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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1957

'That's Nice—Meanwhile, BACK AT THE ROW—'



Actor Jimmy Stewart Earned His General's Star In Action

By ROBERT C. RUARK

PALAMOS, Spain I THINK that the aid... not as ungrateful as the Senate Armed Services Committee in turning down a general's star for the Chinese end of a military mission in an area where stupidity is constantly practiced.



JAMES STEWART The Chinese End

And I think that the fact that Air Force stars are activated by a woman senator, Margaret Chase Smith of a small county called Maine, shows their error on the side. Margaret Chase Smith wouldn't let a jet engine from a pair of earlaps, and I am almost certain she let no bombing missions in World War II.

As long as I'm on the subject, I think it all was downright impertinent since a pretty good professional general named Eisenhower signed the nomination. What La Belle Smith did in the war I do not know, but Stewart was a working flier in the current President's theater. He would know.

HE DID HIS BIT

I never met Stewart but once, and that was before Pearl Harbor. He was then a second lieutenant in the Air Force, whether he was voluntarily or not. For most of the war any movie actor who didn't want to get in the mess could duck—as so many did—but Stewart was a working flier in the current President's theater. He would know.

Stewart flew the whole war against the Germans by curling his lanky legs into a tight plane and climbing up there for people to shoot at him, not by entering the troops. And I say that things were pretty brisk around Britain, Germany, and the Ploesti oil fields in those days.

He made first loopy, captain, major, light colonel, and finally a full colonel—flying aircraft against Germans. He wound up as commander of a whole group, as I recall, and you do not see actors up with that much authority. You send press releases to the general about Stewart actor. He refused to have anything to do with publicity. I am almost certain that he was in the last part of the war everybody had forgotten that he had played 'Philadelphia Story' with Hepburn. He was just plain, army-headed Col. Stewart, who did not sit on the ground but who led his own strikes.

During the entire war you never heard a word about Jimmy Stewart actor. He refused to have anything to do with publicity. I am almost certain that he was in the last part of the war everybody had forgotten that he had played 'Philadelphia Story' with Hepburn. He was just plain, army-headed Col. Stewart, who did not sit on the ground but who led his own strikes.

Since the war I expect he has given more time and effort to his Air Force than he has to movie-making. Even in the making of movies, his prime aim has been to exploit the Air Force. Practically everything he tackles has something to do with air—Strategic Air Command and 'Spirit of St. Louis,' for instance.

Of all the movie stars who tried, and of all the athletes and public figures who got nabbed, only the merest handful of celebrities actually worked at a war, with their pastimes stuck out to be shot at.

THEY ALSO SERVED Gable went in, way over age, on purpose. Wayne Morris was a wonderful fighter pilot for the Navy carrier, although cramping his back in a fighter was something of a logistical problem. Gerry Coleman, the Yankee ball player, was a torpedo bomber in the war, and Ted Williams did three hitchhikes.

But mostly they organized bands, played ball, entertained the troops or worked a strike bill in a back area, such as the USA. If any voluntary reserve earned an star before and during and after the war, Col. Stewart is that modest, competent and unassuming a man, with a reserve promotion is almost as ridiculous as making Elliott Roosevelt a brigadier general in wartime for taking aerial photos and using government equipment for flying a dog home from Europe to please his bride.

Charlotte's Deeper Decency Will Prevail

SIMPLE good will and respect for the law will carry Charlotte safely through this difficult period of transition in race relations. Anything less will soil the community's honor and damage its moral image in the eyes of the world.

Anyone who thinks that the transition can be made without problems, tensions and even personal tragedies, is a fool. Anyone who thinks the transition means the end of civilization or of a social order is likewise a fool.

The problems are serious because they involve the human heart in conflict with itself. But they are honorable. What is required now is a resurgence of social responsibility. That is the only antidote for the unpleasant spectacles—however perfidious and limited—that have accompanied the opening of schools here.

It is what Judge Fred Helms was getting at this week when he called on Charlotte's citizens to "come out from behind their fears and prejudices and give us the constructive, courageous and understanding leadership which justice and our situation require."

Mobs cannot make moral progress. It can be made only by reliable, rational, decent people, influenced by truth and objective standards. It can emerge only out of the sensible devices, pure motives and reliable intuitions of good citizens.

These Charlotteans, reasonable yet dedicated, can counteract the poison of the professional rabble-rouser and they can preserve the peace.

As long as their influence prevails then the John Kaspers are doomed. The immigrant extremists from points North and South will be compelled by the unremitting pressure of an enlightened public opinion to return to their lairs.

We decline to accept the proposition that no such reservoir of responsibility exists in Charlotte. It exists—and out of it will flow the courage and understanding and sense of justice that will bring Charlotte through this and any other social emergency.

This spirit, this deeper decency, will not only endure. It will prevail.

The Governor Searches For Critics

FOR a popular governor who has suffered precious little from their slings and arrows, Luther Hartwell Hodges continues to exhibit a most puzzling fascination with his critics.

The import of numerous of his oral essays on the subject of criticism is that he doesn't like it—although he like the rest of us mortals would be the first to welcome constructive criticism. As the governor put it in his "Report to the People" this week, criticism should be "constructively for the good of the state, and not because critics do not like the governor or the way he handles things."

This is not a censurable attitude in a politician. It merely is a curious one. It is the mark of something that Luther Hodges is not—a political neophyte. An unorthodox politician, yes, but a neophyte, no. A quick glance at his successes at the polls and in the General Assembly offers sufficient proof of that. Mr. Hodges seems to have all the skill if none of the visible characteristics of the old pol.

Homage To Hackies, Here And Yonder

THE latest literary peepshow of contemporary Russia is a book by Louis Fischer entitled "Russia Revisited." He reports this interesting conversation with a young Moscow taxi driver:

"How do you like driving a cab?" I quizzed. "I hate it." "What would you prefer to do," I pursued. "Rob and kill."

"Not come, you're joking," I argued, "wouldn't you rather be the director of a factory?" "What," he shouted, "and exploit the workers?" "All right, I'm a foreign journalist. Wouldn't you like to be a journalist or writer?" "And tell lies?" "You are saying that Russia is not a free country?" "And I'm probably never will be free," he submitted.

Author Fischer was astounded, labeling his find "a character." We find, indeed, something warmly comforting in the report. It not only confirms the old cliché that "people are people all over the world" but our deeply held conviction that all metropolitan taxi drivers share a common treachery when it comes to expressing their views about anything. It is good to note that the Moscow cabbie is not very different from his cousin in the Bronx who also nurtures highly seasoned opinions about everything from the Dodgers to the party in power.

It also reminded us of a strikingly similar conversation we had with a Charlotte taxi driver a few years ago. "How do you like driving a cab?" we quizzed. "I hate it."

"Why don't you do something else?" we pursued. "Why don't you go soak your head?" he snarled.

He had us there.

From The Aberdeen (Wash.) Daily World

PEACE IN OUR VALLEYS

THESE are delightful days in our valleys of new-green meadows where the hay was cut, and the clustered red of elderberry and fireweed blazing in the clearings.

Most any road will do—up Wisnakh, the Hogman or Johns rivers, the Coqualum and the long reach of the Hump-tups. Everywhere carvons create the hills and folds of alder, and a second growth lie to the sun or darken in the shadow of cloud. These are rare, homey valleys, of intimate patches of fields and houses beside old orchards, of cattle by the streams and a garden behind the house.

The everlasting flowers are blooming. The goldfinches are at work and the thrushdown is flying. There is a peace in our valleys, a sense of security and well-being, and the quiet charm that can come only to sedation. The valleys are sweet with forest smoke and hay, and the vespers of wood smoke and roses and honeysuckle and all the things dear to home.

The streams are enough to stir the soul, the tidal reaches, and the clear gorges of the mountains and the hills. Tumbling sparks and white foam, according to the mood of ruffle and deep eddies. The blue of sky is in the pools, and kind-bee-flanking and the plaintive call of the wood thrush.

Shadows melt down from the hills, and all maples lean over the fence corners. Bracken runs the roadsides. There is hardly any noise in the valley, only sounds. Sometimes the air is still, and again the wind brushes the trees and rustles the corn and sweeps the meadow grass like a breeze on water.

There are stumps in old pastures, and new trees on the hills. The cascara leaves are autumned where kids have peeled the bark, and you may see the trees and rustles the wind and sweeps the meadow grass like a breeze on water.

There is peace in our valleys, and industry and contentment, people with their own kind of land, their own ways and fences, their own way of life. There is snugness and haven, and perhaps a little bit of heaven, too. For beauty is heavenly.

Texas Oriskany tells of a man who read the headline "Bank Robber Wanted in California." The guy said, "If that job was in Texas I'd take it." —AMARILLO (TEX.) GLOBE-TIMES

The editor of the country newspaper went home to dinner, smiling radiantly. "You must have had some good fortune this morning," greeted his wife. "Indeed I did," announced the editor. "Jim Smith, who hasn't paid his subscription for 10 years, came in and stopped his paper." —FORT MYERS (FLA.) NEWS-PRESS.

Comedown In Congress

Eisenhower's In A Slump

By CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

WASHINGTON PRESIDENT Eisenhower saw the handwriting on the wall when he told his news conference two weeks before Congress went home that he was "tremendously disappointed" with its performance.

From a presidential point of view, he has a right to be. Of the 206 specific legislative requests President Eisenhower made of the Democratic-controlled Congress this year, Congressional Quarterly found only 76 of them had been approved.

This gives the President a "batting average" of 36.9, his lowest score in five years of office. Under strikers fall such major requests as legislation to provide a temporary program of federal aid for school construction, a general liberalization of the immigration laws, provision for the permanent residence of Hungarian refugees, raising federal control over natural gas producers, higher postage rates, Alaska and Hawaii statehood, procedures for determining presidential disability and membership in the Organization for Trade Cooperation.

PAST RECORD In 1953, his first year, Mr. Eisenhower requested 44 items, a Republican Congress approved 32 of them for a 72.7 average. His second year with a GOP Congress he requested 49 items, but only 47 were approved.

His averages in 1955 and 1956, under a Democratic Congress, were 46.3 and 45.7. A breakdown of the 206 requests of 1957 and what happened to them:

Table with 2 columns: Action and Count. APPROVED BY CONGRESS: 76. PASSED BY HOUSE OR SENATE, NOT BOTH: 9. SOME PROGRESS IN COMMITTEE: 36. REJECTED ON FLOOR OR IN COMMITTEE: 23. NO ACTION: 62.

The figures were arrived at by Congressional Quarterly which keeps track of everything President Eisenhower said or wrote in 1957 about legislation and what Congress did or didn't do with his requests.

SOME TRIUMPHS Despite his overall low batting average, Mr. Eisenhower can look back on several legislative home runs. They include passage of the first civil rights bill in 82 years, United States membership in an international organization designed to develop the atom for peaceful purposes, the Midwest Doctrine and continued foreign aid, though on a more limited scale.

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President Eisenhower will have another chance in 1958 to get many of the items he lost this year. A successful 1958 would boost his batting average for the two-year 85th Congress.

Mr. Eisenhower already has said he would have another school aid request.

While the President was "tremendously disappointed" in Congress this year, the leader of his party in the Senate, William F. Knowland (R-Calif.), said "While I don't think this Congress has a perfect batting record by any means, I do think it has had a fair batting average for the first 100 days of the 85th Congress."

The Senate Majority Leader, Lyndon B. Johnson (D-Tex.), said on the eve of adjournment: "We will have approved those presidential requests we think are to the best interest of the country and will have defeated those we think are bad."

People's Platform

No Good Has Come Out Of Aid To India

Editors, The News I find myself in full agreement with Mr. Walter Lippmann's articles, except for the one that appeared in The Charlotte News on Saturday, in which he suggests that we pour more money into India, as a means to eliminate trouble spots in Asia and Africa.

Experience and time have proven this theory and reasoning wrong. Our previous giveaways have not improved the situation in the least. Of course, some money has to be spent; but how much, how, and when is more important.

What can we show for all the giveaways to India for those many years? And she received plenty. Let me illustrate what happened about a year ago. At a press release in Washington, on Aug. 29, 1956, on pages 454 and 455, the following is recorded:

We made a contract with India for the following items at the following terms: 200 million bushels of wheat, 500,000 tons of cotton, six million pounds of tobacco, and an assortment of other products of 2,500,000 pounds, and about four million bags of rice, 100 pounds to the bag.

Our cost of these items amounted to 707 million dollars, which we agreed to charge half of the cost, and the amount we charged her was 306 million dollars. In addition we were to pack, load and ship the above at our expense, which amounted to \$4 million dollars.

The terms arranged were as follows: A grant of \$4 million dollars as an outright gift and a loan of about 230 million dollars, and the balance of about 18 million dollars were to be repaid to the United States. The money paid to us, if ever, was to be in India's currency.

Our Agriculture Department continues to give us as a security guarantee. So far we have seen no benefit out of all these giveaways, neither from India, Asia or Africa.

The only solution that I visualize that may bring results and perhaps bring back confidence in us from around the world, as well as from our own citizens, is to bring about a change in the State Department, to replace John Foster Dulles with an able and efficient secretary of state, who can provide for us a workable foreign policy, without so much blundering and acquiescence to the world with our foreign policy; at the same time we should have a chance to know what it is and so will Congress as well as the President.

Tip tell now our policy depends upon how the secretary of state fell. He made changes as frequently as he saw fit. The results were a lot of bungling and no definite policy. —HENRY KAYE

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round White House Broods About High Prices

Editors' Note: While Drew Pearson is touring the Mediterranean, his column is being written by his junior partner, Jack Anderson.

WASHINGTON PRESIDENT Eisenhower is counting on government economy and indirect controls to hold down living costs, which he considers the nation's No. 1 domestic problem.

He made this clear the other day at a White House staff meeting. He stands 100 per cent behind the Budget Bureau's directive to all departments to order them to hold the line on spending. He said, "This remark apparently was aimed at some who have complained about budget boss Perry Brundage's rigid control over federal expenditures."

Hold That Line The President said he also believes in indirect controls to limit credit and discourage people from borrowing too much.

Living Costs Soar It's no secret that Republicans are leashed about living costs, over skyrocketing prices. Yet living costs already at an historic high, are still climbing. The steel increase will push up the prices of automobiles and appliances. Higher processing costs should boost food prices. Bents and services are also expected to continue up.

Comic Feud Current feuds between the Lil Abner and Mary Worth comic strips was deliberately cooked up by their creators "to put some life" into the comic strip business.

Angry Voters The voters can be expected to express their displeasure at the polls. It happened about a year ago. At a press release in Washington, on Aug. 29, 1956, on pages 454 and 455, the following is recorded:

Double Exposure Explained Capp to this column: "I've always thought Mary Worth was a noisy old nuisance who wrecks people's lives. I decided to expose her for what she really is. At the same time, Allen Saunders thought the picture the public has of me as a genial guy should be destroyed. He thought I should be revealed as the ego-maniac and bad-tempered guy I really am."

One ominous report has it that the three subs have slipped through the net and are en route to the Gulf of Agaba. Israel shipping in the Gulf of Agaba.

Washington Whispers G-Man J. Edgar Hoover may be asked to investigate his best friend, Harry Duncan, who runs the Little Tavern hamburger stands. The two men are inseparable companions. However, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has complained that some Little Taverns have refused to serve Negroes. The complaint may be awarded to the FBI. The FBI chief delivered a stirring defense of civil rights the other day at a private strategy session inside the Justice Department. He accused of grandstanding, because his remarks weren't supposed to leak out. Hoover has always been careful about safeguarding citizens' privacy. He has a chance to show his agent, Lou Nichols, is copying up to Vice President Nixon. Lou has his eye on J. Edgar's job, is keeping close to the powers-that-might be. Vice President Nixon and Attorney General Brownell are sparring over New York politics.