

Fate Takes a Curtain-Call . . .

For hours on end yesterday, our wire typed out some of the saddest news we have received over the service in many months.

There have been numerous crashes over the nation and over the world during November, one of the most catastrophic months in airline history.

The airline whose plane crashed had an excellent record for many months. Not a fatality had occurred.

Throughout the day we had several people enter the office, ask about the crash, then thumb silently through the

pages of wire copy which kept streaming constantly from the wire. If you have ever been in a position whereby you must sit quietly, while watching the reactions and expressions of those more personally interested in the passenger list than you, you must realize how we felt.

No doubt there will be investigations of the crash, as there are of all the major air accidents of late. We doubt that anything will be uncovered, however, other than the assurance that it was an accident.

No amount of words, expressions of sorrow, or apologies can ever replace these dead in the hearts of their relatives and friends; their loved ones.

All we can possibly do is to thank God that we or someone near to us were not aboard the doomed plane. Once again the grim face of death, along with fate and circumstance, has appeared.

Not Expense, Just Conversion and Investment . . .

Like time a motion and good and bad, the amount of governmental deficit spending is purely a relative subject. Some argue that this nation is pursuing a policy of deficit spending that will amount to \$5.5 billion for the current fiscal year.

The latter stand is unique, and one that becomes more valid with thought. The billions being spent by governmental agencies for purchases of surplus farm crops or for loans to businesses are conversions of dollars, not expenditures.

In all these, it is very questionable

whether we, or any one else, may charge the government with down-the-drain spending. We all may justly condemn wastes as they occur in any of the government's spending. Though dollars which provide these government sponsored activities are borrowed, we see the logic in claims by the administration that these costs are not of an expense nature, but rather more of an investment.

The end result of deficit spending, however, is higher taxes. These higher taxes are demanded first, to pay off deficits and second, to continue the high rate of governmental spending. Consciously or unconsciously, higher taxes tend toward reducing the disparity between the wealthy and the poor.

This amounts to a "soak the rich and give it to the poor" philosophy of government. Judging from the vote-getting popularity of the Fair Deal, which advocates this philosophy, the American people are bent upon trying this way of greater distribution of wealth for some time to come.

Diehard Navyites will find little consolation in this news report from Washington by the AP:

The Navy's active sea force, growing smaller by the month, is now less than half the size of its mothball fleet.

Figures supplied today by the Navy show that to date 395 major combat vessels have been pulled out of the Atlantic Fleet and 332 out of the Pacific Fleet, for a total of 727 ships in reserve.

Last July 1 there were 271 major fighting ships in active service, 174 with the Atlantic Fleet and 97 in the Pacific.

By next July 1, that total will be down to 237—including three new submarines and a light carrier—as 17 ships of the Atlantic Fleet and seven from the Pacific are in storage.

That will place the total strength of the mothball fleet at 751 ships.

At least moth balling our ships is bet-

ter than the procedure followed after the last war—sinking them.

Architects and students of art and architecture should be pleased to learn that Pisa's famed Leaning Tower was checked last week by scientific instruments and found to have listed over the past twelve years another three-tenths of an inch.

Our great question is not, "When will the Tower topple over?" But, "Where does one apply for the position of guard to watch the Tower and warn people when it starts swaying?"

You haven't really proved Whether you're man or mouse Until you've spent a winter With plumbing outside the house.

The Battalion

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

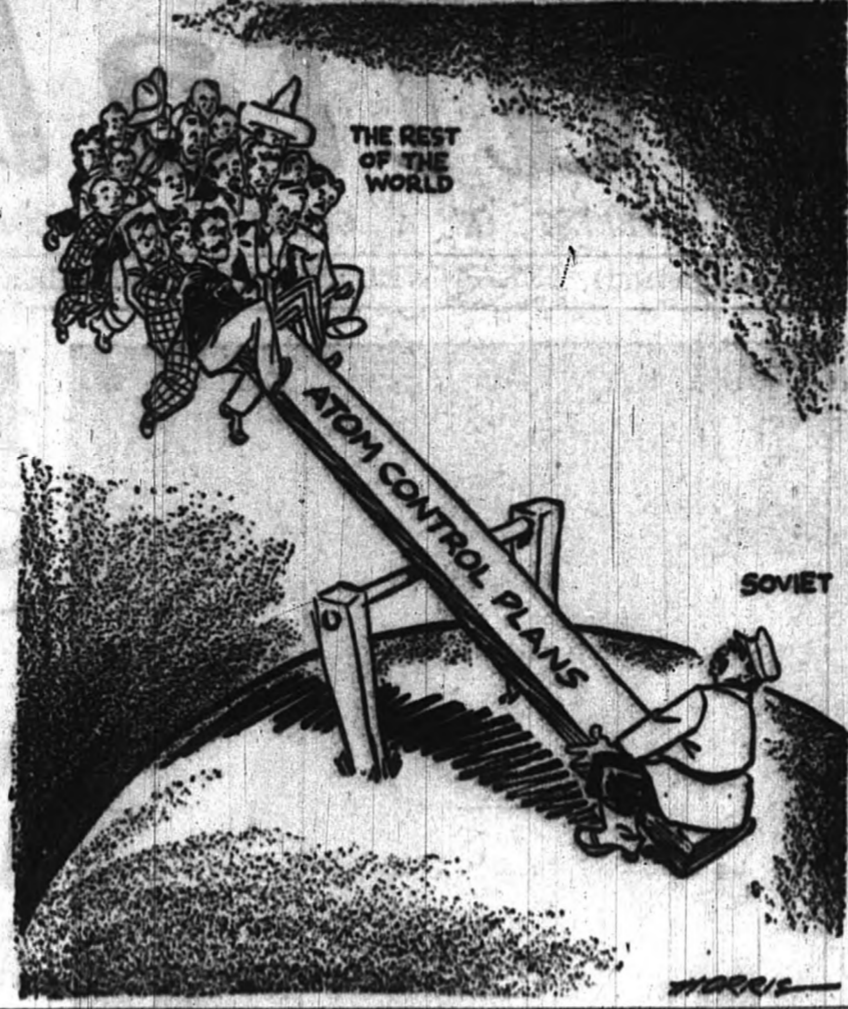
News contributions may be made by telephone (4-5444) or at the editorial office, Room 201, Goodwin Hall. Classified ads may be placed by telephone (4-5324) or at the Student Activities Office, Room 209, Goodwin Hall.

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THE BALANCE OF POWER



Montgomery Desert Interview Remembered by Correspondent

By DOWITT MACKENZIE

AP Foreign Affairs Analyst It's seven years ago, harking a few days, that America's distinguished British guest, Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery, gave me the toughest chase I ever experienced in rounding up a subject for an interview—not that he was trying to avoid me, but it just happened that way.

This was in the Libyan desert in December of '42, just before the crucial battle of El Algeha between Monty's Eighth Army and the Germans under the famous Marshal Rommel. The British general was moving his headquarters for the great show-down, and he personally was hopping from place to place so fast that the British press unit to which I was attached never could catch up with him.

Finally my colleagues threw up their hands, gave me an armored car with a military driver and said: "Go find Monty yourself!" A couple of days later we finally ran to earth the man whom supreme allied commander General of the Army Eisenhower has described as "one of the great soldiers of the war . . . a figure who will live always, not only in British but in

world history." The general was in his caravan—a little "headquarters" office-on-wheels which could be got under way in a few moments. When I knocked he gave me a cheery "come in—I'm glad to see you," and grinned when I told him about my long chase.

First Impression The first moment of an interview with a stranger often is the most important, for it is in this brief instant that the interviewer sizes up his subject. I find that in my notes of the interview I recorded this first impression: "There burns in his grey eyes the unmistakable flame of the crusader if he were not a great general he would be in some other field of leadership and it would involve idealism, if I've sized up my man rightly."

There would seem to be nothing in subsequent developments to change that viewpoint. Associated with that thought is the fact that he is intensely religious, and in a manner of speaking fought with the Bible in his hand. "I was particularly touched by one letter from a Sunday school teacher in Atlantic City. He wrote to say that the boys of his classes were praying that I might have strength in the coming battle."

Letters

AN AGREEMENT

Editor, The Battalion:

Contrary to the beliefs of yesterday's contributors, I think you should be complimented for your editorial stand on the TU bonfire incident.

I think these men have forgot what Coach Stutler has said publicly several times:

"Don't do anything to make the opposition student body or team mad at us or cause them to get 'keyed up' for a game . . . As long as Mr. Stiteler has been coaching football, I'm sure he is well grounded in the basic rudiments of psychology. I think our two students built up a lot of school spirit—for TU."

Let's beat TU next year on the football field.

Kenneth Bond '50

Combat Planes Cut By Naval Orders

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The Navy Friday ordered about 20 per cent of its combat planes taken out of service during the next four months and is considering whether others must be withdrawn.

The move signals insistence from Defense Secretary Johnson on economy cuts, bitterly protested by naval officials, which figured in recent congressional hearings on inter-service rows.

The Navy announced that a total of 35 squadrons—28 Navy and seven marine—will be decommissioned. The sea service now has about 2,250 first line combat planes, besides support and service aircraft.

The 35 squadrons to be decommissioned contain about 480 combat craft.

The Navy Department announced some time ago that a 25 per cent cut in air strength would be required under the over-all economy program order by Secretary Johnson.

Official Notice

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING November 5, 1949 NOTICE—ID CARDS—Will all students in all schools having ID Cards numbered below please phone or call at the Dept. of Engineering Office (phone 4-5744 or 4-5344) at 210 Petroleum Building and give the name corresponding to their card number. A new list will be published each day.

Santa Claus School Opened in Hollywood

Hollywood, Nov. 28 (AP)—There's no escape from education. Santa Claus is even being exposed to book learnin'.

The Masquers Club of Hollywood has opened a school for Santa Clauses.

Advertisement for SKYWAY DRIVE-IN THEATRE. LAST DAY "When My Baby Smiles at Me" —with— Betty Grable Dan Daily LUCKY LICENSE NITE

Boyle's Column . . .

Columnist Knows How To Fill Column on Bad Day

BY HAL BOYLE

New York (AP)—When I woke up this morning, I reached under my bed for my secret news ticker from Moscow.

Its page was blank. The Russians had had a quiet weekend. They hadn't used atomic energy to move a single mountain or change the course of a single river.

Yawning, I reached under the other side of the bed and pulled out my secret news ticker from Washington. It was completely blank, too. Nobody had resigned from the Cabinet, and even the admirals were silent. What a dull world!

"Quit brushing your teeth and get me my crystal ball—I'll have to look into the future," I called to my wife. She obediently trotted to the closet, opened a hatbox and dragged out my old crystal ball—the \$3.98 model that department stores keep in stock for gypsies, happy mediums and unhappy columnists.

Deep inside the ball a message formed: "Notre Dame will go through season undefeated."

Frances laughed: "Ha, ha! That's no news. The sports writers have been saying that for years."

I shook the crystal ball harder and looked again. It read: "It's Truman against Eisenhower in 1952."

"Ha, ha, ha!" chortled my merry helpmate. "I read that already in 27 other newspaper columns last week, Rover boy."

I threw the ball away in disgust. Then I began to perspire. For I realized that I had reached the dilemma that comes sometimes to every columnist—I had nothing to say. No news, no views, no nothing.

Suddenly in this despair I recalled what a columnist of 40 years' experience had told me once when I asked him if he ever ran out of ideas.

"Son," this pulp paper Plato had observed, "as long as sin and poison snakes are alive in this world a man of character and feeling will always have something to write about."

And so, today we will take up

the problem of poison snakes—and leave sin for another rainy day topic.

Well, there are 600 different varieties of poisonous snakes creeping and crawling around the earth underfoot. And, I for one, don't intend to let another dry pass without pointing out that neither the Republicans nor the Democrats are doing a thing to reform them.

Ainsworth Says Preserve Site Of Goliad Park

A second appeal to Texans to "remember their past and help preserve Goliad State Park" was sounded today by Brig. Gen. H. Miller Ainsworth, Luling, state advisory chairman of the \$200,000 campaign.

"School children in dozens of cities are turning in their nickels and dimes," Ainsworth said. "But they must receive the support of those who can give hundreds of dollars, or this drive can not reach its worthy goal—the restoration of one of our truly significant historical shrines."

Big gift donors are sending checks direct to Ainsworth, president of the First National Bank of Luling, and to the Goliad State Park Restoration Committee at Goliad. Donations are deductible for income tax purposes.

Checks are coming in from as far away as Oregon, Ainsworth said. Mrs. J. B. Godfrey, a granddaughter of David Hutchenson McFaden, who served under Gen. Sam Houston, mailed a donation from Portland, Ore., with this comment:

"Each succeeding year the historical interest of Texas, the most romantic and wonderful state in the Union, becomes better known. Every Texan should be proud to contribute to the preservation of the park and keep the memory of the men massacred there ever fresh in the minds of the coming generations."

The drive is sponsored by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

U. S. Finds Out Next Spring How Many Texans There Are

BY TEX EASLEY

Washington — (AP) — A small army of Texans will fan out over their state next April 1 to count the number of people living between the Red River and the Rio Grande.

Uncle Sam will employ 8,650 workers to do the job.

When results of their two-weeks survey is completed it should show the official 1950 population of Texas to be somewhat larger than the 7,532,000 persons estimated to be residing in the state last July 1.

The first federal census in Texas, taken exactly a century earlier, showed an 1850 population of 212,592. The 1940 census—they're taken every 10 years—showed a population of 6,414,824.

The increase of more than 1,000,000 which Texas will show is a much greater gain than most states will register.

Consequently, Texas is expected to be allocated at least one, and possibly two, more seats in the House of Representatives. The total number of seats in the House remains fixed at 435, so some states will have to give up a fraction of their representation.

California is expected to show the greatest gain of all states. Her population was estimated at 10,665,000 last July 1, an increase of

3,873,000 over 1940. Michigan's population went up to 6,252,000, an increase of 1,092,000 in the same period.

The new census will turn up a lot of facts besides bare population figures.

It will disclose how many Texans own television sets, still cook with wood or kerosene, and how many are in debt. It will reveal such sociological data as the number who have been divorced, live on farms or in city slums. Of course, the basic questions will show the complexion of Texans as to race, sex, age, and citizenship.

In order to get this gigantic nose-counting task over with, the government divides the nation up into regions, states and districts. Fort Worth is the headquarters of a census bureau region comprising Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana. The over-all operations in Texas also will be centered in Fort Worth.

There will be 22 district offices throughout Texas set up to carry out the census, each comprising one or more counties. The personnel in each district will handle those working in the office to include administrative problems and clerical work, crew leaders who will go out to supervise the counting, and the enumerators who will ask you the questions.

Early next year the government will get its staff of workers lined up. District supervisors will be paid at the rate of \$4,400 a year, and must possess the qualifications demanded of a regular civil service employe with a "GS9" rating. The bulk of the workers will be paid on a per diem basis, which should net them about \$8 to \$10 a day. None will be hired until next year.

Police on the Hunt For Overdue Freaks

Houston, Tex. — (AP) — The trouble with most police descriptions of wanted men is that they might fit almost anybody.

But police here have two descriptions that would stand out in any crowd:

A fire eater wearing gold earrings and the other—a tattooed man.

A St. Petersburg, Fla., carnival owner asked police to look for the men. He said they are overdue in a pickup truck loaded with carnival costumes.

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Advertisements for PALACE (Bryan 2-8879), TODAY thru SATURDAY, and QUEEN "SECRET ST. IVES".

Advertisements for Campus, SERGEANT YORK, and Chicago Deadline.

Large advertisement for GARY COOPER, SERGEANT YORK, and THE GIRL FROM JONES BEACH.