

Economic Highlights---

While attention in this country has been centered on domestic politics, history-making events are occurring in Europe. In Berlin the cold war has reached fantastic proportions with the Russians stubbornly attempting to starve out the British and American zone by blockading land routes into that city, while the latter seek to circumvent the Russians by establishing what is probably the world's greatest and most costly air freight system. If the western sector of Berlin and its nearly two million inhabitants is to survive without Russian supplies, a minimum of 6,000 tons of food and other necessities must be shipped in by air each day. Two thousand tons of coal alone are needed at an estimated delivery cost of sixty dollars a ton. The aim of the Western powers is to get 400 cargo planes in operation. From all accounts however, the Berlin impasse is not likely to lead to armed conflict. In the words of the U.S. News, "Neither side is willing to cross the border line leading to war, but further crises just short of war lie ahead for Berlin."

In another sector of Europe, Yugoslavia's rebellion against Moscow is the first evidence that the new communist empire is not all harmonious. For the first time there are indications that the Marshall plan may be beginning to pay off. The countries of the western block are definitely showing signs of revival. The people are going back to work. Under the stimulus of at least nominal opportunity for free enterprise, industries are expanding, and commerce is beginning to move. Dollars from the United States may be helping. Yugoslavia, under the leadership of Marshal Tito, is showing signs of a desire to free itself from the grip of Russian dictatorship, and turn to the West for economic aid that Russia cannot provide. Yugoslavia is not the only trouble spot in the Russian satellite system. Bulgaria and Albania have been invited to join Yugoslavia in a Balkan federation to resist Soviet pressure. Hungary and Rumania, former Axis satellites still occupied by Soviet troops, are bitter of Russian seizure of property. Early in June the communists controlled government of Rumania under a so-called program of Nationalization, confiscated without indemnity to owners most of the industries in Rumania, including ore and oil refineries, iron and heavy industries, rolling mill industries, metallurgical plants, technical enterprises, all transport and electric enterprises, coal companies, natural gas companies, distilleries and many others. Even candy and chocolate factories were seized.

It is too soon to get overly optimistic, but at least the myth of

Kremlin infallibility is punctured. The people of Eastern Europe are growing increasingly restive. The inherent weaknesses of the slave state are beginning to appear in the Russian satellite countries just as they appeared in nations compelled to live under the "protective custody" of the Nazi terror. The feeling is growing that Russia will have her hands too full in Eastern Europe to make serious trouble elsewhere for some time to come.

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Those looking forward to a dramatic overnight housecleaning of political appointees, with hundreds of thousands of Federal jobs opening up for faithful party followers in the event of a Republican victory in November, are due to be disappointed. Most of the 2,061,000 jobholders in the Federal government now drawing an aggregate salary of \$5,700,000,000 are protected by civil service. Overnight mass firing of Federal employees with rehiring on a political basis is the last thing to expect from a Dewey administration, on the basis of the record in New York. Postal employees account for 489,000 Federal workers. "Blue collar workers" in arsenals, shipyards, naval stations and similar activities number around 471,000. Overseas employees number above 230,000. These three groups number over a million and will remain substantially the same regardless of any change in national administration. If the next administration is seriously economy minded the force of public employees may be curtailed to some extent through abolishment or revamping of existing Federal agencies. This would not create new jobs.

Political jobs as such, according to one estimate, may amount to less

IT NEVER FAILS



than one half of 1 per cent of the payroll at this time. That gives some idea of the job turnover that may follow immediately with a change of administration. One half of 1 per cent would involve 10,000 jobs inside the United States.



By Charles L. Egenroad

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Dear Alben (Senator Alben W. Barkley, that is): Washington Week heard your stirring, if somewhat incomplete, keynote address Monday, night. Since you mentioned that time did not permit you to elucidate all of the points of the New Deal, we feel inclined to make this column available for that purpose.

Naturally, you claimed the praises for the New Deal and voiced the criticisms of the Republicans. No one expected otherwise.

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The Debunker

BY JOHN HARVEY FURRAY PH.D.

SPANISH OMELET IS NOT SPANISH



Many of the names we give to foods are mistakes. Spanish omelets are unknown in Spain. They are a new-world creation and were named because some of the ingredients are used by Spanish-speaking people. Another common misnomer is "Russian dressing," which is not known in Russia, and has nothing to do with anything Russian. These will have to join the long list of mistaken names by the side of French-fried potatoes, Italian spaghetti and Irish stew.

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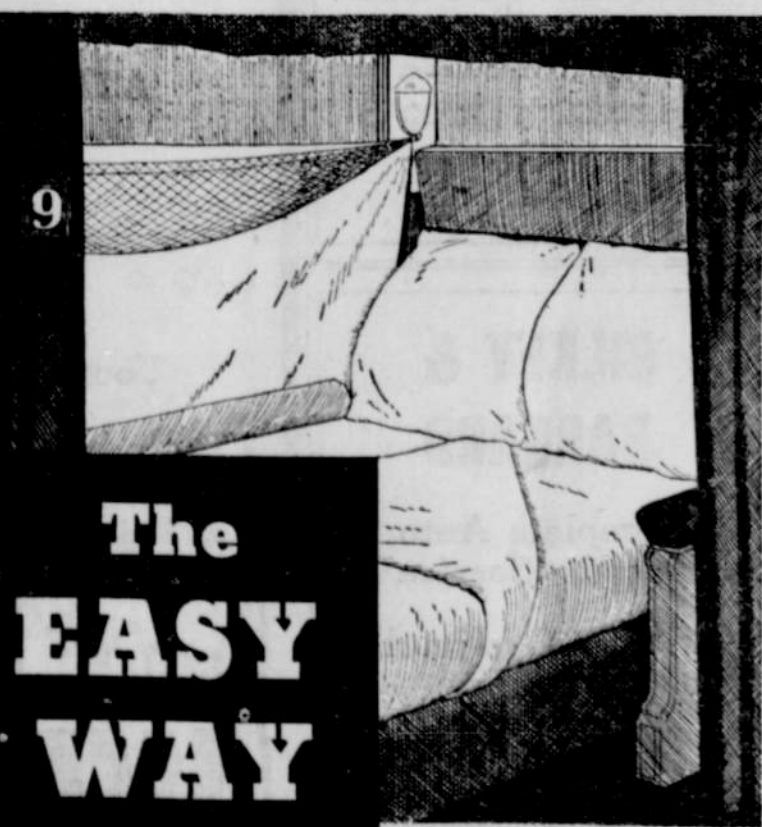
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he claimed Russia was violating.

This report of the violations was filed last June 2, and we note with interest that Mr. Truman, who sat in the final conference at Potsdam without advantage of bipartisan alibi, does not accuse the Russians of violation of the rights to a corridor into Berlin.

You see, Dear Alben, the whole international scheme of the New Deal only became a bipartisan proposition AFTER it became a mess.

Another item or two you did not have time to clarify: that the New Deal still had 11 million unemployed after eight years of breathing into the nostrils of industry; that the national debt was far from wholly inherited from the war; that a couple of the best recovery ideas of which you boasted were Republican ideas, and that it was Truman who vetoed the tax-reduction and Taft-Hartley bills.

It was obvious that your hour and 13 minutes was all too insufficient, Dear Alben, like you say. At

the finish, you had covered only the records of the two Presidents who last led us into hateful war, plus the single casual mention by name of the current President and political issue—a Mr. Truman.

Why, bless you, Dear Alben, that hour and 13 minutes was only an introduction, wasn't it?

Sincerely,

WASHINGTON WEEK

Our attempts to persuade Italy to adopt the American way of life succeeded better than anybody expected. The Italians have chosen a dark horse for President.—Howard Brubaker in the New Yorker.

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