

Small Nations Alter World Power Balance

Santa Believer Keeps Faithful Through Years

NEW YORK (AP) — Once upon a time there was a little girl named Virginia O'Hanlon who believed in Santa Claus. Her faith was a source of great delight, but one day her friends started teasing her.

"There's no Santa Claus. It's your mother and father," they told her.

Virginia was shaken, but she was not one to let go lightly anything so precious as her belief in Santa.

So she consulted her father, Dr. Philip F. O'Hanlon. Then she sat down and scribbled in a childish hand the following letter to the old New York Sun:

"Dear Editor:

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says 'If you see it in the Sun it's so.' Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?"

Virginia O'Hanlon,
115 West 95th Street"

Virginia got her answer in one of the most famous newspaper editorials ever written.

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus," the editorial by Francis Pharcellus Church began. "He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist."

That was in 1897. Today Virginia is Dr. Laura V. Douglas, principal of Brooklyn P. S. 401. She is the mother of a daughter and grandmother of seven children, all of whom believe in Santa Claus.

Western Nation's Gain Not Certain Politicos Move From Election To Congress

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER

WASHINGTON (AP)—The year 1956 is going into history as the year of the small nations.

Surging tides of defiance from subordinate or satellite states battered and twisted the patterns of great power conflict which have locked the world in two armed camps for a decade.

Moscow and Washington, the atomic titans, have struggled mainly to ride the floods of nationalism and freedom which boiled up in Warsaw, Budapest or Cairo. Each great power capital could try to profit from a world in turmoil but neither as the year ended could decisively control the turbulence.

It remains for 1957 to show how profoundly the upheavals of 1956 have shaken the foundations of the Atlantic alliance and the Soviet empire. At the outset of the new year it seems certain that the first task of each of the great powers is to reshape its policies to deal with the new realities of the international scene.

Far-reaching adjustments are necessary in the Soviet system if Moscow is not to turn back to the total tyranny of Stalin's time. On the Western side, the Atlantic alliance—split as never before by the British-French attack on Egypt—probably will have to be given some new reasons for existence and shored up with fresh understandings if it is to survive as an effective barrier to Soviet power.

The forces that shook the world in 1956 were neither new nor unexpected. It was the violence with which they struck which stunned leaders on both sides of the Iron Curtain and threatened to reshape the course of history by greatly strengthening the third force camp of neutralism.

West Gains

On balance, the United States and other powers which have opposed Soviet tyranny and under-

written the cause of political freedom wherever possible during the Cold War seemed likely to be the big winners from the 1956 upheavals. But this was by no means a certainty for Western weakness and division had opened the way for Soviet penetration on an unparalleled scale in the strategic Middle East. Should Russia ever succeed in taking over the oil rich lands of that restless region it would have the power to strangle the industry and transport of Western Europe to death.

Yet the Soviet Union was itself faced with a different set of problems, born of its relations with its satellites which at the least impose severe limits on its freedom of operation and may in the long run help to wreck the 40-year-old Kremlin dream of world conquest. The peaceful revolt in Poland and the violent explosion in Hungary against Moscow's imperialism has done more than any single event had ever done before to destroy the Soviet dream that workers and peasants inevitably find a happy new way of life in the Communist system.

The Soviet response to the uprising in Hungary also constituted a devastating blow to Russia's prestige. The Western powers were quick to denounce the Soviet use of force but they lost much of their moral position and their propaganda advantage when Britain and France used force against Egypt in an evident effort to smash the power of President Nasser and restore international control of the Suez Canal.

Parallel Courses

The coincidence of the two explosions, one in the Middle East and the other in Hungary, was typical of a parallel course of development which had gone on in both areas throughout the year.

One of the curious by-products of the period of upheaval was that the United Nations and particularly the small countries of the United Nations suddenly achieved a new power and prominence. The United States sought to work through the United Nations, both to support the freedom movement in Hungary and to get the British and French out of Egypt. In the case of Egypt, Canada took the lead in getting a U.N. police force formed and only small nations contributed troops to this unprecedented body.

Some officials thought this first use of such a U.N. force to police the peace in Egypt might in the long run prove to be one of the year's great accomplishments.

If so, the role of the small power would be in line with one of the year's notable characteristics—that the men suddenly thrown into the spotlight of history by the most decisive events of the period were men from the small countries—Tito as a symbol of defiance of Moscow, Gomulka as an architect of greater freedom in Poland, Nasser as a determined leader of the Arabs and perhaps a dangerous one for the free world and, above all, the common man of Hungary who did not know when he was licked.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The politicians are shifting their skirmishing and scuffling now from the national arena to the halls of Congress.

This is the traditional aftermath of a presidential election—an election that produced strangely paradoxical victories which kept President Eisenhower in the White House and Democrats in control of Congress.

Probably the most impressive political event of 1956 was the way Eisenhower won a second term with a massive margin of nine million votes. But from the standpoint of future impact, an equally important development may well be the way people split their tickets and refused to give the President a Republican Congress with which to work.

As a result Republicans and Democrats will be struggling to hang their own party labels on major legislation—trying to stake out claims to items to which they can point with pride in the 1958 and 1960 elections.

The 1957 political maneuvering is bound to catch up individuals in as spectacular fashion as issues. For key figures on Capitol Hill, the build-up will be starting for the 1960 presidential election.

Vice President Nixon, obviously a possibility for top spot on the GOP ticket next time, appears likely to be assigned an increasingly broader role.

Sen. Estes Kefauver of Tennessee, who ran against Nixon, can be expected to try to remain in the public eye, too. Investigations of one kind or another have kept him there before and may again.

Kefauver has the stamp of defeat upon him, though, and may be unable to re-establish himself as a real contender for 1960.

Adlai E. Stevenson, the Democratic two-time loser in the presidential race, can't be expected to sink into political silence.

The Democrats may begin looking around in 1957 for some fresh young talent to promote—such men as Sen. John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts, who came within an eyelash of beating out Kefauver for the vice presidential nomination in 1956, or Sen. Joseph S. Clark of Pennsylvania and Gov. Edmund S. Muskie of Maine, who have proved their vote-pulling power in Republican territory.

Browsing Library Gets New Records

New records have been received in the MSC Browsing library, announced Mrs. Gwendora Magee, Librarian.

Long-playing records now available to students are "High Society," "Giant," "The Lonely Girl" by Julie London and "Night Winds" by Jackie Gleason.

Also, "The Boy Next Door" by Roger Williams, "The Art" by The Art Van Damme Quintet, "The Eddie Duchin Story," "Music for the Fireside" by Paul Weston, "Lost in a Cloud" by Ken Griffin, "Mambo Mania" by Perez Prado and "Belefonte" by Harry Belafonte.

Turning to library business, Mrs. Magee said, "We want to know what magazines and books students prefer."

"The library is sponsoring a survey for this reason," she said. Forms may be found on the book and magazine racks for students to write in their preferences.

From this survey the library will be able to order reading matter that students like.



"YOU WOULD NOT BELIEVE IT IS THE SAME PLACE," is the general feeling students have for the many changes at their College hospital. DeWitt Morrow, junior from Houston, samples a bit of the friendly service while hospitalized with a cold. Mrs. Evelyn Arnold stands by to offer help. (See story, Page 4.)

In Business

Records Fall; Boom Continues

By WALTER BREEDE JR.

NEW YORK (AP)—"Soft spots" popped up in the economy in 1956 but total business activity smashed all prior records. All signs indicated it would thrust still higher in 1957.

There were two main forces behind the boom. One was the record rate of spending by business firms on new factories, new machines and new equipment. The other was the record rate of spending by Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Consumer on necessities and luxuries of many kinds.

Wage boosts and record employment powered the consumer spending spurge.

Consumers' buying habits in 1956 took a new twist, however, and it was this changed pattern that accounted in part for "soft spots" here and there. People spent less on automobiles, television sets, home appliances and bought fewer homes; but they spent more on food, clothes, gasoline, entertainment, medical services, education and travel.

The result was more over-all

spending, but less in some fields. "Tight credit" was blamed by some economists for slowing down the housing boom. It will unquestionably influence business trends in the year ahead. Bankers and industrialists were pretty well agreed that the pinch on credit would probably get worse before it got better.

The tight credit policy of the Federal Reserve Board was described by banking experts as unpleasant but effective medicine for the economy's inflationary ills. Its most vividly apparent outward sign was the rise in interest rates. Another big "if" in 1956 was the tangled foreign situation. War jitters in the Middle East and the blocking of the Suez Canal posed difficult problems for many businessmen.

Uncertainties over "tight" money and a potentially explosive international situation had a resounding impact on Wall Street. Stock prices eased back from previous peaks. Traders wondered if the great postwar bull market had finally run its course, or was getting set for another long rise.

The auto industry was plagued in most of 1956 by a surplus of new cars and a lack of eager buyers. This situation reversed itself in late fall when the sleek, new

low-slung 1957 models came out. Sales perked up immediately. For the first time in months, dealers had more customers than cars. Looking ahead, Detroit predicted jubilantly that 1957 would be a banner year with Americans buying 6,750,000 new cars against the past year's total of less than six million.

Record Employment

Employment reached new highs in 1956 with some 65 million Americans holding jobs. Settlement of a month-long steel strike triggered a new round of wage increases. Pay of industrial workers set records. Consumer prices also touched new highs.

Here are some other figures in the 1956 business box score:

Gross national product (total dollar volume of goods and services produced)—estimated at 412 billion dollars, up 3 per cent from '55. Forecast for '57, about 418 to 420 billions.

Retail trade—193 1/2 billions, up 4 per cent.

Steel production (hobbled by a five-week strike in July)—115 1/2 million tons, down 1 1/2 per cent.

Housing—1,100,000 new homes started, down 15 per cent.

Total new construction spending—44 1/2 billion dollars, up 3 per cent.

Arts, Sciences Juniors Take Tests February

All junior Arts & Science majors must pass an English proficiency examination scheduled for the second week in February.

This decision was reached by the Arts & Sciences Executive Committee after a report from a special committee headed by J. Q. Hays, of the English Department.

The examination will consist primarily of a 600 word theme, the subject of which will be chosen by the individual departments. This theme will be graded on the ability of expression in a student's chosen field, and knowledge of the English language. The exam may also be supplemented by an objective quiz by the separate departments, if they wish.

Nation's Oldest Magazines No Longer Printed

By CHARLES MERCER

NEW YORK (AP) — The large reading audience was surprised within the week to learn of the death of two of the nation's oldest magazines, Collier's and the Woman's Home Companion. The much smaller community of freelance writers was shocked.

License to comment on the situation in a department devoted to the television is provided by the private comment of a Madison avenue advertising agency executive. Television killed the magazines, he believes. No such remark has been heard from executives of the two magazines. Yet the agency man may have a point.

During the first years of television's phenomenal growth, nearly all branches of the publishing industry feared that it represented dangerous and, in some cases, possibly fatal competition.

Short Course Set For Jan. 8-9

The Agronomy Department is sponsoring a short course in fertilizer, Jan. 8-9 with J. F. Fudge as sponsor.

Registration will take place in the Serpentine Lounge of the Memorial Student Center Jan. 8 beginning at 8 a. m. Registration fee is \$2 per person.

Meetings of the course will be held in the MSC Ballroom.

C.E. Department Moves Quarters From Nagle

Civil engineering students will attend classes in the old Veterinary Hospital and the reconstructed horse stables after the holidays, says S. R. Wright, head of the department.

The department is presently moving to the new quarters from Nagle Hall where it has been located since 1909.

Wright says that Nagle Hall will be remodeled soon after it is vacated.

He says he thinks the building will be used by history, economics, geography and journalism classes and will house the office of the

Dean of the Graduate School. Work will probably not be completed until summer classes, Wright says.

He emphasized that the C. E. Department is not moving into old, rundown buildings.

"These buildings have been remodeled and reworked and are in much better condition than the building presently occupied," says Wright.

The stables behind the main building are very good brick buildings and have also been reworked, he said.

explained the facilities of the labs. He says the hydraulics lab and instruments will be in the long stable, which is about 200 feet long and 40 feet wide. The concrete lab and strength of materials lab will be in the short stable.

The bituminous lab and two drafting rooms will be in the two-story building, formerly the dissecting lab, behind the main building.

Main classes and offices and some labs will be in the main building. Sanitary lab will be moved out of the Chemistry Building and made a part of the C. E. Department.

Conservation Plan Wins Official Okay

An agreement to utilize personnel to the fullest to develop further soil and water conservation for Texas without duplication of effort has been approved.

Top officials of the A&M College System and the Texas State Soil Conservation Board signed the agreement.

D. W. Williams, vice chancellor for agriculture for the system says that the agreement should result in a stronger soil and water conservation program for the state.

The agreement, which is effective immediately, will be extended to a local level for signing by representatives of the soil conservation district supervisors and county agricultural agents.

Officials working toward the agreement expressed that cooperation and coordination of activities toward building and conserving soil and developing an adequate water supply will result in a higher level of living and greater security for this country.