THE CHESTERTOWN TRANSCRIPT

Entered as second-class matter at the Postoffice, Chestertown, Md., in accordance with Act of Congress.

Publishers—Richard H. Collins, Jr., & William S. Collins.

Published every Friday at The Transcript Building, Court Street, Chestertown, Maryland.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 1944

Washington Digest

Pressure Groups Point Way To Mild Fascism in U. S.

Government by Majority Rule Ceases to Exist When Various 'Interests' Begin Trading Votes for Concessions.

By BAUKHAGE
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At a recent White House press and radio conference, the President was explaining his pre-Christmas remark—that it was time to discard the term "New Deal"—the remark that gave the cartoonists so much fun. He used a fable about "Old Dr. New Deal" who had healed the patient of "internal troubles" (the depressions). But when the patient had an accident and had broken his arms and legs, he had to call in his partner "Dr. Win-the-War" to heal him.

A correspondent asked: "Doesn't that add up to a fourth term declaration?"

The President showed his irritation in his answer. He said that that hadn't been under discussion, that the question was picayune. Then he caught himself, leaned back, half smiled, half apologized, with the remark that the questioner would understand that he had to answer that way.

Two things came to my mind at once. First, that the President was thinking about the war and postwar problems, and to be brought back to earth with a bump was very much like being awakened by an alarm clock in the midst of an interesting dream. That was one thing I thought of.

Another was just what the United States, and the whole world for that matter, would be suffering from after the war and what the cure would be, if any.

Recently there have been several predictions that we were in "for a dose of mild fascism."

Background for Belief

I never took that so very seriously until three news items were called to my attention. One was the statement that the CIO committee of political action was planned as a nucleus of a labor party. That didn't smell of fascism but it had a slightly collectivist aroma.

The next item was in the London News Letter, a little pamphlet edited by Commander King-Hall, member of parliament, the contents of which are cabled to Toronto, Canada, where it is printed as an American edition. King-Hall is an independent in politics with slightly conservative leanings.

Here are the excerpts to which I refer:

". . . There are many indications at what might be called the lower levels of domestic practice, that there are forces and tendencies at work in Britain which are going to produce great changes in our political system. Some of these changes were foreshadowed in a pamphlet entitled "The Future of Party Politics" written by Commander King-Hall in 1937. It was there argued that a crisis, both domestic and international, was developing and demanding for its solution a high degree of national unity in Britain, and that the political expression of that unity, and the instrument for making it effective must be a national government . . ."

In other words, the writer means by a "national government" a coalition government such as England has now with no opposition—what amounts to a single party.

The Mood in Britain

And here is another excerpt, a quotation from a speech in the house of commons which the London News Letter says was given a "wide measure of assent."

". . . Government must always be by majority but let it not be by party controversy and party majority. In this country at the present time, there seems to be coming into being a central body of opinion very well and adequately represented on all sides of this house. It is to that central body of opinion that I should like the government to appeal in a bolder and more forward-stepping policy . . ."

This speaker continues his appeal for a single "central body of opinion" and warns against "dividing a people (the British) who provide some bridge between the extreme capitalism of the United States and the extreme collectivism of Russia."

Just what all this was getting at, I understood a little better when I read an article by Freda Kirchway in the Nation on the mood in Britain.

Miss Kirchway had interviewed a number of people in England and she says that "big business forces in England have recognized more clearly than these forces in America the need for government control." They are ready, she says, to accept the government as a partner to save themselves from liquidation.

Some of the people interviewed by Miss Kirchway gave her the impression that they saw in the set-up ahead "a successful, polite form of semi-fascism," which will prove acceptable to the key people of these groups. She doesn't agree with this herself and she believes British labor will be ready to fight it at the second election after peace but she believes these people believe it.

How much of a similar feeling exists in the United States, I do not know, but, quite independent of England, many people are shrugging their shoulders and saying it is a possibility here.

One thing may point in that direction. That is the way the various pressure groups are now operating in congress. Already many trades have been made even to the point of those "unholy alliances" (all alliances except those in which we belong are unholy, of course) which it was charged in the senate had been formed between southern Democrats and some northern Republicans.

As soon as powerful pressure groups can agree among themselves to trade concessions for votes, government by majority rule ceases and the moment you begin to break down the party lines, you are in danger of having one party which in the end is no party.

I can well understand how when anyone contemplates the problems of our domestic affairs in the postwar period, it is hard to keep one's mind on the war.

* * *

The Change in Invasion Plans

It is a perilous thing these days to write more than an hour in advance of the invasion if one uses the future tense. The majority of opinion "as I write" (that's the saving line) believes that the invasion won't get under way until late spring although one report through Sweden said the Germans were expecting it between Christmas and New Year's.

But from the time that General Eisenhower was named as commander and the other changes in command were named, it appeared that the shape of the whole Allied plans for the assault on fortress Europa began to change rapidly. The speed with which the Russian armies were moving toward the German frontiers set new forces in motion.

Suddenly the Mediterranean became less important in the picture as Washington saw it. It was pointed out that the British had a larger force of men, ships and supplies in that theater than the Americans. What had seemed the most important thing in Europe to America ever since our troops landed in North Africa suddenly grew less important. The Middle East, which had looked as if it were the gathering point of a new blow through the Balkans, perhaps with the help of Turkey, shrank on the horizon. The shifting of British commanders seemed to make this clear.

And then there were calls for greater speed on the part of the Allies, it seemed as if a fear that Russia might get to Berlin first was stirring new activity and there were stories that Spain was not as anxious for Allied friendship as she was to keep the "Bolshevists" from getting nearer her borders, that if she must make new enemies, at least it was better to have the Allies against her than to have Russia get too near her.

But even without these rumors, it grew clearer and clearer that the job ahead was colossal. Hopes that Germany could be brought down by bombing alone were given up. It really seemed as if her factories and indeed her cities had moved underground.

BRIEFS . . . *by Baukhage*

Ernesto Lecuona, chief song writer of Cuba and cultural attache of the Cuban Embassy in Washington, has recently signed one of the largest song publishing contracts of Broadway history.

* * *

Colombia's entrance into the war November 27 makes it the 14th American republic to join actively in the struggle against the Nazis.

Suspender buttons are to be restored to men's work pants, according to an amendment of WPB's Order L-181.

* * *

The navy's famous PT boats and all they have accomplished is owed to the mahogany tree of Middle America and to the men of history who discovered its value in ship building.

PUT KENT COUNTY OVER THE TOP!

JAN. 18th to FEB. 15th

The Chestertown Business Men's Association urges you to help in putting Kent County over the top by buying WAR BONDS and STAMPS during the drive — JANUARY 18th to FEBRUARY 15th. Orders for War Bonds and Stamps may now be placed with any of the members of the Association.

KENT'S QUOTA IS $300,000

★

Today, with the eyes of the world upon us,

THE FOURTH WAR LOAN

IS LAUNCHED!

TODAY, the 18th of January, America's Fourth War Loan starts. It is the largest of all war loans in terms of *individual participation*—in the amount *you* must dig down for.

And—it is, perhaps, the most important of all War Loans. For it comes at a time when the eyes of all the world are upon us; the eyes of our friends, the eyes of our enemies, the eyes of our own fighting men.

We have just entered the crucial year of the war, a year of destiny, a year that promises to decide how good or bad a world we'll have to live in the rest of our lives. And the world is wondering how deeply we mean it when we promise our men we'll back their attack, and when we promise our Allies we'll stick with them not only through the winning of the war but through the winning of the peace as well.

The Fourth War Loan is the home front's first big test of this new and vital year. It will take unity and determination of will of *all* the people to make the Loan succeed.

The need for this and other War Loans should be clear to every American. This war is the costliest effort ever undertaken by any country. It costs 250 million dollars each *day*. This is just the cost of the war, in addition to the regular, inescapable cost of running a great and huge country. Taxes can't take care of all this outgo. Neither can government borrowing from insurance companies, savings banks, corporations, and other large investors. It is necessary to turn to the people, their weekly wages, their savings accounts, the money tucked away in pantry sugar bowls, in socks, under mattresses.

This is as it should be. In a democracy, war is the business of *all* the people. Some must fight, some must work and put up the money.

It's the *only* way to raise the money. It's also the *right* way to raise the money. It gives you a good place to invest the extra money you have today. It's a curb on inflation, on that dangerous bulk of pocket money that leads to black markets and disastrous spending. It's a mattress for tomorrow, a sort of individually planned Social Security that will bring in welcome money in the years ahead when income might not be the Mississippi flood it is today.

These last are not the reasons for the Loans. They are extra reasons, however, over and above the $1 interest you get on every $3 you invest. The fundamental reason for the Fourth War Loan is that your beloved America, at war and in danger, needs your help!

Every one who has a job or savings, should invest *at least* $100—if possible, $200, $300, or $500 *extra*. Some 5,000,000 Americans, volunteers, will be working to sell these Bonds. One of these volunteers will ask you to buy, where you work, at your home, or some other place. If by some chance, you're missed, find out where to buy and buy on your own.

The place where you work will have a quota. That's where you should make your major investment. That's where your personal quota really counts.

But . . .

The place you live also has a quota. Try to invest there, too. Other people will ask you. Salespeople, in retail stores, have volunteered to help and have an individual quota. If they ask you to buy, try to buy from them, too. Movie theaters, restaurants, schools, banks, postoffices, and many other places also will be selling Bonds.

The Fourth Loan is a test of us as a nation.

The eyes of our fighting men are upon us to see if we are backing them.

. . . The eyes of our Allies are upon us to see if we are with them.

. . . The eyes of our enemies are upon us to see if we are soft enough to fall for a non-victorious, here-today-gone-tomorrow peace . . .

Are we? *The answer is in your pocket!*

WE BOUGHT EXTRA WAR BONDS
4TH
WAR LOAN

Let's all BACK THE ATTACK!

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Adkins Lumber Co.
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