

Matter of Fact

BEHIND THE CAIRO SCENES

Cairo—Behind the scenes, the prospect of a Communist take-over in Iraq is worrying the leaders of the Egyptian government as nothing else has worried them since the Suez crisis.

The trend of feeling was indicated to this reporter by President Gamal Abdel Nasser himself. Further interviews with other key personalities have painted a still darker picture. More over the Egyptian government plainly thinks that a decisive Communist take-over in Iraq is very much more likely than first appeared in Baghdad a fortnight ago.

No doubt this is because of the recent obscure but evidently dramatic events in Baghdad. These caused the Iraqi leader, Brig. Abdel Karim Kassem, to announce that he had frustrated another coup d'etat organized by "corrupt elements and foreign powers." Without announcing it, Brig. Kassem also replaced his national-minded chief of police with a pro-Communist. Thus Kassem has now moved a long further stage towards becoming the Communists' helpless prisoner.

IF Kassem indeed becomes another Nuri Pasha, serving the Kremlin instead of the British, a double miscalculation made here in Cairo will be in part to blame.

On the one hand, President Nasser always hoped and believed that the Kremlin would go no further than supporting Arab nationalism, simply because this movement led by Nasser aimed to drive Western influence from the Middle East. He did not expect that the Kremlin would ever order the Arab Communists to compete directly and openly with the Arab nationalists.

On these assumptions, which have now been proven wrong, Nasser cheerfully accepted and is still accepting all kinds of Soviet aid. Thus, at least indirectly, he lent part of his own vast prestige and personal glamor to the Arab Communists.

ON the other hand, President Nasser also miscalculated when he supposed that the battle of Iraq would be ended by the defeat of the former regime there. His glamor and prestige, his unceasing attacks on the Nuri government in Baghdad, were indeed the main motive forces behind the former regime's defeat. But the immediate instruments of the coup d'etat were the conspirators in the army and organizers of the Baghdad mob. Yet even without Communist pressure, these new masters of Iraq were always likely to want to go on being the masters, instead of handing the

mastery over to Nasser. Such in fact is the explanation of the course followed by Brig. Kassem, who is not a Communist even although he can too easily become the Communists' prisoner.

In fairness, it must be added that Nasser's two miscalculations were as nothing to the miscalculations of the Western policy-makers. Even so, the mistakes of the past are making the pill of the present a good deal more bitter to swallow here in Cairo.

THE Communist trend in Iraq is a very bitter pill indeed for the Egyptians. Until the Iraqi revolution, all Arab revolutionaries everywhere at least outwardly accented the unique authority of Gamal Abdel Nasser. Any Arab leader who opposed Nasser's authority was automatically and sincerely denounced by Cairo radio as a "tool of the imperialists and traitor to the Arab nation." Determination of Nasser and the other Arab nationalists to purge the Arab lands of any kind of foreign influence was inspired, one must remember, by a quiet genuine Arab patriotism.

Now the Communists in Iraq are not only challenging Nasser's unique authority among the Arabs. Worse still, they are asserting a new kind of foreign influence that is much better able to fight Nasser's movement on its own ground than any influence the West could ever hope to exert.

WESTERN opposition to Nasser took the form of Western support or government for Nasser attacks. The Western powers were also helplessly incapable of using the two main tools of modern Middle Eastern politics, military conspiracy and the organization of street mobs. The Communists, in contrast, are if anything better able to use these tools than the adherents of Nasser, who are enthusiastic and daring but sadly untrained and untested by the iron Communist standards. Hence a Communist-dominated Iraq will be a very serious danger indeed, not only to Jordan, the states of the Persian Gulf, and other unstable Arab lands, but also to Nasser's own "northern region" of Syria.

For all these practical as well as patriotic reasons, the tendency of affairs in Baghdad is causing a degree of concern here that almost amounts to consternation. This is not publicly admitted, but it is abundantly evident in everything the Egyptian leaders say in private. Iraq is the main topic. Even a month ago, one suspects that any Iraqi government which did not fully acknowledge Cairo's special authority over all Arabs would have been viewed with no enthusiasm. Today, Brig. Kassem has only to deal with his Communist problem himself, in order to be welcomed in Cairo as a beloved friend and brother.

But the question remains, what will Egypt do about it, and what will the Western powers do about it, if Kassem does not deal with this problem himself?

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Perhaps the oldest apple orchard in the United States is at Manzano, N.M. It was planted in 1676 and still includes trees bearing fruit.

Shores of the Bay of Quinte in eastern Ontario were first settled by United Empire Loyalists in 1784.



PRESENTS CHECK—Bill Laton of Crater High school presents A. C. Fries, president of the Oregon Shakespearean Festival association, a check for \$100 for the Festival's building fund. The check was presented following Crater High's production of "Cheaper by The Dozen" Friday night.

'Curtain Callers' Of Crater Donate \$100 to Festival

Campaigners for the Oregon Shakespearean Festival building fund effort, currently adding up thousands of contributions, were especially heartened by one gift they received last week.

It was a \$100 donation from members of the "Curtain Callers," dramatics club at Crater High school, Central Point. The money comes from the group's general fund, a treasury earned by the membership. Instigation for the gift was from the students themselves.

"It was strictly their idea, and they were quite insistent about it," emphasized Jim Backen, teacher of junior English and drama at the school. "They have really enjoyed the Festival shows and they want to help rebuild the stage."

Arranged Visit
Backen, when a Southern Oregon college student teacher at Crater high in 1957, arranged a group visit to a Festival production by members of his classes. A total of 58 joined that first excursion, some in skeptical reluctance.

"But they loved it," Backen stated, "and over 70 per cent went back on their own to see more of the productions. They took their parents, too." Last year, Backen conducted 100 of his students to the Elizabethan theater, with the same success. "Up to now we've had to limit the excursion to two classes," he added, "but next summer, if we can get the space, there are a lot more who will want to go."

Friday and Saturday nights, the "Curtain Callers" staged the comedy "Cheaper by the Dozen," under Backen's direction. A. C. Fries, president of the Oregon Shakespearean Festival association, saw the play, and received the \$100 Friday night. "The kids wanted to invite one of you to the play so they could make a personal presentation," Backen said, "but we were afraid you might be too busy to come over for one small contribution."

Stocks Gain on Major Fronts As Court Ruling Helps Utilities

By ELMER C. WALZER
UPI Financial Editor

New York—Stocks during the past week registered gains in all major averages and all but scaled new record highs.

The list rose sharply in the Wednesday session after a substantial rise on Tuesday. On Thursday, the list started higher and finished lower. The year's highs were too much to scale at one jump, it appeared.

This barrier, however, left Wall Street experts with new theories of the future. Many of the experts predicted a break-through will occur before the new year with the market closing 1958 in a burst of glory in the traditional year-end rally.

Utilities did break through their barrier with the average setting a new 28-year top on Wednesday after the Supreme Court ruled in favor of natural gas companies in rate making practices on Monday. The utility average had risen steadily for 10 sessions before running into opposition. It sagged 0.09 point on Thursday and came back exactly that amount on Friday, so that it was able to finish the week at its best level since September of 1930.

Closing Levels
At the Friday close the industrial average stood at 562.27 up 5.52 points from the previous week and down 5.17 points from the all time high; railroad 154.70 up 0.63 on the week but off 3.21 from the 1958 high; utility 87.95 up 1.48 on the week and at a 28-year high; and 65 stocks 195.91 up 1.94 points on the week but off 1.36 points from

the year's high. The other market feature aside from the utility rise was being enacted over on the American stock exchange. There, the common shares of Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company were rising by 3 1/2 points to 536 and the preferred by 18 points to 163. The common stock of the company has been split 10 for one and will be traded starting Monday on the big board.

This is a new addition to the companies which have turned from family ownership to public ownership. The other two outstanding examples in recent history have been the Ford Motor Company and Campbell Soup.

Generally Favorable
Business news generally ruled favorable for the stock market, but Wall Street experts had noted a fair amount of tax selling which was holding the list back.

In the Friday session, the Federal Reserve Board reported its production index had risen three points in November to a seasonally adjusted 141 per cent of the 1947-49 average.

The reserve board said the rise was sparked by a major advance in automobile production along with widespread gains throughout manufacturing. At 141 it compared with 126 in April, the low of the depression. It was 2 points above the level of a year ago and only 4 points under the August, 1957, peak of 145.

Higher Sales Volume
Stock sales during the week totaled 19,094,814 shares, bringing the year's total to 708,800,856 shares. The daily average trading amounted to 3,818,999 shares, against a daily average of 3,513,092 shares in the previous week.

Activity centered on the less conspicuous shares, including such stocks as Avco, Sperry Rand, American Motors, Studebaker-Packard, Continental Motors, electric and musical industries and Parke Davis.

Drug issues had a spurt of strength early in the week under the lead of Parke Davis. They faded out later. El Paso Natural Gas was the standout in the natural gas issues. Oils were given a whirl along with the gas issues for a time since most of them are big gas producers.

Zenith was a sensation for a time in the electronics group. Metals ruled strong in several sessions. Steels did fairly well. The low-priced

Some of the modern four-engined airplanes can take on more than 5,000 gallons of gasoline at a fueling and burn it up at the rate of about 600 gallons an hour.

At least 179 persons have jumped from San Francisco's Golden Gate bridge. Only one survived but suffered several broken bones and lacerations.

motors were strong, including American which has about graduated from that category.

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