

Thompson: ERP Has Effectively Countered Immediate Threat Of Communism

No Consistent Progress Toward Goal Of Better Integration Of Europe

Dorothy Thompson

Michael L. Hoffman, correspondent of The New York Times is reporting from Geneva on the results of the first six months of the European Recovery program.

Admitting that ERP effectively has countered the immediate threat of communism by preventing starvation and collapse of picture he presents is not of consistent progress toward the goal of greater production and better integration of the European economy. "The remarkable snap-back of European production between 1945 and 1947 has not only been converted during 1948 into a trend toward higher levels. . . Only the combined United States British zones of Germany has shown marked, steady progress from 50 to nearly 80 per cent of 1936 levels."

Close following of reports from Europe indicates that the greatest weakness in the European picture is France, and that this weakness is not basically economic but moral and political. In respect of natural resources, fertile land and numbers of population that must live from these, France is the richest country of Europe. But morally the country is disintegrated.

The lack of simple patriotism of the French businessman—his consistent avoidance for instance of taxes—was noted by Eric Johnston in a report to the New York Chamber of Commerce on his recent trip to Europe. One need not leave New York to see evidence of the flight of French capital, while private black marketeering in ERP goods assigned to France can be discovered as far east as Turkey.

This lack of patriotism is matched in the ranks of labor whose strikes — Communist-inspired or

not — take no heed whatever of French realities while Communists whose number is large, have patriotism only for the Soviet Union.

But if patriotism—the willingness to sacrifice and endure discipline for the welfare of the community — is conspicuously lacking, French nationalism has not abated, and consists of the demand that other countries should make a sacrifice for France. Britain and Belgium, who have brought a high degree of order into their economies, through patriotic discipline, are penalized for it by ERP, while France is rewarded for bankruptcy.

And if France — or rather Frenchmen — learned anything politically from the experience of the Versailles period and its outcome, it is not discernible. Again Frenchmen want to repeat the errors of the 1920's and forge a cordon around both Germany and the Soviet Union. That this unrealistic program which between Germany and Russia, was the basic cause of World War II escapes their notice, and that the situation is incomparably less favorable for such a policy today does not change their obsession.

Britain and the United States do, to be sure, whittle down French claims, but they lack the desperate resolve which animates the French hysteria. French policies are not adopted in full — to do so would collapse the whole recovery program — but enough the creation of a stable and workable settlement. Without being strong and vital enough to thwart the only constructive evolution. As a witty friend wrote me the other day, "In missing a train, it doesn't matter whether you miss it by a minute or an hour."

DAILY BIBLE QUOTATION

"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." 2 Corinthians 7:1

This month's daily Bible quotations are suggested by the Rev. C. S. Grogan, pastor of the Church of God in Roanoke Rapids.

Comming — "The Christmas Story"

In this age of irreligious cynicism, the Herald takes pleasure in presenting six majestic drawings of "The Christmas Story" beginning Sunday and continuing through Friday. They are drawn by the greatest creator of beauty in art living today — Hal Foster.

Hundreds of men, women, and children will clip the series as keepsakes; they will turn to them for inspiration.

Congratulations To The Recreation Commission And Welcome To Mr. Smith

The announcement yesterday that the Roanoke Rapids Recreation had employed a full-time recreation director for the city is gratifying to us.

The commission has been hard at work for the past several months and has taken some very definite steps toward the beginnings of an overall recreation program for the city.

The acquisition of Ray Smith as recreation director for the city is but the beginning, we feel, of a fine movement for the community well-being and growth.

We know the new recreation director by reputation. He is highly recommended by Dr. Harold G. Meyer, state recreation commission chairman, says that Smith is one of the finest recreation leaders in North Carolina.

We extend a welcome to Mr. Smith and offer our congratulations to the Recreation Commission for another step in their program to give the city a fine recreation organization.

Marshal Plan Does Not Insure Peace But It Leads In The Right Direction

One of the results of the Marshall Plan, in its operation in Europe, according to Paul G. Hoffman, Economic Cooperation Administrator, would be to increase the average per capita income of Western Europeans from \$320 to around \$500 a year.

Mr. Hoffman thinks that if this goal is achieved, "we will have built a stronger basis for individual freedom and lasting peace." He does not believe that the average annual income of the European people has been sufficient to arouse any enthusiasm "for individual freedom and the dignity of the individual."

While we are quite sure that the increase of per capita income in Western Europe would be accompanied by many beneficial results, we doubt if the process will do much to enhance the dignity of the individual or anything to prevent World War III.

History does not record that the per capita income of nations has had much to do with the matter of belligerency. Certainly, the per capita income of the German people, when they supinely surrendered their freedoms to the Nazi regime, was higher than the average in Western Europe.

The business of arousing enthusiasm for individual freedom and the dignity of the individual is a slow process that will be developed gradually through decades. It is not to be assured to any generation by increasing the spendable money that the individuals of the era possess.

The Timid Soul : : : : : BY H. T. WEBSTER



Pegler Interviews Justice William O. Douglas And Gets Information On Portland Speech To Labor Union

By Westbrook Pegler

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You aren't supposed to interview justices of the Supreme Court, but I am an unconventional child of impulse so I rifled the book and so I said gimme Executive 1640, hello, Supreme Court, let me speak to Justice Douglas, please.

She said his secretary said he was busy. Could he call me back? But it was late and that night was the Gridiron and we all had to suit up for the main event so I didn't hear from him. Then, after the show, there were a lot of us milling around a corner suite and I saw Justice Frankfurter standing there right alongside with young Bill Hearst and four-five others. Well, I thought, in a refined paddy like the Gridiron you check your black jacks at the door so if they introduce us I will spot Old Weenie the first sneer and after that may be the most pertulgerical wolderfat emerge triumphant. Sure enough pretty soon, yank-yank on the sleeve of my white tie and tails which make me look like Fred Astaire, yank-yank on the sleeve like a bite when you are worm-fishing, and I turn and there we are, practically in a clinch with the crowd silently yelling for the kill (vote for one).

Young Bill said: "My I slip-slip on the great pleasure to multiply the distinguished Kranis of the Supreme Court of the United States, and this is Westbrook Pegler."

"Ho-ho-ho," said Weenie, sometimes in the morning, my wife often remarks that some people alify the codersperl and I always reply, well you can't maulspave the immutable ponsards of Justice Holmes, ho-ho-ho."

"Sounds like double-talk to me, Judge," I said, "but anyway, pleased to meet you" when Walter Trojan poked his face into the happy little circle and said, "Mr. P., have you met the god-father of Alger Hiss?"

Well, time marches on so after I had lost my brash about an interview with Justice Douglas this secretary calls, and I am having lunch with the man from the wide open spaces at two o'clock in his chambers. I have never hung around the Supreme Court much so I got there half an hour early to case the joint and memorize the exits and the first thing you know there we are in a red plush pew jutting down descriptive matter: "Four-marble pillars about 35 feet high on each side; heavy plush curtains and tasty, expensive carpet both of Kremlin red. But the carpet has a subdued design showing a bunch of rods surmounted by a battle-axe, Mussolini's old Fascist emblem, so the Court seems neutral. Nervous guy stands facing the Court talking about some bankruptcy business and some lawyer wants \$40,000. Couple of little kids in blue suits rushing glasses of water (could be gin) to parties wanting refreshment."

With a loud conk, Chief Justice Vinson slammed his mallet down, cutting the guy off in the middle of a syllable. But it seems he had plenty of warning because there is a little light on the pulpit which blinks

five minutes before his time is up and again one minute before. If he can't get his flaps down with those warnings let him crash

Now we are in the chambers of Justice William O. Douglas and I am pretty sore because he went out to Portland, Ore., and made a speech advising all that muscle to get into international politics and take over the diplomacy of the United States in our relations with the European countries which are now being handled by "Labor Governments."

He said the "Labor" leaders of Western Europe are wary because concentration camps have made them "bitterly suspicious of those who may be undisclosed agents of predatory interests."

Well, the most brutal, ignorant and greedy of the predatory interests that we have are the very group of people that Douglas was exhorting to assume the speakership for our country abroad and I thought he ought to know and I think he damn well does.

Upon being advised on his constitutional rights and warned that

all he said might be used against him, Justice William O. Douglas unto me did say: "I was impressed with the opportunity the labor group had in this country. When I say that, I don't mean any particular union," as between the C. I. O. and the A. F. of L. or independent group. "Opportunity to step up front and take the lead in the battle."

In his use of the word "battle," he meant a great showdown, preferably political, although you never can tell when it might boil over, between Kremlin Communism and the American way in the countries on the hither side of the Iron Curtain."

"I was arguing," he said, "for labor to step up to its responsibilities and use its influence and its weight on the side of the democracies. At this time it is in a strong position to do it because those Labor Governments come from the same kind of environment of labor people (as our unionizers) and I thought the place to say it was before a labor group."

Tucker Says Supreme Court Has Caused Administration Some Embarrassment

By Ray Tucker

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 — Disregarding the protests of Secretary Marshall and Attorney General Tom Clark, the Supreme Court has embarrassed the Administration's attempts to obtain additional military bases abroad as advance implementation of the proposed North American alliance.

In fact, the foreign affairs experts on Capitol Hill Plaza have made it difficult for the United States to retain those which we now occupy in England, Greenland, the Azores and North Africa, although they are essential to national security in view of the Russian menace. Corrective legislation may be necessary to ward off overseas resentment as soon as Congress convenes.

DECISION The upsetting decision involved the seemingly simple question of whether the wages and hours schedules of the Fair Labor Standards Act applied to our military base at Bermuda, which we leased from England for 99 years in the famous destroyer swap of 1940.

The court held that working standards established by Congress only for the United States, its territories and its "possessions" should be effective on this British soil. Although disavowing that it regarded the property as belonging to us "in a political sense" the majority did extend a Congressional mandate to a crown holding.

INTENTION The majority also set themselves up as Congressional mind-readers in a manner that bewilders members of that body. The Fair Labor Standards Act, for instance, was passed in 1938, whereas the destroyer basis bargain was not negotiated until two years later.

Nevertheless, Justice Reed and his four associates insist that, had "1940 conditions prevailed in 1938, Congress would have made the law ap-

plicable to off-shore bases. Ironically, Congress had shown that it had no such intention. Several times it enacted special amendments to extend other statutes (not the FLSA) to a few other bases. Had it originally meant that all our laws should govern in these leased properties, it would not have felt it necessary to amend them so as to make them apply.

CHARGES The decision has come at a time when labor groups in England and other countries are demanding that the U. S. abandon these and other bases, now that the conflict which brought them into being has ended. They insist on abrogating the leases, although we have spent many millions to improve and fortify them.

The same anti-American cry has been sounded in several areas, especially in North Africa and the Middle East, where members of the North Atlantic entente will need bases if they are to succeed in encircling Russia.

State Department officials concede, ruefully, that the court's action plays squarely into Stalin's hands. It permits him to cite it as the highest judicial evidence of his frequent charges that the U. S. is "imperialistically" bound, and that the Marshall Plan is nothing but a device to enrich and aggrandize ourselves at the expense of its proclaimed beneficiaries.

OFFENSES As the State Department said in its brief, the decision "would not be calculated with Great Britain." Labor members in Parliament have already begun to holler from their leftist benches: "We told you so."

It even offends Englishmen normally sympathetic to this country. Although they accept our aid because they must, they do not like to face the thought that they have become virtual mendicants or a secondary power.

Nisbet Says Work Of State Supreme Court Has Been Heavier Than Ever

By Lynn Nisbet

HEAVY — The work of the state supreme court for the 1948 fall term has been heavier than for any term in recent years. This is true not only as to number of cases, but particularly with reference to the importance of the decisions and the close questions involved. Oral arguments before the court were concluded Wednesday, but there will be at least one — perhaps two — additional opinion dates before the court formally adjourns ahead of convening the spring term on the first Monday in February.

CAUSES — One contributing factor to making the court's work harder has been the numerous divided and unexpected decisions of the United States supreme court during the past two years. Many of these decisions reversed former opinions which had been accepted for years as criteria in constitutional issues. When a reporter asked Associate Justice Emery B. Denny if "some of the cock-eyed opinions" of the nation's highest tribunal had not complicated state court decisions, the justice smiled and said: "I couldn't answer that question as asked, but would say that United States supreme court decisions 'have increased our work.'"

Justice Denny added that his colleagues with longer experience on the bench have said he questions involved in appeal cases are generally more difficult, without influence of the United States court. There is apparently less disposition on part of litigants and attorneys to appeal cases on superficial technicalities just for purpose of delay.

ISSUES — Majority of the cases coming to the high court now have basic issues which require long hours of study for appropriate settlement. Tough cases were argued Tuesday. One dealt with the constitutional right, under the religious freedom clause of handling poisonous reptiles in public worship services; the other involved validity of racial segregation in public buses. Previously, the court had passed upon labor management relation laws and the rights of local governments to finance special training for officials.

SLAKES — The reptile worship case, besides presenting a basic question, gave the high court a novel experience. It was the first time members of the present court had heard defendant laymen argue their own case. It is not unusual for defendants to represent themselves in superior courts, but not for many years. Had argument been presented to the supreme court by attorneys, recognized attorney C. H. Bun and Benjamin Massey, ministers of a snake-handling cult convicted in Durham county of violating a Durham safety ordinance, pleaded their own case. The court room was packed for the occasion majority of the visitors being alleged members of the cult.

LIGHT — While supreme court business has been heavy, other activities around capitol square have been very light during the past few days — and will be until after January 1. Both governors — outgoing Gregg Cherry and incoming Kerr Scott — have been at the southern governors conference in Savannah; Lt. Governor Ballentine, agriculture commissioner — elect, and others are at the national Farm Bureau convention in Atlantic City, and several other officials are attending various conventions out of the state.

LIVELY — Expectation of lively doings soon after the first of the year was well expressed by one of the office gals in a state department when your reporter made his regular visit today. "There's nothing doing now," she said, "and there won't be until the legislature convenes; then all hell is apt to break loose." That young lady was far enough down the line not to be worried much about prospective changes in personnel, but in somewhat higher circles there is more manifest concern over who (m) Governor Scott will fire and who he will retain in appointive places than about what the general assembly will or will not do. State employees below the level of private secretaries and principal clerks in the several offices are more interested in prospective salary and wage scales than in who will get the big jobs.

BORROW — H. O. Woltz, Mount Airy attorney and presidential elector for the fifth district, isn't quite sure whether to commend or quarrel with his secretary for not mailing a letter he dictated the other day. The letter was a request to borrow from Thomas E. Dewey the stiff shirt, black tie and other regalia the New York governor was believed to have had ready for the presidential inauguration. Since the letter wasn't mailed, Woltz said he reckoned he would have to buy the big-shot equipment for Washington ceremonies.

LETTER — The unmailed letter as reported to capitol newsmen when he was here to cast his vote for President Truman set out these salient facts: Although Woltz as a citizen voted on November 2 just like he did on December 13 for Truman and Barkley, he had no idea they would be elected. So he had not made adequate preparations for the inaugural ceremonies, but he was sure that Governor Dewey, Republican nominee for president, had been so certain of his own election that he had laid in supply of glad rags suitable for the occasion. Further, since check of measurements indicated that Dewey clothes would fit the Tar Heel Truman elector, and since Dewey would not need the stuff and Woltz would need it he thought a deal might be worked out. The office secretary blocked the deal by declining to be a party to it.

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