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RONALD R. FURSE, Editor-Publisher

Thelma Olson, Society Editor.
Helen E. Heinrich, News Editor.
Iola Ofe, Circulation-Office

Merle D. Furse, Plant Superintendent
Patrick Osbon, Pressroom Superintendent

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EDITORIALS

IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

The American Federation of Labor has published a series of advertisements in opposition to pending labor legislation in Congress. The gist of its argument is that the proposed bills were highly discriminatory, would destroy basic rights, would subjugate labor, and would weaken American traditions of freedom for all.

The AF of L, like all parties to this controversy, has every right in the world to obtain the widest possible circulation of its views. It is doubtful, however, if readers who have troubled to examine the labor bills will accept its stand. Both the House bill and the Senate bill were prepared with great care, after the appropriate committees took thousands of pages of testimony from labor leaders, industrial executives, workers and representatives of all groups concerned, reflecting every position from the extreme right to the extreme left. Congressional leaders feel that the differences between the bills can be ironed out, and that the resulting measure will receive a substantial majority of the final vote. Every effort to protect real labor rights has been and will be made. There is nothing in either bill which would give a conscienceless employer the slightest leeway in exploiting his workers, and destroying their unions.

There is, on the other hand, an admirable effort to cure abuses, pursued ruthlessly by some labor leaders, which endanger the welfare of all the people—and which weaken our prestige in every corner of the world. It is recognized that the power of labor bosses to decide whether or not a man shall be allowed to work at his trade and earn a living must be curbed. It is recognized that one man or group of men must no longer be able to stop, by fiat, the production of essential goods. It is recognized that democratic control by members over the unions they support must be restored.

Many think the final bill Congress will pass may be too weak to be really effective. But it will represent a start toward reforms which are vital to the future of this country.

THE STRENGTH OF A COUNTRY

The basic strength of this country lies in its philosophy of life and government—not in its natural resources and its industries and its wealth. These last, vital as they are, are but the consequence of the first. They are the natural development of a system which places maximum freedom for the individual above all other considerations.

Other nations have great resources—greater, in some particulars, than our own. Russia is a case in point. But other nations have not been able despite grandiose "five-year plans" and similar schemes, to put them to full use for the benefit of the people. Super-government, which robs the individual of his freedom, likewise robs him of his ingenuity and his ambition. The individual is simply the tool of the state. He is denied much and often most of the fruits of his labor. Results are gained by mass action, by driving and terrorizing the people. But the individual, save for the man in the saddle, never benefits.

This country grew great under the Constitutional idea of a government of limited powers—a government which maintained the Army and Navy, the courts and other essential services, and acted as an arbiter in the economic affairs of the country but never as a competitor or participant. This is the kind, and the only kind, of government under which the rights and freedoms of the people can be preserved, and it must not be undermined here.

THE SALESMAN IS COMING BACK

According to a Business Week article, many manufacturers are now becoming confronted with the problem of increased selling costs.

This is due to the fact that unsolicited business is getting scarce and it is necessary to build up sales staffs and put salesmen on the road. During the war and immediately thereafter, practically every concern had more orders than it could fill. Times have changed, and the salesman, complete with swindle sheet, is coming back into his own.

This has an obvious bearing on the effort to reduce prices. In some lines sales costs, when full prewar selling staffs go back into action, may reach 25 percent of the value of the business. In many lines 10 percent is considered normal.

We wish some college would give the thermometer a few honorary degrees—for keeps.

"Teachers Strike for More Pay"—headline. The folks who have been teaching youngsters to be smart are getting smart themselves.

Furse's Fresh Flashes

A Plattsmouth man says his wife has the worst memory of any person he knows. He says she remembers everything.

We attended an old settler's picnic one time and one incident has always stood out in our memory of the occasion. A woman won the rolling pin throwing contest and her husband won the hundred yard dash.

In spite of all the home accident statistics, we prefer to take our chances with bath-tub soap rather than a five-ton truck.

A man up the street says that if he ever takes an ocean voyage he will book transportation on a stabilized ship. It costs more, but expense is not what he has to keep down.

Flipper Fanny, our dainty little contour twister, says that if love makes a gal grow younger, she's going to have to get out her dollies.

It would be a fine thing if a lot of our law makers were limited to one term provided they served it in the right place.

A man back in Cleveland succeeded in balancing 5,400 matches on the top of a beer bottle. President Truman should get hold of that guy and see what he could do with the budget.

Noticed some women raving over a baby that had it's first two teeth and they said it looked cute. But, when a man gets down to only two teeth he sneaks down the back alleys.

The WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

By DREW PEARSON

Drew Pearson says: TRUMAN WILL ASK CONGRESS FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARMS PROGRAM; REPUBLICANS LEARNED HOW ARMS BREED WAR; ANOTHER MISSOURIAN WILL HEAD INTELLIGENCE UNIT.

WASHINGTON—President Truman is sending a special message to Congress asking for authority to arm and train our good neighbors in Latin America, including our not-so-good neighbor—Argentina.

This arms program has a lot of kinks that may not at first catch the eye of the average congressman. It is a program which previous republican administration wrestled with, and it was hoped the democrats had profited by their lessons.

Back in the 1920's, the present Secretary of the Navy, James Forrestal, then part of Dillon, Read, International Bankers, helped loan \$20,000,000 to Bolivia which went to the Bolivian army. The Bolivian people and even part of the Bolivian cabinet did not know too much about this, but through a bribe (The more polite word is "commission") to the Minister of Finance, the loan was put across. Incidentally, it has never been repaid.

Most of the money went to Vickers, Ltd., British munitions firm, though part went to pay German military instructors to train Bolivia to wage war on its neighbor, Paraguay.

That attack started in 1928. Fortunately, Frank B. Kellogg, a republican Secretary of State, and Charles Evans Hughes, a republican ex-Secretary of State, happened to be engaged in a Pan American conference at the time of the attack, and they succeeded in heading off war—temporarily. For some time thereafter, both Hughes and Kellogg did their best to undo the work of the Dillon-Read money which whetted the appetite of the Bolivian army.

In the end, Kellogg and Hughes, though able men, were unsuccessful. Full-scale war broke and lasted so long that the democrats inherited it.

As the war continued, President Roosevelt appointed Spruille Braden to try to patch up peace between the two countries. Braden moved to South America and spent a hectic, thankless year of his life undoing the martial influence of the Dillon-Read loan.

Today, Spruille Braden, assistant Secretary of State in charge of Latin American affairs, has been doing his best to dissuade President Truman and Secretary Marshall from repeating the mistakes of the 1920's when we poured money into Latin America to buy arms.

However, the U. S. Army is against him. It is determined to start an arms program in Latin America, and Secretary of State Marshall, quite naturally, is swayed by the army. Moreover, sincere and honest though he is, his own experience in Latin America is limited.

Unfortunately, the State department already has seen some of the effects of a U. S. arms program in Latin America. Two things happen:

1. Latin American neighbors, hitherto reasonably peaceful, see another nation getting arms and immediately want an army or navy bigger than the other fellow's. This leads to rivalry, bankruptcy, and war.

2. The governments in power—many of them dependent on the army—become stronger than ever, and hold power more or less forever. Reinforced by U. S. arms, it is impossible for the opposition to vote them out. This makes for revold and communism—just what we want to avoid.

An illustration of point 1 occurred recently between Peru and Columbia. Columbia bought some transport planes from the United States. Then Peru came in and wanted to buy some fighters. Immediately, Columbia was back and wanted to buy fighters too.

MUNITIONS BEFORE HEALTH — Another inside incident recently occurred indicating the cross-fire existing between the U. S. Army and the State department. The latter was anxious to get a moderate loan for Ecuador to im-



Nothing but Gloom

Edson's Washington Column

BY PETER EDSON
NEA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NEA)—Whether or not Congress can pass any laws that will effectively outlaw communism will be something to watch. Granting that the end result is highly desirable, the idea that any code of laws can end communist actions and communist ways of thinking is inconceivable, even if Congress were willing to set up an ideological police force to see that such laws were obeyed.



Edson

In Japan under the war lords there was a "Thought Police" which tried to control what the people should or should not think. It was one of Japan's most hated institutions, and it was the first to be abolished when General MacArthur took over. Hitler's Germany had its Ministry of Propaganda and Enlightenment with an elite corps of black uniformed pluguglies to burn books and even burn people if they held "wrong" ideas. And Soviet Russia has its secret police by sheer terrorism keeps the comrades in line with the Kremlin or else.

If the totalitarian countries can thus tell their people what to think, it should of course be all right for non-totalitarian countries to do the same. But a few years ago there was a rumor around here that a war was being fought to preserve—among other things—freedom of speech. Just how freedom of speech can be preserved while freedom of thought is prohibited is something that Congress is now going to try to demonstrate.

CONGRESSMAN J. PARNELL THOMAS of New Jersey will start hearings later this month on eight or a dozen bills intended to hamstring, hamper, and hogle Communists in every direction. His Committee on Un-American Activities recommends a new division in the Department of Justice to prosecute subversives, deport them, ban their holding public office or office in labor unions, and so on. All these proposals are echoed in the statement which Secretary of Labor Lewis Schwellenbach made before the House Labor Committee. "I think Communists should be excluded from any type of public activity, including the right to sit in chambers of commerce or to hold office in trade unions," he said. "They have advocated overthrow of the government, and they should not be allowed to have any part in government."

The question arises as to why the high crimes of communism cannot be handled as treason or sedition.

The U. S. government has had considerable difficulty in proving sedition. During the war some 20 defendants were charged with sedition. But their trial was interrupted by the death of the judge in District of Columbia court. Their retrial is still under consideration.

PART of the difficulty in obtaining convictions is that the sedition laws are weak and vague. Their strengthening has been suggested many times, but Congress has never taken action. In view of present alarm over communist infiltration, a general tightening of the sedition laws now would enable the government to act against all its enemies—whether of communist or fascist leanings.

There is plenty of reason for doubting if the more specific proposals to outlaw only communist activities would accomplish desired results. All such measures might do is drive the Communist Party still further underground than it already is.

Keeping communism out in the open where it can be fought, the best method of combating it would seem to be by continuous campaigns of education and exposure. Such campaigns are now being conducted with increasing effectiveness by the American press, churches, schools, public officials, and private citizens. Recent self-started purges of communist influence in the labor unions offer best evidence that these campaigns are taking hold. Continuous pressure must be applied to keep up that good work.

Then, if communist activity is as much of a criminal conspiracy against the United States as it is thought to be, let the conspirators be tried and punished under laws against sedition.

prove its sanitation and drinking water. Some Ecuadorian cities are cesspools of disease. But because of the economy drive, high-crisis in the State department, especially Undersecretary Will Clayton said no.

Shortly thereafter, the U. S. Army came in with a demand that Ecuador get \$1,000,000 to buy arms. Though money couldn't be spared for Ecuadorian health, it was proposed to spare \$1,000,000 to entrench the military clique that rules the country. The final disposition of this arms request remains to be seen.

ANOTHER MISSOURIAN—President Truman has now picked another Missourian, Admiral Roscoe Henry Hillenkoetter, to be Chief of Central Intelligence. This is the new super-duper so-called "smv" agency set up since the war to ferret out what's going on in other countries.

Admiral Hillenkoetter not only was born in St. Louis, but commanded the battleship Missouri, which makes him a super-duper Missourian. The man Truman first picked to head Central Intelligence was also a Missourian, Admiral Sidney Sowers of St. Louis. He was succeeded by General Hoyt Vandenberg, nephew of the Michigan senator, an A-1 flying officer but no whirlwind at super-svining.

Admiral Hillenkoetter, whether it's because he's from Missouri or for other reasons, has an excellent reputation and may be able to overcome the disastrous fact that this vital agency has been under so many different heads in so short a time.

When the admiral came up before the senate armed services committee for confirmation, he was asked to give his opinion on the New York Times' editorial "Central Intelligence Problem."

"I understand, Admiral," said Bridges, "that while you were Naval Attaché in Paris last month the news of your appointment as head of the Central Intelligence was published in the Paris press. In fact, it was published in Paris well before it was known here."

The Admiral admitted that this was true.

"Now, do you think we should have as head of our very secret intelligence" pursued Bridges, "a man who let the news of his appointment leak out?"

"It was obviously as big a surprise to me as to anyone," replied Hillenkoetter, obviously perturbed. "I read it in the French newspapers before I heard about it from my own Navy department. Later I discovered that the French newspapers got their information from the French Secret Service, and the French Secret Service seems to find out everything."

"But he allowed the New York Times" cracked Senator Hill of Alabama.

Senator Bridges then said that in view of the Admiral's explanation he would withdraw objection to the confirmation.

THREE OPA CHIEFS—When these former OPA chiefs met together, maybe one likely to fly. Very shortly Chester Bowles, Iann Henderson and Paul Porter will release an important report on the economic state of the nation—especially mining.

The report, based on a study sponsored by Americans for democratic action will call for cooperation from all political parties in an emergency plan to prevent another depression.

The 3 ex-OPA chiefs will offer specific proposals dealing with prices, wages, unemployment, rent control, tax and spending policies, housing, foreign loans, and agriculture. Among other things, they will recommend that a voluntary price adjustment board be set up under the commerce department to work with the Justice department would business leaders in a national drive to bring prices down.

The three former OPA chiefs will also challenge congress and President Truman to act on their proposed program within three months—if a serious post-war depression is to be averted. (Copyright 1947, by the Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

Weeping Water

Mrs. Thomas Murty

Mrs. Sam Rector received a gift of a corsage of two orchids, for Mother's day, from her son-in-law and daughter, Rev. and Mrs. C. W. Severn, of Yakama, Washington. The orchids came from Hawaii.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Anderson, Miss Naoma Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Renos Anderson and sons, spent Mother's day at the home of Mrs. Peter Anderson.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wahlquist, of Grand Island, were weekend guests at the home of Mrs. Wahlquist's mother, Mrs. J. R. Shannon.

Mr. and Mrs. L. O. Stoker, of Shelby, Iowa, were Saturday evening guests at the home of Mrs. Stoker's mother, Mrs. Thomas Murty.

Mrs. Lloyd Ranney and sons John and Elbert, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Ranney and Miss Margaret Ranney.

Weeping Water Congregational church had a special Mother's day service of poetry and songs

sung by the choir, with Miss Kathryn Ellis at the pipe organ, S-Sgt. Sterling Marshall, who is at home on a thirty day furlough, presided at the organ during the prelude and the offertory.

Mr. and Mrs. Enos Plunkett entertained at a family dinner Sunday, when the family were together for the first time in four years and a half. Those attending the dinner were Mr. and Mrs. John Opp, Mrs. Plunkett's par-

ents, her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Allan Ehlers and children, her brother Donald, vice and this is their first meeting since Gerald graduated from Weeping Water high school, four years ago this spring.

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