

White House May Be Just Another Office Building

THERE is much discussion of the slow reaction of Congress to legislative proposals of President Truman, as summarized in his address on the state of the nation. That message was in large part reiterative, several of the measures mentioned therein having been previously recommended. As to all things the President has suggested in relation to domestic problems, Congress has done substantially nothing.

But on one matter, and a matter quite out of the ordinary, the negative attitude of Congress has been fairly indicated. The House ways and means committee has thumbed down executive request for an appropriation of \$1,650,000 to build an addition to the White House. Architects have planned this addition "for executive offices," and to include a large auditorium, for purposes not clearly revealed.

Committee decisions are not always final; but so far there is no outcry in Congress against this one. Elsewhere at the nation's capital many influential voices are raised against any tampering with or distortion of one of the world's best examples of domestic architecture.

The original architect of the White House was James Hoban, who also supervised its construction. It was first occupied by President John Adams in 1800. The British burned it down in 1814. Hoban supervised reconstruction, and President James Monroe moved in during December, 1817. Last construction provided for in the Hoban plan was completed in 1829.

The beauty of the White House is in its symmetrical proportions, which would be seriously impaired, if not quite destroyed, by the huge addition now proposed. As The Washington Post aptly says, "This would give the White House the appearance of something about midway between a large and pretentious railroad depot and the clubhouse of a very expensive Long Island golf club."

The White House was built as a residence for the President, and was never meant for any other use. It was built to be a home, and not an office building; although, of course, every President has had private offices therein, where visitors of his own selection could be received. In 1902, with executive business increased and more clerical help needed, a separate office building in harmonious design was constructed to connect with the White House, and first used by Theodore Roosevelt.

This office building afforded ample space for executive operations until overcrowded by the swollen secretariat set up by the second Roosevelt. President Truman has repeatedly declared purpose to reduce the number of government employees. Surely he cannot exempt the supernumeraries attached to the executive offices. Why, then, a \$1,650,000 addition to the White House to make room for more?

De Gaulle and Critics

WHEN Charles de Gaulle withdrew from the provisional government of France he said the task committed to him had been fulfilled, and added that "the nation is no longer in a state of alarm."

The cabinet of his successor, Felix Gouin, has taken the other tack, and is giving the French people what is known as the "shock treatment." All official statements depict the perilous condition of the national economy; and the policies pursued by De Gaulle are denounced as having led France to the brink of financial disaster.

Politics in France is not only partisan—with any number of parties—but is intensely personal. De Gaulle's primary task was to help effect the liberation of France. He served past the point of that accomplishment. Obviously, when he said the nation was no longer in state of alarm, he meant it was free from fear of enemies without.

For all his pomposity, the measure of De Gaulle's patriotic service to France is far in excess of anything yet manifested by his critics.

It would be interesting to hear Philip Murray, who so hotly denounced employers for not obeying the President's orders in the steel crisis, explain the action of the New York tugboat men in voting two to one, and amid loud cheers, to defy the government.

Miners Don't Seem Happy

BRITAIN is short of food, and rations will be skimpy for yet a while. But this is due to no apparent fault of the people or any failure on the part of government. Britain is caught in a shortage involving many other countries, virtually all in Europe and Asia, and affecting some areas in Africa.

The causes of food scarcity are natural causes. The devastation wrought by war is widespread beyond all precedent. The earth is the source of food; and the earth of many lands has been so scorched that much time must be taken to restore it to productivity. Meanwhile the British and other peoples so situated must be supplied with all the food more fortunate peoples can spare.

But Britain also is having a coal shortage, and the explanation of this is not so simple. Coal production has greatly slowed down, with corresponding effect on all industries using coal. Fuel Minister Shinwell declares that unless coal output at once be increased by 250,000 tons a week, a very dangerous situation will speedily develop.

The United Kingdom has vast coal resources. Normal pre-war production ran as high as 270,000,000 tons a year; and though figures are not at hand, production is known to have increased to meet war needs. The recent slump and present crisis are due to the indifferent attitude of the coal miners. They are not on strike; but seem joined in a slow-down of work.

The British press seems to be a bit bewildered. The entire coal industry is now in process of switching from private to government ownership. It is being nationalized, in fulfillment of Labor Party promise. Miners' organizations have long been hot for that very change. Just now they are doing nothing at all to justify it.

JUST A FALSE FRONT

By Barrow



China Loses Faith in U.S. Promises

By CONSTANTINE BROWN

WASHINGTON—The "economic negotiation" going on between Chungking and Moscow to give Russia 50 per cent participation in the development of all resources in Manchuria is indicative of doubts creeping into the minds of Chinese leaders as to the political ability of the United States to help China against the pressure of her powerful neighbor.

The Russian "economic" plan is said to be similar to that already imposed on Romania, Hungary and Yugoslavia. The Sino-Russian treaty provides that, with the exception of Russia's participation in the exploitation of the Chinese Eastern Railway, no further encroachment on that country's sovereignty was contemplated. The treaty in effect recognized the Cairo declaration of November 1943, which provided for the unrestricted return to the Central government of China's richest province.

The question of the Manchurian railways was brought up by Premier Stalin at Potsdam. President Truman, Prime Minister Attlee, and later Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek recognized Russia's historical rights in the Chinese Eastern Railway and a treaty of amity, whereby the Russians undertook not to support the Yen-an Communists and recognized the Central government's authority throughout China, was signed.

It was no secret in Washington and Chungking that as soon as the internal situation was stabilized and the civil war came to an end, the reconstructed Chinese government would devote all its energies to modernize China, not only politically, but economically as well.

Chiang has been negotiating with the American government for a military, air and naval mission to modernize the obsolete Chinese armed forces. At the same time, the government has been considering hiring a large number of American technicians and experts to teach the Chinese modern farming methods and also to establish an industry to use China's rich minerals, which foreign concessionaires, interested not in China's industrial development but in enriching themselves, have inadequately exploited.

Thus a country with a population of about 450,000,000 souls contemplated bringing itself up-to-date with the help of the United States. The decision to "Americanize" China—in the widest sense of the word—was prompted by two factors. One was that, of all the great world powers, the United States is least inclined to political domination and territorial aggrandizement. The other was that only this country has sufficiently large industry and production to provide the Chinese with the wherewithal to carry out the ambitious plans of Chiang and his advisers. Moreover, America still has enormous prestige with the Chinese masses.

THESE plans seem now to have suffered a setback.

The Central government of China is most anxious to recover Manchuria, which the Russian armies liberated from the Japanese. According to

the terms of Japan's surrender, the Red armies had to withdraw last November. "Incidents," such as the appearance of Yen-an Communist troops in the Russian-occupied area before Central Government troops had a chance to be transported there caused a delay in withdrawal of the Russian forces. Chiang himself asked the Russians to postpone their departure until his American-trained divisions reached their assigned places.

The Russians, who at first put difficulties in the way of the landing of Chiang's detachments, later became more liberal and friendly. They eventually allowed Chinese officials to go to Mukden and other key cities, although they were careful to "screen" these officials for their political feelings. At the same time, although nominally the Chungking government was sovereign in Manchuria, the Russian authorities prevented foreigners and particularly American newspapermen from accompanying the Chinese armies.

THESE delays brought forth "economic" negotiations between the representatives of Chungking and Moscow. The Russians and Chinese are equally skilled negotiators and hard bargainers. But the Russians had in their favor the might of Red forces in Manchuria and in Siberia. Moreover, the Central Government was somewhat discouraged by the attitude of the American government towards its domestic, political problems.

Washington authorities blew hot and cold, appearing to improvise policies towards China in the same way that it was handling European problems. The official statements from Washington would have been encouraging, had it not been for behind-the-scenes conversations which convinced the Chinese that it would be risky to place too much confidence in America's support should a critical situation develop between them and the Soviet government.

Thus, when the representatives of Moscow began pressing Chiang's representatives in Manchuria for an "economic agreement" to extend to Russia a half share in exploitation of all resources in Manchuria, there was nothing Chungking could do but accept. Refusal might have brought prompt retaliation in the shape of another breakdown of the peace agreement with Yen-an and in further postponement of the withdrawal of Russian troops from Manchuria.

FOR the time being, full details of what the U.S.S.R. contemplates getting from China are not available in Washington. But the reported desire of Chiang to withdraw from political life after the republic has been re-integrated is a clear indication that he has been compelled to accept conditions not to his liking.

Only two months ago Chiang had grandiose plans for the "westernization" of his country and expected to reside at this transformation himself. The "new" situation is said to be responsible for his desire to withdraw to private life.

Not So Anxious for Overseas Army

By JAY G. HAYDEN

WASHINGTON—Behind the acknowledgment by Secretary of State Byrnes that the United States now is hoping to conclude peace treaties with both Germany and Japan within two years is a conclusion that prolonged occupation of these countries is to be extremely unpopular among American voters.

The loud demand of American soldiers that they be brought home; the definite set of Congress against any extension of compulsory military service beyond next May 15; and the cut-down in American food supply in order to meet foreign relief commitments, all figured in this determination.

Returning from their year-end holiday, congressmen of both political parties reported that the home folk are turning to the opinion that idealistic rejuvenation of enemy countries will be an onerous and costly job, with American taxpayers chiefly footing the bill.

Further, the congressmen said, their constituencies are increasingly convinced that the four-way division of Germany was a prize faux pas, which is likely to grow worse the longer it is continued.

MR. BYRNES was vague as to whether he thought there would be a single German government to sign a peace with, inside of two years. And he said there might be continued military occupation of Germany after a peace is signed. But even so, his statement was a long step away from the conception nurtured up to and including Potsdam that there would be no let-up in the Allied military hold on Germany for at least 15 years.

As to Japan, Mr. Byrnes said making peace will be easier because a Japanese government continues to function. The State Department protested violently last September when Gen. Robert Eichelberger, second in command to General MacArthur, said the occupation of Japan might end in six months, but the Byrnes statement suggests that this prophesy was not too far from the mark.

CERTAINLY there is to be determined effort in Congress to get the United States out of Japan before we are saddled with another winter food shortage in that country. The congressmen argue

that, unless we are to stay in Japan until the thinking of its 80,000,000 people is wholly revised, the time to get out is just as soon as General MacArthur declares that Japan has been completely and thoroughly disarmed.

This task will not be completed within another month, as General Eichelberger's September statement indicated it might be, but there is authoritative military opinion that it can be wound up within the calendar year 1946.

ARMY commanders, returning from Germany, complain that the United States is the one country that is devoting itself primarily to ideological reformation of the German people. The British have not been at all squeamish about continued employment of Nazis where there are no non-Nazi equally competent to do the job in hand. The main interest of the British has been to make friends, in Germany and also in neighboring countries, by getting coal and food for them out of Germany.

The Russian technique is described as follows: First, they liquidated all the former German bosses, both of government and industry. Second, they took everything in the way of goods which might be useful to themselves. Third, they picked the Germans who seemed to be most pro-Russian and placed them in power, free from much of either help or hindrance.

The United States has been kinder to the Germans individually than either the British or Russians, but we have tried our level best both to remove Nazis from authority and dismantle war industries. The net result, as it seems, is that we have so lessened German ability to produce for themselves that we now must feed them.

Since the government took over the meat packing plants there have been hogs enough to satisfy the demand. More than enough in some government and industrial circles, and they didn't come on four feet, either.—Yakima Republic

Magna Charta, sent here for safekeeping, has been returned to England. Will the English now return the favor by taking care of the U. S. Constitution until danger is past?—Vancouver Columbian

Times Readers Have Their Say

MASS VOTING POWER
Editor, The Times:

TO an old gink with a long memory, the letter of John W. Eddy and a comment on same by D. A. Gallagher was amusing in this writer's retrospection. A few will remember some eight years ago that some of the boys got over-ambitious, went out on the highway in Maple Valley, took some of the farmers off their wagons (they, the farmers, not belonging to the union), and proceeded to drive the aforementioned wagons to market for the farmers, all of course, at union wages and at the farmer's expense. For some reason it didn't last long.

So maybe the veterans have been fighting the greatest war in history for some things they little dreamed of. The new Case Bill in Congress, if it is not emasculated, may remedy some of these conditions.

Certain it is, if the veterans stand together in peace as they did in war they can, by their very mass voting power, remedy a few things that should be remedied.

S. G. S.
Seattle.

vistas, both present and prospective. We "native" citizens especially do upon such praise, upon our own pioneer virtues and upon the destiny of our city and our state. Let us beware lest our dotage coalesce in facades, gilded lilies and in a regional mind.

What sheer stupidity to be un-receptive to the twits and gibes of guests from other states as to our day-to-day shortcomings! After all, the latter are but gentle echoes of that current national best seller, The Egg and I. What sport the readers of the Atlantic Monthly must have had in reading "that hilarious story of life on a chicken farm far from civilization!"

Have we giants of the earth no spirit left to improve our own minds and our own conduct? Have we forgotten, or never learned, that the views of others may be more objective than our own? Could it be that our schools, colleges, clubs (yes, even our newspapers) have too long neglected the need to blend into our daily thoughts and actions some of the timeless wisdom of the centuries?

JOHN P. MATSEN,
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BUSY DAYS IN INDIA
Editor, The Times:

MY buddy and I have had quite a few hot arguments in the past few months as to how unselfish and generous the American people are as a whole.

We submit the following plan to you which we feel will settle our controversy for sure, if you will be generous and helpful enough to print it in your paper. Do you want a millionaire friend?

All you have to do is to enclose one dollar bill and mail to Pvt. Darwin K. Waters, 44-005,800 and A. A. Viale, 34th Repl. Co. (E) A. P. O. 494, N. Y., which is located at Kancharapara, India. If as many as one million of you do this kind and generous deed, we will be very much surprised millionaires. You will get nothing in return for your money except our undying gratitude.

PVT. DARWIN K. WATERS,
PFC. ARNE A. VIALE.

HAVE WE FORGOTTEN?
Editor, The Times:

IT is most gracious of visitors and of new citizens of our state to praise our fair city, the hospitality of the inhabitants, the

LIKE OUR FOREFATHERS
Editor, The Times:

I KNOW a man, 65 years of age, recently retired by his company after 15 years of service. In his younger days he was a builder, financier and promoter. He receives 50 dollars per month pension from the state as a reward for his 43 years of continuous labor. He is satisfied, although he feels he could use more money, being active and healthy.

This man and thousands like him have produced tremendous wealth—railroads, roads, buildings, farms and machinery, and all this is inherited by our young men, G. I.'s included, together with a wonderful country. This start certainly should be sufficient for anyone to get along and enough left over to care for the old folks in a dignified manner.

My advice—for what it is worth—to young men is this: Do not allow professional politicians and labor leaders to run your business, but run it yourselves, and work hard as your forefathers did. They were happy.

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What Grandstands Are For

By HENRY McLEMORE

MIAMI, Fla.—This is the second article I have ever written from a morgue. The first one I did was years ago, and I was helping identify a body. Now I am awaiting identification.

Half a hundred people have looked at me today, shaken their heads as if to say, "Either we don't know him, or don't care to claim him."

I am in the morgue, wearing a drape cut suit of ice cubes, because of a game called tennis. Three days ago, a friend of mine named Fritz Goodrich suggested that I take up tennis.

"It is the perfect game for a man of your age," he said. "It will give you great exercise, keep you out in the sun, and keep you away from the pool halls."

I JUMPED at the idea, because there was a time when I could really play tennis. I have several titles to my credit. Playing with Bob Considine, the writer, I defeated Mrs. Bill Henry and her daughter, Pat, to win the Mother and Daughter Championship of Upper New Hampshire, which they had won a year earlier.

Playing with George Lott, probably the greatest of all doubles players, I had defeated Lester Stoffen and Gayle Talbot of the Associated Press at the exclusive Queens Club of London.

So, when Mr. Goodrich suggested that I take up tennis, I was like a rabbit on lettuce. I purchased a racquet. I bought six balls. I bought a pair of shorts, and spent an hour in front of the mirror

IN the living room, practicing my shots, I was probably the greatest player since Bill Tilden. In my imagination I served four hundred consecutive aces. I lifted lobbs just out of reach of my opponents.

Then came the day to make an appearance on the courts. Mr. Goodrich was there, trim, lean, lithe, svelte and anxious to defeat me. He said he had engaged the court for an hour. "Just for an hour?" I said. "Shucks, let's take it for all afternoon."

FIFTEEN minutes later I knew we had engaged the court for 50 more minutes than was necessary. Muscles that had not come into play since I was broke on the local Flexible Flyer tent, began aching. My lungs, if any, were hotter than the inside of an old fireless cooker. For the first time in my life, my ear lobes hurt. They were that tired.

After three games, Mr. Goodrich, who practices as a quack doctor as a hobby, administered me blood plasma. Spectators put in a call for my wife. One look at me, and she called the local representative of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

As I passed out, I remember her words to the insurance man: "Is death by tennis an accident? Will I get double indemnity?"

AS I lie here in the morgue, I promise one thing: From now on, I will not engage in any sport more strenuous than bean-bag tossing. Games are for youngsters, else why do they build grandstands?

THE NEIGHBORS

By Clark



"You know what's been getting on my nerves, Mom? It's those pictures of me every place I look!"