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Dealing With Franco Spain

AMERICA seems to be getting into some very disreputable company in its effort to check the spread of Communism over the world, as we are reminded by the action of our House of Representatives in voting tentatively to admit Franco Spain into the European Recovery Program.

That move had provoked a great deal of pained surprise in this country and abroad, particularly among liberals. Such a protest is understandable in view of Franco's record as a Fascist and a collaborator with Hitler's Axis, and considering also the fact that democratic nations have ostracized the Franco Government since the war.

Although the House has been overruled on this question by the Senate and the Truman Administration, it is likely that the issue will come up again and Franco eventually will be included in the European Recovery Program, probably after the election when the Government is less sensitive to popular opinion. Despite President Truman's quick rejection of the House proposal, it must be conceded that extension of ERP to Spain is consistent with the Administration's policy of putting economic rehabilitation and military defense against Communism above every other consideration.

If Washington itself doesn't lift the ban on Franco, then the European nations participating in ERP can vote Spain in, as Senator Vandenberg points out. It is sad to see democracies doing business with Franco and his kind but we are up against the hard fact that there will be no democratic reforms in Spain or elsewhere unless Europe's economic health is restored and the drive toward Communist world revolution is halted.

A false or incomplete picture is created by critics of this policy who dwell only on the aid which Franco would receive from us and who declare or imply that the United States is moving into the reactionary camp. That criticism ignores the important point that Uncle Sam's company also includes Socialist Britain, Italy, France, Holland, Sweden, Denmark and other foreign nations that are fundamentally as democratic as we are.

Another vital detail left out of the picture is that America invited Russia and her satellites to participate in the Marshall Plan and met only violent opposition. It is that interference with the European Recovery Program which is forcing us to turn to Spain. It is that same opposition to democratic institutions which has compelled us to work with the present Governments in Turkey, Greece, China and the Arab nations.

Co-operation with Spain is not justified alone on grounds of military necessity that determined our policy toward other reactionary or rightist dictatorial regimes. Spain is not only of major military value in the defense system of Western Europe. She also has resources which enable her to make an important economic contribution to European recovery. Her place in the economic structure of Europe has already caused Spain's neighbors to tacitly recognize the Franco Government. Britain and numerous other Western countries have negotiated trade agreements with Madrid.

A Good Gray Politician

HENRY W. HARKEY came back into the political picture briefly Wednesday night when Charles M. Johnson, candidate for Governor, spoke at a dinner in his honor. The occasion was the seventy-sixth birthday anniversary of Mr. Harkey, who retired from active participation in business and politics some years ago.

Candidate Johnson brought the 1948 campaign into the birthday party when he answered rivals in the race who have charged that he is the "machine candidate." He made an effective reply. His disavowal of political boss connections was amplified by the company in which he spoke, for the name of Henry W. Harkey is widely known and respected as standing for the highest type of leadership in public affairs.

The generation of which Mr. Harkey is a distinguished representative established the tradition of progressive government which has given North Carolina an enviable national reputation. His generation also is responsible for the fact that the machine in North Carolina has been mostly "just talk," as Candidate Johnson phrased it, despite the encouragement to boss politics that exists under the one-party system.

Mr. Harkey's office-holding occurred in the 1930s, in the period when North Carolina laid the basis, aroused the public sentiment, passed the laws and formulated the programs for great forward strides in good roads, education, sound financial practices, welfare services and economic development. Mecklenburg was in the forefront of this movement and Mr. Harkey provided a guiding hand as a Mecklenburg County Commissioner for six years and chairman of the Board of Commissioners four years.

City, County and State all profited from his wise counsel, his thorough knowledge of the science of government, his vision and enthusiasm. He served for two years as a member of the Local Government Commission, two years as president of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and two years as member of the board in charge of gasoline and oil inspection for the state.

In Mr. Harkey's case, politics is neither a vocation nor an avocation. It is a part of well-rounded and useful citizenship. A Presbyterian, he has served his church as Sunday School superintendent, Bible teacher and elder. He attained success in farming, dairying and operation of a nursery business. This city's physical beauty and distinction have been enhanced by his landscaping projects, notably in the Myers Park development and the Duke estate. The number of individuals whose lives have been enriched by his kindness, his wisdom and his influence is countless. Charlotte is happy to join Candidate Johnson and the politicians in honoring this fine, upright, modest elder of Mecklenburg.

Cold War Demands Cool Heads

ARE the Russians getting your goat? That's obviously what they are working overtime to do, so just, sit back and take it easy.

The Soviet action in Berlin, imposing restrictions on travel which caused the Americans and British to cancel train movements to the German capital, is part of a campaign of provocation that has been going on for years and will continue for some time.

It started soon after VE-Day, when Russia set out deliberately to destroy the greatest reservoir of good will a foreign power ever had in the United States. Not even the "mother country" England enjoyed the prestige and sympathy that Russia commanded in this country after Stalingrad. The good-hearted Americans, particularly our liberals, couldn't believe the evidence of their senses when Russia did one thing after another to destroy that friendship.

In pursuing this course, Russia gave the upper-hand to every crackpot and hate monger who uses "hate Russia" as a theme for more nefarious enterprises. That was a prime purpose in the Russian campaign of vilification and obstructionism. The Communists had set out to arouse Europe against America as a capitalist colossus with imperialistic and warlike designs on the world, and they had to goad this country into making demonstrations and taking measures which would lend some substance to the Red propaganda. The tragic fact is that that campaign worked all too well.

Strategy behind this hate-breeding campaign is based on the knowledge that Bolshevism can gain only in a world that is in a state of acute crisis. If no crisis exists, the Communists must manufacture one. They now are taking more desperate steps to arouse antagonism because they plainly fear the results of the Marshall Plan and other measures America is promoting to stabilize Western Europe. Russia's rising desperation in the face of this program is the best guarantee that we are on the right road and are striking at the vulnerable spot of Communism.

We may expect the provocation to grow worse. We must count on the Communist fanatics to pass up no opportunity to arouse us to intemperate, hasty and belligerent action that would create turmoil in Europe and turn foreign sentiment against us. Although it doesn't seem likely that the Russians themselves will start a war, they make it clear that they would welcome hostilities if America can be put into the position of the aggressor and if that is the only way in which they can keep their revolution going.

The warning from Berlin is clear. Americans must hold on to their tempers. They can win the cold war if they don't get hot-headed.

Three old men were discussing the ideal way of dying. The first, aged 75, said he'd like to crash in a car going 80 miles per hour. The second, 85, said he'd take his finish in a 400 mph plane. "I've got a better idea," said the third, aged 95, "I'd like to be shot by a jealous husband."—*Jackson (Miss.) Daily News.*

The sweet, romantic love story, "Kiss of Death" at the picture show this week ended with each star bathed in his own blood, the heroine in hiding and the kids in the orphan home. Ah, sweet romance!! Love triumphant!! — *Grenada County (Miss.) Weekly.*

Too late, some of us elderly persons, observing the merry neighborhood games, realize that as children we were underprivileged. Brought up in the clean, open, and practically empty country, we never knew what it was to have a dirty alley to play in.—*Jackson (Miss.) Daily News.*

The Georgia story that the klan forced reporters to drink liquor sounds like a dodge to make sure the meetings are covered. — *Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press.*

When we speak of "our" scientific superiority, it isn't personal. Most of us could not tell an electron from a universal joint. —*Richmond News-Leader.*

Three Little Maids

People's Platform

Guarding Our Democracy

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

SINCE this greatest of all democracies was founded, we have always tried to do right by all other nations, regardless of their size or traditions. We now realize, and not too late, there is such a thing as catering too far to the whims of one particular nation.

We have those in our midst who are working day and night, spreading by word of mouth and through our freedom of the press, unhealthy ideas about our democracy, attempting to instill in our hearts and minds the wholesomeness of socialism. These followers of Lenin are doing everything possible to destroy the word "freedom" and the Word of God yet these students of Leninism are often found quoting the Scriptures in order to gain the confidence of those of us they would betray.

All of us sharp edges at a point today to find out the true meanings of Communism and then as Christians, take teachings for what they are really worth—which is nothing. Communism is today making a firm bid for the whole world and remember this, after Communism seeps into a country, then it's too late for the people to start checking on beliefs and doctrines to find out what their opinion is on worldly matters. Yes, then it's too late—you will be told where to work, what to read, whom to speak to, where to go and if it was possible, they'd even tell you when to inhale and exhale the air which Marxism has contaminated—you would automatically become a disciple for Uncle Joe—Stalin that is. Can you think of anything nicer than that—I can think of nothing more depressing to me as an individual—more degrading to us as a nation—than for us, yes, you and I, to bow down to the successor of Marx as our only true inspiration.

Let's band together, America, do not let these rats infiltrate into our way of life and change it for us, don't let them gnaw away the very foundation of our Nation which they are trying to do, don't let them make us the oceans of despair upon which represent socialism. Let's show them we love our freedoms by keeping our way of life alive and prosperous—let's show them that this mighty nation is happy to join Candidate Johnson and the politicians in honoring this fine, upright, modest elder of Mecklenburg.

International New Dealers

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

THE chaotic conditions in Europe today ought to cause every red-blooded American citizen to ask the question, "How long are the people going to permit the United States of America to be the sucker for International New Dealers?" Critical times in Europe—worse now than before World War II started—should cause every real American to ask, "How long are we going to permit our American boys to bleed on foreign battle fields all over the world because of the greed and stupidness of our own New Dealers who are leading America into another slaughter?"

These same International New Dealers who have manipulated us into the last World Wor want for certain to manipulate us into another war so that business will be good. If any nation does not possess the materials with which to wage war on us, the New Dealers want that America should give them the materials. The New Dealers would be laughable if they were not so pitiful. The International New Dealers of today are no different from those of other days. The same New Dealers are taking us into a league with death and a covenant of hell. Led by such International New Dealers with big business who profit by the blood of the dying, they tell us something which they think is amazing. They tell those of us who oppose feeding and financing the world that we will be responsible for a third world war. In answer to so stupid a statement I wish to state that in my public service I am going to keep my self-respect, and if I am a member of Congress there is going to be no blood on my hands because I followed the treacherous path of the International New Dealers. As a member of Congress I shall never vote to send any materials of war or any money to any nation whom I suspect might some day wage war on the United States. I used to think and believed that Hitler and Tojo backed by America's International New Dealers started World War II in which our boys bled all over the world. I still think so! But to-day behold, the New Dealers are telling us that America started this war, because we were isolationists and refused to play Santa Claus. These papers now tell us that if we had been more of a Santa Claus that there would have been no Hitler or Tojo to start a war. This propaganda is as vicious as it is stupid. But regretfully I must say many of our citizens are believing it, yes, even most members of Congress. The very fact that the wars in Europe started even after we were already playing Santa Claus to the world does not even cause the New Dealers to blush at their own arguments.

History sadly teaches us that wars in the world since 1934 were directly proportioned to how big a Santa Claus America was. The more we played Santa Claus the more and bigger the wars and the wickeder they spread. It is high time that the bloody trail of our International New Dealers be exposed. We have already given millions of our best boys to satisfy the unending appetite of a hungry, money-power machine in Washington that would ride the waves of blood for more money and more power.

—F. C. BURKHOLDER.

Quote, Unquote

Pome giving a possible explanation why the Governor of Alabama pays no attention to disapproval expressed by the public regarding his carryings on with women:

He cannot hear the hissin'
For the smackin' and the kissin'.

—Atlanta Journal.

Alabama must be proud of Gov. "Big Jim" Folsom. After kissing 80 New York models in a public exhibition he declared, "Alabama girls are best."—Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press.

Off-hand we'd concede that
Gen. Bennett Meyers
Could have made use of some
consistent liars.

—Greensboro Daily News.

The trouble with voluntary food rationing mostly is that there are not enough volunteers.—Shelby Daily Star.

Marquis Childs

Stassen Speaking

JANESVILLE, Wis.

RUNNING for President of the United States must be just about the hardest thing that anyone can do. The miracle is that there are men who still seek the office, with its overwhelming burden of responsibility.

Here is Harold Stassen of Minnesota, who for two and a half years has been in the midst of the Presidential marathon. He stands on a platform in the gymnasium of the YMCA here in Janesville, a look of serious intentness on his squarish face. Before him are 300 citizens who have come out to hear the candidate. At improvised tables set up on wooden trestles, they have eaten a hurried lunch and now they sit listening with something of the speaker's earnestness.

A CRITICAL TIME

This is a time of critical importance in America's history and you sense it in the seriousness of the audience in this typical American town. The candidate talks about the overshadowing question of our day, which is the threat of the "materialistic ideology" of Communism to the American way of life.

If our society continues to be a dynamic, successful society and if we make a real effort to tell the world the facts, then we can win through without the tragedy of a third world war, the candidate says. At this, the audience breaks in with warm applause. You have the feeling that they have been waiting, perhaps a long time, for someone to speak these positive, challenging words.

Candidate Stassen goes on to say that America's strength must be translated into a determination to avoid a boom-and-bust cycle—to show the world that we do not intend to have a crash and to fail. He insists that the United States must step all shipments to Russia of materials that can become a part of a Communist war machine. Again there is applause.

When the candidate finishes his extemporaneous talk, the floor is open to questions. They come thick and fast. A trade-union leader asks Stassen's opinion about the Taft-Hartley Act. The candidate gives the background on Minnesota's labor-regulatory act and then criticizes three phases of the Taft-Hartley law.

This is a meeting in the oldest tradition of our political life. Here on the hustings is a candidate for the highest office, meeting the voters face-to-face, giving ready answers to questions as they come.

REMINISCENT

It is reminiscent of a similar campaign four years ago, when the late Wendell Willkie tried to take the issues to the voters of Wisconsin, knowing that the outcome of Wisconsin's primary would set a shadow far beyond the boundaries of the state. But there are major differences between Willkie in '44 and Stassen in '48. Stassen has the backing of powerful political forces in Wisconsin, including Sen. Joseph McCarthy. Willkie was going it alone, with virtually no encouragement from any politician, and the completeness of his defeat in the primary was a blow from which he never recovered.

How much headway Stassen is making, no one can be sure. These Presidential primary elections are tricky affairs.

But something is happening in Wisconsin. The surest evidence of that is the fact that Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York has been persuaded to make a last-minute change in plans and come out here for two days of speech-making. That is a remarkable decision for the man who preferred to hold himself aloof—willing but not too eager.

DON'T FORGET DOUG

To be sure, there's a third candidate in this primary race. A mythical candidate, one might almost say. Gen. Douglas MacArthur is in Tokyo, 6,000 miles away. Yet the legend of his prowess and the glamour of his purple personality exert a powerful sway over the imagination in a troubled time.

Maybe, says the uncertain citizen, we'd better have a strong man, a general, in the White House so we can show those Russians we mean business. And so potent is that appeal, compounded of fear and uneasiness, that the General in Tokyo may sweep this Wisconsin primary.

That is something that has little to do with America's political traditions. It has little to do with the candidate who stands in the doorway of the YMCA gymnasium, smiling and shaking hands. Candidate Stassen has two more meetings in two other towns and also a radio talk scheduled for the same day. He must move on. This is hard work, and at times it must seem thankless work.

Samuel Grafton

Operation Peace

NEW YORK

THE idea of holding a model peace conference seems to be catching on. The desk is pleasantly littered with letters, and the phone is noticeably busier.

As advanced, the thought was that an unofficial meeting should be organized at which, say, twelve prominent Americans would sit down and try to work out a tough-minded, practical agreement between ourselves and Russia. Six would take the Russian point of view, negotiate in all earnestness with the remaining six, who would bargain hard for America. If they came up with a plan, the world would have one, and all good men would have one.

Some of the letters I've had offer personal help and money, or merely express general approval, and quite a number make specific suggestions. I'll pass some of these last along, as a kind of interim report during this, the pre-organizational phase.

One New York business man suggests a larger group—25 to 30— and he proposes that the group be isolated, "in very agreeable and peaceful surroundings," of course, until it comes up with its plan; and would prove that "all honest minds agree."

Another writer suggests that an organization meeting be held very quickly, within a week, if possible. This would be a preliminary meeting to plan the model peace conference. It seems to me necessary to select a first-rate organizational mind, first, to work at the plan from the beginning.

CITIZENS' MEETINGS

A man in the automobile field suggests that "if our President, Speaker pro tem of the Senate and Speaker of the House would jointly request the 3,000 county governing bodies to arrange for citizens' meetings to discuss our duty to strive for world peace, gatherings would be held in every part of the country. Such meetings could be held regularly, even beginning before the twelve leaders meet . . ."

Another writer proposes that "the various professional teachers' associations, of historians, economists, psychologists, biologists and ethical leaders should take the leadership" in setting up the model peace conference, and that they combine the project with "an adult education movement for peace with democracy."

A man in the music field suggests that the public generally should propose names for inclusion in the panel.

Another correspondent feels that the board should not argue out only the Russian and American cases, but that some of its members abandon the role of foil to present the British, French, Chinese, Indian, etc., views.

OPERATION PEACE

A lawyer declares it would be useful if we knew just what each of the major powers wants, and what it would accept in exchange for lasting peace.

And a veteran reveals that he has been working on a plan for "Operation Peace"—a meeting in Washington of disabled veterans, one from each of the 48 states. He would also like to have each member of the U.N. take on a disabled veteran as part of his staff, to serve as a reminder of the real nature of what is being discussed at Lake Success.

A model peace conference plan which calls forth so many discussions of peace is already, to that degree, a success.

Clennie Hollon, the Williba correspondent of the Beattyville Enterprise, has it all doped out: "The Government must have bought another sack of corn last week. Meal and flour have advanced again."—Lexington Leader.

A preview of the Summer beach styles indicates that they will combine New Look and Look Again. And again and again!—New Orleans States.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

U. S., Russian People Could Thwart War

WASHINGTON

THESE are days when it isn't easy to write a column. It's partly the cherry blossoms, the magnolia trees in front of the White House and the violets in my own back yard. They make closed-door committee meetings, Army-Navy feuds over airplane carriers—the things editors pay me to write about—dull and drab in contrast.

The world looks so peaceful and clean and ready to begin life over again . . . at least nature's part of it. So you don't want to write about backstage skulduggery or Communists' threats or preparations for war. And you can't help but feel that if nature in this world only kept up with nature's part, we wouldn't have to worry about war and preparation for war.

All these things make me sad and depressed. I shouldn't be. For my grandson has just come to see me. He's redheaded, named for me, and cute enough to make you forget all the headaches of the world—except when you remember that he and a lot of other kids are being brought into a world of atomic bombs, germ warfare, rockets and guided missiles, while we who are old enough to know better have devised no system whatever to keep these weapons of death from being touched off.

While these kids grow up, we sit mute and helpless—we who are supposed to know something about government—merely watch the world drift toward another war.

Hope is the symbol of Easter—the hope inspired by Christ risen from the dead. Hope was never more desperately needed than now. And as I look around the country there is one thing that gives me hope—the American people. That's our greatest wealth—our fine, wonderful, generous people. You have to go out as I did on the Friendship Train to know and appreciate them.

And the greatest hope of other countries is exactly the same thing—the people. I also found that France and Italy were full of the same kind of warmhearted, friendly, eager people. Their one great hope was peace and friendship.

Russians Sentimental, Too

THE funny thing is that despite all the propaganda and Iron Curtain between us, I'm sure the Russian people are exactly the same way—if you can ever get by their rulers. At least they were when I was in Siberia. They get sentimental over cherry blossoms. They get worried about the future. And they don't want their babies to grow up to be cannon-fodder any more than we do.

So if you could just get the Russian and American people together—let them know each other, mingle with each other, trust each other, then we wouldn't have to worry about war. For people don't start wars. It's the kings and dictators and fanatics who push people into wars.

That, of course, is exactly why the fourteen bosses in the Politburo have put up the Iron Curtain. That's why they're so careful to keep foreigners out, why the Red Army in Germany and Austria is kept isolated.

Now it isn't the fault of this country that the two peoples don't get acquainted. We've tried. But just the same I don't think we've tried quite hard enough.

Some time ago I talked with Secretary of State Marshall about making one last appeal direct to Stalin to get the American and Russian people together. Stalin is always talking about Russia's desire for peace and America's threat to the world; so let's call him on it; let's put it to him, squarely on the line, that the way to peace is through the mingling of people. And make the appeal public—for all the world to know.

For a time I thought General Marshall was going through with this idea.

He didn't, but it's still not too late.

It's not too late also to print several million copies of such an appeal in different languages and drop them in Yugoslavia, Romania, Czechoslovakia and all over Europe to show that we really want peace—that we made a proposal of Russian-American friendship. We should keep on dropping copies of this speech . . . behind the Iron Curtain . . . telling the Russian people we are their friends. Millions of copies. It would counteract a lot of lies. . . . More important, it might prevent war.

World Needs Faith, Friendship

SOMETIMES from our lowest depths, the best things come. This week most of us went to church. We listened to Easter sermons. We told our children the story about the greatest Spokesman who ever lived. So let's put some of His words and thoughts into that plea for friendship with the Russian people—if General Marshall will only make it.

If that appeal is made . . . it might remind the world—and Russia—that in Christ's day the world was pretty much the way it is now. Men needed guidance. They were swaged by greed, selfishness, doubt—as many of us are now.

But a great principle was laid down in that day—a great goal for all mankind—the Sermon on the Mount. And while the United States has been following it only imperfectly, we still believe it can be applied to our relations with other nations and other men. So, casting no stones, and not without sin, we invite our potential enemy to join us in a new journey down the road of friendship.

This appeal might fall on stony ground. It might fall on the sands and quickly be washed away. But if only one part fell on fertile soil anywhere in Europe, the appeal would be worth making.

And if it failed, the American people would know . . . and our European friends would know . . . that we had made one last effort . . . after which rearmament was our only course.

Even more than our dollars and our food, the world today needs faith and friendship.