

The Star-Telegram is an independent Democratic newspaper, supporting what it believes to be right and opposing what it believes to be wrong, regardless of party politics, publishing the news fairly and impartially at all times.

A Fair and Square Proposition

Former Governor Stevenson had to interrupt his campaign for the United States Senate for a few days while he ran down to his Kimble County ranch to arrange for the shearing of his goats. This prompted Melvin Winters, a neighbor rancher over in Blanco County, to make Mr. Stevenson "a fair and square proposition."

Mr. Winters offers to "go over to Junction and shear those goats free of charge if he (Stevenson) will tell us farmers and ranchers of Texas how he stands on the law that shears the power of men like John L. Lewis and Caesar Petrillo and keeps Communists out of labor unions."

The law referred to is the Taft-Hartley act which was enacted by Congress last year, over President Truman's veto and over the opposition of the big labor bosses like John L. Lewis, who are now seeking its repeal.

The Democratic National Convention at Philadelphia, in an obvious bid for the labor vote, called for repeal of the law. The next United States senator from Texas undoubtedly will be called upon to vote for or against its repeal.

The Taft-Hartley issue was injected directly into the Texas senatorial campaign when the State Federation of Labor, which favors repeal of the law, broke a 50-year precedent and endorsed Mr. Stevenson. The endorsement indicated the federation is at least hopeful that, in the event Mr. Stevenson is elected, he will cast his vote for repeal.

But Mr. Stevenson never has said publicly whether he would vote for repeal of the Taft-Hartley act or not. He has never said a word that would give the voters even a hint as to whether he thinks it is a good law or a bad law.

This silence on the part of the candidate has not been due to lack of opportunity. After the State Federation endorsement, Mr. Stevenson was asked repeatedly to state his stand on the issue, but he always gave an evasive answer.

When he went to Washington a few days after the first primary the capital correspondents, realizing the importance of the issue, tried numerous times to draw from Mr. Stevenson some inkling as to his views. But to no avail.

Voters, of course, have a perfect right to know how Mr. Stevenson stands, not only on the Taft-Hartley act, but on all other public questions with which the United States Senate may have to deal in the near future.

And Mr. Stevenson, of course, has a perfect right to be for or against the Taft-Hartley act, or any other public issue. It is not a question whether this or that law is good or bad. It is a question of a candidate for a high and honorable office telling the people whose votes he solicits where he stands.

For this reason, we agree that the offer Rancher Winters has made to Governor Stevenson is a fair and square proposition. But we have no idea that Governor Stevenson will accept it. He has been actively campaigning for the Senate ever since last January. He has done a lot of traveling, considerable handshaking and some talking. But he has not yet taken a forthright stand on a single public question that is tinged with the slightest bit of controversy.

Mr. Stevenson's evasiveness ill becomes a Texan—especially a West Texan—seeking election to one of the most important political offices within the gift of the people.

County Tax Cut

A county tax reduction of 3 cents without any increase in valuations, approved by Commissioners Court Monday, will be welcome relief for people of Tarrant County at a time of increased taxation.

A cut of 5 cents in the general fund levy is possible because of heavy receipts from taxes and declining calls on the fund by charity and pressure groups. A reduction of 2 cents in the interest and sinking fund tax is the result of sound debt management by County Auditor Williams, who is an advocate of a pay-as-you-go policy. The court has cooperated with Mr. Williams in conservative financing, and merits due credit as the final arbiter in spending and taxation.

An increase of 4 cents in the building fund should permit needed improvements at the courthouse and county homes for children and the aged.

Commissioners Court has deferred for this year submission of a proposed bond issue for lateral roads. A bond issue at this time likely would not carry, and the size of the local public debt may advise against its further increase for the present. A more gradual, less costly remedy of the county road problem lies in construction of farm-to-market roads, which are permanently maintained by the state. The Texas Legislature also will take up the issue of farm-to-market roads next year.

Conservative financing has been a noteworthy innovation in Tarrant County government in recent years, which is providently putting its house in order in good times to meet the impact of lean years.

SENATOR SOAPER says:

Something new in the labor-relations picture is a strike of plumbers at Kitchener, Ontario, and a picket who had to go back for his placard.

There is no all-time solution of the farm price problem, says one who has stayed with it for years. The most one can hope for is relief from the last solution.

STALIN FACES A DECISION

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop

WASHINGTON.—Through the impenetrable curtain of secrecy which surrounds—at it should surround—current conversations in Moscow, two facts emerge. It is now pretty certain that the Soviet blockade of Berlin will soon be lifted. And it is also pretty certain that a new four-power conference on the future of Germany, and perhaps all of Europe, will ensue. Indeed, Senator Vandenberg, Republican foreign policy chief, has already been alerted to accompany Secretary of State Marshall to such a conference.

From these facts it is possible to draw a further conclusion. The terrible shadow of another war, which has darkened the world in the weeks since the Berlin blockade was imposed, has at least for the immediate future been lifted. Whether it will descend again depends on the results of the impending conference. And that in turn depends in the end on the decision the always shrewd, always ruthless, sometimes affable Russian dictator, Joseph Stalin.

No one can know what goes on in Stalin's mind. Yet the facts of the situation with which he is confronted are known. And these facts will certainly affect the decision which Stalin now must make.

As he muses behind the Kremlin's grim walls, the aging dictator must sometimes feel the pangs of bitter disappointment. When the war ended he had every reason to believe, and undoubtedly did believe, that Russian military preponderance on the continent, combined with the political pressure of his Communist allies, would soon give him control of most of Europe and the Middle East. Yet nothing of the sort has happened. On the contrary, Soviet power has been stopped dead in its tracks where the Red Army stopped when the war ended.

It is now clear that the Communists in western Europe can not take power either by legal or illegal means. Moreover, the west is showing real signs of recovery, thanks to American aid, and an effective military alliance between western Europe and the United States is in the making. Where the Kremlin's pressure to expand has been most direct and open, in Iran and Greece, there has been failure too; long ago in Iran, and within the last few days in Greece, where the Soviet-sponsored revolt has all but disintegrated.

But what must weigh more heavily than these disappointments on the dictator's mind is the mounting evidence of real trouble within his own sphere, in the great area held by the Red army at the end of the war.

It is daily more evident that Tito's defiance was only one symptom of a greater disease. In Berlin, incredibly, the youth section of the Communists' own Socialist Unity Party has condemned the Soviet blockade of the city as a "crime against humanity." In the Soviet zone of Germany, factories are closing and the economy is near collapse, while only the presence of the Red army keeps unrest in check. In Poland, there is real evidence of the Tito disease, with the Communist Party itself showing signs of splitting into "nationalist" and Moscow wings. Before the Warsaw government at length announced its support of the coming and denounced Tito, there was a bitter row between Berman, Moscow's grey eminence in Warsaw, and Vice President Gomulka, a "nationalist" Communist. Berman had his way—but Gomulka is still vice president.

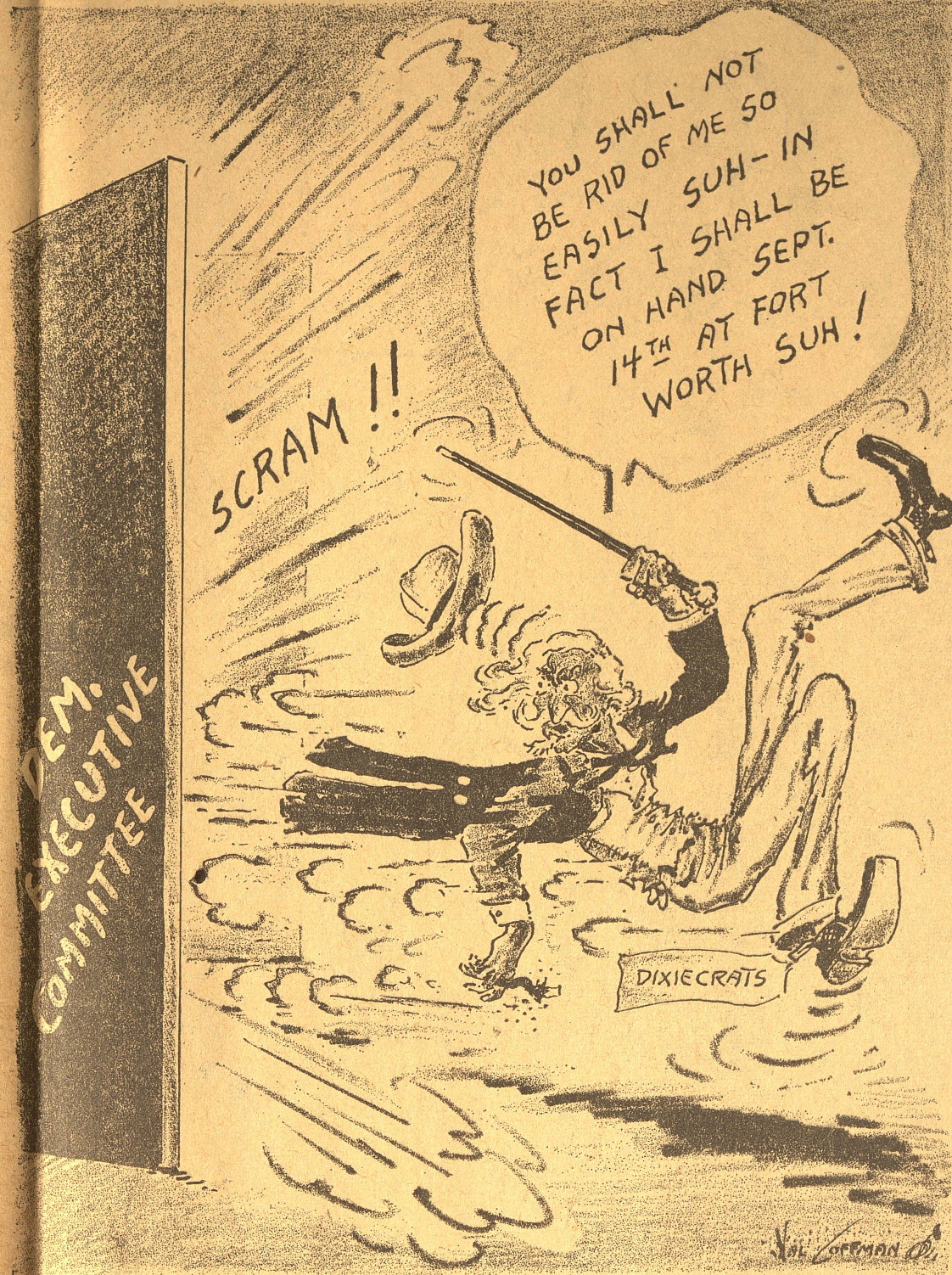
In Czechoslovakia, Premier Gottwald and Foreign Minister Klementis, always known as "Czech Communists," have shown signs of similarly disturbing independence. For this reason they are believed to be marked men, due for purging, although Gottwald has taken the precaution of marrying the daughter of Justice Minister Cepicka, a Moscow favorite. From Hungary, there are reports of real trouble, only the presence of the Red army there prevents open resistance to the regime.

And so it goes. Everywhere, the inbred nationalism of the people, even within the Communist parties themselves, is weakening the Kremlin's embrace. Even the Chinese Communist Party, most powerful of all Communist parties outside the Soviet Union, has developed obvious symptoms of the Tito disease.

It is possible, of course, to exaggerate the meaning of all this, and to leap to the conclusion that the whole structure of Soviet power is disintegrating, which it is not. The Red army is still infinitely the most powerful military force on the continent, and the Kremlin has millions of loyal and obedient Communist servants the world over. Yet in this, his time of decision, the dictator in the Kremlin, together with his subordinates in the politburo, must surely take into account such weaknesses in the Soviet position as those outlined above. No one can tell what Stalin's ultimate decision will be. He might decide to retreat, to consolidate his position, to give the world at the least an uneasy breathing space. Or his very weaknesses might impel him to press ruthlessly forward.

THE FIRST ROUND

by Hal Coffman



—Hal Coffman's Cartoons Appear Exclusively in the Star-Telegram.

REICH UNION IN THE WEST

by Dorothy Thompson

If the abandonment of a west German government is the chief price we pay for lifting the Berlin blockade, we should, I think, concede it. Under the provisions of the London conference such a government should have been created by convening a constituent assembly of west German states in Frankfurt next month. If this assembly is called off, we shall lose "face," but not much substance.

For no government ever will have substantial functions as long as it is created on the whim of occupying powers, and lives to carry out their orders. Since the abolition of dynasties destroyed an ancient principle of legitimacy, governments derive their powers, just or unjust, either from revolutionary seizures of power and naked force or "from the consent of the governed."

Neither the German people nor the existing German state governments had anything to do with the decisions of the London conference. As far as I can learn, the presidents of the Laender were not consulted in advance—any more than the appropriate German financial authorities were consulted about the new western mark.

The reactions of the presidents of the Laender, in a joint memorandum of July 10, raised serious doubts, including the flat statement that "everything should be avoided that would give the character of a state to the organization that is to be established."

The occupying powers think in the terms "west" and "east" because these are their bailiwicks. But no German thinks thus. A German is a German, and his residence in this or that part of the country is largely accidental. Germans live in the western zones who were born and brought up in Pomerania or Thuringia. Their oldest relatives may still be there and none of them thinks of Cologne as "west" and Dresden as "east" in anything except geographical terms. Dresden being as "western" as Munich or Baden-Baden. The term is as empty of meaning as to speak of "western" and "eastern" Catholics or Lutherans. Probably the truest spiritual center of Germany as a "western" nation is Weimar, which is under Russian occupation.

What the western occupying authorities should do, however, is limit in legal contract the reaches of their own authority.

They should allow the present arbitrary state boundaries, fixed purely for occupation purposes, to be established on more reasonable lines. They should free German trade from the restrictions imposed by the Joint Export-Import Agency, which operates in a manner practically indistinguishable from the Russian export-import monopoly.

The Western powers, who oppose Russian reparations out of current production, should stop their own looting of the country's irreplaceable natural resources. One of the assets on the credit side of Germany's contribution to Europe has been her forests, which have preserved the land from erosion and contributed to keep Europe in the temperate zone. These are being denuded by the British and French, in a manner to make the timber barons who ruined so much of our own land green with envy. I am informed that the famous "Black Forest" can be purchased by the acre on the Paris black market.

The western occupation authorities can, at least, allow the various Laender to enact laws for uniform administration and uniform electoral laws. Even these do not exist at present.

In short, the first thing necessary to prepare the way for the emergence of an order of law in Germany, which is the essence of all government, is for the occupation authorities to make statutes limiting their own status and restricting themselves.

PITCHING HORSESHOES

by Billy Rose

NEW YORK.—Last night, as I was sitting in Lindy's pondering the state of the world and the double feature, Mike Romano walked in. I wiggled a waiter to bring an order of cherry cheesecake.

"Hello, tall, dark and flatfooted," I said as the detective eased into my booth.

"Stop making cracks about my arches," said Mike. "I've been on a case for 16 hours and I'm in no mood for bum jokes."

"Which desperado are you trailing this time," I asked, "the bubble-gum thief of P. S. 44?"

"I'm after a murderer," said Romano, "and I expect to nab him before morning."

"Goodie, goodie," I said. "Reconstruct the crime for me, scream by scream."

"Well," said the detective, "at 8 o'clock yesterday morning a showgirl was found dead in a midtown apartment hotel. She had been stabbed with a silver letter-opener. The hallmarks on the weapon were those of an English silversmith named Storr."

"Paul Storr," I filled in, "silversmith to Geroge the Third."

"That's the fellow," said Mike. "How come you've heard of him?"

"I once bought some of his stuff at auction," I said. "But tell me about the dame."

"Well," said the detective, "we talked to the manager and elevator boys, but nobody knew much about her. Her only visitor was a gent who used to drop in once a week, and leave 10 minutes later."

"Sounds like a bill collector," I said.

"Or a fellow who was being blackmailed," said Romano. "The show girl might have known something about his past and was being paid off to keep quiet."

"Did you get a description of the man?"

"He was a smallish gent," said Mike, "chubby around the middle, and he had a funny habit of humming when he was thinking."

"What other clues did you find in her apartment?"

"A pad with some shorthand notes," said Romano. "I figure they're his because we checked and found they never taught shorthand in the school the girl went to."

"Did you have the notes transcribed?" I asked in my best Baker Street manner.

"Yea," said the detective, "one of the boys at the department writes Gregg. They were a reminder to phone somebody in Los Angeles about a show that was opening there."

"What else did you find out?"

"He wasn't a drinking man," said Mike. "There were two

ward. Whatever his decision may be, we shall soon know, for better or for worse.

glasses on the piano. One had the remains of a highball, the other an inch of cherry soda.

"Maybe it was the man who went for the hard stuff," I said.

"Judging by the rim of the highball glass, it wasn't," said the detective. "That is, unless he used lipstick."

I sat back and tried to think of someone who fitted the description of the murderer. He was in show business, a small man with two tummies, a teetotaler, a shorthand writer and a Paul Storr fancier. Who could it be? Max Gordon? Guthrie McClintie? One of the Shuberts?

I noticed Romano watching me closely. "You must be thinking deep thoughts," he said. "You're humming."

"If this is a joke, flatfoot," I said, "I don't think it's very funny."

"Easy does it," said Romano quietly. "Where were you yesterday morning at eight?"

"In my apartment at the Ziegfeld," I said.

"Any witnesses?"

"No," I said. "Eleanor's in the country. I bunk at the theater during the summer, Monday through Friday."

"I ought to send you to the chair," grinned Mike, "but for old times' sake, I'm only going to fine you an extra order of cherry cheesecake. In the future, be careful whom you call flatfoot."

"If you ad libbed that plot," I said, "you ought to write a column yourself."

Mike lit a cigar as big as a billyelub. "What do you think I've been doing the last 10 minutes?" he said.

Our niece Flighly doesn't believe in marrying for love. She thinks marriage is too serious to mix sentiment with it.

The rich society people in our church are sure to be saved if they shun Satan the way they shun us.

Another advantage about being real poor is that anything you have to eat tastes good.

JUST FOLKS

by Edgar A. Guest

THE WORKER.
The brilliant mind
That labor shirks,
Will fall behind
The boy who works.

A BOOK.
A book is like a faithful friend.
Consider them together.
On sunny days they don't depend.
Both share the worst of weather.

THE BIG FISH.
Unless the big fish got away
To leave his size in doubt
What else when comes a rainy day
Would anglers talk about?

VACATION.
Vacation days for rest and play
Are good for weary men;
But only when they know the day
They'll be at work again.

These new supersonic planes raise the question: Would you rather travel faster than sound or stay fast on the ground?—Christian Science Monitor.

CRACKS AT THE CROWD

by Claude Callan

Parents don't realize what tyrants they are and how much sadness they cause children. Today when we heard a mother call to her youngsters to come in and clean themselves up, it brought back sad memories of our own childhood. Older people can't understand what a blow this is to youth. The summons to come in and clean up means that the fun is ended and the torture of scrubbing dirty knees and washing the back of the neck is about to begin. And this is followed by the task of putting on clean clothes, a task made worse by mother's unreasonable order not to get the clean clothes dirty. It is had to be called from play to run an errand or take a dose of bitter medicine, but the worst thing of all is to hear mother's terrible command, "Come in now and clean yourselves up."

Cousin Pelfry thinks he is a failure because he settled in the wrong country, but really the country is all right. It was just the wrong man who settled there.

Our niece Flighly doesn't believe in marrying for love. She thinks marriage is too serious to mix sentiment with it.

The rich society people in our church are sure to be saved if they shun Satan the way they shun us.

Another advantage about being real poor is that anything you have to eat tastes good.

OFF THE RECORD

by Ed Reed



FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

Trademark Registered U. S. Patent Office
MORNING—EVENING—SUNDAY

Combining the Fort Worth Star, established February 1, 1906; Fort Worth Telegram, purchased January 1, 1909; the Fort Worth Record, purchased November 1, 1925. Entered as second-class mail matter at the Postoffice at Fort Worth, Texas, January 1, 1909, under Act of March 3, 1879.

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for republication of all the local news printed in this newspaper, as well as all AP news dispatches.

Subscription Rates—By carrier: One week, Evening only, 20c; Evening with Sunday, 30c; Morning, Evening and Sunday, 13c; Single Copies, 5c. By mail: One week, 35c; One month, \$1.25; Six months, \$7.00; One year, \$12.00. Single copies, 5c. Postage paid at Fort Worth, Texas.