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RILEY 5551

Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

HAIL, CAESAR!

DON'T belittle the completeness or the significance of the resounding victory just won by James Caesar Petrillo, dictator-president of the A. F. of L. Musicians union, in his 27-month "canned music" strike.

He has established for the first time the principle that employers can be compelled to collect money from the public and pay it, not to employees in higher wages, but into the treasury of a union which does not have to account even to the union's members for what is done with it. In so doing he has defeated:

1. The entire record-making industry of the United States. (The three largest companies have now capitulated to Mr. Petrillo's demand for payment of a fee on every record made. The smaller ones had already been forced into line.)

2. The national war labor board, which ordered the union to rescind its ban on musical recordings, and which Mr. Petrillo defied.

3. The President of the United States, who asked Mr. Petrillo pretty-please to obey the war labor board as a wartime contribution to industrial peace, and to whom Mr. Petrillo said nothing doing.

4. The public interest. The annual \$4,000,000 or more in fees now to be received by the union treasury will be, actually, a tax on the public—taxation without representation. Under his union's constitution Mr. Petrillo can spend the money, as he says he will, to "spread musical culture" and make jobs for unemployed musicians, or he can use it for any other purpose that pleases him. In any case, the public has nothing whatever to say about how it shall be used.

WHAT MR. PETRILLO has done officials of other unions can do, and many doubtless will. The result may well be that hundreds of millions of dollars a year will be taken from the public, in higher prices for goods, and paid into union treasuries. So, possibly, the public may be interested to know why it was possible for Mr. Petrillo to win his famous victory.

A month ago, President Roosevelt said he was going to hunt for a law that might be invoked against Mr. Petrillo. It must be assumed that the search failed, if one was made. It could not succeed because Mr. Roosevelt's appointees on the U. S. supreme court have held labor unions immune to prosecution under federal law for almost any conceivable form of trade-restricting, price-boosting activity. And because Mr. Roosevelt has helped union officials to block all efforts by congress to correct the effect of the supreme court decisions.

THE LEGION AND THE SPEEDWAY

ONE of the subjects likely to come up for discussion during the meeting of the national executive committee of the American Legion here this week is the proposal of the Indianapolis Voiture of the 40 and 8 for the purchase of the Indianapolis Speedway.

Although the 40 and 8 is a subsidiary branch of the Legion, the parent organization naturally has an interest in this ambitious program. Under present plans, as outlined by Norman H. Coulon, chairman of the 40 and 8 post-war committee, proceeds from the 500-mile race would be devoted to the Legion's charitable activities and the Legion's name would be closely linked with the undertaking. Hence those who are conducting negotiations with the Speedway management on behalf of the 40 and 8 are hopeful that the national Legion officials will give the green light, either officially or informally, to their proposal.

The 40 and 8 now holds an option on the famous auto racing plant. That option expires this week, but it is believed that it will be extended to allow the local committee to obtain sanction of state and federal officials for a stock issue to finance purchase of the property.

Local citizens have been following progress of the negotiations with considerable interest, for Indianapolis, as well as the Legion, has a considerable stake in the plans for resuming the 500-mile race.

This race has long been one of the traditional events of this city. Each year it has brought thousands here and has focussed world-wide attention on Indianapolis. If it again becomes a sporting fixture under 40 and 8 auspices, it will be assured of whole-hearted local support.

THE POST-WAR BUS

PERHAPS it is an unhealthy sign of conservatism or mental sclerosis, but we find ourselves much less intrigued by promises of revolutionary miracles in the post-war world than by possible improvements of existing institutions.

Take, for instance, the bus. It is a handy but by no means perfect vehicle. Yet the Mack truck people tell us that we may hope for something nearer to our heart's desire. And if their prospectus pans out we shall most certainly agree.

Among other things, the Mack people say, there will be a degasser to banish those noxious engine odors that smart the eyes and nose, cause the head to ache, and generally revolt the senses. Also anti-slip doorsteps and heavier insulation.

AND THERE will be uniform, circulating-air heat instead of the pre-war inadequacy which scorched the shins of the front-seat passengers and froze those in back. The new bus will also have automatic transmission and a torque converter that should banish bumps and grinds from gear-shifting.

But perhaps best of all is the thought that has been given the standee. He will have his own oblong windows at his own eye level, above the regular windows. Think of it—no more cricks in the neck, no more constant bowing to see if you've reached your stop.

Ah, strap-hanging were paradise enow! Lead us to it.

REFLECTIONS—

Old Ickes Custom

By John H. Sorrells



WASHINGTON, Nov. 14.—As a prompt New Deal gesture toward making friends, influencing people and healing wounds, Secretary Ickes waddles out with his pet wheeze about the results of the presidential elections proving the declining influence by the American press.

In support of his contention, Mr. Ickes asserts that approximately 68 per cent of the American press activity supported Mr. Dewey; 14 per cent were neutral, and only 17 per cent actively supported Mr. Roosevelt. That might prove that the collective wisdom of the American people is greater than the wisdom of a majority of American editors, but that is a verdict history will write, not Mr. Ickes.

Does Not Prove Editors Are Blind

IT CERTAINLY does not prove, as Mr. Ickes implies, that American newspaper editors are blind to public opinion. Instead the newspapers in both political camps were more interested in expressing their convictions than in picking a winner. Happily there are still many American newspapers, both New Deal and Republican, possessed of the courage and independence necessary to collide head-on with public opinion, when they believe that opinion to be ill-advised or uninformed.

Mr. Ickes ignores the transformation in newspapers that has evolved since he started in politics. Then most newspapers were chiefly organs of intensely partisan opinion, because the facilities for news gathering were primitive. During campaigns, either so-called political "news" was confined almost wholly to the activities of the party championed by the paper.

Probably the greatest improvement worked in American journalism has resulted from the increased and improved facilities of the two Great American press associations, the United Press and the Associated Press. No hint of political coloring touches the news of these two great non-partisan organizations, both of which deal in facts as distinct from opinions.

Public Makes Its Own Decisions

THE PUBLIC has learned to trust these facts and has acquired the habit of making its own decisions, on the basis of all the facts. As a consequence of this greater emphasis on news as distinct from editorial opinion, American newspapers today play a greater role in the formation of public policy than at any time in the history of our journalism. That the public does not always accept the editor's interpretation of the facts may tend to diminish the stature of the editor, but it is no indication of any diminution in the people's faith in or dependence on the daily press.

These popular sweeps for Mr. Roosevelt, in the face of strong newspaper opposition, is reassuring evidence that the people are capable of making up their own minds.

It would be an unhealthy condition if, as Ickes seems to desire, the whole people voted, sheep-like, as they were advised by the press. We know of no editors wise enough to be entrusted with such a responsibility. We believe the newspaper has done its job when it has presented the facts fully and understandingly, and expressed its convictions honestly and forcefully. We believe that the public prefers it so, Mr. Ickes notwithstanding.

WORLD AFFAIRS—

American Plan

By William Philip Simms



WASHINGTON, Nov. 14.—A conference of the foreign ministers of the 21 American republics is likely within the next 60 days to discuss the future of hemisphere defense.

Argentina has requested such a meeting to discuss charges that she has failed to comply with her inter-American commitments. But Argentina will not be the principal item on the agenda, for Dumbarton Oaks has raised more important issues. Chapter VIII of the Dumbarton Oaks formula specifically states that nothing in the charter should preclude the existence of regional arrangements for dealing with matters relating to the maintenance of international peace. On the contrary, it says, such arrangements should be encouraged.

Big Four Must Complete Blueprint

THE PRESENT position of the United States and the other big powers is that the proposed new league of nations shall be set up as soon as possible. Before that can happen, however, the Big Four must complete their blueprint and submit it to a full conference of the united nations for consideration and adoption.

Sometime in the interim, therefore, it would seem highly important that the nations of the western world hold a regional meeting of their own—if, that is, they wish to continue to play a regional role within the framework of the larger organization.

Already hemisphere defense has reached an advanced stage among the Americas. Less than 30 days after Pearl Harbor, nine Central American and Caribbean republics declared war against the axis. And at Rio de Janeiro, in January, 1942, the foreign ministers of the 21 republics met and unanimously recommended the severance of relations with the enemy and reaffirmed their previous stand that any act of aggression on the part of a non-American state against any one of them would be considered an act of aggression against them all.

It was then that Argentina set upon the course which has led to the present bitterness. She and Chile failed to act upon their own recommendations. But while Chile shortly made good her pledge, Argentina stubbornly held out until this year when she broke with the axis under conditions which, many feel, largely nullified the act itself.

Meeting Could Serve Several Purposes

TODAY THE United States and a majority of her sister republics refuse to recognize the Farrell-Peron regime at Buenos Aires. Argentina is accused of failure to live up to her commitments. Article II of the Rio resolution said: "The American republics reaffirm their complete solidarity and their determination to co-operate jointly for their mutual protection until the effects of the present aggression against the continent have disappeared." On its face, certainly, Argentina appears to have reneged.

But Buenos Aires denies the accusation. She has asked for a hearing before an all-American conference. Meanwhile Argentine propaganda suggests that what the United States really objects to is her form of government and this, she contends is none of our business.

A meeting of the American republics at this time could kill several birds with one stone. And discussion of the future of hemisphere defense, under Dumbarton Oaks would automatically necessitate a review of the Argentine case to determine whether or not she has honored her present commitments. If she has not, her signature to future pacts would be equally worthless—unless, of course, she belatedly makes amends.

To The Point—

A RESEARCH institution has proposed control of Jap and Nazi electricity. We want no more shocks from them.

The Devil's Disciple



The Hoosier Forum

I wholly disagree with what you say, but will defend to the death your right to say it.—Voltaire.

WE ASK YOU, ARE YOU FED UP?

By H. E. H., Indianapolis.

Wouldn't it be a good idea if someone took a poll to ascertain what percentage of the people were tired of dramatized, particularly the singing, commercials of radio?

If such a poll found 75 per cent of the listening audience fed up, (which is by far too small a percentage) what do you suppose the broadcasting companies would do? The income from these stupid, asinine in-between program transcriptions of what is supposed to be up-to-date advertising must be enormous. Let's figure it out, just for fun: We have no way of knowing what is paid for these one-minute-in-between earaches, but let's imagine \$10 to be the absolute minimum. Many hours out of 24 there are 40 15 minute programs; that means \$40 an hour. Let's call 16 hours a day, and we have \$640. Just four of the big networks bring that to \$2560 a day, which ought to pay some dividends.

We may be old fashioned as to advertising strategy; but when one company uses the same singing commercial four times an hour on four networks, for over six months—we ask you, are you fed up?

"WHY NOT FORM A CONFEDERACY?"

By Sgt. F. G. F., Somewhere in France.

I have been able to read some scattered news of world peace organizations both in the Stars and Stripes and army supplied periodicals on current events.

I do not pretend to be an expert on international affairs, yet I feel impelled to make some comments on the type of organizations which have been proposed.

From my viewpoint this is how the people back in the states are thinking about policing the world. One group believes that four great powers should dominate an organization that it is hoped will maintain peace in the world. An opposing group thinks that we should have some modified version of the league of nations, with each nation, regardless of size, having a voice in

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Frenchman or Belgian rise and blame another country for hogging world trade, etc. At the same time, customs and languages of these states would not be impaired. They still would elect their own representatives. All the states would be bound to remain in the confederacy.

In Central Europe, the other half of Germany could belong to a confederacy made up of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Austria, Italy, the Balkans, Finland, Sweden and Russia.

The Asiatic continent also could be split into two confederacies, with India and China the "larger" nations in different confederacies.

As for the United States, we could work the same plan with the western hemisphere.

The question of the British colonies would be handled in this manner: They would be considered a part of the British Empire for at least 25 years, in order to give the plan time to live and operate after which time they would join the geographical confederation in which they are located.

These small league of nations confederacies would in turn elect members to a world council. This would embrace some of the ideas put forth in the Big Four movement, giving it a more democratic origin.

We cannot escape the economic aspects that begin wars; we cannot escape the cheating, double talking, vacillation, jockeying, etc., that fan the flames of war. As long as some nations feed off the cast-off crumbs from the banquet tables of larger nations wars will result. In the modern world our primary aim should be to limit their frequency.

"PUT OURSELVES IN THEIR PLACE"

By J. P., Indianapolis

Recently, you printed an editorial which if I were the editor of The Times, I'd print, if not every week, every other week until the war in Europe and the war in the Pacific have ended.

"They'll Be No V-Day Joy—For Men in the Pacific" is a deeply stirring editorial. It has impressed me, and since human nature is more or less identical, I suppose it has impressed many others, too.

"The best way to achieve a civilized viewpoint—one of tolerance and understanding—is to put yourself in the other fellow's place," was the first sentence of the editorial. There's no need for further excerpts from the editorial. That first sentence is sufficient: Put yourself in the place of a marine, a soldier, or a sailor in the Pacific war and see how you would like it, should you learn that the people back home had begun celebrating because the war in Europe had ended.

Every man and woman of conscience and integrity should not celebrate should the war in Europe end in the immediate future. We must think of the men in the Pacific first. We must put ourselves in their place. Then if we do this we would not have the heart to celebrate. Moreover, the government should act. It should remind the people of the unfairness of such a step. We all are eager for the war to end. But let's not be partial.

DAILY THOUGHTS

And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth, and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spoke concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof.—Joshua 23:14.

Nothing is so high and above all danger that is not below and in the power of God.—Orvid.

POLITICAL SCENE—

Looking Ahead

By Thomas L. Stokes



WASHINGTON, Nov. 14.—From a practical political standpoint Governor Dewey has a better opportunity for effective leadership of the Republican party than had any of the preceding candidates.

Whether he can offer really constructive leadership may depend partly upon whether he can erase unfavorable impressions left by some campaign utterances and by the use of some issues that rankled here and there. But ordinarily the people are lenient with extravagant talk in a political campaign. Both sides always indulge themselves.

Governor Dewey is in a much more favorable position than his three predecessors.

Ran by Far the Best Race

THE SO-CALLED "titular leadership" of Herbert Hoover, Alfred M. Landon and Wendell L. Willkie was dissipated quickly through various circumstances—Mr. Hoover's because of the tag of depression which never would slip off, Mr. Landon's because of his poor showing with the voters, Mr. Willkie's because he was out ahead of his party and could not get along with the regular G. O. P. leadership.

Governor Dewey ran by far the best race. His popular vote crept uncomfortably close, for the Democrats, to that of President Roosevelt. This must be taken into account, rather than the lopsided electoral vote, in reckoning the strength with his party and in assessing his influence as a national leader.

He supervised the putting together of the most effective organization, the Republicans have had in a dozen years, and he exercises more influence with it than did his three predecessors after the election.

Took His Party Along With Him

HE TOOK his party along with him, for the most part, on the big issue in foreign policy—creation of an effective international organization to keep the peace. Mr. Willkie pioneered for such an organization, broke the ground, helped to swing the Republican party toward it, but it did him no good politically because of his unpopularity with old-line leaders. Likewise Governor Dewey projected a progressive domestic program for his party.

Unlike the three others, too, Mr. Dewey has a public forum still—for two years at least—as governor of New York which gives him continuing prestige. He has also his continuing contacts with Republican governors—24 hereafter instead of 26—with whom he built up a close relationship during the campaign.

Because of the war, the scramble for the 1948 Republican nomination perhaps will be longer delayed than usual, with an interim in which war and peace issues will predominate, so that Governor Dewey will have a chance to exhibit his leadership in times of national stress.

Builds Up Personal Contacts

NO REPUBLICAN candidate in recent years has emerged from an election, with more personal contacts in state and local organizations than Mr. Dewey. He worked at this assiduously. The late Mr. Willkie discovered his lack of such contacts too late when he began to plan his campaign for the 1944 nomination.

On every campaign trip, especially on his journey to the Pacific coast and back, Governor Dewey devoted many hours talking and listening to local leaders, not only political leaders but representatives of business, farm and labor groups.

This not only will increase his influence as a party and national leader, but also may pay dividends if he decides to seek renomination, which is what most defeated candidates do, though the Republican party in recent times has never accepted an also-ran. Some have surmised that Governor Dewey, in his care to build up the party organization through personal contact, was looking forward to 1948 as well as to this year's election. They believe he will try desperately to hold on to the party organization.

After all, he is the only defeated Republican nominee for governor of New York to be renominated in our time.

IN WASHINGTON—

Science Serves

By Charles T. Lucey



WASHINGTON, Nov. 14.—At a moment when the importance of science in waging war was being underlined by the V-1 and V-2 rocket-bomb attacks on England, the reconvening congress is expected to take up this week the question of mobilizing American science on a permanent basis to aid the army and navy.

President Roosevelt in 1942 created by executive order the office of scientific research and laboratories behind the armed forces to "assure maximum utilization of such personnel and resources in developing and applying the results of scientific research to defense purposes."

Of such great value has the mobilization of science been that the army and navy have expressed to congress the hope that at least the nucleus of such an organization may be retained after the war.

Hence the house post-war military policy committee, headed by Rep. Woodrum (D. Va.), probably will put this matter high on its agenda after congress reconvenes today. It is believed likely there will be a decision to hold hearings at which army and navy chiefs, Dr. Vannevar Bush, director of the office of scientific research and development, and other science leaders would testify.

'War Is Battle Between Scientists'

REP. WADSWORTH (R. N. Y.), commented that U. S. scientists have done remarkable work in this war and pointed out that "in a very real sense, modern war is a battle between the scientists."

The war work of American scientists has largely been kept secret, of course, but it is assumed to have entered into bomb and airplane rocket propulsion, radio communications, electronics, explosives and dozens of related subjects. Medical research also has been extensive.

On the advisory council of the office of scientific research and development, in addition to Dr. Bush, are Dr. James Bryant Conant, president of Harvard university and chairman of the national defense research committee; Dr. J. C. Hunsaker, chairman of the national advisory committee for aeronautics, and Dr. A. N. Richards, chairman of the committee on medical research. Another leader has been Dr. Karl T. Compton, president of Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

As visualized by some members of congress, the permanent organization would be largely independent of the army and navy. The scientists would be given much leeway and not held down by rigid operation patterns of government bureaus. But they would at all times work in co-operation with the armed services. As it has functioned during the war, the aim of the office of scientific research and development has been to review and supplement the experimental and medical research activities of the war and navy departments.