

Battalion EDITORIALS

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TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 1948

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

Trieste--A Challenge...

Perhaps the stand of the Western nations in asking the return of Trieste to Italy is the beginning of a change in the European situation. Certainly, the initiative has suddenly been taken by the Democratic nations, who up to now have bickered among themselves without any cooperation or definite action.

Of course, the stand with regard to Trieste could be dangerous. It could furnish the heat which would turn the "cold war" into a hot explosion. But if the situation is so bad, there is probably no way of avoiding trouble. Certainly the greatest mistake was made when Trieste was half promised to Yugoslavia, that is to say, Russia. The Yugoslavs, under Tito's leadership, have seemed to consider that Trieste, under "internationalization," had actually been given to them.

Charles Guy, publisher of the Lubbock Avalanche-Tribune, told Southwest journalism students in Austin this week that Trieste was the "hottest spot in Europe." And that was before the new deal on Trieste had been announced.

Premier Marshal Tito's government lodged a protest with the western powers over their action on Trieste, but did not reject

or accept the proposal to restore that area to Italy.

The Rome government, almost simultaneously, formally accepted the proposal as "a guarantee of peace." It sent notes to Washington, London and Paris expressing "legitimate satisfaction for the initiative to participate with the promoting governments and Russia in drafting a protocol to be submitted later to the security council."

Yugoslavia's protest was pegged on her contention that the western powers did not consult her in a matter affecting her future and the peace of Europe. She condemned the American-British military government for the northern part of the Trieste Free Territory.

The Moscow radio said the western allies had acted behind the back of the Soviet Union in suggesting the revision of the Italian peace treaty.

French Foreign Minister Bidault left for Paris after a three-hour conference with Italy's Premier Alcide De Gasperi. Emerging from their meeting, De Gasperi said:

"We are going, I think, toward a United States of Europe."

And that, we think, is an excellent idea.

What Price Freedom?...

Perhaps the strongest statement yet made in favor of Universal Military Training was that made by Karl Compton, president of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"Time is running out," contended Dr. Compton. "Modern war calls for more training, and it permits a warring nation to strike with devastating quickness."

Compton was chairman of the presidential commission which last year unanimously recommended universal military training.

Compton said that every reason his study commission put forth for UMT 10 months ago, "can be underscored with added emphasis in the light of world events."

Compton said that "timid souls and thoughtless persons" would postpone facing the "unpleasant" UMT issue.

"This," he added, "is one of the surest ways to get into serious trouble, for if the situation continues to worsen and we continue to hope for the best while doing nothing unpleasant, we may lose freedom."

Senator Saltonstall (R-Mass) wanted to know whether the country could bear the cost of Universal Training on top of what it is already spending for the armed forces.

Compton said it could—that "the amounts we have been talking about, while large, are small compared with what we spend on luxuries each year."

What price freedom?

End of Oil 'Honeymoon'...

The current issue of The Texas A&M Engineer contains a provocative editorial, "End of Oil Era," in which the editors point out that with Texas oil reserves diminishing, we may have to revamp our ways of life. Texas has long been fortunate in having cheap fuel oil and natural gas. They may not vanish altogether, but may become so expensive that substitutes will have to be found.

The oil shortage is a most serious problem. According to Clarke Beach, Associated Press writer, the shortage this winter caught both government and industrial experts by surprise.

They had thought that after the war there would be only a gradual increase in the civilian consumption of petroleum products—which had been reduced about one-third through rationing.

They thought they had several years, at least, to prepare for any greatly increased demand.

But in September the shortage suddenly loomed up dead ahead.

Instead of slowly easing upward, demand for oil had shot up almost vertically. Now the country is using about 5,700,000 barrels a day—700,000 more than at wartime peak.

The experts had been thinking in terms of gasoline and automobiles. They reasoned, according to Sidney A. Swenrud, executive vice-president of the Gulf Oil Corp., that fewer automobiles would be in use and there would be a slump in gasoline demand.

But by 1947 there were 1,021,000 more passenger cars on the road than in 1941. There were 33.6 percent more trucks; 43.5 percent more buses. The petroleum industry

estimates 33 percent more gasoline will be used in the first quarter of 1948 than in the same months of 1947.

What caught the oil men off guard? The enormous increase in the demand for petroleum products other than gasoline. Total demand for petroleum products jumped 53 percent in the 7-year period.

Derivatives of crude oil which once were considered by-products chiefly accounted for the rise. Biggest increase has been in the demand for "distillate" fuels—a rise of 85 percent since the first quarter of 1941. These are the oils that are used in home oil burners, in diesel engines and jet propulsion engines.

Home owners converted their coal furnaces to oil burners so rapidly after the war that dealers received 250 percent more burners in the first nine months of 1947 than in the same period of 1946. Burners use an average of 1,800 gallons of oil a year.

The railroads are changing to diesels so fast that a new diesel is hitting the rails every week or ten days. Of the locomotives now on order, 92 percent are diesels. They average 169,000 gallons of fuel a year—enough to heat 93 average homes.

Kerosene consumption has taken a 74 percent jump. First outcries to interior department fuel men about the oil shortage came from kerosene users in North Carolina.

Aviation gasoline consumption has doubled. Farmers are using twice as much gasoline as ever, for they have doubled their mechanized equipment. Industry's use of oil has risen in proportion to the tremendous increase in production.

President Truman is reported as saying "playing politics" made his job more difficult. We thought "playing politics" was the only thing that made it possible. *Arkansas Gazette.*

The "walking man" has been guessed, but at the Democratic National Convention we'll want to know who are the walking-out men. *—Arkansas Gazette.*

Two members of the Argentine Congress fought a duel but neither was hurt. They take their politics seriously in Argentina—more seriously than their duels. *Arkansas Gazette.*

The Battalion

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and the City of College Station, Texas, is published five times a week and circulated every Monday through Friday afternoon, except during holidays and examination periods. During the summer The Battalion is published semi-weekly. Subscription rate \$4.30 per school year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

News contributions may be made by telephone (4-5444) or at the editorial office, Room 201, Goodwin Hall. Classified ads may be placed by telephone (4-5324) or at the Student Activities Office, Room 209, Goodwin Hall.

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Entered as second-class matter at Post Office at College Station, Texas, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

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"Your Move, Joe"

Noted Correspondents Review Troubled World At News Meet

Members of the Southwestern Journalism Congress, which met in Austin last Friday and Saturday heard journalists report on their experiences in all parts of the world.

Reuben H. Markham, Balkan correspondent for the Christian Science Monitor, told of the troubled situation he

had found throughout southern Europe. He said that not only industrialists are suffering under the Communist regime, but quoted a letter that he had received from a farmer's daughter in Bulgaria telling how her father had been taken away and killed by the police. A person no longer receives a fair trial in the Communist-dominated countries, he said.

Margaret Bourke-White, Life photographer and former wife of Erskine "God-Little-Acre" Caldwell, reported on her experiences in India. She said too many Americans went to India looking for the unusual and failed to report the situation they actually found. Miss Bourke-White believes she is the last reporter to have interviewed Mohandas K. Gandhi before his assassination. She has made two trips to India collecting material for a book, she is now writing.

Dr. Frank L. Mott, dean of the University of Missouri school of journalism, reported to the news congress on a visit he made to Japan. He said the Japanese were the

Japan, he said, was that the Holy Trinity consisted of "the Emperor, MacArthur and God."

Charles A. Guy made a tour of Europe for the War Department. He said there was only one American newspaper in occupied Germany and that was at "Neue Zeitung." Describing this paper as the most popular throughout Germany, he said it had been barred from the Russian zone, but appears there on the black market. It is the only newspaper in Germany that is not censored, but censorship on other papers is not strict. British newspapers, he said, were political organs as all European newspapers were before the war.

Guy said Trieste was the hottest spot in Europe, but that while he was there neither of the three large news syndicates had a regular staff correspondent there.

He said the Russians were losing the ideological battle wherever the native population has a chance to compare Russian with U. S. and British personnel. He says there will be no war tomorrow—unless someone makes a blunder.

Attending the Austin conference from A&M were Vick Lindley, Kenneth Bond, Louis Morgan, Louis Hardy, and Jimmie Nelson. Otis Miller, professor of agricultural journalism, and Roland Bing, manager of student publications, accompanied the group.

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