

LOOKING AT WASHINGTON

By HUGO S. SIMS, Washington Correspondent

Roosevelt's Sudden Death Alters Political Picture; Peace Program Now Confused

The death of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt shocked the people of this country and of the world. His passing will completely alter the political situation and create confusion in the efforts of the democratic nations to achieve an effective organization for world peace.

In the United States, Mr. Roosevelt personified the issues of his era to such an extent that he dominated the political scene as few Presidents have ever done. He captivated the vast majority of Americans during his first campaign for the Presidency in the summer of 1932 and, despite the inevitable vicissitudes of leadership, retained the trust and confidence of most of those supporters.

With Mr. Roosevelt in the White House for a fourth term, the affairs of the country, domestic and international, were in the hands of an intelligent, courageous and experienced leader. It is no disparagement of President Truman to note this fact. Insofar as the future of Democratic party is concerned, the passing of Mr. Roosevelt completely alters the political situation. There were many probabilities in line for consideration in 1948, but this is no longer true. The party will have to stand on the record of President Truman, who is likely to secure a renomination in accordance with the almost invariable custom of the past.

Henry A. Wallace and other Democratic probabilities face an entirely different prospect. They can no longer reasonably expect to be the standard-bearer of their party in 1948, unless there is a complete collapse of the party under the leadership of President Truman and, in this unlikely event, the nomination would not be worth having.

It is harder to estimate the consequences of Mr. Roosevelt's death in the field of foreign affairs. Certainly, his familiarity with the problems involved and his personal friendship with the leaders of other nations would have been valuable assets in connection with the effort to eliminate difficulties and to effect a workable arrangement that would make possible the cooperation of all nations.

Despite the admitted value of his personal leadership, it is possible, of course, that the United States will lay its part in world affairs and that other leaders will be able to attain the objectives which now occupy the thoughts of the free peoples of the world.

Since 1932, the activities of Mr. Roosevelt may be divided into the following categories:

- 1—The economic emergency, in which the President had to act boldly and drastically to restore public confidence.
- 2—The years of legislative reforms, in which the President secured the enactment of legislation which not only produced a social revolution in this country but won the approval, in principle, of his political opponents.
- 3—The period of preparation, during which Mr. Roosevelt put aside his own program in an effort to unite people to meet the perilous problems of approaching war.
- 4—The war period, marked by his amazing comprehension of the impact and magnitude of the struggle and the miraculous mobilization of resources and manpower of this country for the prosecution of successful warfare.
- 5—Planning for a future epoch of peace, involving the difficult adjustment of conflicting national ambitions, the promotion of a practical program which could secure the co-operation of free nations, and the movement of the standard of living of all peoples everywhere through the equitable development of world trade.
- 6—Preparations for the reconversion of the nation to its normal peacetime status which, undoubtedly included plans to provide greater prosperity for the people of this country.

U.S. Notice To Japan Carries Many Implications
 About the time that the newsmen were telling us that official Washington was "disturbed" by current relations with Soviet Russia and that "at that moment, are fairly depressed," came news that the Soviet Government given notice to Japan that the treaty of non-aggression, which expires in a year, will not be renewed. The Moscow Government has gone further than filing a notice to terminate the automatic extension of the treaty. The Japanese are bluntly told of assisting the Germans, along with Russia, and of making common cause with the United States and Britain, allies of the Soviet Union. The notice given by the Russians plainly accuses the Japanese of violating the terms of the existing treaty.

An allegation, made by one nation to another, is usually the first step in considering the reciprocal obligations of the pact to be dissolved. Plainly, the charge opens the door to the Russians, if they see fit, to enter the war against Japan before the expiration of the year. The existing treaty has to run.

Whether the Soviet Government intends to go to war with Japan is a question that has caused considerable debate in the past and, so far as we know, no one knows the answer unless it was the President and Prime Minister Churchill. That there are many issues to be settled between Russia and Japan in the Far East is well known, but there are many observers who believe that the Russians can obtain their objectives by the threat of warfare. These people do not believe that the Japs care to take on the Red Army at the present time.

The entry of Russia into the war against Japan would create a new situation for Japan and, eventually, there might be the danger of complications with China. We have no idea of the extent of Russian ambitions in the Far East or whether they conflict with the prospective independence of Korea and the territorial integrity of China. We do not know what the Russians have in mind in regard to the Communist regime in Outer Mongolia or whether there is danger of a tie-up between Russia and the Communist Army in China, which is vigorously opposed to the government of General Chiang Kai-shek, who enjoys the support of the United States and Great Britain.

It is obvious, of course, that a large Soviet Army going into action on its Asiatic mainland, will confront the Japanese Army with a danger that might prove disastrous. Active belligerency on the part of Russia would probably limit the number of American soldiers who might be needed to defeat the Japanese.

No Basis For Worry About Voting Proposals

The argument about the votes that will be allotted to the powers in the assembly to be set up in accordance with the Dumbarton Oaks Conference seems to be based upon fears that are unreal.

The full rights of the larger powers will be amply protected by their permanent membership on the security council and, consequently, it matters little whether a nation has one, three or four votes in the Assembly.

Some criticism comes from certain anti-British elements in this country, who declare that if the British Commonwealth of nations has six votes, the United States should not be satisfied with one. The argument is designed to appeal to the prejudice and ignorance of Americans, not to their intelligence.

The British Commonwealth includes, in addition to the British Isles, Ireland, Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. These dominions are entirely independent of London, both in domestic and foreign affairs. The extent of their independence is apparent when it is pointed out that Ireland has refrained from entering the war and that the other dominions are in the war as the result of their voluntary action.

The states that make up the United States have no such freedom, either in domestic or foreign affairs. This Republic is, in fact, not less than six nations, each possessing independent power in regard to foreign affairs.

Some Americans, taking cognizance of the criticism of the six votes given the British Commonwealth, point out that it is frequent for the dominions to differ with the British Government and that, upon many occasions, Canada or some other dominion has supported the position of the United States rather than that of the British Government.

Certain, in view of the fact that Cuba, Liberia, Portugal and other small nations will have votes in the Assembly, it would be an absurdity to deny equal representation to the independent dominions of the British Empire. After all, we think the United States can count upon greater support from the British dominions than from some of the midge nations which are given, without protest, a vote in the Assembly.

The Russian proposal that White Russia and the Ukraine be given an independent membership in the Assembly, which would permit three votes for the Soviet Republic, is not to be confused with the fact that the five British dominions have independent memberships.

The British dominions are self-gov-

erning states, with ambassadors and ministers in various capitals to represent them. Neither White Russia nor the Ukraine have this independence and diplomatic status, although the Russians insist that they have the power to handle their own affairs.

Some interesting speculation as to the reason behind the Russian proposal comes from Anne O'Hare McCormick, New York Times columnist, who says that at the Yalta Conference Stalin, it is reported "earnestly argued" that the scheme would "help" him at home. The writer says that leaders who have been negotiating with Marshal Stalin "have no doubt of his good faith" and advances the idea that, in Russia, like in the United States there may be isolationists and internationalists and that there may be a division of opinion in the top council of the Soviet.

End-of-War Problems Confront Americans

The smashing of German armies in Western Europe and the acquisition of island bases around Japan give us timely notice that the wars in which this nation is engaged are coming to an end.

While it is impossible to set a definite date for the conclusion of either war, it is apparent that the struggle against Germany is in its last stages and that the fight against Japan is entering a final phase. The weakness of our foes emphasizes the necessity of maintaining the greatest possible pressure in the shortest possible time, with the least possible casualties.

The combined casualty list of the Army and Navy, since Pearl Harbor, is close to 900,000. Up to this time, upon the basis of the progress made in both wars, this is a lighter levy than anticipated upon our fighting men. The list will grow inevitably in months to come and the only way to stop the loss of American lives is to end both struggles.

While our attention has been centered upon the war effort of the nation and almost all of our national energy directed to war and its problems, it is advisable for the people of this country to think seriously of conditions that will confront them when the guns cool off.

Unfortunately, during the heat of a conflict, many silly statements have been made as to the results to be accomplished by the success of our arms. Consequently, there are some Americans who expect a brand new world, operated by unselfish people and functioning for the common good of mankind. This is an idle dream, unsubstantiated by fact and contrary to reason.

The truth is that when warfare ends, the problems of the nation will begin. There will be a general demobilization of the people of democratic countries, heretofore dominated by the single purpose of winning a bitter fight for their survival.

Fear of the Axis powers, which was the dominant motive behind unity in war, is disappearing and, in its place, there will arise the natural rivalry between nations, intensified by partisan consideration of differences, the residual prejudices between peoples and the ignorance of those who live without close contacts with other peoples.

Our problems are of a four-point nature:

- (1) The rehabilitation of the nations that have been overrun by the aggressors and the relief of peoples who have been the unfortunate victims of the Axis powers.
- (2) The application of just penalties and punishments to the aggressor nations and their guilty persons.

nel and the imposition of wise controls in enemy countries which will remove them as a menace to the peace of the world.

(3) The reconversion of the lives and economy of the people of the victorious nations from the processes of war into the free growth and development of normal, peaceful years; and

(4) The initiation and development of international cooperation, upon the basis of mutual respect and voluntary agreements which will make war undesirable, unprofitable and unlikely, but, at the same time, provide adequate means of protecting all nations from aggressive militarism.

Space is not available in this issue to take up the problems listed above. However, in later issues, we plan to discuss each of the four tasks that face the people of the world, and especially the responsibility of the United States to accept the responsibility of leadership in the world. Inasmuch as we are, without doubt, the most powerful nation on earth, there is no way to avoid the obligation and duties which accompany our position.

Farm Accidents Take Heavy Annual Toll

A tree falls on a farmer during logging operations in the woods; a can of kerosene explodes as a person attempts to build a fire in the kitchen stove; a child playing with matches sets her clothes on fire and is burned to death, severely injuring an older brother who attempts to help her; a woman trips on a broken step and falls to her death; revolving parts of a tractor catch the clothes of the operator, severely injuring him; an electric circuit with a too heavy load causes a "short" and burns a barn filled with feed and livestock.

All of these accidents, and others like them, were reported in North Carolina newspapers recently and will continue, says Prof. David S. Weaver of State College, unless all rural people carefully consider safety conditions and do something to cor-

rect the hazards that exist on the farm.

Older men and more young people and women are doing heavy work on the farm than ever before. They are working longer hours with equipment condition. Fatigue brings carelessness and carelessness begets accidents.

Weaver, on the basis of his experience as an agricultural engineer, suggests that all farm equipment be checked and repaired; that all electrical equipment be cleaned and inspected; that the many hazards around the farm be corrected; and that rural people be continually on their guard against accidents.

He calls special attention to defective hitches, seats, clutches, wheels, brakes and unguarded revolving parts as gears, chains or shafts of farm machinery. They should all be checked with special care.

BEER DEALERS TO HEAR DIRECTOR ON NEW LAWS

Perquimans County retail beer dealers will meet at the courthouse in Hertford Friday morning, April 20, at 10:30 o'clock for a discussion of the laws governing the sale and distribution of beer in the State.

Edgar H. Bain of Goldsboro, state director of the North Carolina Committee-United States Brewers Foundation, will explain these changes. He also will discuss the beer industry's voluntary cooperation program which he has headed in North Carolina for almost six years.



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