

Washington Digest

Hoover Hears Call To Help Feed Hungry

Cites Great Need for Food Grains Overseas; Asks Americans to Pull in Belts, Invite 'Invisible Guests' to Their Tables.

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, 1616 Eye street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The speed with which the American people have run away from the war is incredible. Like the lazy workman who drops his hammer and leaps for the dinner pail at the first toot of noon, we began a stampede for the dining table on V-J Day.

Stampedes always make trouble for someone. Many hundreds of people will starve as a result, and heaven only knows how the cause of democracy throughout the world may suffer.

We could not foretell, but we could have made allowance for possible crop failures. They were catastrophic in many countries. We could have pursued a different food policy at home. We shook with fear lest there would be surpluses, we tried to get the people to eat up their stored supplies and counseled restrictions on food production to prevent a glutted market, especially in eggs and poultry. And how we ate!

That is why, a few days ago, we hailed back Herbert Hoover into service. He said he had promised

ing lives. Then, near the close of the interview, he said in the same matter-of-fact tone, "There is one message I would like to give to the households of America." There was a long pause. Finally he spoke—looking at nobody, as is his habit—"I would like to have them entertain at their tables an invisible guest."

And so the old engineer, so often accused of having a heart of wood, the man of slide-rule and logarithms, painted a deeply moving picture in the simplest of words and in the simplest ways. I left the interview feeling sure that however America had been stuffing itself since the end of the fighting (we have run up the biggest food bill in history) we would be willing to conserve enough so that Mr. Hoover's invisible guests wouldn't leave our tables hungry.

Semantics—Aid to Strike Settlements

When President Truman, at a recent White House press and radio conference, talked about the hundreds of labor disputes which were settled by conciliation without



Mr. Hoover (left) addresses press conference on food situation.

his family for years to go fishing with them and he had only got started when he heard that ominous phrase on the telephone, "White House calling." He may have been reluctant to leave the enticing fish-filled Florida waters but there is no doubt that it was a keen satisfaction to him to get back into harness again, especially since he was called upon to do a job he knew he could do well. Whatever the public that snowed him under in the 1932 elections may have said and felt at that time, however glad the Republicans were to edge him out of politics, there were few who would deny that he was a success at feeding the hungry during and after World War I.

Ex-President Inspires Press

It was really inspiring to hear him. Not that Mr. Hoover could ever pull you out of your seat with frenetic oratory or raise your emotions to a fever heat with his personality. It was, indeed, the matter-of-fact, almost prosaic way in which he made his appeal that gave it weight. We were gathered in a small hotel "parlor." It was crowded. We overflowed the chairs and sat on tables and in the window niches. Many of us couldn't see him. Most of the time I could catch only a glimpse of one fold in his generous pink neck. He had the facts and the figures all right—nine million tons of grain alone were needed to prevent starvation. At present there was only enough good grain in sight to make up 60 per cent of the need, etc. But he gave us more than facts as he explained what America must do and what he was sure Americans would do. He gave us faith.

He tossed the idea of rationing with cards out of the window without even a gesture. He said the American people would ration themselves, said they would have done it in the war that way too.

And when reporters asked questions with political implications he refused even to discuss that phase of the subject. He was talking about human beings, he said, about sav-

strikes and which never made the headlines, I couldn't help thinking of a conversation I had with Maj. Charles Estes, one of the labor department's anonymous heroes of these bloodless and successful encounters.

Estes has what it takes to be a conciliator and in his case it includes, along with a keen sensitivity to the human side of all relationships among workers and employers, a keen sense for the nice use of words. Indeed, semantics (the science of meanings, as contrasted with phonetics, the science of sounds) is his hobby.

"The ultimate goal of the conciliation service of the labor department is not merely the settlement of disputes but the prevention of disputes," said Major Estes the other day. And then he went on to expand on his thesis that the crux of labor-management relations is human adjustment, the adjustment of one person to another.

The main trouble, he says, is poor communication, which is poor for three reasons: 1, poor reception, or imperfect listening and perception; 2, poor digestion, or inaccurate interpretation and assimilation of what is read or heard; and 3, poor transmission, or inadequate use of speech and language.

Estes can go on for hours on that subject and will, at the drop of a hat. In fact, once when, interested though I was, I had to tear myself away for a pressing engagement, I could only do so after convincing him that I was not anti-semantic. I wish I had space to develop his ideas for they represent a practical system which he and his colleagues have demonstrated in "hundreds" of successes as the President put it.

Like most successful systems, the conciliation service's methods are based on a solid foundation of long, hard preparation and represent the concentrated ounce of prophylactic procedure that is worth a pound of exhausting arbitration, administered after the patient is already ill.

BARBS . . . by Baukhage

Our government says it doesn't think Franco is a threat to international peace. So that's that. And the democratic elements in Spain seem to be no threat to Franco.

No one can be really objective about the contents of a book, any more than a dog can be philosophical about the contents of a butcher shop.

The Swedish discoverer of Greta Garbo has just died at 64. It's a nice life while it lasts.

You can't dispose of the Indonesian situation as just another struggle for independence, another American revolution. There is far more difference between the two situations than there is between mocha and java.



STATIC IS THE WORD FOR POSTWAR HOLLAND . . . The reconstruction period in postwar Holland is the forgetting period. The Dutch, tortured by four years of German occupation, are doing their best to wipe out the memory but do not have the wherewithal with which to rebuild the vast areas of their bombed cities, which still look as they did at the end of the war. There is no building material, no machinery and apparently no planning. Insert shows a pathetic figure in this era, Queen Wilhelmina, as she drove through The Hague ruins.



OKLAHOMA 4-H AND FFA SHOW PRODUCED REAL WINNERS . . . Competition among 4-H club and FFA entries reached a new high at the Oklahoma Livestock show, Oklahoma City. Ellabell Swigart, Mooreland, lower left, had the grand champion with her hereford calf, Raymond Luckinbill, 15, Guthrie, upper right, won the 4-H championship with his shorthorn calf. Grand championship lamb was won by southdown owned by Doc Clark, Frederick, upper left. A duroc jersey owned by Jerome Smith, Banner, lower right, champion pig.



TITO TAKES AMBASSADOR HUNTING . . . U. S. Ambassador Richard C. Patterson Jr., right, and Marshal Tito, head of the federative peoples republic of Yugoslavia, are pictured preparing for a hunting trip near Ruma. Ambassador Patterson left shortly after the hunt for a vacation trip to the U. S.



EDGE ON ATOMIC ENERGY . . . Dr. Arthur H. Compton of Washington university, St. Louis, Mo., one of the leading atomic scientists, who played a leading part in the development of the atomic bomb, shows his wife, while vacationing at Atlantic City, N. J., that he can handle O'Dobbin, just as well as he handled the atomic experiments. Mrs. Compton was a delegate to the YMCA convention.



NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

OVERHAULING OF UNRRA BY HOOVER EXPECTED

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The official whisper sent to the senate behind the Hoover appointment to world famine relief played down the job as a mere survey. Inquiring newsmen were told the Republican ex-President and skilled world food-handler was only to find out how much food was needed and how much was available—the job of a statistician or economist.



HERBERT HOOVER

Immediately, however, the reigning world food reliever, Herbert Lehman of UNRRA, was announced to be ill—whether from the news of the Hoover appointment or not. He offered his resignation to the world council of UNRRA opening Friday at Atlantic City.

These dovetailing circumstances lent credence to a natural interpretation that a complete overhaul of our relief efforts is at hand. Mr. Truman had earlier blackened the wheat content of bread, and his action took such swift effect that my baker this week began complaining that his flour had become grossly inferior, and that Mr. Truman did not know the severe effects of such an order. The quality of the loaf he gave me of this basic poor man's food certainly furnished evidence of a colossal mistake—or many of them—somewhere.

PUBLIC ASKED TO RATION FOOD ON VOLUNTARY BASIS

I thought Messrs. Truman and Hoover, in later announcements, displayed a somewhat different approach to the matter. Mr. Truman asked the people to cut the use of wheat by 40 per cent and fats by 20 per cent, and Mr. Hoover spoke of setting up "a circuit of helpfulness around the world." Both generally indicated by their words that they would appeal for voluntary cooperation by the people in a truly democratic way. This was in clear contrast to totalitarian methods of requiring conformance by economic tricks and the force-methods so familiar during the war, both of which we borrowed to a considerable degree from the Nazi and Fascist ways. Officially it was said, for instance, we need not have rationing.

Personally I will say I will be able to avoid bread entirely, if the flour is to be corrupted to the extent of the last loaf I got. But as I say, bread is the poor man's basic food, the staff of life, and what I would like to see is the maintenance of its full quality for our people, and the feeding of famine victims to whatever extent is necessary.

I do not believe our food should have been—or should be—used for political purposes, for buying support abroad, unless we have surplus. Our contribution should be limited to what is required to relieve actual human suffering. Now as to statistics on this subject, I have found from experience that a politically minded person can get nearly any kind he wants, and a careful sincere man must guard himself to the utmost against being misled into false assumptions by social reforming statisticians.

A reasonable and a democratic solution, with public support, seems possible to achieve, and a man of Mr. Hoover's experience should have a chance to work it out with the new Truman famine emergency committee.

Certainly nearly anything could be expected to be an improvement on the Lehman administration of UNRRA. Those senators and representatives who have gone abroad the past year or more have returned with astonishing tales of its inefficiency. Mr. Truman tried to help some by giving the army much of the job, and congress was ready to cut off UNRRA appropriations. However, the UNRRA planners marshaled their forces and recently got their appropriations in substance, after a fight.



CURE FOR FLU . . . Dr. Wendell M. Stanley, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, Princeton, N. J., discoverer of the centrifuge type of influenza vaccine which should save the lives of millions of people.



JAPAN'S POLICY . . . Is being reorganized by Lewis J. Valentine, former police commissioner of New York City. As police commissioner he was credited nationally as having the most efficient police system in the United States, a valuable asset in placing the Japanese police upon an efficient non-political basis. General MacArthur, who appointed Commissioner Valentine, has stated that he will have unlimited power.

Handy Spice Chest; Labels for Drawers

THE actual-size pattern for making this spice chest is used like a dress pattern. Just lay the pattern on the material and trace the cutting lines.



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Also included are detailed directions for assembling with brads and modern glue. This one-evening project may be made with the simplest hand tools as there are no difficult joinings.

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That Nagging Backache

May Warn of Disordered Kidney Action

Modern life with its hurry and worry, irregular habits, improper eating and drinking—is a risk of exposure and infection—throws heavy strain on the work of the kidneys. They are apt to become over-taxed and fail to filter excess acid and other impurities from the life-giving blood.

You may suffer nagging backache, headache, dizziness, getting up nights, leg pains, swelling—feel constantly tired, nervous, all worn out. Other signs of kidney or bladder disorder are sometimes burning, scanty or too frequent urination.

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