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Peace And Force

It is not a difference of aim but of method that impels us to express our disagreement with the conclusions of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America as to peace-time military conscription.

The Council of Churches fears that if the United States changes its historic policy on peacetime military service the result may be to prejudice the postwar settlement and jeopardize the possibility of achieving the kind of world order reflected in our Government's war aims.

In our opinion, the objective sought by the council can be most readily attained by reversing its recommendations. The one hope of inaugurating a long period of peace is to maintain sufficient strength in the peaceloving nations to hold aggression in check.

The League of Nations was founded in weakness, and it failed. The United Nations must be founded in strength—the strength of the great powers that are now winning the war.

Genocide

No human creature can read the report of the War Refugee Board released last Sunday without a sense of shock and shame. The report presents eyewitness accounts of events which occurred at the German extermination camps of Auschwitz and Birkenau.

It is a mistake, perhaps, to call these killings "atrocities." An atrocity is a wanton brutality. There were unspeakable atrocities at Auschwitz and Birkenau.

We have never even had a word for it until now. But one has been recently coined by a noted Polish scholar and attorney, Prof. Raphael Lemkin, now on the faculty of Duke University.

"Genocide," he says in a volume, Azis Rule in Occupied Europe recently published by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, "is directed against the national group as an entity, and the actions involved are directed against individuals, not in their individual capacity, but as members of the national group."

"Generally speaking," says Professor Lemkin, "genocide does not necessarily mean the immediate destruction of a nation, except when accomplished by mass killings of all members of a nation. It is intended rather to signify a coordinated plan of different actions aiming at the destruction of essential foundations of the life of national groups, with the aim of annihilating the groups themselves."

As long ago as 1933 Professor Lemkin proposed the recognition of genocide as a crime under international law. Had his proposal been adopted, Sir Cecil Hurst and his United Nations War Crimes Commission would not now be so hard put to it to determine the guilt of Nazi oppressors.

Pearl Harbor Inquiries

The Army and Navy statements on the Pearl Harbor disaster are not likely to satisfy anyone, not even Admiral Kimmel and General Short. These commanding officers at Pearl Harbor at the time of Japan's sneak attack have apparently been relieved of the ordeal of standing trial before courts-martial.

For three years these men have carried the burden of obloquy growing out of our gross unpreparedness at Pearl Harbor. They were disgraced within the Army and Navy by being removed from their commands and singled out for public censure.

The question that springs out from both reports is this: Who were the officers in Washington who failed in their duty? In neither case is there an answer. The effect, of course, is to leave Kimmel and Short in the limelight of public censure while the officials in Washington who are acknowledged to have been similarly negligent continue under the protection of anonymity.

Secretaries Stimson and Forrestal are both convinced that the detailed findings of their investigators should not be made public during the war for security reasons. Since Pearl Harbor is now three years away, we find it difficult to accept that reasoning.

Henderson's Job

The reported selection of Leon Henderson to handle the economic affairs of that part of Germany assigned to the United States after her defeat shows good judgment. Mr. Henderson has had the kind of administrative experience that qualifies him to take over the task of bringing order out of the economic chaos that will undoubtedly prevail when the war is brought to a close.

have not yet been fully defined, his job should be thoroughly interesting.

Unfortunately the economic rehabilitation of Germany will be made more difficult by divided political control, particularly in view of the highly centralized character of the German government and of the regulated industries under government domination. As shown by the experience of liberated Italy, France, and above all, Belgium, disordered currencies and inflated prices contribute greatly to political disorders.

According to latest available reports, Germany, with her rigid system of price and rationing controls has managed to keep the purchasing power of the mark remarkably stable. That affords ground for hoping that the currency system can be prevented from collapsing, and that the exchange value of the mark will be adjusted to its real purchasing power in terms of dollars instead of being undervalued.

If Mr. Henderson has anything to say about these major policies, it seems likely that he will wish to make use of all the financial aids to economic rehabilitation left at his disposal by the erstwhile rulers of Germany.

Foreign Trade Policy

The foreign trade program outlined by Assistant Secretary of State Acheson contains no surprises. A number of the recommendations merely underwrite proposals to which the Administration is already committed, such as ratification of the agreements reached at Bretton Woods.

The tentative suggestion that the SEC act as a further check on the soundness and reasonableness of foreign loans made by private bankers and guaranteed by the proposed International Bank is understandable in view of the heavy losses suffered by American investors in foreign securities in the interval between World War I and World War II.

The lip service paid to reduction of tariffs as an aim of policy is relatively meaningless by itself. But coupled with the demand for an international economic conference "for the effective and substantial reduction of all kinds of barriers to trade," it acquires substance. The obstacles to expanded foreign trade are varied, and tariffs are by no means the most formidable barriers encountered in moving goods from country to country.

Doctrinaire judgments regarding the proper methods to be followed by nations in dealing with one another are not going to iron out differences of policy. That can only be done through working agreements, despite differing policies. In short, solutions have to be practical. What's more they have to be politically acceptable to Congress and to the governments of the countries with which we wish to do business.

AUTUMNAL APOTHEGM

I walk through Autumn's amber air To watch the green woods softly burn: Russet and crimson everywhere— As they were striving to return (Now that the mellowing year was done) His dawns and sunsets to the sun.

Clothing Famine

A Communication

THE EDITORIAL on "Clothing Famine" in The Post November 26 makes it appear that authority and responsibility for allocation of textiles rests with OPA. In fact, OPA has no authority whatever to allocate unrationed goods. That authority rests with WPB.

The points which we try to bring out were: (1) that WPB has the authority to allocate staple fabrics to be needed, low-cost garments—work clothing for men and women, children's clothing,—and should use this authority to allocate virtually all, not merely a fragment, of the supply of cotton fabrics available for civilians; (2) that WPB should, further, exercise its authority to forbid the production of luxury garments, setting, if necessary, a level above which clothing could not be produced.

OPA's only authority is to set prices. Its pricing has contributed to the deplorable clothing situation in several ways: (1) its overvaluing regulation, just revised, has encouraged overfinishing of sleazy fabrics. The revision announced last week was long overdue; (2) it has not discouraged the production of high-priced goods by squeezing down their profit margins.

The first and main objective of De Gaulle's conversation in Moscow is to find out what Stalin's plans are in regard to postwar Germany and what Stalin expects from France in this connection. It is most likely, however, that Stalin will not object to the extension of the French border along the Rhine and that he will certainly not object to France's participation in the occupation of Germany.

As De Gaulle's trip to Moscow succeeds Churchill's visit to Paris many observers believe that De Gaulle is anxious to discover what Stalin's attitude is to the idea of a regional western European federation, which the British statesmen discussed with

In referring to over-all production figures and to consumer buying, the editorial fails to clarify the vital point that production has flowed into high-priced lines and that certain present line expansions at the top of the market. For example, production of women's and misses' dresses priced at \$9.95 and over increased 32 per cent in the first quarter of 1944 over 1943, while those priced at \$3.95 and under decreased 60 per cent.

As a Diamond owner and operator of a taxi cab I wish to extend my hearty thanks for your editorial of November 22 on "Better Taxi Service." I have hoped for a long time that one of our papers would "go to bat" on the matter of taxi service. The difficulties in Washington taxi service is a matter not completely in control of the Public Utilities Commission.

How in the name of common sense can a cab operator obey all the rules, regulations, orders and demands of all these and cater to a public entirely ignorant of such orders and regulations. The situation tends to make a law breaker of the driver from one or another points of view every time he goes to work and keeps him in mortal dread of losing his means of livelihood.

The amending of paragraph A of appendix A, PUC order No. 2578 to designate group riding as more than one person from one point to another point as a group, and setting up "pick-up" service as individual rides will eliminate the failure of cabs to stop for other passengers when he already has a fare.

It is a disgrace to see the American flag flying or rather trying to fly from poles placed outside windows of various stores as well as from poles placed on the sidewalk in all kinds of weather day and night.

There is a code that governs the proper display of our flag, the merchants should get a copy of this code, so that the Nation's Capital could set an example to the rest of the country in the patriotic display of the most beautiful flag of all, "the American standard."

De Gaulle In Moscow

By Andre Visson

United Nations' Inside Front

GEN. CHARLES DE GAULLE'S visit to Moscow opens one of the most important chapters in the diplomatic history of the newly born Fourth Republic.

It is, indeed, of paramount importance to the French people to find out what the postwar relations between the Fourth Republic and the Soviet Union will be. There is one vital problem on which Paris and Moscow, regardless of any divergencies of their political philosophies, must and can find common language. They have to agree on the most efficient policy for the elimination of the German danger in the postwar world.

For the time being, France has been admitted only to the European Advisory Council, which has consultative power. The French claim their share also in the "determining power," which is now concentrated in the hands of the Big Three.

While the French politely postpone, for those reasons, all discussions of a western European federation, they do not believe that a French-Soviet alliance might be considered an obstacle on the road to collective security.

As De Gaulle's trip to Moscow succeeds Churchill's visit to Paris many observers believe that De Gaulle is anxious to discover what Stalin's attitude is to the idea of a regional western European federation, which the British statesmen discussed with

De Gaulle in Paris, after previously discussing it in London with the Belgian foreign minister, Paul-Henri Spaak.

According to best informed circles in Washington, it is most improbable that the idea of a western European regional federation will be discussed at all in Moscow, unless Stalin himself opens this discussion.

De Gaulle and his advisers are, indeed, at this very moment not especially interested in any project of western European federation. Firstly, they do not think that such a federation would substantially modify the present situation of France in western Europe. This federation would not enforce British assistance which, they know, is assured to them, anyhow.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the French, who have their overseas possessions scattered all over the globe, cannot think either in only western European terms. And this is the second reason for their lack of interest in the immediate realization of a western European federation.

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While the French politely postpone, for those reasons, all discussions of a western European federation, they do not believe that a French-Soviet alliance might be considered an obstacle on the road to collective security. Discussion of a French-Soviet alliance has been opened on French initiative and it is very possible that De Gaulle will obtain Stalin's approval of this alliance.

The report on a possible French-Soviet alliance has provoked a good deal of unfavorable comment in the American press. Many commentators have seen in this project a revival of European military alliances along the old power-politics lines. These commentators are obviously under the impression that French-Soviet alliance would be just another version of the French-Russian alliance of 1893.

A military alliance signed with Moscow would place the French on the same diplomatic level with the British. It is, of course, a consideration of prestige, but such considerations are likely to play an important part in French policy-making in the years to come.

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Letters To The Editor

"Better Taxi Service"

As a taxicab owner and operator I wish to extend my hearty thanks for your editorial of November 22 on "Better Taxi Service."

The difficulties in Washington taxi service is a matter not completely in control of the Public Utilities Commission. Taxi service is now governed by the PUC, ODT, OPA, the Traffic Bureau and the public.

As a Diamond owner and operator of a taxi cab I wish to extend my hearty thanks for your editorial of November 22 on "Better Taxi Service." I have hoped for a long time that one of our papers would "go to bat" on the matter of taxi service.

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"Freedom To Teach"

I call for a rewrite of your "Freedom to Teach" editorial of November 27.

First, you suggest that there are only two sides in the Regenstein-Rainey fight at Texas U.: (1) the Regenstein for the regents; (2) those for Mr. Rainey.

I should like to emphasize the presence of a third group in this war: (3) Those of us who want to get rid of both Rainey and the regents, but want to keep the present system. We feel that the present board of regents has not cared to preserve freedom of teaching; the board has done nothing to help, and has done direct harm.

The public doesn't cross the street to get a cab going in the direction of their destination, but the OPA doesn't allow us the gas to fight traffic or the additional 3 or 4 blocks that the passenger could have saved by crossing the street.

As a Diamond owner and operator of a taxi cab I wish to extend my hearty thanks for your editorial of November 22 on "Better Taxi Service." I have hoped for a long time that one of our papers would "go to bat" on the matter of taxi service.

Under the present PUC group-riding regulations a cab driver usually loses money on a ride from the station after he has killed from ten minutes to an hour waiting for a load out of the station. Nevertheless Diamond has a concession there and we must serve the Union Station riders under the contract with our association.

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