

The Indianapolis Times

A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER

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PAGE 26 Friday, Dec. 2, 1949



Owned and published daily by Indianapolis Times Publishing Co., Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana. Member of the Associated Press, Scripps-Howard News Service, NEA Service and Audit Bureau of Circulations.

Telephone RI ley 5551

Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

Right Turn

NEW ZEALAND is a long way from Indianapolis. Any attempt to pontificate about the precise significance of the election in that country would be hazardous.

The fact is that a labor government, which had given New Zealand advanced social and welfare legislation and held power for 14 unbroken years, was turned out of office.

The opposing Nationalist Party appears to have won 46 of the 80 seats in the parliament at Wellington and has the voters' mandate to form a new government.

IN LONDON, Lord Wolverton, chairman of the British Conservative Party, hails this as "a sign of the times" and predicts that Britain's Labor government will meet a similar fate in the coming elections there. Winston Churchill, celebrating his 75th birthday, probably chuckled over the returns from New Zealand.

Sidney George Holland, who is to become New Zealand's prime minister, promises that his party will lift controls on free enterprise, will lower taxes, but will not reduce wages or impair social benefits. How faithfully these promises can be kept, of course, remains to be seen.

BUT IT IS clear that the Labor Party government, headed by Prime Minister Peter Fraser, has been suffering loss of popularity for several years. And, certainly, it seems possible that the people of New Zealand finally decided they were paying too high a price for the social insurance, health and other welfare projects which often have been cited as shining examples for other democratic countries, including the United States.

Whether this election signals the rightward turn of a world tide which long has appeared to be running all the other way is a question sure to be hotly debated. That will be all to the good if the debate produces light as well as heat.

Lost Face

A SKED if he thought the United States had "lost face" because of the Angus Ward case, Secretary of State Acheson replied that the problem of face was a "foolish Oriental conception" which seems to have seized the American public but which he himself did not accept.

This is a revealing admission by Mr. Acheson.

"Face," in the Orient, means prestige. Prestige is "moral influence due to past reputation and achievements," according to Webster. The moral influence of America is the most vital factor in this troubled world.

BRITAIN and France lost face at Munich when they bowed to Adolf Hitler. We know what followed that.

The United States lost face at Pearl Harbor and again when Corregidor fell. We had to win it back by the blood shed at Guadalcanal, Saipan, Leyte, Luzon, Manila, Iwo Jima, Okinawa and in countless air and sea battles. Now, for four years, the State Department has been frittering away that hard-won prestige by its appeasement policy in the Far East.

Our moral influence is at low ebb in that part of the world.

Manchuria and China have been lost to the Reds. The rest of Asia is threatened. We are doing nothing about it.

We aren't even upholding the basic rights of American citizens, which used to be the cornerstone of American foreign policy everywhere.

ANGUS WARD has been released from prison, but he hasn't been brought out of Manchuria. Two Naval fliers, Elmer C. Bender of Cincinnati and William C. Smith of Long Beach, Cal., have been in Communist custody for more than a year. Our government has made no real effort to obtain their release. Two other American officials are held in Red Korea.

These cases involve American prestige, American honor, American integrity.

It is the duty of our government to bring these people home. The American people should insist that this duty be done.

Thomas and May

J. PARNELL THOMAS of New Jersey, a Republican member of Congress for 13 years, has chosen not to defend himself against charges of padding congressional payrolls and taking salary "kickbacks" from fictitious employees.

In Federal District Court at Washington he withdrew his previous "not guilty" plea and threw himself on the court's mercy.

This was after government witnesses had testified that Thomas required his woman secretary to join in a conspiracy through which he pocketed some \$9000 illegally collected from the House of Representatives and its Committee on Un-American Activities. Thomas was chairman of that committee in the 1947-48 Republican Congress.

LIKE former Rep. Andrew J. May, Kentucky Democrat convicted with the Garson brothers of a wartime munitions contract conspiracy, Thomas is expected to ask a lenient penalty.

The maximum under the four counts of his indictment could be 32 years' imprisonment and fines totaling \$40,000. May and the Garsons are under prison sentences of eight months to two years.

In one sense, it is true that Thomas and May already have been severely punished. They have fallen from positions of trust and honor. They stand disgraced before the American people. Both contend that their health has been broken. It is for judges, not for us, to decide what their legal punishment shall be.

But they have little claim to public sympathy. Each man betrayed his trust. Each dishonored himself. And Thomas, who posed as a great defender of his country against un-American forces, has given aid and comfort to the Communists who seek to discredit the efforts of Congress to expose their subversive activities.

EVASION... By Ludwell Denny

Fear of Stalin Weakens UN

Seen Trying to Save Itself By Not Offending Moscow

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2—The United Nations is sick. In handling the issue of Russian aggression against China, it is pained by fear.

It is not trying to defend the sanctity of treaties. It is not upholding the charter. It is intent on saving its own hide by not offending Stalin.

A case might be made for this evasion, if it were not for history. Certainly the United Nations is more important than China, or at least than the Chinese Nationalist government. So the defeatists argue.

"Since the Reds already have most of China and cannot be ousted, why weaken and perhaps destroy the United Nations in vain heroics—we must be practical."

Boycott of Debate

THEY point to Russia's boycott of the United Nations' action on China's resolution of indictment and Vishinsky's advance, refuse to recognize any action taken by the United Nations along such lines.

The theory is that Stalin can kill the United Nations. Therefore he must be appeased—at least until the international organization is far stronger than now.

But that theory is belied by history. The League of Nations was not killed by aggressors. It died of evading the challenge of aggressors. Its malady was internal. By trying to save its own life at the expense of its weaker members, it lost its life. That is why the ghost of the league haunts the timorous United Nations today.

Appeasement of Stalin

BUT even the League of Nations, however inadequately and belated, did far more to condemn Japanese aggression in China than the United Nations contemplates in the case of Soviet aggression there.

It is true the United Nations was born out of appeasement of Stalin. He would join no international security organization which could take full and effective action against Soviet violation of the charter.

Therefore he was bribed with multiple seats and veto rights over the Security Council which controls the enforcement power.

But our part of that bargain was that the General Assembly should have moral power, that it could debate, investigate, judge—even though it could not police its decisions.

Evasion of Issue

THE Assembly, in its apparently overwhelming reluctance to condemn this aggression, is evading its reason for existence. The Chinese government does not ask the use of United Nations force, but merely judgment against aggression and withholding of military and diplomatic aid from the Red puppet regime.

Even the face-saving resolution introduced by the United States and four small nations has not yet been supported by Britain, France, the Arab bloc or the Latin American group.

And if they do finally vote for that measure of pious pussyfooting, Britain and France probably eventually will recognize Stalin's China stakes anyway.

So the United Nations is in danger of suffering more from the weakness of its friends than from the strength of its Soviet enemies.

TWO HOMES ON CHRISTMAS EVE

In one, a cozy room where logs throw out both warmth and cheer!

A Christmas tree all bright with lights, a boy and girl who linger near

In happy anticipation of the 'morrow and what they will find.

Every wish fulfilled, with to—" and gifts Old Santa left behind.

These two have never known the sting of poverty's grim hand

Or a Christmas Eve without a tree they could never understand.

♦ ♦ ♦

A few blocks away on another street there's a home this Christmas Eve.

Where little children gather 'round and talk of toys that are only make believe!

Their little bodies are thinly clad but they are not thinking of the cold

If only Santa Claus would come, like in stories they'd been told!

They had seen the dollsies in a row, drums, wagons, dishes, all in colors bright

In store windows... and they wonder now, will Santa come on this Christmas Eve night?

Frances Richmond, Columbus

COLONIAL PROBLEMS... By Bruce Biossat

Road-Block on Reds

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2—Americans find it hard to get steamed up over issues like what is to happen to Italy's prewar colonies in North Africa. But there's a good reason why they ought to care: The world's colonial areas today are prime breeding spots for communism.

The First World War generated a great upsurge in nationalist sentiment among subject peoples in Europe and elsewhere. New nations were carved out. It is now abundantly clear that World War II unleashed a similar powerful drive toward self-determination among colonial people.

India's independence, the newly conceived United States of Indonesia, the end of the British mandate in Palestine, these are milestones in that drive.

There is no question the Arab populations of Libya, Eritrea and Italian Somaliland, Italy's African colonies, have felt the contagion of this movement for independence.

The existence of the United Nations has been a compelling factor in cementing bonds between colonial peoples in widely scattered areas. Countries which have racial or religious ties with colonial groups have a real voice in the world forum for the first time. They have made themselves heard.

Moscow correctly gauged the social and political ferment stirred by the war. It has stepped up Communist agitation among colonial peoples, hoping to warp their intense feelings to Russia's purposes.

Russia's counter-proposals called for immediate independence of Libya and freedom for Somaliland and Eritrea within five years. They were never voted on by the assembly.

It is likely that the agreed solution will go a long way toward eliminating Italian colonies as fertile spawning grounds for the enemies of the free world.

Yes, Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus

By Ludwell Denny

Seen Trying to Save Itself By Not Offending Moscow

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