

U. S. Farmer Will Beat Communism

American Food Can Halt Chaos Threatening Europe

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

WASHINGTON.—The American farmer is going to lick communism!

That's what your worried capital is saying today. American representatives abroad and at home are submitting one report after another which register gains in the Soviet battle to build a Communist world out of chaos.

The reports come in from Prague, from Belgrade, from Sofia, from Budapest, showing how each day the iron grip of the Russian-dominated secret police is gradually choking off democracy in the little countries. Reports from Rome tell us of a planned coup of the Moscow-directed Communist party in Italy to overthrow the government there. The open record of the meetings of the United Nations reveals the consistent attempt of the Russian delegation to block the efforts of the struggling, still-free governments in Greece and France.

Some American political leaders still look askance at the huge program of aid to western Europe envisioned in the Marshall plan. Part of the country seems unsympathetic, or at least indifferent, toward the effort to win the "cold war" against Russia with purely economic weapons, because it means sacrifices on the part of the American citizen. Some officials in the administration, supporters of the Marshall plan in congress, and a few diplomats at home and abroad, are frightened by this attitude.



Baukhage

Until recently this correspondent has been pretty much distressed, too. But I feel better after talking with certain officials whose names seldom appear in the news. These men are not cabinet officers, they are not diplomats, they are not the leaders in congress whose faces appear in the news pictures and whose adumbrations are quoted in the daily dispatches. They are just the men who do the work for which Uncle Sam "pays the wage."

They are paid for knowing about American farms and American farmers. Their consensus is embodied in the first line of this dispatch: The American farmer is going to lick communism. I believe the farmer will do it, not because he knows it will pay him in dollars now, but because he is going to be convinced before very long that it will pay America. The American farmer will do it by providing the food necessary to halt chaos in Europe just as he proved the verity of the slogan: "Food will win the war."

The history of Europe since the war is that every government falls when the bread ration is reduced. The men who know tell me that whatever the total amount in goods or dollars demanded by the Marshall plan, it is safe to say that two-thirds of it will be for food—either the food commodities themselves or the dollars with which to buy them.

American dollars are growing very scarce in Europe but there are three things which the European purchaser hesitates to quit buying—grain, coal and fats. You will notice that France, when it reduced its imports (as all European countries are doing as their dollars decline) tried to hold on to her grain, coal and edible fats as long as possible.

Even if the Marshall plan were not put into effect in time to provide extra dollars, for their grain purchases, there will be a lag of some months before the farmer is touched in his pocketbook. By that time, if nothing is done, the European countries starve.

Free World Is at Stake

Exports to Europe already have been cut down. That will affect first employment of people in this country in such export industries as radio, electrical appliances and like gadgets which can be spared. It is quite possible that there may be a sufficient increase meanwhile in employment in construction or other domestic industries which will absorb this unemployment and keep up the purchasing power of the consumer sufficiently to maintain present farm prices. In any case, there probably will be a six months lag before prices are greatly affected.

Eventually, the marginal surplus would be touched (if Europe is not stimulated) as it was in 1920. Then, you recall, grain prices dropped, although exports were still heavy. However, the demand at that time was not great enough to absorb the entire American output. It is this "marginal surplus" which decides the prices at home. When the demand for the first bushel over and above the domestic surplus ends, it affects the whole price structure.

Before such a situation arises, it is firmly believed that the

"realistic" side of the picture will be brought home forcibly to America. The average citizen, as well as the farmer and the exporter and others directly dependent on international trade as a whole, will realize that what is at stake is something far greater than the dollar—America's stake in the preservation of a free world—a world which will perish if Europe is underfed.

Russia has only about one-sixth of the amount of wheat which the United States is able to spare, according to current estimates. The United Nations food and agriculture organization estimated it as 70 million bushels against our 400 million bushels, as stated above.

Our own situation, we admit, is not too good. Nevertheless, we are in a much better position on a competitive basis, than Russia. There appears little doubt in the minds of the men most familiar with the facts that when the full force of this situation and what it means is realized in this country, Europe may be saved for democracy—and the American farmer will have at least two-thirds of the credit due him.

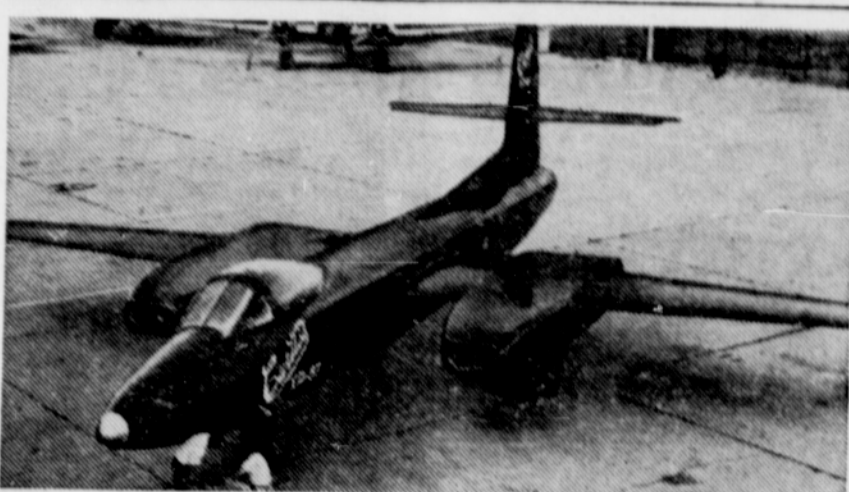


"Please, kid, don't EVER go collective on me."

What do the Russians think of "collective farming," communized agriculture under the Soviets? Well, I asked a friend of mine, Paul Ward of the Baltimore Sun, who got this story from a Russian, a good Communist, whom he met in Moscow. After a few vodkas the Russky used to tell stories. This was one: Stalin and Roosevelt were driving through the countryside. A cow got into the road in front of them and wouldn't move. The driver tried to shoo it away but it wouldn't budge. Finally, Stalin got out, went up to the cow and whispered into its ear. The cow gave one frightened look, jumped over the fence and disappeared in the distance.

"What did you say to the cow to make it do that?" Roosevelt asked.

Stalin smiled. "Don't tell anybody, but I said to her: 'If you don't get out of here, but quick, I'll put you on a collective farm!'"



NEWEST FIGHTER PLANE . . . The Curtiss XP-87, AAF's newest fighter airplane, is the first ever powered by four jet engines. Operated by a two-man crew, the plane has a wingspan of approximately 65 feet, about equal to its overall length. Currently, it is being ground tested.

NEWS REVIEW

Showdown Near in U.N.; Grain Exports Reduced

SHOWDOWN:

Russia's Choice

Secretary of State George Marshall sounded like a man who was getting a lot of things off his chest. What he said in an address before the U. N. general assembly of 55 nations amounted to a call for a showdown with Russia.

The Soviets, he intimated, have held to their stubborn, veto-bound course in the United Nations long enough.

To make the delinquents come to time, Marshall proposed a four point plan of action to the general assembly:

1. He suggested creation of a new assembly committee of 55 countries which would operate without veto and would remain constantly in session to consider world security questions and function as a board of appeals. Potentially, the committee would be a rival to the security council.

2. He announced that the U. S. was ready to relinquish, in all but the gravest cases, its veto privilege and implicitly challenged Russia to do likewise.

3. He blamed Russia for the U. S. Soviet deadlock in Korea and said that America would submit the case to the general assembly for action.

4. He blamed Russia for using vetoes to protect Yugoslavia, Albania and Bulgaria from being pronounced guilty of meddling in Greece. He said the U. S. would ask the assembly to vote guilt for the three satellites and to demand that they refrain from interfering in Greece.

PRICE BATTLE:

Exports Cut

Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson had a "Horatio at the bridge" air about him as he announced that the government had made a drastic cut-back of grain and flour allocations for export in November.

The move generally was accounted as another noble stand against the forces which are causing domestic food prices to spiral dizzily. This one, however, had the blessings of the grain trade as "a step in the right direction."

Reducing the export allocations for November was in line with the government's surprise revision of the nation's 1947 export goal from some 450 million bushels of grain down to 350 million.

(In a significant sidelight, Anderson scoffed at the prospect of returning to rationing by pointing out that such a program could not be put into effect before the need for it would be over.)

Next move, it was hinted, would be an attempt by Secretary Anderson to put through a sharp reduction of total food exports—not just grain—as the only practical way of pulling down prices.

The U. S. state department, however, committed to its "save Europe" program, no doubt would object vehemently to any such action.

Atom After-Effects

Although the atom bomb explosions in Japan have caused some sterility among the people, they have not affected the soil adversely and may even have brought about an improvement in the rice crop.

Dr. Shields Warren, Harvard professor, recently returned from Japan where he studied after-effects of the bomb, said that its effects on human beings may carry into the third generation, producing freaks.

WHOSE FAULT?

Taft Talks

Sen. Robert Taft (Rep., Ohio), who had to crash a sign-toting picket line to get to his audience, told a Republican rally in Los Angeles that if President Truman had not jumped the gun in scrapping price controls the current inflation spiral might have been delayed a while longer.

Exactly how Taft arrived at that rather hazy conclusion was not immediately clear. The senator himself last year was denounced by Mr. Truman for his part in writing a price control extension bill which the President branded as being worse than no controls. Mr. Truman's subsequent veto of the bill allowed price controls to expire automatically.

Nailing down the first plank in what apparently is designed to be his campaign platform for the 1948 presidential nomination, Taft assailed the administration's record on taxes and spending.

The country must elect a Republican president next year if it is genuinely interested in reducing taxes and spending, Taft observed.

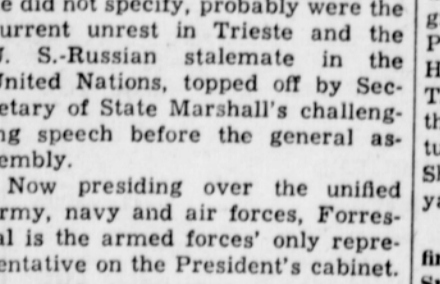
SPEED-UP:

Forrestal In

James V. Forrestal wasn't due to be sworn in as U. S. secretary of defense for another week, but President Truman, manifestly alarmed over the trend of world events, ordered the former secretary of the navy to jump the gun in taking over his new job.

Mr. Truman observed that in view of conditions abroad, the nation should have its secretary of defense in office and functioning. The conditions, which he did not specify, probably were the current unrest in Trieste and the U. S.-Russian stalemate in the United Nations, topped off by Secretary of State Marshall's challenging speech before the general assembly.

Now presiding over the unified army, navy and air forces, Forrestal is the armed forces' only representative on the President's cabinet.



Forrestal

NO EXPLOSION POSSIBLE

Science Now 'Spalliates' Atoms

Scientists now can split the atoms of five more metals—lead, bismuth, thallium, platinum and tantalum—achievements destined to open new roads toward man's ultimate mastery of the atom.

However, there's no need to worry about the possibility that a "cheap" atomic bomb could be made by splitting the atoms of such a common metal as lead, according to Prof. Glenn T. Seaborg, University of California physicist, who played a dominant role in development of the first atom bomb.

The day has not yet come when atomic bombs could be made with common elements such as lead and bismuth, Dr. Seaborg said, empha-

sizing that the fission of such elements "opens no possibility for the production of self-sustaining chain reaction."

As a matter of fact, he added, they can't even be used as sources of atomic energy for purposes less violent than that of blowing mankind to bits. They don't emit enough energy for that.

Actually, the atoms of the five metals are not split—they're splintered. Scientists call this splintering process "spallation" to distinguish it from plain ordinary fission.

What good is the spallation of atoms if they can't be utilized directly for atomic bombs or energy? Their purpose is humanitarian.

They will greatly enrich the field of scientific and medical research by adding at least 100 new radioactive isotopes to the more than 500 already produced.

It is the beginning of a new phase of nuclear development, he said. Next step is to create machines that develop such high energies that man will be able to create matter out of energy, thus reversing the process of the atom bomb which turns matter into energy.

"Apparently the prospects for entering this next energy region are good. Thus we may look forward to even more amazing developments in the fields of nuclear science," Dr. Seaborg predicted.



SOMETHING like 20 years ago, or close to that spot on the calendar, Chick Meehan and N.Y.U. came up with one of the greatest football players the game has ever known.

Slightly over 6 feet, weighing 205 pounds, he was a brilliant ball-carrier, a smashing blocker, a fine forward-passer and, above all, one of the best kickers that ever applied shoe leather to a pigskin. His name happens to be Ken Strong. Barring possibly Jim Thorpe, Ken could do more things well than any back I ever saw in action.



S. Chandler

When Ken Strong practically wrecked a fine Carnegie Tech team, a team that already had crushed Notre Dame, Judge Wallie Steffens, Carnegie's coach said to me that night:

"At last I've seen a back greater than Willie Heston. Strong is the only back I ever saw who could run over one of my best teams, pass, kick, block and tackle. I've never seen his equal."

It was about that time that Coach Gwinn Henry of Missouri wired me—"I've got your All-America this year. Don't bother any more. Just Ken Strong. Forget the others."

Recently I ran into Ken Strong again. Ken is now around 40. What's his job? Well, one of his jobs is playing for the New York Giants. Ken isn't running, blocking or passing any more.

"But I've still got the toughest job in football," he said.

'Like Kicking an Eel'

"I'm kicking," Ken explained. "Did you ever try to punt, place kick or drop kick this cigar-shaped ball they have today? It's a ball shaped entirely for the passing game—thin and long. Compared to the ball we used to kick 20 years ago, it is like kicking an eel."

"The old football was much rounder. It was easy to get your toe into it. It was easier to punt or to drop kick or place kick. It was far easier to kick off—to drive one beyond the goal line. But today you have a target to hit that is about the size of a silver dollar—and I'm having a tough time betting a kicking shoe that has the proper kicking space. You need a square-toed shoe that can drive into the limited space the modern football has to offer the kicker."

"No wonder so many college teams have so much trouble getting anyone who can kick off or place kick. And no wonder there are so few fine punters left, either in the college or the pro game. Naturally the pros with their greater experience, have more good punters. But I can promise you it's a tough job. But I still hope to get a few over the crossbar—or over the goal line on a kickoff. It's a good thing for me that I have all these kicking years to call on."

Ball Made to Throw

Ken Strong is quite close to being 100 per cent right about the modern football. It was arranged for the passer. It is long, thin—easy enough to throw—but harder to kick than a hot dog or a pretzel.

I've asked at least 20 leading college coaches why they used so many varieties of action on the kickoff—such as placing the ball sideways.

"We have no one who can kick off," is the usual answer.

I've asked them why they had no first-class punters. "There's no one who can kick this ball," they tell you.

Then we began looking back to the old days of football—with its great kickers—George Brooke of Pennsylvania, Sweeley of Michigan, Hershberger of Chicago, Brink Thorne and Bull of Yale and one of the greatest—Kercheval of Kentucky. "He was the best of all," Shipwreck Kelly tells me, "60 or 70 yards on a dime." Not bad kicking.

The old game was packed with fine kickers, and one of these was Spud Chandler of Georgia, long with the N. Y. Yankees as a brilliant pitcher.

Among the half-modern group I'd name Frank Reagan of Pennsylvania, now with the Giants, and Harry Kipke of Michigan.

Hurry-up Yost was a great believer in the kicking game, both as a form of attack and defense. It was here his slogan came along—"A punt, a pass and a prayer."

Baugh Can Kick, Too

One of the best modern kickers is a lean, thin, somewhat aging Texan known as Sammy Baugh, formerly of T.C.U. and now with the Redskins. Sammy has always been a great passer. He has been just as good a kicker. He is one of the masters.

Ward Cuff of Marquette, the Giants and the Packers is still an able marksman with the right toe. The best all-around kicker I ever saw was Jim Thorpe, who could punt, place kick and drop kick.

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You may suffer nagging backache, headache, dizziness, getting up at night, leg pains, swelling—feel constantly tired, nervous, all worn out. Other signs of kidney or bladder disorder are sometimes burning, scanty or too frequent urination.

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