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MacARTHUR AND NIMITZ

THE argument as to American command in the Pacific has been settled by a compromise. Strategy is to remain with the joint chiefs of staff in Washington. Gen. MacArthur is to command the army, and Adm. Nimitz the navy, with Gen. Arnold retaining command of the 20th air force. Over-all command will shift according to the nature of the combined operations, as designated by the joint chiefs of staff.

This provides a new job for MacArthur, hitherto limited to the Southwest Pacific.

Because present major operations are at sea, Nimitz is in command in the offensive area. That, presumably, will continue until the navy has landed adequate army forces on the mainland—of China or Japan, or both. At that point, the navy will revert to the supporting role of supply and blockade—as now in the European theater—and MacArthur with the army will take over the major job on land.

This seems to be as practicable a solution as it is logical.

It should be noted, however, that this applies only to American forces. Whether Chiang Kai-shek and the British—and the Russians, if and when they enter that war—can agree on a supreme commander in the Far East, as the Western allies agreed on Gen. Eisenhower, is still an open question.

HELPING FIGHT CANCER

THE fight against cancer, commendable in itself, has suffered from lack of direction. Newspaper readers know all too well that skilled brains have from time to time turned up this or that finding from one point or another, never under an over-all plan.

As president of the American Cancer Society, Eric Johnston plans to improve that. He announces a \$5,000,000 campaign this month, with \$3,000,000 of the total to be spent for education, \$2,000,000 for research.

Under the society's program, research specialists will be grouped in committees whose members will confer, at the society's expense, on projects within their various fields. Their findings will be scrutinized by a national body which is to co-ordinate, modify or expand them as it sees best.

Specialists under the direction of the society are to be paid, a matter which should attract adequate men and help assure continuity.

While this program may not be the complete answer to all problems in our fight against cancer, it should yield vast benefits. The drive for funds deserves support.

NEW GOVERNOR'S MANSION

THE state budget committee has acted wisely in purchasing the J. H. Trimble estate at 4343 North Meridian street as a home for Indiana governors.

The old governor's mansion on Fall Creek boulevard did not provide adequately for the convenience and comfort of the state executive and his family. The governor, it should be remembered, is the official representative of the state and often is called upon to play host to distinguished guests. Furthermore, his duties include a considerable amount of both formal and informal entertaining. It is a tribute to the resourcefulness of the first ladies who have occupied the mansion in recent years that they have been able to uphold the traditions of Indiana hospitality—but, at best, it has been exceedingly difficult.

The citizens of Indiana should take pride in the fact that they now own a governor's mansion which is worthy of the dignity of a great state and the high honor accorded to the men who will occupy it.

VETERANS' LETTERS

FAR be it from us to intrude in Rep. Rankin's budding inquiry into affairs of the veterans administration. But we should like to call attention to an item in a story on that agency, written by Ned Brooks of this newspaper's Washington bureau.

"Because of the clerk shortage," Mr. Brooks reported, "many replies have to be recorded on flexible discs, which are sent to field offices for transcribing. The finished letters are returned to Washington for signing and mailing. The process adds a week to the delay of replies. Veterans officials concede the practice is wasteful. But, they say, the mail can't be handled otherwise."

Well, to tell. Have high veterans officials ever heard of delegating authority, of establishing branch managers who can answer questions, of placing men in field offices who can make decisions? Private business concerns have been doing that for years.

Mr. Rankin's investigation is to deal with the efficiency of the veterans administration. A good place to start is with this clumsy, wasteful system of answering letters.

WAR AND COMMUNITY FUND CHAIRMAN

INDIANAPOLIS has been fortunate in the competent leadership of the United War and Community Fund campaigns in recent years, and that tradition is upheld by the appointment of J. G. Sinclair to direct the drive for 1945.

Before coming here three and a half years ago as manager of the Indianapolis division of the Shell Oil Co., Mr. Sinclair was active in the war fund campaigns in Chicago and he has been a key man in the local organization for two years. His experience and executive ability should go a long way toward insuring the success of this community activity on which so much depends.

NO PEACETIME OWI

OWI Chief Elmer Davis doesn't think that the OWI will continue after the war or that any official government news agency will take its place. He does admit, however, that the state department may take over some OWI functions, such as releasing texts of speeches and official documents.

We hope that those functions don't grow into a propaganda race with other nations, since the truth of unslanted news is a demonstrable weapon for peace. Mr. Davis says that "after the war we are counting on the press associations to do the news job." And they can do it, as no one knows better than that veteran and able reporter, Elmer Davis.

REFLECTIONS—

Incredible

By Harry Hansen

WHEN THE 1st U. S. Army took its 300,000th Nazi prisoner, the latter declared: "It is incredible." On the literary front, Lewis Carroll is incredible: "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" is an incredible book and Florence Becker Lennon's biography of Carroll, "Through the Looking-Glass," is the most incredible of all. Part of the wonder of wonders is that it appears with the imprint of Simon & Schuster (\$3.50).

This, I suspect, will please Carrollians about as much as Bowdler's biography of the old friends of Samuel Johnson. Lewis Carroll, telling the Oxford story to three little girls on a hot July picnic trip in 1862, fades into the Oxford mathematician, Charles L. Dodgson, who remained all his life a sort of pixie, never quite growing into the adult world, although he was able to teach geometry to students at Oxford.

'Nary a Hair Fell'

SHE is really much kinder to him than many of his critics, taking no mean advantage of a man who "had an odd—and, of course, frustrated—love for little girls." She prefers to see him as part of his Victorian times, but she is a relentless searcher for every bit of personal evidence. I doubt that ever a writer's life was tracked down by a literary sleuth with such determined purpose. Nary a hair fell from Dodgson's thinning locks without being examined for color and texture, and filed and indexed, by Mrs. Lennon.

Of course he loved little girls, but, as Mrs. Lennon puts it, "in part identifying himself with them, in part substituting child-friends for more difficult and responsible adult relationships." If he took them rowing there was always a chaperon present—good old Victorian days.

His slightest adventure is so carefully annotated that we know all about it. For instance, Mrs. Lennon tells how Dodgson would choose the most comfortable boat and bestow his guests and the luncheon baskets "with accurate balance"; how he rowed stroke and one of the girls "might hold the tiller rope." This meticulous charting of boating in 1862 is typical of Mrs. Lennon's method.

'Adequate' for America

DODGSON PROBABLY was a left-handed child, and the Victorians didn't like that. He had a "prolonged youth" and could not understand that childhood friends grew up. When they became old enough for him to raise his hat to them, he dropped them. He "never attained the stage of adult love." If he was ever in love with the original Alice, there is no evidence of it. When Alice married he hoped her first-born would be named Alice; when she asked him to be godfather to a boy he did not reply—he could not tolerate boys.

Interesting details about the publication of his books are merged into the general narrative, not emphasized. Dodgson personally paid Tenniel for the illustrations and likewise paid the engraving bill of the two Alice books. He failed in the plates of the 1865 edition because they seemed imperfect. Only 48 copies got away from him. The remaining 1952 copies were shipped to Appleton in New York, because Dodgson thought they were "adequate" for America.

A Few Reservations

MRS. LENNON'S integrity as a biographer is unquestioned and no doubt the real Dodgson comes through, though to me he is something of a bore. I should like to have seen more impressionistic writing on the order of the few pages devoted to Mrs. Alice Hargreave's appearance, at 80, at Columbia university in 1932.

The organization of the book is such that every subject—immaturity, love, life, death, etc.—is never completely disposed of, but continues to pop up in interlarded, "there is a little more to be said" marginal writing. For instance, in one letter Dodgson signs himself Dodo. Thereupon Mrs. Lennon enlightens us about the name, habits and connotation of the dodo, asking "Why, except for phonetic reasons, should Carroll have associated himself with this unfortunate bird?" Why, indeed?

Later she follows the familiar method of trying to make every word and image symptomatic of Dodgson's state of mind. Sounder is Mrs. Lennon's estimate of the contribution that Dodgson makes to English literature—his lack of using the elements of a dream without, except for a slip or two, admitting that it is dreaming, and his ability to combine "meaning with non-meaning," which made his child story an adult's work. He had a split personality and his frustration escaped into the Lewis Carroll who has completely eclipsed the Oxford mathematician.

Write to the President asking for a day of prayer on the Sunday preceding the opening of the conference.

THE MEN'S governing committee of the Indianapolis Service Men's Centers, made up of military personnel from surrounding camps and installations, wants to thank Mr. Dick Miller of the Coliseum for making thousands of free tickets available for ice hockey games, the Sonja Henie Ice Follies Review, and for lowering the price for military personnel for ice skating at the Coliseum.

The graciousness and kindness of men like Mr. Miller will cause we of the armed forces stationed in this area, as well as those visiting, to remember the hospitality of Indianapolis for a long time to come.

Some Nations May Hesitate

THE UNITED NATIONS gathering, of course, is not a peace conference. Its purpose is to consider post-war security or specifically, the Dumbarton Oaks proposals. Nevertheless, there are many peace problems crying for solution and unless some are answered, more than one nation at San Francisco may hesitate to join the new security league.

As the united nations will be represented at the conference by their foreign ministers, there would seem to be no valid reason why they should not discuss some of these issues too.

France—one of the Big Five—for example, will want to know what is going to happen to the Rhineland. So will Belgium and Holland. The Nazi military machine which rolled over these three countries in 1940 was made possible only by the industrial network in this area. Without it future German aggression will be next to impossible. That is something in which all the allies are vitally interested, but the rich western neighbors more so than the others.

Poland's frontiers, too, are a matter of vast concern. Before the United States, for instance, commits itself to war, if necessary, in defense of the status quo in Europe, it will want to know more about these boundaries. And in that respect probably the United States is not alone.

The San Francisco conference was not called to consider such problems. Yet they are so closely associated with the problems which it was called to consider as omelets are with eggs. A good omelet can not be made with bad eggs any more than a good collective security organization can be based on a rotten peace.

During the last days of the first world war, the allied council of ministers (premiers and foreign ministers) were in constant session in Paris. At Versailles sat the supreme war council. Together they watched Germany's impending collapse and worked on terms not only for the armistice but also for the ensuing peace.

An allied "council of ministers" at San Francisco would, in a sense, be following precedent.

Path of Glory



Hoosier Forum

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

"WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMAN"

By Albert J. Voight, 1632 S. Meridian st.

A conference called the United Nations Assembly will meet in San Francisco on April 25 to re-establish and promote world peace. This meeting will be of vital importance to every American for it will involve the most vital interest of humanity: world peace and freedom from war.

Some months ago a Conference of Catholic, Protestant and Jewish leaders was held and formed what is known as the Seven Points Pattern for Peace. The time for action is now at hand to stand up and be counted—for God and country.

I recommend that you write your congressman urging passage of House Resolution No. 61. This expresses the adherence of congress to the moral principles of the pattern for peace.

Also, write to the state department, advocating amendments to the Dumbarton Oaks proposals such as: a preamble acknowledging the sovereignty of God and the moral law; guarantees of the independence of small nations; a commission on human rights; international law and non-self-governing peoples; provision for the future revision of wartime settlements; effective disarmament; elimination of the unlimited veto power and an equal voting power with that of any other nation.

Write to the President asking for a day of prayer on the Sunday preceding the opening of the conference.

"WILL REMEMBER THE HOSPITALITY"

By S. Sgt. Robert E. Millisor, Wakarusa General Hospital, Camp Atterbury.

The Men's governing committee of the Indianapolis Service Men's Centers, made up of military personnel from surrounding camps and installations, wants to thank Mr. Dick Miller of the Coliseum for making thousands of free tickets available for ice hockey games, the Sonja Henie Ice Follies Review, and for lowering the price for military personnel for ice skating at the Coliseum.

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Side Glances—By Galbraith



"With your experience here selling groceries, your father should suggest that they quit making you dig foxholes, and give you a job managing a post exchange!"

BEHIND THE FRONT—

Acid Test

By Thomas L. Stokes

IN OCCUPIED GERMANY, April 7.—The ASF—army service forces—that huge organization of supply, is facing one of its biggest tests. This is to keep up the several American armies now racing across Germany toward Berlin and other key spots.

The supply lines are being stretched out longer and longer every day. All you have to do is to look at a map.

Everybody who has anything to do with supply, from the top command of the communications zone in Paris, down through the field commanders, to the private in the ranks of the army supply, is conscious of the test. It is being compared to the problem last summer after the break-through at St. Lo when Gen. Patton went high-balling across France.

Miracles Under Great Handicaps

THEN THE supply forces performed miracles under great handicaps, working for weeks without the benefit of ports, shuttling vast quantities of materials, unbelievable quantities, across the beaches of Normandy. The armies finally had to halt for a time until the supply gap could be closed. There were some excuses then.

Now the supply outfits are highly organized. They have ports available for the movement of supplies. They have had time to study their problems, to search out the weak spots. The combat commanders, always voracious, always ready to be critical, will not be so lenient now if they do not get what they want.

The many units of the army of supply are on the move toward the front. There is action everywhere. They are straining to get the stuff forward, and the continuous swift progress of the armies offers evidence that they are doing their job.

There are still some difficulties, some kinks, even at this late date, arising from peculiar circumstances of the supply problem as it has presented itself to the continent, according to communication zone officials.

Everything Moves Through Paris

THE MOST SERIOUS is railroad transportation, as explained by officials, part of this problem is due to the fact that they had to operate a continental railroad system. Everything coming into Europe moved through Paris as the key point. It was not possible to pick out a railroad here and a railroad there, with which to move supplies. The railroads were integrated into the continental system and had to be operated on that basis.

There is still a shortage of rail facilities. This is due partly to a shortage of railroad rolling stock and personnel, partly to the demand of the French for transportation facilities to move civilian supplies. There is constant pressure from that direction.

In the early days, trucks were used to move supplies from the beaches to the armies, first, and then from the ports to the armies when the ports were opened up. But it's too long a haul for trucks now, and besides, trucks are needed up front for the haul from the railroad bridgeheads and the pipe lines, both of which are being pushed forward rapidly to the armies.

Produces Irregular Peak Periods

THERE IS also a problem at the ports, caused by the irregular pace with which supplies come in. It is not a matter of so many vessels arriving regularly, so many a day. They come in convoys, in batches. This produces irregular peak periods. But the unloading is swift and the turnaround prompt, according to port records.

Our army does not use the selective unloading system, whereby items are unloaded according to category. That would take too long. Everything is dumped on the dock. The selective process goes on there.

Talks with the unit commanders in the area back of the lines indicate there are still shortages of spare parts. They list tire patches, brake drums, brake lining, brake fluid, as well as parts for trucks. But they are making out through salvage and all sorts of improvising which is most ingenious and constantly arouses the admiration.

IN WASHINGTON—

Miscellany

By Peter Edson

WASHINGTON, April 7.—Space in Washington is now so tight that even Jesse Jones, who as secretary of commerce and federal loan administrator had two big offices and used to pass out millions here and more millions there, couldn't find desk room for personal use when he got bounced out of the government to make way for Henry Wallace. Jones finally got an office suite in the Statler which the hotel management is letting him use, and he carries on his private business from there. Says he still has some, too.

WHEN ERIC JOHNSTON of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, Phil Murray of the C. I. O. and Bill Green of A. F. of L. finally came to agreement on their "New Charter for Labor and Management," their first idea was to take it across Lafayette Square to the White House and let the President announce it. Then it was pointed out to them that this was a statement to show how capital and labor could get along without government interference and it would be silly to let the President get any of the credit for it. So they announced it themselves.

Death Sentence for Obsolete Aircraft

PROPOSALS to take 10,000 war planes up in the air and crash them are being seriously considered by the inter-branch Chamber of Commerce as one way to get rid of some of the surplus aircraft that will be sitting around, useless, when the war is over. The idea is being studied by a technical committee, which sees in the opportunity to make a large number of scientifically controlled crash tests a means of adding greatly to designers' knowledge of structural weaknesses.

Over 50 possible tests have already been listed, which would shed new light on flutter and vibration, limits of engine performance at full power, fire prevention, blind flying and automatic pilot control. Only obsolete or war weary planes would be used. Pilots would, of course, bail out after setting controls for the crashes which would be covered by high speed cameras.

PRISONER OF WAR camps near Heppenheim, Germany, from which 250 half-starved and medically neglected American soldiers were rescued, had not even been reported to International Red Cross authorities. Its existence was therefore not known to U. S. military commanders, advancing east of the Rhine. The entire case represents a flagrant violation of Geneva convention and is believed to be the worst maltreatment to which U. S. soldier prisoners had been subjected on the Western front.

Nelson's Literary Ambitions

DONALD M. NELSON is reported to have literary ambitions, wanting to write a book about his experiences as head of the war production board. Washington comment is that if he told all he knew about all the feuds there have been in WPB it would probably make interesting reading. Nelson has had little to do since his last return from China, and would like to get out of government service.

SOVIET RUSSIA withdrew from the Chicago conference on international aviation last fall, giving the impression it had no interest in post-war air commerce. A hint on the size of U. S. S. R. air transport operations, however, was buried in a recent report by Foreign Economic Administrator Leo Crowley. He revealed that Soviet transport planes carried nearly half of the six million pounds of tin moved out of China in 1943, and carried nearly 12 million pounds of wolfram ore from China to Russia in 1944, 1945.

AMERICAN BANKERS' ASSOCIATION lobbyists are said to be unable to see the Bretton Woods for the Dumbarton Oaks.

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