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RILEY 3551

Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

OVERLOOK THE RUDENESS

GEN. DE GAULLE'S rudeness, in pointedly declining President Roosevelt's invitation to a meeting somewhere in the Mediterranean area, should not be allowed to make American-French relations worse. Americans can afford to overlook the bad manners of a French patriot suffering from an inferiority complex. If we were in the position of a proud nation rescued by friends, probably we would be supersensitive too—and not as gracious as are most Frenchmen.

Anyway, the main thing is to strengthen the friendship of the two great republics which traditionally have stood together. That should not be hard to do. Our national loyalties are to the same democratic ideal. There are no basic conflicts of interest to divide us. And America shares the hope that France shall be a strong, free nation, an example to European peoples less experienced in liberty.

Apparently De Gaulle and his group are convinced of the contrary. They seem to assume that our state department stays awake nights trying to think up ways to keep France down. The fact that millions of Americans are risking their lives to help raise France, and to preserve our common civilization from a common menace, should be enough proof of our real attitude but is not.

ONE POINT of friction is over our failure to build up the French army faster. But we have already supplied one French army; sometimes at the expense of our own troops who were short of essentials, and we shall give them more as soon as possible. The same applies to the criticism that France needs materials to restore civilian economy more rapidly.

But probably the worse rub—apart from psychological factors inherent in the transition from enemy rule to representative government—is fear that the United States will prevent France from having an equal voice with the other powers. Certainly this is not so. America wants a strong France with a full voice politically in allied affairs, because a weak France means a weak and chaotic Europe.

We hope our government, despite De Gaulle's unfriendliness, can make this increasingly clear to the French people—and, if possible, to him.

THEY COULD EARN HIGHER PAY

A GOOD case is being made for higher salaries for congressmen.

Maury Maverick, chairman of the Smaller War Plants Corporation and a former member of congress, last week gave a graphic comparison of the pay, perquisites, labors and responsibilities of a congressman in contrast to a top-drawer bureaucrat in the executive department. The picture he painted, and a quite accurate one, too, showed the lawmaker harassed, overworked, overloaded with responsibility, and underpaid. The congressman has no government automobile and chauffeur to haul him around, as the executive official has. The congressman can't charge his long-distance phone calls. He gets no travel expense, except the "mileage" for one trip to Washington per session. And there is no allowance whatever for the endless entertainment of visiting constituents, for the costs of campaigning, or for the fact that a congressman maintains a home in his district and another in Washington.

THE PEOPLE are quite willing to pay congressmen what they are worth. Yet, in our opinion, it would be a mistake for congressmen to raise their own salaries at this time, until they have first taken steps to make themselves more efficient as lawmakers and thereby more entitled to better pay.

The Monroney resolution for a study of congressional machinery and procedures is pending. First let the study be made, and the recommendations brought in and adopted. It's a fair guess that the recommendations will call for a drastic cut in the number of congressional committees, and adequate staffs of lawyers, statisticians and researchers to help the lawmakers do their work more effectively. After they have reorganized the legislative branch along that line congressmen can make a much better case for higher pay.

DOUBTFUL PARTY

WE love the American system of political parties for all its faults, and would not see it changed. Still, it was rather pleasant to learn that when Adm. Thomas C. Hart was appointed United States senator from Connecticut, after 48 years in the navy, no one was certain of his party affiliation. Perhaps the admiral wasn't quite sure himself. (He finally decided to sit on the Republican side.)

There have been occasions when one had reason to suspect that party affiliation was the only thing that some congressmen were sure of. The presence of Senator-designate Hart in their midst should at least provide welcome variety.

SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

SECRETARY OF STATE STETTINIUS made a big hit in a Moscow theater by presenting a 3000-ruble (\$240) bouquet to the prima ballerina. The dispatch relates—incidentally making our own profit-motive florist industry look good—that in Russia "the price is only nominal for such a luxury at this season." Fortunately Ed Stettinius is reputed to have plenty of money. For when he gets back it may take nothing less than a mink coat for Mrs. S. to keep the peace on the home front.

SNAG

NEGOTIATIONS for return of the United Mine Workers to the American Federation of Labor hit a snag at Miami. Apparently there was some difference of opinion as to whether John L. Lewis proposed to rejoin the A. F. of L. or to have the A. F. of L. join John L. Lewis.

REFLECTIONS—

Pleasure Capital

By Ned Brooks



MIAMI BEACH, Fla., Feb. 20.—This capital of the winter resorts offers a curious mixture of daytime activity and pleasure-as-usual.

Purple heart veterans back from overseas, and free-spenders in from the north... psycho-neurotic hospitals and \$75-a-day beach hotels... jeeps and limousines... nurses and movie actresses... khaki and furs... Within another month the gay high life of Miami will begin to ebb. Already the scramble for rail and plane space is beginning and transportation officials predict a worse jam than in 1944, when thousands were marooned here for weeks. The office of defense transportation has warned that it will be impossible to provide extra accommodations for vacationists this year.

Hotel transportation agents wear harried looks. Says one: "We aren't allowed to charge if we don't get the accommodations and we can collect only a dollar if we do. It doesn't begin to pay expenses. A lot of guests apply at several places and when we do get their tickets, they don't want 'em. Whatta life!"

One of OPA's Biggest Headaches

SWOLLEN bankrolls and visitors eager to spend have made Miami one of OPA's biggest headaches. Authorities have cracked down on hotels, food stores, laundries and clothing shops, but black markets continue to flourish. Meat, butter and cigarettes are obtainable if the buyer is willing to look past the ceiling signs.

Scotch is available to customers willing to buy two bottles of rum despite the OPA rule against "lie-in" sales.

A "help-wanted" ad reads: "Hotel needs dishwasher. Cigarettes furnished."

OPA permits hotels and apartment owners to boost their rents during the vacation season of five months, November to March. A modest one-bedroom apartment near the ocean-front brings \$400 and up a month.

Many visitors who formerly came to Miami by auto used trains and planes this year and bus, jitney and taxi service is overloaded to the point of breakdown. The vacationist, for \$70 a week, can rent an automobile which he is entitled to drive up to 45 miles a day, presumably for business.

'The Heat' Is on Gambling Establishments

SOME VISITORS who found enough gasoline to drive here ran afoul of OPA by using their cars to visit race tracks and other pleasure spots. However, and lesser ones found that \$25 would buy Florida license plates and immunity from OPA's annoyances. The shutdown of the race tracks saddened the sporting element, but Miami is not entirely without speculative opportunities. Crowds flock nightly to the Jai-Alai (Hi-Li) temple where Cubans and basques match their skill and pari-mutuel betting is legal.

The flower gambling establishments are closed at the moment. Proprietors say "the heat" is on but promise it won't last long. Civic reformers are active again, but observers expect the anti-gambling crusade to subside as soon as the operators find a way to make up the deficits in charitable funds caused by the tracks' closing.

Slot machines, once the source of an enormous "take," have been outlawed, but "consoles" which serve the same purpose are reappearing.

Military Population Had Declined

THE MILITARY population has declined since the army air forces moved out its training center after turning out 550,000 officers and men for fighting duty.

At the peak, the armed services were occupying 330 hotels and apartment buildings. More than half of these have been returned to civilian occupancy but the navy is now preparing to requisition eight large buildings. Managers, tenants and merchants are protesting that the navy could find accommodations in other cities just as suitable as Miami, which already is bulging.

Most of the army space is occupied by troops sent here for redistribution, by hospital patients and recuperation troops.

Miami is undergoing another real estate boom and builders are expecting a rushing business after the war. Beach homes which a few years ago could be bought for \$10,000 are now bringing \$25,000.

Staked out in the marshland of Biscayne bay is another new island. After the war the dredges will go to work, the muck will be pumped up and Miami will have more real estate.

WORLD AFFAIRS—

Cornered Rats

By William Philip Simms



WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—Our great task force laid on Tokyo and the landings on Corregidor and Iwo Jima, allied intelligence circles say, mark a sensational turn in the whole Pacific war. The Japs may now be forced to revamp their entire strategy to avert early disaster.

Just before Pearl Harbor, Adm. Takahashi, former commander-in-chief of the combined fleet, prepared an exhaustive study on the Japanese position, military and diplomatic. A translated extract, now in my hands, reveals how desperate that position has become.

"Manchukuo," observed the admiral, "is Japan's life-line on land. The South seas is Japan's life-line at sea. But despite this obvious fact, the real interest of the Japanese people remains centered in the North (China and Manchuria) as the Manchurian affairs and the China affair indicate."

"Nevertheless, the northward policy will become untenable if the southern life-line is neglected. Only with the addition of the South seas can the East Asia bloc, composed of Manchukuo, China and Japan, become complete for the achievement of the new order in this part of the globe. It is a matter of life and death for Japan to bring the Indies and Indo-China within the Japanese sphere of influence."

What Can Japan Do About It?

THE COMPLETE interdependence of Japan's northward and southward thrusts is here fully admitted and exposed by the Jap admiral. Neither theater of operations is long tenable by Japan without the other. Yet American forces have virtually severed the two and are hammering at Tokyo itself.

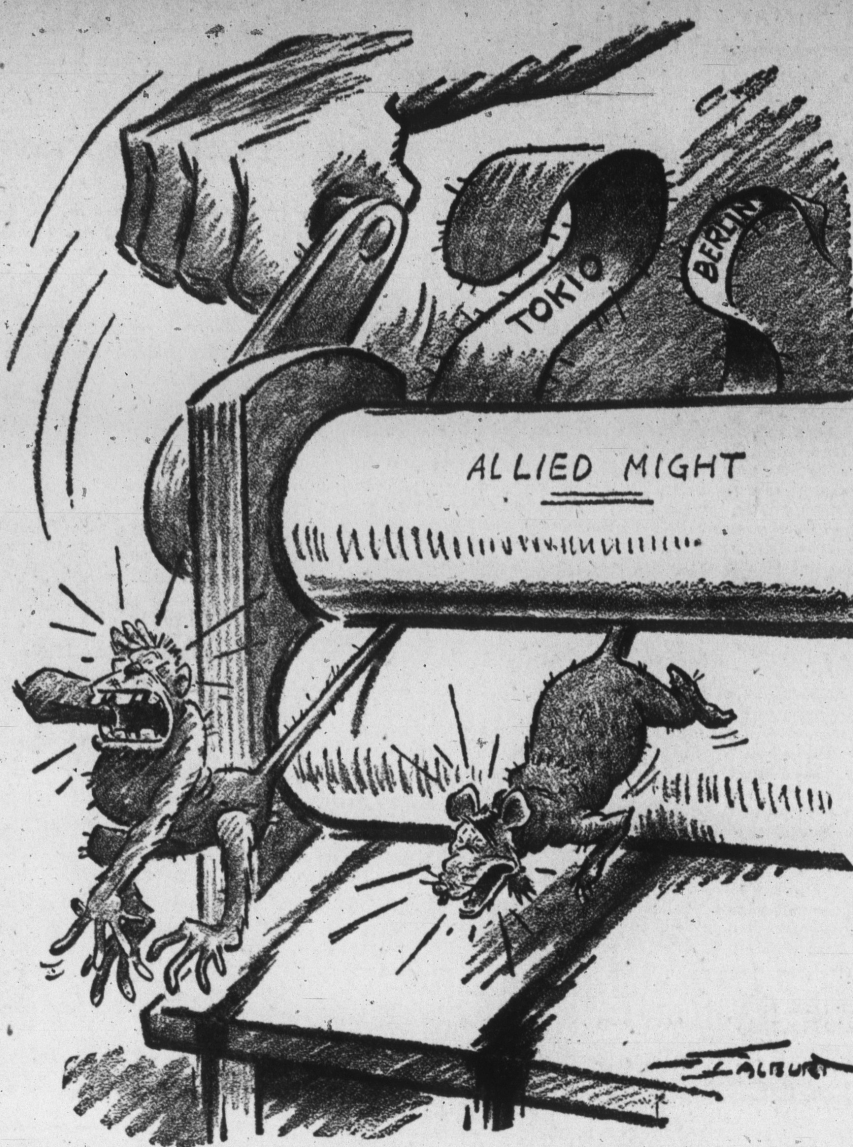
This raises the vital question of what Japan can do about it. When Adm. Takahashi prepared his pre-Pearl Harbor thesis, Germany was everywhere triumphant, the United States was unprepared and Russia was a benevolent neutral. The world's greatest opportunities, the Japs thought, the stage was all set for a quick and complete axis victory.

Today, the European end of the axis stands defeated. Only the coup de grace remains to be administered. That done, all the allies—including, most likely, the Soviet Union—will fall on Nippon. And Nippon is already on the defensive, outclassed on land, sea and in the air.

Traditional Japanese naval strategy had been to force the enemy to close in on Japan proper, then, destroy them with superior forces. Before the war, that is what Jap writers said they would do to the United States. They would lure our fleet to the Western Pacific, then sink it with the aid of swarms of land-based planes.

Now, apparently, all the Japs seem able to do is to fight it out, without hope of victory, like cornered rats.

Tail of Two Cities



The Hoosier Forum

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

WE HAVE OUR HOMES TO ENJOY

By Mrs. F. A. Berry, 1743 Hall pl.

In a grocery store today, I heard a lady complaining about not being able to obtain the things she asked for. So I told her, "Many times I had asked for items I was unable to get, but my two sons, one stepson, a son-in-law, also a stepson-in-law, and many boys I knew as dear friends no doubt would like many things they cannot get." If they get along without them so can I and so should she without complaining.

We have our homes to enjoy and a bed to lie down in and sleep at night. I feel we should thank God for that, and pray for the quick and safe return of our boys, and not complain about the things we are unable to obtain.

"AMERICA NEEDS SLUM CLEARANCE"

By Bert Wilhelm, 2106 S. Emerson ave.

When Lockfield gardens was financed by the taxpayer and promoted by the Democrats, the entire set up was condemned as being visionary, communistic and a loud move of the New Deal. But some of the same group who were so loud in condemning Lockfield Gardens are all for a one story, single unit development, also financed by the taxpayers, and are endorsing the move without an effort or thought to arrive at the probable cost or ultimate outcome.

And a Republican assembly that promised again and again and again to end the New Deal in Indiana seems to like it.

The property the promoters aim to acquire has been platted for a long time, and contains about 500 legal descriptions. To acquire it at a fair price will take considerable effort and expense. Most every title will have to be corrected to make it merchantable. Condemnation proceedings and suits to quiet title will appear, along with the top heavy mortgages held by the ward chairman or by a contributor to the campaign fund; political appraisers and political purchasing agents will have to be paid. It will be a field day for abstractors, courts, lawyers and real estate men, with the usual de-

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lays, changes of venue, further study and complications, before the man with the saw and hatchet gets on the job.

America needs slum clearance, and should adopt this move as a national policy, and put it first on our after-the-war planning. When we have real social security and the funds collected are used to finance homes for those in the lower income groups at a low rate of interest over a long period and distributed through the local building and loan associations we will have accomplished our desire and purpose, and local home builders will do the job as a part of their routine work. Thus we have the answer to this important problem.

The 30-hour week will arrive soon after the war. A man getting 75 cents per hour will have an income of \$22.50 per week, with a proposed 6 per cent social security levy and his withholding tax which will bring him back to the \$15 per week WPA subsistence income. He is the man we are trying to help.

If our general assembly would get down to brass tacks and pass a resolution addressed to our congress and senators in Washington requesting them to use their best efforts to have all social security money loaned on the homes for those in the lower brackets of income in the locality where it is earned we will do more for slum clearance than the socialistic plan suggested.

Side Glances—By Galbraith



"Please leave the radio alone, Henry!" I still remember how you fixed our sweeper—instead of cleaning the carpet it gave it a shave!"

"ALL WE NEED IS A LEADER"

By Ross and Grace Carter, Mooreville

This is a letter we are sending to Rep. Louis Ludlow: My husband and I have always been admirers of your work in congress. You always are doing something for the good of the people regardless of politics, and we heartily approve of your "Christian peace crusade." You are putting into action what Christians the world over are desiring, and all we need is a leader.

We feel that a peace based on your suggestion would be a lasting peace. We think if the churches had got behind the League of Nations at the close of the first world war as they should have done, we would not have been in this war.

As the basis of a permanent world peace, we would suggest the plan given by E. Stanley Jones in "The Christ of the Christian Road." If every congressman and every minister, and every Christian would read this book, our country would lead the world to a permanent world peace based on justice for all.

"WILL SAVE MANY LIVES"

By Harry W. Hull, Indianapolis

As one of your important missions is to reach the public with your editorials I believe this is a good time for you to write a piece about fire prevention on your editorial page.

Every so often all over our country a great tragedy occurs, and after they happen the public feeling against fire hazards are in the minds of the people. Newspapers are the only way the public can become acquainted with what each person should do to eliminate fire hazards. The terrible fire in Indianapolis Saturday night would never have happened if each child in that household had been on the lookout for the things which start fires. It is too late to bring back the lives of those four little girls.

But it is not too late to make a fire preventionist out of each member of every family. It is not a question of property loss. The loss in the Saturday night fire is of little consequence. The thing that matters is that lives were lost that should not have been lost.

It is impossible for the fire department, to visit each and every home in a city, but if through an editorial you can bring before all the people who read your newspaper the fact that the elimination of carelessness in their homes will save the lives of their sisters, or brothers, mother or father, you can eliminate unnecessary suffering amongst our citizens.

You do not have to be a fire prevention expert to know or recognize a fire hazard. Improper heating plants, electric wiring, etc., cigarettes thrown in a place where they will smolder, are all hazards.

A small child can be taught to keep combustible material away from stoves. Vigilance on the part of the older members of the family can eliminate greater hazards.

Fire prevention in homes to a large degree must be handled by the members of the family. They can have fire drills and know the windows they should rush to in the event they are awakened at night. A little practice will save many lives and it is no great effort to go over these things with your family before a fire happens.

DAILY THOUGHTS

Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the Lord.—Joshua 24:14.

SINCERITY is impossible, unless it pervade the whole being, and the pretence of it was the very foundation of character.—Lowell.

POLITICAL SCENE—

Poignant Sequel

By Thomas L. Stokes



WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—Life moves on like a book of short stories in which the same characters reappear, except that in war the pace is swifter, the events more dramatic, the tragedies so much more frequent and poignant.

Here in this space, only a week ago, there was related the story of the American Legion post at Hood River, Ore., which had the names of 16 Japanese-Americans, or Nisei as they are called, from its honor roll, and how National Commander Edward N. Scheiberling intervened with the post, in vain, to recall its action.

Now comes the story of one of the 16, Frank T. Hachiya, 25, of Portland, Ore., who died a hero's death after a dangerous mission for which he volunteered at Leyte.

'One of Those Sharp Cameos of War'

IT WAS one of those sharp cameos of war. The regiment was in a difficult position. Information of the disposition of the enemy was needed. Hachiya volunteered to lead a patrol across a valley swept by Japanese fire. He got out ahead of the patrol. A Jap sniper shot him through the stomach. He was able to make his way back up the hill. But the bullet had passed through his liver. He died on the operating table.

What the American boys who served with him thought of him is shown by the fact that nearly everybody in the regiment volunteered to give blood transfusions to try to save his life.

Will his name go back on the honor roll?

In this same place, too, only a week ago, was told the story of the Disabled American Veterans post at Hermiston, Ore., which had voted against admission of Japanese-American or Negro veterans to membership.

What Are They Fighting For?

NOW COMES the copy of a letter which an American aviator, a first lieutenant, has sent to that post, from which the following is quoted:

"I read in the morning paper where you had recently voted 'never to allow a Japanese or a colored veteran' to become members of your post.

"It is impossible for me to convey to you the great dismay that seeing this caused me.

"I have just returned from a tour of combat duty as a navigator on a B-24 with the 15th air force and am fully aware of the great esteem in which the colored fighter pilots are held by the bomber boys they cover. Are they fighting for the continuance of discrimination against themselves?

"Infantrymen returning on the same boat with me told me of the fine record established by the Japanese-American troops of the 5th army. These white men to whom I spoke had only great admiration for these 'Japs' who had evidently carried far more than their share of the battle."

'An Un-American Trend'

HE REFERRED then to other incidents of discrimination against Japanese-Americans reported here a week ago.

"Read and reflect on this. Other references suggested are the Bible and the American Constitution. "Please do not consider this as a mischievous paper but rather a letter from a man genuinely concerned with what he considers to be an un-American trend and one detrimental to the interests of our country."

Such tolerance is typical among servicemen who have fought side by side with Americans of other races.

Tolerant, too, are communications which have come from civilians in this country.

They reflect the view that this country is a haven for refugees from other lands, that it has always been so, and that once they become citizens, they are due the protection of our laws which are a guarantee of our democratic tradition.

IN WASHINGTON—

Rule of Fifty

By Earl Richert



WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—If 50 local residents get together at a Rotary club luncheon to hear an out-of-town speaker, total attendance 51, that's not cricket, under the "convention" rules set by the office of defense transportation.

But if 50 persons come out of town to attend a meeting and that's the total attendance, it's O. K.

This present official interpretation of the ban on meetings attended by more than 50 persons is causing hotel and convention bureau men throughout the country to lift their eyebrows.

"Sure, it's silly," agreed a defense transportation official. "But isn't the whole idea of having meetings under present conditions silly? Is this an all-out war, or isn't it?"

The whole point of War Mobilization Director Byrnes' ban on meetings of more than 50 persons, he said, was to relieve overburdened transportation and hotel facilities and to conserve manpower.

"The questions brought up about the rule are a small apple that causes a lot of trouble. But we are tremendously encouraged by the number of groups that have canceled their meetings and have gone on to accomplish their purposes without conventions."

No Policeman at the Door

AT FIRST hotel and convention men believed that the ban pertained only to the numbers of persons traveling to conventions.

But they were advised that the ODT wanted any meetings involving out-of-town travel held down to 50. As for the example of the Rotary club luncheon attended by 50 local residents and one out-of-town speaker, the ODT spokesman said there would be no policeman at the door to count the attendance.

No government coercion was used to halt the Westminster Kennel club dog show at Madison Square Garden recently which drew more than 2800 dogs from all sections of the country and thousands of spectators, he pointed out.

The dog show sponsors believed it was not a trade show and that question was not raised until the show was in progress.

"We are convinced they acted in good faith," the ODT official said. "But dog shows, of course, are trade shows and they should not be held."

"We have not made any threats nor have we announced any enforcement procedure," he continued. "We have simply appealed to our citizens to help the war effort by cancelling conventions."

No Bans on Purely Local Meetings

THE RULE of 50 was adopted because it would be almost impossible, administratively, to pass on requests for meetings involving fewer than that number, he said. No bans were placed on purely local meetings because they did not involve inter-city transportation or hotel facilities.

So far, the ODT's committee on conventions has denied 469 applications for approval of meetings and has passed only 15.

Of the 15, four were for legislative conferences of church groups, one was for a wage conference of the Southern Coal Producers Assn., and one was for a national wage conference of the United Mine Workers of America. The remainder were for such meetings as Red Cross regional war fund campaign meetings, recruiting conference of the Iowa Civil Air Patrol, and a conference of selective service state directors.