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Backstabbing the President

Do our foreign aid programs add up to pouring money down a rat hole? Or do they constitute an enlightened, realistic and vital part of our relationships with the rest of the world?

The truth probably lies somewhere between these extreme viewpoints. But on balance it must be said that it lies closer to the latter view than to the former.

Military aid helps keep strong the allies who stand with us in the cold war. Economic aid helps the underdeveloped nations in their efforts to join the 20th century. Both are laudable. Both contribute to the security and prosperity of the United States.

MILITARY aid is motivated almost entirely by enlightened self-interest. If our allies did not do the job of standing guard around the world, we would have to — at what fantastic costs can only be surmised.

Economic aid, however, is motivated by other considerations than pure self-interest, although that element is present. It also contributes one of the greatest humanitarian programs in the history of the race, and there is no reason why we cannot take great and justifiable pride in it.

And that portion of the aid program which gives support to the United Nations is our contribution — a major one — to the hopes and the efforts to achieve a lasting peace.

LET IT be plainly understood that the program is not a perfect one. There have been notable instances of waste. There have been instances where the uses to which aid funds have been put were, at best, questionable.

But, on balance, any thoughtful and informed observer must come to the conclusion that great good has come from the foreign aid program, and that without it, our present standing in the world community would be far less than it now is.

In past years, a majority of the Congress — and very possibly a majority of the people of the United States — have understood these truths, and have carried the burden without undue protest, knowing that the good achieved far outweighed the bad.

THIS YEAR, however, the Congress, and more especially the House plus an oddly assorted segment of the Senate, have chosen to subject the foreign aid program to the "economy" ax. It is false economy.

(Sen. Wayne L. Morse, long a self-proclaimed liberal and a staunch supporter of foreign aid, in one of the most puzzling and distressing turns of a long career full of puzzling turns, led the anti-foreign aid fight in the Senate. In doing so, he allied himself with such Senators as Goldwater, Russell, Eastland, Thurmond and Tower.)

The House, not content with aiding and abetting the Senate in whittling down the authorization bill, followed the leadership of Rep. Otto Passman of Louisiana and chopped away at the appropriation bill, until it was barely more than half of what President Kennedy had requested.

THE ISSUE here is more than money. It is the conduct of the foreign policy of the United States, which is the responsibility of the President of the United States.

By cutting funds, and by putting in amendatory provisions which severely limit the ability of the President to conduct the policy as he sees the need, the Congress has undercut his authority and his ability to do the job he believes needs to be done.

A week before his assassination, President Kennedy said, "I'm asking the Congress of the United States to give me the means of conducting the foreign policy of the United States. (If they do not,) they're severely limiting my ability to protect the national interest. That's how important I think this program is."

THE ACTION of the Congress undercut and repudiated President Johnson. It reversed the direction of a historic program. It repudiated our responsibilities and hamstringed the President in the conduct of the cold war.

The San Francisco Chronicle put it this way: "The performance of the House was hypocritical to the point of being almost frightening. This congregation of politicians of both parties was taking its stand for the opposite of everything that the late John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson had urged with such emphasis and sincerity."

The memory of what Mr. Kennedy stood for was being mocked, not mourned, and the President of the United States was given what can only be called a stab in the back as he went off to New York to make his bow to the United Nations.

It has been a shameful performance. It is one more item in the growing list of evidence that the Congress is incapable, as now constituted, of governing responsibility. — E. A.

Don't Want It To Happen: The man who is one heart-beat away from the Presidency of the United States — John W. McCormack, 72, Speaker of the House of Representatives — was asked the other day whether he had given any thought to the possibility that he might have to serve as President.

He replied: "Well, you ask me if I have thought about it. Well, think about many things. We are just human. But that is not a complete answer to your question. Because I don't want it to happen, and so I don't want to think about it because then you develop a state of mind that I don't want to develop, and I don't want to see anyone else develop."

Quick, let's change the line of succession. And long life to President Johnson. — E. A.

"Well, Time To Close Up Shop"



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. The letters printed in this column do not necessarily represent the views of the paper, in fact the contrary is often the case.

Beasts: To the Editor: As KDOV is incapacitated, hence no "Public Opinions," may I use this column to reply to an inquiry concerning Revelation's leopard-like beast? I will refrain intentionally from commenting directly on this particular beast but a comparative, careful study of Dan. 2 and 7 may furnish some illumination.

Dan 2 describes a golden-headed image with silver breast and arms, brass belly and thighs, iron legs, deteriorating into ten iron and clay toes. It designates the first of these as Babylon which was a universal kingdom. Hence logic prompts the same for the three other image-divisions which historically were Medo-Persia, Greece and the Eastern and Western divisions of Rome. Today the nations may properly be grouped into ten languages as follows: Hispanic, English, Germanic, French, Greek, Turkish, Slavic, Magyar, Scandinavian, Italian. (An eleven is given in Zec. 8:23) Let each be persuaded in his own mind as to the reasonableness of the above and as to whether the ten language groups are representatively the ten toes of Daniel's image.

As to the beast-like animals (Dan. 7), the following is suggested: the lion-like beast to be Babylon; the bear-like beast, Medo-Persia (its rising on its side, the more prominent Persia which, under Cyrus, gained greater prominence than that under Darius; the three ribs in its mouth, Sardis's kingdom under Croesus; the three kingdoms, conquered by Cyrus, joined him; and Babylon); the leopard-like beast in its four heads, the Grecian empire which, after Alexander the Great's death, was quartered under his four generals—Ptolemy in Egypt, Seleucus in Syria and upper Asia, Lysimachus in Thrace and Asia Minor as far as Taurus, and Cassander in Macedonia; the fourth beast, the Roman Empire.

Apparently the image and beast-like animals refer to the same but from somewhat different standpoints; since, among other things, all are said to be destroyed and followed by an everlasting kingdom.

If the foregoing has whetted an appetite for more, also much on Revelation's leopard-like beast, this may be found in "The Divine Plan of the Ages" (in the Medford Public Library), "The Time Is at Hand" and "The Kingdom Come" which three books may be purchased (\$1 each) from The Laymen's Home Missionary Movement, 2101-13 S. 11th St., Philadelphia 48, Pa., or borrowed from the movement's lending library.

(Mrs.) Irene Moreland, 3146 Hanley Rd., Medford.

A J. Curry, 906 West Main St., Medford.

Unfair Competition: To the Editor: With further reference to the discussions concerning the county farm home, Mail Tribune, Nov. 27, and to my letter, Dec. 9, Mail Tribune, one of the most important points overlooked by the county officials is the fact that there are many privately operated nursing homes in the county which have a substantial investment upon which they pay taxes and certain fees for the privilege of operating these homes. Is it fair and proper to operate the county farm home in competition with them? Remember, the farm home belongs to the taxpayers, which includes the private home operators who pay taxes. Therefore, when you do this you are using their own tax money to provide competition against them. This is made more unreasonable when you consider the fact that that is also their tax dollars which help to provide the budget under which the farm home is operated.

If the county officials consider such competition fair and just, why limit it to nursing homes only? Why not cover other lines of business? Is it conceivable that the lumber industry, the fruit industry, or any other basic industry, would permit the county officials to use county funds, county equipment, or other county resources, in competition with them and at the same time undercut them in price, as has been practiced where private nursing homes were concerned? This question requires no answer.

I know what this competition means at first hand. We operated the Park View Nursing Home. We found that we could not help provide funds for the budget under which the farm home operates, pay our property taxes and other fees required, then turn around and compete with the farm home which pays no taxes or fees, in fact contributes nothing to the support of the county government, only to have them undercut us in price and take our patients, and at the same time realize a profit on our investment to close our home. If the present practice of unfair competition is allowed to continue, it is possible that others may have to do the same thing.

Therefore, I repeat the suggestion made in my letter of Dec. 9, place the issue on the ballot and let the taxpayers say who shall or shall not be admitted to the farm home. Then if they want this unfair competition, they would only have themselves to blame, instead of having it crammed down their throats by the county officials.

(Mrs.) Irene Moreland, 3146 Hanley Rd., Medford.

U.S. Slaughterhouse of Representatives: In Seattle, South Korea, lines of scotched, hungry men form for a morning handout of food from a Catholic missionary relief kitchen.

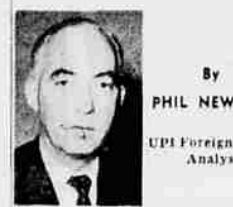
Factories stand half completed. In the last year the price of rice has doubled. Rents and consumer goods prices have risen steadily. It is estimated that about one-fourth of the country's labor force is unemployed.

This is some measure of the economic crisis facing the new Third Republic of Korea which came into being on Dec. 17 when Gen. Park Chung Hee, leader of Korea's ruling military junta, switched hats and became the nation's freely elected president.

The junta had ruled South Korea for a little more than two and a half years and the economic problems it passed along to the new Third Republic were being inherited by the same men who helped create them.

U.S. Slaughterhouse of Representatives: In Seattle, South Korea, lines of scotched, hungry men form for a morning handout of food from a Catholic missionary relief kitchen.

Despite Stagnant Economy, Korea Shows Promise of Improvement; Election Helps



By PHIL NEWSOM, UPI Foreign News Analyst

The result has been inflation and a serious depletion of Korea's foreign exchange.

This has been in spite of the fact that in the last 10 years, U.S. economic and military aid to South Korea has totaled more than \$4 billion.

U.S. current aid is running at around \$165 million annually. Despite U.S. insistence on economic reforms and the prospect of a decline in U.S. spending and despite many promises, the Korean government has been slow to mend its ways.

There have been other sources of irritation between the two governments. One such came when the Korean government secretly negotiated to purchase more than \$6 million worth of Australian food grains. The United States held that Korea suffered from no such grain shortage.

Another source over the late President Kennedy's failure to congratulate General Park on his election to the presidency. But there remains hope.

The fact that Park now heads a strong government has led to predictions that Korea and Japan may be able soon to settle their long dispute and bury the ill-feeling left by 35 years of Japanese occupation. U.S. officials long have been convinced that cooperation between the two is essential to a healthy Korea.

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Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop (c) New York Herald Tribune Syndicate

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS: WASHINGTON — One major question has at any rate been answered by the Soviet Central Committee to consider the grim problem of agriculture. At the last comparable meeting, in the winter of 1961, the Soviet bosses hopefully decided to try more bureaucrats as a substitute for more fertilizer. This time, the need for more fertilizer was squarely faced.

The huge sum of \$46 billion is to be invested, in the years just ahead, to increase output of chemical fertilizer, to provide more pesticides, and even to make more truck tires so that the fertilizers and pesticides can be delivered to the Soviet farms.

As presented by Nikita S. Khrushchev, the fertilizer program has a lot of very ragged edges. For one thing, Soviet technical training is so narrowly specialized that you do not graduate as a mining engineer, but as a coal engineer, or an iron mining engineer, or the like. Thus technicians trained to handle such a vast expansion of the Soviet chemical industry will be extremely scarce before more men can be trained.

THEN TOO, the record shows that the basic vice of all East bloc agriculture is its organization in collectives. In Poland alone farming is not collectivized; and even Poland's decidedly old-fashioned peasant farms are far more productive than the incentive-killing Soviet collectives. Ideology forbade an attack on this basic organizational vice of Russian farming.

Yet the Soviet have clearly decided to make a Herculean effort to increase farm output. The specialists in Soviet affairs were still asking until the last moment whether this painful decision would again be ducked. Even with this uncertainty removed, however, many linked questions of equal importance remain unanswered.

The first group of these questions of course concerns how the Soviets are going to pay for the huge new investment to improve farm output, and how this heavy new drain on their total resources will affect the Soviet economy and the Soviet defense program.

AS THE specialists now see the facts, it seems more probable that Khrushchev hopes to get a large share of the needed resources by putting up a semi-stop on new capital investment in the steel and other heavy industries. These have always been the favorites, until now, of the Soviet economic planners. Downgrading them is close to heresy, in fact.

A bite will also be taken out of the consumers, no doubt, particularly by slowing down construction of the new housing that is still so desperately needed. And in these and other ways, general economic growth, which has already strikingly decelerated, is to be partly sacrificed, in order to obtain fast growth in the sector helpful to agriculture.

Then too, credits and technical skills will certainly be sought in the West. At President Kennedy's funeral, Anastas Mikoyan pointedly told the British Prime Minister, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, that Soviet purchases in Britain would be greatly increased if better terms could be obtained.