

THEY SAY—

HEALTHY SIGN—Ralph W. Page

O, woe and misery! Disruption stalks abroad, and unity is still-born. What chance for the great promise of peace so hopefully launched at San Francisco?

This view of these affairs is not shared by responsible officials in Washington. They even go so far as to consider raising all these questions to be a healthy and helpful sign. What is the purpose of the organization except to air and compose controversies? Whoever supposed that all the nations on earth were going to agree because they had an organization? And where did the idea come from that complete harmony is essential for the success of the experiment?

In bringing questions before the United Nations the complainants recognize its jurisdiction.

IMMEDIATE CHORE—Ernest Lindley

There appears to be less outright opposition to price controls in Congress now than there was a few months ago. The theory advanced by some spokesmen for business—that the lifting of all controls would cause production to spurt forward so rapidly that the danger of inflation would quickly disappear—was so obviously faulty that it no longer has many open defenders. But a good many members of Congress would like to wait and see how things look by May or June, which delay may be as serious in its effects as ultimate failure to act, in which too late and too little may be no better than nothing.

INHERENT DANGERS—Thomas L. Stokes

The inherent dangers of big power control already have become manifest at the London meeting. Russia and Britain are snarling at each other. Russia annoyed by injection of the Iran question and striking back by demanding that the Security Council take up Britain's alleged interference in Greece and the Dutch East Indies.

Big power politics can be played with the usual subtleties, the delays, use of the veto, and so on, to compromise and shove problems into pigeonholes, but that only stores up trouble for the future. Equitable and fair solutions can be reached only in agreements by all nations in a world government with power to enforce its commitments.

It is getting late to play the game the same old way.

A LAST RESORT—Joseph and Stewart Alsop

UNO will be relied on to assure our all but minimum American security. If UNO is regarded as being unworkable, however, American policy will insist on the complete program for American overseas bases which the joint chiefs of staff have outlined for American defense. This includes bases in Greenland, Iceland, the northern part of this hemisphere and perhaps the Azores, as well as bases throughout the Pacific.

The implications of such insistence from the Russian standpoint can hardly be ignored. The complete program for American overseas bases would not merely provide the most effective defense of this country. Production in quantity of the new B-36 aircraft would bring within range of effective attack all vital areas of the Soviet Union.

CHALLENGE TO SENATE—Frank R. Kent

Without arguing its merits, the basic fact about the so-called Fair Employment Practices Act, the fight over which has more or less indefinitely blocked the wheels of the Senate, is that its primary purpose is to compel the employment by big, middle and little business of a greater proportion of Negroes in places where the bulk of the employees are overwhelmingly white.

Another basic fact is that this proposal was part of the creed of the Communist party and the CIO (though not nearly so much of the AFL and not all of the Railroad Brotherhoods) before it was adopted by the Democratic and Republican parties. A third basic fact is that this proposal is the cause of more cowardice and hypocrisy among the politicians of both parties than any that has been advanced in this country since Prohibition amendment days.

LYONS DEN—Leonard Lyons

Were it not for the vanity of Mussolini, Italy and the Axis might have been the first to possess the atomic bomb. Dr. Enrico Fermi, working in Rome, almost had it in 1934. He made only one miscalculation. But his work on atomic energy was sufficient to bring him the Nobel prize that year. When Fermi was leaving for Stockholm, to receive the prize, he had a row with Mussolini, whose vanity had been outraged by the peace prize award to an Italian other than himself. As a result of this quarrel, Dr. Fermi did not return to Italy. He went from Stockholm to America, to Columbia University.

TRUMAN PLAN—Paul Mallon

It seems no one objects to what Truman says, only to what Truman does. His recitation of his purposes drew no criticism from Congress and little elsewhere. The country evidently wants the basic idea of a high wage price economy with full employment, will pay high taxes and is opposed to further inflation. So does Congress. No one wants deflation.

But the things Mr. Truman proposes to do are simply not generally in accord with his purposes. To think that costs can be increased without a price increase is not the only strain upon average intelligence. Mr. Truman wants Congress to pass immediately the CIO full employment bill, pledging the Government to great expenditures, and is already increasing practically every appropriation for peace activities of the Government, even planning a new big wing on the White House.

NEED FOR CONTROLS—David Lawrence

President Truman has an opportunity for unexampled leadership in pressing Congress to adopt two major pieces of legislation—extension of price control for one year and establishment of fact-finding boards to investigate labor disputes.

Although representatives of management and labor have both expressed opposition to the fact-finding board idea, no important argument has been made except fear of government encroachment. Mere fear that a statute might be abused is not a sufficient reason for refusing to enact it.

The truth is that neither the unions nor the employing companies want to be bothered with government at all and prefer the unlimited right to battle without regard to how much damage may be done to the public interest.

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