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Heed the Warning

Americans quite properly can be suspicious of any agreement with the Russians such as the widely hailed nuclear test limitations. It should come as no surprise that the Russians don't want any war with the United States. They never did and never will until they are quite certain they can blow us off the face of the earth.

The agreement can offer some respite from the tensions created by the Soviets and, in our opinion, compounded by our own leadership ever since Franklin D. Roosevelt raised them to a status of decency in the world affairs by recognition and full partnership in the exclusive United Nations veto club.

We have been forced into at least limited coexistence with the Reds and that is why many Americans are ready to accept the test ban treaty. It might well be called a necessary evil and can be used to advantage for relief of world tensions if the United States keeps up its guard.

There is an official Kremlin voice in the United States and it would be incredibly naive for self proclaimed lovers of peace to ignore the words of Gus Hall and The Daily Worker.

In the usual Communist gobbledegook, an editorial in the Worker reveals a three-prong strategy (1) popular fronts using the peace groups (2) peaceful coexistence and (3) propaganda buildup on "U.S. Imperialism."

Says Gus Hall in the Worker:

"The test ban agreement is the result of the struggle of the peace and ban-the-bomb forces of all lands, including our own. The concept of peaceful coexistence has enriched Marxism because it has added new avenues, possibilities and tactics for class struggle. It has not nullified the class struggle but has refreshed and raised its policies and tactics to correspond with the new reality . . .

"Because the policies of peaceful coexistence are the most effective and telling in the struggle against imperialism, therefore, the center of resistance to those realistic anti-imperialist policies is here. To spread the falsehood that the Soviet Union, the bastion of world anti-imperialism, places that struggle as secondary, is to do the bidding of U.S. imperialism. The facts of history completely destroy this falsehood."

Now of course the mothers' and women's groups aren't Communist but they should begin to realize they are considered valuable by the Communists as part of the so-called popular peace front to be used to divide the American people and their leaders.

Picketing Costs City

The picketing indulged in over the summer in a Torrance subdivision has been costly to the neighborhood involved but, unless the City of Torrance is successful in prosecuting the violators of its ordinances, the affair can also run into big money for the taxpayers of the city.

In the long court procedures now underway, it is estimated that direct prosecution costs to the city are running between \$400 and \$500 a day. Tactics of the CORE defense attorneys, selection of a jury and other delaying actions are expected to continue for a long time.

The city's interests demand that the ordinances involved in these cases must be defended to the fullest. This places a great burden on the city's legal department already beset with many other important responsibilities.

Opinions of Others

ALTOONA, PA., MIRROR: "If we want a world of plenty, let us restore freedom and responsibility wherein each individual must provide for himself and his family and has the added incentive of knowing that he may enjoy the fruits of his efforts. The socialist cliché of 'redistribution of income,' so popular in our time, is false—always has and always will lead to bitter disappointment and hard times."

CHICO, CALIF., ENTERPRISE, RECORD: "A year ago, some of the testimony offered by experts warned that proposed amendments to the Pure Food and Drug laws would not contribute much to the protection of the public but might well hinder the development of new drugs to cure man's ills and ease his pains. The tragic thalidomide cases were in the public eye at the time. The photos of deformed children were more moving than were the rational arguments. It was even lost sight of that thalidomide had been barred from sale in this country under laws already on the books."

President Kennedy's recent order—issued without the consent of Congress—may open up more troubles than it will solve. The President has ordered that all companies engaged in government contracts, and all contractors doing government work, must hire more Negro workers. . . . The President or anybody else can issue edicts, but he can't make (a) skilled person out of an unskilled person in a minute. That takes time, and if the President starts to put white men out of a job to put Negro workers in those jobs, then we might see a few demonstrations of the majority. They could be more dangerous than the demonstrations of a minority.—Bedford (Ind.) Times-Mail.

NASHVILLE, TENN., NATIONAL BAPTIST UNION-REVIEW: "To be able to forget one's self and go down the street, go out in the country, dwell among the trees, hills, flowers, animals, springs, brooks, rivers, and let them say something to you, and then have sense enough to say something to them.—And come away with a glowing sense of appreciation for having had the privilege to commune with the Infinite—is in itself an achievement."

In view of national surpluses for many basic food crops, it seems that unified withdrawal of new reclamation would be in order.—Ontario (Ore.) Argus-Observer.

The Trouble With A Thaw—

—THE CHILLING DRIP!



ROYCE BRIER

Says U.S. Tax System Nurtures 'Tower of Babel'

In theory, a modern tax system is an equitable distribution of the obligations of a citizen to his community, local or national. In reality, as every literate citizen knows, it is not equitable.

An almost infinite complexity, beyond individual comprehension, marks the American system, particularly the income tax, and this complexity mounts yearly.

Early this year, during the tax cut talk, President Kennedy wanted a cut, accompanied by tax "reform," meaning simplification and a reach for more equity. But for 50 years, under the whip of special interests, successive Congresses have added to the involutions of tax procedure and collection. The tax system in many phases has long since reached the point of absurdity in contradictions and illogic.

But nothing is done about it, and not much will be done. Everybody gripes, and everybody fears a change lest his tax be increased.

A good example of adding another story to the Tower of Babel tax system can be seen these days in the House Ways and Means Committee.

Corporation stockholders, who number 17 million, a third of all taxpayers, get special treatment in current Internal Revenue law—they may deduct \$50 on dividend income (\$100 for married couples), and take a 4 per cent credit on dividend income over the deduction. This encourages investment of savings in productive business, but that was not its main purpose, as shall be seen.

In January the President recommended repeal of the \$50 exclusion and the 4 per cent credit, which would cost taxpayers \$460 million. The Committee rejected this proposal.

The Administration then pushed a compromise, now being considered. It would repeal the 4 per cent credit, but increase the \$50 exclusion to \$100, which would cost the taxpayers \$300 million instead of \$460 million.

You can't twist this so it isn't a tax increase for anyone reporting appreciable dividend income.

This is a retreat from the original purpose of the provision, which undertook to eliminate double taxation, in which corporations were first taxed 52 per cent on profits, but when profits were distributed as dividends these were further taxed from 20 to 91 per cent. The change was made in 1954.

The Administration avers the 1954 favors high-income taxpayers, but the validity of this is questionable in view of the distribution tables for corporate dividends. Despite sensational holdings of large blocs of stock which get into the financial pages, the overwhelming majority of American shareholders own small blocs, with dividend returns ranging from \$100 to \$1000. Moreover, these small holdings provide the bulk of the government's revenue from dividend income.

The Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away.

A Bookman's Notebook

'American Way of Death' Has Glendale Locale

Some previews of coming attractions: In her audacious and spirited examination of the undertaking business,

"The American Way of Death" (due Aug. 25 from Simon & Schuster), Jessica Mitford includes a chapter titled "Shrouland Revisited." This is a tour of Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Southern California, immortalized in Evelyn Waugh's grotesque novel, "The Loved One." Miss Mitford's straight-faced report is as bizarre as Waugh's fiction:

"There are statues, tons of them, some designed to tug at the heartstrings: 'Little Duck Mother,' 'Little Pals,' 'Look, Mommy!', others with a different appeal, partially draped Venuses, seminude enchantresses, the reproduction of Michelangelo's David, to which Forest Lawn has affixed a fig leaf, giving it a surprisingly indecent appearance. Wandering through Love, Kindly Light and Babyland, with its encircling heart-shaped motor road, I learned that each section of Forest Lawn is zoned and named according to price of burial plots. Medium-priced graves range from \$434.50 in Heaven of Peace to \$599.50 in Triumphant Faith to \$649.50 in Ascension. The cheapest is \$308, in Brotherly Love."

The controversial Soviet poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko, in "A Precocious Autobiography" (Dutton): "A poet's autobiography is his poetry. Anything else can only be a footnote. A poet is a poet only when the reader sees him whole, with all his feelings, all his thoughts, and all his actions, as if the reader held him in the hollow of his hand. To be entitled to write with merciless truth about others, the poet must be mercilessly truthful when he writes about himself. Splitting the poet's personality in two, into the real man and the real poet, leads inevitably to artistic suicide. . . . Poetry is not to be deceived. And poetry deserts those who are false to her. Poetry is a vindictive woman who never forgets a lie. . . ."

Speaking of funerals (see above), Robert S. Mehchin's little book "The Last Caprice" (Simon & Schuster), is a collection of wills, odd and curious, of the famous and infamous. At random: "In a will made in 1434, a member of the Norton family of Southwick, London, left all he had to be used into the end of the world for the benefit of the poor, the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, the wounded, and prisoners," and he appointed the House of Parliament as his executors. The will was set aside on the ground that the testator was insane and the estate was transferred to the natural heirs. . . .

Notes on the Margin — "Gettysburg: The Long Campaign," an illustrated account by Jack McLaughlin, tells the detailed story of the battle and also its aftermath—the development of the Gettysburg legend, Lincoln's address and the great veteran reunions that lasted to 1938 (Appleton; \$5.95).

William Hogan

War comes when one side thinks it has military superiority. . . . not when armaments are in close balance. While the U.S. does not possess 100-megaton bombs, it has enough bombs to worry the Kremlin. But if the reds violate the treaty and test secretly, thus gaining a substantial superiority, then war is inevitable — or surrender.

Quote

"There is a new drink called Foreignade, the refreshment that never pauses." —H. R. Smith, Brookville (O.) Star.

"What this country needs is another holiday—a day set aside to celebrate having survived the others."—Fletcher Knebel, Okeechobee (Fla.) News.

"Some people are not the life of the party until they leave." —Van W. Davis, Huntsville (Mo.) Randolph County Herald.

"In horse and buggy days the nearest thing to a clover leaf was a fork in the road." —Freida J. Monger, Duluth (Minn.) Publicity.

"An obstinate man does not hold opinions. They hold him." —Clarence Achgill, Oklahoma City (Okla.) Live Stock News.

Is This Peaceful Surrender? Columnist Asks on Treaty

"It's in the half-fools and the half-wise that the greatest danger lies." —Goethe.

The radio blared: "People of the world, listen, please please, please listen!"

"Help us not with advice . . . not with words . . . but with action. We need guns, not speeches in the United Nations. We, our wives and children are right now being slaughtered. Please, we plead with you that communism will not stop here. You may be the next victim. For God's sake, save us."

Those were the last words and the final plea made by the Hungarian Freedom radio, Sunday, Nov. 6, 1956 . . . and given to me a few months later by the underground in Budapest.

What happened next is history. We ignored the plea. We ignored Korea. We ignored the Berlin wall. We ignored Cuba. We ignored the violation of 50 out of 53 Soviet agreements.

We ignored the President's branding Khrushchev as "a liar" on the Cuba rockets. We ignore the facts of history upon the promise now of a proven repeated liar that he will honor the nuclear test ban.

Seven years after the Hungarian massacre, we are still ignoring the pleas of the captive people behind the Iron Curtain, now stretching to Cuba.

We seem to be more concerned with the feelings of Khrushchev than we are with the lives of millions he has enslaved. We dare not cross him. We run like scared animals to Moscow. We eagerly seek to compromise with communist policies. We are afraid that he will make war if we don't.

Coming out of Washington is the implication that it is not communist enslavement we should fear most, but war. Khrushchev got the message and hastened to perfect his 100-megaton bomb and then conned us into the test ban.

He now has no competitor in 100-megaton club. He may never be forced to drop it. But our children and their children will live under this communist blackmail, unless we perfect other kinds of defense weapons to offset this danger.

Khrushchev and Mao are not split about our burial . . . but how it will be done. Khrushchev appears to prefer slow poison . . . Mao wants the dagger in the heart. God forbid, but should there ever be a funeral, they'll be there bear-hugging each other from Moscow to Peking.

There are false assumptions that we can win over Russia by compromise. Compromise to a communist means weakness.

We are told that a nuclear race leads to war. This is not quite so. World War I, World War 2 and Korea are proof. In each case the U.S. was in no arms race, but unarmed—and war came.

War comes when one side thinks it has military superiority. . . . not when armaments are in close balance. While the U.S. does not possess 100-megaton bombs, it has enough bombs to worry the Kremlin. But if the reds violate the treaty and test secretly, thus gaining a substantial superiority, then war is inevitable — or surrender.

There are false assumptions that since some 100 nations will eventually sign the treaty, Khrushchev will not dare violate it. This is wishful thinking.

The UN charter was signed by the nations of the world, too, yet Mr. K violated it in Korea, Hungary, by enslavement of his satellites . . . and by not paying his UN assessment. Communists don't give a hoot about world public opinion.

There are false assumptions that the treaty will lead to easing tensions, like Berlin. If Berlin tensions are eased, it will not be because of the treaty . . . but because of U.S. concessions.

President Kennedy said he made no "secret deals" and we believe he didn't. But did he make secret concessions that may lead to open deals later?

White House correspondents say that some 30 secret letters passed between Kennedy and Khrushchev . . . but none was made public. What's in those letters on Berlin?

There are false assumptions that Kennedy surprised and

frightened Khrushchev over the Cuba quarantine last October. The facts are that Mr. K brought his rockets to Cuba undetected. The facts are that he could have buried them in the Cuban hills, but laid them out on the surface so U-2 photo reconnaissance would find them. When we caught him in the lie, he agreed to "remove" them.

During that same week we announced our removal of Jupiter rockets from Turkey. It may be a coincidence . . . but Turkish intelligence says it was not. There was no previous discussion with our ally.

Besides, Mr. K still has his troops in Cuba . . . and who knows how many rockets are still there, since we withdrew our previous condition of on-site inspection.

Representative August Johansen of Michigan recently

sent the following telegram to President Kennedy:

"We must end the harassment, which this government has carried on, of liberty-loving anti-Castro forces in Cuba and other lands. While we cannot violate international law, we must recognize that these exiles and rebels represent the real voice of Cuba, and should not be constantly handicapped by our immigration and justice department authorities."

The curious fact about this telegram is that it was not composed by Representative Johansen.

The words are exactly as spoken by candidate John F. Kennedy at Johnstown, Pa., on Oct. 15, 1960 . . . in accusing the Eisenhower administration . . . of all things . . . of "peaceful surrender to communism."

Our Man Hoppe

K Can't Live Communally

—Art Hoppe

We ace Kremlinologists, as you know, are always looking for little tidbits which will reveal the constant behind-the-scenes machinations of the mysterious Russian leaders. Let Pravda mention a new method of mending trousers and six Kremlinologists will rush into print with articles entitled: "Is There a Split in the Soviet Praesidium?"

So thank goodness Mr. Khrushchev took five Western newsmen on a tour of his summer retreat. We've now got enough tidbits for a hundred cocktail parties.

I leave to my colleagues the tidbit that Mr. Khrushchev plays badminton on an Oriental (or, in some dispatches, Persian) rug. This obviously shows his intentions to tread on Red China. (Or, as the case may be, Iran.) And we obviously must plan for this (or that) move.

What boggles my mind is Mr. Khrushchev's casual disclosure that he keeps the temperature at 78.8 degrees "because Mikoyan likes it that way."

This means he often shares the place with Deputy Premier Anastas I. Mikoyan plus who knows how many other Communist leaders? Talk about tidbits which explain the constant machinations of Soviet politics! Well, anybody who has ever shared a summer cabin with anybody will see at once what I mean.

(Scene: The door of Mr. K's summer place. Mr. and Mrs. K are greeting Mr. and Mrs. Mikoyan, who are travel-weary and arm-laden.)

Mr. Mikoyan: Nice place you got here. If a little chilly. We brought you this small gift.

Mr. Khrushchev: Imagine! A hand-carved nutcracker. Just what I needed. I'll put it here with the other seven nutcrackers our guests have given us. Chilly?

Mrs. Khrushchev (to Mrs. Mikoyan): You must want a nice, hot bath. We shouldn't have used up all the hot water. But let me show you around: This is your half of the ice box. And your very own mop. We all do our share, ha, ha. Just like one big happy family.

Mrs. Mikoyan: I'll bet, ha, ha. Where do we sleep?

Mr. Khrushchev: You got the whole loft to yourselves. Over here's the ladder. Watch out for the bats. In the country, you know, you got to rough it. Ho, ho, ho.

Mr. Mikoyan (unenthusiastically): Ho, ho, ho. But, pardon my asking, is the heat on?

Mrs. Khrushchev: Oh, yes. It's 62. That's the way my Nikita likes it. But if it's too cold for you. . .

Mrs. Mikoyan: Well, my Anastas does prefer it about 85. Not that we'd dream. . .

Mrs. Khrushchev (gritting her teeth): Why don't we compromise at 78.8? Like one big happy family.

(Mr. Khrushchev, perspiring already, whispers to Mrs. Khrushchev that "this hot-head's got to go." Mr. Mikoyan, meanwhile, is shiveringly confiding to Mrs. Mikoyan that when he gets home he's going to ask Mr. Molotov for cocktails. And the two ladies, who are glaring politely at each other. . .)

But why go on? The whole thing clearly explains the constant purges in Communist history. And as soon as I confirm a report that Mr. and Mrs. Chou-en-Lai were guests at the Khrushchev dacha last summer, we'll have the key to the entire Sino-Soviet rift.

For, if you ask me, the failure of communism lies in the theory that many families can all live together, communally, as one big happy family. Nonsense. I say living together as one big happy family is tough enough even when you're related.

Morning Report:

Nobody is in favor of crime — except criminals. But everybody who could use a million or so, as many could, is fascinated with the Great Mail Robbery in England.

A little honest envy makes a lot of nice people, who wouldn't keep a library book out beyond two weeks, partners-in-crime with the hoods who pulled that train job.

In fact, it's such a perfect crime that it may drive the Christine Keeler case out of the British newspapers. Which could be a momentary break for Prime Minister Macmillan. Everybody knows now that he can keep the trains running on time — at least on time from Glasgow almost to London.

Abe Mellinkoff