Washington Digest

Soviet Assistance Termed America's 'Great Mistake'

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

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An army officer, back from a long tour of duty in Germany, called on me the other day. He was goodly giddy about the situation in Europe and bite enough for bibulous of the conversation crept the word "Russia."

"I like to talk about America's great mistake," he said. "Germany is supposed to have lost the war by making mistakes; by attacking Russia, by not invading England after Dunkirk, by this and by that. I contend that America's great mistake was not staying out of Europe until Germany had licked Russia. I mean staying out in every way. Because without American supplies Russia would have been beaten."

I reminded him of the fact that America wanted a short war, that we had opposed Churchill's plan for attacking Europe through the Balkans and thereby obtaining possession of the trouble-making strip of territory which the Russians now dominate from the northern border of Greece up through Berlin. We wanted to shorten the war by leaving the eastern front to Russia while the western allies pounded the German power entrenched in France, the Low Countries and Italy. Thus, millions of American lives would be (and were) saved.

Churchill Pressure Balkan Influence

Churchill probably foresaw the difficulties which would arise with a Russia able to expand her influence up to the fringes of western Europe. Roosevelt believed that the war must be won quickly and he thought that by giving the Russians everything they asked for in the way of military support that suspicions would be removed and that they would play ball with the Allies in the peace and after. He believed that Stalin needed peace so badly that he would come around.

General Eisenhower [illegible] didn't achieve any more of a realistic viewpoint in regard to Russia than Roosevelt did—if we try to believe his somewhat curious Roosevelt, Mr. Sabiston, in his 900-page diary. Sabiston writes:

"He said he felt that . . . the more contact we have with the Russians the more they will understand us and the greater will be their cooperation. The Russians are blunt and forthright in their dealings and any evasiveness arouses their suspicions. It should be possible to work with Russia if we follow the same policies of friendly cooperation that led to the great award of allied unity. . . ."

Roosevelt and the generals were proved right when they said Stalin needed peace. But they were wrong when they thought he would come around. The state department contemplates the situation now and, as the recently concluded meeting of the foreign ministers demonstrates, appeasement has been sent for some time. We have Russia can't fight and doesn't want to. Russia knows we can't fight whether we want to or not. She is acting accordingly and according to historical precedent.

Tsarist History Inspires 'No-Lend'

But anyone who studies Russian history knows that the eternal "no" which seems about the only answer the Russian statesmen are allowed to make, comes from something far deeper than mere stubbornness.

The "no-lend" is only one of the many typical characteristics which the Soviets have revealed. It has nothing to do with the fact that they believe in a theory of political economy which is opposed to our own. It is a deeply implanted quality which is Russian rather than merely Soviet or Communist.

And so when you read "Soviet Russia evaded the vote for the sixth time in security council history . . . transfer the 18th time by the veto (no, not Eleanor) . . . remember it's an old Kremlin custom. Mother Russia has taught her children from the time of the invasion of Genghis Khan, that when a stranger knocks, the only answer is "no, no, a thousand times no!" In fact, a Russian mother says "no" once—it is always "no, no, no!"

Of course, Genghis Khan didn't take "no" for an answer. Which is about the course the rest of the world can follow—if it can. Let's hope the process won't be so rugged.

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OPA Battle Not Political Side

Whatever one may think of the efficiency of the economic theory behind the OPA, its political implications are a thousandfold more difficult to assess.

As congress battled over the tattered remains of the price control law, many a congressman who thoroughly debated the whole set-up began to worry a little as to what might happen back home if he were held partially responsible for wrecking the agency.

It was all right for the representatives of farm communities. The farmer would reap the reward of higher prices first. By the time he felt the effect of higher prices on the things he had to buy, OPA probably would be forgotten. But congressmen from industrial centers were in quite a different position. These metropolitan area heard from the moment the minute encountered a markup at the corner grocery. That is the reason that a number of the publicans supported the administration stand on OPA. If the Republican party is to capture the house of representatives next November, it will have to pick up votes in the cities.

Barbers to Boost Vocabulary Too

It is probably fitting that along with the dollar haircut which has made its appearance in metropolitan barber-shops, we may find the barber presenting us four-dollar words. Barbers long have been known for the quality of their verbal output and in some cases for the quality as well. Now they may have a chance really to reach the heights, for the leader of a barber's quiz has offered to "enlist the aid of 10,000 barbers" in a campaign to get some of the facts of atomic life across to the customer.

Mrs. Lillian C. Sanford, secretary of the Trickum Atomic Information committee, received this offer. She told us about it at a gathering which we had in Washington in mid-July participated in by many nuclear scientists, public men and women of note, and others who are trying to get the public to understand the importance of control of atomic energy. She took the barber's offer quite seriously, and I believe, properly so. I hope that the barbers learn to broadcast the basic facts about the atom, not of course, from the standpoint of nuclear physicists, but from the standpoint of the average man who would like to live his life out in peace, and leave a world in which his children can do the same.

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Congress Scans Types of Closing

It took some time for congress to make up its mind whether it would adjourn "sine die" (without date set for reconvening), as they usually do when a session comes to an end, or whether they would "recess." When congress merely recesses it can reassemble without a special proclamation by the President.

When the President calls congress into session, he has to issue a proclamation. That's all the Constitution demands. He doesn't have to deliver it. Out of courtesy, however, the White House always telegraphs the president of the senate and the speaker of the house.

But the proclamation is not good unless the Great Seal of the United States is affixed thereunto. Nobody can do that but the secretary of state, for he is the keeper of the seal. So along with the proclamation, the President has to issue a warrant, ordering the secretary of state to do the affixing.

I might say that the secretary of state usually delegates this job, which reminds me of a story, which, I believe, never has been printed. When Secretary of State Hull had been in office 12 years, there was a little outburst of congratulations. President Roosevelt, as they were taking pictures, remarked: "Cordell, you are the sole guardian of the great seal, is you here?" He paused, and Mr. Hull replied: "Yes, Mr. President." Then the President, looking him straight in the eye, asked: "Where is it?"

It was Hull's turn to pause. "I don't know," he admitted. "I've never seen it."

BARBS . . . by Baukhage

The minister let his text off and the long group was seated under their trees, the smoke and shade, the ravels and the healthful little noises creeping out of their hiding places.

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Hard lands are going to work quarter hours on the farm, we hear. Probably the cows will move milking time up a little to be obliging.

Each morning as I carefully spread a thin film of 40-cent butter on my undercooked, off-color toast, I doubtfully remind myself that dairies are eating more than it ever did before.

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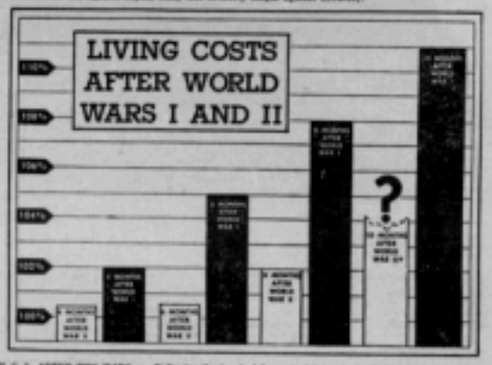
If a clerk put strawberry cream in your chocolate soda and then got you to pay for it anyhow, would you say he was neither dull nor dumb?

PEACE ON EARTH . . . As THE Chaplain was lowered in the gathering dusk of V-J Day, 1945, a marine bowed in silent prayer beside the grave of a comrade in the cemetery on Okinawa. Peace came for him after the war as it came for many on the battlefields. Secret clause Air Vice Marshal Scott, New Zealand, as he signs the surrender aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo bay, while General MacArthur looks on. One year later, on August 14, all the world will honor Chaplin who willingly gave their lives that their's might live in peace. While V-J Day marked the end of the war, hundreds of thousands of veterans are still on active duty, finishing their job to see that war never lifts its head in the world. The nation honors all who contributed to success of the war against Japan, many who bravely fought against Germany.



H. C. L. AFTER TWO WARS . . . Following the trend of the cost of living in the United States after World Wars I and II, economists point out that in 1918 and 1919 prices rose spectacularly. Cost of commodities took but slight rises after World War II because of government price controls. Following demise of OPA, prices rose sharply on some staples and articles. This chart compares increases after both wars. It is based on the U. S. bureau of labor statistics' consumers' price index and covers 300 goods and services in 34 large cities throughout the country.

WATER SPOUTED A MILE . . . Power and heat of the fifth atomic bomb exploded Bikini lagoon into a collision of flame, smoke and steam and pitched battleships about like toy boats. The underwater explosion sank the battleship Arkansas and two smaller craft and dealt mortal wounds to the aircraft carrier Saratoga, which sank seven hours after the explosion. One of water disturbances can be seen in above photograph, by comparison with naval ships still floating.

QUEEN OF INDIAN TRIBES . . . Miss Amelia of the Indian Nation, Princess Dorothy Lee Rodwater, selected in a recent competition at Atlantic City. Princess Rodwater has traded her tribal sovereignty for American sports attire.

OFFICIALS' WIVES AID HOME CANNING PROGRAM . . . Mrs. Henry A. Wallace, Mrs. John R. Steelman, Miss Bessie Snyder, Mrs. Robert Shields and Mrs. J. A. King did their bit for National Home Food Preservation week by canning peaches at community center in Washington. They are shown with their cans of peaches ready to be placed in center. Hundreds of wives of U. S. government officials took active part in the program to preserve home-grown food.

MODERN CRUISE ON BIKINI . . . George A. Gisler, Melin, Orlando, Fla., operator of a navy power crane at Bikini atoll, where atomic bomb tests have been carried out, believes in being comfortable on the job. He survived the final test.

CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT

AUTOS, TRUCKS & ACCESS.

BUILDING MATERIALS

CLOTHING, FURS, ETC.

DOGS, CATS, PETS, ETC.

FARMS AND RANCHES

LIVESTOCK

MISCELLANEOUS

TARPAULINS
TENTS AND DROP CLOTHS

REAL ESTATE—MISC.

Buy U. S. Savings Bonds!
A Safe, Sound Investment—

Gas on Stomach

Black Leaf 40
KILLS LICE

BUILD UP RED BLOOD
TO GET MORE
STRENGTH
If your blood LACKS IRON!

UGH! KILL ROACHES!
Stearns' Paste

Watch Your Kidneys!
DOAN'S PILLS