

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.

Broad Base of Free Enterprise System

Alarmists from the right and the left engender apprehensions lest the American democracy and its system of free enterprise be drifting toward dictatorship either of powerful monopolies or of Communist radicals. It is an old but still authentic truism that the price of liberty is eternal vigilance which must be exercised constantly against an American form of fascism or communism.

However, a factual report showing the broad spread of postwar well being has been issued by the Institute of Life Insurance as a reassurance to the American people.

The report cites Department of Commerce figures that show the average number of business firms in operation reached an all-time high of 3,800,000 in 1947. The total was double that of 1900 and a fifth more than in 1939.

A nation with almost 4,000,000 enterprises, large and small, and more than 60,000,000 employed is hardly heading in the direction of dictatorship.

Further striking evidence of freedom in America is the fact that labor unions had an aggregate membership of about 13,000,000 in 1946 as compared to 7,750,000 in 1939.

Millions of home owners augment the force which has an equity in the free American economy and are a great bulwark against socialism, fascism or communism.

As to the asserted danger of monopolistic domination by a few colossal corporations as the entering wedge for fascism, the Institute of Life Insurance cites the record of growth and increase of small business which have been greater than

the gains of big business. Again quoting Department of Commerce figures, the survey states that the total assets of the 200 largest manufacturing corporations in the 1939-46 period increased by 41 per cent, their sales by 100 per cent and their net profits by 61 per cent. In comparison the assets of 800 lesser corporations in the same period showed an increase of 96 per cent, their sales a rise of 148 per cent and their net profits an increase of 150 per cent.

These figures demonstrably prove the fact of opportunity for the little fellow in the free enterprise system. The great incentive is the chance to establish a business and to expand its operations by sound management. Income from farms where ownership is steadily increasing over tenancy has shown a gain of 238 per cent in the 1939-46 period. This material progress attests the intrinsic strength of the American economic system.

However, the Institute of Life Insurance adds a note of timely caution that the greatest threat to "the so-called little fellow" is not the rise of powerful monopoly but "economic instability and depression." The avoidance of economic disaster, upon which Russia is relying so heavily, thus becomes the common cause of 4,800,000 businesses, 6,000,000 farms, 60,000,000 employed workers and 140,000,000 citizens who enjoy the inestimable boons of freedom and its incident well being, while much of the world is afflicted by deprivation and servitude to dictators.

Not the Answer

Senatorial Candidate Coke Stevenson has not yet stated his position in regard to the Taft-Hartley act.

In a letter to the editor of the *Kerrville Times* Mr. Stevenson merely states that he "thinks the effect of the Taft-Hartley law in curbing the labor monopoly has been a good thing for the country."

That is more a statement of fact than the expression of an opinion.

Statistics of the U. S. Department of Labor show conclusively that the effect of this law has been good for the country. The department's records show that between V-J Day and enactment of this law an average of 395 strikes began each month. In the first eight months the Taft-Hartley act was in operation strikes averaged only 209 each month, a decrease of 47 per cent.

The number of workers involved in strikes declined 60 per cent, and the number of man-days lost due to strikes has declined 62 per cent.

These facts are known to William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, yet Mr. Green has said that to bring about the repeal of the Taft-Hartley act is now the first and foremost goal of organized labor.

The facts also were known to the Democratic National Convention, yet the platform adopted at Philadelphia calls for repeal of the act.

The Texas State Federation of Labor knows what the Taft-Hartley act has done toward reducing strikes. As an affiliate of Mr. Green's AFL it also knows that labor's first and foremost goal is bringing about the act's repeal. It is trying to elect men to Congress who will vote for its repeal. And it has endorsed Coke Stevenson for U. S. Senator from Texas, seeking thereby to bring about the defeat of Mr. Stevenson's opponent, Lyndon Johnson, who voted for enactment of the law.

In view of labor's demand and the Democratic platform on the subject, it is a foregone conclusion that a bill repealing

the Taft-Hartley act will be introduced as soon as the 81st Congress convenes next January.

So the important question now is not what Mr. Stevenson thinks the effect of the law has been, but whether or not, as a member of the Senate, he would vote for or against its repeal.

The people of Texas, both those who favor repeal and those who oppose it, have a right to know before the election two weeks hence how Mr. Stevenson stands on the issue. His letter to the editor of the *Kerrville paper* throws no light whatever on the matter.

People's Victories

Widespread favorable reaction to the defeat of the Crump political machine in Tennessee invariably has conceded that "Boss" Ed Crump has given to his state and city of Memphis efficient public services, reasonably honest administration and low taxes. Thus the victory in Tennessee tended to narrow down to the right of free people to govern themselves, to uphold the dignity of the ballot and to choose their own representatives in government.

These interpretations define Mr. Crump as a form of benevolent despot, so to speak, with an appreciation of good government of his own choosing. Undoubtedly, Mr. Crump in his years of political leadership has taken pride in his city and state, and afforded them good government in many respects. While political bossism may be inimical to democracy, the substitute of free election by popular exercise of the ballot too often has meant that reform administrations have hit on the rocks when they gain office.

Under the direct election process, voters are confined to seekers for public office, often meaning the choice of the lesser of two evils. In the absence of bosses, modern democracy must find means of selecting high types of men for public office, or else popular victories at the polls prove costly triumphs.

SENATOR SOAPER says:

Falling down on his promise of lower taxes and bigger handouts, the undaunted politician is in-with another. This calls for a controlled economy within the framework of free enterprise.

The canoë-in theater, as at Waltham (Mass.), evokes a satisfying picture of the loutish late-comer stumbling over you into the river.

Always, in his photo, the head Commie in the satellite state looks like a man who lives in a haunted house, as he more or less does.

With the gadget which records permanently what is said on a phone, cryptographers may make the first exhaustive study of the teen-ager's conversation, with a view to cracking the code.

SLOW GOING AT MOSCOW

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop

WASHINGTON.—Authoritative reports of the conversations now going on in Moscow clearly indicate that the Russians, who follow an unvarying pattern in dealing with their Western antagonists, have now moved into Phase 2. This has considerably watered down the optimism on the lifting of the Berlin blockade which existed a few days ago. For Phase 2 of Soviet diplomacy is, of course, the tough phase.

Phase 1, the conversation between Soviet Dictator Stalin and the three Western envoys, was just about what might have been expected from the published accounts. On Monday, Aug. 2, the Westerners, Bedell Smith of the United States, Frank Roberts of Great Britain, and Yves Chataigneau of France, were ushered into the rectangular Kremlin conference room ordinarily used by the 14-man Politburo. At one end of the long table the Western diplomats found Stalin, Soviet Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov and an interpreter.

Ambassador Smith, with the backing of his British and French colleagues, spoke urgently and frankly of the extremely serious view taken by the Western powers of the Berlin blockade. Stalin was affable—he is capable of an agreeable geniality. Moreover, he seemed unexpectedly reasonable. In the two hours' talk, he made no firm commitment. But the three Westerners left with the distinct impression that the blockade would soon be lifted, and that Stalin was ready to negotiate without demanding advance payment in the form of prior concessions.

Smith, Roberts and Chataigneau are, of course, experienced diplomats. They are wholly familiar with the usual pattern of Soviet diplomacy. Nevertheless they were encouraged by their long conversation with the Russian dictator, and the aura of optimism which surrounded them when they emerged from the Kremlin reflected this encouragement.

Immediately they went to work on drafting a report of their conversation. The report was written by all three and was dispatched in identical form (except of course that it was translated into French for Paris) to the three Western capitals. This in itself is significant, for it demonstrates how close is the alliance which Soviet policy has forced on the three Western states. At any rate, the report was cautiously but distinctly optimistic in tone. Thus ended Phase 1.

Molotov took over for Phase 2—the tough phase—which started with the meeting on Aug. 6. Ambassador Smith's terse remark on emerging from this meeting suggested its tone—"Molotov, three hours, no Stalin, no comment." For, as if to balance the affability of the dictator, Molotov was even rather grimmer than his custom.

The Westerners began by reciting, as a basis for discussion, their understanding of the views expressed in the previous meeting by Stalin. Molotov brusquely implied that the Western version of what Stalin had said was incorrect. The blockade, he asserted, could be lifted, and a four-power conference arranged. But the Soviets, he clearly indicated, would expect an advance down payment from the West in return.

The expected down payment inevitably concerned western Germany, and the plans agreed upon at the London three-power conference for a western German government. Molotov argued that a conference to negotiate a government for all Germany would be meaningless if the Germans, under Western auspices, were simultaneously meeting to create the framework of a government for western Germany. The implication was clear—call off the German parliamentary assembly scheduled for September as an advance payment on the lifting of the blockade.

The three Western powers have so far acted completely in concert. Yet the west German problem may lead to disagreement. The French, quite naturally, want to make Molotov's down payment, simply by delaying those features of the London agreement which they opposed in the first place. It is the French view that the choice is between postponing a west German government or evacuating Berlin. There would be certain advantages in such a postponement to the Americans and British as well, if only because a lifting of the blockade would provide an opportunity for building up the depleted stockpiles in Berlin.

Yet such a concession would look to the Germans like Western weakening. Moreover the Americans, backed less firmly by the British, have consistently taken the position that they are willing to negotiate, but that they are in Berlin by right, and will make no prior concessions to get the blockade lifted.

These matters stand at present—as this is written another conversation is taking place in Moscow. Although, in accordance

DOG DAYS

by Hal Coffman



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

PULL UP A CHAIR

by Neal O'Hara

It's an unwritten rule that when any brand of merchandise is used in the White House, its purveyor or maker may not advertise that fact. . . . A survey of comic book readership by the Institute of Student Opinion reveals that their interest in such stuff reaches a peak in the fifth and sixth grades of schools, but that it's approaching the vanishing point by the time they're high school seniors.

Readers of a sedate Texas daily were startled to read a recent item beginning: "There were at least 18 more Americans in the world Thursday night than there had been in the morning. One elderly gentleman did the job." (It seems the local obstetrician had put in a busy day.)

Even Caesar got that fatal stab, so don't be surprised if a large group of top band leaders and their musickers quit the heretofore impregnable American Federation of Musicians as they give Boss Jimmy Petrillo a great big burp. . . . Today's favorite gag: Wedding Guest (to bride's father)—"It must be hard to lose such a beautiful daughter." Bride's Father—"Yeah; but it's a lot harder to lose a plain-looking one."

Our top Marshall Planners in Washington have tipped off Britain's Sir Stafford Cripps that he'd better be prepared to dish up a complete audit of British official finances after the new Congress meets in January—to convince many congressional skeptics that Britain hasn't been frittering away American dollars to further her socialist experiments. . . . Chinese epicures (and few are more discriminating) regard the side-whiskers of tigers as ideal toothpicks. Such toothpicks are not too hard to hurt the gums, too soft to fall in their purpose and not too brittle to snap.

Thoughts while shaving: 1. Wonder which makes a major league pitcher sorer at himself, yielding a one-base hit in a tight game or giving up a base on balls? . . . 2. Why do they call them "guest towels"? You offer a guest the same food and drink as the family has, so why should the towels be superior to those the family uses? Just why, in short, should a hostess put on swank only in the bathroom? . . . 3. The point has now been reached when we don't know which is more annoying to these ears—a woodpecker drilling outside our bedroom window at 5 a. m. or a vocal vocalist blasting out the song "Woody Woodpecker" at any hour of the evening. . . . 4. It never diminished our zest, in youthful days,

with the Soviet pattern, Molotov talked far tougher than Stalin, no doors have been slammed. At least a temporary resolution of the Berlin crisis, and a foreign ministers' conference in Paris in September, are therefore still better than even bets.

CRACKS AT THE CROWD

by Claude Callan

When you buy a second hand car be sure you don't buy from a relative whose wife has tired of the old car and made her husband get a new one. We made the terrible mistake of buying a brother's used car. Our idea in buying the car was to have a means of taking our wife and children for an occasional ride, but our wife doesn't look at it in this light. "You were just tired of seeing Mable ride in this old wreck," wife says, "and you took it off Tom's hands so he could buy Mabel a new car. You didn't want your dear sister-in-law to be humiliated by having to ride in this rattletrap, so you decided to get it for me. You should see if dear Mable doesn't need something else new. If she needs new clothes you should buy her old clothes for me and this will enable Tom to get her some new dresses."

Nation-wide figures to date indicate that Bing Crosby's "Charterwell" as the name of his country estate—and the course of his life seems to prove that's quite appropriate. . . . Country editor speaking: "The best place to spend a sweltering day is in the cool depths of the family basement with a good book and a cold bottle—or, if the light is poor, with a cold bottle."

After Aunt Nora has everybody on the place helping her look for something she has lost, she remembers that she left it at home.

Parents should learn their place. They should give you food, clothes and money, but not worry you by giving advice.

Foreign countries should get along nicely on what they make and what we make.

JUST FOLKS

by Edgar A. Guest

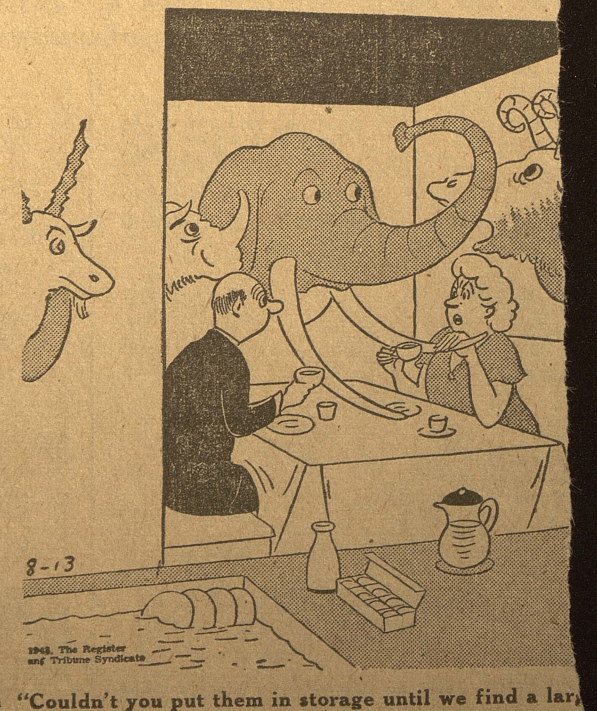
WORRIER.

Used to think when they were small, By and by when they had grown, I'd be through with one and all Of the worries I had known. "When they're strong enough," I'd say, "We can turn them out to play," But when they were seven and eight, Bicycles they begged to ride, Fancying the danger great, Worry never left my side. Later (that's how youngsters are) Came the wish to drive the car. "Well," said I, "the day will come When no more we'll have to fret. Fear will be less troublesome When responsible they get." Many a night I woke afraid When too late away they strayed.

Thought it ended when they'd wed And came children of their own. But there seems no end to dread. All the fears I fancied frown Have returned. I worry still Every time a grandchild's ill.

OFF THE RECORD

by Ed



1948. The Register and Tribune Syndicate

PLATFORM IS MISLEADING

by Dorothy Thompson

The Communist Party platform, as published in the New York Times of Aug. 7, is a document for public consumption; and, therefore, following party methods of having one policy for the public and another secret inner-party directive, is entirely misleading.

The Communist Party of America, whatever its platform, has no independence. Its decisions are not made by the gentry who assembled in New York, but by the executives of the Communist International, which is identical with the Soviet state and which exercises over it continual control.

When, consequently, the platform says "we are no more foreign agents than was Jefferson," it is lying and smearing a great name. Thomas Jefferson was sympathetic to the French Revolution only up to a point. Under no circumstances would he have put the interests of any state ahead of those of the United States. And he took no tips from Robespierre.

It is a cardinal principle of communism that the interests of the Soviet state take precedence over other state loyalties, even, as the case of Marshal T. demonstrates, over the interests of any other Communist state. This view is a matter of elementary record in accounts of Communist international congresses, published, not for public, but for the party.

It also is not true that Communists avoid practicing violence as their platform asserts. To indulge in ruthless violence against all critics the moment they have the instruments of force in their hands.

The platform statement, "Communists seek only the opportunity to compete fairly in market place of ideas," is bald dash. Every member of the Communist Party abandons all except the fundamentalism of Marxist-Leninist bible as interpreted by the Soviet pious, and when in power brutally all contrary ideas.

most profound absurdity in Communist plea for free speech is that by merely joining party every member voluntarily gives free speech. You can take from an individual what already has given away.

But the most interesting of the "platform" is its list of the Wallace party. The Communists will put no separate dates into the field, except they may be on the ballot. The Wallace party is hailed as a "given birth" by "millions of Americans." This is indeed the Wallace party was created by the Communist Party. Reason is made clear in the Communist platform. Communist something "around all forward-looking Americans could unite."

The Communist Party has "fundamental as well as tactical differences with Wallace." "The Wallace party," it continues "an anti-talist party." It is, however, united front, a mass party.

But the phrase, "we special position within the party," is incorrect. The Communist dictated the platform of the Wallace party and it to the "proper" line conformity with the strategy out in the "popular progress of the Comintern to Mr. Manuisky; V. "united front" they vanguard, held in an which "enables us concrete situation to united revolution."

The Wallace-Communist alliance thus follows the term of the Socialist set up in Eastern Europe the Russian zone.