

The Franklin Press

and

The Highlands Maconian

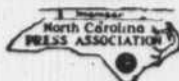
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The Samaritan

THE Marshall plan is one of the chief topics of discussion today. It is constantly referred to by radio commentators, journalists and public officials. By some it is described as "Operation Rathole".

A recent article in The Saturday Evening Post, by Will Clayton, former under-secretary of state, answers many of the questions that arise in the mind of the average American concerning this proposal which calls for the expenditure of \$20,000,000,000 in goods and money by our government to help bring about economic stability in European countries.

In the simplest terms, Mr. Clayton describes the plan as "a proposal that America help western Europe to save herself from economic and political collapse; that we enable these people to continue to eat and work until they can stand on their own feet."

The Marshall plan is not, however, a one-sided proposition based entirely on American production. In this country too much emphasis has been placed on what WE will give and too little said concerning the commitments made by European nations.

Last spring when Europe's structure appeared near collapse, Secretary Marshall asked the European countries to list their needs and to state how much of these needs they could fill. He made it plain that these nations must do their part in production and furnish the initiative in bringing about their restoration. Then he added our part—because Europe's needs are so much greater than her ability to produce at present, he proposed that the United States make up the deficit.

Sixteen European countries—Austria, Belgium, Eire, Britain, Denmark, France, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey—met in Paris last summer and pledged themselves to a production schedule which would increase their output as much proportionally as the United States did between 1940 and 1944.

With our assistance these countries say that by 1951 they will raise their food production to 222,000,000 tons per year and their coal output to 584,000,000 tons, which is 43,000,000 more tons of food and 45,000,000 more tons of coal than present production. They would increase their steel output by 60 per cent over the present total.

Why the Marshall plan? The cost to us will be tremendous and many people today feel that we do not owe these nations anything.

Author Clayton, a conservative American businessman, clearly pictures the dilemma we will create if we do not give assistance now. He admirably summarizes in four short paragraphs what will take place in Europe in the next few years if we pursue a hands-off policy.

"I have said that the success of the plan is not certain. . . . But we must judge it in terms of the alternative. If we were to say to Europe today: We are sorry but we can't give you any further assistance, then we know what would happen in Europe. There is no uncertainty about that. The grim down spiral in which each critical shortage begets other shortages would move faster. Spots of starvation would appear. . . . Shortages of coal and raw materials would progressively shut down the powerhouses and factories. Disorder, riots and chaos would follow.

"In such a situation, it would seem inevitable that Communism would take over in Italy and France. The Communist party is in the minority in each of these countries. . . .

"This would, in turn, leave the smaller countries of Europe isolated and helpless. They live by trade and the Communists would have the power of shutting off that trade. This would bring Communist domination of the entire European continent. . . .

"The result would be to leave the American continent as a relatively small and precarious island of freedom in a chaotic and increasingly hostile world. An island able to take care of itself, perhaps, but only at the expense of ever-increasing governmental controls and authority which could

in the end mean basic changes in our Constitution and Bill of Rights."

Before we turn our back on humanity in need, it is particularly appropriate at this season that we recall the story told by the Man of Galilee—the story of the Good Samaritan who crossed over to the other side of the road to help suffering humanity. We should realize that the Atlantic Ocean is a similar road of today. On such actions as the Samaritan extending a helping hand across the road, a lasting institution, the Church, has been built. On similar actions, the foundations of peace in the future may well rest.

Santa Claus—Aged 4

The Press ordinarily does not publish children's letters to Santa Claus.

But last week a Santa Claus letter found its way to this office that is different. Of all the millions of words that will be written about Christmas, 1947, none will better reflect the true spirit of Christmas than this letter to Santa Claus, written by Vaughn Hastings, of Franklin, Route 3.

Vaughn is quite human, and he confidently asks for the things he wants:

"I am looking for you, dear old Santa, to bring me lots of toys. I want you to bring me a gun, a dime bank, and a big airplane, and lots of oranges, candy and apples."

So far, the letter is typical of the thinking of boys and girls and men and women the world over.

But then Vaughn adds this request:

" . . . and I have a little boy friend, Billy Plyler. Please don't forget him."

We are sure Vaughn's every request will be granted. Santa never could ignore a letter like that! And this little boy's letter is proof—if proof were needed—that there is a Santa Claus. For, though he is only four, Vaughn himself has been Santa Claus to a lot of us older people by reminding us, once again, what Christmas really means.

Persons who favor federal aid to education are quite emphatic in arguing that such aid would in nowise endanger local control of education. There would be absolutely no federal interference with, or control of, the schools, they insist. Yet already the suggestion has come from a responsible Washington quarter that federal aid be withheld from any state in which the races are segregated.

Others' Opinions

THE PRACTICAL SIDE

Nearing completion on the high school grounds is an up-to-date vocational shop for students to learn the fundamentals of carpentry and general farm repair work.

We have always been interested in the vocational courses in our schools, because that to us is the finishing touches for the practical education for every boy and girl. We do not want it to appear that we belittle the courses taught from books, but it takes a lot to make a well-rounded educated pupil.

Our school system here has had vocational training for many years, and the students taking the courses have found them fascinating and practical.

We are happy to see this field of education broadened and feel that, as time goes on, educators will find it becoming more essential than ever before.—Waynesville Mountaineer.

FRANKLIN AND SHANGRI-LA

Residents of western Utah feel that the state neglects them and makes them live under "oppressive conditions." Therefore they are asking Congress to liberate them and establish an "autonomous district of Shangri-la" with the magnificent area of 21,000 square miles and population of 2,100.

Does this sound foolish? Under similar circumstances just after the Revolution, settlers in the over-mountain counties of North Carolina appealed to Congress. They became the free State of Franklin and enjoyed government of their own from 1784 to 1788, when Franklin became the eastern part of a new state called Tennessee.

The Shangri-lawyers of Utah probably haven't got a chance, but they have a dandy precedent.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

AN ALTERNATE PLAN

Instead of compulsory universal military training the Bulletin suggests the following as an alternate plan:

1. Let congress make an appropriation to each of the states for education, the amounts to be worked out on the basis of determined needs in relation to ability. This might be patterned after S472, which will be up for consideration of congress in January.
2. That all school terms be extended to eleven months with all teachers and other school employees paid on a twelve months basis.
3. That the regular nine months term be strengthened where the need is apparent, and operated in general as is now the case.
4. That two weeks of the remaining two months be used in a short course of intensive training of those teachers who need such training by those qualified to give it in physical education activities—recreation, camping, arts, crafts, citizenship, etc.
5. That all teachers then be assigned to one phase of such activities for six weeks schools all over the nation—at schools, camps, resorts, parks, lakes, etc.—for training the youth in health and citizenship.

The Bulletin believes, if some such program as this were inaugurated by the congress in place of the proposed UMT program, that far greater benefits would result. Furthermore, such a program in being continuous from year to year would gradually increase the physical stamina of our people and at the same time tend to preserve our democratic way of life.

—N. C. Public School Bulletin.

There is a solution for every problem.—Emerson.

Some defeats are only installments to victory—Jacob A. Riis.

Where love is, God is.—Tolstoy.

LEGAL ADVERTISING

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator of Will Browning, deceased, late of Macon County, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 11th day of November, 1948 or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 11th day of November, 1947.

GILMER A. JONES,
Administrator

W20-6tc-D25

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator of James A. McCoy, deceased, late of Macon County, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 19 day of November, 1948 or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 19 day of November, 1947.

W. L. MCCOY,
Administrator

D4-6tc-J8

ADMINISTRATRIX NOTICE

Having qualified as administratrix of J. M. Morgan, deceased, late of Macon County, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 8th day of December, 1948, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 8th day of December, 1947.

MRS. J. M. MORGAN,
Administratrix

D11-6tp-J15

EXECUTRIX NOTICE

Having qualified as executrix of Elmer A. Day, deceased, late of Macon County, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 9th day of December, 1948, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 9th day of December, 1947.

MRS. FRANCES W. PAGE,
Executrix

D18-6tcCC-J22

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