

After Two Years, He's Had Enough Of Moscow Life

—By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON—Whatever President Truman's inclinations may be about changing the principals in his administration, he is likely to be faced soon with a vacancy that is bound to be troublesome. It is a job that is tough, demanding, nerve-racking, with little or no reward.

Shortly before the first of the year, Walter Bedell Smith will return to Washington from Moscow, theoretically on leave from his post as ambassador to the Soviet Union. But no one in the State Department expects him to return to the frustrating prison that is Spaso House, the barracks-like residence of the ambassador.

Smith has had more than two years of Moscow and he has indicated to friends that he thinks it is more than enough. Moreover, he has had some extraordinary offers from private business and publishing firms, including a particularly tempting one from the Radio Corporation of America.

There is also the possibility that Smith, who came out of the war with the permanent rank of major general, may go back to active duty in the Army. At 53, with a brilliant career behind him, he would have an excellent chance to become chief of staff before enforced retirement at the age of 64.

With the exception of his service as ambassador, he has spent his entire life in the Army, having risen from private to be chief of staff to General Eisenhower in North Africa and Europe. Smith has no private income and would ultimately retire on his pension, unless he were to take one of the offers from private business.

VIRTUALLY all Americans returning from Russia today, whether officials or the few newspapermen and other private citizens who are admitted, have the same story to tell. The close confinement in which foreigners live, with constant surveillance seen and unseen, is a wearing and nerve-eroding experience.

There was a time, a year or more ago, when a few Russians still felt free to meet and talk with foreign diplomats. Among the number were artists, writers and stars of the ballet. Last Christmas, a member of the American embassy staff invited some of these tame Russians to a holiday party. Without exception, they declined, giving one transparent excuse or another. Privately, word was conveyed to the host that even this limited fraternizing was now at an end.

SINCE that time, Americans and other foreigners have been almost entirely isolated. Aside from a few employees, almost the only Russian citizen that the ambassador sees is the head of the American desk in the Soviet foreign office. Rarely, if he presses hard enough and makes a sufficient number of protests and calls, he may see Foreign Minister Molotov, who greets him with the warm cordiality of an Arctic glaciator.

Even for the present ambassador, who is not socially inclined, it is a bleak experience; and for Mrs. Smith and other wives, the life is lonely to an extreme degree.

FAT cats, who have contributed generously to party coffers, are ordinarily eager for ambassadorships. But none is likely to seek the Moscow post, nor would they under present circumstances, go to one with no experience with the Russians. Smith dealt with them for many months during the war and Marshal Zhukov personally awarded him the Order of Kutuzov, First Class.

The most logical successor to Smith is Charles Bohlen, the State Department's foremost Russian authority who was named counselor of the department by Secretary of State Marshall. Besides several years service in Moscow, Bohlen served as interpreter between Stalin and Roosevelt at both the Tehran and Yalta conferences.

Through the years of the war and after, Bohlen has worked close with W. Averell Harriman who may be Secretary of State if illness prevents Marshall's return to his job. Harriman was ambassador to Moscow from 1943 to '46. With Harriman in Washington and Bohlen in Moscow, we would have an able team to cope with the major problem of foreign policy.

THE thin connection between the U. S. A. and the U. S. S. R. is dwindling. With the closing of the Vladivostok consulate, a month after Russia closed her consulates in this country, the four Americans at Vladivostok joined 111 in Moscow to make an outpost of 115 more or less lonely souls.

Official Soviet personnel in this country has declined from 290 to 225. But still it is a connection and a most important one. (Copyright, 1948)

How the Scotch make love is to be investigated by a Cambridge university survey. Also, perhaps, if it's true that Sandy went away alone on the honeymoon.—Yakima Republic.

The Globe man in Boston says as sensible a will as he ever read was one providing, "being of sound mind, I spent every cent I had."—Chicago News.

THE FORTY-NINER

By Barrow

Still Guarding U. S. Codes

—By DAVID LAWRENCE

WASHINGTON—What were the big mysteries of 1937 and 1938 which cause officials and former officials of the Department of State to say that publication of stolen documents would be prejudicial to the interests of the United States?

The assumption is that many of the documents did not reach any other government, while other documents did. Until it is clearly established what information was contained in the stolen letters and notes, the public cannot know the exact reasons behind the suppression.

It may be inferred, however, that the documents have a bearing on the effort which the United States was making in 1937 and 1938 to use its diplomatic influence to avert a possible conflict in Europe. It will be recalled that the Munich conference in 1938 was considered to have been an appeasement by Britain and France and that the Hitler regime won its biggest diplomatic triumph at that meeting.

Just what part the United States may have played in assisting in that settlement has never been made public, though it was common knowledge that the late President Roosevelt endeavored by telephone or otherwise to exert as much influence as he could on Mussolini to keep the central European situation peaceful.

THE manner in which Czechoslovakia was abandoned by the western powers in the face of Hitler's demands is still vividly recalled, but it is doubtful whether revelation of any part of the United States may have played in supporting the Chamberlain-Daladier appeasement policy could at the moment seem of more importance to the people of Czechoslovakia than the actual loss of their freedom under Russian communist rule.

Possibly the fear that the Russians may distort the meaning of the documents and foment anti-American feeling in the Balkans may be the basic reason why the material contained in the stolen missives is being suppressed at this time.

WHAT is most important, however, is the possibility that other governments were able during 1939 and 1940 to read the secret codes used by the Department of State in communicating with American ambassadors abroad. This may have a relationship to important negotiations between Russia and Britain or between Germany and Russia prior to the Hitler-Stalin pact. The public generally isn't familiar with the fact that copies of all messages sent to and from foreign countries are as a rule sent to the governments in those countries as a matter of routine by the telegraph companies. But these messages, when put into code through cipher devices, cannot be read by governments' abroad unless they have the key to the codes.

The favorite way of breaking a code is to watch for the publication of the actual text of some statement or pronouncement and then compare it with the code message to ascertain, if possible, what each cipher or sequence of ciphers really means. This is why governments usually paraphrase and change the order of sentences in the event that private messages, previously sent in code, are subsequently made public.

If it's an international agreement or something likely to be made available to the press later on, a type of code is used which isn't particularly secret. There are all sorts of codes, and some are intended merely to keep items from the press for a brief period of time and there is no objection to governments learning the contents.

THE really tight codes, of course, are reserved for highly secret messages and exchanges. If spies can get copies of the originals of these messages, it is a simple matter to break the code by comparing the original with the coded message in some foreign capital.

The big job in the code world always is to get the kind of system that nobody else can decipher, even if he has access to the original. It takes months and sometimes years to decipher the more difficult codes, and after a reasonable lapse of time, governments change their codes. This, however, does not prevent foreign governments from going back into the files, if they break a code, and thus learn the trend or policy on matters not yet concluded.

The extent to which the American codes were subsequently broken as a result of the theft of the documents presented to the House un-American activities committee by self-confessed spies will probably never be known, because it is to the interest of the United States not to yield any information on codes if it can possibly be avoided.

A.F.L. To War on C.I.O.

—By VICTOR RIESEL

NEW YORK—There is strong feeling in some A. F. L. circles that the C. I. O. is weak financially, especially in the South and West, and it can be predicted that the powerful A. F. L. unions will open war this year on C. I. O. in those regions—a raiding war which will spread into the Midwest. Watch, too, for a new invasion of the labor field by tough mobs.

For 30 years communist propagandists and "newspapermen" have been attacking their critics as "fascists," "anti-Semites," thieves and bribe-takers. Now the whistle's being blown on them. Libel suits against communist publications have been launched and a long overdue "outfit," "The Committee Against Communist Defamation," has been started.

And look to England, not Berlin, for the newest communist offensive. In Britain's key industry areas—Hull, Leeds, Sheffield, among other spots—the Communist labor councils have orders from abroad to call "peace conferences." The London District of the Communist Party, acting on the manifest of the party executive, has called on the people of London to organize mass demonstrations at every factory.

Which means that the Russians, having grabbed off as much as they think they can get now have ordered their disciplined satellite parties to "create" peace sentiment behind the western government lines so nothing will be taken from the Comrades by force in Europe.

AS boss of Columbia University, Gen. Ike Eisenhower handles its labor relations—and therefore technically deals with Mike Quill, the C. I. O. transport chief. For it was Quill's subway workers union which organized the charwomen and the janitors who care for Columbia's huge plant and buildings. Labor relations are peaceful and the union has built up a large treasury.

So last week the Columbia union sent delegates to the noisy transport convention in Chicago—and the delegates, two charwomen and a janitor, to exhibit the dignity of people who toil with their hands, traveled in sumptuous railroad drawing room style. (Copyright, 1948)

New Assistant for Truman

—By CONSTANTINE BROWN

WASHINGTON—President Truman is still undecided whether to let Admiral William D. Leahy, his chief of staff, go into retirement when the admiral relinquishes his present post January 20 or to call on him to do another job in Europe, surveying the military potential of the western European defense bloc.

Admiral Leahy told the President some time ago that unless there is immediate danger of another world war, he would like to retire and write his memoirs. Those memoirs contain a large number of highly important and heretofore undisclosed facts about our military and diplomatic policies, and cover the three vital conferences—Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam—which he attended with President Roosevelt.

Truman, while anxious for Leahy to make public these historical experiences which will contribute greatly to understanding of our policies during and after World War II, is said to desire to send the admiral to London, Paris, Rome and possibly Brussels and The Hague to make a comprehensive study of the defense potential of those countries, which now are asking a sizeable amount of war material from us.

IT is improbable that Admiral Leahy will be succeeded by a military man. Although President Truman has not finally decided on Leahy's successor, it is known that he wishes to have at his elbow a man he can trust as much as he has Leahy to keep him posted on diplomatic and military developments by maintaining close liaison with the State and Defense Departments.

There are a number of assistants and special assistants to the President in the White House. They all have specific jobs and must brief the chief executive on matters which are in their province. So long as Leahy was chief of staff to the commander in chief there was no need to have a special assistant on diplomatic and military matters.

Now, however, Truman feels that he must have such an assistant, and while it is uncertain at this time who the man will be, it is known that he must be fully versed in such matters without being a regular service man.

SOME sources close to the President say that he is likely to choose Sidney W. Souers, a close personal friend who is now executive secretary of the National Security Council. Souers, formerly a rear admiral in the United States Naval Reserve, has seldom made headlines, although his present position is one of the highest responsibility. He not only coordinates the work of the National Security Council, where all matters military, diplomatic and economic are thoroughly discussed before major decisions are taken, but he also briefs the President on all phases of national defense.



New Face Among Policy-Makers

—By JOSEPH and STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON—Although the direction of American policy remains in doubt, it is now clear at any rate what individuals are to make American policy. Most of the faces are entirely familiar.

The highly suspect campaign against Defense Secretary James V. Forrestal, Secretary of State George C. Marshall and Under Secretary Robert Lovett has failed utterly. Forrestal will remain in office as long as he is willing to serve. So will Lovett, at least as long as Marshall's health permits him to continue.

And when Marshall goes, he will probably be replaced by W. Averell Harriman, whose wide and intensive experience assures that we shall not again need to lose an ally in order to educate a Secretary of State. The new face among foreign and defense policy-makers is, in truth, that of Harry S. Truman, himself.

For Truman now clearly intends to play a decisive role in the making of policy. Therefore, it is worth examining the way in which Truman gets the advice and information on which any President must base his decisions.

ONE automatic channel of information to the President is the daily top-secret intelligence digest, about two pages in length, which the President receives from the Central Intelligence Agency, and which he reads religiously.

More important, however, are the daily briefings which the President receives every morning from the secretary of the National Security Council. This key job is held by Sidney Souers, an able, little-known Missouri businessman, who enjoys the complete confidence of the President and the chief policy-makers.

Souers keeps the President up to date on the progress toward a decision which the National Security Council is making on those issues with which the council is "seized." Most of the preliminary spadework, on which Souers keeps the President informed, is done by George Kennan, chief State Department planner, and General Lauris Norstad, General Albert Wedemeyer and Admiral Arthur Struble, Defense Department planners. Policy papers are always initiated by the State Department, according to a ruling approved by the President and designed to prevent undue military influence.

THE National Security Council meets twice a month, to consider these policy papers. Under ordinary circumstances, the President does not attend the meetings, but studies the council's decisions at his leisure, after a thorough background briefing by Souers. About one time in five, however, an immediate decision on a crucial issue is required. Then the President takes the chair and the final decision is made on the spot.

The President can, of course, approve, amend or reverse any council decision on his own authority. Until recently, he almost always

Rail-Rate Pact Fight To Be Revived

—By THOMAS L. STOKES

WASHINGTON—One of the issues stressed by President Truman in his election campaign was monopoly, a four-syllable word that means simply the getting together of powerful interests—business, financial and sometimes labor—to control production, fix prices, divide up markets and thus raise the cost of living for all of us.

The 80th Congress, which he criticized day in and day out, was guilty in helping along monopoly in one of our great industries—the railroads. This was by enactment of the Reed-Bulwinkle bill that permits the Interstate Commerce Commission to exempt agreements fixing railroad rates, which enter into the cost of most everything we use, from the anti-trust laws, if the commission regards them as in the public interest.

This deprives the public of an independent prosecutor, in this case the Justice Department, which occupies a role similar to such local watchdog officials as city and county and state attorneys.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN vetoed the bill, but Congress passed it over his veto. He acted from the very thorough knowledge he had gained of railroads, their rate-making methods, their financial practices, their lobbying activities, as a member of the Senate. Because of his veto and this background, the President is expected to ask Congress for repeal of the Reed-Bulwinkle Act, which is being recommended to him by the Justice Department.

The Justice Department now is in the process of building up a case for repeal or revision, using the opportunity offered by the filing of applications by the railroads with the I. C. C. for approval of rate-making agreements in accordance with the new law. Applications have been filed already by eastern and western traffic associations, representing roads in those sections, and the southern association's application is expected shortly.

THE Justice Department has filed a protest with the I. C. C. against the western association's rate-fixing agreement, which was the first to be submitted, and will follow with protests against the others. In the case of the western railroads, it contends that the proposed agreements would legalize rate organizations and procedures that the department, in a suit long

A statistician given to the morbid reveals that the American family pays out an average of \$200 a year for crime. If he means millinery it would be braver to say so.—Washington Star.

pending at Lincoln, Nebraska, alleges constitute an unlawful combination and conspiracy to fix and control freight and passenger fares, to coerce individual railroads and discriminate against the western district, and are thus contrary to the public interest which is the criterion of approval by the I. C. C.

The Justice Department has similar suits pending, involving both eastern and southern railroads, in the so-called "Georgia case." It has been given until January 5 to file a complete, detailed bill of particulars in the western application, and will submit similar bills of particulars in the other cases.

CURRENTLY, the western railroads are trying to get out from under the suit at Lincoln on the ground that the practices complained of are exempt from prosecution under the new law. One of the objectives of the railroads in the new law was to stop this and the Georgia case, the latter now pending before a U. S. Supreme Court master.

This was very evident in the terrific pressure the railroads exerted upon Congress to put through the Reed-Bulwinkle bill. They operated a skillful and powerful lobby, headed up in the Association of American Railroads, the over-all top hierarchy which, under the new law, is almost a private government in itself.

IN final stages of consideration of the bill in the Senate, Senator Clyde M. Reed (R., Kans.), its co-sponsor, sought to mollify the opposition, particularly southerners interested in the Georgia case, by insisting that the bill would have no effect on the Lincoln and Georgia cases. When pressed, he said he learned this from railroad lawyers.

The senator's assurances were called to the court's attention at Lincoln by Joseph E. McDowell, counsel for the Justice Department, whereupon Judge John E. Delehant said such an interpretation of the law was "nonsensical." Counsel for the railroads agreed with the judge, significantly enough, thus refuting the Kansas senator's appealing interpretation.

This may give some senators who voted for the bill an "out" to support repeal or modification on the ground that they were "misled" when the measure was before Congress. (Copyright, 1948)

Goal In Sight, But Efforts Must Not Be Relaxed

MUCH work remains to be done to surmount all the hurdles preliminary to final authorization of the proposed 16-million-dollar flood control dam on the Green River.

The project has been recommended by the Army District Engineer in Seattle and tentatively approved by the Army Board of Engineers in Washington, D. C. That board has accepted the District Engineer's recommendation, but with the reservation that a portion of the cost should be assessed locally. The board's suggestion was that local government units contribute five million dollars to the 16-million-dollar total.

This proposal was considered by a committee representing the state, King County, the municipality of Seattle, the Port of Seattle and the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, and the conclusion of the group was that two, not five, million dollars would be a fair local contribution—the state to provide \$1,500,000 and King County \$500,000.

Several steps still must be taken, therefore, before this sorely needed project is assured. First, the Army Board of Engineers must be convinced that two million dollars is a reasonable local contribution. Then the Legislature must agree to appropriate the state's share of the expense. The project then must be approved by the congressional committee on rivers and harbors and included in the omnibus rivers and harbors appropriation bill.

On the assumption that the state money will be forthcoming, a committee representing all the interests concerned will go to Washington, D. C., to lay its case before the Board of Engineers. The assumption should be a safe one. A \$1,500,000 investment by the state now will bring eventual returns in taxes far in excess of that sum. Property values will be enhanced by elimination of the Green River's recurring costly floods, especially when in the course of time a wide industrial area is opened up at the Duwamish end of the river. The Legislature should not hesitate to provide the necessary funds.

The original Seattle Chamber of Commerce committee which launched this undertaking many years ago now has energetic state, county, city and port co-operation. The goal is in sight. It is attainable within the next few months. This community should give all possible support to these final efforts to put the Green River dam on the federal flood control program next year.

Your Chance To Help

THOUGH Seattle has responded readily to the mass X-ray program against tuberculosis, the fight to eradicate that disease must continue. The Tuberculosis League of King County will continue its work after the X-ray survey is completed. The League derives its support largely from the sales of Christmas seals. It contributed a considerable sum from this source to help finance the X-ray program.

It is doubly important this year to buy Christmas seals, so that the good work of the X-ray campaign can be followed up.

We Doubt It, Dean

THIS hemisphere's venerable guest, the very reverend dean of Canterbury, told a Vancouver, B. C., audience that the "Soviet Union's anxiety to master the secrets of atomic energy arises solely from the desire to apply atomic power to industry and so raise the standard of living." All is sweetness and light and hearts and flowers behind that old iron curtain.

Thoughts While Reading The Times

—By CARL E. BRAZIER

NORTHEND war veterans will serve as a firing squad and color guard at the burial of six Seattle-born Nisei in the Veterans Memorial Cemetery tomorrow afternoon. All six of them fought under the Stars and Stripes; five were killed in action; the sixth died in a jeep accident after war's end. It would be a wonderful public gesture if Seattleites attended those burial services in goodly numbers. Don't go just out of curiosity, go in spirit of heartfelt tribute to a group of Seattle boys who fought just as valiantly and just as believably as did those who were not of Japanese descent.

REGARDLESS of the merits of objections voiced by many against plans for a "cyclone fence" around Upper Woodland Park, those sketches by a Times artist must have given readers a better understanding of the entire zoo project than has been available before. The park authorities would have done better to have some sketches presented for public study much earlier; the citizenry likes to feel that it knows the details of such plans for the spending of public funds. It makes for more sympathetic understanding and less of controversy when public officials give out information before someone pries it loose from them. Not to stir new strife; but study those sketches carefully. Note that the areas outside the fence on N. 50th St.

and Phinney Ave. are to be for auto parking. On those sides of the park a considerable area of apartment houses has developed; that means residents who use the streets for parking purposes. Those parking spaces along Phinney and North 50th may be fairly well filled before the zoo visitors and picnic parties arrive.

SEATTLE'S housing survey shows 32,000 families here about hoping to build or buy new homes within the next three years. Don't be misled by the headlines that said "32,000 hope to buy or build"; it's 32,000 families and that means close to 150,000 individuals. The survey shows further that they plan to spend some 270 million dollars for those homes. Spread that total over the 32,000 families and it means they hope to acquire those homes for less than \$8,500 each. That includes land costs, landscaping, etc., which leaves not more than \$7,500 for actual costs of the home itself. The reporter didn't say whether the survey shows how many of those 32,000 families will be satisfied with the home that can be built for that figure. It seems a safe bet that 20,000 of those families won't be buying or building in the next three years.

NATIONAL statisticians report that the average Seattleite buys more food and pays more for it than the average for the rest of the country. Seattle's total food bill averages up \$314 for each man, woman and child. Elsewhere in the country, the over-all average is \$218; the Pacific Coast average is \$291. The average Seattleite eats better—and more—than other Americans. What conclusions one draws from these figures must be figured out in the privacy of each separate household. To help—or confuse—that thinking, the figures in an adjoining column may help. They show that the nation's food price index is the lowest in 17 months—a decline of 14 per cent from the all-time high of last July. Do your own thinking in weaving the two sets of figures together.

