

# Washington Digest

## Marshall Plan Has Halted The Spread of Communism

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WASHINGTON.—When this country was struggling into early manhood, it was clear to our statesmen that if the tree of western democracy were to flourish and bring forth fruit in its season, it would have to be shielded from foreign interference.

The Monroe doctrine was enunciated. It was defensive, negative rather than positive; it simply said to the world: hold what you have, but take no more. It was a large order for a young nation. It covered a lot of territory. It worked.

The world grew older and smaller. A new, powerful anti-democratic force arose. American leaders decided that if the tree we had planted, now in full fruit, were to continue to live and flourish, the ramparts we watched would have to embrace and protect our friends whose liberties were threatened even more immediately than our own.



The Marshall plan was enunciated in June of 1947. After thorough debate in congress, it finally was given sines on June 28 of this year.

What is the score today? Mere announcement of the idea is credited with checking Red revolution in Italy, with blocking the tide of Communist aggression in western Europe.

Now, after only seven months of functioning, I believe that objective observers will admit with Economic Cooperation Administrator Paul Hoffman, a hard-headed businessman, that "it has not only stopped the march of Communism, but has turned the tide in the opposite direction." Only recently, Yugoslavia drew up agreements for trade with western Europe, thus smashing one hole in the iron curtain.

The ECA is just what it is labeled—"enlightened self-interest." To a chaotic and jittery Europe, it helped to bring: a 25 per cent increase in agricultural production, over the previous year; industrial production above the pre-war level of 1938; relaxation of inflationary pressures in all the ERP countries except France and Greece.

Now what? To convince our people that the game is worth the candle, that whatever the cost, this is the first bloodless war ever fought, that it is cheap insurance against a shooting war.

To convince congress that the charges, among others, that ECA is not being efficiently operated, that big business is being favored and little business slighted are unjust, or if the charges are true, correct them.

### To Speak Or Not To Speak

Before congress convened, Washington was enjoying its usual influx of national conventions, among them two groups concerned with the oral cavity—the dentists and the speech-teachers of the nation. Although I was invited to attend sessions of both groups, I exercised my jaws at only one—the speech instructors' meeting.

The job of the speech instructor is, of course, to get the learners to use words to express ideas—a difficult task. Not that the raw material is lacking. The dictionary is full of words, and the air is thick with ideas. More difficult is getting the words out of the dictionary and the ideas out of the air into the learners' heads.

The next step is to get the learner to understand the meaning of the words he uses and then to translate them into ideas which somebody else can understand—aye!—there's the 'rub!

Consequently the speech instructors have not only a difficult, but a hazardous profession. Leaving a man alone with a lot of words is like leaving him in a laboratory with a lot of breakable atoms.

We know from recent reports that some of the scientists working with atomic energy go blind.

It's a wonder to me that more speech instructors don't go deaf.

I suppose speech teachers also teach that most useful corollary art—the use of words to conceal one's meaning. It is one I practice ardently.

After a decade and a half of broadcasting, most of my listeners haven't the slightest idea of what my politics are.

One point which was stressed at the speech conference was that the competition for power which ends in strife—domestic, industrial, international—is due, chiefly to improper communication. I agree with that assumption.

There is no excuse for this in this day and age. I was different when Cro-Magnon appeared at the door

of a Neanderthal cave in the year 23,000 B. C.—the mastodon on which he was riding having broken a tusk or an axle or something—and all the poor man wanted was to borrow an extra tusk. But since the Cro-Magnon was unable to communicate his perfectly peaceful desire, and before he could present his driver's license or his membership card in the loyal order of moose, for identity, the Neanderthal, after snoring his wife in the corner and calling his dogs, would step out and welcome the unfortunate visitor with a hearty wallop on the cranium.

The result was probably a war between the Neanderthals and the Cro-Magnons in which the Neanderthal had a fifty-fifty chance of eating Cro.

Even if the innocent visitor had been able to grunt without mispronouncing his consonants and lacerating his labials, and even if his inhospitable host had listened to him, that host probably could not have digested his idea—as easily, at least as he later digested him.

We have words to work with, and thus are able to fashion the tools of communication. But unless the speech teachers (and all teachers) furnish the skills for the use of those words, the effort is in vain.

Unless the idea behind what we believe in can be communicated, (and it can't be, unless we agree on the meaning of words) it withers on the vine.

Thus, the speech teacher must teach his pupils not only the medium of communication, but the means of using it—and convince them it has concrete value.

In the field of labor relations at home, or international understanding abroad, we never can hope to achieve a real bulwark for democracy unless a mental contact can be made, communications established—words and ideas joined so that they have a universal meaning and the message they convey can be digested.

As Eric Peterson, general secretary-treasurer of the International Association of Machinists, put it: "The need for better lines of communication between labor and management, and between the conciliator and disputing parties is a distinct challenge. For basically, the failure of these two groups to iron out their disputes without ill-will or violence is part and parcel of the broader problem of discord which plagues the world today in its quest for peace."

Peterson went on to say that a starting point for speech teachers might be to pay less attention to Demosthenes who became a great orator by practicing shouting until he could be heard above the roaring of the waves, and a little more to developing men whose voices may not be loud, but whose skillful persuasion can be heard above the misunderstanding in men's hearts.

Speaking for management at the conference, Robert Chester Smith, director of industrial and personnel relations for the Pullman Standard Car Manufacturing company of Chicago, expressed his belief that each of the three members of the industrial triumvirate—the investor, the manager and the laboring man—"has been and continues to be too short sighted. Each has been looking at the problem through its own specially-conditioned glasses, and has been unable to see either upward, downward or sideways, and unfortunately not very far ahead."

John Q. Jennings, head of Industrial Relations for the Singer Manufacturing company, told an interesting story about how New York's great tugboat dispute last winter had been settled. The negotiations had dragged on for hours until well after midnight. Management and union men had basically agreed on the point at issue, but whenever they tried to phrase the agreement on paper, they got entangled in a maze of complicated terminology.

Shortly after 1 a. m., one of the negotiators happened to say in simple language what everyone else was trying to say in technical language. Somebody had a brilliant idea:

"Why not put it just that way in the contract?" They did—a two-sentence paragraph in ordinary rank and file English was inserted—a departure Jennings described as something brand-new in union contracts.



## Good Feed, Care Mean Long-Wearing Alfalfa Well-Nourished Plants Resist Winter Killing

A deep, long-wearing carpet of alfalfa on rolling fields is a matter of liming, keeping the soil's dinner pail well filled with phosphate and potash and following pasture management methods that prevent premature "baldness."



Alfalfa will have a long life if it is well fed and cared for. When the plants are well nourished they are hardier and better able to resist diseases and winter killing. They will anchor their roots firmer and establish healthier, thicker growth above ground.

Like other deep-rooted legumes, alfalfa takes large helpings of phosphate and potash out of the soil. Agronomists recommend that heavy amounts of fertilizer carrying these nutrients be applied at the time of seeding.

The life of alfalfa can be prolonged and yields increased by top-dressing with phosphate or potash in the spring or fall. Tests at state agricultural experiment stations have shown that applications of 300 to 600 pounds or more per acre have been beneficial.

Good pasture management means going easy on grazing until stands are well established. It is wise to follow a rotation plan so cows will move from one field to another, before the pasture is grazed down to the ground. By this system the pasture will have a chance to renew itself while cows are on other fields.

### Reverse Irrigation

When it comes to moisture some farmers have a two-fold problem. For occasionally it is necessary to remove excess moisture from a wet part of a farm while irrigating adjoining dry area at the same time. Such actually is the case on a Virginia farm.

The story behind this southern farmer's problem is simple: His irrigated land was producing satisfactorily—but the low, wet acreage adjacent to it was wholly unproductive. The solution to making both areas equally productive also proved simple. Here's what was done:

No change was made in the irrigation serving the high, dry land. The low land, however, received an "irrigation in reverse" treatment.



First of all a ditch was dug across the area so that the excess moisture would drain into it. Then a vertical type centrifugal pump, as shown in the accompanying illustration, was located at the roadside end of the ditch. With this arrangement, the farmer got practically automatic results.

Drainage from the low land is pumped out as rapidly as it accumulates in the ditch. But the moisture isn't wasted. It flows into a creek which supplies water needed for the more orthodox irrigation system serving the farmer's drier acres. Now, he reports, the formerly neglected wet land is producing on a par with the irrigated acres.

### Lower Support Prices, Goals Set for Potatoes

Lower support prices and lower goals for 1949 early potatoes have been announced by the U. S. department of agriculture.

Agriculture Secretary Charles F. Brannan said the low parity price had been set with extreme reluctance, and should not be regarded as a precedent for other commodities. The goal for 1949, as usual, will be broken down to counties and individual farms.



## Winning System Player

THERE HAVE been a numberless, unlimited number of horse players who had systems that could beat the races.

Unfortunately, those who brought their systems to me were a trifle ragged and hungry. They hadn't eaten much lately. Naturally, this state of affairs doesn't breed too much confidence in the party of the second part.

They have an exception around Santa Anita. I hope he is still there. He is the only man I know who has consistently beaten the races for 35 years.

Grantland Rice "At least," he told me last winter, "I've had 34 winning years and only one losing year."

Old-timers will know him, famous from Belmont to Santa Anita. He was a \$100,000-a-year winner around New York in the days of Arnold Rothstein. Even in the pre-Rothstein days.

He had an element of what I consider raw luck—except when I win—worked out to a fair science. Here are parts of his winning system:

1. THE HORSE—his breeding, opposition, etc.
2. THE TRAINER and the owner—Did they have winning stables?
3. THE JOCKEY—especially certain jockeys on certain horses.
4. THE WEIGHT—an important factor.
5. TRACK conditions—fast or muddy.
6. POST position—on certain tracks. Inside for some, outside for others.

7. A STUDY of the horse's last three races—what happened? What horses beat him? What horse did he beat? Did he have good or bad racing luck?

8. THE DISTANCE—another important factor. Six furlongs? A mile? A mile-and-a-quarter? He likes speed horses for longer distances. So does Julie Fink, one of the Speed Boys. Speed horses are no good in shorter races where they quit. They're better horses in longer races.

You can't win 34 out of 35 years on luck. I've found that out. My system is to play nothing better than 10-to-1 shots—20-to-1 preferred. Most 8-to-5 favorites should be 4 to 1 anyhow. Or maybe longer.

### Concerning Thoroughbreds

A thoroughbred race horse is a peculiar animal. He is twice as big as a lion or a tiger. He can outrun both. His average weight is around 1,100 pounds.

He is one of the finest-looking animals in the animal kingdom. Yet he isn't as smart as a cow. A cow gets hooked up in a barbed wire fence, remains still and moos plaintively until help arrives. Not the thoroughbred. He tears himself apart trying to get loose.

A horse is the toughest animal to teach anything—far in back of the chimpanzee, gibbon monkey, ape, elephant, dog, seal, etc. We got our dope some time ago from the American Natural History museum, the Bronx zoo, Ray Ditmars, Dr. Hornaday and Johnny Kieran.

Also the thoroughbred is about as tough as a sick rabbit. Blow on him—and he withers. We barely squeezed the horse into the 10th spot.

Both Dev Milburn and Tommy Hitchcock used to tell me how dumb polo ponies were. But a thoroughbred is usually dead game—not always—fast and something to look at.

I have never seen a good-looking thoroughbred finish second or third when I was betting on him to win. Certain established liars will tell you I am wrong. You don't have to believe them.

You can imagine how Citation looked to his backers at Laurel last spring when he was beaten by Saggy at 1 to 10.

Santa Anita and Hollywood are both run with a certain touch and precision that New York lacks. Dr. Charles Strub is on hand early. So are Gwin Wilson, Hugh Blue and other officials. They are usually in at least hours before the first race is run.

But the important part is that Santa Anita has a full share of \$100,000, \$50,000 and \$10,000 races all set up to lure horse-owners trying to break even. Citation practically blew \$200,000 in getting injured in a push-over race.

I had hoped he would be the exception. Man O War was withdrawn because there were signs of leg trouble—Count Fleet broke down—now the brilliant Citation has to be retired in the middle of Fort Knox and the mint.

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## ASK ME ANOTHER? A General Quiz

- ### The Questions
1. How many signers of the Declaration of Independence became President of the United States?
  2. How fast does light travel?
  3. Where would you expect to find a sprout?
  4. How much did sport fans spend for admission to college football games during 1947?
  5. Who had the shortest term as President of the United States?
  6. Which state touches only one other state?
  7. How much should a normal baby gain in weight during its first year?
  8. How many persons were employed by the munitions industry in the U. S. at the peak of employment during World War II?
  9. Where would you go to dig a divot?
  10. Philadelphia was the fifth ranking ocean port in the U. S. in 1942, what was its rank in 1947?

- ### The Answers
1. Two (Jefferson and John Adams).
  2. Approximately 186,000 miles per second.
  3. In a tackle box—it is a type of fish hook.
  4. Approximately \$88,000,000.
  5. William Henry Harrison who died of pneumonia exactly one month after his inauguration.
  6. Maine—cut off from the other states by New Hampshire.
  7. A normal baby should treble its weight at birth by its first birthday.
  8. 10,300,000.
  9. To a golf course.
  10. Second.

## Tooth Paste Tube Yields To Warm Water Treatment

When the top of the tooth paste tube has been left off and the contents are hard, don't squeeze it unless you want to punch holes elsewhere. Try holding the tube under warm water for a minute. This will soften the paste and cause it to come out of the top once more.

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