

DOLLAR-MARKED DUNKERQUE

Dunkerque will stand for all time as a symbol of utter defeat — for disaster, for broken lines, for armies crumbling and soldiers in desperate retreat, abandoning a continent to its enemies.

A Dunkerque threatens America today. Today's Dunkerque, though, lacks any overtone of the gallantry that shone through that military disaster of ten years ago. The lines are broken, the soldiery is in retreat, and a desperate cause is all but abandoned. . . . This Dunkerque is dollar-marked, though, as the military defeat was not. This is a defeat for all civilian America, and all the ordinary homes and families, and it is a victory for the dollar-grabbing profiteers who are attacking citizens of their own country instead of invading a foreign country.

A possible thirty per cent rate increase! You read the headlines. . . . Did you also read the fine print in dozens of other news reports, these last ten days? Coffee, bread, tires, canned goods, beef, soap, clothing — did you read the news about these necessary items, and a hundred others?

Or maybe you got the news by one glance at what was left — if anything was left — out of a week's pay check. . . . any increase in food prices will result from profiteering, not from scarcity. That is from the press report of President Truman's press conference on July 13, and it names the enemy that is now harrying us all into headlong disaster.

This Dunkerque has got to be stopped. Korea? . . . Nothing in Korea justifies the A & P's five-cent hike in the price of coffee, or Firestone's five per cent raise in the price of tires, or American Woolen's 17-cents-a-yard boost in the price of worsted fabrics.

Korea, hell! You'll pardon the expression. . . . This is not being done in Korea, by Koreans and Communists. This is being done in America, by Americans, to other Americans — to the United States of America itself.

This dollar-marked Dunkerque is home-grown. And it has got to be stopped. Profiteers are hiking these prices now, on top of price levels already high, in the hope — the hope, mind you — that war will soon betray us altogether into their hands. . . . And there are millions of Americans who can't take it much longer.

Congress is our only recourse — Congress and immediate action by Congress and the President.

Clip today's price news and mail it to your Congressman, to your President. . . . It's our own country that we're being run out of at this dollar-marked Dunkerque. — (From The Montana Labor News)

Trying to Execute Willie McGhee

The entry of Mississippi hoodlums into the sordid struggle over the tired body of Willie McGhee must provide millions of "gooks" throughout Asia with food for thought. (Eight Chinese Communist organizations have cabled protests to President Truman about the McGhee case.) For five years, the state of Mississippi has been trying to execute McGhee, a thirty-seven-year-old Negro, for "raping" a white woman who has admitted that at the moment in question an ill child was in bed with her and her husband was in the next room. And for the best part of five years the Communist Party, the Civil Rights Congress, and various supporting newspapers have fought strenuously in McGhee's defense and three times played a strong part in securing last-minute reprieves. In the process they have also made enormous capital of the affair in headlines, mass-meetings, funds, and violent incidents. Supreme Court Justice Harold R. Burton wisely granted the latest stay of execution until the full court meets in the fall and can rule on a petition for review of the case. But on the previous evening a Chicago member of the C. R. C. and a white Mississippian serving as one of McGhee's attorneys were set upon by a local mob at the Jackson airport as they left for Washington to plead before Justice Burton. In addition, a C.R.C. officer who the day before had argued loudly but futilely before Governor Fielding Wright in McGhee's behalf was beaten up by a group of men who invaded his hotel room. And a reporter from the New York Daily Compass was assaulted by still another gang and then hustled out of town by the police. The quasi-official support of these attacks may be inferred from a question asked by the Jackson Daily News in a front-page editorial a week earlier: "Why the hell go to Korea to shoot Communists when the hunting is good on home grounds?" Are you listening, Korea? Are you listening, "gooks"? — (The Nation)

THE LAST WORD

By Duffy

Korea has become a word known to most Americans today, but it was merely a country no one knew a few short weeks ago, and no one cared about her particularly.

Now most of us know that there are such things as imaginary lines running around the earth which are called parallels, and we have a pretty good idea where the 38th parallel runs. Incidentally, the opposite of these parallels are our lines of longitude which run up and down and all converge at the north and south poles.

The 38th parallel runs through the United States near such cities as Charlotte, N. C.; Lexington, Ky.; Evansville, Ind.; Benton, Ill.; Du Quoin, Ill., and St. James, Mo.

Some of our American industrial brothers grabbed that Korean situation like a long lost country cousin as the peg on which they can start gouging the public.

Pork went up 31 cents with plenty of hogs available; coffee went up nineteen cents with more coffee in the country than they've got in Brazil; sheets for beds are unavailable. . . . sugar went up eleven per cent in a lot of places. . . . all because of the human hogs who like to cash in on human greed and human suffering.

Wonder how long it will take to wake up Congress to the need for price ceilings?

On the subject of congress, it's mighty interesting to note that Taft started to get a \$1,500,000 campaign fund by telling big business labor was going to raise \$16,000,000 to beat him. Taft got his million and a half—labor raised less than \$300,000.

Wake up Americans—especially American laborites—you're asleep at the switch!

In these United States with a free press, it's good to know we can ask a lot of questions. Ask your candidate for congress where he stands on social security improvement, prepaid health and medical and hospital insurance (and we DON'T mean socialized medicine, either) . . . ask where he stands on repeal of Taft-Hartley, where he stands on taking the profit out of war.

Get all the answers—then you will know how to vote more intelligently. . . . and if your candidate hedges on any of these questions, vote him down.

In the year which began last July 1 (the fiscal government year) and which will end next June 30, 1951, the government will give business 11 billion dollars in subsidies and grants, only six billions for social security, and only two billions to farmers.

And business (big business, that is) is charging Uncle Sam through the administration, with being a welfare state. Ho Hum!

No So Tough!

LOBBYISTS for the privately-owned electric utilities like to picture their industry as the "whipping boy for government," imperiled both by the competition of publicly-owned power plants and the control of regulatory bodies.

But the industry's own figures make such claims appear ridiculous. Recently it was disclosed that the net profit of the companies for the first half of 1950 was \$448 million, compared with \$392 million in the same period of 1949. That is an increase of 13.2 per cent.

Fascist Lobby In Washington

When the president and the Secretary of State, on successive days recently, spoke out against the Senate's \$100 million loan to Spain, they were doing more than defending the prerogatives of the executive department. They were trying once again to educate Gen. Francisco Franco, the little, shrewd, Gallego military man who thinks he has more power in Washington than the President of the United States.

It's too soon to say Franco is wrong. His fascist lobby in Washington still might dictate our foreign policy and at the same time make some millions of dollars for its members and sponsors. For the Senate reaffirmed the Franco loan after Mr. Truman had spoken against it.

If his lobby succeeds, Franco will show Mr. Truman and Sec. Acheson that he can thumb his nose at the U. S. government and rob the U. S. Treasury at the same time. Such an accomplishment will make the generalissimo as great a "statesman" as a Chicago publisher made him a military strategist—that is to say, the greatest in Europe.

For more than a year, Franco has refused to follow the advice Acheson has politely and gently been offering. He refused to modify the tyranny whereby he and his political generals, his fascist bullies, contractors and grafters fasten themselves upon the thin necks and bent backs of the Spanish people.

Yet Franco need only have gestured in the right direction, loosened slightly his dictatorial mastery of press, industry and finance and Acheson would have nodded to the Export-Import Bank. Franco made no gestures, loosened no chains—for he mortally fears his own people—because he believes his lobby in Washington can get him the money he needs without Acheson and Truman.

He counts on Sens. Brewster, McCarran, Maybank and Walter George; on his "cultured" Spanish contact men in Washington; on his American "special legal counsel" hired at \$50,000 a year; on the "cotton bloc" on the cork importers; on New York bankers; and above all, on the Pentagon big-brass strategists.

Franco's Washington lobby can override the President, the Secretary of State, our European allies, and democratic public opinion everywhere. So thinks Franco.

Irving Pfium in Chicago Sun-Times.

LITTLE LUTHER

By JOHN PAINE

"Prices up, wages down. That's what makes a happy town," crooned Mr. Dilworth.

"And that makes you poet laureate of the NAM, I suppose," said Little Luther.

"Well, practically," Mr. Dilworth said modestly. "I'm rehearsing for the local businessmen's association banquet. I thought that instead of my usual speech, I'd give them something new."

"What's new about that?" Little Luther asked. "You always give them a song-and-dance about prices. Anyway, what are you celebrating?"

"The emergency," said Mr. Dilworth happily. "Every time there's an emergency we have a banquet."

"And every time there's an emergency you raise prices."

"Correction, please," Mr. Dilworth said. "We don't raise prices, they just sort of seem to go up. Before we look around, bingo, prices are up! Very mysterious."

"Why don't you outsmart those mysterious forces and lower prices as soon as they go up?"

"Oh, we couldn't do that," said Dilworth, shocked. "If prices didn't go up, there wouldn't be a threat of inflation, and if there isn't a threat, we can't demand that they freeze wages."

"How about freezing the profits?" Little Luther asked. "Can't hear a word you're saying," said Mr. Dilworth. "Just can't hear a word."

IN A DAZE

"How did the Smith wedding go off?"

"Fine, until the parson asked the bride if she'd obey her husband."

"What happened then?" "She replied, 'Do you think I'm crazy?' and the groom, who was in a sort of daze, replied, 'I do'."

Proletarec Greet the 14th SNPJ Convention

A great deal has happened, and many changes have taken place since the day of the first or founding convention of the SNPJ, which was held in Chicago on April 6, 1944.

Only nine lodges were in existence at the time of the first convention. The majority of delegates were from Chicago, and with a few exceptions they also represented the lodges outside of Chicago. From this meeting in a small hall, and from the beginning charted by Slavia Lodge a few years before, grew the SNPJ, the organization now holding its 14th regular convention in Detroit.

In the 1950 edition of American Family Almanac there is an account of the movement to organize a progressive Slovenian Society. It shows the great obstacles which had to be surmounted before the seed took root.

And even when the SNPJ had grown strong, other difficulties were encountered which endangered the life and progress of the youthful organization. There were often serious inner conflicts, but in the end the SNPJ always retained its original principles.

The changing conditions also brought problems which were solved with good results for the organization.

When it was no longer possible to secure new members from among new immigrants, the Society began to work among the youth and organized English lodges for this purpose.

In these youth or English lodges you have today members whose youthful years have passed, and whose children form the second American generation of our people. This has brought about external and internal changes in the SNPJ.

At first the Society functioned entirely in the Slovenian language, and only Slovenian was spoken at its conventions. Then it became bilingual; now Slovenian is giving way to English more and more.

Only the Society's principles have remained the same, except as they are being adapted to changing conditions.

The SNPJ has been unique in that it has never advertised itself as being only a good insurance institution—which it has always been—but it also entered the social field and participated in the struggle for social security, for legislation which would give protection to labor unions; in short, it worked for such "impossible" things long before some of them were legislated in the period of Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidency.

Our work in these fields is far from finished. Much of the program which the SNPJ has outlined for itself in the social field is still to be accomplished. This work must go on because it is to the advantage of all who toil for their daily bread.

No other large fraternal benefit society in the United States has worked on the scene of the social struggle for justice and a better life so many years and with so much resolution as has the SNPJ. There were others, but none remained so energetic through the years as has the SNPJ.

Delegates of the 14th regular SNPJ Convention — PROLETAREC, the paper which has cooperated with your Society during the entire 45 years of its existence — greets you and extends its wishes for success in the tasks before you.

The 'Handout' State?

One out of every three new homes in the United States is paid for with a mortgage insured by the Federal Housing Administration—FHA. And more than half of the people who bought homes with an FHA-guaranteed mortgage last year earned less than \$4,000.

Furthermore, since 1934 when FHA was established its income has exceeded expenses by more than \$160 million. The income is received from fees, insurance premiums and investments.

The figures are published in the annual report of the Housing and Home Finance Agency.

Is this the reason Senator Taft says we live in a "welfare state"?

Is this what causes Senator Capehart to say we're headed toward "socialism"?

Is this why Chairman Gabrielson of the Republican Party screams that something called the "handout state" has us in its grasp?

Is this what Senator Wiley means by "extravagance"?

A Farmer Views 'Cold War'

James G. Patton—everyone who really knows him calls him "Jim"—is a Coloradoan and president of the Farmers' Union, probably the most progressive of farmers' organizations. "Jim" has just returned from a tour of Europe. He doesn't think our "Brass Hats" and the "striped-trousers boys" from the State Department are doing a good job. Here is Jim's story:

"We are good, as Americans, in selling the world plows, airplanes, and all types of machinery, but the Russians have us backed off the boards in selling the world their ideas. Until we get a line of diplomats who will quit the old-fashioned way of holding cocktail parties for the near-great and get a group of diplomats who will really go out among the farmers, the workers and the common people, and sell American democracy as we know it, we still are going to be in this cold war."

"We have just one diplomat in Europe who is realizing what I am talking about. That diplomat is a woman, a Mrs. Anderson from Minnesota. She represents us in Denmark."

"Mrs. Anderson forgets the swell dinners, the cocktail parties, and goes directly to the common people. She visits the workers, the farmers, the women, and tells them what democracy has done in our America."

"She is the best advocate of our way of life on the Continent. Until we learn the old way has passed and that the new way is upon us, we are not going to get very far with the peoples of the world."

Why Fuss About Hoarders?

We just can't reconcile the stories that are being sent out of Washington to discourage hoarding. On the one hand, there is no reason for anybody to fear a scarcity because there is plenty of surplus. On the other hand, prices will go up if everybody fills the pantry shelves.

Now if there is a surplus why should anybody care very much about hoarders. If people do it, the government — which is the greatest hoarder of them all — need not do so. And if prices do rise — as they are doing — it would be better to have them go skyward after the people are supplied than before.

Our guess is that the people are more afraid of rising prices than of actual shortages. They want to get rid of their dollars because they see that dollars are losing value. And in so doing householders are acting not one bit different than business men or stock gamblers who buy heavily when they can get cheaper prices and switch "securities" when they think they can benefit themselves by so doing.

If all the eggs that the government has hoarded were made into one big omelet it is probable that the G.I.'s who learned about powdered eggs only a few years ago would turn up their noses with the same contempt that many Americans must feel when they are told to buy lightly while corporations and speculators are permitted to jack up the price of practically everything.

WHY NATIONS FEAR U. S. SEEK TO DOMINATE WORLD

Lobby Lists Economic Changes Needed To Win International Confidence

Citing a dozen facts making the world fear us, which it holds no Voice of America can change, People's Lobby, Inc. through its Secretary, has written Sen. Wm. Benton who is trying to get a special agency "to tell the world."—"What do you propose to do to change this record?"

The letter reads:

"Permit me to suggest some of the facts about the United States, which the leaders of every nation in the world know, which we must change, before it is worth while blowing in a lot of money to tell the world how noble we are—although we are not as vicious as some Russian broadcasts would make us out, and Russia does plenty of wholly inexcusable things."

Why U. S. Is Feared

"Despite our shortcomings, America probably suffers more from mental torpidity; than from moral turpitude, but here are some of our situations and practices we must change because they make the world fear we shall try to dominate it:

"1. We have about 4,000,000 too many people trying to make a living in times of peace, for our economic system, including surplus marginal farmers, coal miners, railroad workers, excess personnel in government jobs, etc., while war provides a way of getting 'full employment'."

"2. We are complete hypocrites in calling our economic system private enterprise," because big and little business, farmers, and labor all ask a government hand-out or intervention in one form or another.

"3. Both New Deal and Fair Deal have repudiated the Democratic Party's alleged principle—ending special privileges—and instead have entrenched them, but tried to bribe the victim into acquiescence, through subsidies and

'social security' legislation — so property income has soared and taxes haven't."

"4. We have deficiated almost continuously, for 20 years, making us a threat to small nations, who know that spells aggression."

"5. The sun never sets on Americans' investments, concessions, and military or naval bases, which creates the fear we shall revert to the doctrine, where the American dollar or uniform is, there is American territory."

"6. We have broken faith in Europe, China and Malays, and backed reactionaries and fascists and opposed social ownership in Europe—though we agreed not to."

"7. We have used the slogan 'The American Century' and major program for future investment, envision and advertise 'breath-taking' profits."

"8. Our Government or private citizens are grabbing all the natural resources throughout the world they can locate, directly, or through preclusive buying."

"9. Advertising has degenerated into an apology for exploitation and a device by which industry may cheat the Government of taxes, to extol the system of private profits."

"10. We have ignored every basic proposal for the international controls of investments, natural resources and markets—essential to world prosperity and world peace."

"11. Only the billions Government now spend on the cold war, and on 'defense'—so largely wasted—prevents a collapse of our economy."

"12. Government policies have in the past 17 years cut the value of the dollar almost in half—the crooked way of making the poor pay more than their share of Government costs. What do you propose to do, to change this record?"

Korean Workers Oppressed ECA Labor Adviser Says

PORTLAND, Ore.—Blaming the U. S. diplomats for the "Korean fiasco," ECA labor adviser Stanley Earl, who returned here from Seoul July 14, expressed bitter condemnation of conditions in South Korea.

Just evacuated with his family from South Korea, where he has been serving as a Marshall plan labor consultant since last fall, the former secretary of the Oregon State CIO Council was scathing in his criticism of the "corrupt" Syngman Rhee government and American diplomats.

He said Congress should subpoena every ranking officer of the U. S. Korean mission and make a "full and complete investigation of the Korean fiasco." Earl left for Washington July 19 to make a personal report to the ECA and he plans to talk to congressmen too. "I don't think the Congress of the U. S. knew what was going on in Korea and I don't think the public knew," he said.

In an interview Earl said: "I'm going to tell the CIO and the AFL and the Brotherhoods of Railroad Trainmen just what conditions are in South Korea."

"Some of our diplomats are too much above the people," Earl said bitterly. "You can't instill democracy with cocktail parties for the big shots and conferences with the bankers. I told them to go out and talk to the people, but they never did."

Describing the South Korean workers as "oppressed, suppressed and regimented," Earl said: "I did not go over there to sit at a desk and liquidate the working class." The Syngman Rhee government, he said, couldn't distinguish between communism and unionism.

"The people I worked with were continually being put in jail," Earl continued, adding that he spent half his time trying to get the unionists released. Finally, in disgust, he demanded that he be sent back to Washington to explain what was going on. "I did not think the American labor movement should lend itself to anything so corrupt," he explained.

"I had no support," he said. "I got clamped down." Last year, the Rhee government "put 150,000 people with families in jail. The

prisons were bulging. I went through them, but no one else did."

The South Korean people had no confidence in the Rhee government, Earl said. "The workers had no faith in the corrupt union leadership of the government-controlled unions, or in the word of the government itself in adjudicating the grievances."

The government tried to minimize the widespread corruption and graft in the army, Earl said, "although it was there for anyone to see who took the trouble to look." Earl said he knew of one South Korean division commander who charged his troops one million won a month for use of their mess hall.

Describing how the South Korean army went completely to pieces the first day of the war, Earl said: "I wonder what now has happened to the arrogant, horse-riding South Korean officers who committed so many indignities on their fellow Koreans?"

Before it fell apart, the South Korean army confiscated rice from the populace the day the war began although army warehouses were bulging with rice supplies, Earl revealed.

He said the cost of a monthly supply of rice for a family of five was four times the \$2.50 earned by the average Korean worker in a month under the country's runaway inflation. Workers in the coal mines, he said, were three months behind in their pay.

In the campaign preceding the May 30 parliamentary elections, Earl said, "Rhee charged all his 'middle-of-the-road' opponents with being Communists or leftists. Some of the opposition was thrown into jail and subjected to the brutal police methods of a force still made up in large part of Korean police who dominated their fellow Koreans for 30 years under Japanese rule."

"The people kicked Rhee in the pants by electing the middle-of-the-roads," Earl said. "Of the 200 seats only 31 were won by Rhee adherents, while 121 middle-roads were elected." Whereabouts of the assemblymen has been undisclosed since the fighting broke out. — (From Minneapolis Labor Review.)