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By DAVID LAWRENCE

GENEVA—This is May, 1954, by the calendar but, historically speaking, it so closely parallels March, 1936, that the resemblance is startling. For it was then that Hitler marched into the Rhineland while the Allies stood indifferently by and quarreled with one another.

Has another world war been brought nearer by the events of the past month? Has the atomic war which America dreads so much become inevitable as a consequence of the weakness of the Allies?

For in every country on our side, including the United States, the dissension created by politicians for partisan advantage has paralyzed the executive power and what should be a firm stand against Communist aggression by an alliance of armed forces has become a faltering attitude at a crucial moment.

GERMAN archives, discovered after Hitler's death, reveal that the Nazi leader was quaking in his boots as he marched into the Rhineland and could have been restrained, had the Allies acted together. Instead, they failed to take any military action because their peoples were shell-shocked by the First World War and they believed another war was unthinkable.

Today, the Communists are flushed with their successes. Perhaps the real turning point, future historians will say, was the refusal of Britain and our other Allies in 1950 to sanction the plan of General MacArthur to pursue enemy planes into Manchuria and to destroy Communist bases of supply in Red China.

For today's troubles of the Allies stem largely from the fact that China was lost to the free world. There would have been no military aid for the Indo-China Communists if China itself were not controlled today by a Communist government.

There would also have been no chance for a buildup by Communist armies in North Korea to compel the armistice of today if Truman and the Allies had stood firm and fought the Korean war vigorously in 1950 and 1951.

THE danger now is that weakness on the Indo-China question will incite the Communists in Moscow and Peking to take steps that will bring on another world war.

"Long drawn out though the fighting has been (in Indo-China), British public opinion has never been encouraged to think out what it means; and as a result, now that a crisis has blown up, people are inclined simply to cry for peace without caring who wins or loses.

"Indeed, that way of putting a stop to the war in Indo-China would actually bring an atomic war nearer. It is the considered opinion of the military experts that Indo-China is, in President Eisenhower's words, the cork in the bottle. If it falls to the Communists, then there will be the greatest difficulty in preventing them from overrunning, in their own time, the whole of Southeast Asia, reviving the insurrection in Malaya, spreading into Indonesia, spilling over into the whole Indian Ocean area and thrusting a long Red tongue of menace down to the shores of Australia.

"It is perfectly idle to suppose that at some stage in this quite possible chain of events Britain would not try to put its foot down. Indeed, we should be drawn into armed resistance as soon as the Red tide reached the frontier of Malaya—which is an early stage, the next but one or two. If these are the possible, the quite probable, consequences of letting Indo-China go, then it is obviously the right policy for Britain to help keep the cork in the bottle now. Recent history provides plenty of awful examples of the failure to marry logic and courage while there is still time."

A SIMILAR warning can be given about the danger to America if the Western Pacific falls into Communist control, threatening Japan and the Philippines and affording bases for an attack on American outposts in the Pacific.

There was time just before the First World War for the British to "marry logic and courage" and avoid that war, and there was again time between 1936 and 1939 for the British to "marry logic and courage" and avoid the Second World War.

Will history repeat itself, and is a third world war only a question of two or three years now because the Allies are again unwilling to act decisively against the inexorable advance of a dictatorship government? (Copyright, 1954.)



Our Lack of Realism In Red China Issues

By MARQUIS CHILDS

GENEVA—One can detect here at Geneva a deep undercurrent of distrust over American policy—or lack of it—on Communist China.

There are many persons here with wide knowledge of China, both past and present, quite apart of course from the Communist delegations, who maintain a sphinxlike silence behind their own security curtain.

IN other words, American opinion and American policy are based not on present-day realities but on what Americans persist in hoping is true.

THE basis of a number of interviews are the realities as non-Communist Europe sees them. First, the power of the Peking regime has been widely consolidated.

FAMILIAR techniques of totalitarian control have been extended to the farthest villages with considerable effectiveness.

THE Communist hierarchy at the top in Peking show they can learn from the mistakes made by the Russians.

A sort of "Will you walk into my parlor?" technique is being used, with the peasant farmer lured into successive stages of co-operative farming until he finds himself part of a collective operation.

BELIEF of knowledgeable observers here is that Peking is just now getting everything essential from the Iron Curtain countries.

THE picture is one of growing hatred and suspicion toward the West. If by some possible reversal, America should decide to recognize Peking, the belief is that the move would be rejected, although the same observers say that the Red Chinese would take admission to the United Nations for granted as their right.

A WEST GERMAN diplomat with long China experience was asked: "What would be the result if a Nationalist force were sent against the mainland?"

His reply was: "First of all, they would sell their arms. Then they would take off their uniforms in exchange for peasant blouses which the Communists would supply, and they would announce that they were heading for their homes. The Communists would be prepared to facilitate all this."

TO define the pattern of American security, in the face of the mortal peril of worldwide Communist imperialism, is difficult enough. But to undertake that task without all the facts, even in some instances wishfully shutting out the truth, adds an extra hazard that may encourage the big talk which is in such sharp contrast to the kind of resolute and dedicated action essential if America is to follow a truly strong policy over a long period of years in Asia.

One of these nice clubs for couples who have been married 50 years ought to invite Porfirio Rubirosa to address the annual banquet, just to get the other side of the picture. —Tacoma News Tribune.

Stevenson Not There To Give Party a Lift

By THOMAS L. STOKES

WASHINGTON—Sometimes a star's absence is more effective than the delayed arrival with fanfare.

It was none of his doing that he couldn't be here last week for the big Jefferson-Jackson dinner and celebration.

Watching a big Democratic shindig without Adlai Stevenson gives a clue to what he has become to his party.

IN another way, it was perhaps just as well that he was absent this time. For it left the stage to Harry S. Truman, bubbling and happy, full of good spirits, easy, relaxed, so that everybody could watch and enjoy him as he enjoyed his sentimental return journey to his old haunts under festive auspices.

Now he was the man outside looking in. He was observing a fact of politics and history which must have been a solace of sorts, even though it is so well known to him who is so thorough a student of our politics and history.

IT is obviously a comfort to know that somebody else now realizes that and shares it, now that the band music has long ago died away for General Eisenhower and his party and they are, as were Harry Truman and the Democrats, hard up against the realities.

It was left to him to save the Jefferson-Jackson dinner—and he did that. He was his old, pungent, down-to-earth self in the informal talk he made to the \$100-a-plate diners, but with that extra touch of inspiration he can always invoke as he speaks with simple eloquence of the role of leadership of our nation in the world today.

HE was the first of the principal speakers at the dinner, which seemed bad arrangement. For after him, the affair slowly wilted to an anticlimax—just another dinner addressed by politicians.

There was one speech after another by party stalwarts, perhaps as solid and substantial as it is possible for political speeches to be, but uninspired mostly and with only an occasional touch of wit to relieve the customary catalogue of party virtues and the crimes and misdemeanors of the opposition.

AS the oratory droned on, there was an unspoken wish that Adlai Stevenson were here to lift the affair up. A sample was all that was available—his message that was read by Senator Paul Douglas—just enough to whet the appetite, and to remind of the voice that was missing.

ONE that Republicans have handed the Democrats on a silver screen—TV screen—the spectacle in the Senate caucus room—was created partly by Adlai Stevenson.

That speech did more than anything else to prod the administration into the challenge of the Wisconsin senator. That challenge brought on the investigation at the Capitol which the administration has decided must be pushed through to the bitter end, however it is reacting politically.

That is evidence of the wallop that Adlai Stevenson packs. (Copyright, 1954.)

Hits and Misses

Nebraska man has a clock which runs backward. Hoping, perhaps, to return to the good old days, if any.—Ellensburg Record.

The guy with all the answers usually finds himself surrounded by people with no questions.—Concrete Herald.

For Better Service In Taxpayers' Behalf

INTERESTS of Washington State taxpayers in state and often in more local governmental affairs will be served hereafter by a newly formed organizational set-up under the name of the Washington State Research Council.

In explaining this realignment, Moritz Milburn, who was president of the Taxpayers Association and now heads the new council, said "it culminates a long-time effort" within the structure of the association "to shift emphasis from political activity to a comprehensive research and educational program on problems of state and local government."

The "shift from political activity" to research is entirely logical. As has been demonstrated so often, particularly at sessions of the Legislature, the interests of taxpayers are seldom mutual.

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Welcome Recognition

IT is a compliment to Seattle that the Army Transportation Corps is holding its annual civilian-personnel conference here this week, with three times the usual number of delegates in attendance.

Seattle takes much pride in its Port of Embarkation. This is a welcome recognition of that installation's importance and efficiency.

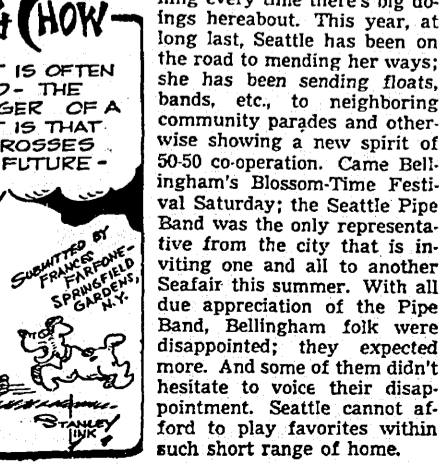
It once was a thrill for the little folk to visit the big downtown store and ride the escalator. But for today's child, reared in a ranch house and sent to a one-floor school, just seeing a flight of stairs is excitement enough.

Thoughts While Reading The Times

By CARL E. BRAZIER

WHENEVER there's so much as a suggestion of need for enforcement—to say nothing of report of the all-too infrequent actual enforcement—of Washington State's law against hitch-hiking, there are always a flock of emotional folk who give forth with protest.

IT is often said—the danger of a fast is that it crosses the future.



WASHINGTON—Last week, Committee Counsel Jenkins found himself face to face with the fundamental issue of the McCarthy problem, and missed the point entirely. As a result of his incomprehension—surely for no other reason—he advised the chairman of the committee, of which he is the counsel, to make a ruling. If it is sustained and becomes a precedent, it is a license to lawlessness and an invitation to anarchy.

Jenkins upheld Senator McCarthy's claim that government employees, including officers of the Army, are not bound by their oaths or by the laws or by any ties of loyalty to their superiors and to the service if—in their own private and secret opinion—it would be a good thing to break the law.

It is established that this document was fabricated by or at least with the collaboration of an officer in the military intelligence. The fabricated letter is based on a confidential and genuine document which the fabrication misrepresents.

SENATOR DIRKSEN then intervened to ask Jenkins and Chairman Mundt for a ruling as to whether it would "be required of a witness, consonant with his oath, that he reveal the source of a document when he had pledged himself to respect the confidence and not reveal the source." To this Jenkins replied:

WHY did McCarthy encourage an officer of the Army to violate his oath and to break the law? Because that was the only way he could obtain for his committee information collected by the legitimate law-enforcing officers of the government.

WHY did he need to break the law to get the information? Because it is not the business of Congress to enforce the laws, and the use and disclosure by congressional committees of information needed for law-enforcement makes it much more difficult for the legitimate law-enforcing officers to enforce the law.

IS it necessary to spell out for Jenkins and Chairman Mundt why the doctrine is indefensible and intolerable, the doctrine of which they are the thoughtless and unintentional authors? Let them try to realize what they have done.

THEY have told each and every man to use his own judgment as to which of the secrets of the United States government he will disclose secretly to any member of the legislature. If Army officers can fabricate documents based on material in the secret files for the use of McCarthy, then who is to say what some other employe may not disclose to some other legislator, secretly and according to his own private views?

Happy Days for Democrats By ROSCOE DRUMMOND

WASHINGTON—It is evident from the meeting of the Democratic National Committee here last week that the Democrats are positively jubilant over their prospects in the coming congressional elections. They are confident they will win in the House. They see a fair chance of taking the Senate, though there are more Democratic than Republican seats in contest.

LOCAL elections in different parts of the country show Democratic gains in Republican territory. These results persuade the Democrats that the Wisconsin and New Jersey congressional by-elections last fall, together with numerous Democratic victories in large cities, constitute a good forecast of what is in the making.

WHY is it that the Democrats look with bland comfort upon the distractions and difficulties which the President is having in keeping his program above the surface in Congress—let alone having it enacted?

WHY does the President feel so deeply and so urgently that his legislative program needs to be brought to reality at this session if the Republicans are to have any good chance of winning the fall elections?

WHY are solid considerations behind both questions. The answer, which shows where the Democrats get most of their confidence and which shows why the Republicans in Congress need to support Eisenhower for their self-preservation, if for no better reason, is this: While the voters gave the Republican Party a decisive victory for the presidency, they denied to the Republican Party anything approaching a normal presidential-election-year victory in Congress.

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