

Herald and News

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JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Eisenhower and Secretary of State Dulles have finally expressed bluntly what has been an attitude among many people in this country for a good while: That if Western Europe wants American help it had better do more about helping itself.

Western Europe, and France in particular, has been acting like a tired old man. He likes to doze and would rather hear the feet creeping along the hallway under the door than the knock of the door if he hears an unwelcome knock.

Frightened Western Europe got anxious and busy about arming when the Communists took over Czechoslovakia and then when they began the war in Korea. They couldn't help but think: Are we next?

France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg, under American prodding, agreed among themselves, for their own protection, to set up what they called the European Defense Community.

It was a fine burst of energy. They agreed, or their statesmen did, that they should have a single European army. But that was just the statesmen agreeing. It couldn't be final, and the army couldn't be created, unless the parliaments of each country approved.

So far not one parliament has approved. When the Korean War dragged on, the Russians didn't attack, and the Communists nowhere took over more territory, the French and West Germans began to quarrel at home about having a united army.

The French have reason to be concerned about the Germans who overran them three times in less than 100 years. They dread seeing Germans under arms again, although West Germany's Chancellor, Adenauer, says a single army is the only solution and he himself dreads ever again seeing national armies.

But the French factions have been arguing among themselves. So have the West Germans. In both countries there is some opposition to the EDC plan as approved by the statesmen, or to such a single army at all.

France acted like a tired old man before World War II. So did the rest of Western Europe, where the menace of Hitler was plain enough, but the people couldn't manage to set up a wall against him.

This was especially true in France, which was torn and divided. Now once again, with Hitler gone, but Russia taking his place as the No. 1 European danger, the French are dawdling as if believing that just by hoping the worst can't happen to them it won't happen.

Dulles has been in Europe all week, trying to urge Western Europe into fuller realization that if it can't find the way to work together for the common defense they have no right to expect this country to keep on shelling out help.

So far, of course, Dulles has been in a favorable position. He gave the Western Europeans about 75 days to make up their minds. As a representative of this country, which foots the big bills, he could talk tough.

But the question still to be answered is this: Suppose the French and West Germans don't do any more about forming the single army than they've done so far. Then what is this country going to do?

The United States needs allies as a bulwark against any sudden Russian moves and Western Europe can provide this country with air bases fairly close to Russia. The Europeans know that, too.

Apart from the question of the effect on Western civilization if Russia overran Western Europe, there is the intensely practical question of what such a conquest would mean in terms of the United States and Russia.

As of now the United States and its European friends control about two-thirds of the industrial production of the world. Russia has the other third. If Russia took Western Europe, half the world's industrial capacity — meaning the capacity to make modern war — would be in Russia's hands, and half in this country.

LA TRIVIATA

By BOB

My brother made a pointed remark concerning spring. As we watched the snow draining its life away in muddy trickles, I was moved to exult in my warmth of feeling. Hogback was nearly bare; ruts were beginning to show again in the unpaved streets.

"Ah," I breathed gratefully, "it's spring, and in the spring a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of what women have been thinking about all winter!" he finished the quote!

Many national business concerns could benefit greatly by a short study of our local merchants and their methods of operation. If you're at all known to the store man, it's a cinch to get credit. Seldom is there any delay or general checking. There isn't the scrutiny here that one has to bear in other small towns.

In many places I have asked for short-term credit till payday, and had the merchant look at me as though I had signed a separate peace with Stalin. I have owed bills at several local stores for periods of six months, but never received more notification than the usual monthly statement. Apparently, in every town but Klamath Falls, there's a guy named "Please Remit" who signs all my bills. This is a good town.

All winter long I have been wondering what my cocker spaniel did on those many occasions that he wanted to go outside. With the snow melting, the reasons are obvious. Guess I'll have to quit feeding him so well.

Speaking of dogs, what's a good way to keep them from shedding all over the house? Short of giving them a crew cut, that is? I don't want to bathe him in this cold weather, but I'm getting awfully tired of trying to sweep dog hair out of the rug. I thought of weaving a rug of genuine cocker comb-

ings, but darn it, my carding machine's broken, and I've lost my loom shuttle. Oh well, I doubt if there's a market for such a distinctive product anyway.

Whimsy department: Slick Willie absently surveyed his frayed vest and grinned sardonically. He uncrossed his legs so the holes in his shoes wouldn't show. "A fine comedown this is," he muttered sardonically. "Biggest gambler on the river six months ago, and now look at me."

Lulu the Pippin sauntered over and sat at Slick Willie's table. "No luck at the games?" she asked. "Naw, my luck's run out, Lulu. 'Beagle Nose is looking for a house man."

"Beagle Nose?"

"Yeah, he owns this joint."

Slick Willie thought this over. It's a far cry from gambler to come on man, but a guy's gotta eat. "Where can I find Beagle Nose?" he asked.

Lulu jerked her thumb toward the rear of the saloon. "His office's back there."

Slick Willie threaded his way between the tables. He knocked on the office door. "Come in, it ain't locked," a gruff voice told him. "Hear you're looking for a snail, Beagle Nose?" Willie said as he entered.

"Yeah, You want the job Willie? It's a big comedown for a gambler to turn snail."

"Yeah," answered Willie, "but a guy's gotta eat."

"You'll have to snail for all the games. But we ain't got no snail game. Haw! Haw!" Beagle Nose fell out of his chair laughing.

Well, Slick Willie became a snail in Beagle Nose's saloon. But the life was tedious and the long hours began to tell. Willie wasted away to a mere shadow. Patrons commented on it. "Willie don't wear well," was the gist of the talk.

Which circumstance was the origin of the saying, "He was a mere snail of his former self."

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HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (AP)—Who says there is no adventure in everyday life?

The mere act of shaking hands with a stranger is a pioneering social venture into the dark unknown.

To the Romans the handshake was merely a form of guarantee between two men that at the moment of meeting neither planned to harm the other to death. As long as their hands were linked neither could draw his sword.

The handshake today is no insurance against fatality. It does protect you from stabbing — but may result in your being talked to death.

In the modern world the handshake may lead to anything — from a fresh romance to a court summons, from a new job to the purchase of a swimming pool for your living room.

You put out your paw — and mystery begins. Anything can happen to you from a handshake, particularly at a cocktail party, and at such affairs the wise man keeps a drink in both hands, so he won't feel tempted to risk rattling the dice of destiny. If you see anyone you really like, you can always shake hands with him later.

There are certain types of handshakes and handshakeers, however, that it seems impossible to avoid even in a well spent life. Perhaps you have met the following:

(1) The Snob — You aren't aware he has you by the hand at all, for he is measuring you with both eyes that say: "Who are you? How much money do you have? Will it help my social standing to know you?"

(2) The Mangler — He likes to hear bones snap — other people's bones. Fortunately, this type is now almost extinct except in barrooms.

(3) The Feminine Fencers' —

SAM DAWSON

NEW YORK (AP)—The death of wage controls will find both workers and employers wondering if another round of pay boosts is coming up.

And while collar men will be asking if the raise they hoped for — the raise that somehow got stuck in the paperwork involved in controls — was pared back from what the boss said he'd like to give — will not be a possibility again.

Pressure for higher wages will doubtless be increased in several quarters as wage controls end.

With employment at a record high and unemployment slight, with industrial activity at a peak and many skilled workmen hard to find — labor will be in a good bargaining position if time to reopen contracts rolls around during the present business boom.

But several rounds of pay boosts since the war have lifted wages high in many industries, and management is getting more stubborn as operating costs pinch profit margins.

Most businessmen feel that, for industry as a whole, there won't be much change in either labor demands or management stands as a result of the end of controls. Businessmen contend that for all practical purposes wage controls have been all but dead for months.

First test of what is likely to follow the end of controls may be found in some 10,000 applications before the Wage Stabilization Board for new and higher pay by the news of his death.

She issued a statement saying: "Once in a while the world is blessed with a man born with great understanding. This is attested to by the number of true friends he gathers during his life. Such a man was Steve Hannagan. My personal loss and feelings, which are extremely deep, must therefore be shared by many others around the world who knew, loved and were influenced by the greatness of this man."

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Europe, Holland Digging Out As Weary Residents Start Toting Up Flood Damage Total In Millions

AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands (AP)—Flood-ravaged but defiant Holland—facing a billion dollar damage bill—fought back today in her age-old battle against the North Sea. Every inch of Dutch soil, said determined officials, would be reclaimed from the crop-killing salt waters.

A few areas where the angry ocean threatened to punch through weakened dikes still were in danger but officials reported the dramatic evacuation of thousands of persons from the flooded southwestern lowlands has been largely completed.

Rescue efforts were concentrated today on saving about 1,000 persons huddled in the town of Noor-goyve. A new break in a nearby dike already has engulfed one previously evacuated village.

As Dutch, British and Belgian soldiers added up the staggering damage bill from the storm that hit their lands Sunday, the three-nation death toll mounted to 1,319.

DEATH TOLL

Britain listed 546 dead, Belgium 23 while Holland—by far the worst afflicted of the three—counted 1,250. But this figure did not include hundreds of missing. Many of their bodies, it is feared, still lie trapped in batters several feet below sea level. Unofficial estimates of the Dutch toll alone have reached as high as 2,000.

Property damage, both actual and potential, was described as "appalling." Some 300,000 Dutch are homeless and destitute and 700,000 others are described as "in distress."

Both Belgium and Britain were in somewhat better shape. The water has begun to recede from all except a few of the flooded places in Belgium.

In Britain, A. G. Johnson, chief drainage engineer of the British Agriculture Ministry, reported, "Everything is under control."

Johnson said that 800 holes had been torn in English dikes, but have been filled in and repair work on the others was under way. Dutch officials indicated their next big job would be the resettlement on safer ground of whole towns and villages of displaced men, women and children from the devastated southwest part of Holland.

FEVER THREAT

The most immediate danger, according to Health Minister Dr. Pieter Muntendam, is that an epidemic of typhoid fever may break out.

Although it is still much too early for a definite tally of damage to the nation's homes, farming and national economy, preliminary estimates placed it at around one billion dollars.

Life-denying salt water spilled over one-sixth of the nation's land surface, affecting fully one-fourth of its arable fields. Surveys by the Transport and Waterways Ministry showed that 30,000 acres of farmland and pasture have been flooded.

August G. Maris, waterways director, sadly conceded to a news conference that none of these flooded areas can produce crops this year. They probably will not be able to produce full crops before the summer of 1955.

With such heavy losses, many are, the said, in a state of shock. The salt in time to come will be a bitter pill to swallow. Officials worry the more serious damage to the dike system will be done when its normal water level falls off and the sea is back in its old position.

These officials had in previous years, however, planned for the possibility of a future tidal surge. They had built up a reserve of food and other supplies to last for several months. They had also built up a reserve of money to last for several months.

Presumably the Dutch American aid for the day with U. S. aid. John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State, said during their visit here.

New Farm Program Stands On Long Range Plans; US Supports May Be Dropped

By OVID A. MARTIN

WASHINGTON (AP)—Long-range farm policies of the Eisenhower administration will depend less on controversial agricultural price support programs than those developed under past Democratic administrations.

This was made clear Thursday by Secretary of Agriculture Benson at his first news conference.

Present farm programs, as enacted under Roosevelt and Truman administrations, make price supports the major mechanism for stabilizing farm prices. These programs are due to continue through 1954.

Benson said, however, that in the meantime, "there will be formulated long-range programs which will more fully and effectively accomplish our overall objectives."

Those objectives, the new farm chief said, will be full parity prices and incomes for farm people in the market place, with a minimum of government restrictions.

The question of price supports is one of the most controversial issues facing farm leaders in and out of Congress. Some lawmakers — and they include many Republicans — want to keep present high-level supports for an indefinite period. Farm organizations are split on the issue.

Other congressmen favor a return to a flexible price support system under which price floors would be high in times of crop shortages to encourage greater production and lower in times of surpluses to discourage over production.

What Benson had to say about the place of price supports in a farm program was open to the interpretation that he favored flexible supports as a long-range device.

Benson said the GOP farm policy will emphasize further development of both domestic and foreign markets for farm products. A decline in overseas demands in such interpretation that he favored flexible supports as a long-range device.

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