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Truman Restores Order in Foreign Policy

President Truman's dismissal of Secretary of Commerce Wallace is most commendable and ranks easily as one of the most important actions the president has taken since he entered the White House. Its importance lies in the fact that the confused and intolerable situation which had existed for a week in regard to America's foreign policy has been brought to an abrupt and happy ending.

Through this action and the president's expression of complete confidence in Secretary of State Byrnes, as well as his unqualified support of the course Mr. Byrnes has been pursuing at the Paris peace conference, is restored in a flash the lost prestige of America in world affairs.

President Truman's decision is commendable not only because of its immediate salutary effect but because it will serve to prevent similar unfortunate episodes from occurring in the future.

The president has made it crystal clear that no change has been made in our established foreign policy and that none is contemplated. Furthermore, he has laid down the ironclad rule that in the future no member in the executive branch of the government will make any public statement as to foreign policy which is in conflict with our established foreign policy. All future public statements touching on foreign policy are to be cleared before release with the State Department and in the case of disagreement the matter is to be referred to the president.

That is as it should be, and as it should have been in the past. That is the way an orderly government should function. It is the way to avoid chaos and to prevent giving to the rest of the world the impression that this great nation is divided and unable to make up its mind in which direction it desires to move.

It would have been far better had Mr. Truman done on Thursday, September 12, what he finally did do on Friday, September 20. It was on the earlier date that Secretary Wallace delivered in New York the speech which created all the furore, the one in which he vigorously attacked the policy being followed by his cabinet-colleague, Secretary Byrnes at Paris. The president's prior approval of the speech and his subsequent explanation that he had intended only to approve of Mr. Wallace's right to deliver it, without specifically repudiating its substance, left the nation and the world in doubt as to just what our foreign policy was, or was likely to be in the near future.

It would have been far better, too, if Mr. Wallace, after the embarrassment he had caused President Truman and Secretary Byrnes had become evident, had tendered his resignation voluntarily and thus saved the president the further embarrassment of having to ask for it.

Instead, Mr. Wallace simply made a bad situation worse by consenting, in his conference at the White House Wednesday, to keep quiet until the Paris conference ends, meantime remaining in the cabinet.

Irrespective of Mr. Wallace's personal feeling toward Secretary of State Byrnes, he should have realized the impact such a course would have on the nation's prestige and its influence at the Paris conference. It made it difficult for anyone to know just what our foreign policy was. Under such circumstances, nothing Secretary Byrnes or his colleagues might have said or done at Paris could have been expected to have much bearing on decisions of the conference.

As long as the slightest vestige of uncertainty about American policy remained, other delegates to the conference naturally would have hesitated to support any position our representatives might have taken.

If they had acted on the assumption that the United States was to continue to follow Mr. Byrnes' policy, they would have found themselves in an embarrass-

ing, if not dangerous, predicament in the event the United States switched to the Wallace policy after the conference adjourned.

Conversely, the other delegates and their governments would have been out on a limb if they had assumed that, in the end, Mr. Wallace's views were to prevail and it turned out that this was a false assumption.

In such a situation, representatives of other governments could hardly have been blamed for proceeding at the conference without taking much account of the wishes of the United States. It would have been hazardous, to say the least, for them to have done otherwise.

Now, happily, the world knows exactly where America stands. We still have our differences regarding domestic problems, but as President Truman said, we stand as a unit in our relations with the rest of the world.

What, if any, effects this episode may have on the political fortunes of any of the personalities involved remains to be seen, but whatever they may be they are of relatively minor importance. President Truman, by his belated but decisive action, unquestionably has raised himself in the esteem of the American people.

Mr. Wallace did nothing to improve his political stature by attempting to remain as a part of an administration while publicly assailing its established policy, or by permitting himself to be gagged on a subject which he himself said was of the utmost importance.

As it is, his departure from the cabinet removes the seal that had been placed on his lips. He is free now to preach his doctrine of appeasement to his heart's content, without further embarrassment to President Truman, Secretary Byrnes and the American people.

Relative Beefsteaks

Meat scarcity? It's purely a relative matter, says the U. S. Department of Agriculture, going back 37 years to prove it. Digging into past figures, the department says that while meat production this year is likely to fall a little below 1945, the per capita supply last year was the greatest since 1911.

The same goes for other foods, the department's food economists aver, on the basis of a study of the nation's diet over the years since 1909. Proportionately to population, the supply of eggs, dairy products, citrus fruits and vegetables was more plentiful in 1945 than ever before. And Americans ate considerably better in World War II than they did in World War I, consuming 10 to 15 per cent more food per person.

Diets even included more of such shortage foods as sugar, fats and coffee. The food supply was richer in such health-necessary elements as calcium, iron, vitamin A, vitamin C and the B-vitamins riboflavin and niacin. Between 1909 and the mid-thirties, the protein, iron, niacin and thiamine content of the American diet declined, but increasing meat consumption and enrichment of grain products has brought it upward since that time. On the other hand, there has been a steady increase in the American intake of calcium, riboflavin, and vitamins A and C throughout the 37-year period covered by the study.

The relative scarcity of certain foods as well as the gradual improvement in the nation's diet is attributed to the same cause—increased national income which has enabled Americans to eat better, and better education in the nutritional values of foods. The department's educational system has not yet progressed to the point of telling how to extract nutrition from an empty meat counter.

JUST FOLKS by Edgar A. Guest

GRIN.

I've seen the grins of the chaps who win
In various contests, but
There's none so wide as the golfer's grin
Who has just sunk a lengthy putt.

FAITH.

Knowledge never thinks to leave
Fact's established groove.
Faith has courage to believe
What it can not prove.

RIGHT WAY.

There is a right way and a wrong,
And never a sign in sight.
Who takes the hard way and the long
Will usually find it right.

EPITAPH.

Beneath this stone a mortal lies
Who never was considered wise.
He freely spent, and freely gave,
And only cared his soul to save.

I'D RATHER BE RIGHT

By Samuel Grafton.

Henry Wallace's speech and the reactions to it constituted a post-war comedy of manners. For in searching out a road to peace with Russia, Wallace stumbled on something that sounds like the isolationist position. He said (and he would have let his tongue be cut off rather than have it say the same words during the Hitler period) "that we should recognize that we have no more business in the political affairs of eastern Europe than Russia has in the political affairs of Latin America, western Europe and the United States." And an isolationist writer for the New York Daily News throws cat-fits of joy over this sentence, choking, gurgling and sputtering with mirth as he welcomes Henry into the ranks of the anti-internationalists.

Henry did not mean it quite that way; in the very same speech he proposed international action to deal with atomic energy, etc. But it remains true that, in this disorientated postwar world, a sincere man, of the idealist persuasion, finds, when he seeks for peace, that he must recommend the breaking off of collaboration with Britain, and a system of spheres of influence for ourselves and Russia, and both are isolationist ideas.

Now let us look at the other side of the stage: If Henry's speech had isolationist overtones, it should have been at least moderately pleasing to the elders of the Republican Party, who have themselves for many years possessed a natty set of isolationist overtones.

Not so; the Republican dialog runs the other way; from Vandenberg down, the greats and ancients of the GOP have condemned Wallace's address; they utter maledictions on the idea of spheres of influence; they say *fie to him* for wanting to break off active collaboration with Britain, that same Britain which has so often been the target of bitter Republican oratory in House and Senate.

This is curious. It raises certain almost fantastic speculative possibilities. We must remember that the isolationist movement was once, around the middle Thirties, a liberal movement; anti-war, anti-"merchants of death." But, shortly before the war, isolation was taken over by reaction, and, during the war, isolation became largely an anti-Russian movement. Can it be possible that, in much the same way, anti-Russian influences are now moving into the international movement, reassured by the safe western majority on the Security Council; can it be possible that they have in fact moved into it, leaving the hapless liberal, who wants peace and friendship with Russia, no out except to go back to isolation? Can it be possible, in other words, that the wheel has come full circle?

In this space, I have written about the manner in which former conservative isolationists were beginning to admire and adore the Security Council; Wallace's speech, coming a little later, with its burden of what might be called the new isolationism, gave melancholy to the observation.

The new isolation is at best (like the old) a kind of feeble and bankrupt answer to the world's problems, an answer arising only out of desperation, strictly from hunger. Yet liberals may turn to it, as a desperate expedient for saving the peace, and we may yet see liberals glossing over Soviet pressure against Europe, and bidding us solve our own problems first, while we see conservatives minimizing the danger of war, and demanding that, on their terms, we proceed to save the world. The wheel has turned; and while there may be something too neat about all this, there is also something of verisimilitude in the manner in which the new pattern mocks the best-laid schemes of men, and defies the blue prints of a year ago.

(The opinions expressed in these dispatches are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Star-Telegram).

THE BLANKET FINE.

Because court dockets have been overloaded for years, it's natural for most judges to seek means of expediting cases. A practice that could be attributed to this desire—or, in some cases, to plain inertia—is the "blanket fine." This custom has enjoyed an especially flourishing growth in convictions for fire and health law violations. Defendants tend to receive one penalty per building, though the violations may actually number a dozen or more. Obviously the blanket fine can be a slap on the wrist for offenders who deserve a trip to the woodshed. It was encouraging, therefore, to see Judge Heller of license court adopt, last week, a policy of a separate fine for each deviation from the law.—Chicago Sun.

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POTSDAM PACT IS BASIS

Germany Still Key to Europe's Recovery

(The last of a series of articles comprising a politico-economic survey of Europe today.)

BY SAMUEL LUBELL.

PARIS, Sept. 20. — When the Big Four foreign ministers take up the German question, instead of "coming to grips with the real issue of the peace"—as so many have been forecasting—they may find themselves trying to catch hold of two greased pigs and getting nowhere.

What can be done in the situation?

The most obvious answer is that some new approach to the peace-making, other than through the council of ministers, is needed. Can a general, over-all understanding be reached with Russia? By this time all the peace issues have been joined in conflict and the risks of nonagreement are sufficiently evident so that a new and properly prepared Big Three conference might produce such an understanding—if it still is possible.

Failing that, two other general courses of action seem possible. One is to force the issue of Germany in the council of foreign ministers, in which case—considering the complete absence of good faith that prevails there—the most likely outcome would be to affirm Germany's partitioning. The second course is to let the situation drift, trying to stabilize the competition now going on between the powers by holding to the Potsdam agreement. Of the two, the second course seems wisest.

Why? If only that for another two years we stand to gain little by tearing up the Potsdam agreement, while we could lose a great deal. Much has been written about the "ceaseless degeneration in the heart of Europe" and how, because of Potsdam's policy of dismantling the Reich's heavy industries, "Germany's sinking economy is dragging all Europe down with it."

ON VACATION

Cartoonist Hal Coffman is on vacation. His cartoons will appear again in the Star-Telegram late this month.

Far from being dragged down, Europe's economy is recovering steadily. The official indices would be much higher if they included the enormous international smuggling and black-market trading that is going on, largely because of unstable currencies.

Economic conditions in Germany today are primarily the result of the terrific war destruction, complicated by a world food shortage and failure to act on such problems as stabilizing the mark, without which no incentive to work exists.

The four-zone division of Germany has been another obstacle, but this would not be overcome by breaking completely with Russia.

As for the limitations upon heavy industries, they can not be blamed simply on the fact that none of the production ceilings laid down in the Allied control agreement has been reached. Until they are, which will not be until 1948 and perhaps 1949, Potsdam gives the United States and Britain a green light to boost German production as quickly as we can.

These production ceilings are adjustable by common agreement, which could become Potsdam's most important provision. It provides a formula for the steady raising of Germany's economy by co-operative agreement among the Allies. The alternative is for the Allies to rebuild Germany in competition and conflict with one another.

If the western zones are to go it alone, it becomes even more important to reduce the Ruhr's

distorted emphasis on heavy industries and to encourage light industries. Rebuilding Germany's heavy industries would not only aggravate Russian suspicions but would raise German hopes of plunging the Allies into war once again. It would be poor economics to restore plant capacities which never served any legitimate peacetime function—as 18,000,000 tons of steel—and to try to absorb their exports in a capitalistic world which has not yet digested its own excess left over from the war.

Many economists have attacked the concept of curtailing Germany's heavy industries. It may be possible to make out a case against too drastic a curtailment. What some of these economists overlook is that Germany's economy can never be restored to its prewar distortions and provide peaceful work for all her people. It must be transformed—the issue is one of the degree of change needed.

Most important, our bridgehead of co-operation in Germany must be kept open for the possibility of a real peace settlement with Russia a few years from now. As the wrestling between our countries registers its effects—strengths and weaknesses—both giants may find they can come to a tolerable balance. Should that develop, Germany will be the toughest problem to negotiate, and it will be easier to revise Potsdam than to start with nothing.

That agreement provides for keeping German demilitarized and de-Nazified. As a result of seven months of negotiation in the Allied Control Council in Berlin, it also contains as an appendix an industry-by-industry blueprint for the entire German economy which all four powers have signed. Are understandings with the Russians reached so easily that we should tear up the one agreement we have with them?

What is needed for a solution of the German problem is to run a skewer across Europe, integrating Germany's rebuilding with the reconstruction of Russia, France and others. Reparations is the logical mechanism for doing that but they must be handled as part of an over-all European recovery.

It is late, but not too late to do it even now.

PULL UP AN EASY CHAIR

by Neal O'Hara

Public announcement: After having infested public forums for 26 years, this columnist has finally retired from the speaking business. This should satisfy at least 3,697,082 eardrums—and you're welcome . . . Public speaking, on the professional side, is a racket. One's booking bureau (usually in New York) is contacted by an organization that wants a speaker of certain specifications, the price is quoted at, say, \$300, and the deal is closed. Well, the illustrious speaker collects exactly 50 per cent of that, net. In other words, he talks to some gathering at Altoona, Pa., gets \$150 for the deathless thoughts he imparts to the audience, and the booking bureau, out of its \$150, pays the speaker's expenses (rail, pullman berth, meals and hotel bill) out of its 50 per cent. Some fun! If a pundit had inexhaustible lungs, could live to be 1,000 years old and spout off every night at the prices mentioned, he might become a millionaire, minus income taxes.

We may say this, in a spirit of braggadocio, that in those 26 years of blasting audiences' ears, we never failed to be paid for our services—in short, not one bad bill to be written off. It is true that not a few clients complained that we were not worth the money exacted for our oratorical toil, but they all paid on the line. Good sports! . . . Not a bad bill in 26 years—and we challenge Am. Tel. & Tel., U. S. Steel or any other outfit to match it.

Which reminds us. We spoke one night at a lecture course in Port Jervis, N. Y., had to hustle to get a train back to New York, were in the rear of the outgoing audience and happened to catch the remark of one woman to another. She said, "I may have heard a worse speaker than this one, but I don't know where." (The lady was doubtless correct).

In those 26 years of impinging on the public intelligence, we have collected anything from a free lunch (and glad to get it) from some civic organization to \$1,160 for a 15-minute chat at Chicago's Blackstone Hotel to a flock of midwestern automobile dealers. (Those were the days!) No after-dinner speech is worth that much, but if they insist on paying it, who could say "no"?

One night early in January 1929 we were booked to speak before the Albany, N. Y., Chamber of Commerce at the Hotel Ten Eyck. There was one other speaker by the name of Franklin Delano Roosevelt who, as the newly elected governor of New York, was making his first public pronouncement as the occupant of that office. His sons, Jimmy and Elliott, supported him as he came to the head table. FDR was the main speechifier, naturally, so this columnist went on first. They had told us that 16 minutes was our chore, but (and we trust this doesn't sound like boasting), the audience was so receptive to our corny gags that we were exceeding our allotted time. While a laugh was going on, we whispered to Governor Roosevelt, "I'll be through in three minutes, gover-

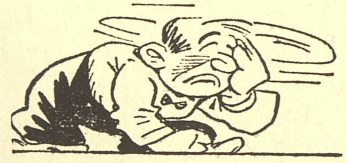
SHORT SHOTS

by Robert Quillen

Old-timers used to say: "Gold where you find it." Now it is wherever you set up a shop to take women pretty.

How much cheaper living would it be if we had no vanity to serve and no foolish pride to save.

Free speech means you can say what is true if you don't mind losing the support of this or that prejudiced group.



Middle age is the period when you feel young again at a class reunion, but age about 10 years next morning.

Unwelcome house guests are ones who don't let you do the cooking. They just decide to be their guests—and that's that.

What a man sows, he must reap. But life is short, and the reaping may have to be finished by his great-grandchildren.

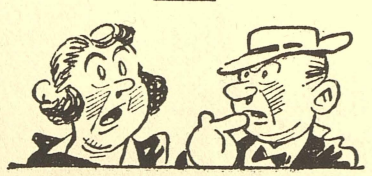
What highways get the blame for most of the accidents that wouldn't have happened if only they had been better maintained.

The roads were safe in the old days. If the driver was drunk or couldn't see, the horses had sense enough not to bump into things.

Labor organizers in the South were instructed to attend church. Careful about the collection! Too much will look phony.

Might as well make up our minds to it. Our government, on which our fate depends, will be managed by third-rate men while we pay only third-rate salaries.

Maybe crime could be prevented. Chain stores and the big packers observed ceilings; they had too much to lose and the gain wasn't worth the risk.



He isn't truly absent-minded unless his wife asks him, as they leave home for the evening: "Have you got your teeth in?"

Why expect gratitude from a nation? If you save a rival merchant.

CRACKS AT THE CROWD

by Claude Callan

How foolish it is to try to marry your daughter to a rich man. She will be just as happy married to a poor, worthless fellow like father, and she and her husband will be worth more to you. Where daughter marries a rich man she may soon reach the point where she will come home only as a duty, and when her husband is in town he probably will stop at a fine hotel instead of coming to your home. On the other hand, where daughter marries a plodder like pa, she and her husband and the big bunch of children will always be near you. They will have deep affection for you and your dining table, and grandma will have the pleasure of sewing for the children in an effort to make them look fairly respectable. Yes, you hardly know how