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Headaches For United Nations

The united Nations adopted its Charter in San Francisco less than nine months ago. It affirmed that "We, the peoples of the United save succeeding generations Nations" are "determined to from the scourage of war ... to affirm faith and fundamental rights .... to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained." The document was very long and covered nineteen different chapters. In effect it was what we would regard as a Declaration of Independence and a Constitution.

But the plan isn't working satisfactorily. Russia has gummed up the machinery.

No one ever supposed that policies and principles of World Governments would be reduced to a common understanding, inasmuch as different people in all parts of the World have their own habits and customs, as well as many forms of government. Russia misbehaves so badly and is so brutal in its defiance of the rights of the peoples of the United Nations that our Americans are losing faith in the big Bear. We never expected the Russian mind to be the same as ours. But we expected honest cooperation to keep the peace, and in establishing permanent peace throu-out the World.

It is impossible to overlook the fact that the Russians are advancing into territories and countries where they have no business to go. They are widening their political influence from the Adriatic to Manchuria. They are moving just as far as they dare in attempts to undermine the United States and Britain. Our own Administration and Congress are very uneasy about international affairs.

Every day the tension tightens between the Russian and United States Government. There is a belief that amounts almost to conviction that the Russians are strengthening and building up Communism in the United States. While our Nation is preaching and practicing peace and good-will on earth the Russians are weakening the new United Nations.

Unless there is an improvement in international relations our Congress will certainly strike back. That might, unfortunately, reduce the importance of the United Nations to the same level as the lamented League of Nations.

How Much Pay For Congressmen?

Ten thousand dollars a year is a downright handsome salary that would permit many of us to live the life of Riley, or at least a reasonable approximation of it, but this does not hold for the men who represent us in Congress, Democrats and Republicans alike.

Take the story of Ex-Congressman Robert Ramspeck of Georgia who, after 16 years in Congress, recently resigned and became executive vice-president of the Air Transport Association. This offered him an escape from a poverty-ridden old age as a "political has-been."

In a signed article in the current issue of Collier's, Ramspeck gives a list of the expenses suffered by the Congressman, expenses that are not part of our daily lives. But let's let him tell the story:

"A member of Congress can barely skin through on the $10,000 salary he gets. He must maintain two homes, one in his district, one in Washington. He must pay most of his traveling expenses, part of his communication expenses, and every two years he must run for re-election if he is a member of the House; and running for office is not free exercise. My campaigns have cost me between $2,500 and $5,000."

Ramspeck reports that four out of five Congressmen, who recently resigned felt forced to do it; they had to provide some financial security for their families.

Speaking as a private citizen who is "devoted to my country and to my personal liberty" and who "wants Congress strong," Ramspeck declares that Congress itself, because of a fear of public criticism, has failed to give its members a degree of financial security. "After all," he says, "Congress spends less on itself than it does on Indian Affairs."

He calls for a "bold, adequate" move on the part of Congress to give each member $15,000 a year, to create a liberal retirement plan, and to provide an administrative assistant for each Congressman and a research staff for each branch of Congress. Ramspecks argument suggest the need of a statistical study to determine the legitimate average expenses of Congressmen. It is obvious that $10,000 does not give them any financial security, then it's time for the richest Nation of the World to pay them adequately and to make Congress strong.

Pay Justice for All Ranks

The American Legion is sponsoring legislation now before Congress to grant terminal furloughs with pay for all enlisted personnel of our armed forces.

Under the present system officers who accumulate leave do not lose it when they return to civilian life. Enlisted men and women do.

On discharge day officers are given their accumulated pay and allowances for the number of days coming to them, up to a limit of 120 days.

The enlisted man or woman, on the other hand, loses all the furlough time which, for one reason or another beyond his or her control, he or she could not get while in service. This is particularly true of those who served overseas.

Under the Legion bill every enlisted man or woman would receive all accumulated furlough time on the basis of 2½ days for each month of active service plus allowances for rations and quarters amounting to $3.50 a day.

The G. I. is entitled to this. Giving it to him is only giving him something which he has already earned but never received. Each soldier is supposed to get 30 days a year with pay. Actually most of them got less and many of them none at all.

There is no valid reason why enlisted members of our armed ofrces should not be treated equally with officers in this respect.

Congress should pass this Legion bill and correct the injustice under which G. I. Joe and G. I. Jane are not getting a fair shake.

NOT TOO HOT	NOT TOO COLD

The Strike Problem

There aren't enough people working today in the United States to keep the wheels going round. Why work? "The critical strike situation throughout the land blows hot and cold, mostly hot; one strike ends, and another strike begins, but always the public is kept on the hot seat," Senator Alexander Wiley reports to Wisconsin editors. The Senator sums up the situation in these words: "The consumer is hungry for autos, radios, refrigerators, washing machines; the farmer is desperate for new machinery." But one Senator apparently notes the outstanding fact that the news of the [illegible] "idle men and ever more strikes in the offing," though the country is sick of strikes. He concludes that: "We want peace and production in industry so that goods will be turned out and the forces of inflation will be turned back."

Ladies, We Salute You

During the past several months the number of women in the civilian labor force has dropped about 3,000,000 below the 1945 record of 20,000,000.

In many lines of war work our women demonstrated skill equal and sometimes superior to that of men. Now, thousands of women have returned to their own homes and families, and long deferred marriages are taking other couples into new homes.

It is important to note that more than 3,000,000 girls in their teen age rolled up their sleeves to do war work. They have now given up the jobs they held until a few months ago.

Folks, take your hats off to America's women and girls. Not many of them have slowed down reconversion.

We May Miss the Next Coal Strike

An official statement from the Department of Interior shows that bituminous coal production is steadily increasing, in spite of the fact that there was a small shrinkage a year ago.

John L. Lewis is being "built-up" by a deluge of favorable articles furnished by commentators [illegible] all due to the fact that he and William Green of the American Federation of Labor have kissed and made up, and Lewis is back on the Board of the A. F. of L. Both gentlemen indicated that they would support new and logical methods to prevent strikes.

These two leaders undoubtedly are in a position to put an end to the violent methods of other union leaders, who have upset the economy of the Nation, and stalled reconversion and reconstruction. Still more, unfortunately, the Government of the United States has not brought order out of chaos.

LIKE PEANUTS

We don't know who counted them but the Department of Agriculture in Washington says that 232 million pounds of peanuts right out of the ground—though some people still think peanuts grow on bushes—were cleaned and shelled during January, 1946. Last month the holdings of farmers' stock of peanuts totalled 658 million pounds. In the old World peanuts are used mainly to feed the pigs and cattle. We Americans roast 'em and eat 'em.

HIGH TAXES

"Beware the Ides of March," which the Federal Income Tax Collectors counted up in March 15—and the settlements with Uncle Sam will have to be correct if you want to be sure and keep out of trouble. This Washington writer regards as tops all predictions and news item that the United States Government will balance its budget and reduce the high rates of taxation. Truth, the war is over. But the spending spree, and the sentimental American people will back foreign loans and relief on huge scale. It is impossible to expect anything but a big deficit for the fiscal year beginning July 1. So quit your dreaming and remember that Benjamin Franklin gave warning in 1789 that "In this World nothing is certain but death and taxes."

Anderson Asks for Bigger Crops

Secretary of Agriculture Anderson has asked farmers to revise their 1946 production plans in order to contribute further to meeting the critical world-wide needs for food. The Secretary has made a re-examination of all production goals.

Specifically requested are goal increases of 1,000,000 acres of wheat, 1,000,000 acres of oats in the Corn Belt and additional acreages of both corn and grain sorghums in other areas, 1,115,000 acres of soybeans, and 100,000 acres of smooth dry edible peas.

Auto Trade in Violate Regulations of OPA

Automobile dealers who require that a "trade in" be made on the purchase of a new or used car are in violation of OPA regulations, the Maryland OPA State office warned yesterday following inquiries from veterans and others in several sections of the State.

It is a definite violation of OPA regulations," said a State office spokesman, "for a dealer to insist on a "trade in". The dealer cannot make anything a condition of sale except payment of the legal selling price.

"We have had several complaints recently that dealers wanted purchasers to finance their cars instead of paying cash. This also is a violation of OPA regulations. A man who wants to pay cash cannot be compelled to finance his purchase. Nor can the dealer compel a purchaser to patronize any particular company when a car is financed.

"Purchasers of cars who are not familiar with ceiling prices should consult the price clerks at their Price Control Boards. The price clerks are prepared to give the correct selling prices on all cars offered for sale."

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