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

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Trieste Is Italian

THE American note to Russia proposing a May conference to return Trieste to Italy will influence the Apr. 18 elections. Since the Western Powers suggested the Trieste shift three weeks ago, Italian Communists have been on the defensive and probably have lost ground.

Now Washington, London and Paris are reminding the Italians that Russia, their professed friend, has not even replied to the proposal. Whatever Stalin does he will offend either his Yugoslav puppets or the Italians. He has similar troubles where his other nationalistic satellites are quarreling over territories. But they are safely in his sphere and can't get out, while Italy is still free.

Stalin's effort to use his Yugoslav stooge, Tito, to get the Italian Communists off the hook, has failed so far. Tito suggested negotiations to swap Trieste for Gorizia and other territory. Rome replied that both Trieste and Gorizia were Italian. Since then Tito has been denying he ever made that sour suggestion, and has been looking for a better way to trick the suspicious Italians.

Though the Western proposal to give Trieste back to Italy is clever timing in the midst of a critical Italian election campaign, it is not an unscrupulous reversal of policy. To barter Trieste and wreck a peace treaty for Italian votes would be morally inexcusable and politically self-defeating. It would rise up to curse us in all future treaty enforcement.

THE ITALIAN ELECTION campaign is the occasion but not the cause of the Trieste proposal. The policy itself is a recognition of Italy's just claims, which were compromised by the Western Allies at the Paris treaty conference to bribe Russia and Yugoslavia to keep the peace. That compromise treaty provision for a free state of Trieste has been wrecked by the Reds—not by the Western Powers.

Russia has blocked appointment of a governor and prevented operation of the international machinery specified in the treaty. Yugoslavia has violated the treaty and stolen part of the free territory by converting it into a Yugoslav police state. All of the civil rights guarantees have been destroyed, including free press and free elections. Only the zone occupied by American and British troops has been spared.

For the Western Powers to condone this treaty violation by Stalin and Tito, and leave Italian Trieste to the terrorist rule of alien dictatorship, would be a betrayal of peace and justice. It should be returned to Italy as a matter of right. That this can be proclaimed by the democracies at the moment the same Red dictatorship is trying to capture all Italy by election trickery is a happy, though unintentional, by-product of Stalin's perfidy in Trieste.

Sock the Scalpers

MANY people learned a lot of bad habits on the home front during and after the war. These bad habits came out of shortages, meat coupons and buying restrictions.

Nobody likes under-the-counter deals. Even those who stooped to being on the buyer's end kept pretty quiet. Good people did without scarce items. The other kind lined the pockets of the chiselers.

It has even touched Indiana's favorite winter sport—basketball. Yesterday Judge Joseph M. Howard in Court 3 fined an Indiana man \$100 and costs on a charge of trying to sell tickets to the state basketball tournament for \$25 each when thousands of high school students had to miss the games. The decision will be appealed. But right now we're lining firmly up behind the judge for his strict attitude against scalpers.

We have an unbounded faith in amateur sports. We commend the judge for his insistence that they be kept clean.

Face—Jap and Otherwise

HERE'S one little by-product of the Wisconsin election which we believe should not go unnoticed.

Gen. MacArthur ran second in the voting, and Japanese editors immediately began debating whether he had "lost face" in their country. To an Oriental "face" is an intangible quality as peculiar as it is valuable. It is something deeper, far more important, than reputation or even character. It has to do with one's ability to hold on to his pride; it's close to vanity.

Now Gen. MacArthur has been accused of inordinate vanity, but as an American he well knows he hasn't lost face at home. We don't keep score that way. As for the Japanese, there may be a few quick guesses by their editors that Gen. MacArthur lost face but their masses are not apt to forget that Hirohito lost a war as well as much face. And then came Gen. MacArthur with a new concept called democracy in which there is little to do about face. It's still his job, teaching democracy in Japan, and even at this time he did not pass up the opportunity to drive home a truth when he made this statement: "One of the things which has made our country great is that men may thus freely speak their minds and fearlessly record their individual viewpoints. Let us always preserve it that way."

We hope the Japanese grasp the point that democracy is something in which you can hold on to your face at all times.

Another Campus Casualty

A MONTANA State College student, married, a father, and a veteran of 36 air combat missions, was killed by a college employee in an incident growing out of a campus society initiation. This is only one of many tragedies connected with collegiate pranks which are part of our academic history. But the circumstances make it particularly regrettable.

We aren't against fun. But it would seem, with a more mature student body in America's colleges, that this would be a good time to curb the senseless, dangerous excesses of hazing and initiation in favor of a little more concentration on the serious business of education in a serious world.

In Tune With the Times

VERACIOUS JANE

The mother crooned sweet lullabies to soothe her crying child. Tears flowed free from the baby's eyes. His sobs were deep and wild.

A blue-eyed angel, three years old, watched the babe in surprise. And shook her curly locks of gold at baby brother's cries.

Then mother asked her daughter small, "What caused dear baby's pain?" "It's my toy lost, or did he fall?" "Can you tell mamma, Jane?"

Little Jane's words were clear and true (An angel tells no lie) "I guess I should ought to tell you. Well, dolly whiz, I'll twy!"

Ever' time I turn near to Jim But, doh, I don't know why! (I think it's dat I don't like him) I poked my finger in his eye."

—BETTY LOU BOZE.

Most wrinkles in faces are caused by worrying over things that never will happen and never have.

BABY SITTER

The moon is like a baby sitter Watching over the little stars She probably would have the jitters If they were as little children are.

But I wonder if she has as much fun Watching over her little charges As the baby sitters of the little ones All the little Joes and Marge.

—MILDRED C. YOUNG.

The price of gas, oil and tires makes going broke a short trip by auto.

THE LASTING SMILE

Always as gay as he could be, Even through the trials of life, For what's the use, as he could see, Of frowning in the time of strife.

And when his life came to an end, The smile still lingered on; It traveled swiftly friend to friend, And never has quite gone.

So like his smile, his spirit's here To live on through the years; This man who seldom shed a tear, Helps smile away our fears.

His body resting 'neath the sod Shall ever peaceful lie; He gazes on the face of God, Whose smile shall never die.

—BESSIE CLARK.

When you get too familiar on short notice you're likely not to be noticed for long.

PASSING BY

Once on a windy day I paused and pondered, Is not all life like this?

A gust and then a blast, A gust and everything a man holds dear is gone.

There they go! Through the wind of time, And I remained so still, Something in my eye.

Now how pleasant and calm it is The holocaust has quieted. Things been stirred—repose New life is taking hold From out of death—it shoots its hope.

—M. CURRY.

Who set the price on the good wife's new spring bonnet? We suspect the mad hatter.

FOSTER'S FOLLIES

("WASHINGTON—White House balcony finished; Truman is ready to try it out.")

With his portico completed, Mr. Truman seeks repose. But his aim may be defeated. He may never even doze.

A small matter of direction Has the Chief down in the mouth—His veranda lacks perfection; "Suh," the darned thing faces South!

FOREIGN AFFAIRS . . . By Leigh White

Fifth of Iraqi Starving From Bread Shortage

BAGHDAD, Iraq, Apr. 13—A million Iraqis are slowly starving for lack of bread.

The gnawing physical hunger of a fifth of this country's inhabitants is the basic cause of demonstrations, strikes and riots that have become almost a daily occurrence here since the Saleh Jabr government was forced to resign last January.

Small round khubas of flat Arab bread have increased in price in the last month from 4 to 7 cents. The basic dollar wage of unskilled laborers today buys only four pounds of bread on the open market, whereas in normal times it bought 15.

In neighboring Iran, where workers are also complaining about the high cost of living, the basic \$1.50 wage of unskilled laborers still buys 10 pounds of bread, although it normally bought more than 20.

What Caused the Shortage

THE CAUSE of Iraq's desperate bread shortage is a combination of three factors:

ONE—Last year's drought combined with a plague of locusts.

TWO—Increased exports of wheat to Syria and Trans-Jordan to support the Arab army in Palestine.

THREE—Unimproved living standards, since the war, of skilled workers, artisans and members of the small but growing middle class.

The only solution to the problem is to increase the country's production of wheat. Until such time as Iraq can provide its own population with better than a subsistence diet, as well as export wheat to Syria and Trans-Jordan, the country will be plagued with social turmoil.

Grain Supply Insufficient

EVEN if demands for higher wages are granted—and they usually have been—they will not change the fact that the country's grain supply is not sufficient to feed more than four to five million inhabitants. The only effect of wage increases to date has been to raise the price of bread.

The American and British governments have acted to ameliorate the situation temporarily by persuading the international emergency food commission to divert another 10,000 tons of wheat to Iraq. But our representatives here are convinced that no permanent result will be achieved by taking wheat away from one hungry country and sending it to another.

In a world now chronically short of wheat, the Middle East will have to increase its own wheat production or face eventual starvation.

This is why American representatives here have renewed their efforts to assist the Iraqi Government in going ahead with its plan for a Tigris-Euphrates Valley Authority.

The International Bank has approved in principle a sizable loan to Iraq if its government agrees to carry out the \$250 million project in a manner acceptable to American irrigation experts. But the Iraqi Government is unwilling to accept American assistance until Washington has solved the Palestine problem in a manner acceptable to the Arab League.

The Communist Party meanwhile is gaining considerable influence over the hungry poor in Baghdad, Basra, Mosul and Kirkuk.

What a Day

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