

Looking at WASHINGTON

FRANCO COUNTS ON U. S. AID

For some reason, which so far escapes us, there are a number of Americans who are working to bring about closer relationship with Franco Spain. The suggestion is made that in the event of trouble with Soviet Russia, the United States will need Generalissimo Franco on its side.

The opinion is general that the Spanish dictator is basing his policy on the belief that the United States will be driven to aid him. This means, of course, the re-equipment and retaining of the Spanish army but even so, it is doubtful how much value such a force would be in the event of a conflict.

We should not overlook the fact that the present government in Spain

is a Fascist dictatorship and that Spain is a police state. Admittedly, General Franco is in full control of the country and while executions continue, they are much fewer than they were some years ago. At no point has the dictator made an effort to liberalize his government or to give the people of Spain the basic freedoms which, in this country, are considered essential.

In connection with consideration of our relationship with the dictator-controlled state, we must weigh the effect of such a policy on the Western democracies of Europe. There would be widespread repercussions in Western Europe if the United States moved to a reapproachment with General Franco's regime.

The idea that the Spaniards can

add any strength to the democracy in the event of a showdown with Communist forces is absurd. More absurd is the idea that we have to buy the goodwill of Franco in order to have Spain on our side against Russia. The fact is, Spain has nowhere else to go and the Franco regime would be more afraid of a Communist invasion than probably any other country in Europe.

DEFICIT SPENDING CAN'T LAST FOREVER

The government of the United States has spent \$1,430,000,000 more than it has received in taxes during the last five months, according to Budget Director James E. Webb, who says that spending in 1950 will certainly be more than the \$42,000,000,000 expended this year.

With this news the Budget Director warns that unless Federal taxes go up, the government will face a deficit in the next fiscal year. He points out that demands for government services are increasing and calls attention to the financial requirements of the European Recovery Program, National Defense and interest on the public debt.

Taking cognizance of the items mentioned by Mr. Webb and considering the large sums that the government spends for the benefit of veterans of past wars, it is not easy to disagree with the statement of the Budget Director. In fact, in view of the drains upon the Federal treasury, it is easy to conclude that tax reductions went into effect too soon and that a wiser fiscal policy would have collected larger sums during the nation's years of unprecedented individual incomes.

When the first proposal for tax reductions was being debated in Congress, we pointed out that the cut would be for the benefit of corporations and that it was important for the United States to maintain its levies in order to reduce the national debt. The same observation was naturally made when a subsequent tax reduction extended some benefits to individuals. It was apparent then that unless the nation reduced its national debt in times of prosperity, there would be no opportunity to do so when business conditions declined.

It is about time for the people of the United States to recognize that, while it is entirely proper for the government to go into debt during a temporary emergency, there is little excuse for increasing the national debt in prosperous times. While no one suspects that the United States is approaching bankruptcy as a nation, everybody has sense enough to know that deficit spending cannot be indefinitely prolonged without causing a collapse of the financial structure, not only of the government but of the entire nation.

It will be necessary, before the nation can operate on a sound fiscal budget, for the people of the country to restrain their demands upon all units of government. Not only is the Federal government besieged with pleas to spend public money for sectional and selfish benefits, but the same habit has permeated state and local governments.

The idea that public funds should be spent solely and exclusively for the general public benefit has been seriously damaged by the practice of politicians in seeking to "bring home the bacon." While it is nice, no doubt, to eat meat, which some other people pay for, the people must learn that it is impossible to have more meat and less taxes.

TOO LONG FOR A COURT DECISION

In connection with current proposals that lobbyists be thoroughly investigated, we call attention to the law passed by Congress in 1946 that requires (1) persons, groups or organizations lobbying for or against legislation to register with Congress, and (2) that they file quarterly reports of money received and how and why spent.

The passage of such a law was well within the power of Congress and certainly a valid exercise of legisla-

tion of the public power. Lobbying is a proper business and should be made representative in regard to pending legislation, there is every reason why paid lobbyists should be identified and their practices regulated.

The law in question is now in the courts. The National Association of Manufacturers filed a suit last January, questioning provisions of the law. The matter pending in a Federal District Court. In a couple of years, perhaps, the issue will get to the U. S. Supreme Court and a decision will be rendered.

We call attention to the delay in connection with the test of the constitutionality of an important public law. In this country, it is possible for any citizen or corporation to tie up the enforcement of a statute during the pendency of a prolonged judicial process.

While the right to test the constitutionality of statutory legislation is important, there should be some plan whereby the fundamental rights of citizens can be protected and, at the same time, the enforcement of a statute, such as the one under dis-

ussion, would be endangered if professional lobbyists were required to register for a few years, and even if the law is eventually declared unconstitutional.

SENATION OR SUSPICION?

The House Un-American activities committee has come up with another sensation, asserting that a "bunch of microfilms, found in a hollow pumpkin on a Maryland farm," offers proof that national security information was "fed out" of the State Department to a Communist agent.

Before becoming excited the reader should understand that the allegation relates to the year 1938 and that the location of the films climaxed a ten-year search by U. S. secret agents. The films were brought to light by testimony in a suit brought by Alger Hiss against Whittaker Chambers and thereafter the government served a subpoena on Chambers who delivered the films which had been in his possession.

Mr. Hiss, formerly connected with the State Department, has been named

as one of the persons who had been named in the Hiss case. (Continued on Page 10)

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