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And Evening Chronicle

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Peace Move?

Rumored Truce Meet Sounds Like Rumor

The rumor that high English officials met in Iberia with Nazi Minister Von Ribbentrop in an effort to make a separate peace is not reassuring. There is no evidence that any such meeting was held, and there is no reason to believe that Germany or England could have any faith in an attempt of this kind. Even if the Nazis are suffering more than we suspect, they must by now be utterly convinced of the Allied determination to battle the way to a final decision.

If such a meeting was actually held, as *Pravda* reported briefly by way of a Cairo rumor, we feel certain that no concessions were made or even talked by Britons. If, as the Russian paper says, the meeting "did not remain without results," we are curious to know what "results" were possible. There can be no question at all of a separate peace with Germany short of a complete surrender, for to relinquish their oft-stated aims would be fatal to the future domination of the Allied Nations.

And for Germany to enter a peace discussion prepared to surrender unconditionally is beyond our imagination. So long as her armies remain virtually intact in the West, and an elaborate system of defenses is ready for invasion attempts, we cannot expect surrender without shrewd bargaining.

But it is not to be forgotten that such overtures have preceded former surrenders—as in the last war. It is only that, knowing full well there can be no abortive Armistice in this war, the reported meeting with Ribbentrop seems like a fantasy. Could it be that the Russians are not themselves convinced, and that they fear some such move?

Of Liquor

Bryson Bill Reverses Last War's Attempts

A House Judiciary Sub-Committee held hearings last week on the Bryson Bill for national Prohibition during the war, and a Senate Judiciary Sub-Committee is holding extensive hearings on alleged monopoly in the liquor industry. However, the Drys themselves are split on the advisability of pushing Dry legislation and there seems little chance that it will get to a vote in this Congress.

With only three states bone-dry by their own action at the present time, there is little support for war-time Prohibition in the Senate. There is a little more Dry sentiment in the House, where some members come from Dry districts in Wet States. This situation was the opposite when national Prohibition was enacted during World War I, when Dry sentiment was stronger in the Senate than in the House. Whereas today some Dry areas persist in a nation predominantly Wet, in 1919 some Wet areas persisted in a nation predominantly Dry.

The statement is often made that Prohibition was put over in the last war behind the backs of the boys in the Army. The charge is not borne out by the facts. The Congress which passed the Eighteenth Amendment in December, 1917, had been elected in November, 1916, before the United States entered the war. The Amendment was ratified by the Legislatures of all the states except Connecticut and Rhode Island.

And a survey conducted by the *Literary Digest* in 1922, with almost 1,000,000 ballots returned, showed almost twice as many persons favoring Prohibition as favored Repeal.

National Prohibition was inflicted during World War I by two means—war-time legislation and the Eighteenth Amendment. In December, 1917, Congress voted to submit the Prohibition Amendment (to take effect one year after ratified) to the State Legislatures. The Amendment was supported by [illegible] the Representatives. In the Senate it got more support from the Republicans, in the House from the Democrats.

While the Amendment was being ratified, Congress voted, in September, 1918, to forbid, as of July 1, 1919, the sale of liquor, beer, or wine for beverage purposes. To enforce the Amendment when ratified, Congress passed in October, 1919, the National Prohibition (Volstead) Act. This definition was made applicable also to the war-time Prohibition Act of September, 1918, and on this ground it was vetoed by President Wilson, only to be passed over his veto. President Wilson declared in his veto message:

In all matters having to do with the personal habits and customs of large numbers of persons, we must be certain that the established processes of legal change are followed. In no other way can the salutary object sought to be accomplished by great reforms of this character be made satisfactory and permanent.

The Republican platform in 1932 called for submitting a new amendment on the Prohibition issue to the states, so that the popular will could be determined. The Democratic platform came out for absolute Repeal. Following the Democratic landslide in November, 1932, Congress voted in February, 1933, to submit a Repeal amendment to state conventions elected for that purpose—the first time this method of ratification had ever been used. The amendment received a 73 per cent vote in the Senate, a 70 per cent vote in the House, getting stronger Democratic than Republican support in both Houses. The amendment was ratified and went into effect on Dec. 5, 1933 (the convention in South Carolina voted to reject, and the people of North Carolina voted not to summon a convention). In the meantime, in March, 1933, Congress had voted to raise to 3.2 per cent the definition of alcoholic content as "intoxicating."

The Vatican

It Is Under Fire For Its Friendships

The recent comment on the Vatican and its influence by the Foreign Policy Association in Washington implies resentment of Papal influence in international relations—and gives expression to an underlying current of suspicion of the Pope's position. There was no outright criticism by the spokesman of this private institution of research, but comment on the late Pope Pius XI was enough to indicate impassioned feeling.

We are not disposed to join any attack on the peace-making policies of the Vatican, but believe the expression of this body should be noted. The growing anti-Church sentiment in Italy, where the Vatican has come to be regarded as a refuge for Fascists, should also be brought to attention. And the statement that the present Pope, though an enemy of Communism, is convinced that German Fascism is the most deadly enemy of the Church, does not satisfy. There remains, according to the Foreign Policy Association, the danger that there may be a period of anti-clericism in Italy after the war because of the long association of the Vatican with Fascism.

This is a dangerous course for Americans to stare, offering opportunities for exploitation by divisionists and prejudiced minorities. But it has needed saying for some time that the Vatican's position has not been clearly with the Allied cause throughout, and that it is inevitable that it will thus lose some of its prestige in international relations in the years to come.

It is our hope that this statement will not be misunderstood, and that this Association will not be identified with an attack on the Church of Rome. It is to be hoped, instead, that the Vatican's peace aims (the need for moral law, responsibility of the strong, equitable distribution of resources, eventual disarmament and [illegible]

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON

ONE day, OCD had a lot of documents to deliver to the War Departments Pentagon Building, across the river from Washington. Previously, OCD had found that delivery by "appropriate channels" took days, even weeks. So they decided to make this delivery personal and direct.

An OCD official took a private car, drove across the bridge, and drew up before the "South Loading" entrance of the giant building. A crew of workmen were loitering inside the entrance, but they offered no assistance in taking the carful of packages into Pentagon. And when asked, they refused to help.

It turned out that the men were "loaders," not "unloaders," and their union rules forbade them to lift packages into the building; they could only lift them out.

Lady Leader

The residence of the Chinese Ambassador to Washington, Dr. Wei Tao-ming, and Madame Wei is known as "Twin Oaks." The name is symbolic. This couple are almost as strong in the councils of the Chinese National People's Party as the Generalissimo and Madame Chiang. Madame Wei is no willow tree. She stands like an oak beside her husband. Few people are aware of the part she has played in reshaping the Government of China.

When only fifteen, she became a leader in the revolution against the Emperor. She went to Japan, joined the Chinese revolutionary party, and was sent back to Peking as a listening post. Her father's house became a revolutionary headquarters. She even volunteered to carry bombs from Tientsin to Peking. Back and forth she went, bringing enough bombs to the capital to start the revolution.

After the crisis was over, the party sent her to France as a reward. There, in a Paris law school, she met Wei Tao-ming. They returned to Shanghai together to practice law, and there they were married.

In 1923, when Dr. Sun Yat-sen organized the revolt against the Peking Government, they both threw themselves into the cause. And when the new National Government was established in Nanking in 1926, Madame Wei was offered the post of Minister of Justice. But she demurred, and urged that her husband be appointed instead. This was to be the first of three occasions when the Oriental lady stepped aside in favor of her husband. In 1941, she was suggested for the post of Chinese Minister to France. Again she demurred and urged that her husband be appointed instead.

While they were en route to France, crossing the United States, the Vichy Government came into such disfavor that they went no further. China decided it wanted no representation at Vichy. The Chinese Government was just changing its Ambassador in Washington. Madame Wei was asked if she would take the post. For the third time, she demurred, and the appointment went to Dr. Wei.

Thus came the "twin oaks" to the Chinese Embassy. Madame Wei and Madame Chiang are the only two women on the Executive Council of the National People's Party.

Of MacArthur

While looking for a table in the Senate cafeteria, distinguished Democratic Senator Guy Gillette of Iowa was hailed by Senator Wallace H. White of Maine, acting GOP floor leader, plus several Republican companions and invited to sit with them.

"What are you fellows cooking up against us Democrats?" grinned Gillette.

"We're trying to figure out the strongest candidate to lead our party in the next election," replied White. "Any ideas?"

"Nothing doing," said Gillette. "That's something you boys will have to work out yourselves. I'm in the other camp."

Just at that moment, GOP Senator Arthur Vandenberg of Michigan came over to the table.

"How about you, Arthur?" asked White.

"Well, as I see it, a military man will be the next President," replied Vandenberg seriously. "I'm for MacArthur. We need a strong man like him to keep things from going haywire in the difficult post-war years."

Gillette, White and the others looked slightly bored, but offered no comment to Gen. MacArthur's chief Congressional booster. Sensing the indifferent reaction, the Michigan Senator didn't pursue his sales talk.

Bathtub Debate

Manufacturers of concrete bathtubs have come to town, determined to wash their tubs' reputation clean, as a result of findings by WPB and the Public Health Service.

The manufacturers are up in arms over a preliminary finding of Public Health that "the resistance of concrete tubs to bacterial growth is inadequate." Makers of the tubs, organized under the Cast Stone Institute, declare that somebody brought a third-rate concrete casting to Public Health, which reported to WPB that it was difficult to clean off the germs.

But the latest models of concrete tubs are made of dense concrete, with a surface like a slab of marble. The Bureau of Standards is getting out specifications which Federal Housing Administration is ready to accept. In fact, Earl W. Macy, bathtub expert for Federal Housing, says, "I would use one of these tubs in my own home."

As soon as the amirch has been washed off concrete's reputation, such tubs may relieve the terrific demand for cast iron tubs.

"They're not really mad at each other—they're just trying to prove which one is taking the best vitamins!"

We Celebrate The Fourth Early This Year

—By Dorman Smith

Everyday Counselor

By Rev. Herbert Spaugh

THE war is teaching, us to be careful of loose talk. This is a good lesson. The Bible reminds us to "Be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath." In these critical days careless speech may cost us the lives of priceless American boys and costly material. Careless talk can also do untold damage to the character and reputation of a defenseless person. It is a "knife in this back".

A wise friend in the medical profession told me the story the other day of a famous statesman who was noted for his carefulness of speech. This statesman was traveling on a train with a friend. Looking out of the window, the man observed a flock of sheep in a near by field and said, "I see these sheep have been recently shorn." The statesman replied, "Apparently so, on this side."

Having served as a medical officer in the last war my friend told of a test which was given to prospective officers in training camps, to impress them with the necessity of being certain of their orders. Each officer in the group was called to the instructor who whispered to him the order. After each officer had been given the order, they were asked to write it down and the results were compared. The differences were often astonishing.

We are all prone to jump to hasty conclusions, often on insufficient evidence. There is an old story about two knights of old who had examined a shield in a famous collection of armour. One declared it was gold, while the other affirmed that it was silver. The argument became heated, and the "lie" was exchanged.

Neither being willing to take the affront to his honor, they engaged in combat. As they both fell mortally wounded another knight approached and asked the cause of the dispute. When being told, he went and examined the shield, came back and reported that both were correct. The shield was gold on one side and silver on the other.

How we need to be careful of hearsay, to be certain of the facts before we pass judgment. There are times when it is better to remain silent and act as if we were dumb, than to open our mouths and to prove it.

A Hesitation

By Dorothy Thompson

WASHINGTON

THE President's request for a national service act seemed made with less than one hundred per cent conviction. He suggested four other measures as pre-requisites. He emphasized that the Government already has power to draft capital and property for war purposes as an offset to the request for a law to make labor draftable, and quoted the War and Navy Departments, and Joint Maritime Commission as requesting the law.

He also did not indicate how such a law should be framed. So, considering the fact that Congress is recalcitrant on taxes, and has proved unable effectively to grapple with stabilization and food prices, I think we are not going to get a national service act.

Nor am I impressed with most of the arguments advanced for such an act. Military sees, who want it, conceive of wartime society in which everybody is a soldier. But when one thinks the matter through, one wonders just how this can be justly achieved without going completely socialist and authoritarian.

All armies are socialist and authoritarian. No one in them works for profit; everyone is fed, housed and clothed at the expense of the state; all pay-rates are fixed in rigid heirarchy; and everyone is under command of the officer above him. Genuine army standards cannot be applied to any part of a free social system without destroying it. Some people would like to regiment one part of the system, and leave the other (to which they themselves belong) free, because there seems to be a natural cussed desire to push someone else around.

Military men are convinced, it seems, that a national service act will prevent strikes. But the truth is that you can lead a man to a work bench, but you cannot make him work, unless he has an officer immediately over him to compel him, under continuing penalties to stick to his job. The man hours lost by strikes have been, for the past twelve months, far less than the man hours lost through the common cold, and man hours can be lost by disgruntled workers greeting the factories by their presence, as well as by working absenting themselves.

What would a national service act cost? We have already registered every man between the ages of 18 and 65, an expensive process, and Congress never voted a sufficient appropriation to do a thorough occupational analysis. An additional registration of all women, and a constant check-up on everybody moving, dying, coming of age, and changing occupation would mean a gigantic bureaucracy. By the time a thousand clerks for an industry in special need had been sorted out of hundreds of thousands, employment offices would probably find many of them already engaged in essential work, or sick, dead or moved.

What can be done in the "tight little island" of Britain is no where where the war is more closely felt in every home, national service has given it its administrator, Mr. Bevin, many headaches, and has really come down, except in coal mining for which Britons have been drafted out of all classes, to calling for volunteers.

American women have been most articulate in demanding national service act. Their motives are admirable, but if it comes to a showdown I doubt whether the enthusiasm of a well-to-do lady would survive being drafted for work in a commercial laundry. Yet the nation does need laundry workers. There are many vacancies in WAVES and WACs, but hardly enough to justify the registration of every American female.

The blunt truth is that most American women not in war work can best serve by better doing just what they are doing now, writing cheerful letters to the boys abroad, and not telling them continually about how people are slacking at home, and taking care of their children, for whom, after all, the war is being fought.

If labor were really slacking we would not have achieved the miracle of production" recognized by everybody from our regimented enemies to Mr. Stalin.

Behind all the anti-strike legislation, direct or indirect, lies the curious idea that American workers are somehow less patriotic, and sacrificial than other classes. I see not the slightest evidence that this is true. We are all members of the same people, and all pretty much alike. The parable of the moat and the beam needs re-reading.

A Comedy Debate

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK

WE are going through a kind of political comedy of manners in the big national service act debate. First, we have Messrs. Murray and Green, labor's leaders, opposing national service. Well, they almost have to. They are not exactly free men. There is great support for the war and for Mr. Roosevelt in the ranks of labor, but there is a great bitterness against wage ceilings.

To support Mr. Roosevelt on the prosecution of the war is good stuff in labor politics; to seem to yield to him on necessary controls is bad stuff. The labor movement is sufficiently democratic (in spite of Mr. Pegler) so that its leaders are not free to do whatever they please; they vibrate as a result of these pressures from below. Hence they are forced into seeming contradictions, of which a characteristic pair is labor's issuance of its no-strike pledge, and yet also its firm refusal to countenance national service.

Contrariwise, we have certain Congressmen and certain isolationist publishers, who are enthusiastic supporters of labor control measures, though they don't seem to care so much for certain other aspects of the war. These deaire the same dance as do the labor leaders, in reverse. When Mr. Roosevelt chaps a Little Steel Formula on wages, they definitely warm up to the President; the suspicion of a grateful smile may sometimes even be seen on their lips. They come a little closer, tentatively.

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Our labor leaders suspect that a national service act will merely make it easier for reactionaries to kill all labor freedom. Our worst reactionaries (and sometimes one has the feling that the name is almost interchangeable with isolationist) are afraid that a national service act will make it easier to control jobs, incomes, non-essential businesses, etc., and in other ways to subject American life to the necessities of war.

At this point the dance stops; both sides, labor and its opponents, come to a cataleptic pause; they stand, frozen in their own wrestling match, as one in their opposition to national service. It is as if they had been stricken by a paralysis of fear; they are unable to move; they are chilled by the eye of the cockatrice.

President Roosevelt has mentioned national service, and life has stopped in both camps. You can hear a pin drop. Both sides are for national unity, but they don't want it put in writing. And in their opposition to the kind of national unity which can only be expressed through national service, they have found another kind of unity; see, they are together, in blocking the President's plan for national togetherness. But it is, perhaps, the motionless kind of unity that can be observed in any graveyard.

Their fears of each other have made them one. But it has perhaps never been more clearly demonstrated that a nation which is divided will march, if it marches at all, will slow and unsteady step. Look at them, blocking each other, and blocking the street.

Combined Operations Will Do

By Raymond Clapper

Continued from Page One

most daily when both are at headquarters.

Soon after he arrived Kinkaid learned of some criticisms indicating that the services were not as close to each other as they might be, and he has followed the example of General Eisenhower, who when in North Africa made a rule that there must be no griping by Americans about the British or the other way around. Kinkaid is an old sailor and he wouldn't be so bold as to try to exterminate the time-honored institution of scuttlebutt. But he does insist that the on the Army or about the Army.

But the situation is not so serious as all this might suggest. The chief point is that a steady toning up of morale and unity of the forces is being sought, which is a long advance from those earlier days when MacArthur was left out at the end of the line with little contact with naval commands in the Pacific. Admiral Halsey is working well with MacArthur, under whose command he falls in operational matters in some of the island campaigns. In such cases Halsey's communiques and reports are sent in to MacArthur and are well and work closely together, in spite of the fact that both are strong-minded men.

On the whole, the trend in the Pacific is most encouraging because the period of petty struggling for position and elbowing of one another is over, and American forces of all kinds are being steadily meshed into one great co-ordinated group of forces.

That is the biggest single need in the Pacific, for we have a great deal of force in the Pacific now, and if it can be applied so that the Central Pacific and Southwest Pacific will drive together, prop-

Reporter's Notebook

Continued from Page One

raids on our fields and I'm sure any number of these chicks will be a foshola after the bomb-strewn ground about them is a mass of holes and craters. Yes, I think it's worth. That makes quite."

As he paused the cost of many motors vibrated the white walls of the Quonset.

"They're back," he said. "We'll go look at them."

Across the flat stretches of farm lands the big Flying Fortresses swooped low to "buzz" the field in celebration of another milestone in their career.

When the groundling colonel whirled his Fortress up a group of officers, newspapermen and photographers swept over to congratulate him.

PERFECT FLIGHT

Behind the smiling combat crew six men in green-grey jumper's started wiping off skidding from the "Flying Fortress" and "Lucky." They were the ground maintenance men, oblivious to the scene around them. They were already preparing the bomber for the next day's mission.

"It takes nine men in the States to keep one of them babies in shape," said S/Sgt. Willie May, 23, his crew chief, but here we do it with five or six."

All we have to do on this one is repair a couple of super chickens before morning," said Pvt. Joe Curtin, 25, a former butcher and cattle dealer of Brockton, Mass. "It will take about four hours. We'll do it after supper by flashlight."

"Sometimes we have to work all night on them," said Corp. Sylvia Aiola, 24, of the Bronx.

"Yes," broke in Corp. Edwin Haugen, 26, Kremlin, Mont., wheat farmer, "those engine changes cause the most trouble."

Other members of the ground crews were Corp. Louis Nadeau, 31, of Oneonta, N. Y., and Sgt. Frank Duncan, 35, who said he was a "Jack of all trades" from Jacksonville, Fla.

OVERSEAS LONG TIME

The crew is a typical mixture of origins; May English and Canadian, Curtin and Duncan Irish, Aiola Russian, Haugen Norwegian and Nadeau French.

"Most of us have been overseas 18 months," said Duncan, wiping some oil from his hand. His grin faded a little as he slapped his hand against the bomber's Olive Drab as if he were patting a big dog.

"Eighteen months. Too long," he said.

Outlined against the setting sun, these six men and shivering crews like them all over the field began servicing the bombers for the 201st mission.

"For us," said May, "one mission is pretty much like the next one."

Can't Ship Whisky

RALEIGH—(AP)—Attorney General Harry McMullin has ruled that a county board of elections has no power to create an election precinct containing territory located within the territorial boundaries of two different townships in the county.

"The county board of elections may divide a township into two voting precincts and decide in its discretion whether or not to order a new registration," he said.

"The county elections board also must create at least one elections precinct in each township if a township is divided into more than one township," McMullan said.

In another opinion, McMullan ruled that there is no legal way that a private individual may purchase a case of liquor outside this state and have it shipped to him in the State.

"The law authorizes an individual to bring into this State only one gallon of taxpaid whisky," he said.

In other opinions, he ruled that:

An ordained minister who resides in a foreign state may perform a marriage ceremony in North Carolina.

The Clerk of Superior Court may not release the surety on the bond of a guardian.

In computing the present cash value of a widow's dower, the interest thereon should be figured at 6 per cent.

BACK BITING!

NEW WILMINGTON, Del.—Army and Navy Cadets at Westminster College chuckled "it must be the Leap Year influence" when they noted a biology textbook entitled "Man," displayed next to "Animals Without Backbones," in the student book store.

The co-eds took over management of the shop this year.

—and with the season for presidential candidates