

# WASHINGTON

## WILL U. S. ACCEPT ANY RESPONSIBILITY IN PALESTINE?

There is no doubt of the pressure that has been exerted by this country against the British Government in connection with its policies in Palestine.

The pressure stems from various Hebraic associations and the political power, that Jews as a race possess in some of the states in this country. In their anxiety to do something for members of their race in Europe, they have, in our opinion, placed the welfare of the European Jew ahead of that of this nation.

It is entirely understandable that the Jews of the United States should be greatly concerned over the persecution of their race in Europe. Hitler's barbaric program of torture and death painted a black page in the history of the human race. Consequently, it is difficult to condemn American Jews for their concern. It is entirely natural for them to want this country to do something positive to relieve the plight of the Jews in Europe.

The British Government, which has been holding the hot potato in Palestine, takes notice of the report of the Inquiry Committee and, in Lon-

don, Prime Minister Attlee desires to know to what extent the United States Government would be prepared "to share the resultant military and financial responsibilities" for administration of Palestine if the recommendations of the committee were put into effect.

This is a reasonable caution on the part of the British Prime Minister. If the United States exerts pressure to have 100,000 Jews admitted into Palestine and if we are not pleased with the decisions that the British Government makes in connection with that country, it is up to us to be willing to share the responsibility and burden. If we are unwilling to do this, we should keep quiet.

It is not surprising that some of the congressmen who have been speaking loudly in favor of doing something about Palestine show a reluctance to accepting any of the grave responsibilities that would be incurred in putting the policy into effect. Senator La Follette would limit our participation to "good offices" which practically amounts to nothing. He does not favor using American troops to "police Palestine." This seems to be something of a consensus of congressional opinion.

It is one thing for the people of the United States to voice their criticism of the British Government for its handling of the Palestine question and another thing, apparently, for congressmen to vote the United States into full participation in the dangers and obligations that would arise. We know whether the report of the Joint Inquiry Commission represents the best possible solution, or not, but if we are frank to admit that we do not do it, and this country wants the report adopted, it should not hesitate to assume joint responsibility with the British Government in connection with implementing the recommendations.

## STRIKES INJURE THE PUBLIC BUT WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?

The effect of the coal strike is seen in the ban on virtually all freight shipments except food and fuel, and the warning from J. Monroe Johnson, Director of Transportation, that "much more severe orders will be necessary if the strike is not settled."

Not only will the transportation of the nation be severely curtailed but it is certain that the processes of production, largely dependent upon coal for fuel, will be restricted at a time when the national economy requires a larger volume of goods than ever before in its history.

It is not our purpose to attempt to assess blame for the strike or to pass judgment upon the demands of the miners and the refusal of the owners to accept them. Certainly some public agency is badly needed in order to pass the merits of the controversy, with power to take whatever action is necessary to secure the production of coal.

While there is always the danger of strikes so long as our present economy operates, it is high time that vigorous steps be taken to protect the public interests. Obviously it is an absurdity for 135,000,000 Americans to suffer because of a dispute between several hundred thousand coal miners and a small group owning the coal mines. Such disregard of the public interest, if repeated very often, will inevitably lead to the nationalization of certain key industries which occupy vital roles in the nation's productive system.

## SELECTIVE SERVICE FAILS TO GET QUOTA FOR ARMY

Selective Service officials point out that in the last nine months of August through April, the system has produced less than 340,000 men as against a desired quota of almost 570,000.

The April quota of 125,000 men was not met, although figures for the complete month are not available. The first two weeks brought only 17,000 and the quota for May was lowered to 51,000 men. But this is a larger number than the draft system has secured since September.

The situation is further complicated by the fact that the House, in extending the Selective Service System after May 15th, declared a "draft holiday" until October 15th, covering the five months just preceding

the summer days. This means that the War Department may run short by 200,000 recruits by July 1st. Consequently, men now overseas will not be replaced as rapidly as desired.

The House also changed the draft ages, which will likewise cut down the number of valuable men. Heretofore, Selective Service has been calling up men in the 18-26 age group, relying heavily on those becoming 18 years of age. The House bill, if it gets through Congress, would change this by restricting the draft to those between the ages of 20 and 26.

**U. S. SHOULD TELL WORLD VIA DAILY BROADCASTING**  
Russia is today broadcasting fifty-six hours and thirty-six minutes daily in thirty-two languages, exclusive of extensive broadcasting to Balkan countries, and Great Britain is using ninety-seven hours forty-six minutes each day to send out messages over the ether in forty languages.

The Russian broadcast is little less than it was in 1944 and the British are using almost as much time as they did in that critical year of the war. Obviously, the allies were then attempting to get over their messages to the scattered peoples of Europe and it was important in connection with winning the war.

Today, it is just as important for democratic countries, like the United States, to get over news about their activities. This is vital in the effort to win the peace. That greater activity by the United States is needed is seen in the report that important speeches by Secretary of State Byrnes have not been carried by the press either in Russia or in the Balkan countries.

The United States in 1944 was keeping up with its allies, broadcasting 153 hours and 20 minutes daily, in thirty-four languages. Today, due to the effort of Congress to "economize," its broadcasts are limited to sixty-eight hours and 27 minutes in twenty-four languages.

In this connection, William L. Stone, director of the Office of International Information and Cultural Relations of the State Department says that international radio is often the only means by which the American government can get its views before the people in many troubled areas of the world.

He does not make the point at the same time that the United States has no propaganda to put over, but that it is interested in having its position thoroughly understood in connection with the discussion of international problems.

**SALE OF ARMY SURPLUS NOT LIKE IT WAS IN 1919**  
After the first world war, the Government sold a considerable quantity of surplus materials in a way that

there were great supplies of surplus goods which the people want and for which the Government has no need.

According to the Virginia Senator, there is at least \$12,000,000 worth of goods of many kinds which can be disposed of to consumers and pro-

duce more surplus goods and so on. This was the case in regard to certain types of clothing and shoes.

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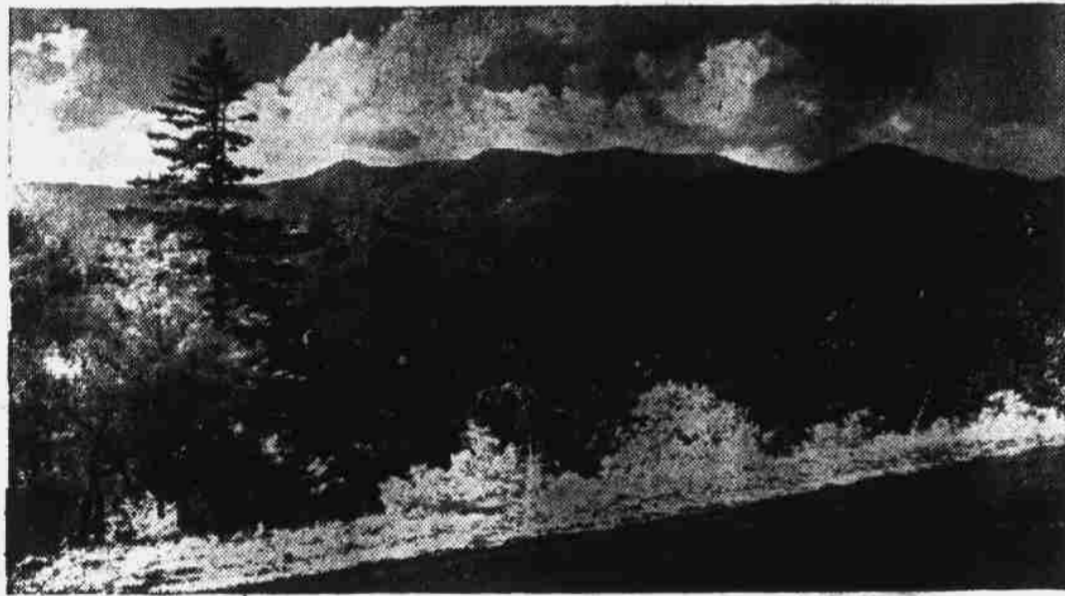
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ABOVE—Scene from Newfoundland Gap in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

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