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Familiar Statements

Postwar American history is repeating itself, the January report of the navy industrial association points out in its leading article. Popular revulsion from everything connected with war is as strong today as after the country's other major conflicts, the author of this article finds. And the discovery brings him no comfort.

So he makes some statements that are as familiar as the situation he attacks. They have been spoken to deaf ears by the army and navy in the years between wars. Press and public have discovered their truth in time of conflict and repeated them in chorus. But now the deafness seems to be returning.

Perhaps, then, it is well to read these familiar statements in the light of present circumstances. The Navy Industrial Association's writer has stated them well. They are, in part, as follows:

"Foreign powers have long been intense students of American history. They know that we are an outspoken, unregimented people, basically not interested in conquest or imperialism. They know that all we want, usually, is to be left to ourselves so that we can work on the problem of raising our high living standards higher.

"They know that once the shooting stops Americans regard a war as ended and that a reaction takes place against all things militaristic. They know that in years of peace we do not prepare for war because we do not want war, we do not even like to think about war. They know that a great number of Americans are going to be against military training and conscription simply because they regard war and killing as fundamentally wrong.

"Science has set the tempo of a possible third World War and it is perfectly obvious that we cannot defend this notion by 'getting there last with the most'—we have to be there first, with the best."

The obvious flaw in all this, of course, is the failure to give any consideration to the United Nations Organization.

The thoughts quoted above are those of a special pleader for the retention of a nuclear naval armament, shipbuilding and aviation industry in peacetime.

The organizing of the United Nations for peace does not mean that unrest has ceased, that problems are solved, that we need never fear again. When the United Nations Organization has faced the first real threat to peace and emerged triumphant, when a sincere and unquestioned willingness to disarm is evident among all of the great powers—then and only then can we safely forget such statements as those quoted here.

Q—What do annual perfume sales amount to in the United States?
A—They topped \$76,000,000 in 1944.

Q—How much U-235 does uranium contain?
A—Less than 1 per cent.

Q—What is the endurance record for stratosphere flight?
A—It is believed to be the three hours and 38 minutes of a B-29 at 40,000 feet recently made during tests by Boeing and ATC.

Q—What jockey rode the most winners in 1945?
A—Job Dean Jessup, 290 of 1085 rides. But the leading money rider was Johnny Longden, whose rides brought \$981,977 in purses.

The WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—Dozens of G. I. investigators have been working since the shooting war stopped to help win another war. This is a war against international big business, which recognized no national boundaries, which used countries only as market divisions for its products, and which at one time aided Hitler, Mussolini and Hirohito just as much as it did France and England.

What the G. I. investigators have uncovered in Germany is a tribute to Nazi thoroughness and to the gumption of American big business. For what it amounts to is a world plan by which Germany expanded its industrial capacity for war while simultaneously curbing the industrial capacity of this country and other potential enemies.

And the names of the same men who have been dickering with Truman over steel—Ben Fairless, Eugene Grace, et al.—have turned up in European files as a part of the cartel which unwittingly played into the hands of the Nazis. It is a story which the leaders of the steel industry would like to forget. But the Justice Department hasn't forgotten it.

American participation in the steel cartel was decided upon as late as 1937—when there was no longer any doubt regarding Hitler's warlike intentions. By that time he had already invaded the Rhineland, showed his hand by sending arms to Franco, and boasted openly in speech after speech that Germany would dominate Europe.

The steel cartel files, seized in Luxembourg, reveal that S. M. Bash of Bethlehem Steel and A. G. Mundle of U. S. Steel took the initiative in binding their companies to the cartel. Four months later an agreement to divide up world markets was reached.

Anti-Trust Act

The steel barons were careful about the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, however, and the minutes of the June, 1937 meeting reveal that no written agreement regarding U. S. markets was concluded.

In February, 1938, a delegation of European steel men came to the United States. "Our representatives," the Luxembourg files showed, "obtained a very clear declaration of responsibility for the agreements from" Messrs. Eugene Grace of Bethlehem Steel, Ben Fairless of U. S. Steel, Rufus W. Wyor of Republic Steel, Frank Purnell of Youngstown Sheet and Tube, M. Hackett of Jones and Laughlin Steel, Charles Hook of Arco International, William Holloway of Wheeling Steel, Robert Walcott of Lukens Steel and Ernest Weir of the National Steel Corporation (Weirton and Great Lakes Steel).

Also included in the American group were Inland Steel, Newport Rolling Mills, Pittsburgh Steel, Otis, and the Allan Wood Company.

Race for War

What the steel barons agreed to was not only a division of markets but arrangements for price-maintenance. Quotas were set regarding the total production of each participating company, with fines levied against the firm if it exceeded its quota.

However, here is the pay-off. The Germans always exceeded their quotas, after which they politely paid their fines and then kept on speeding their output of steel in the race for war. Meanwhile, American and British firms stayed within their quotas and kept down their war machine.

In contrast with the Germans, American firms, when they exceeded their quotas, were contrite and apologetic. For instance, here is an item from the steel cartel minutes of April 18, 1939, which read:

"In regard to a recent shipment by the American group to Belgium, i. e., a home market, the American representative stated that he was taking this matter up with his group in order to avoid a recurrence."

Secretaries of the Navy

Many capital observers who think Harry Truman got away to a good start in picking a high-caliber cabinet are disappointed that he has not continued on that high level. The appointment of old political friends—California oil man Pauley, Mississippi comedian George Allen, and Missouri naval aid Vardaman—to high posts of official trust has struck a very sour note.

Some observers argue that Pauley is just as well qualified to be Secretary of the Navy as the man he is scheduled later to succeed—James Forrestal. Probably this is true. But any president other than Roosevelt would have a hard time getting Forrestal confirmed.

Most people have forgotten it, but the president of Bolivia complained bitterly to Roosevelt over the way Forrestal's banking firm, Dillon, Read and Company, had rammed a high interest loan down Bolivia's throat. Thanks to a fat bribe to the Bolivian finance minister, that country was saddled with a loan which she can never repay, while unsuspecting American investors will never get back their cash. Forrestal's banking firm, however, collected the commissions.

Most people don't realize also that it was the Secretary of the Navy's firm which promoted loans to both Japanese and German interests before the war, and whose partner, now in the American army in Germany, has been opposed to the dismantling of certain German factories.

Ed Pauley, in comparison, smells of oil, rye and evices to put his wife on the government expense account.

Perhaps if it is so hard to find anyone without embarrassing business connections to run the navy, President Truman should go back to the country newspaper editor and Sunday school teacher of the Josephus Daniels type. Daniels is about the only secretary of the Navy in recent years who really stood up against the admirals. They never forgave him for abolishing the use of liquor aboard ship or for giving enlisted men a chance to rise from the ranks.

But time has proved that Daniels was right and that the navy under him was one of the best of any period.

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No Mean Feat in Itself



Last Man of Huey Long's Machine Is Voted Out to Mark End of an Epoch

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Robert S. Maestri, the last man of the Huey Long oligarchy, has been defeated. A two-decade epoch has ended.

And the end, like the beginning, came as a big surprise. The final blow was struck on Jan. 23 when Mayor Maestri, the one man who wouldn't be licked, conceded defeat at the hands of a political amateur named DeLespessis Story Morrison.

It definitely was the finish of one of the most flamboyant chapters in American political history. It came 20 years after Huey's machine hit the "big time" and 10 years after the Kingfish's assassination.

Regime Seemed Solid
All the rest of Long's boys were long since gone. Some were suicides, others politically crushed and still others just plain Federal convicts.

But it seemed that Mystery Maestri—the first man to offer substantial financial aid to the rising Long—would go on forever. Political realists still can't account for Maestri's defeat. Everything was on his side. There was no apparent reason for him to stub his toe.

In the first place, the opposition was disrupted at the beginning of the campaign. Its original candidate, J. O. Fernandez, suddenly withdrew and announced his support of Maestri.

Then, a week later, the Independent Democratic organization announced that DeLespessis Morrison, scion of an old Louisiana family, would take up where Fernandez left off.

Rose to Lt. Colonel
Morrison had served one "reform" term in the state legislature, and he was just back from

overseas service in the army. He had climbed from lieutenant to lieutenant colonel.

A lot of people in New Orleans laughed at Morrison's candidacy. Here he was, a rank amateur, opposing the old Regular Machine which had not lost a city election in 25 years.

Morrison set about campaigning, with the newspapers solidly behind him. He rallied veterans, but it all seemed so futile.

Maestri had been in office for nearly 10 years. Besides the machine and the job-holders behind him, he had the gambling fraternity—which wanted to make sure that its headquarters could continue.

Even election day was against Morrison. It was cold and dreary. And bad weather, according to the political guide book, always favors the incumbent.

'Machine' Is Whipped
But it didn't happen that way. Despite the small vote of little more than 130,000, Morrison was elected by a strong majority. The unbeatable old Regular Machine had been beaten at last.

One reporter wrote, on the day after the election, "Maestri came in the back door, and went out the same way."

Maestri, although he had served as mayor for some 10 years, had only twice the polls once previously—in 1942.

Originally, the old Regular Machine was the sole group which had not capitulated to Huey Long. But gradually the Long-controlled state Legislature voted away all of the powers of the city government, including many of its tax privileges.

Bankrupt, the city regime crumbled. The mayor, T. Semmes Walmesley, resigned. Maestri was

appointed mayor. That was in 1936.

Certified for 4 Years
In 1938 his term expired, but only one obscure candidate appeared to run against him. Suddenly that candidate withdrew, and the state Legislature certified Maestri as mayor of New Orleans for another four years without an election.

Thus, he served as mayor for six years without facing the polls. In 1939, the Louisiana political scandals broke, and one after another, the Long lieutenants fell—beaten at the polls, indicted by the Federal government. But Maestri stayed on. In 1942 he staged his first campaign, and won by the city's greatest majority in history.

Then he rested on his political laurels. With only a third-grade education, Maestri openly displays his disdain for "book learning" and public speaking. He didn't even bother to appear at scheduled engagements.

He still had the machine which he inherited with Walmesley's resignation, and upon that he based his election hops in 1946.

But somewhere along the line it failed. And Maestri, the last of the Long lieutenants, failed with it.

Drunkometer Keeps Traffic Judges Busy

DETROIT (AP)—Use of the drunkometer machine in Detroit has brought the heaviest docket in the history of the traffic court.

There are so many drunk-driving trials now that Judge Joseph A. Moynihan presiding over Michigan's circuit courts, has brought in outside jurists to help reduce the backlog of cases.

In only the two months of November and December of 1945, drunkometer tests resulted in 252 drunk-driving cases. But in the preceding 10 months—before the machine was used—the total was only 205.

In using the machine, police have the suspected driver exhale into a balloon. The man's breath is then quickly analyzed for percentage of alcohol present. If the test shows more than 15-100ths of one per cent alcohol, it is assumed that a man's driving ability would have been impaired.

According to Traffic Judge John D. Watts, there has been some discussion in legal circles as to whether a man is competent to give his decision on whether to take the test while in a drunken condition. However, there has been no appeal this far to the Supreme Court.

Juries are paying considerable attention to the drunkometer test, Judge Watts said.

Steals Cough Drops To Prevent Cold

DENVER (AP)—Ernest Knox, 67, in jail serving out a \$150 fine, admits that his preventive foresight hasn't worked any cure.

Knox, a railroad car cleaner, was found with 79 boxes of cough drops on his person.

He said his girl friend from Des Moines, Ia., was coming to visit him and was "allergic to colds." He said he took the cough drops in order to have a good supply on hand for her when she arrived.

EDSON'S WASHINGTON COLUMN

BY PETER EDSON
NEA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NEA)—A pioneer band of Texans invaded Washington the other night for their "First Annual Dinner Dedicated to Braggin' About Texans." It was one for the books. Between musical numbers, such as Strauss' "Beautiful Blue Rio Grande Waters," Hoffmann's "Love Tales From the Texas Woods," and "When Texas Eyes Are Smiling," they modestly took credit for everything under the sun.

Some of the things they found to brag about would amaze you. They bragged about their Junior Senator W. Lee O'Daniel, the biscuit passer. Maybe they were bragging because he wasn't there. As the Man Who Would Have Introduced Him if He Had Been There said, "I hope he isn't being evicted tonight." It was a crack at O'Daniel's latest Washington real estate deal, in which he bought an apartment house and evicted all the tenants so he could have the place to himself.

They bragged about Senator Charles C. Gossett of Idaho, who was born in Texas. The Texans bragged about him as the only senator from Idaho who couldn't play a banjo. They even bragged about Congressman Fred L. Crawford of Saginaw, Mich., who isn't even a Democrat, but a rock-ribbed Republican. But he was born in Texas. (To some that makes it all right. Sometimes it's hard to tell whether a Republican is a southern Democrat or vice versa.)

CONGRESSMAN George Mahon of Colorado City, Texas, bragged about how he learned to run fast. It was when a tarantula chased him out of a cotton patch. He bragged about the Texas tarantulas. And he gave the definition of true Texas hospitality: "Make 'em think they're at home even when you wish they were."

Admiral of the Fleet Chester W. Nimitz, and Lt.-Gen. Ira Eaker of the Army Air Forces, were the honored native sons at the dinner, and they proved they could do a little braggin' too.

"I'm a man out of Texas," said Nimitz, "but you can't take Texas out of a man."

General Eaker topped that one by telling about the father who counseled his son never to be a stranger where he was from. "If the man is from Texas," the father advised, "he'll tell you. If he's not, don't embarrass him by saying 'ain'."

RAYBURN, Jesse Jones, Sen. Tom Connally and a few other professional Texans weren't able to attend. Connally, it was explained, was over in London, running the UNO. The Texans said they hadn't decided about whether they would annex UNO, but admitted it would fail if they didn't.

Hosts at this braggin' dinner were the Texas citrus and vegetable growers and shippers. Having heard stories about the low quality of food in the east, where they don't raise horses—just season them—the Texans brought their own grub, five tons of it. Flew it up on a special plane. But that included half a bushel of fresh Rio Grande Valley apples for every guest.

Washington Farm Notes

WASHINGTON (AP)—World War II veterans are knocking on Uncle Sam's door in rapidly increasing numbers to ask for money to buy or operate their own farms.

By mid-January, the Farm Security Administration had approved loans totaling \$10,570,000 to more than 5,000 veterans. FSA is the agency that offers long-term credit to farmers or promising would-be farmers.

The number of FSA borrowers is running way ahead of the number of ex-servicemen who are getting loans on their own under the GI bill of rights.

In early January, the government had guaranteed only 1,130 loans under this legislation. It is standing back of \$1,350,000 for repayment. This amount of money however, does not show the full sum veterans were investing in farm real estate since the government guarantees only up to 50 per cent of GI loans.

Major Share for Renting
By far the greatest share of FSA loan money goes to rent property and buy livestock, machinery and other necessary equipment. Veterans have been granted \$8,700,000 to operate farms but only \$1,900,000 to buy farms outright.

Here are some of the stories behind the loans recorded in FSA files: Forrest J. Sheffield of Parkton Md., an ex-Army captain, raised money enough on his own to set up a poultry farm but did not have enough funds to buy chicks. About 16,500 are seeking operating loans with only 6,000 approved enabled him to start out proved.

Loans to veterans make up about 20 per cent of FSA's business. Congress recently added \$259,000,000 to the agency's coffers for loaning money to ex-GIs who want to own their own farm. There are fewer limitations on this money than on other FSA funds. It can be spent in any state and veterans do not need to show as much experience as non-veteran borrowers. FSA has stacked up many more applications than it has granted loans. Nearly 12,000 veterans have asked for money to buy farms while only 283 of the up a poultry farm but did not have enough funds to buy chicks. About 16,500 are seeking operating loans with only 6,000 approved enabled him to start out proved.

SPECIAL PURCHASE

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THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson

THE IDEA OF BADGES AND INSIGNIA DENOTING MILITARY RANK WAS DEvised BY GEORGE WASHINGTON DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR, WHEN HIS MEN HAD NO UNIFORMS, AND OFFICERS NEEDED IDENTIFYING MARKS.

KWIZ KORNER

A POUND OF GOLD IS WORTH ABOUT HOW MUCH?

☐ \$450 ☐ \$850
☐ \$4,000

ANSWER: About \$450 per pound.

DIMETHYLAMINOETHYL BENZHYDRYL ETHER HYDROCHLORIDE

IS THE CHEMICAL NAME OF A NEW DRUG EXPECTED TO RELIEVE HAY FEVER SUFFERERS.

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2-7

ANSWER: When was the first aerial photograph taken?