The Queenstown News

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Friday, January 25, 1952

Trader Truman, The Perfect Host

Winding up his triumphal tour of NorthAmericaa with an address to a joint session of Congress, an honor achieved by few Americans,Great Britain's Winston Churchill should enjoy relaxing journey homeward.

He takes with him assurance of 400,000 tons of American steel, in return for a reported 50,00 tons of Canadian aluminum and a thusfar undisclosed quantity of Malayan tin, agreement that we are not to use our air bases in England fo ratomic bombing sorties without special permission o fthe British Government, our agreement to aid in setting up "as soon as possible' 'an Allied Middle East Command, to continue through the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to compromise the Iranian oil dispute, plus overall backing to the hilt on the defense of Europe.

Apart from the aluminum and tin concessions, the cost of the Prime Minister's victory seems slight. He stood pat on Britain's recognition of Red China, even though it was revealed that Foreign Minister Eden had been and still is opposed. The question of British vs. U. S. rifles for the NATO armies remains dead locked. Nor was there any Churchillian approval of a U.S. commander for the NATO Atlantic fleet.

On the other hand, the vague, back-slapping language of the joint Truman-Church ill announcement seems to say that while we get no increased assistance in Korea, we are tagged for help in Indo-China. There was no mention of new agreements on exchange of atomic information.

During his visit, Churchill recalled facetiously, that he is "half American". In view of what he did to our boy, we could wish that he was a lot more than half American.

Food for Four

Life magazine recently ran a picture story on what a typical U. S. family of four eats in one year. The photo was taken in the warehouse of one of the big food chains and showed the family surrounded by the huge mass of succulent products its consumes. The long list included 2 pounds of cheese, 300 pounds of beef, 690 pounds of potatoes, crates of fruits and vegetables, 131 dozen of eggs, and so on. The total weight is two and a half ton. The cost runs about $25 a week, out of the worker's $1.96 an hour wage.

In most other countries—and especially the communist and socialist countries—Life's picture and accompanying text would seem unbelievable, a piece of deceptive and dishonest capitalist propaganda. For it a rare individual abroad who eats anywhere near as well as the millions of average Americans.

What is true of food is true of all other consumer goods—clothes, furniture, appliances, cosmetics, and everything else. These are the tangible parts of what we call the American standard of living, brought about by free men working in a free society.

We see that all the way along the production and distribution line. We see it on the farms and in the factories, where the raw materials are produced and processed and made into something useful. And we see it, in concentrated form, in the retail stores of America—the chains,the independents, the specialty shops, the supermarkets, the mail-order houses and all the rest. Mass production and mass distribution of everything from staple foods to automobiles have made our splendid American economy and given us strength and abundance.

A story such as Life's is one of the best possible arguments against those who attack free enterpris, and want the government to run everything. There's nothing much wrong with the economic system of a country in which a typical family of four eats two and a half ton of extraordinarily varied food each year.

Looks As If Sasscer Will Get Plenty of Support

The big poltical news of the week even overshadowing any presidential developments, as far as Maryland is concerned, is the announcement of Senator Herbert R. O'Conor that he will not be a candidate to succeed himself.

His reason is that he is opposed to Truman's socialistic policies of government, and that as a private citizen he can speak out more vigorously in opposition to it, than could be possible if he were in office and thereforfe beholden to the political party.

Mr. O'Conor is a dominant political figure. He has been Attorney General of Maryland, twice governor of the State, and United States Senator for one term. He has never been defeated in 11 primary and general elections.

We believe Senator O'Conor is sincere in making his announcement, and will back Sasscer.

The United States Senate race is now wide open, and as is quite natural there is a lot of speculation in both Democratic and Republican circles.

Advertisement

From where I sit ... by Joe Marsh

Ed Got Red In His Own "Hot Water"

Big Ed started a "Pay-Your-Bill" campaign last week and ended up with a slightly red face. Ed's been our Water Commissioner for ten years, and for ten years now he's been getting riled up over slow payments of bills.

So, he finally decided to do something drastic about it. Last week he sent notices that if the slackers didn't pay up by Friday, he'd shut off their water.

Naturally, some *still* didn't square accounts. Ed ordered their water turned off, and 14 homes went without all week end—the Commissioner's among them. Seems Ed forgot to pay *his* bill.

From where I sit, Ed's mistake is one we all make at times. We are too quick to accuse others while forgetting our own faults. Lots of us do it, for instance, over a difference in taste for a soft drink or a friendly glass of beer. Let's respect each other's preferences and we'll all stay out of "hot water."

Joe Marsh

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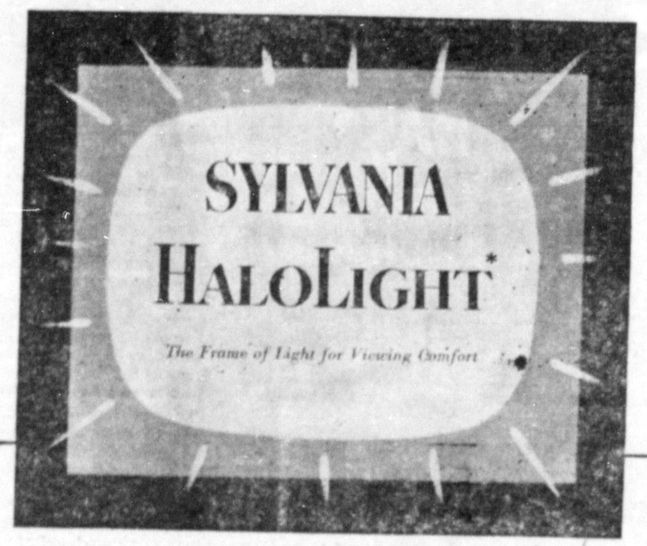

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