Herald and News

Editorial Page

Out Of The Limelight

President Kennedy would seem to have at least a double purpose in declaring his preference for quiet diplomacy.

In the short range he wants to forestall any quick rush to the summit with Soviet Premier Khrushchev. It is his view that a stiffening of America's defense posture is required before we will be equipped to go to the summit on a footing suitable to our objectives.

Kennedy also is anxious to avoid early meetings even with Allied heads of government. His administration is currently engaged in the exploration and development of policies and programs. With the approaches still so nebulous, it is no time to sit down with Prime Minister Macmillan, Chancellor Adenauer or President De Gaulle.

Beyond these immediate ends, however, the President appears bent on a general upgrading of the diplomatic corps.

The intent to rely more heavily on what are called "normal diplomatic channels" — meaning diplomats at the ambassadorial level and even lower—represents a distinct turning away from the highly publicized personal diplomacy that came into vogue in World War II under Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Drama and excitement inevitably surrounded any kind of summit meeting. This was perhaps all to the good, to the extent that it stirred general world public concern for the issues of war and peace.

But there have been unhappy by-products. In too many quarters such high level meetings have come to be viewed as the be-all and end-all of diplomacy.

The truth is that by their very nature, summit conferences can seldom came to grips with more than the surface aspects of vital policy. Most issues are so complex they require weeks and weeks of detailed negotiation at the technical as well as at the high policy level.

Worse still, summit meetings are held in a goldfish bowl wired for sound. Almost any position taken must be a position adhered to. The natural resiliency of true diplomatic negotiation is impossible to attain in the spotlight glare.

This does not mean there is never any point to a summit meeting. In the proper circumstances it is obviously useful for heads of state, both in friendly and in opposing camps, to exchange views personally. It is also valuable for them on critical occasions to put their personal stamp on a major world diplomatic settlement.

But the hard fundamentals of diplomacy may be best achieved in the quiet channels where the play of public light is not so bright and cold as to freeze the diplomats in rigid posture.

Skilled In Fraud

It would be comforting to know that we really have the Soviet Communists boxed in and perfectly stalemated. Unhappily it isn't so. Their overt aggressions are largely halted, but they continuously devise insidious new techniques of subversion.

One of the things they appear to have learned lately is that if you cannot defeat a man you can sometimes make him at least a partial captive. The case of U.S. Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold is an example.

The Russians failed in their persistent effort to unseat Hammarskjold in the U.N. But they have raised so much fuss about him that he must now bend over backwards to avoid giving the Reds ammunition for their charge that he has acted in the Congo in an un-neutral manner.

To illustrate, Rajeshwar Dayal of India, the secretary general's personal representative in the Congo, is considered to be hostile to any Western influence in that area and to be opposed to the U.N.-endorsed Kasavubu government. Hammarskjold evidently feels powerless to try to correct the situation.

Implicit in all their recent Congo maneuvers is a device the Communists seem to be using with increasing effectiveness.

They begin by lending some kind of illegal, subversive assistance to Red elements in a troubled land like the Congo or Laos. Naturally, Western nations respond in an effort to protect their own interests.

Wisely, however, they generally resort to the U.N. They may selfishly hope that its action coincides with their interests, but in theory at least the U.N. is thought to be the genuine protector of the smaller countries.

At this point the Kremlin jumps in and demands "neutrality" in all actions affecting the troubled area. But it is quickly discovered that neutrality to them means that all others keep hands off as they press their schemes for control or conquest.

It's a neat game. Begin with wrongdoing and then question the neutrality of all who thereafter dare oppose your misdeeds.

The wonder is that such patent frauds find receptive minds in the vulnerable Asian-African lands, and especially in India. More and more, India's alleged political sophistication begins to seem merely skin deep.

All the emerging peoples of the world will learn, if they have not already, that what Communists will do to them—if they get the chance—goes a great deal deeper than the skin.

Later Primaries

(The Oregon Statesman)

Speaker Robert Duncan recommends holding primary elections in September. This would shorten the election campaigns, which now, with the primaries in May and close for filings in March, consume, for successful candidates in the primaries, virtually a whole year.

A real attempt for later primaries was made in 1939-40. It was urged with great vigor by the late Ralph Watson, long political writer for the Oregon Journal. The 1939 Assembly passed a bill which moved the primary elections back to September. To provide for delegates to national conventions it set up party conventions at which such delegates would be chosen. Foes of any change in the direct primary system had the bill referred and it was defeated with a vote of 156,421 for and 221,203 against.

Now that the Democrats have revived the convention idea the chance of enacting such a measure into law may be much better. We favored the 1939 measure, and would support it again if offered. Duncan might reach back in the files and dust off this Watson bill and offer it to the Assembly and to the public.

THEY SAY . . .

Nothing could be more dangerous to our democratic ideals than the establishment of an all-powerful police agency on the federal scene.
—J. Edgar Hoover.

No Arab country would recognize the aggressive entity that is Israel . . . We Arabs make a great distinction between Jews as such, who live among us peacefully, and Zionists.
—Lebanese Prime Minister Saeb Salaam.

I believe that the atmosphere of the Cold War has worsened. Nevertheless, it is most satisfying for me to have seen the growth of a bloc of uncommitted nations . . . which the great powers must take into account.
—Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia.

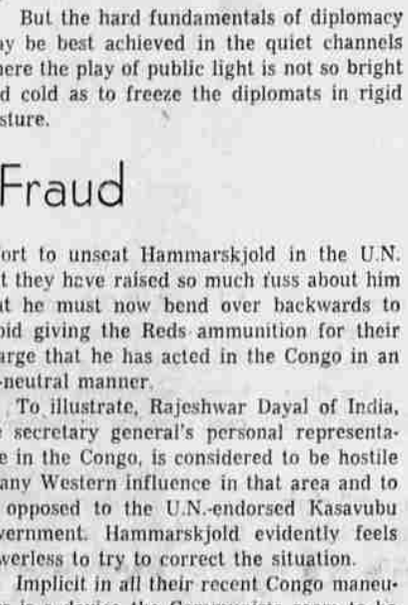
I would like to make it clear to our American friends that we will not retreat from Quemoy and Matsu under any circumstances or at anybody's suggestion.
—Yang Kung-tah, Nationalist Chinese parliament member.

Actress

ACROSS
1 Actress, Anita —
7 She is a — star
13 Harvester
14 Eagles' nests
15 Live
16 Barters
17 Special (ab.)
18 Exclamation of fright
20 Dutch uncle
21 Spiritualistic meeting
24 Violent storm
28 Summon forth
32 "Oscar" is an — in her field of endeavor
33 Stair part
34 Anatomical networks
35 Feminine appellation
36 Property item
37 Motives
39 Continued story
41 Philippine peasant
44 Qualified
45 Female horse
49 Get
52 Elicited
54 Color anew
55 Unkeeled
56 Long-legged birds
57 She is a native of —

DOWN
1 Makes mistakes
2 Retain
3 Foundation
4 Heroic
5 Crimson
6 Swimming birds
7 Wand
8 Brythonic sea god
9 British money of account
10 Pheasant brood
11 Opine
12 Essential being
19 Cereal grain
21 Calm
22 Breakfast food
23 Moral offenses
24 Ancient Irish capital
25 Female sheep
26 Cushions
27 Inquires searchingly
29 Capital of Norway
30 Sharp
31 Fish-eating birds
37 Tear
38 Diners
40 Raves
41 Rocky pinnacles
42 Encourage
43 Holy Roman Emperor (962-973)
45 Dumb
46 Tart
47 Plexus
48 Paradise
50 Ventilate
51 Writing fluid
53 Seesawing Marjory

Answer to Previous Puzzle



Economic, Political Pressure Complicates Brazilian Picture

Editor's Note: — Brazil, most populous nation in the Western Hemisphere after the United States, enters a new era Tuesday with inauguration of a president exactly the age of President Kennedy. Here is a report on the prospects, written by AP's globe-trotting news analyst, currently on a tour of Latin America.

By WILLIAM L. RYAN
Associated Press News Analyst

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — A new leadership is about to take over in Brazil, a stirring giant of a country where thinking people seem suddenly aware of its vast possibilities and its growing complex of political and economic dangers.

Janio Quadros, school-teacherish, enigmatic man sometimes called a political genius, takes his oath as president Tuesday. He will plunge into a sea of trouble. Time is his most urgent need, and he hasn't much of it in which to perform on the promises and hopes which elected him to office.

Just a few of his problems:

Brazil suffers from a variety of agricultural crises. A violent inflation outruns lower and middle incomes. A struggle is in prospect with labor, now the target of increased Communist pressure. There is a dangerous bread crisis in the offing. A variety of external pressures can force Quadros to compromise with leftists and extremists.

And some of the potentialities:

Many Brazilians seem determined to awaken their country from a long apathy that brought economic stagnation. They see now a chance to open up the huge undeveloped interior and make Brazil, in a matter of a decade, a mighty force in the world. They see a chance for reforms attacking the enormous evils of poverty and disease.

Brazilians express concern with the growth of Communist strength in the labor movement and—especially in the poor northeast — among despairing farmers living on the razor edge of starvation. The Communists are relatively small in numbers—possibly 40,000 or so—for a nation of 60 million, but they make up for that in organization and discipline. They have a hold on the leadership of many a labor union.

Brazilians are concerned, too, with a perceptible undercurrent of unrest that can rise to the surface any time, particularly if there should be a new wheat crisis.

Brazil imports her wheat. But now she no longer can afford the outlay of foreign exchange for import of food. Only hasty action by the United States is staving off a wheat crisis now, and another may rise again in six more months.

Communism is considered, both by Brazilians and foreign observers, a much greater danger than Castroism. Communists have been making alliances with nationalist elements. The party grows stronger rapidly, and this may have been a factor in deciding Quadros to make gestures in the direction of Fidel Castro of Cuba.

He visited Castro in Havana last March but said later he would be the first to condemn a Communist Cuba.

Castro himself normally would have little impact in Brazil. The Yankee-baiting Cuban prime minister is considered an unbalanced young upstart by many Brazilians.

In addition, Brazil has been a good friend of the United States—possibly the best in the hemisphere. Brazilians themselves are peace-loving, outgiving and friendly.

But Castroism has an indirect impact by demonstrating the potency of violent action in focusing attention on nations' woes. That is how the Communists of Brazil use Castroism.

The Communists appear to detest Quadros, and his election was a setback for them. There are indications they will do their best to give him a bad time as quickly as possible, primarily in the field of labor.

Some Brazilians say Quadros' expressed intention of renewing diplomatic relations with the U.S.S.R. and recognizing Red China indicates an attempt to buy time, to keep extremists off his back while he turns attention to cures for Brazil's major economic troubles.

Quadros would be unworried by the label of "neutralism," a vague word at best. In Brazil, recognizing the Red nations likely would be regarded as an expression of national sovereignty and independent policy and not necessarily turning away from friendship with the United States.

Given a little time, Quadros likely will attack the biggest problem, inflation, first. This may require some austerity measures. When he tries this he can expect trouble from labor, egged on by Communist union leadership.

Brazilian law limits union activity. The labor ministry can intervene in union affairs. Yet there have been strikes recently, even against the government, in defiance of the law. And there will be a drive for union independence from the labor ministry, whose efforts under President Juscelino Kubitschek kept Communist influence from growing more swiftly.

It seems likely the Communists and extreme nationalists will try to engender anti-Yankeeism, a device by which many a politician blames his own failures upon the United States. They can claim, for example, that U.S. failure to take anything but a trickle of Brazil's glut of sugar had a direct bearing on the grain crisis by making it impossible for Brazil to find the foreign exchange needed for wheat.

There is growing Soviet — and Red Chinese—interest in Brazil. It would be no surprise if before long the U.S.S.R. approached Brazil with a deal something like the one made with Bolivia, for constructing a steel plant. That would be a popular move here, and it would give the Russians another foot inside Latin America's door.

Quadros, at 43, the same age as President Kennedy, will have his hands full.

OTHER EDITORS' OPINIONS

Full Time University

(OREGONIAN)

Educators, taxpayers and students alike may profitably take note of an experiment in accelerated education in the East. For the past 18 months, the University of Pittsburgh has been offering at the student's discretion a "trimester" program under which the regular school year is extended from nine to 11 months divided into three semesters. A student is enabled to complete the regular undergraduate course in less than three years and to obtain a master's degree in one year.

Experience has been promising. More than 40 other colleges over the nation are considering similar changes to use more intensively the facilities of higher education in this period of critical enrollments.

Pitt has found that its overhead costs are less per student credit hour, that a greater number of students can be accommodated without sacrifice of standards of quality, that annual faculty earnings total substantially more, and that there is a minimum of idle time for classrooms and laboratories.

The academic year in the United States, at all levels of education, was established in an agricultural era. Teachers and students were needed in the fields in the summer months. The circumstances are much different today. There is a serious question whether our schools—elementary, secondary and higher education — should remain one of the nation's few endeavors not on a full-time basis, considering that time is becoming such a valuable commodity in education.

Amos 'N' Andy Bookkeeping

(INDUSTRIAL NEWS REVIEW)

Expansion of the social security system to include medical care for elderly persons offers some tough nuts to crack. Experience shows that in politics things are advocated that are unworkable. Richard Starnes, columnist for the Washington Daily News, reveals some not very comforting statistics on the entire social security set-up. "In its first quarter century," he says, "social security took in 70 billion dollars. It paid out 50 billion dollars of that, and has 20 billion dollars of government bonds in the kitty. Against that 20 billion dollars there are obligations, at the present rate of benefits, of 360 billion dollars."

If you wonder how the social security system has reached such a pass the answer is simple. Mr. Starnes cites a not unusual case —a pensioner who paid for three years, starting in 1937. Then he retired. Since then he and his late wife together have drawn $13,490 in benefits while their total contributions to the fund had been $40. But in the case of young people starting to work circumstances are reversed. They can never hope to take out as much as they are forced to contribute.

There is little justification for further taxing, in the name of social security, already overtaxed younger workers to provide medical care for millions of elderly persons who are both able and willing to care for themselves. Sen. Harry F. Byrd, a distinguished Democrat who has as great an understanding of the fiscal problems of the federal government as any man, does not mince words. "I am opposed to . . . compulsory medical service and hospitalization under the Social Security System. I am convinced this would lead to socialized medicine with the possibility that it would bankrupt the social security trust fund."

EDSON IN WASHINGTON

Reds Busy With Foreign Aid Plan

By PETER EDSON
Washington Correspondent
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

WASHINGTON (NEA) — President Kennedy's inauguration promise to seek new foundations for a disarmament agreement needs to be weighed against Communist bloc arms aid to new nations, neutrals and revolutionary movements which the Reds are trying to swing into their camp for world domination.

Most recent example is Russia's arms drop to the Communist Pathet Lao revolutionists in Laos.

Sino-Soviet arms aid in the last six years exceeds one billion dollars to 10 countries, along with about three billion in economic aid to those same 10, and 11 other countries.

Eisenhower's final report to Congress on the U.S. mutual security program for the fiscal year ending last June 30 put the value of Communist bloc military assistance at 825 million dollars.

Since that time, Russia has promised 300 million dollars' worth of military aid to Indonesia. A primary objective of President Sukarno's government is to wrest control of West Irian (New Guinea) from the Netherlands.

Russian and Czechoslovakian military assistance to Cuba in the last six months is estimated at 50 million dollars.

The value of Russian and Communist Chinese military aid to support the Algerian nationalists in their revolution for independence from France is unknown. It is mostly small arms shipments, which have been stepped up in recent months.

The Russians are also reported to be shipping arms to Lumumba supporters in the Congo, in direct opposition to U.N. efforts to bring stability to that new nation. And there have been offers and gifts for Red arms to Morocco, Guinea, Sudan and other new nations of Africa.

All this Communist bloc military assistance is of particular interest in view of recent Moscow revelations on long range Russian policies for establishing Communist supremacy throughout the world.

First publication of speeches made by Khrushchev to representatives of the 81 Communist parties that met in Moscow last November show that previously declared disarmament and peaceful coexistence policies are complete shams. These peace policies are intended primarily to disarm the Western powers. This will, the Reds hope, make Communist world conquest that much easier. And it is to be attained by revolutionary military action, not by peaceful political negotiation.

The U.S. mutual security report lists the following six less-developed, free world countries having received Sino-Soviet bloc military assistance from 1955 to June 30, 1960:

Afghanistan, 30 million dollars; Iraq, 120 million; Indonesia, 206 million; Yemen, 17 million; Guinea, one million; United Arab Republic—Egypt and Syria—433 million.

The Middle East thus received 618 of the 825 million dollars total aid.

Since that report was compiled, deliveries to UAR have been increased by perhaps 20 million dollars, to Afghanistan by 10 million, to Guinea and Yemen by two to three million.

Estimates on the kinds of aid furnished by the Communist bloc are based on military equipment displayed in parades and announcements by leaders of the recipient countries.

UAR has been the biggest beneficiary. It has received 50 jet bombers, 150 jet fighters and 100 other aircraft. Fifty heavy tanks, 400 medium tanks, 100 self-propelled guns and 200 pieces of artillery have also gone to UAR. Nasser's navy has received two destroyers, eight submarines and 30 subchasers, mine sweepers and auxiliary craft.

Iraq—formerly a member of the Baghdad Pact before the Kassem revolution and the assassination of King Feisal—is known to have received from Russia 10 jet bombers, 40 jet fighters, 25 other aircraft, 150 tanks and 500 pieces of artillery.

Afghanistan got 50 jets and 30 other aircraft, 100 tanks and 400 guns. Yemen has so far received no jets, but it has 30 other planes, 25 medium tanks, 30 pieces of artillery.

Indonesia got 20 jet bombers, 50 jet fighters, 80 other aircraft, 100 artillery pieces, four destroyers and two subs before the recent deal for aid which is supposed to double Indonesia's total armed strength, now 250,000 men.

Cuba has received only first shipments of 30 heavy and medium tanks, 15 self-propelled guns and 300 artillery pieces. But aircraft and even missiles from Moscow have been promised.

No Larceny Compares With Fate Of Dollar

By LYLE C. WILSON

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The grandest larceny ever committed against the citizens of the United States took place during the 16 years from 1938 through 1954. We wuz robbed.

The thieves were so numerous as to be faceless. Moreover, events as well as men brought about this grand theft, the most important event having been World War II.

To understand the enormity of this thing, it is necessary to accept for purposes of calculation that the U. S. dollar in 1939 was worth 100 cents in purchasing power.

During the 16 years afore-mentioned ending on Dec. 31, 1954, the value of that beautiful buck rotted to just more than 50 cents. By the end of 1954 the dollar had lost 48.3 cents of its 1939 purchasing power.

An individual who put $100 in the bank in 1939 had only $51.70 in the bank by the end of 1954 although the depositor and the banker both referred to the sum as $100. The income of a $100-a-month pensioner likewise had rotted to $51.70 in that period. Anyone's life insurance policy was hit the same way. The man or woman on a fixed income of any kind was robbed.

That is why this inflation of the currency, this rotting of the dollar is the grandest larceny. There is no other larceny to compare with it.

By the end of 1954, World War II was almost 10 years in the past, the Korean War was merged by an uneasy truce into the Cold War. With these conditions going for him and a sincere desire to protect the value of the citizens' money, Dwight D. Eisenhower was able to apply effective brakes to runaway currency inflation.

Ike held the dollar line pretty well. From the end of 1954 through May of 1960, dollar rot was limited to 4.7 cents. The Eisenhower administration inherited a 51-cent dollar from the Truman administration and bequeathed to the Kennedy administration a dollar worth about 47 cents.

These facts and figures seem to bear on a partisan political dispute which ran through the campaign and continues. The dispute was whether the Eisenhower administration was leaving the United States in good condition or bad condition, strong or weak.

That is one of those who-killed-cock-robin questions to which no generally acceptable answer is likely. A similar question now will be asked about the administration of President Kennedy. The question will be this:

Is the Kennedy administration making the United States stronger or weaker?

The answers to that question will be politically partisan. Few U. S. citizens will be competent to make a judgment. For those who may be interested, here is a suggestion. Keep tab on the purchasing power of the U. S. dollar. Know for yourself whether it is rotting or thriving under the policies of the Kennedy administration.

Write to your congressman from time to time and ask him how much the dollar is worth compared with its 1939 purchasing power. The foregoing figures were compiled by the Senate Finance Committee. They precisely measure the nation's economic health.

Almanac

By United Press International

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 31, the 31st day of the year with 334 more in 1961.

The moon is in its full phase.

The evening stars are Venus and Mars.

On this day in history:

In 1797, Austrian composer Franz Shubert was born.

In 1865, Confederate President Jefferson Davis named Gen. Robert E. Lee commander in chief of all Confederate armies.

In 1892, famed comedian Eddie Cantor was born.

In 1917, Germany announced she was instituting a policy of unrestricted submarine warfare.

In 1934, President Roosevelt devalued the American dollar in its relationship to gold to 59.06 cents.

Thought for Today: American writer Henry David Thoreau said: "That man is richest whose pleasures are the cheapest."