

Chicken War Threatens Transatlantic Future

FRANKFURT, Germany (UPI) — The transatlantic chicken war may be just the opening skirmish in a trade battle between the free world's economic giants.

The issue in the current struggle is whose chickens West Germans will try in the future.

Not an earth-shattering problem? Perhaps, but feathers started flying when the European Common Market Commission in Brussels virtually banned the cheaper American frozen chickens by clamping a prohibitive tariff on them.

Last year, West Germans bought \$31.3 million worth of poultry from the United States. Since the tariff boost, American chicken imports have fallen to a trickle.

"Fifty million dollars is just a drop in the bucket compared to 1.2 billion dollars worth of agricultural products West Germany buys from the United States," Edmund H. Driggs, European director of the Institute of American Poultry Industries, said. "But what happened to the chickens could happen to other commodities."

Become Test Case

The chickens have become a test case in what seems to shape up as a trade war between the economic giants of the Western world, the United States and the Common Market.

The French, eager to dump their chicken surplus on the West German market at the expense of the Americans, apparently thought they already had won the war.

But then the United States threatened to strike back at the spot where it hurts most — the pocketbook. By pitting the Volkswagen and other vulnerable Common Market exports against the chickens, it hoped to reach a compromise.

If the American threats are implemented, West Germany will be hit worse than other Common Market countries, the Federal Economics Ministry complained.

And a spokesman for the country's export-aided electrical industry lamented bitterly: "Those stupid birds did all the damage."

Consumers Like Them

The West German consumers seem to like the "stupid birds" from America.

American poultry first hit West Germany frying pans four years ago and aroused a ravenous appetite for more. Per capita consumption jumped from 7 to 14 pounds.

West Germans once regarded fried chicken as upper-crust fare ranked not far below caviar. Then they discovered they could afford to buy American broilers.

Corner grocers installed electric fryers for the take-home trade, and chicken restaurants shot up throughout the country. German cookbooks came out with "southern fried" recipes.

Even the entertainment industry got on the bandwagon with the hit tune "Brathendl Polka" (Fried Chicken Polka), a ditty popularized by a Bavarian hill-billy.

Comes To End

But the boom ended abruptly when the Common Market commission raised the tariff on American broilers. Chicken consumption in West Germany declined 20 per cent. Consumers switched to other meat rather than pay a premium for European poultry.

Families Of Casters Hold Picnic

TULELAKE — Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Laird and Mrs. Marguerite Dayton were hosts July 28 at a family reunion in the Malin Park. Mrs. Dayton and Raymond Laird of Tulelake are descendants of a pioneer couple, Marion N. and Mary Caster, who settled in the Rogue River Valley in 1882 with their family of nine children.

One remaining son, LeRoy Caster of Yakima, was unable to attend due to illness.

Elva Catherine Caster, daughter of Marion and Mary Caster, was the mother of Raymond Laird and Mrs. Dayton. She married Charles J. Laird, who founded Laird's Landing on the south end of Lower Klamath Lake in Northern California. The landing was used when travel into the Klamath country was by boat.

Following the picnic lunch the afternoon was spent looking at old family pictures and recalling family events by the elders while younger guests enjoyed the swimming pool.

From Medford were Mrs. Elsie Caster, Mrs. Orville Caster and four sons, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Caster, one son and two grandsons, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Lester, Mr. and Mrs. Don Minear and three daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Kelly Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Vance and four children, and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Clafin.

The 25th annual family picnic will be held at Tub Springs in 1964.

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PROTESTS BAN PACT — Dr. Edward Teller, right, chats with Sen. John Stennis (D-Miss.) prior to appearing before a Senate Armed Services Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee. Teller, an outspoken opponent of the nuclear test ban treaty, appeared on the security implications of the test ban treaty. Stennis is chairman of the group. — UPI Telephoto

Expanding Hong Kong Population Relies On Red China Water Supply

HONG KONG (UPI) — The Chinese Reds could take over this tiny British outpost with ease, either by armed force or simply by cutting off the water supply.

Hong Kong, which flaunts skyscraper hotels, swank country clubs and a vast industrial complex, gets about five billion gallons of water a year from China, and the Reds can turn off the faucet any time they choose.

But no one here is worried. There is virtually no fear on the part of government officials or private citizens that China will make that strategic move, although all agree the colony would be easy pickings if it did.

Why is Hong Kong so safe, while other less desirable pieces of real estate are eyed covetously by the Communist Chinese?

The critical water shortage is Hong Kong's jugular vein and the mid-summer madness which saw thousands of barely clothed people running into the streets with bars of soap in their hands at the slightest sign of a rain shower has passed.

No Relief Seen

But the critical shortage of fresh water which caused the crisis is not over. And in the opinion of most realistic government officials, it will not end in the foreseeable future.

Hong Kong has a population whose natural expansion races ahead of engineers' frantic schemes for preserving precious rainfall.

The engineers have been fighting a losing battle since 1859, when the governor, Sir Hercules Robinson, offered a reward for the design of a workable water supply system.

The winning plan provided for a small impounding reservoir in the Pokfulam Valley.

Capacity of this first reservoir was 66 million gallons — less than Hong Kong's 3.5 million residents consume in an average summer day today.

The trouble is that Hong Kong depends on rainfall for all its water. It is necessary to conserve the run-off from the wet season (April to September) in sufficient man-made storage reservoirs to last during the dry season (October to March).

Have Strict Rationing

There is strict rationing of water in Hong Kong. Residents currently only receive water pressure in their taps for four hours every fourth day. There has been a mass campaign aimed at eliminating water wastage, and the Hong Kong government this summer managed to reduce the total per capita consumption.

The most famous pipeline in the colony at this date, is the one which brings water into the New Territories from across the Red Chinese border.

Under an agreement with the Reds, Hong Kong purchases five billion gallons per year from the mainland Shumchun reservoir, paying 23.4 Hong Kong cents (about four U.S. cents) per thousand gallons. The water was originally offered free of charge. But the British, spotting an invitation to the exercise of political pressure at some future date, insisted on contracting for the sale, rather than for the gift, of the water.

Residents Confident

The crisis over water supplies has once again raised the old question of Communist China's leverage over this tiny foreign enclave which China probably could capture without firing a shot.

But old Hong Kong hands know what value a free Hong Kong holds for Red China, in terms of hard dollars and cents in trade and in terms of access to the great outside world, especially in view of Peking's quarrel with its Russian neighbors.

For this reason, authorities here have no compunction about increasingly drawing their water supplies from that vast hinterland which lies on the other side of the Bamboo Curtain.

As long as Communist China remains out of the United Nations and has such limited relations with the other nations of the world, Hong Kong has much more value as a doorway to the West than it would ever have as just another city in China.

Shooting By Vandals Causes Power Failure

Vandals who destroyed the insulators on some 20 power poles with rifle fire on the old Lake of the Woods Road, north of the Geary Ranch, sometime last week have been blamed for a power failure that inconvenienced residents of the Rocky Point area for about an hour last Friday, the Pacific Power and Light Co. disclosed Monday.

The power shutdown resulted as a rainstorm blew into the area Friday, saturating the power lines and causing those lines with the damaged insulators to short circuit and set fire to some of the poles. Damage was estimated at some \$400, according to Sam Ritchey, district manager of the PP&L.

More important than the damage to the power company property, Ritchey said the short circuit "could have caused a forest fire that may have ravaged the entire countryside."

The damage was detected by a PP&L superintendent who was on patrol near the Geary Ranch Friday.

Ritchey reminded parents that they are responsible for damage done by their youngsters to Pacific Power and Light Company property and for any destruction caused by forest fires resulting from that damage.

Meet Postponed

BONANZA—There will be no meeting of the Bonanza Garden Club on Wednesday, Aug. 14. The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Mary Sparks on Aug. 28.

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Domestic Peace Corps Plan Attracts Praise, Condemnation From Senators

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Sen. Harrison A. Williams, D-N.J., said today President Kennedy's proposed domestic Peace Corps would bring hope to "millions of Americans still living in poverty, deprivation and despair."

Williams made the comments in remarks prepared for the opening round of Senate debate on the administration plan to create a national service corps of volunteers patterned after the successful overseas Peace Corps.

The measure faced the cold reality of sharp opposition from determined foes.

Senate GOP Leader Everett M. Dirksen, Ill., served notice in advance that he would move to have the measure sent back to a committee pigeon hole. Failing this, Dirksen said, he hoped to muster enough opposition votes to take the bloom off the bill and lessen its chances for approval in a more hostile House.

Sen. John G. Tower, R-Tex., said he would offer several civil rights amendments to require that the corps be racially integrated, and barring any projects in areas which practice discrimination.

The bill authorizes an initial outlay of \$5 million to start the proposed program and recruit up to 300 volunteers.

Enrollments would expand to 1,000 by June 30 of next year, and eventually reach 5,000 in perhaps three years. The cost would rise as the program expanded.

Corpsmen would receive a minimal living allowance and a monthly stipend of \$75. Volunteers — both youths and men and women of retired age — would assist such local projects as the care of the elderly and disabled, mentally ill, help in rural and urban slums and on Indian reservations.

Backers argued that corps personnel, working under the supervision of local officials, would provide a "new dimension of service at home."

The goal of the corps will be, "by the efforts of a few, to ignite the energies of many," a committee report explained. "By providing an opportunity for Americans to serve their nation in peace, the corps will reemphasize the traditional American precepts of neighborly concern and the value of local solutions to local problems."

In an opposition minority report, Republican Sens. Tower and Len B. Jordan, Idaho, said that supporters made it sound as though a "vote against this bill is tantamount to a vote against Mother's Day."

But Tower and Jordan said the program "would be a waste of taxpayers' money."

"The whole thing is an act, a publicity stunt to draw attention. We can only conclude that the administration in proposing this bill seeks to reap a political harvest of publicity."

LA To Host Billy Graham

LOS ANGELES (UPI)—Evangelist Billy Graham returns to the scene of his first major triumph this week when he opens a three-week crusade bringing his "old time religion" to the masses.

It was in 1949 the 44-year-old North Carolinian hit the big time following a crusade here. However, in 1949 his crusade was held in a tent pitched on a vacant lot and not the 106,000-seat Memorial Coliseum where he opens Thursday.

Since those tent meetings, Graham has carried his crusades across every continent and into many of the world's greatest cities.

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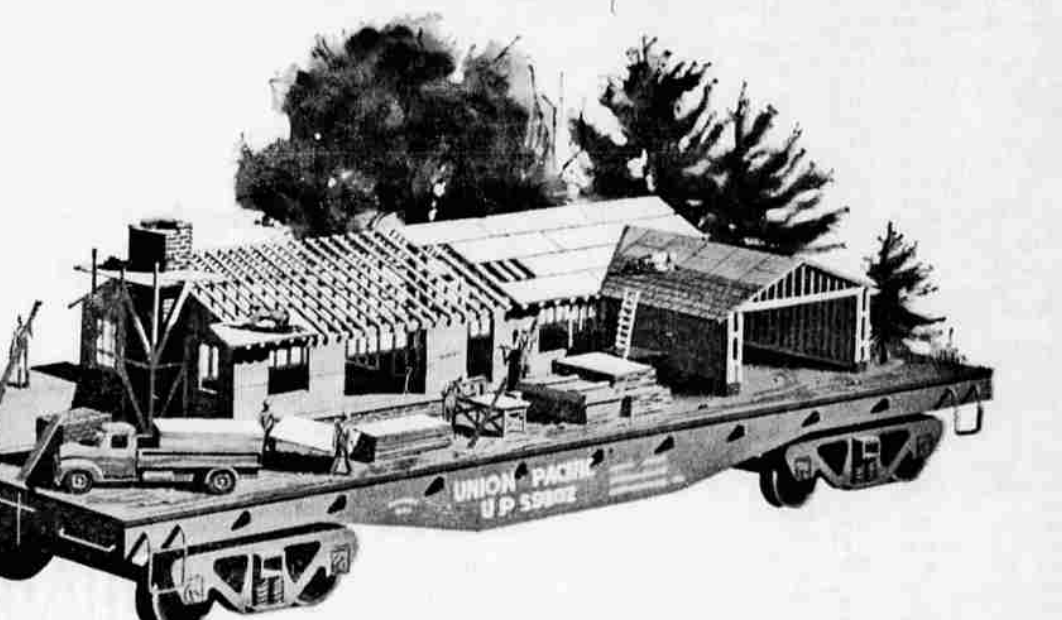


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