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The Mid-East Problem

Most of the criticisms of the President's warning to Soviet Russia, have, to date, impressed this department as justifying the title of "quibbling."

Two of the most frequent criticisms, for example, from members of the congress have been to this effect:

No. 1: the President should not be given "blank check" as to expenses of this proposal, or the details of procedure.

WHY not? President Eisenhower has been given "blank checks" for four years as to ways and means of implementing his foreign policy.

MOREOVER the congress has complete control over appropriations of money, all bills pertaining to finance must originate in the House, and needless to say, must pass both the House and Senate, before they become law.

NO. 2: THERE is also objection raised on the ground President Eisenhower is shirking his responsibilities and trying to force the congress to take them over—or at least share them.

Well, it is hard to please SOME people. From the same general source when Presidents Roosevelt (T.R.), Woodrow Wilson, and Harry S. Truman, used armed force without first getting congressional permission, they were lambasted from hedges to breakfast for usurping an authority which, it was claimed, was not rightfully theirs.

As a matter of fact, in time of CRISIS, the President HAS such authority. It is only the declaration of war that must come from the congress,—and this is not imperative—as "T.R." demonstrated in Panama, and President Wilson in Mexico. So why all the talky-talk?

THE one criticism this department would make regarding the President's warning to Soviet Russia had not been emphasized. That is its TIMING.

Why didn't the President make some such pronouncement six months ago instead of at this late date?

The answer, of course, is, there was in late 1956 a presidential campaign going on. Instead of warning Russia that in case of armed aggression, Uncle Sam would, if necessary, call its troops into action, both the President and his Secretary were telling the people in effect, that the crisis over the Suez had safely been passed; "peace, prosperity and platitudes" were in order, there was nothing at all to worry about as far as our relations with other countries were concerned—"God was in his Heaven all was right with the world."—so what was there to do but relax, march to the polls and vote the Republican ticket straight? The answer is—or was—nothing.

WE CAN'T go along 100 per cent with the governments of England and France now claiming that if what President Eisenhower said on January 5, 1957, had been said five or six months before, their wild and reckless attack on Egypt would never have occurred, nor the slaughter of helpless Hungarian women and children by Russian tanks. For all that comes under the general heading of knowing what would have happened if something else had not happened. That is only to guess.

But we do believe this:—If any such pronouncement as issued by the President last Saturday had been made last August, showing America's awareness of the Communist threat in Egypt and the Middle East, England and France would never have prepared that "unprovoked attack" at least without consulting Washington first,—and that might very well have resulted in its abandonment entirely.

IN OTHER words, this action by President Eisenhower can not be correctly termed "too little" but it certainly CAN well be "too late"—at least too late to accomplish what an earlier pronouncement WOULD, in all likelihood, have accomplished.

It is only another example of what a destructive agent partisanship can be when it is mixed with or has domination over domestic or international politics!

FINALLY why is it that the one nation most benefited by this new Eisenhower policy toward the Middle East should have as far as noted, made no comment.

This is Israel. The President has gone on record as being the defender, by armed force if necessary, of the independence and integrity of all free nations in the area. Israel is such a nation.

It is surrounded by hostile Arab tribes that, time after time, publicly declare nothing will satisfy them, but Israel's COMPLETE destruction.

The most belligerent of these Arab nations like Egypt and Syria are dominated by Russia, armed by Russia, subsidized by Russia, and their troops are being trained by Russia and instructed by Russian technicians.

Therefore, we should suppose this statement

Trips by Congressmen Cost U.S. Taxpayers, Other Governments

Washington (CQ)—Foreign governments spent almost a half-million dollars on touring American congressmen during fiscal 1956.

That works out to almost \$1,000 for each senator and representative. The American taxpayer shelled out even more to send his legislators abroad, but official secrecy hides that part of the story.

No figures are available yet for the 1956 fall touring season, but the totals probably will be lower than they were in 1955. Published reports noted only 73 congressmen in foreign countries during the 1956 congressional recess, compared to 151 in 1955. Election chores kept most of the members at home last fall.

From mid-1955 to mid-1956, however, congressional committees reported their members spent \$490,235 of allies' money on overseas junkets. Senate committees accounted for \$165,847 of the total; house committees, for \$324,388.

Countries that receive U.S. economic help are required to match the dollar aid with an equal amount of their own currency. Ten per cent of these "counterpart funds" are reserved for American use and the Congressmen's travel money comes from the 10 per cent share.

To travel abroad at other countries' expense, a senator, representative or professional staff member has his committee chairman tell the State Department how much foreign currency he needs. The traveler picks up his money as he arrives in each country.

When he returns he gives the committee a voucher for his expenses. These are totaled but not audited by the committee, and the committee totals only are made public at the end of the fiscal year.

Communications

To the Editor: Down in southern California there are some very large, fat pink spiders (not black widows, much larger; not tarantulas, much smaller, but with nice hairy legs). These lazy, fat pink spiders spin webs and wait for fat juicy flies.

Mr. Dwight D. Eisenhower seems determined to play the part of a fat, blue-bottle fly. When we send our troops to the Middle East, what? There are three spiders waiting with joy hoping to get us to do that. When our troops get there—what? We have Russia (about 160 million), China (Red not Yellow) (about 400 million), India (about 400 million). So we swing the whole of Asia yet more bitterly against us. We send troops. They don't do anything—just sit and wait. They don't need to do anything—just neatly stuck our head into the lion's mouth—but the bear's Europe is nothing but a tag-end of Asia. Most of the world's people are in Asia, most of the world's land, Russia is an Asiatic country, more in Asia than Europe. Africa hates Europeans. Both with good reason. English and French and Israel have just given them fresh cause to hate us, and now we, too. Whether or not Syria goes Communist or pro-American or crazy, is none of our business. We are not an Asiatic country. We are half a world away. Don't you think that we will force Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Tibet, Indo-China, Indonesia, maybe even Japan, as Asiatics, closer and closer together with a common front?

Nasser already leads the Arabs, let's face it, and they will carefully pull Russia's chestnuts out of the fire and Russia won't have to do a thing—but gloat and gloat and gloat. If I were the head of either Russia or China I would wish with all my heart that Mr. Eisenhower would do just that—send troops to the Middle East, speak up to Congress and say those Middle East nations CAN'T go Communist. And then all those millions of people, about a billion, would say in their hearts: "Americans tell us we can't go Communist? A-Communist we will go. We'll show them! We'll show those imperialistic English, French and Americans" (by that time we'll be lumped with the English and French in their minds). Just as the Egyptians said: "Get funny with OUR canal and see what happens." Just as Saudi-Arabia and Jordan said: "You own our oil! Ha! Ha! We'll blow our oil to kingdom come and where'll you Europeans be then?"

Nobody seems to have thought to ask Dag Hammarskjold and the United Nations if they wanted American troops in the Middle East—oh, no, that would be invading our sovereignty. We just left the dirty work of the

English and French to be cleaned up by the U.N., then go make some more dirty work for them to clean up. God save America. She's going to need it.

Edith Y. Ingle 338 Bessie St. Medford, Ore.

Examine Drivers To the Editor: Now that the facts are in regarding the American motorist and the year 1956, it is time to ask if these "facts" are truth.

It is true that over 40,000 motorists died this past year on the highway. How many were left maimed and sick cannot be known. Let us assume that they are numerous.

The National Safety Council and the law enforcement officers are wailing and gnashing their teeth, cursing the horsepower of the new cars and the speed they are capable of. This raises an interesting, if not macabre question.

This is fact. This year more speed laws were enforced, some were lowered and more diligent effort was exercised by the law. The National Safety Council cried louder than ever. Yet, more people died.

The type of law enforcement in many cases is not sufficient. The heady eyed "highwayman" with his pointed nose stuck in his radar box, a half mile beyond the last house in the small town you just passed, and where the city limits just happens to be, is no help. Neither is the justice of the peace who works with him. These parasites may fatten their own pockets, and enrich the treasury of the hamlet, but they contribute nothing to the longevity of the American motorist.

Statistics seem to prove that speed is the great killer. But, statistics do not drive cars. They are driven by people who neither hear, nor see, and have not the slightest conception of the lethal potentiality of the guided missile that they are making payments on.

Malenkov Apparently Now Back In Position of Red Leadership

By CHARLES M. McCANN United Press Correspondent Russia's Georgi M. Malenkov seems to have made a big political comeback. Ever since he resigned as premier on Feb. 8, 1955, Malenkov had been in partial eclipse.

But his attendance at the important meeting of the Communist leaders in Budapest last week indicated pretty clearly that he has been restored to first rank in Soviet leadership.

One reason apparently is that Malenkov kept his head during the long argument among Soviet leaders over Nikita S. Khrushchev's course in repudiating Joseph Stalin's methods of dictatorship.

Another is that Malenkov probably is the smartest of the 11 men in the inner leadership of the Kremlin.

When Malenkov resigned so dramatically as Stalin's heir in the prime ministry, he said he was inadequate for the job.

Reduced in Rank Malenkov was reduced to the rank of an ordinary deputy premier—behind several first deputies—and made minister for electric power stations.

He remained a member of the inner collective leadership. But men like Khrushchev, the first secretary of the Communist party, and Nikolai A. Bulganin, who succeeded him as premier, did the talking and represented the Kremlin on visits abroad.

Malenkov did make a visit to Great Britain. But he did so in his capacity of minister for the power stations, to visit British atomic and other installations.

Last week's Budapest meeting marked the launching of a new Soviet policy line toward the East European satellite countries.

The choice of Malenkov to accompany Khrushchev to that meeting, which brought together the Communist leaders of Russia, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania and Bulgaria certainly is significant.

He would hardly be chosen unless he had made a full comeback.

This does not necessarily mean that there is to be any formal change in the present Kremlin lineup.

Khrushchev's Job Safe Khrushchev seems to be safe in his job as Communist party first secretary despite the East European revolts which resulted from his down-grading of Stalin. There has been no sign that Bulganin, who supported Khrushchev in the down-grading policy, is likely to lose the prime ministry.

But it is entirely likely that some day Malenkov may get back that job or may replace Khrushchev as first secretary. For a short time after Stalin's death Malenkov was first secretary as well as premier.

The big thing in Malenkov's favor is that he is both smart and an able administrative executive, and that he does not indulge in loose talk. His visit to Great Britain was a resounding success. Khrushchev and Bulganin, who followed him there, bounced from one blunder to another.

At 55—today, incidentally is his birthday—Malenkov was Stalin's right hand man for years. He is called pudgy and roly poly. Though he is but 5 feet 7 inches tall, he weighs about 250 pounds. The keen little eyes that look out from his fat face miss nothing.

If he really has made a comeback, he is likely to be a balancing influence in the Soviet leadership.

ALL this is not to suggest that the President's proposal is either useless or dangerous. On the contrary, the Congress ought to sign the President's blank check with Alacrity. There are times when a blank check can be very useful, and this is one of them. Despite the dreary precedent of the Southeast Asia appropriation, opportunities now unpredictable may arise in the Middle East where money can be spent most effectively to serve this country's interests.

Above all, it is useful for the world, and especially the Soviet Union, to know, as the President said, "where we stand" on the Middle East.

Even so, it ought to be understood that the President's proposal is not a new policy, or a novel doctrine, or a bold new program.

It is simply a request for a blank check, and no-one in the Eisenhower administration has any concrete or specific idea of how or when or to what end the check will be cashed.

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BOTH Saudi Arabia and Iraq earn a great many dollars already, from their oil revenues. The money the President has requested can be used to bolster the defenses of Iraq as a member of the Baghdad Pact—but this is being done already.

Syria, increasingly close to becoming a Soviet puppet, has already angrily refused all dollar aid. The Egypt of Colonel

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Flight o' Time Medford and Jackson County History from the files of The Mail Tribune 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 years ago.

10 YEARS AGO Jan. 8, 1947 (Wednesday) Dwight L. Houghton, assistant manager of the Medford branch of the United States National bank of Portland is appointed to Medford city council.

From Arthur Perry's Ye Smudge Pot column: Oregonians pungled up \$44,200,000 for state saloon whiskey, etc., etc., last year. It wasn't worth it, say many.

20 YEARS AGO Jan. 8, 1937 (Friday) Checks representing a second dividend of 15 per cent are mailed today to all eligible depositors of the defunct Jackson county bank which has been in process of liquidation.

Transient relief is named as greatest problem facing Jackson county Red Cross at a recent meeting.

30 YEARS AGO Jan. 8, 1927 (Saturday) Jackson County Game Protective association plans mass meeting to be held at Medford hotel soon.

First meeting of new year of Jackson County Merchant's association will be held in the Medford hotel Monday.

40 YEARS AGO Jan. 8, 1917 Best interests of Medford will be served by adoption of Hanson Plan and rejection of Medynski Plan, says S. S. Bullis, president of southern Oregon traction company.

Mayor V. J. Emerick reports he favors the Hanson Plan.

What's Your I.Q.?

Nine or ten correct is superior; seven or eight is excellent; five or six is good.

- 1. In 1773, 300 families moved from Maine to South Carolina. Were they German, Scotch, or English? 2. Was there both a Mr. Page and a Mrs. Page in Shakespeare's "Merry Wives of Windsor"? 3. "Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of Passover."—Luke 3:41. Who is "his"? 4. Mythological creatures half man and half horse are called c—s? 5. Which place in Africa was named in honor of Cecil Rhodes? 6. The Kaiser Wilhelm Canal was renamed—what? 7. Is tincture of arnica obtained from a vegetable or mineral product? 8. What is a "corpus delicti"? 9. Is it possible to bake a custard pie in a glass plate? 10. What address begins: "Four score and seven years ago—?" 1. German. 2. Yes. 3. Jesus. 4. Centaurs. 5. Rhodesia. 6. Kiel Canal. 7. Vegetable. 8. "Body of the Crime." (the facts constituting crime. 9. Yes. 10. Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address."

Communications

Letters to the Editor must bear the name and address of the writer although under certain circumstances the use of a pen name or initial for publication is permissible. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with an eye to clarification and condensation. Letters not submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words.