

Looking at WASHINGTON

PEACE PROBLEMS TIED TO UNCERTAIN FOREIGN POLICY

The conference of the Big Four Foreign Ministers, now going on in Moscow, will produce no miracle and it is futile to expect early and easy agreement upon the grave issues under consideration.

Unfortunately, there is much to be done by the United States and Russia to develop the mutual trust and confidence that is necessary to agreement on many matters. The leaders of both nations, we suppose, are cognizant of the desire of people everywhere for a peaceful world but, unfortunately, there are vexacious problems that cannot be settled by good wishes.

The United States can be strong enough to accept its manifest destiny without concern about Soviet Russia, or any other power. The difficulty that confronts our diplomats, however, is the uncertainty as to whether the nation will implement its international policies. In brief, if we are to be weak and open to attack, our representatives must walk warily and talk humbly.

We are quite sure that the vast majority of the people of the United States would prefer that this nation should stand for freedom, liberty and democracy without unreasonable compromise of principle. That such a position may not be satisfactory to other nations, including the Soviet Republic, involves some risk of warfare, but this should not determine our position.

We should be prepared for any eventuality but work incessantly for a peaceful world in which we are willing for others to live as they please but, likewise, determined that we exist unfettered.

U. S. ENVOY DENIED ACCESS TO 100 AMERICANS IN JAIL

The inability of the people of the United States to understand conditions in Poland has been aggravated, no doubt, by a lack of information.

There seems to be little reason to doubt that the recent election failed to represent a completely free expression of the will of the Polish people, but this does not mean, necessarily, that if the election had been free, that the present government would have been voted out of office.

Diplomatic relations with Poland are somewhat strained at the present time. Arthur Bliss Lane, our Ambassador, recently returned to disclose that despite his insistent efforts, he was not allowed to confer with an estimated one hundred Americans held in Polish prisons.

The one he conferred with, a Chicago-born woman, who married a Pole, served as a translator in the United States Embassy but admitted that she conspired to help members of an outlawed underground band to escape from Poland. She was sentenced to five years imprisonment by a Polish military court.

Regardless of the sympathy that the lady had for the Poles that she assisted, there is no justification whatever for an employe in our Embassy, claiming American citizenship, to interfere in such matters. It may be that others have been equally guilty but, if this is correct, it is not easy to understand the unwillingness of the Poles to permit the American Ambassador to talk with them.

ATOMIC PLAN BLOCKED AS SOVIET REJECTS CONTROLS

The Soviet Union, which last summer accepted in principle the demand for international atomic control, now objects to the proposal that the International Atomic Authority should control the crucial stages of atomic production.

American delegates regard this as the Baruch Plan, but the Soviet representative asserts that it would create "a peculiar international threat" and, recalling that the Soviet Union has been outvoted on the Security Council, he seems to fear the possibility of "one-sided decisions" that would not be "benevolent" to Russia.

Some of the delegates stress the view that the Soviet is taking a bargaining position. They point out that Moscow was equally opposed to the Baruch plan last summer but that later Foreign Minister Molotov accepted international inspection and the elimination of the veto on the day-to-day operations of the inspection agency.

The opinion is freely advanced that unless the Soviet Union is willing to alter the uncompromising position they have now taken that there is little chance of agreement on international atomic control. It may be that the Soviet seems to be afraid of a hostile international agency which would tend to represent the interests of the nations which, in the Soviet viewpoint, are aligned against the Communist Government.

It may take time for the Soviet representative to become willing to trust the international authority. Before this is possible, the Communists must manage to get rid of, or control, their suspicions of other nations. During the interval, there is slight prospect of agreement, but there is nothing that the United States can do about it.

UNWISE TO USE "SURPLUS" UNTIL MONEY BILLS PASS

There will be a long drawn-out struggle between the House and Senate conferees on the final form of the resolution permitting Congress to cut

the President's \$37,500,000,000 budget for the 1948 fiscal year.

As soon as the fight is over, the Congressmen will take up the question of tax reduction and debt payment. Until some definite information is available on the amount to be spent, it is impossible to intelligently plan whether to allocate the amount saved to tax reduction or debt payment.

It seems to us that the safer procedure for Congress is to wait until the appropriation bills are passed rather than to base tax reduction or debt payment upon a resolution that does nothing but express a purpose. We have no idea that this plan will be adopted because, if it is, there will likely be neither tax reduction nor debt payment.

AUSTIN SAYS WORLD FATE DEPENDS ON WHAT WE DO

Warren R. Austin, chief American delegate to the United Nations, and former Republican Senator from Vermont, says that the United States should have universal peacetime military training and make it clear that her policy will be to support the law of the United Nations Charter "by force if necessary."

Mr. Austin stressed the fact that the United States has in its hands the power for peace or war and that what we do or fail to do will determine to a large extent "whether other nations move rapidly toward political and economic stability and democratic achievements, or flounder in the disaster and despair that lead to fanaticism and war."

We do not think that he overstates the case, either in regard to the advisability of peacetime military training or the importance of what the United States will do in world affairs. POSTAL DEFICIT MAY CAUSE INCREASE IN THREE CLASSES

Anticipating a deficit of nearly \$300,000,000 for the fiscal year which begins July 1, 1947, the Post Office Department has asked Congress to increase postal rates to provide new revenue of \$175,000,000.

No increase is requested in first class mail, but penny postal cards will go up to two cents. There will be increased prices for newspapers, magazines and other printed material classified as second class matter. In addition, third and fourth class mail will have the rates boosted.

A hearing will be conducted by the Senate Civil Service Committee, which has allowed those interested something like two weeks in which to study the proposals and take part in the hearings.

There is nothing fundamentally wrong with an increase in postal rates and certainly no reason to expect the Government to provide mail service

for various classes of mail at a heavy loss. We think, however, that the committee should carefully consider the rates that now prevail for various classes and that the increases be arranged after carefully studying the classifications affected.

Mail matter is divided into four classes. First class includes letter and air mail. The second embraces newspapers, magazines and other material bearing notice of entry as second-class matter. The third class includes circulars, miscellaneous printed matter, books, catalogs and bulk matter in packages. The fourth class is popularly known as parcel post and includes all material not in the other classes.

While newspapers, magazines and other publications of the informational type should bear some of the increased rates, they should not be penalized when compared with catalogs, business circulars and material without informational value. The same observation applies to the fourth class or parcel post.

SAYS 4-POWER ALLIANCE SHOULD PRECEDE TREATY

Secretary of State George C. Marshall makes no bones about admitting that our war allies have some doubts and uncertainties regarding the intentions of the United States in regard to the settlements to be effected in Europe.

Consequently, he proposes that the 4-power, 40-year alliance, proposed by Secretary Byrnes, should be attained before an effort is made to write the final treaty for Germany.

Mr. Marshall believes that such an agreement will clear away existing difficulties and serve as a declaration to the world of the continuing interest of this country in world problems. He thinks that the drafting of a treaty will be easier afterward.

W. M. S. MEETS
The Woman's Missionary Society of the Baptist Church met Monday night at the church. The meeting opened with the hymn "A Wonderful Saviour." Prayer by Mrs. J. P. Perry. The watchword of the year was then repeated. Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved, and roll called with Circle No. 1 having the largest number present. A hymn was then sung, followed by the Scripture lesson given by Mrs. Warner Madra. Prayer by Mrs. C. W. Duling. Mrs. Norman Elliott gave a talk on "The Living Faith." A reading was then heard by Mrs. Davis, and a talk on "Redeemed Time" by Mrs. T. L. Jessup. The meeting was closed with a prayer by Mrs. Will Madra.

DURANTS NECK CLUB MEETS

The Durants Neck Home Demonstration Club met at the home of Mrs. John Hurdle on Thursday afternoon, March 13th. The meeting opened by singing "Sweet and Low". Collect was repeated in unison.

Mrs. Joshua Sutton gave a brief summary about Australia, preceding Mrs. R. L. Spivey who reported on Germany. A demonstration on "Household Pests and Rodent Control" was given by Miss Frances Maness. Flower plant cuttings were exchanged.

The recreation leader, Mrs. Carson Stallings, conducted a contest. The hostess, Mrs. John Hurdle, then served a delicious dessert and coffee.

The following members were present: Mesdames H. C. Barcliff, W. E. Dail, Howard Hunter, W. H. Matthews, S. T. Perry, Henry Ownley, P. H. Ownley, R. L. Spivey, J. G. Turner, L. R. Webb, Lenford Stallings, Carson Stallings, Berta Hobbs, Joshua Sutton, Charlie Dail, W. W. Spencer, Joe Haskett, A. C. Barcliff, Marvin Robbins and John Hurdle.

BRIDGE HOSTESS

Mrs. W. H. Hardcastle was hostess to her bridge club Friday evening at her home. Those enjoying the evening were Mesdames H. A. Whitley, Trim Wilson, W. H. Newbold, C. A. Davenport, J. R. Futrell, S. F. Jessup, T. P. Brinn and Miss Mae Wood Winslow. High score prize went to Mrs. Whitley. A sweet course was served.

ENTERTAINS AT BRIDGE

Mrs. Willis Jessup was hostess at a bridge party Wednesday evening at her home on Market Street. Those

playing were Mesdames T. P. Brinn, Charles Payne, Fred Morrill, C. A. Williford, Bill Jessup, H. C. Sullivan, Miss Ruth Elliott and Miss Frances Maness. High score prize went to Mrs. Morrill. Refreshments were served by the hostess.

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From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

Sam Hackney Reports on the U.S.A.

Sam Hackney and the missus just returned from a trailer trip around the country. They're tired, and glad to be home, but mighty impressed with what they saw.

As Sam reports—every section has something different; a different way of talking; different tastes in food and drink; different laws and customs. But bigger than all these differences is the American spirit of tolerance that lets us live together in united peace.

"Of course," says Sam, "you run into intolerance from time to

time. Individuals who criticize another's right to speak his mind; enjoy a glass of beer; or work at any trade he chooses. But those are the exceptions—and we're even tolerant of them!"

From where I sit, more of us ought to make a trip like the Hackneys—to realize firsthand how America is bigger than its many differences... how tolerance of those differences is the very thing that makes us strong.

Joe Marsh

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