

CAPITAL COMMENTS

By WILLIAM M. BOYLE, JR.

The strongest kind of democracy is day-to-day democracy, the kind in which public servants report continually to their employers—the people of these United States.

This week saw another dramatic demonstration that President Truman's administration practices that kind of democracy when Secretary of State Dean Acheson made an unprecedented report to the members of the senate and the house of representatives on his return from historic meetings in Europe.

The Secretary of State's address was broadcast and telecast to the nation and his answers to questions put to him by senators and congressmen after his report were also "on the record" and were reported by the scores of newsmen who attended the meeting.

The Secretary of State had met with the foreign ministers of Great Britain and of France and with the North Atlantic Council.

Secretary Acheson made no effort at high pressure salesmanship in recounting the achievements of the London meetings. He pointed out that the nations of western Europe were in agreement on their joint economic and military problems and that he found a new vitality and confidence that community action could solve their community problems.

But he also made it plain that the United States must still bear a heavy burden both in leadership and in material contributions if we are to complete successfully the task we have assumed in ECA and the North Atlantic Pact.

The Secretary of State summed it up this way:

"Most of what was done was a beginning of still further progress . . . The Atlantic Community is on the right road, we have gone some distance down it, and we know where we are going . . .

"How far and how fast we go depends on each country, but perhaps especially on the United States. These meetings will be just as important as the government and the people of America choose to make them. If we now support on a sustained basis the measures necessary to make this co-operative venture a success, we will not find wanting a similar response from our friends and allies. Together we shall make a major contribution to the United Nations whose Charter remains our basic guide.

"This road is the road to peace."

The actions of our Secretary of State in making this public report, in undergoing public questioning by the elected representatives of the people, show that he believes as does our President and as does the people in general, that the people must be given the facts about governmental problems as they develop. It also shows that he shares the confidence of our President and that, given the facts, the people will make the right decisions and support those public servants who SHOW their confidence in the people by their actions and who HOLD the confidence of the people by the high calibre of the daily performance of their duties.

THE COLD FACTS about the investigation of loyalty among federal employees and the accomplishments of the Department of Justice in combatting communism were listed by Attorney General J. Howard McGrath in an important speech at Omaha last week.

After a detailed description of the careful screening carried on by the

government's various loyalty review agencies, including the Loyalty Review Board of the Civil Service Commission, headed by a conservative Republican of highest personal reputation, the Attorney General pointed out:

"This program has established that only a small fraction of cases, less than 1-10 of one percent of the persons checked, has there been found any reasonable ground for belief that a government employee was disloyal. That is a wonderful record and attests to the high calibre of character among our federal employees . . .

"Final checks of governmental employees now show that not one single person who has been finally adjudicated as disloyal under the loyalty program is employed by the government at the present time.

"This administration has not only been alert to the danger of communist infiltration of the government. It has also fought communism at every turn. The Department of Justice of which I have the honor to be the head has fought communism with action—not with words.

"It was this administration, the Department of Justice, which prosecuted and obtained convictions of 11 communists in New York. These men constituted the communist politbureau for the United States.

"The Department of Justice has been successful in obtaining convictions against sixteen alleged communists in California and seven in Colorado, on charges of contempt in refusing to testify before a federal grand jury.

"Within the past two years it has successfully prosecuted thirty-four communists in Washington for contempt. It has successfully prosecuted Marzani, Howard, Coplon, Bridges, Hiss, and many others for crimes related to communism.

"There are already 2,000 or more deportation orders to countries beyond the Iron Curtain. Eighty-eight were issued on grounds involving communism."

Attorney General McGrath also drove home the point that our traditional free way of life is our strongest defense against communism in these words:

"It is part of our fundamental strength in America that we have always approached basic decisions from our idealistic or even from a religious outlook. As a matter of basic self-respect, most Americans have lived by the rule that calls upon each man to do unto another as he would have done unto him.

"Belief in this has given us more than the strength of force and it offers us more than the strength which scattered pinpricks of disloyalty or espionage fifth columns of underground enemies can ever muster against a free and prosperous nation, where every man lives secure in the knowledge that he is free to believe and worship and talk as he pleases.

"If we ever abandon those beliefs and substitute for them the belief that the state is more important than the citizen, that the rights of the individual do not matter if the state feels that it must take away those rights for its own security, then we shall have surrendered to totalitarianism without a gunshot. We shall have done to ourselves what no totalitarian army could impose upon us by force . . ."

The Attorney General suggested an alternative to adopting totalitarianism, an alternative that we should all give careful thought to in days when some, either because of confusion or desire to achieve partisan political gain, are seeking to create an atmosphere of hysteria and fear in which our traditional liberties will perish. He said:

"We need to be calm. We need to anchor ourselves to our traditions of law and justice and fair play.

"We need to have not only a faith in our God but also a faith in our fellow men and in our public servants and a confidence that the spirit of fair play that has guided every step of our national life must not be abandoned now.

"In the last few months I have traveled the length and breadth of this vast continent of ours. I have seen

Americans of all races and creeds and colors in all sections working at their jobs, worshipping at the churches of their choice, speaking their minds without fear or terror, cherishing their loved ones in a nation where the home is most important, and the government remains the servant of the people.

"After what I have seen and heard, communism does not frighten me and it should not frighten you . . ."

IN A FIGHTING SPEECH at the huge Texas Jefferson-Jackson rally at Austin, Vice President Alben W. Barkley described the century-old history of campaigns of epithet against the Democratic party and listed the positive democratic accomplishments which Republicans still fight by scare words. Highlights of the talk:

"Most of the legislation, which the growing complexity of our economic and social life has made necessary, was enacted under Democratic leadership. The first rural mail route in America, and the first act to regulate commerce, were brought about under Grover Cleveland . . .

"It was under Woodrow Wilson that the first act granting federal aid in the construction of highways was authorized. It was under Woodrow Wilson that a workable farm credit system was set up . . .

"It was under Woodrow Wilson that the Federal Trade Commission was set up, offering a forum for honest business to seek redress against monopolistic practices. It was under his administration that the Clayton anti-trust law was enacted . . . that the great federal system was established . . .

"Then came Harding, Coolidge and Hoover . . . and . . . the greatest depression and debacle in the history of the nation . . . the people turned again . . . to a great democratic leader, Franklin Delano Roosevelt . . .

"Roosevelt made the government the servant of the people in every field of human activity . . .

"Farm legislation, seeking to put agriculture on an economic basis equal to industry, was enacted, which included not only an Agricultural Adjustment act, but Soil Conservation, Rural Electrification, Farm Supports, research into the discovery of greater markets and greater uses for agricultural products. This was linked with Flood Control to protect our river valleys from recurring and devastating floods, which each year destroy more property than it would cost to protect the people permanently against these disasters.

"A Fair Labor Relations act, giving equality to employer and employee, was enacted. Minimum wages and maximum hours were provided for labor.

"A Reciprocal Trade program, which has expanded our trade with the nations of the world, was inaugurated, and has been continued over the opposition of the antiquated Republican idea of unscalable tariff walls.

"A Social Security System was initiated, providing old age pensions, old age assistance and unemployment compensation, and recognizing the duty of society to those who have spent their lives in its service . . .

"World War II came to interfere with and retard this great domestic program of rehabilitation. But we are still the most prosperous and most happy and democratic nation . . .

"This great record of progressive legislation and administration has been continued by President Harry S. Truman, who is carrying on the burden of government in the tradition of Jefferson, Cleveland, Wilson and Roosevelt . . .

"Many of these measures to which I have referred, from Grover Cleve-

land to Harry S. Truman, were objected to and opposed on the ground that they were paternalistic, or that they invaded the field of private enterprise . . . Jefferson was called a visionary and a demagogue because he advocated equality of the people, because he advocated the public education of the children by the state . . .

"Jackson was called a dictator . . . They accused Woodrow Wilson of being a scholar in politics and a visionary dreamer . . . They applied epithets to Franklin D. Roosevelt and they have applied them to President Truman.

"But, we do not believe in government by epithet. We do not believe in government by slogan alone . . .

"In the midst of this great record in behalf of our domestic prosperity and happiness, we have been required, in one generation, to fight two World Wars . . .

"Peace has not yet settled upon the world, and, because of this, we have been required to undergo additional sacrifices in the way of aid to the freedom-loving peoples . . .

"While these burdens are heavy, we have enjoyed a prosperity which is unequalled in any period of our history. Republican mouthpieces claim we are on the road to bankruptcy and we are on the last mile (Continued on Page 4)

Candid Forestry By BIMROSE



An airplane must have a landing gear if it is to avoid a smashup. Regardless of distance or speed, it must come down and here the only thing important is the landing gear. It was used at the take-off, and now, coming down, it must be used again. Religion is to life what landing gears are to planes.—Dr. Clinton C. Cox.

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