

# The Indianapolis Times

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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

### Red War Move in Finland

STALIN is speeding up his schedule for a world show-down. He acts like an aggressor getting ready for a war in a hurry.

Finland and Czechoslovakia are not the only evidences of this. In Germany he has stopped stalling and is consolidating his military and political position. In the Mediterranean he has brought his Yugoslav puppets and the Italian Communists together, and reversed his former opposition to return of Italian colonies as a bid for Italian favor in the April elections. In the Far East his Chinese Reds are racing to mop up strategic Manchuria.

The case of Finland is enlightening because Stalin needs nothing more from the Finns than he already has taken, unless he is preparing for war. They are now working for him under a so-called reparation agreement which amounts to economic slavery. They are disarmed. He has annexed slices of their territory, and established Soviet bases at the door of Helsinki and elsewhere to leave the Finns helpless whenever the Russians want to move in.

Any need Stalin may have for a mutual defense treaty with little disarmed Finland against a now divided and occupied Germany is certainly not urgent. So the excuse Stalin gives for his latest move is a phony. But if he is counting on a war against the Western democracies, then even the semi-independence allowed the Finns under a Red-dominated government becomes risky. For on the record it is the most self-reliant small nation in Europe when it comes to defying mighty Russia—as two Finnish-Russian wars in a decade show.

HAVING detached Finland from the Western World and from the Marshall Plan, he can starve and bleed the Finns into quick defeat in event of trouble. But he cannot now assure complete Finnish co-operation or victory of the unpopular Communists in the coming elections. Not, that is, unless he tightens the screws.

Not the least of his motives in this Finnish move would appear to be its effect on Sweden, Norway and Denmark. Despite all of Stalin's past pressures and the frantic desire of the Scandinavian nations to remain neutral, they are being pulled economically toward the West. Stalin in Finland is closer to them and can wield a bigger stick.

Whether Finland is to be the front door for a Soviet offensive across Northern Europe in event of war, or a back door to be bolted while the Reds advance across Central and Southern Europe, is anybody's guess. The latter would seem more likely. But in either case Stalin's urgent itch to complete the subjugation of Finland—as of Czechoslovakia—is obviously connected with his preparations for war.

### The Great Debate Begins

SEN. VANDENBERG in opening the historic congressional debate on the European Recovery Plan stated the issue which the United States faces. Either we help to head off aggressive communism now or our own freedom will be imperiled. "Stop World War III before it starts."

Though Eastern Europe is gone, Western Europe still stands—unsteadily. There is yet time, if we act quickly, to save those 16 non-Communist countries. The Marshall-Vandenberg Plan has the best chance of helping them to help themselves get on their feet economically. That, added to the Western European Union proposed by Britain, and a defensive military alliance with the United States under the United Nations Charter, can provide security.

Passage of the Marshall-Vandenberg Plan now seems assured in some form. With unanimous committee endorsement it is expected to pass the Senate by Mar. 15. But the House is slow in getting the bill out of committee and is tempted to chisel it below the safety point.

One hitch may be the House committee's desire to combine it with other foreign aid. The Times considers the Greek and Turkish programs imperative. We look to Congress to supply to China the military materials urged by Gens. Wedemeyer and Chennault, but so far withheld by our fumbling administration. The McGovern report just received by the House committee from its special investigator recommends such aid, because: "If China falls into Communist hands in all probability the rest of the Far East also will be engulfed and the effect of our victory in the Pacific war will be nullified."

It would be disastrous if the needs of Western Europe on one side and of Greece, Turkey and China on the other were allowed to block each other. There should be no such rivalry for priority. With Stalin moving on a global front, we must help provide the materials for self-defense in the Far East and Mediterranean no less than in Western Europe.

Whether or not the separate measures for this purpose should be combined by Congress is a question of speed. In this case the fastest method is the best.

The rape of Czechoslovakia, Soviet pressure on Finland, and the Communist sweep in Manchuria did not wait on Congress. Nor will Stalin's next moves.

### A Superior Airfield

BRIG. GEN. HOWARD MAXWELL, state adjutant general, reveals plans to extend the runways at Stout Field from 4495 feet to 5000 feet, and to 7000 feet later.

As soon as this is done, a new portable lighting system will be installed, giving Indianapolis one of the most practical National Guard airfields in the country.

It is wise to keep the air arm of the National Guard strong. We have learned in the last two World Wars that the National Guard is the reservoir for the federal forces, and that all future wars will be fought in the air.

It gives us a feeling of satisfaction to know we shall have an adequate airfield. And we shall have a greater sense of security in the knowledge that our National Guards have had the benefit of superior training facilities should the hour come when they would be called into the service of their country.

## In Tune With the Times

### RED CROSS NURSE

(To Lt. D. E.)

You ask how I came to be a nurse;  
A nurse with a cross of red?  
Humanity called and I answered;  
I knew how her poor heart bled.

You ask, if the long night watch  
Through some soldier's crisis I'm tired?  
I say my body is sore and weak,  
But my soul is never tired.

You ask why I should give my life  
To a cause another might kill?  
If Christ hadn't died for man,  
Then who'd have filled God's will!

—DR. H. LESTELLE GREGORY.

Many states report wild life decreasing  
because of lack of food. Or maybe it's the  
cover charge.

♦ ♦ ♦

### O, WORLD

I'm scared to death in Life's ghostly spinney,  
Where mad bulls paw the dirt and blubber  
red—

Where dead young studs wildly pitch and  
whiney  
And all first limbs are far above my head.

I lie at night upon my bed of rocks,  
A harsh coarse wind whips all my covers  
up—

The dead invade my sleep in phosphor frocks,  
Water sprays my spine from an icy cup.

Where, oh, where is my Father's well built  
house,  
The open fire and the soft feather bed?

Wayward I've been, a poor misguided souse—  
Take me home, O, World, ere you find me  
dead!

—GEORGE S. BILLMAN.

♦ ♦ ♦

Science has gone far, but a lot of husbands  
will tell you that the front door still squeaks  
at 2 a. m.

♦ ♦ ♦

### DESPAIR

I've always known that someday  
I would have to let you go,  
And if my heart is heavy  
It's because I love you so.

I've had to sever all the ties  
That held you close to me,  
Because from here, you'll walk alone,  
The way of man, you see.

I think of all the years ahead  
Of knowledge and of strife  
Before you as you journey down  
The winding road of life.

And now my tears flow freely  
Though I know I am a fool,  
Why goodness sakes, all little boys  
Must someday start to school.

—BETTY ABBETT.

♦ ♦ ♦

A radio entertainer says he begins his day  
right by singing three songs before breakfast.  
We wonder how his neighbors begin theirs.

♦ ♦ ♦

### MY UNWINGED JOY

A mist hung deep o'er the river's edge;  
The moon was wan. I stood in awe,  
For, there beamed at me above a hedge,  
You, my unwinged joy, the fairest face I ever  
saw—

Then faded fast from view.  
Anon, like gray clouds soft on a mountain  
height.

Where the moon points pierce them through,  
My heartaches broach my soul for love of you;  
Like a valley breeze o'er daisies fresh and white,  
Shadow hands lead me on and on.

Down cool dew traces till the break of dawn  
In search of you.

Broad day; now I shall linger by a well,  
Till the whipoorwill, till the evening bell.  
Like the kiss of a rose—or its afterglow—  
The heart of a rose, the song I know,

My darling, my unwinged joy, I love you so!

—GEORGE S. BILLMAN.

♦ ♦ ♦

Two-pants suits are reported more plentiful—and they're mighty handy for the family.

♦ ♦ ♦

### FOSTER'S FOLLIES

(MOSCOW)—Look for U. S. Spies Soviet Army Told."

Red Star warns all Russian forces,  
To be smart, alert and wise,  
And watch the sneaky courses  
Of some mystic U. S. spies.

Should these wild quixotic "vultures"  
(Who are stalking them, they claim)  
Plant the seed of "bourgeois culture"—  
Joe might never be the same.

♦ ♦ ♦

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