

The Indianapolis Times

PAGE 6 Saturday, April 21, 1945

ROY W. HOWARD President WALTER LECKRONE Editor HENRY W. MANZ Business Manager

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

Owned and published daily (except Sunday) by Indianapolis Times Publishing Co., 214 W. Maryland St. Postal Zone 9.

Member of United Press, Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance, NEA Service, and Audit Bureau of Circulations.



Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

1000 GERMANS SEE THE TRUTH

NOW, said the American army to a thousand civilians of Weimar, Germany, now you will see with your own eyes. You will look upon one of the wonders wrought by your Nazis, by those gauleiters and their superiors whom you have followed these many, blind years; and whom you still follow these blind, bitter hours.

The thousand civilians were taken to the Buchenwald concentration camp and made to look. They looked and they saw. It was by order of the American army that they saw.

They saw more than 20,000 prisoners, not one of them more than barely alive; they saw 3000 sick who could not move; they saw 4800 old persons penned in filthy quarters. They could see that all these people were living skeletons, and some of them wandered aimlessly and babble in the idiocy of their weakness. And the guiding Americans told the thousand civilians to listen to the feeble gibberish, and while they listened they had to smell. In the raw odor of disease and death, many of the thousand sickened and here and there some fainted.

"We didn't know," some of the thousand murmured.

THEY WERE led on. There in a barnlike structure, helpless sick lay dying on three-tier bunks that reached to the roof. It was too late for any one, even among the thousand, to loosen the grip of death across these tiers. More among the thousand fainted.

But there was more to see. Bottles in a laboratory. In them organs removed from prisoners, and there were death masks, skulls, shrunken human heads collected under Nazi direction for "scientific experiments."

And the visitors were shown a display of "parchments." Do you know, the army asked, what that stuff is? That is human skin. See those tattoo designs? Well, one of your Nazi doctors was writing a treatise on tattoos. Then, too, there was the wife of a former officer who liked to collect "parchments." She'd spy on a prisoner a tattoo design that appealed to her fancy. Forthwith, that prisoner would receive lethal treatment and in due time the "parchment" would be presented to the lady. Oh yes, she had little gifts made of the pieces, things like lamp shades and pocketbooks.

That, said the army, is a sample of Nazi culture.

MANY OF the thousand turned away, some wept. "We didn't know," they kept repeating.

But now they know. And let us hope that they have been convinced. Let us hope that they will spread their conviction wider and ever wider; for thus can we break down the ignorance and stupidit that have allowed Nazism to corrupt and wreck the German nation.

The army, by submitting proof to the people of Weimar, has struck a bold, hard blow in behalf of the world of tomorrow.

THE HOOVER AMENDMENTS

HERBERT HOOVER'S proposed amendments to the Dumbarton-Yalta draft deserve the earnest consideration of President Truman and our delegation to the Golden Gate conference.

Probably no living man can speak on this subject with a background of more practical experience or longer devotion to a just peace. Moreover, most of the Hoover proposals already are being advocated in some form by the Protestant, Catholic and Jewish peace committees and by responsible statesmen of both political parties.

In suggesting amendments, Mr. Hoover and others are acting on the invitation of the state department and the late President Roosevelt to the public to debate the Dumbarton draft as a tentative plan, subject to perfecting action by the United Nations conference. That point was made again when the Big Three themselves at Yalta introduced important changes. Many of the allies have prepared amendments.

THE SOLE PURPOSE of the Hoover proposals is to strengthen the United Nations organization. They are not academic, not "perfectionist." They are based on the experience of the League of Nations, in an effort to prevent repetition of its failures.

As he points out, the original Dumbarton plan was patterned closely on the old League; but with more authority in the council and less in the assembly. Russia obtained a change which gave each big power veto rights in the council to prevent action against itself as an aggressor. "Practically," says Mr. Hoover, "that puts all of the great military powers out of reach—and world wars are not started by small nations." The old League destroyed itself because it could not stop aggression by two of its council members.

The weakness of the Dumbarton draft—as of the Holy Alliance 125 years ago, and of the League of Nations—is "failure to face the facts as to the real causes of war." He lists these causes as: Imperialism, militarism, economic pressures, militant ideologies, change inherent in progress, fear and hate complexes.

TO DEAL with these causes, he offers the following additions to Dumbarton:

Specify fundamental political rights in the charter and create a league committee to promote them. Provide for peaceful revision of treaties. Create regional subdivisions of the league for Asia, Europe and the Western Hemisphere. Disarm the enemy, and also reduce and limit allied armaments. Preserve the war powers of Congress without delaying action in a crisis. "Take enough time in formulating the peace charter to do it right." Define aggression and provide control of military alliances. Accept the Vandenberg proposal giving the assembly freedom of initiative.

The Dumbarton plan is better than nothing, but we doubt that it is strong enough to handle the basic causes of conflict or to prevent another world war. It would be greatly strengthened by the Hoover proposals.

REFLECTIONS— Our Ernie

By Edward J. Meeman

MEMPHIS, Tenn., April 21—We Scripps-Howard editors were assembled in Washington to decide on co-operative activities for our newspapers.

It was proposed to have Ernie Pyle rove where he pleased, write what he pleased.

One of our group who knew his work said: "Ernie can write so as to interest the washerwoman and the college professor. I think you will like his stuff."

And we did, just as everybody else did. Up to that time Ernie had been aviation editor and managing editor of the Washington Daily News. It was a waste of talent. Editors and managing editors are comparatively easy to get, but you don't find a reporter like Ernie Pyle in a thousand years.

An Example of Simplicity

ERNE BECAME my warm personal friend. I remember his first trip to Memphis. He was traveling over the nation writing stories.

I was surprised to find him and his wife, Jerry, staying at a hotel, which, while clean and good, was modest. He was on-expense account and could have had the best. It was an example of the simplicity that all the world knows about today.

The next time he came to Memphis, it was not a pleasant stay, for he fell ill with the flu. I remember seeing his frail body propped up in bed, and wondering how long he could stand the hardships of hotel life which were part of his life as a roving reporter.

I would not have believed that this man would cover England's war and then our two wars, sleeping in foxholes, making night marches, and taking his place with the soldiers on many battlefronts, enduring greater rigors than perhaps came to any other civilian, and equal to those endured by fighting men.

I sent some flowers to his room to cheer him, and his devoted wife. It touched him. It was typical of him that he was unnecessarily grateful. Years afterward he and that girl would remark that they would never forget what I did for them when Ernie was sick in Memphis.

The Answer to an Editor's Prayer

AT ANOTHER TIME he promised to come out to my house for dinner the next time he was in Memphis. "But please," he said, "don't have more than five people."

When the time came I forgot this injunction and invited a dozen friends to meet Ernie. There was not a person there he did not enjoy meeting and talking to, for he liked everybody, but he would have preferred to have fewer at one time. He liked to sit down with a few friends, a few drinks, and just talk.

Ernie Pyle was the answer to an editor's prayer—the perfect reporter. He did not write, as so many newspapermen do, according to a conventional pattern, restricted by a lot of rules and inhibitions. He just set down, with candor, modesty, and good will, what interested him, and the result interested everybody.

"To be simple is to be great," says Emerson. Ernie Pyle was simple and great—the simplest and greatest of all newspapermen.

WORLD AFFAIRS—

Prelude

By Peter Edson

SAN FRANCISCO, April 21—Establishment of a United Nations Charter and a United Nations Organization that will be approved before the end of 1945 and ready to function by early 1946 is perhaps the most that can be expected from the San Francisco conference convening April 25.

No definite timetable can be made for creating a world peace organization, and the possibility that the whole thing may break down cannot be ignored. There are, however, three distinct phases to the task of making the proposed United Nations organization a going concern:

1. Rewriting the proposals agreed to by representatives of the United States, Great Britain, Soviet Russia and China at the Dumbarton Oaks Conference last summer, putting them into the form of a permanent charter which will be approved at San Francisco.

2. Submission of the San Francisco charter to the separate United Nations. There will be representatives of 46 nations at San Francisco—47 if the new Polish government is ready in time, and 48 if Argentina gets there before the show is over.

The San Francisco conference may set up its own rule on how many nations must accept the charter before it shall become effective. Each government will be left to its own devices in deciding whether to ratify the charter and join the organization, or reject and stay out.

Up to President and Senate

IN THE UNITED STATES the charter will have to be submitted by the President to the Senate and accepted by the Senate before this country can join. If enough governments ratify within six months to put the organization in force before the end of 1945, that will be fast work.

3. When enough governments have ratified the charter to set up the United Nations organization, then the various governments will have to name their delegates to the assembly. The number of representatives for each country will be specified in the charter, if the Dumbarton Oaks proposal is followed. In the United States these representatives will probably be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. They will be men of ambassadorial rank.

The place of meeting for the first sessions of the assembly of the United Nations organization may be designated at San Francisco or may be decided later. There are arguments both for and against holding the first sessions in Geneva, Switzerland, seat of the old League of Nations. Switzerland is a neutral, not one of the United Nations. Convening in the United States is not unlikely. Time of the first meeting of the assembly will, of course, depend on when a sufficient number of nations shall have ratified.

With time and place specified and a quorum of nations having named their representatives, the United Nations organization will be ready to set up housekeeping.

Elect of Officers Comes First

IF THE CHARTER adopted at San Francisco follows the general outline of the proposals made at Dumbarton Oaks, the first business of the organization will include the election of a president, a secretary general, the adoption of the rules of procedure for the assembly, the making of a budget and apportioning of expenses among the member nations.

Next might come the election of the six nations whose representatives will sit on the security council with the representatives of the big five—United States, Great Britain, Soviet Russia, China and France.

Then might come the election of the 18 nations whose representatives will sit on the economic and social council.

All these are functions reserved to the assembly by the Dumbarton Oaks proposals. If these things are accomplished within a year, the world can well consider itself lucky.

With these formalities out of the way, the United Nations organization would be ready to begin its business of maintaining peace and security—suppressing acts of aggression . . . settling international disputes . . . developing friendly relations among nations . . . achieving international cooperation.

To The Point—

TOKYO predicts that Okinawa is a "certain bane" for American invasion of the main home islands. And every Yank wants to get in the act.

THERE is only one place where running things off the ground brings growing interest—the victory gardens.

Nauseated by His Own Stench



POLITICAL SCENE—

Spelled Out

By Charles T. Lucey

WASHINGTON, April 21—If you're an ordinary citizen drawing a weekly paycheck, battling ration points, trying to find shoes for the kids and all that, it may seem a long jump to a bill in Congress to tighten controls on the big government corporations.

There is such a bill, introduced by Senators Byrd (D. Va.) and Butler (R. Neb.), and a Senate committee begins hearings on it today.

The fact is that this matter affects most Americans.

Washington Controls One-Third

A SIMPLE PRIMER might spell it out this way—Before the war, U. S. mills and factories which make the things people buy were on the books for \$39 billion dollars. Private wartime expansion brings this to about \$47 billion dollars.

During the war the federal government has financed mills and factories costing about 16 billions.

That means men in Washington today control or have interest in plants representing in dollars about one-third the value of all privately owned manufacturing capacity in this country.

Never before has the federal government been in fields of private enterprise on such a vast scale.

Employment in these government-built plants has been estimated at 3 1/2 to 4 million persons. That's one-third of the manufacturing payroll of 1939.

Part of this government-owned plant, such as that concerned directly with production of shells and explosives, for example, would not be usable in peace-time. But much of it would.

It All Comes From Your Taxes

CONGRESS HAS been told that Washington, through these huge war holdings, has the power to dominate some industries and smother others.

The reconstruction finance corporation has put up the money—it all comes from your taxes, of course—for the biggest share of this unprecedented industrial expansion. Its total commitments, through defense plant corporations, are about 10 billions.

These include commitments for \$20 complete plants wholly owned by the government, costing about six billions, and expansion of 122 existing privately owned plants costing \$400 millions.

Spelled out by industries, this means—

RFC owns 97 per cent of the country's total synthetic rubber capacity.

It owns about 90 per cent of all aircraft industry production.

It owns more than half of the huge aluminum industry.

It owns 99 per cent of the magnesium industry.

It owns 10 per cent of the steel industry's capacity.

Three Billion Dollars on the Line

THE RFC has put three billion dollars on the line for plants and equipment to build airplanes; one billion for steel plants; 800 millions for aluminum plants; 700 millions for synthetic rubber plants; 119 millions for chemical facilities and 80 millions for machine tool facilities.

What has the Byrd-Butler bill to do with all this?

It would bring the RFC and all other big government corporations under close congressional scrutiny. Many of them have powers far greater than older government departments such as commerce or agriculture or interior, and often their activities have been independent of Congress. The bill would make all these corporations subject to audit of the government's general accounting office, and would make them submit annual budgets to Congress for approval.

Congress has been told that administration of these vast federal holdings in the field of private industry could affect the "economic direction of the country."

The proposed bill would give Congress real authority over them.

IN WASHINGTON—

Favor Seekers

By Douglas Smith

WASHINGTON, April 21—Two men, politically prominent in their home state, made a 1000-mile trip to Washington to see a senator.

They came to try to keep a soldier, the son of one of them, from being shipped overseas.

Their trip was not successful. But except for the distance involved, it was not an isolated incident. Members of Congress don't talk about it publicly, but they spend considerable time answering constituents who want them to intercede in the army's assignment of men.

Requests Run Into Thousands

THESE REQUESTS run into the thousands every week. Some appear reasonable. The number of medical discharges—nearly a million—is generally accepted as proof that many physically unfit men were inducted after inadequate examination. And it is difficult for some parents and wives to understand why one soldier has been in combat a year or more while another, of the same age and with the same physical and mental qualifications, has spent that period in the United States.

But many of the complaints reaching Capitol Hill can be described as "gripes."

A parent reports that his son, a fine boy, is still only a second lieutenant while the boy from down the street who was drafted at the same time, is now a captain. A wife complains that her husband, a capable clerk in civilian life, has to carry a rifle while a man from the same office sits at a desk in Paris.

Members of Congress answer these complaints promptly and refer them to the Army officers in Washington who are assigned to investigate them. And if a case involving apparent discrimination is reported, the congressman frequently presses the case personally.

Congressmen Resent the 'Gripers'

BUT DESPITE their outward politeness, congressmen say they resent the "gripers." Many of them fought in the last war or have sons in this one, and most of the sons are enlisted men who are sharing the dirty, unpleasant fighting and have neither asked nor received special consideration.

The congressmen are also privately amused at the great rush of applications for