Herald and News

Editorial Page

British Pacifists

Is it better to be "Red than dead"?

London's intellectuals led by the eminent 89-year-old philosopher Bertrand Russell presently seek to persuade Britons that it would be preferable to live in Communist slavery rather than die as free men in an atomic war.

The influential book publisher Victor Gollancz even suggested recently that Prime Minister Macmillan should proclaim his readiness to negotiate with Nikita Khrushchev "alone," "naked" and "unconditionally."

Lord Russell and Gollancz, of course, have never been subjects of a Communist state. They live in a free society which tolerates their eccentricities and "civil disobedience."

But in East Germany today ordinary men and women prefer death to life in Walter Ulbricht's Communist state. In addition to the scores who still risk their lives to escape to West Berlin, each day 25 people in East Berlin commit suicide because they would rather be dead than Red.

The information comes from doctors who are still permitted to work in East Berlin although they live in West Berlin.

Apart from the 25 a day who succeed in the attempt, between six and 12 persons are taken to hospitals after unsuccessful attempts at suicide. According to the West Berlin doctors, the most shocking aspect is the high percentage of young people turning to suicide.

Surely this is a convincing, if tragic answer to Lord Russell's assertion that it's better to be Red than dead. Men and women who cherish freedom prefer death to slavery.

Russell may not be convinced. As Magistrate Wilson, who recently sentenced him to seven days imprisonment for his part in "Ban the Bomb" demonstrations, said: "Great men are not always wise; neither do the aged understand judgment." The tolerant magistrate was quoting from the Book of Job.

The tragedy is that Lord Russell is backed by a host of British writers, actors, Labor Members of Parliament and other "intellectuals." The intellectual mood in London is ominously reminiscent of the United States in the 1930s when assorted show business stars with guilt complexes turned parlor Reds to atone for their undeserved affluence while the rest of the nation was suffering from an economic depression.

It would be unfair to the British to suggest that neutralist and anti-American opinion is dominant in Britain. But those who hold these views are an influential and vocal minority.

Pacificism, of course, has a long and even honored tradition in Britain. In 1934, another earl, Lord Cecil, called on Britons to sign his peace ballot and refuse to take up arms against Hitler.

In the end, Brjtons fought and died bravely for their freedom as, we are convinced, they would do again if Khrushchev challenged their integrity.

But Lord Cecil's campaign was one of the steps on the road that led to Munich, which is today a dirty word in Britain. Hitler was deluded by the peace balloteers of the 1930s into believing that Britain would never come to the aid of its European allies.

A similar danger exists today. Khrushchev believes that Britain is his "hostage." Taking his cue from such as Russell and Gollancz, he may feel inclined to go to the limit in his demands of Berlin rather than take the path of a negotiated settlement.

Thus Russell and his associates, far from having prevented an atomic disaster, might help to spark it.

The choice for the free world is not between atomic war and existence under communism. The choice is between meaningful negotiations and the self-dissolution of the West, which will surely come of a surrender of West Berlin.

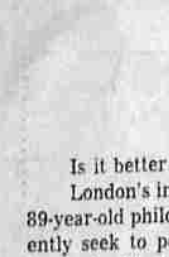
It's About Time

It is probably just as well that the Senate plans to look into charges that the Pentagon is muzzling the generals and admirals and interfering with the anti-Communist education of military personnel.

So much confusion surrounds these matters now that a decent airing of the issues is almost essential.

As just one instance, the examples Sen. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina often cites of "anti-Communist" material stricken from military men's speeches sound like phrases we encounter in print every day.

We need to know why they have been deleted. We also need to have it demonstrated why such commonplace phrases ("the worldwide threat of international communism") are so vital to our enlarged understanding of communism—as Thurmond and others claim.



JIM BISHOP: REPORTER . . .

Street Gangs Chief Evil In City's Teeming Areas

He is a tall, dark boy. There is a modest urgency in his voice, as though he has much to say but he is afraid to inflict all of it on you at once. He is Puerto Rican by birth. His name is Victor Alicea and he lives in East Harlem, a gangrenous bone in the body of New York.

The voice is musical and he speaks with the grace of the Spaniards. He is 23, and works with three of New York City's 250 street gangs. Victor Alicea knows them well. He should. He used to be a member.

"One night about six years ago I was at a Christmas Eve party. Some fellow in the gang got an O.D. (Overdose; narcotics). They took him away to the hospital. That night I decided to break out of the club. Had to be something better than street gangs."

We sat talking about teen-agers who try too hard to prove that they are men. There is an elegance in Alicea's hands and I listened with my eyes on them. "Nobody likes to live in East Harlem. Nobody. If the people had a choice, they would live anywhere else. The grownups have their own troubles.

"I was little when I left Puerto Rico. Before we got on the plane, my parents heard about racial discrimination in New York. When we got to New York, we found the Italians had one part, the Puerto Ricans had a middle section, and the Negroes were on the other side. Nobody was allowed to walk outside his own part. That way a man could get hurt.

"The street gang — that was something else. All of them operate almost the same. They have a president and a war council and a war lord. Each one has a territory with a boundary line. No boy dares to walk outside that line unless he makes arrangements."

What arrangements? A big slow smile came with the answer.

"All clubs know the members of rival clubs. If they catch you in their territory, somebody's going to be hurt bad and it's going to be you. So, if you have a date with a girl who lives in another territory, you call up and ask permission. They usually say okay. If they catch you out of your own territory shopping with your mother, they won't do anything. They let you go."

Boys of 14 join the street gangs because it is dangerous not to. Any boy who lives in a gang neighborhood and who does not apply for membership is eligible for beatings and possible maiming. Once he attains membership, he is bound by rules.

He treats the girlfriends of other members with elaborate respect. He gets to know the faces of rival gang members in adjoining territory. If his war council votes to jitterbug (to go to war), he will fight with fists, clubs, switchblade knives and, if necessary, a gun.

Wars remain active for long periods. One in Brooklyn has been going on between two teen-age gangs for 17 years. Some of the original fighters are now married and have families of their own, but new members keep the war going. It will continue until one side or the other asks to make it "cool." This is a plea for peace.

All wars are under no fire truces at Christmas and Easter. One boy walked through a rival territory after Easter. This was unfortunate. Three members of the other gang were practicing with a .22 rifle on a roof. They saw him. He wore a neat black bloodless hole in his head as he fell. The marksman, just 17, is now serving 20 years to life.

The inner fight is for something called status. The boys are eager to be men before their time and they want to prove it. Coupled with this is a feeling of being despised by "outsiders." Outsiders are any people whose background and customs are different.

Thus, if the teen-ager is not permitted to join the brotherhood of man, he will fight it. He feels better, as an outlaw, than he would as an ineffectual mutt. There are 50,000 juvenile delinquents in New York. Of these, 9,000 belong to street gangs. And of the 9,000 about 600 are members of Suicide Squads, the little core of each gang willing to go out to ambush, maim or kill a rival gang member.

Most of them have seldom been out of their neighborhoods. Victor shook his head ruefully. "A man took three of them to dinner in town. They had never been to Times Square. When they saw the big menu with steaks and chops and soups, they didn't know what to say so they told the waiter to bring three hamburgers."

Alicea's job is to convince the young gang members that they can be bigger men by breaking away from the herd and playing it alone. "I'm working with the 12-year-olds too," he says modestly. "I'd like to get some before they join." . . .

"Something's Wrong With Our Measurements"

The World At Stake

Unstable Satellites Forcing Khrushchev To Brinkmanship

By LEON DENNEN
Newspaper Enterprise Analyst

NEW YORK (NEA) — Russia never intended—does not intend now—to engage in a military conflict over Berlin. Premier Khrushchev, through blackmail, hopes to get important concessions from the West without fighting a war.

This is the consensus of Yugoslav Communist officials who know every twist and turn of Soviet foreign policy.

At the Belgrade conference of nonaligned nations I also discussed the Berlin question with leaders of the neutralist countries of Asia and Africa and with top East German Communists.

They agreed that when the West merely stood by while East Germany's Walter Ulbricht built the concrete wall that divides Berlin Khrushchev won a major victory in his war of nerves. Gerhard Edelmann, chief editor of Radio East Berlin and a top East German Communist propagandist said:

"As far as Premier Khrushchev and the East German leaders are concerned the division of Germany and Berlin is now an accomplished fact."

A Yugoslav official told me:

"Sure, the Russians want to negotiate. But from now on Khrushchev will negotiate about West Berlin only."

The Soviet Premier has now much to gain from a Summit conference on Berlin. He obviously hopes to get some Western recognition for the East German Communist regime which also would "legalize" the division of Berlin. Khrushchev also will maneuver to detach West Germany from NATO and split the Atlantic alliance.

Before sitting down with the Soviet premier at the diplomatic bargaining table President Kennedy and the Western leaders will thus do well to consider again not only Russia's atomic strength but also her political and economic liabilities.

It is sheer folly to assume—as some of our diplomats seem to do—that only the people in the West fear an atomic war. The Russians, who lost 25 million men in the war against Hitler, also live in mortal fear of armed conflict.

I have before me confirmed reports of widespread anxiety behind the Iron Curtain caused by Russia's resumption of atomic testing and fear of war over Berlin.

There is panic buying in Poland and Czechoslovakia. East Europeans hoard large stocks of food, purchase gold and draw on their savings accounts.

There are not many men and women in Russia, Poland or Czechoslovakia who want to die for Walter Ulbricht. Khrushchev's East German puppet is undoubtedly the most hated man even among top Communists of Eastern Europe.

Why then did Russia insist on creating the crisis over Berlin?

Oddly enough it was Khrushchev himself who provided the answer in an important speech over Russian radio and television. His arguments have also been printed in the magazine Kommunist which is compulsory reading for top Communists throughout the world.

Here is what Khrushchev said:

"If the U.S.S.R. decided not to sign a peace treaty with East Germany the capitalist powers would demand the liquidation of the socialist regime in the German Democratic Republic."

If the Western powers achieved that, Khrushchev said, "then, of course, they would set about taking from Poland and Czechoslovakia the territories returned to them under the Potsdam agreement."

Khrushchev in effect told the world Communist leaders that failure to gain Western recognition for Ulbricht's wobbly regime might eventually force Russia to abandon East Germany altogether.

This might well result in the collapse of Red rule and Russian influence in Poland, Czechoslovakia and in the other of Moscow's East European satellites.

This was certainly the most revealing statement ever made by a top Kremlin leader on Soviet foreign policy in Europe.

Its significance lies in the admission that the real reason for Khrushchev's brinkmanship is the instability of the Red regimes in Eastern Europe and primarily Ulbricht's "government" in East Germany.

Communist control of East Germany maintained by a regime backed exclusively by Russian armed force must therefore be confirmed and recognized by the Western powers.

The choice in the Berlin crisis, then, is facing not only the West but also Russia. Khrushchev has to decide how far he can go to bolster communism in East Germany and in the satellite nations.

This is a crucial fact the Western leaders must consider before they make hasty and unnecessary concessions to Khrushchev in an effort to avoid an armed conflict over Berlin.

Now is the time to preserve calm nerves while appreciating Communist difficulties. Peace and freedom in our harsh era cannot be gained through appeasement.

Almanac

By United Press International

Today is Monday, Oct. 16, the 289th day of the year with 76 to follow in 1961.

The moon is approaching its first quarter.

The morning star is Venus.

The evening stars are Jupiter and Saturn.

On this day in history:

In 1846, the first operation with a patient under ether anesthesia was performed at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

In 1859, abolitionist John Brown staged a raid on Harper's Ferry, Va. He seized a hotel, arsenal, firehouse and 30 townspeople. He said his objective was to free the nation's Negroes.

In 1888, American playwright Eugene O'Neill was born.

A thought for today: Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius said: "Receive wealth or position without arrogance, and be ready to let it go."

Well-Known Names

ACROSS
1 U.S. secretary of state
5 Mr. Franklin
8 Socialist Marx
12 Opposed
13 Swiss canton
14 Great Lake
15 Cease
16 Pilfer
17 Mona ——
18 Blunders (coll.)
20 Emcee Steve ——
21 Office holders
22 American humorist
23 Arise
26 "Gone With The Wind" heroine
30 Flavor
31 Equal
32 Stir
33 Vase
34 Operatic soprano
35 Legal claim
36 Tidiest
38 Comedian Jack ——
39 Mr. Linkletter
40 Sack
41 Rely
44 More decorated
48 Skin protuberance
49 Poem
50 Ripped
51 "Gloomy Dean"
52 Expire
53 Give out
54 Equalled
55 Conjunctive
56 Oriental coins

DOWN
1 Skin eruption
2 Preposition
3 Pack
4 British author
5 Dentists' drills
6 Love god
7 Pen point
8 Famous handicapped Helen
9 Seed pod
10 Singer —— Stevens
11 Incline
19 Finish
20 Hebrew month
22 High cards
23 Daze
24 Waste allowance
25 Mrs. Roosevelt's first name
26 Dispatched
27 Resting
28 British statesman
29 Masculine nickname
31 Former etiquette authority
34 Impudent
35 Emissaries
37 Sampled
38 Forbid
40 Raise
41 Taunt
42 Hindu queen
43 Incite
44 Norse god
45 Volume
46 "Emerald Isle"
47 Riots flax
49 Harem room

Answer to Previous Puzzle

EDSON IN WASHINGTON . . .

There's Plenty New In Ag Credit Plan

By PETER EDSON
Washington Correspondent
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

WASHINGTON (NEA) — Any doubts that U.S. commercial farming has become a big business should soon be removed by a huge expansion of Department of Agriculture's farm credit programs.

They are something none of the Communist countries and few of the underdeveloped countries have. But those countries may have to imitate the American private enterprise systems if they are to become self-sufficient agriculturally.

"American farmers now have a businessman's approach to credit," says Gov. R. B. Tootel of the Farm Credit Administration. "If convinced it will pay them to borrow, they borrow."

Last year, 173,000 U.S. farmers were using Farmers Home Administration credit. They borrowed a record $396 million, raising the loans outstanding to nearly $1.5 billion. Meanwhile, 23,000 U.S. farmers have paid off their FHA loans in full.

Though the number of U.S. commercial farms has dropped 30 per cent in the last eight years, the amount of government supervised farm credit has jumped 120 per cent.

This is expected to increase further under the new credit programs authorized in the 1961 farm bill recently passed by Congress and signed by President Kennedy.

The Legislation recognizes that modern farming is a high-cost operation. It requires a larger land base, heavier farm machinery and more electrification for efficient and economic operation under today's squeezed-down profits on each unit of farm production.

Heretofore, the limit on the amount of money a farmer could borrow under Department of Agriculture-supervised credit programs has been based on the average farm value in each county. The national average is a little over $40,000.

Under the new regulations, effective Oct. 15, loans to buy and enlarge farms may now be made on any family farm if its total indebtedness is not more than $60,000 when the deal is closed.

This will cover not only purchase of farm real estate but also a maximum of a $35,000 operating loan for farm machinery, livestock, seed, feed and fertilizer to get going. The former limit was $20,000.

These loans can be made by FHA directly, where no other source of credit is available. They may also be made by local banks under FHA guarantee. The bank gets 4.5 per cent interest and FHA collects ½ per cent insurance. The former charge was 1 per cent and the bankers got 4.

What's more, loans may now be made for full 100 per cent of valuation instead of the former 90 per cent limit.

So it's a better deal for all parties concerned.

Farm purchase loans may be made for 40 years. But since 1937 it has been FHA experience that the average loan is paid off in about 17 years.

Operating loans may be made for seven years as in the past, but renewals may be made for five years, instead of three. Interest rate remains 5 per cent. Operating loans may also include educational loans to send a farm boy through agricultural college.

Another big expansion is expected in loans to parttime farmers with outside jobs and income. They may borrow to buy and enlarge or improve small farms. Previously, loans were limited to full-time commercial farmers.

Small loans for farm improvement may now be made without a mortgage.

A team of Agriculture Department officials under John Baker, director of credit services, is touring the country this month for meetings with field officers to explain these new programs.

The new credit plans for rural housing and rural area economic development will also be explained to local officials who will make the loans.

THE DOCTOR SAYS . . .

Anti-Diabetic Pill Shows Some Promise

By HAROLD T. HYMAN, M.D.

Q—How effective are the pills for diabetes? Are they better than insulin injections?

A—In a study conducted over a 3-year period at the Joslin Clinic, the newest anti-diabetic pill (DBI or phenformin) was found to be 82 per cent effective. And with this splendid accomplishment there were no evidences of toxicity or significant side effects in the 55 patients who participated in these tests.

Of particular interest is the fact that 43 of the 55 patients had previously been taking insulin injections. And of these 43, all but three were able to reduce their daily insulin doses an average of 33 per cent.

In the words of the investigator, "when DBI is properly used and tolerated, there are often (1) increased stability and (2) fewer hypoglycemia reactions (low blood sugar or insulin shock)."

As a result, "Some of the patients have been transformed from a precarious and disabling state, hovering between the demiworlds of uncontrolled diabetes and severe hypoglycemic reactions, to lives of economic and social usefulness."

Needless to say, the use of DBI requires expert supervision by a trained physician.

Q—What can be done for heart irregularities? My heart skips continuously for days and then not at all. My electrocardiogram is normal. My doctor gave me quinidine pills but they did no good. If this keeps up I'll soon be a nervous wreck. Sometimes I fear it will never resume beating.

A—In the first place, an occasional heart irregularity in a person who has a normal electrocardiogram and is otherwise well is no cause for concern.

If you permit this unimportant disturbance to make you a "nervous wreck," you are indulging yourself, at the expense of your family and yourself.

Secondly, the important consideration in the case of the "skipped or dropped beat" is an investigation of its cause.

And frequent causes are excessive intake of caffeine (coffee, tea and especially iced coffee and tea, made much stronger and taken in larger quantities); tobacco poisoning; and the side actions of certain drugs, especially powerful appetite depressants, pep-up pills (dexadrine etc.), thyroid extracts and nasal decongestants (inhalations and drops to shrink the swollen membrane).

Q—Is it true that mental retardation can be detected in babies through a urine test?

A—It is, most certainly. The test is absurdly simple and consists of the appearance of a blue-green to grey-green coloration that appears immediately after the test solution or paper is placed on the wet diaper.

What makes the test of such importance is the fact that babies whose retardation is due to the condition detected in this simple fashon (phenylketonuria) can be greatly helped by dietary means. Your doctor can explain the "low phenylalanine diet."

Dear Reader: Dr. Hyman appreciates your comments and questions but regrets that the heavy volume of his mail doesn't permit him to answer each individual letter or post card. However, he will comment in columns like the above upon matters of general or unusual interest.

For a copy of Dr. Hyman's leaflet "Your Heart: angina pectoris," send 10 cents to Dr. Hyman, care Herald and News, Box 489, Dept. B, Radio City Station, New York 19, N.Y.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q—Was Luther Burbank buried in a garden?

A—Yes. In his Santa Rosa, Calif., gardens.

Q — What American President was preceded and succeeded in office by the same man?

A—Benjamin Harrison, who was preceded and succeeded by President Grover Cleveland.

Q—Who was Byerly Turk?

A—The famous Oriental stallion which was imported into England to start the breed we call "thoroughbred."

THEY SAY . . .

I'm all for free enterprise and against subsidies in principle. But what I want is equality. The government now subsidizes air transportation, auto transportation, trucking and waterways. If they will end these subsidies, O.K. Then we can compete on an equal basis. . . . But that ain't going to happen.

—George Apert, president of bankrupt New Haven Railroad.

In the present international tension, the opposing parties are claiming peaceful intentions but seem to be trying to document their sincerity through the violence of threats and terror. The press, in turn, is underlining almost with pleasure the current dramatic exchange, spreading a disquieting psychosis of expectation.

—Vatican Radio

We are living in a world which is becoming increasingly monotonous. . . . In 20 years you will not know whether you are in Rio or Birmingham.

—British scientist-writer J. B. Priestley.