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Big Step Forward

It is too early yet for over-optimism. There still is a chance for hobbles to be slipped onto a promising horse. But it is distinctly encouraging that the United Nations Economic and Social Council has set up a special commission to handle European reconstruction on a unified, continent-wide basis.

There are at least three very pleasing things about this action, taken only nine months after the proposal first was made in London.

First, because unified continent-wide planning and execution are the only ways that the highly integrated continent can be put back on its feet and helped to repair the war's devastation.

Second, because this is really the first time that the vicious and ever-widening chasm between Soviet eastern Europe and the non-Soviet western nations has appeared likely to be bridged by any specific co-operative activity.

Third, because Russia, after opposing the plan in its original form, has accepted a version that was merely weakened and not completely perverted.

From the viewpoint of cold logic, undoubtedly it would be more efficient if the power systems of the continent could be unified, if restrictive economic barriers could be removed, if labor surpluses from one section—or even from one country—could be moved wherever labor shortages existed.

But on second thought there are practical objections, human nature being what it is.

There almost certainly would be outraged objections if a United Nations Commission were to attempt, willy-nilly, to unify our power system and tie it up with those of Canada and Mexico and the rest of this hemisphere.

And the heavens would be blasted by our revolt if a British-Russian mission were to start ordering New York's unemployed clothing workers to South Chinese-Czech-Dutch-Chilean commiss-Carolina cotton mills.

Over here on our side of the Big Pond we sometimes forget the centuries of bitter wars that have devastated almost every important country in Europe. We have seldom had other nations try to boss us around, so we have little conception of the intense nationalism that such conflict breeds.

Maybe it is not enough, but surely it is something that the often disagreeing Soviet Union and the Anglo-American "bloc" have agreed to get together even on a limited plane in this job of reconstruction. Maybe an entering wedge has been forged, which if it works, could open the door to further co-operation.

The birth struggles of United Nation co-operation have been torturing to watch. But here, in many ways, is the most promising thing that has yet come out of that fledgling and often cantankerous body.

MARSHALL'S PEACETIME OBJECTIVES MORE DIFFICULT THAN WARTIME OFFENSIVES; SOLUTION LIES IN WINNING RUSSIA'S FRIENDSHIP; SPLIT IN POLITBURO CREATES PROBLEM.

WASHINGTON—As a military man, General Marshall planned two great offensives. One was in 1918 when he charted for General Pershing the transfer of one million men from St. Mihiel to the Meuse-Argonne front, plus 49,000 tons of ammunition, 24 hospitals, 93,000 horses, 164 miles of railway and 87 depots—all in a week's time with no enemy aviator discovering it.

The other was in the last war when as Chief of Staff he planned the historic landing on Normandy.

These two offensives, great as they were, in some respects will not be as difficult as the two great peacetime objectives which George Marshall as secretary of state will attempt to win at the conference beginning in Moscow to-

day. Those two objectives are:

1. A permanent peace treaty with the nation which has caused every major European war in the past century—Germany.

2. The end of our present suspicious, chip-on-the-shoulder relations with Russia and the establishment of a permanent friendship with the nation which can be our most disastrous enemy.

Both, obviously, are interdependent. And if Marshall can win real friendship with Russia, the treaty with Germany will be much easier. To that end, the secretary of state made plans before he left Washington to canvass our main points of difference with Russia and do everything possible to work out a genuine basis for friendship and understanding.

Split Inside Kremlin

One of the big problems he will face is the definite evidence of a split inside the politburo regarding the United States, plus the interrelated question of who is the real boss of Russia.

Fourteen men make up the politburo, an organization which rules the destinies of the far-flung Soviet union as no other group in the world. And the impression given to the outside world, is that these 14 men work as a cohesive, compact unit, that they do not have differences of opinion such as those inside the British and American cabinets. And while it is difficult to find out what actually goes on inside the Kremlin, there is increasing evidence that this harmony is a myth, and that two opposite schools of thought exist regarding friendship with the United States.

This was somewhat evident even as far back as the Teheran conference, when Stalin himself, though considered a dictator, sometimes told Roosevelt before giving an answer on a certain point that he would have to call his marshals in Moscow to get their O. K.

It was also apparent to Jimmie Byrnes both at Potsdam and during the long series of discussions which he had with Molotov and Stalin that the later was more friendly and easier to deal with than Molotov.

This diagnosis is borne out by some of the top diplomats of satellite countries—nations which border Russia, are under Soviet influence, and whose leaders visit Moscow frequently to straighten out their affairs of state. From one such diplomat, whose information has been reliable in the past, comes the following summation of what transpires today inside the Kremlin.

Molotov Hates USA

The group most hostile to the United States and Great Britain, according to this source, is headed by heavy-handed Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov. His chief messenger boy is Andrei Gromyko, now envoy to the United Nations, and the man who upset world hope of agreement on atomic energy by flatly rejecting all previously discussed plans for control of the atom.

The opposite faction inside the Kremlin which believes peace is possible between capitalist America, socialist Britain and communist Russia is headed by Stalin himself. However, Stalin isn't as potent as he used to be, is frequently absent from Moscow for rests in the Crimea.

Recently a foreign diplomat closely attuned to the Soviet sphere of influence protested to Stalin against the boorish tactics of Gromyko. Stalin agreed, but remarked: "He's Molotov's boy, not mine."

During the foreign ministers conference in New York, Molotov, having heard complaints about Gromyko, sounded out several satellite diplomats.

"Have you been having trouble with my friend Gromyko?" he asked Polish, Yugoslav and Czech envoys.

When they admitted they had, Molotov merely replied that Gromyko spoke for him at all times. Then, just to emphasize the point, Molotov named Gromyko, deputy minister of foreign affairs.

The Stalin school of thought inside the foreign office is represented by shrewd, genial Vice-Commissioner Andrei Vyshinsky, who last year sent one of his close friends, Boris Stein, long cordial to the United States, to the United Nations, with instructions to soften up Gromyko. Stein however, had no effect. Apparently following Molotov's instructions, Gromyko remained as rude and uncompromising as ever. Lifting the Iron Curtain

This split covers much more than Gromyko's work at the United Nations. It ranges over a whole variety of things, including the Soviet treatment of foreign newspapermen. The Stalin-Vyshinsky faction believes in letting foreign newspapermen into Russia, the removal of censorship and the elimination of all but security travel restrictions.

This group also favors closer cultural relations with the United States. They have a utilitarian motive in this—a preliminary step toward getting a large-scale American-Soviet trade pact, including a multi-million-dollar loan to Russia.

The Molotov team, however, does not want to go this far. While it would like to have a U. S. loan, it will not take any preliminary cultural steps toward getting it. Its members seem to believe that war between the two schools of thought is inevitable.

When a satellite diplomat protested to Stalin against the hard-boiled Molotov school of diplomacy and asked why something wasn't done about it, Stalin, according to diplomatic sources, replied:

"I believe in giving people enough rope, then events will take care of themselves. Besides you forget that I'm as young as I used to be."

Foreign diplomats who have talked to Stalin also remark on his increasing mellowness. Recently a delegation of Polish communists visited him to tell how they had renamed a large steel mill in Poland the "Stalin Works." According to diplomatic sources, Stalin replied:

"That wasn't very smart. Some day there'll be a strike there and the headlines all over the world will read: 'Workers strike against Stalin! How will that look?'"

These are some of the divisions of opinion reported to exist inside the Soviet, divisions which, if true, will make the work of Secretary Marshall all the more difficult. In a later column this writer will give some of his own deductions on what is going on inside the Soviet regarding peace with the USA.

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Cheer Up, Pretty Soon We Can Coast



Weeping Water

Mrs. Homer Jameson expects to leave the latter part of this week for Kansas City, to spend a week at the home of her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Waddell.

BARBS

BY HAL COCHRAN

AN Ohio music store was broken into four times and musical instruments stolen. Police are looking for an underworld band.

Scientists call the African stork the shoebill. Husband and wife still think of the American stork as the doctor's bill.

It takes only one-fortieth of a second to wink the eye—and hours to explain it to the wife.

There were just as many careless drivers in the old days but not as many accidents. Horses had some sense.

A New York pharmacist attempted suicide by swallowing drugs. It would be interesting to know where he procured them.



In fact, it's dangerous to have your child's shoes fitted in any other way. The tender child foot with its soft bones and pliant muscle can be compressed into almost any type of shoe. The child, feeling no pain, cannot tell if the shoe fits properly or not. That's why we insist upon fitting children's shoes by X-Ray. That's the only way we can be sure that your child's shoes will help to develop normal, healthy feet for a lifetime of foot health and comfort.

Wester Shoe Store

Mrs. Ray Norris has organized a group of youths into a garden club and an Electrification club. They have fourteen members, and their next meeting will be held Saturday, at the Lloyd Ranney home, when Floyd Hite, of the Omaha Power and Light Company, will talk to them about the things which they should know about electricity.

Mrs. J. M. Ranney will go to Blair to spend the week end at the home of her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Lingo. Mr. Lingo is the county farm agent, at Blair.

Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Cook are moving, this week, onto the Leslie Wiles farm, seven miles north-east of Weeping Water.

Norris Hatcheries are busy, these days, as they hatched their first 1947 chickens, last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Day are enroute home from Bradenton, Florida. They expect to visit friends in Jacksonville, Mississippi, and they will also stop at Chattanooga, Tennessee to visit the Franklin Rockfords, former Weeping Water friends, whose home is on Lookout Mountain.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Domingo and their two children, John and Mary, were dinner guests, Wednesday evening, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. Ray Smith. The occasion was Mr. Smith's birthday.

The Albert Kirchoffs moved on to the Mrs. Minnie Stege farm,

Edson's Washington Column

BY PETER EDSON

NEA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NEA)—At the very end of the three-inch-thick, five-pound Federal Budget—back in Appendix Six, on pages 1406-8—there is a summary of government expenses year by year for 10 years. It starts with 1939 and gives actual expenses through 1946, and estimates for 1947 and 1948.

If the Republican Congress does what its leaders say it will do, the 1948 figures won't look anything like the President's numbers. But here is the best possible list of symptoms from which to make a diagnosis of the causes for the government's 10-year headache of rising expense.

This fever chart shows that total government expenses rose from \$9 billion in 1937 to a peak of \$100 billion in 1945. Then they drop to \$63 billion in 1946, \$42 billion in 1947, \$37 billion in 1948. The 63 per cent drop in the last three years is notable.

But the fact that federal expenditures in 1948 will be by the President's estimates 10 per cent above what they were in 1939 is also notable. And that where an economy-minded Congress will have room to perform any operations deemed necessary to cure the government's spendthriftitis and end the headache.

GLANCE over some of the departmental figures to see how this government spending has grown beyond all sensible bounds. These are the 10-year growths, from 1937 to 1946, in round figures to the closest million or billion dollars:

National defense, from \$1 billion to \$11 billion.
Veterans' benefits, from \$500 million to \$7 billion.
International finance, from \$17 million to \$2320 million.
Social Security payments doubled, from \$886 million to \$1467 million. In this same 10-year period work relief—WPA and such direct relief measures—was cut from \$311 million to only \$7 million. That's all to the good. But the trend towards more government social security aids is apparent. In his Economic Report, the President recommended that a larger share of this social security be paid for out of the federal treasury, instead of by employer-employee contributions. That would increase government expense.

Aids to housing jumped from \$17 million to \$225 million. Research and education went up from \$44 million to \$88 million. Aids to agriculture jumped from a high \$997 million to a higher \$1603 million.

Development of non-agricultural resources is up from \$218 million to \$1099 million. Atomic energy development accounts for only \$444 million of that jump.

Aid to transportation—highways, airways and merchant marine—rose from \$466 million to \$1533 million.

AIDS to "free enterprise" business have climbed from \$24 million to \$112 million. Labor-regulation aid went up from \$11 million to \$118 million.

General government expenses are up from \$338 million to \$1427 million.

Some items, like the present \$5 billion interest payment on the \$259 billion public debt, cannot be reduced. But others are strictly in the government luxury class. Once a program like labor training, support of farm prices, maternity benefits or the building of government parks is begun, it's hard to stop. All these things may be nice, but are they necessary?

Those who say "Yes!" advance the argument that these expenditures over the past 10 years have so promoted the general prosperity that the country can now afford to live at this higher standard. Further economies are then said to be not only unnecessary, but impossible. That seems to be the main argument of the President's three messages to the new Congress.

This is the basic decision which Congress will have to make in deciding whether there is to be more economy or an expanded economy.

near Elmwood, Tuesday.

The ocean holds 10,000,000,000 tons of gold, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica, but no commercially profitable way has been found to extract it.

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