorado potato beetle, which is prevalent throughout many areas of the country.

The beetle is yellowish in color, stout bodied, about two-fifths of an inch in length and with wing covers bearing 10 longitudinal stripes. The larva or "slug" is soft-bodied, reddish in color and reaches a maximum size of about three-fifths of an inch in length. Late in June when the potato plants begin to appear above ground, the beetles



attack the foliage and lay their orange-colored eggs on the under side of the leaves.

The eggs hatch in a few days into voracious larvae which, after feeding for about 10 days, leave the plants and enter the soil to complete their development. They emerge as adult beetles by the latter part of July. A second brood is produced in August and adults of this generation winter in the soil. Both the larvae and adults are severe defoliators of the plants.

To rid the potatoes, tomatoes, egg plants, peppers, ground cherries and cabbage plants of the Colorado potato beetle, dust or spray with paris green, calcium arsenate or cryolite. Hand picking of the beetles and crushing of the egg masses is effective if done often.

Barn Cleaners



Barn cleaners should have all mechanical parts, of simple design, yet sturdy and easy to control. It is possible to thoroughly clean the average dairy barn by use of mechanical barn cleaners. A clean barn is the first requisite for clean and healthy cows. Installation of a mechanical cleaner, such as illustrated above, will do away with much of the drudgery of this farm operation.

Insects Launch Early Attack on Vegetables

With the first reasonably warm days, insects will make their advent. These will be the green worm and lice on cabbage and the Colorado beetles and black fleabeetles on potatoes.

The cabbage green worm comes shortly in the wake of the familiar white-and-yellow "butterflies" that go bobbing about, dropping eggs as they touch the leaves of the cabbage. This chewing insect is killed by poison; not one of the arsenates, however, but the safe insecticide, rotenone. The best way is dusting, with a strength of three-fourths of 1 per cent of rotenone, as most prepared dusts have. The first application should be made when the "butterflies" first come, then repeated once or twice ten days apart.

Sugar Beets Considered Good Crop for Dairymen

The sugar beet is an important cash crop, according to University of Wisconsin. Years of extensive production prove that the crop blends in well with dairy farming, makes good use of farm manure and leaves the soil loose and friable.

Beets seldom are damaged by either late spring or early fall frosts. There are few crops that leave the soil in as good condition. The tops are very valuable feed for cattle and sheep. They may be pastured, partially cured and put into trench silos, or used as silage.

Evergreen Windbreak Protects Farmstead

When planning the layout for improving the farmstead include a good evergreen windbreak to provide protection from prevailing winds. Plant the windbreak back about 150 feet from the buildings that are to be protected. As for depth of the windbreak, one row is good, two rows better and three rows will give still more protection. Space the trees about 18 feet apart.

Star Dust

STAGE SCREEN RADIO
By INEZ GERHARD

IN "LETTER From an Unknown Woman," Joan Fontaine has the type of role most actresses yearn to play. As a young girl she falls in love with a man who returns her love but soon forgets her. Later in life they meet and fall in love again. Sister Olivia de Havilland won an Oscar in "To Each His Own" in a somewhat similar part. This pic-



JOAN FONTAINE

ture does not give Miss Fontaine much scope for her talents, but it does give her an opportunity to wear beautiful clothes and play opposite the new French sensation, Louis Jourdan. Warning—there's a sad ending, she dies, he will soon.

Marjorie Hughes, vocalist on Frankie Carle's new radio show, "Carle Comes Calling," has to be a stand-out as a singer, because she is Frankie's daughter. Too many people would be eager to say that's the reason she got the job if she didn't prove at every performance that she's deserving of it. Just as many are cheering her return to the air after a serious illness.

Something new in cinema fights: Robert Ryan's battle with Michael Harvey in RKO's "Berlin Express" takes place in the interior of a beer vat. Director Jacques Tourneur had it shot by three cameras, so there would be no re-takes.

Arthur Patrick Lake, five-year-old son of Arthur (Dagwood) Lake of the Sunday CBS "Blondie" show, has been placed under contract to his father's film producing company and will have a part in Lake's next film, "White Devils."

Robert Shaw's chorus of 30 professional voices will take over for Bergen and McCarthy this summer. Although Shaw is only 31, he has conducted everything from ballads to Brahms and is one of the foremost choral conductors in the country.

Harold Peary, "The Great Gildersleeve," had to cancel his scheduled personal appearance tour of the country. So many of the principals of the cast had summer commitments that he couldn't assemble the right group.

Priscilla Lane, youngest of the three Lane sisters of movie fame, returns to the screen after a year and a half to play the feminine lead in RKO's "Bodyguard," opposite Lawrence Tierney. She retired in 1944 when she married, but returned briefly to play the lead in "Fun on a Weekend" in 1936 when her son was five months old. "Bodyguard" is directed by Richard Fleischer.

Ed Byron, producer, director and co-author of "Mr. District Attorney" and "Adventure with Christopher Wells," still is amazing the radio world by his dramatization of events that make headlines either simultaneously or a few days later. Byron credits his scoops to his knowledge of crimes and the ways of criminals. He has kept a file of newspaper crime stories for 10 years.

Odds and Ends . . . Jimmie Durante will not have the same sponsor next season, according to the latest report . . . Mark Warnow's return to "Sound-Off" is very indefinite, because of ill health . . . Arnold Moss ("Road of Life" and "Young Dr. Malone") is called the "educated actor" by his colleagues. He has a B. A. in Latin and Greek, M. A. in Old French, Ph. D. in "The Art of Acting" . . . That palomino you'll see ridden through a ballroom in "The Great Gatsby" is a veteran of "California," "The Virginian" and "Incendiary Blonde" . . . "Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts" will be absent from the air from June 21 to August 23.

NBC interviewed 3,074 persons in 1947; 190 passed these auditions, 26 were heard on the air. Robert Adams, talent auditor of NBC, says experience is essential; amateurs almost never make the grade. And Elaine Rost, ("Inza" on "The Adventures of Frank Merriwell") says the best way to get dramatic experience is singing with a band. She did it for 18 months, studying acting meanwhile, then came to New York and landed on "Just Plain Bill."

ASK ME ANOTHER?

A General Quiz

THE QUESTIONS

1. When was the "Star Spangled Banner" officially adopted as our national anthem?
2. What is the fastest speed ever reached by a human being under his own power?
3. Where did the word "khaki" originate?
4. When is the last veteran of World War II expected to die?
5. How long will the U. S. coal supply last if used at the present rate?
6. How big was Tom Thumb?

THE ANSWERS

1. March 3, 1931, by an act of Congress.
2. 108.92 miles per hour which Alfred LeTourneur attained on a bicycle behind a wind-shielding motorcar at Bakersfield, California, May 7, 1941.
3. India. It means earthlike.
4. By 2030. The last World War I, yet by 1905.
5. For the next 1500 years.
6. Tom Thumb stood three feet four inches when fully grown. He weighed seventy pounds.

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