

Colonialism a Human Problem

Assistant-Secretary of State Henry A. Byrd, speaking recently in California, made a very appropriate point in a discussion of colonialism. Byrde noted that the movement toward self-determination among colonial peoples is "one of the most powerful forces in Twentieth century affairs."

The Assistant Secretary said the upsurge, for national self-determination comes at a time when the leading nations of the world are finding that there is no such thing as self-sufficiency. Therefore, the points out, nationalism based on the goal that independence will solve the problems of the day is actually a myth.

'Ike' Must Be Realistic

To us, President Eisenhower's wishful desire that all discussion of Communism should be dismissed before the 1954 election campaign days arrive is not consistent with the facts.

To assume that the issue of Communism could disappear within the next 10 months is to believe that the whole program of the Soviet rulers would be changed over to the defense of freedom—and we all know that the K r e m l i n isn't at all interested in the personal freedom of the people over whom it rules.

If there were no Communist party, with its threat of world conquest of all free nations, our world would be without many of its most troublesome problems. Immediately the United States would be able to remove most of the current burdensome taxation that hits our people.

A Profitable Operation

The U. S. Government recently revealed it had completed one of the most profitable operations in the government's history. It had disposed of an asset, purchased almost twenty years ago, and received thirty-five times the price paid by the government.

The asset was a 1904 Cadillac. About twenty years ago the Secretary of the Interior purchased the car for use in a demonstration of highways, and cars, then and now. Since that time the government has retained possession but recently it was decided to sell the car to

All Work Should Produce Wealth

Meeting in the nation's capital, CIO leaders call for Michigan to up its present \$27.00 per week unemployment payments to \$72.79. All that sounds fine . . . but it won't result in anything like a balanced economy for this nation.

Unemployment compensation never should come near the compensation of an employed person. If it did, with human nature being what it is, can't you see how it would encourage self-enforced idleness? Besides, paying people for doing nothing is, basically, a violation of the laws of

THE UNITED STATES, in supporting colonial peoples' desires for independence, must be sure that it supports a constructive program which sometimes will mean a gradual transfer of authority from the mother nation to a colony. This transfer should not be extended over any lengthy period, but should be accomplished as quickly as is practical.

At the same time, Byrde points out that a sudden end of the authority of the colonial powers can sometimes produce more difficulties than dividends in the world-wide fight against Communism. This is something the alter-liberals must keep in mind.

OUR YOUTH WOULD NOT BE confronted with the necessity of spending several of their best years in our military establishment.

Every nation that now has to spend much of its national income on military defense would be able to divert that income into the channels of a peaceful economy.

So, to expect the menace of Communism to be removed within the next few months is to be totally unrealistic . . . and President Eisenhower, of all Americans, ought to know this.

As loyal Americans, we are pledged and willing to fight the threat of Communism; and until it is removed from world affairs this fight must go on!

the highest bidder.

THE HIGHEST BIDDER, it seems, was Mrs. Robert L. Slaughter, of Fort Worth, Texas, and unless another higher bid is received as delayed mail, she will get the car. She offered \$8,500 for the forty-nine year-old one-cylinder job. The government bought it in the thirties for \$100. That's a gain of \$8,400, or thirty-five times the cost.

We would like to see more government operations follow this pattern—be it federal, state or local government.

economics.

WEALTH IS PRODUCED only through work. If undesired wholesale unemployment should come again, the unemployed should be given work on those types of public works that add to the physical value of our nation . . . this will give them take-home pay and, while not perhaps a part of the pattern of normal industrial growth and production, it is a close relative to keeping the unemployed honestly at work at something of continuing human value.



There Just Can't Be a Jackpot

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO
 December 18, 1903
 There are 2,360 books in the ladies library. You can have your choice of them for six months for the sum of 50 cents.

President Ruml appointed a committee of three, A. Whitehead, G. E. Daines and D. M. Johnson, to investigate and report at the next regular Council meeting as to probable cost of electric light plant.

"Buy the children a graphophone. The price is right now, Whitehead and Mitchell can sell you a dandy machine with one dozen molded wax records for only \$6.25.

Troy—It was a pitiful sight Sunday night to see men, women and children obliged to stand outside that bitter cold day waiting for the belated a cars. No waiting room.

Mr. E. W. Reynolds was in town the other day and looking younger than ever and in fine spirits. Sorry to say Mrs. Reynolds' health is not so good. Eli and family still live in Armaia and are perfectly satisfied with their home.

30 YEARS AGO
 December 14, 1923
 Considerable excitement in the Business district of Birmingham last Saturday night at about 8:30 o'clock when a "Fiery Cross", the emblem of the Ku Klux Klan, sent out its tongues of flames in front of the Village Hall.

Members of the Birmingham Fire Department may rest assured that the official representatives of the Village are appreciative of their volunteer fire fighters.

On Dec. 20 at their home on Willett street, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Lamb will celebrate their golden wedding.

While walking about town, as was his usual almost daily custom, Robert Hanna, retired farmer, 77 years old, one of Birmingham's oldest and respected citizens, dropped dead of apoplexy in front of Shain's drug store at the corner of West Maple and Pierce streets.

Additional safety protection in the form of flashing lights, instead of gates, will be installed at the three of Birmingham's streets where they cross the Grand Trunk railroad. It was practically agreed at a joint meeting of representatives of the Michigan Public Utilities Commission's inspector and an official of the railroad here Wednesday afternoon.

15 YEARS AGO
 December 15, 1938
 A city project involving the construction of storm and sanitary sewers started last May, will go forward under a new federal grant of \$159,980, according to an announcement made from the office of Senator Prentiss Brown, in Washington.

Geraldine Blackmer, ten years old of 1439 Humphrey street, was injured by an automobile driven by Clarence Schirmer, 470 E. Breckenridge a venue, Ferndale, late Saturday afternoon at Woodward avenue and Maple road.

Ernest A. Burtra was elected president of the Exchange club at the Tuesday noon meeting held in the Community House.

The Birmingham League of Women voters, in a resolution drawn up at their last meeting Monday, Dec. 12, went on record as recommending a rise in the age limit for drivers licenses.

Nine alarms causing an estimated damage of \$505, was the local fire loss for November, according to the monthly report submitted by Fire Chief V. W. Griffith to City Manager Donald C. Egbert.

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

Uncle Abner was quite provoked (or pretended to be) at us the other evening. For the sake of company we brought the Christmas decorations project out of the basement and into the living room. Yards and yards of rope were spread around the floor. More of it hung over chair backs, waiting to be undone in order to become a part of our definite plans.

Pine cones were piled in waste baskets and on coffee tables, while sacks of tree ornaments occupied chairs and the ledge of the picture window. Two or three cans of paint, to touch up the cones, were on a corner of the radio along with a handful of small brushes.

Heavy shears and pliers, with coils of fine and heavy wire were here and there.

UNCLE ABNER wanted a place to sit down and for a moment there was none. He muttered something about "Christmas' Bah!" and finally settled himself on a small and not too comfortable chair.

Before long, as we knew he would, I picked up a couple of cones and looked at them. A few moments later he had one of the rolls of wire in his hands, a pair of shears and some of the large branches of white pine.

No one said a word as he struggled, twisting and turning, moving the cones about, snipping pieces of wire and fastening things together. At last he put the spray nozzle, waiting for comments of admiration.

It was really no effort to be complimentary, either. The simplicity of his design and the natural placement of the cones was beautiful.

UNCLE ABNER beamed. His eyes twinkled and those heavy white whiskers twitched as a smile tugged at his lips.

"This kind of sturdy," he said modestly, "but one of you girls will have to tie the bow. Never could make them things."

He picked up some more branches and some of the heavy wire. Unwieldy long fingers a huge heart took shape, boughs and cones, with a few silver balls

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

I've never seen a Communist. And I know I'll never be one. But I can tell you this for sure: I'd rather see than be one.

If the trend continues, I expect that all the ills of mankind eventually may be combated — even prevented — merely by drinking each day several glasses of water from the kitchen faucet.

Many communities now obtain water from deep wells. As it comes to the surface, much of it contains various mineral elements, some of which have been said to be good for the people who drink the water.

In recent years, attempts have been made to get fluorine put in municipal water supplies, allegedly to prevent or cut down on the number of cavities in teeth.

IF THIS EVENTUALLY works to the advantage of the population, then is not it conceivable that the medical profession may seek to have some other beneficial things added to the water supply, too — like vitamins A, B, B₁, C, D, X, Y, Z, riboflavin and niacin?

Of course, all municipalities probably will be pressured into putting a little more attractive taste into the water. Perhaps wintergreen, peppermint, or chlorophyll. Naturally, every city can expect its community wag to ask that the water taste like Four Roses (maybe even as strong, too).

I CAN FORESEE some difficulty between the anti-peppermint and pro-wintergreen forces versus the vice versa.

I presume, however, that the various city, village and town councils will effect a compromise between such groups.

Something like having peppermint on Mondays, wintergreen on Tuesdays, Four Roses on Wednesdays, chocolate on Thursdays, hay leaf on Fridays, just old-fashioned plain water on Saturdays, and

no water at all on Sundays. (This is to let the pumps, and mains, and pipes have a day to recover before going through the schedule again.)

And think of the benefits to domestic animal life, as well. Everyone's dogs, cats and canaries; the horses, pigs and chickens on the farms; the landscaping that is watered—all so healthy, so full of vitality, so strong!

Yes, sir, it's a wonderful age we live in — but think of the wonders and benefits yet to come!

Education should be a means by which a person becomes something, not a means to get something. Education should facilitate and improve the inward condition of the mind, not an outward set of circumstances. If used in the first instance, education is a beneficial motivation of mankind. If it is used for the second instance, it has a useless and often damaging result.

If any newspaper editor should die without ever having a reader tell him he lost a subscriber because a certain story was published which the reader thought should not be — then that fact will be headline news in every newspaper in the nation.

Usually this type of reader is the one with such strong prejudices that he wants only his side of the picture published, and not the other side—which when published together, really tell the complete and impartial story.

One of the fastest ways to lose subscribers is to publish only one side of a situation. An editor gains and holds far more subscribers by realizing there usually are two sides to any question, and prints them.

An editor who won't let the "other side" tell its story, too, is no better than a public official who tries to keep his opponents from voting.

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From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

In England's London, they are affixing to the front of railroad engines loud-speakers that will announce to the public where they are going. It is to be hoped that the voice is more understandable than what one hears within many railroad stations.

Vice-President Nixon, it appears, has done a fairly good job of representing this country on his trip around the world. The youthful Californian, by his tact and apparent common sense, is surprising many of his contemporaries . . . maybe he'll acquire sufficient stature to follow Ike into the White House.

U. S. Army engineers have developed a camera that can take pictures deep down in a hole. Now if that camera is applied to the hole in the federal government's budget, maybe some of the leaks can be plugged up and a portion of the taxpayers' money saved.

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So They Say . . .

Frederick A. Barry, author: "Communism cannot be overcome by argument alone . . . it must be outlived."

Charles S. Thomas, Assistant Secretary of Defense, in charge of Supply and Logistics: "We can get into production almost overnight."

Alexander Wiley, U.S. Senator from Wisconsin: "Few proposals could do more harm for American mass consumption than a national sales tax."



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