Editorial Page

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Assault On Freedom

By FLOYD L. WYNNE

A remarkably courageous group of men gathered in Philadelphia on a hot summer day 188 years ago, to debate, discuss and boldly approve a document that has fired the minds and the hearts of men ever since.

That document was the Declaration of Independence.

Today, it hangs in a hallowed place. The parchment is faded and cracked, but the vision it represented has become a powerful nation.

Tomorrow is a good time for genuine reflection on where we have traveled on this road to freedom envisioned by these imaginative men.

These men pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor for the cause of freedom. They were not concerned that the great British Empire was arrayed against them. They were not fearful of defeat though their forces were puny when compared with the might of the British Lion.

Calmly, bolstered by the knowledge that their cause was the noblest of all, they pledged their support, noting, "with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our Sacred Honor."

The fires of freedom that burned in the breasts of these men have withered to charred embers. The firm resolve with which this nation was created has become a confused, chameleon-type declaration designed to please and placate both foe and friend, highly critical of those who could militantly preserve this freedom, and helpful only to those who would water down patriotism, sacrifice national pride on the altar of world government and scatter the treasure of freedom's storehouse to the four winds to be considered fair game for tyrants as well as freedom defenders.

Instead of a nation united in the sterling cause of freedom for all the world, we are a people split asunder by a racial conflict, taxed to the limit to support a national welfare state, fighting for freedom in one corner of the world while pledging friendship and mutual trust with a tyranny of the worst type in another portion of the world.

Confused, collapsing into the bondage of a socialistic existence, afraid of our own might, split by divisive philosophies, we are indeed unworthy of the freedom defined in this hallowed document.

It represents the most noble experiment in human conduct and diginity for man that the world has ever known.

But if all America is not reconsecrated to the freedom for which it stands, it will become just another vision which perished amid the frailities that beset all mankind, and the experiment which these men so nobly initiated will become just another chapter in the long list of failures that have beset the history of man from his beginning.

We refuse to believe that the fire of freedom has gone out in this nation of ours. Time has diminished the flames, but the tinder is still there in the hearts of millions of Americans, it needs only the spark to fan it to bright flames.

It needs a rededication to freedom. It cries out for a righteous indignation against the forces of appeasement that encircle us today.

Freedom is under assault in many ways on all sides. We are its first-line defenders. How we meet the charge of tyranny and oppression will determine its fate around the world for today and tomorrow.

He Nurtured the Seed

Paul Jones . . .

He Did Impossible

In 1775 the Second Continental Congress called upon George Washington to take command of the tattered, ragtag American troops and whip the mighty British army.

This was like telling Casey Stengel to take the New York Mets and win the pennant.

Washington carried out the assignment by doing the impossible.

By doing it, he established an American tradition that has carried this country through many a tight squeak.

As we observe Washington's 233rd birthday anniversary on Feb. 22, it is well to remember not only the magnificent contributions he made to his country's welfare, but the personal sacrifices he incurred in making them.

He was a rich man. He could have lived in ease and high comfort. Instead, he chose to suffer hardships almost beyond human endurance.

He was sniped at almost as much by his own people as by the British soldiers. He was subjected to treason, abuse, jealousy, personal treachery, physical discomfort, violent criticism and maddening apathy.

But he stuck it out, and won. His passion for freedom, loyalty to his country and dedication to public service were invincible.

He set a pattern for other great American leaders who were to follow. Without him and them, where would this country be?

As the first commander of the American army and the first president of the United States, George Washington earned the title of Father of His Country.

He was even more than that. He was a real American — not only one of the first, but one of the greatest.

WILLIAM S. WHITE . . .

Bipartisan Group Backs Firm Policy

WASHINGTON — A powerful bipartisan front in support of the sensibly firm policy of the United States to help fight the invaders of South Viet Nam is now being at last formed in the Senate.

It is being raised up by men who rightly fear the effects abroad of the sugar-candy approach to Communist aggression in Southeast Asia or an articulate Democratic splinter group which is tirelessly advocating negotiation with aggressors who have broken every agreement reached in other negotiations going back 13 years.

What is now in truth moving within this small but loud faction is a new isolationism — a sort of bookish isolationism based on unacknowledged pacifist sentiments and far more sophisticated than was the old, home-guard isolationism of the '30s. It is unlikely to get very far here at home. A recent Gallup Poll, for illustration, indicates that two-thirds support President Johnson's measured air strikes against erstwhile privileged sanctuaries of the North Vietnamese invaders of South Viet Nam.

Abroad, however, there is great danger that a shrill minority of the Senate may encourage the North Vietnamese and their Chinese Communist masters to suppose that the United States will tire of the war in Viet Nam and will withdraw under guise of some "negotiation" which, under present circumstances, would amount to surrender. Let this notion lodge among the Communists, who are already arrogant and bellicose enough, and a full-scale hot war might be the consequence.

The marshaling of forces by Senators who represent the great and thus far largely silent majority — and are more than a little tired of the song lately sung before the world in the Senate by the unconscious appeasers of our present days—has not, therefore, come an hour too soon. For weeks, the negotiators-at-most-any-price, who unhappily include the Democratic floor leader Mike Mansfield of Montana, have had it all their own way.

Men like Sen. Frank Church of Idaho, George McGovern of South Dakota, Albert Gore of Tennessee and Wayne Morse of Oregon have been making a record which plainly implies that their own country is being quite unreasonable here and that peace and honor could easily be restored if only it were not so stubborn.

But the truth is that the war is not being prolonged for a single day by the United States, or by the South Vietnamese, unless defense against murderous attack is no longer permissible in the brave new world of the new isolationism. All that is necessary to end the war—and necessary to attain that blissful state of "negotiation"—is for the North Vietnamese Communists to quit killing the South Vietnamese and such American troops as happen to be in their way.

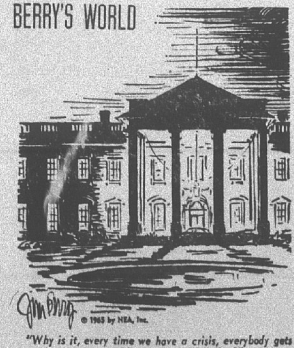
This, which has been the President's theme all along, will also be the theme of the bipartisan majority of responsibility now being marshaled in the Senate by all the Republican leaders and at least two-thirds of the Democratic membership, not excluding the assistant Democratic leader, Sen. Richard Russell Long of Louisiana. It will not be long until the world hears a different tune from that place.

Men like Sen. Warren Magnuson of Washington will ask not "negotiation" but rather token help for us in Viet Nam from those Asian countries—Thailand, Japan, the Philippines, for examples—whose ultimate safety from Chinese Communist pressure we are trying to assure. Any show of additional flags would be enormously helpful. And Senatorial affirmatives of this kind, which assume that perhaps the United States is not altogether wrong in this world, offer the sharpest possible contrast to the biting negativism of the Democratic minority.

Sen. Thomas Dodd of Connecticut intends to appoint himself to a watching brief, to see to it that when men cry for negotiation they do not forget to mention—as thus far they have done — the important point that all negotiation to date has been made an ugly farce by consistent Communist violation of the settlements negotiated. And so on.

It will be good to see responsible men regain control of the forum of the Senate.

BERRY'S WORLD



"Why is it, every time we have a crisis, everybody gets upset and leaves on all the lights?"

FULTON LEWIS JR. . . .

Air Force Probers Continue UFO Study

WASHINGTON — Air Force probers are studying detailed reports on "flying saucers" that have in recent weeks been sighted throughout Virginia. Investigation of the Unidentified Flying Objects is the work of Project Bluebook, an Air Force team that probes UFO sightings throughout the country. Among the Virginia reports now under investigation are:

—Five college students reported sighting an oblong, green-and-yellow crafter near Salem. It hovered about 400 feet above ground and kept pace with the students' car for some distance down a darkened highway.

—At least ten Richmond residents reported an orange ball of light streaking across the sky. The light "blinked out" on the horizon.

—Two men driving near Williamsburg in separate cars spotted an undentified flying object near an intersection. It was described as tall, aluminum - coated, and shaped like an inverted ice cream cone. It hovered 75 feet above the ground. Both men said their car engines died during the few seconds the UFO was in view, but started up again as the object was out of sight.

Project Bluebook scientists have investigated almost 9,000 similar sightings during the past 18 years. The vast majority of these are written off after careful investigation. An Air Force spokesman explains why:

"Approximately 4,000 balloons are released in the U.S. every day. These research balloons vary in size from four to 200 feet in diameter. The majority released at night carry running lights which often contribute to a weird or unusual appearance. The large balloons, if caught in jet streams, may assume a near horizontal position when partially inflated, and move with speeds of over 200 miles per hour. Large types may be observed flattened on top and even experienced pilots can be deceived.

"Many modern aircraft, particularly swept and delta-wing types, can under adverse weather and sighting conditions be reported as flying saucers. Vapor trails will often appear to glow with fiery red or orange streaks when reflecting sunlight. After burners are frequently reported as UFOs.

"Large Canadian geese flying low over city street lights have been reported as unidentified flying objects. Searchlights playing on scattered clouds can appear as fast-moving, disc-like objects. Comets, meteors, even stars, when viewed through haze or light fog, have been reported as flying saucers."

In the above category are the vast majority of flying saucers reported to Project Bluebook officials. There still remain the relative handful, reported in detail by trustworthy observers, which cannot "be correlated with any known object or phenomena."

Of the 532 sightings during 1964, 10 remain in that category. Since 1947, 633 sightings—or approximately eight per cent of all those reported — are officially listed as unidentified.

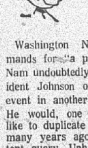
A Washington-based group, the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, is made up of scientists and other experts convinced that flying saucers do exist. A committee official, retired Marine Corps Major Donald Keyhoe, insists that "there is no longer any reasonable doubt that alien spacecraft are visiting the earth."

Major Keyhoe has some impressive support. Vice Admiral Roscoe Hillenkoetter (retired), a former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, says: "The unknown objects are operating under intelligent control. It is imperative that we learn where they come from."

An official of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Deputy Public Affairs Director Albert M. Chop, has "been convinced for a long-time" that the saucers are interplanetary. "We're being watched by beings from outer space," he says.

The Air Force does not deny that certain UFOs may have been operated by creatures from outer space. It says only that no UFO "has ever given any indication of a threat to our national security."

RALPH McGILL . . .



Demand For Policy Is Historic Query

Washington Notebook: Demands for a policy" in Viet Nam undoubtedly remind President Johnson of a historical event in another time of war. He would, one may assume, like to duplicate a reply made many years ago to a persistent query. Unhappily, in our time, he may not, though the temptation must be great.

Early in the Civil War when the Federal armies were meeting with almost continual reverses, Horace Greeley led a distinguished group to see President Lincoln. Mr. Greeley was the most influential editor in the nation. The delegation decried lack of "policy" in the conduct of the war and demanded, forthwith, that Mr. Lincoln state his policy. Mr. Lincoln was direct.

"My policy," he said, "is to have no policy."

Mr. Lincoln had no "policy" because it was impossible to have any save to wage the war as best he could, to try and find generals to replace those whom combat had revealed as incompetent, and to arouse the people to support.

This is Mr. Johnson's problem in Viet Nam. He cannot have a policy other than to oppose Communist aggression as best he can. The odds are even more massively against him than they were against President Lincoln. It is a new kind of war. (Nuclear weapons have divided war into two divisions —the guerilla - type "brush-wars," and the big one in which the ultimate weapons would be employed.

We are certainly in the conflict to win. But it is a war, as was Korea, that will not be "won" ceremonially with a dressed up general presenting his sword and sitting down to sign articles of surrender.

We have had many such surrenders in past decades and they have not really solved very much. There were many small wars "won" in the Balkans before the bomb exploded at Sarajevo to open up what we call the First World War. The Treaty of Versailles created many new nations. Most of them appear now as satellites. Spain "won" wars, in the 1920s, in North Africa. Does anyone remember them? Russia, with Stalin directing it, signed a treaty with China and ignored Mao Tse-tung. What now? The Second World War was "won." What now?

Mr. Johnson cannot have a policy, such as is demanded, in a situation so fluid and uncertain. We have hit the Viet Cong hard. Not the President, and none of the minds about him, know what the Chinese will do. As of this writing the Russians have been relatively quiet. But it is not possible to know what their ultimate decisions and moves will be. It would be the worst sort of folly to state a fixed "policy" that might be made impotent within hours by events impossible to anticipate. Should Mr. Johnson say, "Our policy is to seek a negotiated settlement?" Hardly.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Johnson has stated his policy. It is a good one. He will not be run out of Viet Nam. We believe that in the long run we can "win" a victory that will prove worthwhile. The victories possible in our time are not in the old image. They are victories that can come only by evolutionary events in a period when three great powers are in a state of suspicion and hostility . . . bound by no treaty and clashing as to ideology . . . the United States, Russia, China. We do have a policy. It is a "win" policy.

It is absurd to insist on spelling out a detailed document that would be helpless in the face of the unknown. The President and his advisers must play it by ear. The heart is saddened by the death of some 230 American soldiers in combat in Viet Nam. But, let us not dishonor ourselves or them by saying they died in vain.

The end is neither sure nor in sight. But we have a policy.

Letters To The Editor

Council Again

I see by your paper you were quick to print a letter by Mr. Veatch Feb. 9. Wonder if you will be just as considerate to print this letter on behalf of the taxpayers and homeowners.

Since I, too, as a representative of the taxpayers in the Taxpayers League for those who live in the city, attended Feb. 1 council meeting, and according to your paper, Mr. Veatch issued the statement about non-residents of the city of Klamath Falls would be heard at public hearings only.

What is a council meeting but public? I don't believe Mr. Veatch or the council can take my right of freedom of speech, or could it be Mr. Veatch and the council are afraid to hear the objections given at these meetings? Of course, Mr. Veatch made the proposal of said public meetings because of the opposition and dissatisfaction of property owners at the Feb. 1 meeting.

Mr. Veatch was asked, "who initiated and who issued the ordinance that allows one-third, of the minority to rule two-thirds of the majority?" Mayor Veatch answered that this rule is part of the City Charter approved by voters in 1913. Why dig back in moth balls to dig out this ordinance which allows one-third to rule two-thirds of the majority? It is my understanding no one on the council or acting as mayor has ever used this ordinance until Mr. Veatch was elected.

There are some city councilmen who have been very fine about cooperating with the property owners and taxpayers. To these men we are deeply grateful.

We feel the people of Klamath Falls want and favor upgrading of Klamath Falls, but do it slowly and at the wishes of the taxpayer, and do it fairly, by petitioning of the majority in the proposed area in any project. If this means changing the city charter, then we say change it.

Only the best results can be obtained by courteous treatment of people attending the council meeting, and careful consideration of the views of all concerned, then adopt the programs that have the approval of the majority, accept people who are at the council meeting who represent other city property owners. Only then will there be harmony and progress in a constructive fashion.

This, Mr. Editor, is constructive thinking of the people and by the people. Do you print this side of our thinking? Only one thing more, why wasn't the old store building put up for sale so others would have a chance to buy it, instead of selling it for $1?

Mrs. B. J. Squires,
2804 So. 6th St.

A resident of the city, as we understand it, is welcome to address the council when that point on the agenda is reached. If a person lives out of the city and is not a city taxpayer, new ground rules call for him to write the council in advance requesting an opportunity to speak. This does not seem unreasonable.—Editor.

Communism

In poetry and song, "love" has been credited as being the motivating force behind all human endeavor. Perhaps more down to earth is incentive or what is sometimes contemptuously referred to as the "profit motive" as the fuse that sets the urge for human improvement on fire. Human nature being what it is, communism will collapse when its evil perpetrators will have brought about the complete destruction of all incentive.

As a case in point, while our farmers are being regimented as never before, their incentive is still intact. In fact, it is the artificial stimulation of incentive in the form of subsidies, paid for by all tax-payers, that has resulted in the bulging granaries and which, incidently, now helps feed an almost entire world, Communist included.

Rulers of man's destinies have not always been noted for their astute farsightedness. Some humble among them have in times past sought out lowly shepherds to interpret dreams or decipher "Hand writings on the wall!" A persistant characteristic of our modern politicians is their unvarying disregard for all common sense. Conservatism is eighteenth century hoariness; thrift and individual enterprise as a means to independence is horse and buggy and old-fashioned patriotism is being replaced by a Polly-Anish notion that we must meddle in the affairs of every nation on earth. In fact, we have become so brain-washed that now many of our churches feature a new hymn called "The New Patriot" which is supposed to beckon the dawn of a new One World, all sweetness and light!

Only one flaw in this dream. It will be a One World all right —a Communist one world, policed by blazing tanks and machine guns. Look toward Cuba and elsewhere. The encirclement is gaining every day. One needs no crystal ball to see where our direction is taking us. When the dismal communization of the world will have become complete, incentive destroyed, there will be no bulging warehouses to draw upon. It will be a case of, "That's all there is, Brother, there isn't any more!" (For why are they starving now except for our help?)

Then there will be mass starvation, perhaps the answer for the perplexing population explosion!

As in the realm of Mother Nature, when the elements go too far askew, they right themselves, ruthlessly but effectively. So also do the laws of human relations eventually right themselves, ruthlessly but effectively. That, my dear Watkins, is elemental.

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