

Battalion Editorials

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 1950

All for One; One Against All . . .

There is a growing demand for an ultimatum to Russia concerning further aggression by direct or indirect methods. Some advocates of this countermeasure are Harold Stassen, Senator Lodge, and Representative Coudert. Stassen is apparently trying to reduce the conflict to its fundamentals. His proposed ultimatum included the threat that further Communist aggression would mean that "war will come to Moscow, to the Urals and to the Ukraine."

Many people have the idea that such an ultimatum would present a united administrative opinion that Russia could not fail to consider. Stassen was particularly outspoken on the Soviet policy of indirect, piecemeal aggression. He also said: "We must not permit Uncle Sam to be chopped down finger by finger, arm by arm, by preliminary fights for which he is not prepared."

With another indirect attack pending in Indo-China, the question comes up as to whether we are in a position to send ultimatums to any country. The Korean war makes armed assistance in this new trouble spot almost impossible—we just

don't have the men. Until we are ready to "whip the wildcat on his own log" our diplomatic moves will carry very little weight.

Responsibility for the present state of affairs has been placed on the public which condoned the frantic demobilization with no regard for our new political responsibilities. Senator Morse (R-Ore) believes that there have been some "grave mistakes in judgment" by government officials regarding the sale of war surplus material since World War II. He has called for a Congressional investigation of their activities.

We are in favor of a definite policy or the drawing of a definite line to contain Russia. If conventional forces are inadequate to carry out "police actions" we also favor Stassen's idea of placing the matter before the United Nations. If necessary, the Security Council could then rule on the use of atomic weapons.

This plan would place the moral and humanitarian considerations on other shoulders. One thing is certain—past mistakes cannot be corrected, and decisive action is needed immediately.

Riding the Rails To Nationalization . . .

The proposed "token" railroad strike involving 300,000 trainmen could either be an attempt to gain an increase in pay to compensate for a rising cost of living, or it could be an attempt to use the critical international situation for personal gain.

Negotiations have so far proven to be fruitless, and the Unions have appealed to President Truman to take over the railroads. The argument for this appeal is that the operators have taken a "defiant, high-handed attitude."

President Truman apparently does not want to take this step unless it proves to be his only alternative in the interest of our national security. Definite plans should be made to arbitrate disputes of this nature in order to arrive at a just conclusion in the shortest possible time.

If strikes should strangle a major war effort, free enterprise would cease to exist. Government controls in such an event would border on Fascism. Military defeat, on the other hand would really put an end to freedom as we know it now.

This proposed strike is a challenge to the flexibility of our system to arrive at a satisfactory solution and achieve the unity that will be required to face what appears to be a major threat to our fundamental freedoms.

Both union leaders and operators should be cautious about forcing President Truman to take drastic action since it may not be possible to relinquish such controls at a later date. "Nationalizing" a major industry is frequently easier than "denationalizing" it when the appropriate time comes.

"Silent Service" and Its Importance . . .

Warfare in 1950 is conventional in every respect with the exception of submarines. With the advent of the "snorkel" breathing device and submarine launched missiles the scope of offensive and defensive operations has increased considerably.

The Navy is still conducting a frantic research program in order to effectively counter the submarine fleet of Soviet Russia. It is estimated that at least 300 subs, several factories, and staffs of technical personnel were captured by the Russians in the Baltic area.

While our submarine men like to forego the glamour and recognition received by other services, we cannot afford to neglect our submarine program. We now have about 70 of the underwater craft in active service with an equal number in reserve. Men, however, are the critical problem because they age faster in the "silent service." Most veterans are now old men in their thirties. There are now

less than 300 men in training for this highly specialized work, and facilities cannot be increased rapidly enough to prevent a long period of need for adequately trained personnel.

Atomic powered submarines are on the drawing boards, and this new stage of naval warfare will make even greater demands on the training and stamina of our crews. Even though other services see more action in the present type of police action, the undersea war could begin on a moment's notice.

Production of subs can be stepped up faster than crews can be made available. The Navy reports that men between the ages of 19 and 23 are very enthusiastic about the submarine service, and we are in favor of beginning now to give them the best training that is possible.

We cannot afford to be lax with any of our perspective fighting forces for in the future they may be the decisive factor in our retention of freedom.

The Battalion

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions
"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

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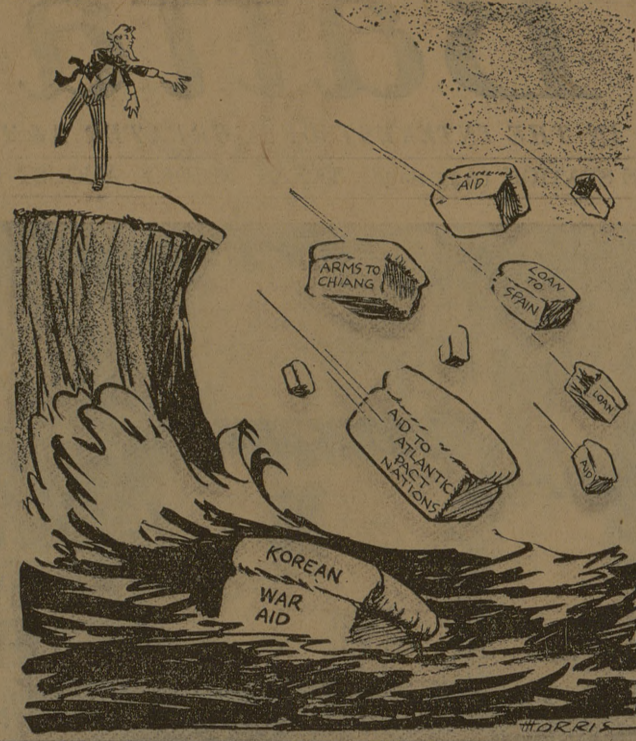
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Interpreting the News . . .

Indo-China Tops List For Possible Threats

By J. M. ROBERTS, JR.
AP Foreign Affairs Analyst

With Britain and the United States in a stew over Formosan policy and all sorts of talk and threats about a Communist invasion of the island, people keep asking why I put Indo-China at the head of the possibly emergency list.

Well, there are a number of reasons involving both positions which seem valid, although I learned long ago not to get in too deep when trying to figure out any situation in which Russia has a hand.

The Formosan situation, as I get it, is this:

The Chinese Communists are not equipped with modern vessels for an overwater attack. Even without the U. S. Seventh Fleet which is under orders to stop any invasion. The enemy would have to land in the face of a well-trained and well equipped Nationalist Army of several hundred thousand men. And the Seventh Fleet is being reinforced rapidly. The Chinese also would have to face airpower from Okinawa as well as Formosa, and what a bunch of attack planes could do to a big fleet of junks would be terrific.

Those are military angles. More important, I think, is that an attack on Formosa at the present time would be an attack on the United States. Formosa could hardly be worth it to the Communists.

In Indo-China there is an entirely different situation, and one which seems to be coming to a head, while Communist attention on Formosa appears to consist mostly of talk.

The Communists can conduct an important military campaign in Indo-China without becoming directly involved with the United States, which has no troops there and could not send any now. Such a campaign can be conducted by infiltration and supply, as the Russian satellites conducted their campaign in Greece, and so possibly avoid international war.

In Indo-China the Communists have the same situation they had in China itself, with most of the people preferring Communist rule to their present French puppet regimes.

No important native troops can be improved in Indo-China, beyond what use can be made of native troops who may not be to stable. The Communists would be fighting a popular war.

It would seem that 200,000 French troops equipped by the United States, as they are being, would be able to handle the situation. But for five years 150,000 of them have not been able to handle even the forces which Ho Chin-Minh could produce without Chinese aid. The best they have been able to do is maintain a stalemate.

Conquest of Indo-China also would give the Communists a spearhead into the whole Malay Peninsula and a commanding position in Southeast Asia, the importance of which was fully recognized by the Japanese when they began their attempt to conquer that area. Formosa is just an island, of no strategic value except as against the American defense line in the Pacific, especially the Philippines, in case of a global war, and that it not yet believed to be a part of the Communist book.

From the standpoint of maximum opportunity at minimum risk, Indo-China (with Burma and Tibet on the side) might look very good to the Communists if they seek to create a diversion from the Korean thing.

Behind the Scenes . . .

'Cargo to Capetown' Shows Well-Worn Eternal Triangle

(Cargo To Capetown: Columbia; now showing at Palace, Wed. through Sat.; Starring Broderick Crawford, John Ireland, Ellen Drew.)
By FRED WALKER

Spiritual, physical, and symbolic conflicts combine forces in "Cargo To Capetown" as a leaky tanker provides the stage for a leaky exploitation of the not-so-new Eternal Triangle.

Captain Steve Conway (John Ireland) legitimately shanghai's a crew, including friend Johnny (Broderick Crawford), and takes command of a sea-going coffin, the Mokara. Kitty (Ellen Drew), Steve's former girl-friend, and now Johnny's fiancée, attempts to retrieve her lover before embarkation, but is physically dissuaded by S and ends up taking the trip.

Open hostility is declared by J and S when the former learns of the past affair. K then realizes her true affections when S would sacrifice his command by changing course to save the life of a native boy, who is in desperate need of immediate surgery.

But both heroically suppress desire, and, as Captain, S marries J and K. When a fire starts in an after tank, S saves J's life; light is shed upon true love; J decides on an annulment; hero and heroine embrace madly.

Publicity Misleading

The picture is publicized in Crawford's name (Academy Award, "All The King's Men"), but the picture must have been made before Crawford's triumph, and released after "All The King's Men", for he definitely plays second lead to Ireland.

The cast doesn't have to strain much, for the dialogue, in many spots, is trite and foolish. On the other hand, a good bit of the scenes prove the cast's worth.

Comment: Strictly a "B" pic-

ture riding on Crawford's laurels.

A Little Experiment

I tried a little experiment when reviewing "The Furies" the other day. The entire review was premeditated plagiarism. The real writer was Charles Franke of the Motion Picture Daily, New York City, who is considered a better-than-average critic.

The object in this criminal act? A good many of my friends have been saying, "Walker, you have been seeing too many movies; you're getting bitter." The object was not to prove that I write with the same virility and craft as these gentlemen; I wanted to see how many people really read into something.

What reaction did I expect? Well, maybe something like, "Walker, are you actually learning something about sentence structure, and acquiring two and three syllable words in your vocabulary?"; or, "OK, Walker, whose column have you been reading?"

"Still Bitter, Eh?"
What reactions did I really get? "Still bitter, eh. You better lay off Mencken for a while"; and "Good Lord! Walker, have you even seen a movie you liked! Every day, the same old stuff."

Le style, c'est l'homme! Nuts. What does this prove? Nothing, and I guess I'll remain am damnée for the rest of the summer.

By the way, if you don't already know it, the Campus will be closed from August 26 to September 9. The first picture to be shown at the opening will be the much heralded Swanson-comeback, "Sunset Boulevard."

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H. L. HEATON, Registrar

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NOW THRU SATURDAY
MARIA MONTEZ
JON HALL
in
"ARABIAN NIGHTS"

By Al Capp

Until at the very top - when we reach El Tabasco the air is pure 'gumbo' - no oxygen! Oh boy, is there action here!!

AS WE LEAVE EL PASSIONATO the amount of 'gumbo' increases (darkness of clouds indicates density of 'gumbo')

Here nestles the semi-conscious republic of El Passionato. -Very little 'gumbo' in the air. Unhealthy lack of 'gumbo' here results in no action. Boys very sleepy - siesta all day.

ADIOS, AMIGOS! BRING 'EM BACK ALIVE - OR DON'T BOTHER TO BRING 'EM BACK AT ALL!!

YAS! - THEY SAY IT'S TH' GOOMBO IN TH' AIR THAT DOES IT. TH' MORE GOOMBO A BOY BREATHEES, TH' MORE ROMANTICAL HE GETS!!

THAT'S NO GOOMBO IN EL PASSIONATO - BUT WAY UP IN EL TABASCO TH' AIR IS PURE GOOMBO - CONSEQUENTLY THEY IS A PURTY HIGH-SPIRITED CROWD UP THAR!!

By Al Capp