

Washington Digest

Country Warned to Guard Against Race Disturbances

Insecurity in Reconversion Period May Be Cause for Smouldering Resentment; Minor Incident May Start Trouble.

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There is a small group in Washington very much concerned over a matter which is a part of reconversion and about which they can do very little. That is the question of race riots likely to accompany demobilization.

I was surprised to learn how predictable these clashes are, from the following statement by Alfred McClung Lee in a pamphlet produced by a non-profit agency, the American Council of American Race Relations. It was this:

"The federal office of facts and figures (later called the office of War Information) had a confidential report 15 months before the 1943 Detroit race riot that included this sentence: 'Unless some socially constructive steps are taken shortly, the tension that is developing is very likely to burst into active conflict.'"

The day after the rioting began, the Detroit Free Press stated: "Two months ago everybody in Detroit familiar with the situation knew that race riots were inevitable."

It is worth noting that the professional observers were much farther ahead than the newspaper — and newspaper reporters are pretty highly trained investigators themselves. And they did know what was coming well in advance.

But the fact remained that nobody did anything about it.

And that is where you and I step into the picture. Now nobody but a very small class of professional inciters of riot want race riots anymore than anyone but a very small class of professional criminals are in favor of crime. But most people do not realize that these clashes can be avoided and very few indeed realize that they are symptoms and not the disease itself.

The basic cause of the group tensions which burst into savage flame, destroy property, interfere with business and nearly always cost lives, is insecurity, just as insecurity is one of the basic causes of wars. A man with a job and firm prospects of keeping it who lives in healthy and decent surroundings does not want a riot with anybody. It is the man who is unhappy and because he is not able to do anything about it, who looks around for a scapegoat upon whom he can blame all his troubles. He naturally turns against a group whose members have a different appearance and different customs from his own.

The long-range cure for this disease is better living conditions, housing and employment. But it is not of the long-range treatment I want to speak, but of the immediate, simple things that you and I can do to stop these tensions before they break.

Seven Steps for Breaking Tension

First, there are seven things you must know about. One of the first signs of trouble is the rumor crop. You begin to hear a lot of stories most of which later will prove to have been untrue. They may be started by subversive groups; some will have a grain of truth in them. They will include tales of planned, imminent violence; of some group arming itself for attack or outbreak. Then come stories of violent assault, crime and murder. This creates the beginning of tension; the group accused becomes frightened and shows it. This lends color to the tales.

Then come the "incidents." Incidents usually begin to occur in crowded places. They might be passed off and forgotten if a background of hate, fear and suspicion had not been built up. As one observer said to me: "Riots always start when folks get out and bump into each other."

The third point to look for when it is clear that rumors have been thick and incidents have begun to happen is some subversive group which may be promoting the trouble for its own ends. Some of these groups will have very high and mighty ideals and very frequently they will be wrapped up in the flag. (Ku Klux, Black Legion, etc.)

The fourth point to watch is crime reports because it is really the hooligan element which finally steps in to do the actual rioting.

The fifth is the police attitude. If there is evidence of increased friendliness with the hooligan element and of a distrust of the police by the minority group it usually means that the tension has reached a high point — the forces of order and the forces of disorder are making common cause against the alleged threat of the minority.

The two other danger points are congestion, of which I spoke before (bumping into each other) which may grow out of crowded housing, and labor conditions where the minority protests or appears to threaten to protest discrimination in hiring and firing.

With these points as a guide any citizen can learn to recognize the symptoms of danger. There are plenty of people in any community who know what is happening — the people whose work takes them into the danger zones, like social workers and police reporters. A school teacher can learn a lot from what the children say and do.

But long before the situation reaches even the rumor stage there must be emergency planning in the community. A program must be set up in which certain groups have certain definite things to do the moment the "observers" see the danger signals. Here they are:

Be sure the mayor knows exactly what steps to take to get the help of the state militia. Have the clergymen lined up to use their influence and if necessary appear in person — mobs respect the church. Work out school programs, radio programs, newspaper campaigns — the veterans organizations and the boy scouts will help, the civic and public utilities, labor and business will co-operate.

While President Truman was still on the high seas en route for home, he and his staff began the careful briefing of the correspondents, telling them many details which were not for publication but which will gradually find their way into the public prints.

They also gave out specific news items for publication, one of which stated that it was largely the suggestions of the American delegation which made up the agenda. This



President Harry S. Truman

may or may not have been aimed at comments in Washington by anti-administration spokesmen who charged that the communique of the Big Three seemed to reflect chiefly Russian demands.

I believe that history will show that the President's claim will be literally true. This may not mean that America got the majority of the things she wanted but rather that what could be agreed upon was largely the result of the President's policy of insisting on a solution by compromise rather than a stalemate.

The great test of America's position will come later. We are the most conservative of the great powers. We are the only one in which capitalism is threatened by attack from within more than from without. I mean that the majority of the nation undoubtedly favor capitalism whereas the present British government (the only other large democratic power as we accept democracy) is socialistic. Dangers to the American capitalistic system, most observers in Washington agree, come from a small group whose selfish interests are the greatest threat to the system of private enterprise.

BARBS... by Baukhage

They call the counterfeit squad the mince-pies and I suppose since money talks you could call the grunt from a buffalo penny mint-sauce.

It is easier for a man to get into the army than it is for a dog to join the famous K-9 corps. G.I.s sometimes get into the hoghouse but you seldom see a war-pup in the dog-house.

The census bureau says the average father is 44 years old. Average wife's age (confidential).

The best epigram on the victory of the labor party in England was made by Sir Wilmot Lewis, veteran Washington correspondent of the London Times. He said, "My country, may she always be right, but my country right or left."

So This Is, or Was, Hiroshima



An aerial view of the Japanese city of Hiroshima, an important industrial center and military base, which was the first target to be hit by the new atomic bomb, announced by President Truman. The following morning the Japs admitted extensive damage done by the new "bombs." Only one bomb was dropped and sixty per cent of the city estimated destroyed.

With but One Single Thought



Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, left, and General of the Army Douglas MacArthur are shown as they chatted at General MacArthur's headquarters, during the visit of Lord Louis to the Philippines area recently. They laid plans for fast and complete victory over the Japs. Mountbatten commands the Southeast Asia area against Japan.

Ready for Mikado's White Horse



Recalling Admiral William F. Halsey's (insert) intention to ride the Mikado's white horse down the streets of Tokyo, the Reno, Nev., chamber of commerce decided he shouldn't be riding bareback. This silver-mounted saddle, which craftsmen acclaimed a masterpiece and costing \$3,000, has been forwarded to the Admiral to go with his recently acquired spurs.

Japs Wanted Atomic Bomb Data



This picture shows three Japanese scientists who went to Berkeley, Calif., in 1940, and tried vainly to ferret out American secrets of atomic research. Dr. Ed. McMillan, University of California physicist, is shown feeding them accurate but worthless information. The final lesson was given by crews of superfortresses recently over their cities.

Atomic Bomb Expert



To Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, theoretical physicist of the University of California, goes the credit for achieving the implementation of atomic energy for military purposes. Working with a staff of scientists throughout the nation "the impossible" was accomplished.

Major Bong Killed



Maj. Richard Ira Bong, 24-year-old flier—top ranking U. S. ace with 40 Japanese planes downed in combat, was killed as he struggled to escape from the P-80 Shooting Star he had taken up for test at Burbank, Calif. His parachute was partly opened.

Player of Jai-Alai



Jai-alai may never take the place of baseball or basketball, but it has won plenty of followers in the United States since it was introduced a year ago at Miami, Fla. It holds the top spot among sports in Spanish and Latin-American countries.

Congresswoman Acts



Preparing to play the leading role in "Candida," Congresswoman Clare Boothe Luce is shown in her costume for the George Bernard Shaw play opening in Stamford, Conn.



NO DUKE CHURCHILL
When Winston Churchill turned down a knighthood this week, his son, Randolph Churchill, probably heaved a big sigh of relief.

For it meant that his father, in turning down this lesser honor, probably would not accept a dukedom or any other high reward. Should the elder Churchill accept a peerage, he would move into the House of Lords, which would mean that his son, Randolph, upon his father's death, automatically would become a lord, thereby forfeiting the chance of a fighting political career as a commoner.

To inherit a title is the last thing young Churchill wants. His future career lies in the House of Commons, like his father.

Knowing his son's ambition, the prime minister used to hold a sword of Damocles over Randolph's head. When the mercurial Randolph got out of hand, his father half-jokingly would warn: "Tut, tut. Be careful or I'll take a peerage."

BATTLE OVER STEEL
One of the hottest fights in the whole hot history of the War Production board has been raging backstage regarding the future allocation of steel to industry.

It is a fight affecting almost every business in the country — large and small — and if the big industry boys get their way, civilian manufacturers will get less material even than during the third quarter of this year, when we were still fighting a two-front war.

The fight is over how sheet steel shall be allocated.

Basically, this boils down to whether the big automobile companies will get it all, or whether other manufacturers will be given at least a little.

It is exactly the same fight, in reverse, which occurred before Pearl Harbor. At that time, the automobile industry was using up most of the sheet steel. War production was held up until their output could be curtailed, and the auto boys pulled all sorts of wires to keep on producing cars.

Now, the same wires are being pulled to let steel be completely free, and not allocated to anyone. This is just another way of saying that the automobile companies will get it all, because they are the biggest peace-time buyers of steel and the steel companies naturally like to please their best customers.

Big Business WFB
Today, the War Production board, under chairman "Cap" Krug, is more big-business-controlled than ever, so the automobile boys may get their way.

Their fight inside WFB is being led by Vice Chairman Harold Boeschstein, whose glass company sells headlights to auto manufacturers. He and other WFB moguls argue that the present "controlled materials plan" should be "open-ended," in other words, after a steel mill has completed its "must" government orders, it can sell whatever steel is left over to anyone it wishes.

Hitherto, farm machinery, hardware, the railroads and various war-supporting industries got definite steel allocations from the government. They were always assured some steel. Under the new proposal, however, they would have to scramble for it in competition with the automobile companies.

While the railroads, farm implement companies, et al, doubtless can look after themselves, a long list of small manufacturers also would be affected — those making hardware, electric irons, washing machines, etc. Hitherto, they have been able to get a certain amount of steel allocated to them by WFB. But under the proposed new plan, they would have to scramble for it. And in any battle with the auto companies, it is not difficult to guess where they would come out.

Actually there will be very little steel to scramble for. After war needs and war-supporting needs are met, it is estimated only about 1,000,000 tons of sheet steel will be left over. If WFB moguls have their way, however, the scramble will begin in the fourth quarter of this year.

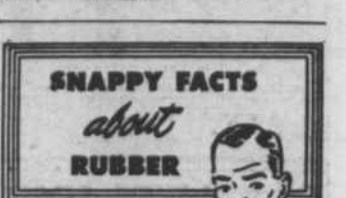
NOTE—It will be up to new War Mobilizer John Snyder to make the final decision.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Every mother's son west of the Mississippi river — and some east — are making moves to get the cabinet job of the toughest, most fearless member of the FDR cabinet—Harold Ickes. Jim Patton of Denver, head of the farmers union, is one of them. Another is Gen. Gov. Bob Kerr of Oklahoma, who led the switching of delegates to Truman during the Chicago convention. . . . However, "Harold the Ick" may fool 'em.

Upset Stomach

Relieved in 5 minutes or double money back. When stomach acid causes pain, indigestion, gas, sour stomach and heartburn, doctors usually prescribe the fastest-acting medicine known for symptomatic relief—medicines like those in Doan's Backache Kidney Pills. Doan's Backache Kidney Pills in a 50¢ or double your money back on return of bottle to us. Be at all drug stores.



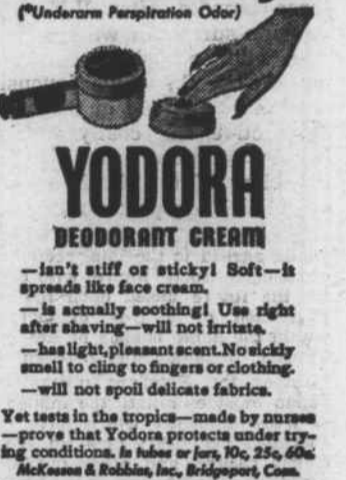
1,417,000 airplane tires were built in 1944—73% more than were produced in 1941.

Carbon black is a pigment which, when mixed with rubber, reinforces the molecules of rubber—similar to the way slag or pebbles are used in reinforcing concrete. It is the third most-important material that goes into a tire.

Shortages of carbon black, textiles and wire are largely responsible for the present critical shortage of tires. Over 125 feet of steel wire are used in the construction of an average-size passenger car tire.



A Dab a Day keeps P.O.* away! (Underarm Perspiration Odor)



Your Baby May Have Good Reason to Cry. After a night of lost sleep, it is hard to be patient with baby; but maybe poor baby suffered from stinging and burning of diaper rash. Sprinkle on Mezzana, the soothing, medicated powder—relieve this misery. Family favorite for itch of minor skin troubles. Demand Mezzana.



If you suffer from hot flashes, feel weak, nervous, high-strung, a bit blue at times—due to the functional "middle-age" period peculiar to women—try this great medicine—Lectin S. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to relieve such symptoms. Pinkham's Compound keeps nature. It's one of the best known medicines for this purpose. Follow label directions.

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