

The Plattsmouth Journal

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Overemphasis Placed on Henry Wallace

President Truman seems to have taken the wisest course in the Henry Wallace affair by publicly ignoring it. It seems to us that some congressmen might well have followed the president's lead to the extent of treating Wallace's windy overseas oratory with the calmness that it deserved.

This is not to suggest that their wrath was not righteous, or that they should not have expressed it. But they increased Wallace's stature by their exaggerated demands that he be silenced, prosecuted, deprived of his passport, and denounced by the president.

All this tended to make a martyr of Wallace. It also might have given foreigners the idea that champions of Truman's foreign policies were powerfully afraid of the Wallace opposition. Even a man less conscious of a sacred mission than Wallace might find it hard to refuse the slings and arrows of political martyrdom, or the mantle of acknowledged leader of a militant group of "liberals."

Actually, though Wallace has donned that mantle, his past history creates the suspicion that he has been pushed as often as he has led. Some critics have gone so far as to brand his recent speeches as treasonable. But his thinking is hardly specific and practical enough to stamp him as a leader of conspiracy.

Wallace's most consistent campaigns in the past two years have been against those who oppose his policy of appeasing Russia, and those in the democratic party who have strayed from what he believes Franklin Roosevelt's policies would be today. Otherwise he has not always been consistent or confident.

As secretary of commerce, Wallace enlarged upon the weaknesses of capitalism when addressing labor groups. But he never offended an audience of businessmen by expressing any doubts of the virtues of private enterprise.

Recently he has deplored the stranglehold that British imperialism has fastened on the American government. But once he got to England, Truman became No. 1 imperialist, and Wallace's hearers discovered that they and their government were the salt of the earth and the hope of the world.

Wallace is really too kind-hearted to be a villain. He is a sort of political Don Quixote. An earnest, high-minded, slightly befuddled warrior, he is forever riding forth to do battle with all sorts of menacing forces in defense of his Dulcinea, the common man.

His crusades, especially against this government's attitude toward Russia and communism, have caused a lot of resentment, in and out of congress. His speeches in England probably did almost as much as Senator Vandenberg's efforts to enlist public support for the Truman doctrine.

Now that support seems almost certain to result in congress approving Truman's request for the loan to Greece and Turkey by a big majority. In that event the world will have a definite answer to the question of how truly Wallace represents American opinion. Then his speeches—and his martyrdom—probably will be forgotten quickly, both here and abroad.

The Search for Definitions

The UN atomic energy commission has discovered, after 10 months, that it doesn't know what it's talking about. So it has appointed a subcommittee to attempt a definition of some basic words. The members will try to find a common meaning, in five different languages, of such things as control, inspection, supervision, management, accounting, and licensing.

That's fine as far as it goes, but we doubt that it goes far enough. Also urgently needed are common definitions of even more basic words that will serve for all international discussions, in and out of the United Nations.

Democracy, for instance. Liberty, independence, and freedom are some others. What do they mean in Russia, Colombia, China, France, Greece, everywhere? Is there a common universal meaning for them, or only nationalistic meanings in nationalistic languages?

The world had better find out. For the seeds of war or peace lie in those definitions.

The WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

By DREW PEARSON

Washington — Members of the senate armed services committee, now holding hearings on the army-navy unification bill, are biting their nails at their chairman, complacent Senator Chan Gurney of South Dakota.

As one member puts it: "Chan is a lobbyist for the bill rather than committee chairman."

Equally disturbing is the fact that several army and navy officers testifying on the bill have let senators know privately they don't really believe what they told the committee.

"If we didn't say what the top brass wants," they explain, "we'd sure catch it—and maybe lose

our rank."

From now on there will be more careful cross-examination of army-navy witnesses.

Real Estate Lobby
President Truman aimed some barbed remarks at both congressional "inaction" and the real estate lobby when he discussed housing with spokesmen for eight national organizations who called to protest tragic delays in building homes.

Truman's remarks were inspired by criticism from David L. Krooth, co-chairman of the housing legislation information service, Wesley Pearce of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Lee Johnson of the National Public Housing conference who minced no words in telling the president that the nation's housing program had failed and why.

They pointed first to the "tremendous falling off" in home construction in the first three months of this year. Only 45,000 "starts" were made in home building in the first quarter of 1947, they said, compared with approximately 60,000 in the first quarter of 1946.

"In other words, last year, when we had government controls, we were getting more home construction than we are now, though the construction industry and its friends in congress told us that building would increase when the controls were lifted," said Krooth.

The president said he was fully aware of this. Grimly, he admitted that the "housing situation" was not improving—if anything, was getting worse.

"We need a lot more rental construction than we are getting," observed the president. "It is way down. Builders are putting their houses up for sale at high prices that the public cannot afford to pay."

Truman added that the end of price controls, plus delay in passing urgently needed housing bills, such as the Taft long-range public housing bill, were chiefly accountable for the housing shortage. He said that he had made "five appeals," public and private, for passage of the Taft bill, but congress has stalled for over three months.

Jesse Wolcott Stalls
Truman said that the stalling was particularly evident in the house of representatives, where the banking and currency committee, led by Rep. Jesse Wolcott of Michigan, has effectively blocked action on a house version of the Taft bill, introduced by California's Helen Gahagan Douglas.

"I have done all I can and will continue to do everything possible to relieve the housing shortage," the president promised, "but it's a tough battle against the real estate lobby."

One of his visitors remarked that the real estate lobby had \$10,000,000 to spend to block the Taft bill.

"The lobby is always in a position to control legislation," said the president, "by spending a great deal of money to get out misinformation that deceives the public. It's up to you fellows to counteract this propaganda by seeing to it that the public is told the real facts."

Veterans of Foreign Wars spokesman Pearce asked Truman if the government was "doing anything further" about industrialized (prefabricated) housing.

"That is the quickest way to relieve the shortage in an emergency, if housing production can be put on an assembly line basis," declared Pearce.

The president agreed that industrialized housing couldn't be overlooked and reported that a Columbus, Ohio, plant for this purpose would soon get into mass production.

NOTE — Organizations represented at the meeting were: AFL, CIO, VFW, National Public Housing conference, National League of Women Voters, Council for Social Action of the Congregational church, National Jewish Welfare councils and American association of university women.

Curse on Both Sides
Secretary of Labor Lewis Schwellenbach has kept his lips buttoned publicly, but backstage he has done some blunt vocalizing about the bull-headedness of both sides in the telephone strike.

It's a toss-up as to which side has run the labor secretary's blood pressure higher. Schwellenbach considers the don't-give-an-inch position of union spokesman Joseph Beirne suicidal, because the telephone workers can't afford a prolonged strike. The big telephone companies, on the other hand, can continue operations, especially local dial services for weeks.

However, Schwellenbach is even more critical of the telephone companies. Privately he points out that if the telephone companies defeat the union, they are simply asking for more trouble, since Beirne's National Federation of Telephone Workers will be ripe for taking-over by either the AFL or CIO.

"The telephone companies will regret it if this happens," says the secretary of labor. "For they will find the phone union much tougher to deal with as an AFL or CIO affiliate than as an independent union."

So the phone strike hasn't gained anything for anybody, including the public.

Under the Dome
Ed Pauley's shadow is still with us. Chairman Nelson Lee Smith of the Federal Power commission has had the resignation of Vice-Chairman Richard Sachse of California on his desk for several weeks, but hesitates to accept it. He is afraid Ed Pauley will have too much to say about who takes Sachse's job. A five-man committee of western republicans was appointed to try to save reclamation and irrigation projects. It included: Walt Horan and Hal Holmes of Washington, John Phillips of California, William Hill of Colorado and Frank Barrett of Wyoming. Though they were begged and got down on their knees to fellow republicans, GOP leaders cut the heart out of the interior department's appropriations. This means Truman will have a good chance to carry the west in 1948. . . . It also means that Governor Dewey will increase his efforts to team up with California's Governor Warren, thereby increasing GOP strength on the Pacific coast. (Copyright, 1947, by the Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

Daily Thought

He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory.—John 7:18.

We rise in glory, as we sink in pride: Where boasting ends there dignity begins.—Young.

A midwest college baseball coach says he'll give up golf for fishing as his hobby this summer. Prefers the hook to the slice perhaps.

A Michigan woman driver crashed through the front of a bakery. It was probably on the wrong side of the street.

It's alarming how many men owe their lives to the fact that most women shoot with their eyes shut.



Our Churches

- United Presbyterian Murray**
10:00 Bible school, with classes for all ages. H. B. Hutchman, Superintendent.
11:00 Morning Worship. The sermon will be the fifth in the series on "Great Questions in Regard to Christianity and the Christian Life," and the theme will be "What Must I Do To Be Saved?"
- Union Methodist Church**
Union Nebr.
Rev. E. C. Williams, Pastor
9:45 A. M. Church service.
10:30 A. M. Church School
Friday evening 8 o'clock Meeting of Youth Fellowship at the church.
- St. Luke's Episcopal Church**
3rd Street and Avenue A
Canon Geo. St. C. Tyner, Rector
Morning Prayer and sermon 9:00 a. m.
Church School 10:15 a. m. Edward Egenberger, Superintendent.
- Presbyterian Church**
H. G. McClusky, Pastor
7th Street and Second Avenue
10:00 A. M. Sabbath School. Ralph Wehrlein, Superintendent.
11:00 A. M. Morning church worship. The sermon "The True God." Anthem by the choir.
Thursday 7:30 P. M. Choir rehearsal.
Sunday May 4th, Mother and Daughters Tea in Fellowship room in the afternoon. An interesting program will be given. Let all mothers bring their own daughters of a daughter to enjoy the occasion. Announcement cards will be sent to all members of the federation.
- St. John's Catholic Church**
Between 5th and 6th on Avenue B
Rt. Rev. Msgr. George Agius, pastor
Sunday Masses at 8:00 a. m. and 10:30 a. m.
Weekday Mass in church at 7:30 a. m. except at 8:00 a. m. on Tuesday and Friday.
Confessions at 4:30 p. m. and 7:30 p. m. on Saturday.
Boys and girls of the Sodality will receive communion in a body at the First Mass Sunday.
- Evangelical United Brethren Church**
Mynard, Nebraska
Rev. Ivan Kilpatrick, Pastor
10:00 A. M. Church School—Mildred Meisinger, Superintendent.
11:00 A. M. Morning Worship Service. Sermon topic "Our God."
7:30 P. M. Youth Fellowship. Mary Margaret Cole, president. Special service for new members.
Youth Rally at Lincoln, May 4th beginning at 2:30 P. M. Plan now to attend.
- First Christian Church**
8th St. and Ave. C
10:00 A. M. Communion and Worship Service. Rev. Arthur Markston of Shambaugh, Iowa, will be the guest speaker.
11:00 A. M. Sunday School.
7:30 P. M. Special musical program by the choir. Everyone invited.
Monday 7:00 P. M. Boy Scouts.
Wednesday—All day meeting of the ladies to quilt.
Wednesday 7:30 P. M. choir practice.
- First Methodist Church**
7th and Main Street
Rev. E. C. Williams, Pastor
9:45 A. M. Church School.
11:00 A. M. Morning worship with
- Christ Lutheran Church**
Plattsmouth-Louisville Road
Rev. A. Lentz, Pastor
9:30 a. m. Sunday school.
10:30 a. m. Worship service.
Wednesday, Apr. 30, at 2:30 p. m. Ladies Aid will meet in the church parlors. Mrs. Philip Hennings and Mrs. A. Lentz will be hostesses.
The church members are asked to bring new and used clothing for European relief to the church by May 1.
- 16th and First Avenue**
Rev. Edward C. Tachek, Pastor
First Mass at 6:00 a. m.
Last Mass at 10:00 a. m.

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Edson's Washington Column

BY PETER EDSON
NEA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NEA)—Responsibilities now heaped on the well-informed American people are enough to bend them bowlegged. In addition to knowing all about how to fight global wars, run the domestic economy, and take care of foreign policy matters, they must now learn all about international high finance.

President Truman's new doctrine starts with a modest request for \$400 million worth of aid for Greece and Turkey. But it's a cinch that if the United States goes into this business, that ain't gonna be all. An entirely unofficial guess is that in the end and on a world-wide basis, this may cost upwards of \$3 billion a year.

The \$64 billion questions for the taxpayer are whether this is cheaper than wars and will he foot the bills? There are three ways of ladeling out this international aid—loans, political loans, and outright grants. The \$400 million for Greece and Turkey is in the last-mentioned class. There is no idea that any of it will ever be repaid, except maybe in good will and added American security.

This is important to understand. It explains why the President put the issue up to Congress instead of suggesting that the deal be handled as a loan through the U. S. government's Export-Import Bank of Washington, or the new World Bank, whose full and right name is the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. BOTH these outfits are supposed to be banks in the stricter meaning of the word. The Export-Import Bank is limited by law to making loans for expanding foreign trade, with reasonable assurance that the loans will be repaid. The World Bank also has a mandate to operate on a business basis, making economic rather than political loans. Pressure to force both banks into making political loans to bolster friendly but shaky foreign governments has been heavy.

Last year there was a showdown session on this issue at the White House. Directors of the Export-Import Bank were summoned to the President's office. There Undersecretary of State Will Clayton presented the case for having the bank make political loans to back up U. S. foreign policy. Directors of the bank, headed by William McChesney Martin, Jr., opposed Clayton's proposal. It was pointed out that if the Export-Import Bank began to make political loans on bad security, with small chance of repayment, Congress would quickly crack down and put the bank out of business. In the end, President Truman backed up the bank. In January, 1946, the Export-Import Bank authorized a reconstruction credit to Greece of only \$25 million. Of this sum only five million has been advanced.

An effort was then made to persuade directors of the World Bank that they should enter this field of shadowy high finance. The whole story has never been revealed. But the long and short of it was that Emilio G. Collado, former State Department economic adviser and a great believer in pouring the millions on any world trouble spot as a cure for every ill, has been removed from the bank staff. A tough team of Wall Street bankers under former Assistant Secretary of War John J. McCloy has taken over. Under this new management there is every indication the World Bank won't make political loans. American past experience in this political loan business has not been too good. In 1941 the U. S. by another act of Congress "loaned" China \$500 million, interest free. There was no U. S. control on how the money was to be spent. Repayment was to be arranged at the end of the war, but nothing has been done about it.

On the contrary, after the war was over another \$500 million of Export-Import Bank funds were earmarked for future loans to China. Actual disbursements have been held up, however, until Chinese economic—and political—conditions become more stable.

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