

WANTED—An Agonizing Reappraisal

There was nothing funny about the dual broadcast by Secretary of State Dulles and President Eisenhower, two days before Christmas, even though the setting was reminiscent of the "good old days" when Edgar Bergen and Charley McCarthy were going strong.

Secretary Dulles did not sit on the President's knee and seldom opened his mouth wide and jerked his head a la Charley, but he did practically all of the talking—as Charley was prone to do—and the President was just as attentive as was Bergen and played his "straight role" with equal solemnity, solicitude and parental approval.

PERHAPS this reminiscent quality of the tableaux as an outstanding comic feature of American vaudeville for so many years, only tended to bring into sharper relief the extreme solemnity and awe-inspiring gravity of this official report of the Paris conference by Washington's "top brass" to the people of this country.

Not that the occasion called for any levity, or bull-fiddle obligato. But it did, we thought, call for SOMETHING new, some more imaginative approach than the old protocol-routine; something that would awaken the country—and the listening world—instead of tending to put it to sleep, after the same old dose of tranquilizers.

IN SHORT last Monday night's performance, to the undersigned, was disappointing. Not that there was anything particularly to criticize in what was said, but so much could have been said, but wasn't, and after the somewhat disillusioning effect of the Paris conference, we hoped would be.

HOW ABOUT the "Gaither report" for example? According to the grapevine this report ordered by the President, and submitted to the National Security Council, completely shattered the administration's complacent claim that the forces of freedom are greater today than those of Soviet Russia and its satellites.

It also, according to the same source, maintained as of now the U.S.A. placing missile bases in Europe would only increase the tension instead of lessening it. Moreover, if Russia SHOULD attack, such bases could, it was claimed be wiped out before U. S. aid could be summoned, much less arrive.

ARE THESE reports correct or are they baseless? One newspaper of good standing in Washington printed them. The insistence of the administration to keep the report secret, is hardly reassuring.

It seems to this department that the time has come to give the people the facts good or bad—and we had hoped that President Eisenhower or Secretary Dulles—or both—would consider this national broadcast a proper time to do so.

BUT THERE was nothing but the same old story told. That is the North Atlantic Treaty Association is more united than ever, so the members must have missile bases to prevent—or if necessary meet—missile attacks from Soviet Russia. Of course the United States is for peace—always has been—and would at any time discuss disarmament in any realistic way but not in the "U.N." and not unless Russia accepts terms which the administration knows—or should know—Russia will never accept.

SO AS FAR as the "Nato" meeting and this broadcast to the country is concerned we are right back where we started from. We don't pretend to know PRECISELY what should be done. But we do know what has been done to date and has come to be known as the "Dulles policy,"—has been a failure as far as any real progress toward world peace and lessening of tensions is concerned. So we fail to see how unless it is radically changed and revitalized to conform to the world situation as it is, and not as we wish it were, there can be any material improvement in the future.

ELEANOR Roosevelt said something when she returned from her trip to Russia, which never received the notice it deserved and which we believe has direct application to the present impasse. She was not fooled by the Russian "blandishments," but she did think the world situation would be vastly improved if we did not spend so much time calling Russia names, and more time trying to understand her. The same advice, of course, should be given to Soviet Russia.

TAKE just one example—the Dulles insistence that U.S. missile bases be established in West Germany. Secretary Dulles appears to be sorely disturbed and depressed that Russia should not like the idea and President Adenauer should not be overly enthusiastic himself.

Yet, would the United States welcome Russian missile bases in Mexico, with Mexico a member of the Communist bloc?

HARDLY! Still only enough imagination is required to see the situation from the Russian standpoint and then to realize what "Germany, Uber-Alles" has meant in the past to the Russian people, to see the cause of the Kremlin strenuous objections to an armed Germany leading the western anti-Russian bloc.

SO ONE could go on—and on—all down the line. As has been stated often before, the crying need is a "New Deal" all around—a need for what Mr. Dulles once called an "Agonizing Reappraisal." This re-appraisal however should be applied first to his own foreign policy, because, as stated above, as far as actually bringing world peace any nearer or world war any further away, it has been to date a failure.

—R.W.R.

Truman Says Report By Ike, Dulles 'Lot Of Gobbledygook'

New York.—Former President Harry S. Truman said today that President Eisenhower and Secretary of State John Foster Dulles' telecast to the nation Monday night was "a lot of gobbledygook."

"The show was fixed up by BBD&O," Truman said, referring to a New York advertising company which has been employed by the Republican party, "and they didn't do a very good job."

"BBD&O—That's Bunko, Bull, Deceit and Obfuscation," Truman said. The firm's proper formal name is Batten Barton Durstine & Osborn Inc.

The former President, who had refused until today to comment on the President's report to the nation, made his statements during a 15-minute morning walk in the rain from the Hotel Carlyle where he and Mrs. Truman are staying during a Christmas visit with their daughter and grandson.

Bored With Dulles "I think I was just about as thoroughly bored with Mr. Dulles as the President appeared to be," Truman said. "It was nothing new at all. There was no statement of policy to be pursued to meet the situation, and it sounded a damn sight worse when he said it than if you read it."

When he was asked later if there were any Christmas presents he might wish to give to persons in government today, he said: "I would like to get Mr. Dulles a good college dictionary so he can use the English language so that we can all understand him."

There was one point in which the former President appeared in full agreement with Eisenhower and Dulles. "I have no faith in any Russian peace offers," he said. Praises British Queen But he indicated he was disappointed in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization meeting on which the President reported. He said he understood it had been planned to "re-establish agreements between the NATO powers, and I didn't see anything on that. I hoped there would be a policy statement—this is the way we are going to do it, and do it—but there was no such statement made."

Truman volunteered a high opinion of Britain's Queen Elizabeth's Christmas message to the commonwealth, in which she said the world's ills were being caused "by unthinking people who carelessly throw away ageless ideas as if they were old and outworn machinery."

It was a "lovely statement," Truman said. "We haven't lost them, but we've been neglecting them," he said of the ideals to which she referred. Truman said his 6-month-old grandson, Clifton Truman Daniel, had received "so many toys it will be some years before he can use them all. You name something he didn't get!"

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 initials for publication is permissible. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with a view to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words.

On Field Mice To the Editor: In the Sunday edition of the Medford Mail Tribune, Dr. C. R. Van Patten said that the killing off of predatory animals in Oregon has considerable bearing with the infestation of field mice in the state.

This I agree with absolutely, except for one thing. They have been poisoning coyotes and bobcats for years in that section, with miles of poison stations, and that is not control, just a matter of slaughter. They have government hunters using poison all the time in that area. The complete slaughter of these animals is a direct upset in nature's balance of life itself.

This same thing could, concerning an overrun of mice, and will happen in southwestern Oregon if the few people in the Lake Creek area are allowed to continue in the way they are doing now. The greatest share of people in and around the Rogue Valley are against such tactics of "supposed control," and only a few people are shoving this thing down our throats whether we like it or not, and I refer to a petition of more than 700 people against such poisoning, whereas there were only 70 names for it. It is therefore my feeling that poisoning such as it is has a great effect on the slaughter of predatory animals and consequently on our own health. I firmly believe that some measure should be taken to control this, since it concerns all of us.

Stephen T. Harris, Route 1, Box 569, Central Point, Ore.

No Christmas Traffic Fatalities at Portland

Portland.—Portland reported no traffic fatalities over the Christmas holiday but police said the accident rate was high.

Nearly 80 accidents were reported from 6 p.m. Tuesday until 8 a.m. today. At least 35 persons were sent to hospitals with various injuries.



"WELL, MAYBE TRAINS DON'T GO 'TOOT-TOOT' ANYMORE, BUT, BY GEORGE, THEY USED TO GO 'TOOT-TOOT'!"

Indonesia Trying to Put Pressure On Nations to Support Its Claim

By CHARLES M. MC CANN United Press Correspondent

Indonesia is trying to put pressure on the United States and other allied countries to support its claim to Netherlands New Guinea. Threats are being made that the "national interests" of allied countries may be endangered if they side with the Netherlands.

The Indonesian government has made its dispute with The Netherlands over West New Guinea an issue in which any country which supports The Netherlands will be regarded as "colonialist."

On the other hand, Indonesia claims the solid support of all the Asian and African countries which oppose "colonialism." May Turn To Reds Newspapers in Jakarta, the capital, are hinting that Indonesia may turn to Soviet Russia for aid.

In its attempt to force The Netherlands to give up possession of West New Guinea, the Indonesian government has taken control of all Dutch interests, estimated to total more than one billion dollars in value.

It is being intimated also that unless The Netherlands gives in this property may be seized outright. An Indonesian Foreign Office spokesman warned members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization recently to "be on guard" against supporting The Netherlands.

Support for The Netherlands, he said, would be taken as support of colonialism. Without specifying just what he meant, the spokesman then said he hoped NATO countries would not risk their own national interests "for the sake of Dutch colonialism" in New Guinea.

During the recent United Nations debate on New Guinea, the United States took a neutral attitude, despite the fact that The Netherlands is a fellow member of NATO. Indonesia Not Satisfied This, however, did not satisfy the Indonesian government. Foreign Minister Subandrio—he has no first name—complained in a speech in parliament last Saturday that the United States has shifted from "the possibility of an active and constructive" policy. Such a policy, naturally, would have supported the Indonesian claim.

The Indonesian government is pursuing its claim by every means despite indications that it may be heading toward chaos. Ever since the country won its independence from The Netherlands in 1949, there have been chronic revolts in several parts of the islands. Army officers have seized control of parts of Sumatra.

For months, there has been serious dissension in the parliament. For reasons not yet made quite clear, President Sukarno has requested "leave" to take a rest abroad. It is expected that he will leave the country Jan. 5. Nobody knows whether he will return. Sartono, speaker of parliament, has been sworn in as acting president.

In the campaign against Dutchmen in Indonesia, the government has caused severe economic dislocation. The Netherlands are the economic brains of the country. As part of the dislocation, it is now admitted that Indonesia faces a critical shortage of rice, its staple food.

Four Powers Consider Transfer or Release For Hitler's Deputy

Berlin.—This might be the last Christmas in Spandau prison for Rudolf Hess, Adolf Hitler's former deputy.

U. S., Russian, French and British officials are considering transferring Hess to an insane asylum, or releasing him outright. There is a feeling among the four powers that it is ridiculous to operate a whole prison just for three men.

Hess, Nazi munitions minister Albert Speer and youth leader Baldur von Schirach are the only inmates in a prison built to hold 660 men. Had Seven Nazis Originally the four-power war crimes prison held seven top Nazis sentenced by Nuremberg's international military tribunal. But four already have been released. Only one of the four served out his full term.

Hess' future hinges on his sanity. Is he insane, or is he faking insanity? At 63 he is aged and haggard. He looks like a bony scarecrow in his grey prison uniform. His eyes are sunken under beetle brows.

He is untidy, complains bitterly of illness, does little work, hardly speaks to anyone and appears to live in a world of his own. Breaks Silences He breaks his long silences only to harangue himself on Hitler's virtues and the part he himself played in the rise of Nazism.

Sometimes he attempts to goosetep in a cell 10 feet long and six feet wide. Or he shouts the Horst Wessel song. Hess was sentenced to life at Nuremberg. But whether he dies in prison depends on the verdict on his sanity.

If he can convince the four powers he is insane he will either be released or transferred to an insane asylum. But the four powers cannot agree. This is not an East-West conflict. Some officials think he is insane. Others think he is faking and merely is eccentric.

Cost of Prison It costs the Germans, who must pay for Spandau's upkeep an estimated 900,000 marks (\$214,285) a year to support the three prisoners. The West Berlin city government estimates it costs 50 times as much to support Hess in the Spandau prison as it does for an ordinary prisoner in an ordinary jail.

The Big Four power costs are considerable, too. Companies of U. S., British, Soviet and French troops take turns guarding the prison exterior. Inside there is a staff of four-power guards headed by four wardens, one from each power. In addition, there is a house-keeping staff of cooks, kitchen help, maids, janitors and cleaning women.

Von Schirach and Speer both are serving 20-year terms and have nine years left to serve. Admiral Karl Doenitz was released last year when he completed his 10 year term.

205 Farms Will Be Open for Settlement

Washington.—The Reclamation Bureau will open for settlement next year 205 farms totaling 26,353 acres on four reclamation projects in Washington, Idaho, Arizona and Wyoming.

Interior Secretary Fred A. Seaton announced yesterday. Seaton said veterans will be given preference for the land openings. Two types of farms will be offered, those on public lands which may be homesteaded and those on former private lands acquired by the government for reclamation purposes which are to be sold.

Urban Renewal Plan Due at Springfield

Springfield, Ore.—City officials here reported that the Federal government has approved preliminary planning for an urban renewal program and has authorized a capital grant reservation of \$642,000 to help pay for it.

Total cost of the proposed project would be \$1,225,000 to provide drainage, school facilities, street construction and a city library on a 150-acre tract in the northwest part of the city. Voters and city council must give actual clearance to the project after public hearings. Wyoming's area is said to be greater than that of the British Isles, including all of England, Wales and North Ireland as well.

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