

Looking at WASHINGTON

Nimitz Says U. S. Leaders Have War Plans Ready

It is reassuring to learn that Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz recently told Congress that the country's military leaders are making "substantial progress" on plans for "the military operations which might have to be carried on in the event of another national emergency."

Testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee and endorsing the Army-Navy unification bill, the Admiral reported that the joint Chiefs of Staff, since V-J Day have completed "an interim United States military policy and an interim strategic concept and plan for the employment of United States armed forces."

There is no better way to encourage a future aggressor than for the United States to be unprepared for war. In the present state of world affairs, there are two nations, Russia and the United States, involved in an inevitable clash of ideas and ideals. There is no other nation able to present effective opposition to the advancement of the national ambitions of these countries.

The situation would not be grave if neither the United States nor Soviet Russia made any effort to impose control of economics and nations by pressure. This would permit the other nations of the world to make their choice on a free basis and eliminate the tension that is produced by rivalry between strong powers. Unfortunately, there is no evidence whatever that the Soviet Union has any intention of permitting the status quo to remain until changed by the voluntary action of people.

In almost every area of its influence, the Soviet Union is moving vigorously to extend its economic system and to secure strategic areas that would be valuable in the event of a struggle. If the United States

sits quietly on this side of the Atlantic and does nothing to meet the pressure of Communists, the rest of the world will be dominated from Moscow.

To adopt a policy such as that proposed for Greece and Turkey, which means effective opposition to Russian expansion, undoubtedly involves some risk of a war. There should be no quibbling whatever in recognizing this danger. At the same time, we believe, the situation makes it plain that the risks involved are less than those assumed by a do-nothing, isolationist and pacifist policy by this country.

Truman-Stalin Conversations Would Not Solve Problems

Meeting in Moscow with the foreign ministers of the other members of the Big Four, Secretary Marshall and his aides are seeking sources of agreement upon vital issues that have arisen in connection with the treaties that must be the beginning of the effort to reorder the world after the devastation of the great war.

There is no reason in the world to suppose that the representatives of the nations, each reflecting the opinions of his government, cannot explore the areas of agreement and make reasonable concessions that will permit some progress to be made toward the settlement that must be evolved.

For these reasons it is almost ludicrous to propose that there is a way to adjust admitted differences unless the top men of the nations get together. There is no evidence that faster progress could be made by Messrs. Truman, Stalin, Attlee and Ramadier. After all, the top-men are necessarily dependent upon their assistants and must regard the policies already in force in their countries.

Representatives Karl E. Mundt, of South Dakota, wants the President to

arrange a personal conference with Marshal Stalin upon the assumption that the two leaders, after exchanging personal pleasantries, could erase all difficulties and arrange for a love-feast without delay. It is not that simple.

Even Mr. Mundt insists that we must have a clearcut understanding upon certain issues, including atomic bombs, the purposes of the United Nations and "the boundary lines and external policies that are to prevail." In view of the reluctance of the Russians, heretofore, to agree upon anything, we find it difficult to believe, along with the South Dakotan, that everything will be ducky if President Truman has a little conversation with Marshal Stalin.

Cities of the Nations Voice A Just Complaint

The mayors of seven cities recently participated in a "flying crusade" to publicize the financial problems of cities throughout the country.

The purpose of the cavalcade is to awaken urban residents to the fact that they are receiving a very inadequate share of tax revenues and thus lead them to exert pressure for a fairer distribution.

The complaint of the mayors is that eighty per cent of the public services performed for city residents is paid for out of municipal funds but that the municipalities receive only nine per cent of the Federal, State county and city tax dollar. Moreover, the mayors assert that ninety per cent of all taxes comes from urban residents, with rural districts contributing only ten per cent.

The chief executives of the cities complain that Federal and State governments have preempted all the tax fields that absorb nearly all the tax powers, thus leaving municipalities without sufficient means to raise additional funds to meet modern necessities. Adding to the lament of the mayors is the fact that surpluses in state and county treasuries are being earmarked for purposes from which the residents of municipalities will receive little benefit.

There is considerable justice in the complaint of the mayors of many American cities. Undoubtedly, municipal corporations are the stepchildren of the governmental structure of the nation. They do not, as a fact, share proportionately in the funds distributed by the State and neither do they have a direct access to the money that the Federal Government scatters throughout the country.

Looks Like Poor Economy To Cut Off Tax Inspectors

It is not often that we agree with the remarks of Senator Kenneth McKellar, of Tennessee, but, in discussing the reduction in funds allowed the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the veteran legislator remarked: "We want to be very careful about cutting off these fellows that collect the money."

The wisdom of this remark is explained by Under-Secretary of the Treasury A. L. M. Wiggins, who says that the \$30,000,000 slash in funds for the Bureau which collects taxes will cost the Government at least \$600,000,000 in income. He explains that the Government expects to collect about \$2,500,000,000 extra from taxpayers through enforcement proceedings but that the cases could not be handled with a reduced staff.

This is a sample of penny-wise, pound-foolish action. The need in this country is for a more rigid enforcement of the income tax laws. Too many Americans are cutting the corners and chiseling on their income tax payments. It is only fair that the Government have a sufficient number of enforcement agents to make such cheating extremely risky.

Truman Urges Price Cuts But Business is Reluctant

President Truman expresses the hope that business men will follow the example of the Ford and International Harvester Companies and cut prices in order to avoid the inflationary dangers of rising costs.

Lew Hahn, president of the National Retail Drygoods Association, agrees with the President and suggests that the "smart operator" will see the need of getting prices down. He warns that if prices go higher, "the public will stop buying and we will have to sell goods at any price we can get for them."

Along the same line, Secretary of the Treasury John W. Snyder reports a "number of indications" that big industries plan to cut prices but adds that, while he is encouraged, he is not "too optimistic."

Despite the example of some forward-looking manufacturers and the good intentions of many business men through the nation, there is little reason to expect relief from high prices as long as the public continues to buy goods. With demand ahead of supply in many lines, and buyers competing with each other for deliveries, prices will stay up. There is only one way to bring them down and the means are in the hands of the people themselves.

What business leaders fear is that the point will be reached when buyers will suddenly refuse to purchase goods. This change-over from a buying psychology will inevitably disrupt the processes of distribution and manufacturing and may possibly produce serious intervals of unemployment. A seasonable and reasonable adjustment of prices before a buyers' strike develops will avoid injury to our economic system. This is well known to leading business men and explains their efforts to bring it about.

Homemakers Observe Special Week May 4-11

Accent on Tomorrow!

That's the viewpoint America's rural homemakers will urge the nation to share with them for at least one week this spring, when they observe National Home Demonstration Week, May 4-11, Miss Verna Stanton, Assistant State Agent for the State College Extension Service, has announced.

With emphasis on action today for tomorrow's world, observance activities will feature progress made in rural family and community living since the home demonstration program was initiated more than thirty years ago.

Special programs, teas, exhibits and tours are among the events scheduled for the week-long, nation-wide open house, according to Miss Stanton. Improvements in rural homes and other

concrete evidence of progress in the application of science to homemaking will go on display, as three and a half million rural women plan and direct the week's events.

Housewives and homemakers participating in the home demonstration program in the United States, Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico will be active partners in the events of the week with Extension workers of the 51 land-grant colleges, and of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Traditionally the best neighbors in the world, rural women during the past year indicated that they now consider the whole world as their neighborhood, Miss Stanton said.

46-YEAR PERFECT RECORD

Potosi, Mo.—B. F. McKinney, of the Borgawich School in Washington County, has taught school for 46 years without being absent a single day.

Sidewalk Scene

It was one of those exasperating sidewalk situations when a man and a woman, coming in opposite directions, jockeyed to the right, then to the left, together, in an awkward effort to pass each other. When the snarl was finally unraveled the man politely tipped his hat and said: "Well, good-bye. It's been knowing you."

MIRACLES OF SCIENCE OLD STORY TO NATURE

Did you know that radar and many other scientific discoveries new to man have been used by such creatures as moths, bats and snakes for ages? Read about these revelations in "Destiny of Man," dramatic new series starting April 27 in

THE AMERICAN WEEKLY Nation's Favorite Magazine With THE BALTIMORE SUNDAY AMERICAN Order From Your Local Newsdealer

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PHONE 231

From where I sit... by Joe Marsh



That Ring Around the Bathtub

Job Crowell blew his top the other day. Seems that for weeks he's been trying to get his youngsters to scrub out the bathtub after using it. And this night he sees two rings around it—one where young Benny left it, and another about Pinky's level.

He raves and rants—and takes it out on the missus for her lack of discipline. And later that evening he sees her quietly polishing the hardwood table that's right by his chair. She's removing the rings he's left there with his evening glass of beer!

From now on, Job's careful to put his glass down on the table cover—like the missus does. And I hear he's a little more forgiving about rings around the bathtub. Just keeps on patiently reminding.

Even when Job's a little annoyed in every family—conflicting habits and opinions in every community. A little patience—a little more "forgive and let live"—is the only antidote.

Joe Marsh

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Here is a letter from a farmer about an experience he had with natural soda on his cotton. It is offered here in the hope that you will find his suggestion helpful and profitable.

The Farmer's Forum from Uncle Natchel's Book of Experience

"I had enough Natural Chilean Nitrate last year to sidedress about one-third of my cotton. We had a very dry August and the cotton that wasn't sidedressed turned yellow and lost a good many leaves. The sidedressed cotton stayed green and the bolls were bigger. It was the same effect I used to get with a nitrate potash sidedressing. I suppose the sodium in the Chilean Nitrate acted about like potash does."

Natural CHILEAN NITRATE of SODA

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