

Revival of Two-party System Sought

Truman Purge Aimed at Restoring Party Machinery

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, 1616 Eye Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Before the Paris Peace conference even got underway we learned that the rules committee, which heard so much heated oratory, was as powerful as the powerful rules committee of the house of representatives.



It wasn't until after the primary returns were in, and Representative (Truman-hater) Slaughter of Missouri, a member of the rules committee, was defeated, that most laymen realized the importance of that battle, and why the President stuck his neck out as far as he did in helping to beat him.

I can see the President now as he looked up with that pert, bird-like glance he has—just enough of a smile to make you try to listen sympathetically—and say that if Slaughter was right, he (the President) was wrong.

Think what Slaughter could have said if he had been elected!

But he was defeated—and the day after the primary, the real significance of the battle became clear.

Never in American history has any administration been up against the situation which developed when the Roosevelt honeymoon ended. I am not arguing how or why that

situation came about. But the fact is we have had a situation where party lines meant little, and the age-old principle of majority rule, the theory on which congress, as a working body, is organized, has been violated.

Outstanding example was the rules committee. There were five southerners—anti-administration Democrats—on that committee, and with Slaughter's help, they could tie up the vote and tie up any legislation Truman asked for.

Now maybe the fact that the administration couldn't get its legislation before congress, or couldn't get it passed when it did, was a good thing. I am not discussing that. I merely say that what happened is not a good thing for the two-party system. And as the situation grew more acute, congress wasn't a working body.

Let's take the testimony of a thoroughly loyal Republican member of the committee and acting minority leader, Representative Michener of Michigan. If the Democrats retain control of the house, Michener said, the absence of Representative Slaughter will permit the rules committee to function the way it was intended to function; namely, the legislation of the party in power will be sent to the floor.

That didn't mean Michener wanted the rival party's legislation passed. It simply meant he knew that Slaughter, teaming up with the anti-administration Democrats and the Republicans, was able to tie the vote and stymie government.

And that isn't two-party government.



TOGETHER AGAIN—IN JAPAN . . . One of the most touching meetings when the army transport, Fred C. Ainsworth, brought a contingent of American wives and families to Yokohama, Japan, was this one between Sgt. Delbert Jenkins and his wife, Marietta, both 65. They had not seen each other for four years. Jenkins enlisted at the age of 61 and saw service in the Pacific campaign.

NEWS REVIEW

Dardanelles Row Looms; Nations Ask Soft Peace

DARDANELLES: Hot Spot

Another major international row appeared in the making with Soviet Russia's demand upon Turkey that she break the Montreux convention of 1936 and share control of the vital Dardanelles straits leading to the Black sea with Moscow.

Under the convention, the Turks have been entrusted with the guardianship of the strategic waterway and, while they have expressed a willingness to maintain the present arrangement, they have informed the U. S. and Britain that they cannot hold out against the Russian proposals alone. By granting Russian demands, the Turks would be forced to permit Red troops to occupy parts of their soil along the straits.

PALESTINE: Turn on Heat

The illegal Jewish underground organization, Irgun Zvai Leumi, called upon all Jewish resistance movements in Palestine to unite in the fight for attainment of a Jewish national home in the Holy Land even as British officials lambasted Zionists for seeking to high pressure the government into acceding to their demands.

Pointing out that it was necessary to press their drive now while the British were being hard put to maintain order in Palestine, Irgun suggested that the two other resistance groups, Haganah and the Stern gang, combine to form the nucleus of an underground government and army.



FREE FOR THE TAKING . . . Plagued by a shortage of labor and an abundance of woodchucks, Autumn Van Den Heuval, West Nyack, N. Y., farmer, has invited all-comers to "come and help themselves" to his 80 acres of sweet corn as well as blackberries and grapes.

PARIS: Wanted: Softer Terms

Addressing the delegates of 21 Allied nations at the peace conference in Luxembourg palace, representatives of Italy, Romania and Bulgaria pleaded for moderation of terms on the grounds that, as co-belligerents of the victors in the closing stages of the war, they had made substantial sacrifices for victory.

Speaking for Italy, Premier De Gasperi stated that his country had contributed troops, naval power and materials for three years and that the Allies should think twice before internationalizing Italian dominated Trieste and submitting 180,000 Italians in Venezia Giulia to Yugoslav rule. He also asserted that excessive reparations would weigh down the Italian economy and reduction of armaments would imperil the safety of the state.

Foreign Minister Giurgu Tatarescu of Romania followed De Gasperi to the speaker's dais and asserted that no less than 385,000 Romanians had fought on the allied side during the last six months of the war. Furthermore, he said, German and Hungarian forces had inflicted large-scale damage of Romania after she had deserted the axis cause. Tatarescu asked for a larger army and scaling down of heavy reparations.

On behalf of Bulgaria, Foreign Minister George Koullishev claimed that his country had suffered 32,000 casualties during the eight months it fought on the allied side. He charged Greek demands for \$750,000,000 in reparations were excessive and asked that Bulgaria be permitted to disarm within reasonable limits. Regulation of traffic on the Danube should be the interest of all the countries bordering the river, including Bulgaria, Koullishev said.

FURLOUGH PAY: Fast Action

Application forms for vets' unused furlough pay will be available at all post offices by mid-September but disbursement of the five-year bonds will not take place before the end of the month because of time required in printing.

In announcing the procedure to be followed, the war department stated: 1. Applications will be acknowledged when received to assure the vet his claim is on record. 2. Disbursing officers will accept sworn statements of applicants unless there is suspicion of fraud. 3. Army vets unable to determine how much unused furlough pay they have coming, figured on the basis of 2 1/2 days per month, can apply for information to the adjutant general's personnel records branch at St. Louis, Mo.

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Good Breakfasts

Studies have shown that children who eat proper breakfasts have a better chance to do well in school than the children who don't eat a good breakfast. One study among factory workers showed that only 12 per cent of the men workers and 26 per cent of the women had included fruit or fruit juice in their breakfast. Seventy-three per cent of the men and 36 per cent of the women ate breakfasts containing eggs or meat but not fruit. A good many women and some men had nothing but a cup of coffee for breakfast.

Electrify Oil Operations

Oil well electrification, the equipment including electric motors for pumping and time clocks to start and stop operations at vital stages, is spreading rapidly, according to reports from the southwest's black gold belt. One company in Arkansas reports the electrification of 150 wells, with a 33 per cent reduction in pumping costs, and plans to bring at least 60 more wells under automatic control before the end of the year.

Postwar Paints

In a survey of new products and services, the New York Journal of Commerce comments that bright colors, long wear and easy application are features of postwar paints, and that quick drying has been developed without sacrifice of durability. Ease of application is stressed in anticipation of a prolonged shortage of skilled painters.

Watering Plants

In watering, give all plants a long slow soaking and let them show signs of thirst before watering again. This keeps their roots deep in the soil where they will be protected from heat and cold. "Use the hoe instead of hose" to keep moisture on plants during dry weather.

Producing Deadly Ray

The germ-killing radiation in bactericidal lamps, now available for the home, school or office, is created by electric current passing through mercury vapor at low pressure.

Avoid Mildew

To avoid molds and mildew during the summer rainy season, home demonstration specialists suggest that closets, dresser drawers and other places where mildew is likely to grow be kept as dry as possible.

Ruffled Curtains

If you have ruffled curtains which are still good though the ruffles may be worn out, they may be remade by substituting ball fringe for the ruffles.

Housed in Trailers

During the recent war, the United States government purchased 35,000 trailer coaches which, through repeated occupancy, were used to house more than 500,000 persons.

Drinks Impair Vision

One or two drinks may lower appreciably the visual alertness of some automobile drivers and pedestrians, thereby making them prone to highway accidents.

Prolongs Life

Liberal amounts of vitamin A tend to postpone ageing and to prolong life, certain scientists say; their tests were made on rats.

Flaming Fat

If fat in broiler pan catches fire, turn off flame at once, throw a handful of salt into fire. Never try to put it out with water.

Tattoo Machine

The electric tattoo machine was first used in New York City's Bowery in 1875. The tattoos were called "tattographs."



IT ALWAYS has been our belief that the time to compare athletes is at the end of their careers. For example, why try to compare Ted Williams, after five seasons, with Ty Cobb's 24 seasons?

Why try to compare Bobby Jones, retired for 16 years after winning 13 national and international championships, with Byron Nelson who so far has won 37? And don't forget that Jones ran 1-2 in the U. S. Open eight out of nine years.

Ted Williams and Byron Nelson have many years left in which they may rise to even greater heights, or for one reason or another suddenly fall away.

I recall just about the outbreak of the war when more than a few were placing Joe DiMaggio above Tris Speaker as an all-around outfield star. DiMaggio was and still is a great ball player. But even Joe's most vehement supporters today wouldn't place him above the flight of the Gray Eagle, the class of all outfielders in the air or along the ground, who could also hit from .350 to .388 in his better seasons through a long stretch of time.

Take Ty Cobb and Ted Williams. Few pitchers could. Ted Williams is the longer, harder hitter. But how many remember that Ty Cobb led the American league nine years in a row—that he led the American league in 12 out of 13 consecutive seasons. Think that one over.

What hitters were in Cobb's road? What were their class? Practically no one except Shoeless Joe Jackson, Napoleon Lajoie, Tris Speaker, Babe Ruth, Wahoo Sam Crawford, Bobby Beach and a few of that ash-lined ilk.

I see they are now comparing Bob Feller and Walter Johnson, certainly two of the greatest. No one can tell me that Bob Feller or anyone else had Johnson's speed. Feller has a greater variety. But Johnson's speed was enough. They usually beat him 1 to 0 or 2 to 1 and even working with a weak-hitting outfit, he still could win more than 30 games a year pitching against some of the great hitters of all time. But none of these great hitters was on Old Barney's side. The idea is that Johnson has already turned in his 20-year record. Feller still has many years to go.

Feller isn't working with much of a ball club, either. He is to a certain extent in Johnson's spot. Johnson, pitching for the Athletics in those days, could have won 40 games more than once. Feller, working with the Red Sox, could be another 40-game winner. There will be time enough later on to rank Johnson and Feller.

'Old Pete' Alexander

If you talk to hitters who faced him and who have been around, they won't nominate Walter Johnson or Bob Feller as the top master of the pitching tribe. They won't give you Cy Young who won 510 or Christy Mathewson, their nominee is an entry known as Grover Cleveland Alexander, also known as "Old Pete."

Working with the lowly Phillies, Alexander won 31 games in 1915, 33 games in 1916 and 30 games in 1917, a total of 94 games in three consecutive years with a ball club that never belonged—outside of Alexander.

In 1916 he pitched 16 shutout games, most of them in the Phillies' bandbox park. Through six years, he had an earned run average under two runs per game. As a rookie in 1911 he won 28 games with the lowly Phillies.

Alexander was a stretcher bearer with the army in 1918, one of the tough jobs of any war. He then had been pitching seven years. On his return to the Cubs in 1919 and 1920, he allowed 1.72 and 1.91 earned runs per game, an incredible performance. Through his career Old Pete had no interest in any form of training. He happened to be an eccentric genius, a great artist, which so few are. He knew exactly where the ball should go to certain hitters, and he could put it there too.

Johnny Evers, who had batted against the best, once told me that Alexander was the only pitcher he ever faced who made him feel like throwing his bat away. "I knew how useless it was," Evers said.

Cardinal Class

Overlooking the boisterous and heartfelt boos from Brooklyn, the Cardinals have been the class of the league from the start. They have had no better ball players than Dixie Walker and Pete Reiser and Peeve Reese.

But no sane baseball follower can tell you that the hustling Dodgers have the class to match Stan Musial, Marty Marion, Country Slaughter, Red Schoendienst, Terry Moore and Whitey Kurowski.

Air Power Is Big Killer in War

This has been an aviation year. The first peacetime year that America has been acknowledged as mistress of the air as well as of the sea and the land. It has been a time of reminiscence, of recapitulation, as well as forecast and foreshadowing.

I remember the interview I had with a certain army official during the war. His impatience, smashing the ordinary rules of censorship, had revealed the secret of the bazooka kept "confidential" long after it was in use, and the details of which Germans had long since learned to their sorrow. (The bazooka functions on the rocket principle.)

The officer pointed to an old print on his wall. It was a picture of American soldiers discharging a rocket projectile in the War of 1812.

Why, then, if the rocket principle was known to us in those early days, did we not develop it as the Germans did, I asked.

The reason the rocket was neglected in the Civil war period, I was told, was because ordnance experts were concentrating on the development of the breech-loading firearm, and the perfection of rifling—the making of spiraled grooves inside the barrel which gave the bullet or projectile a twisting movement, and kept it from tumbling "head over heels." This increased range and accuracy.

The emphasis was still on the rifleman rather than the artillery, and such statistics as we have indicate that the infantry in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870

wounded 10 times as many men as the artillery did. Undoubtedly the bayonet claimed many.

By 1914-15, however, artillery produced one-half the wounded, showing the rapid advance which, in part, made experts forget the rocket again.

Artillery, according to the old definition, is "group-served, mounted firearms of caliber greater than that of small arms." This definition could easily be made to include the firearms, shells, or bombs carried by planes, or contained in the war-head of a rocket.

I mention the effectiveness of "artillery" in the latter sense, not to belittle the doughboy who is really the "ultimo ratio," but because the projectile, either carried in a plane or by propulsion in a rocket, is what might be called the definitive weapon.

The point is we did not develop the rocket in the Civil war because we felt we had something better (breech-loading rifled artillery and small arms). And again the rocket was set aside by a decision arrived at before we engaged actively in World War II when our experts, both in the army and out of it, including the great industrialists who could gauge our production capacity, felt the airplane was a superior weapon.

We did not entirely neglect study and experimentation on the rocket during the war, however, and now we are probably farther advanced in this type of "artillery" than any other nation. We also have learned to project our "artillery" by means of the "drone" (pilotless airplane).

Is This the Army, Mr. Jones?

In World War I when YMCA and Red Cross cantones were established right up into the zone of the advance, and even nearer the front, some of the "old timers" of those days wrote to the editors insisting that the Civil war was won on "salt horse and likker" (I recall that phrase in one of the letters) and we were just softening the boys.

Well, it didn't soften them too soft for Chateau Thierry and the Argonne.

Then came World War II, and some of the veterans of the earlier war raised their eyebrows at the USO, turkey dinners at the front on Thanksgiving, ice cream (instead of beans, salmon, corn willy or nothing).

But, soldier, you ain't heard nuttin!

When they say "This is the army, Mr. Jones," to you future G.I.s, you'll hardly believe it.

Did you hear what Field Marshal (blood, sand, and green for the Normandy hedges) Montgomery had to say? He believes enlisted men in the British army ought to live like other folks. Bedrooms, not barracks.

"You had your breakfast in bed before," goes the warning song, "but you won't have it there any more." Maybe not. But if Monty has his way, British soldiers can be read in bed.

And what about those tricky uniforms American soldiers are going to wear?

Blue! (like the boys in blue who

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