



A weekly newspaper published every Sunday morning for general circulation in Las Vegas, Nevada, and entered in the Postoffice as second-class matter.

CHARLES P. SQUIRES Editor

Quebec Questions

By DAVID LAWRENCE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23—When will candor be substituted for ambiguity and the full truth issued instead of partial truth after such a momentous international conference as that just held at Quebec between President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill?

Surely "military security" doesn't need to cover up any longer the major blunders that were made in 1942 and 1943 in planning the war against Japan.

Also the American people would be in a better frame of mind to face the tragic months that lie ahead in the Pacific if they were not being misled today into a belief that the rest of the road to victory in this war is easy.

The official communique says rather naively that "the most serious difficulty with which the Quebec conference has been confronted is to find room and opportunity for marshaling against Japan the massive forces which each and all of the nations concerned are ardent to engage against the enemy."

That's the literal truth and it tells a lot out it is only a half-truth. For why isn't there "room"? Why is it that the RAF and the American air forces in Europe can't "find room" in the far east? Also, why is it that the prime minister in apparent good humor says that the only point of difference is about the desire of the British for a greater part in the Pacific war and that the difference was resolved amicably?

The answer is that the British are quite willing and anxious now to send their navy alongside ours in the Pacific but we don't need more naval strength there. We have an ample navy to pit against the small Japanese navy and it would be a mistake to complicate the problem by trying to put the British and American navies into maneuvers together when the American navy already has the situation in the central Pacific well in hand for any frontal attack on Japan or the China coast.

The fact of the matter is that British help was not forthcoming in 1942 and 1943 when it was desperately needed from the land side in order to open a supply line from India into China. Senator Chandler of Kentucky, democrat, of the senate military affairs committee told the story in a speech in the senate more than a year ago but he was lambasted for his criticism.

Today there isn't any "room" for air power in China because hardly any airfields or storage depots or bases are available to us. This is because China is overrun by huge Japanese armies that could have been beaten last year if the Burma Road and other routes had been reopened and Burma put out of the war.

Admiral Mountbatten has been an excellent commander but Mr. Churchill didn't back him up opportunely with the necessary forces and supplies and after the Chinese government was promised a certain aid at a psychological moment when the Japanese began their drive inside China, that promise was withdrawn.

The Quebec conference might better have admitted this mistake and confessed its failure instead of drawing attention now rather lamely to the "big distances" in the Pacific and the "logistics" or supply problem as if these facts of geography had just developed.

Everybody who knew anything about this war against Japan and had a map to study knew two years ago that the way to bomb

Japan on a 24-hour schedule was from bases in China. Today, although Generals Stilwell and Chenault have begged for aid constantly for two years, they are losing the big air bases they have possessed and from which a trickle of air power has been used to the utmost advantage. Except for the gallant fight at Yunnan, the Chinese forces "are badly beaten and for all present purposes virtually out of the war," according to a New York Times editorial.

Why was British help denied us? Why did President Roosevelt agree with the British prime minister's policy? Why did our commander-in-chief not insist on an effective military operation inside China by the allied forces last year? Is it possible that Mr. Churchill is more persuasive with the president than our own chiefs of staff who, it is reported, presented a satisfactory plan of operation to General Chiang Kai-Shek at the Cairo conference last year only to have it brushed aside at Teheran by Mr. Churchill—or was it by Mr. Stalin?

The public is entitled to know all the facts about these conferences. They are not personal affairs to be conducted by amiable friends and boon companions only to have the favorable, though hitherto secret, details released later through favorite chroniclers.

Lives are at stake, the lives of fine American soldiers, sailors and airmen who must now be landed somewhere in the far east in ever-increasing quantities and over a long period of time before we can beat Japan. Chinese manpower should have been trained and equipped for that job.

It took two and a half years to prepare an invading army of a million or more men to go only 80 miles from Plymouth to Cherbourg. How long must it take now to send an invading army of millions of Americans to Japan or the 500 miles from the Philippines to Japan or ever can get in and defeat the Japanese land armies so heavily entrenched there?

These are questions left unanswered by the exuberant, almost jovial comments issued at the press conference at Quebec about the "success" of these meetings between the president and the prime minister.

The Blood Bank

One of the finest contributions toward winning the war can be made by the people of Clark county by making generous deposits of blood in the newly established blood bank, sponsored by Las Vegas Service Clubs and the BMI hospital, which is just about ready to receive donors.

The process of taking the blood is painless and harmless, but there seems to be among our people a fear or at least a disinclination to donate to the blood bank. In other localities it is considered a mark of distinction to be permitted to share in this great humanitarian work.

Dr. D. E. Hemington, head of the BMI hospital, will make arrangements with prospective donors, and those who are willing to aid in saving the lives of our wounded soldiers should get in contact with him and make the necessary arrangements at the earliest possible date.

It is not generally realized that Clark county people some fourteen months ago donated 150 pints of plasma, nearly all of which has been used in the treatment of men of the Las Vegas gunnery school who were injured in the line of duty.

Roger W. Babson

BABSON PARK, Sept. 23—I have just returned from a conference on the national debt. It was pointed out that during the Coolidge administration the entire federal expenditures—including army, navy, pensions and the salaries of all the bureaucrats—amounted to only about \$3,500,000,000 annually. In the postwar years the servicing of the debt alone is estimated at \$5,500,000,000 annually with an anticipated total tax bill of \$25,000,000,000 annually.

Importance of National Debt

To make our government bonds good, and certainly in order to provide Washington with the needed postwar funds, will require an annual national income of at least \$125,000,000,000, and perhaps \$150,000,000,000. Each reader can figure this out for himself remembering that with government receipts of about \$45,000,000,000 and government spending of about \$90,000,000,000 we are able to get on only by increasing the debt about \$45,000,000,000.

In the depth of the past depression the national income was around \$45,000,000,000. This was gradually increased to about \$75,000,000,000 in 1939. Since then, wholly by war business, this national income has increased so that 1944 will show about double 1939. I do not expect to see the national debt go back to prewar figures; but only a miracle can keep it up to \$125,000,000,000. Even at this figure it will be impossible to balance the budget without taxes so high as to cripple industries, put a ball and chain on new enterprise and cause much unemployment. Hence, it truly is of great importance to keep the national income up as near as possible to present figures. Unless our federal budget can be balanced in a reasonable time without further borrowing, we are sunk.

Don't Resort to Inflation

Of course, the simplest way, temporarily, to double the national income is through inflation. By doubling 1939 prices we can double 1939 wages and double 1939 profits. This, however, would work only to the advantage of the holders of certain real estate and common stocks which might, likewise, double in price. Otherwise, it would be only a shot in the arm, like the temporary stimulant from a strong cup of coffee or a drink of whiskey. Yet, it is the easy way and congress may ultimately adopt it.

The real solution lies with considering the national income other than in material terms such as dollars. The great opportunity today lies not with merely utilizing more land, employing more labor, and loaning more dollars. Shortening the working day to "spread labor" is no different from killing little pigs and plowing cotton. I am delighted to have Thomas E. Dewey talk about "new frontiers"; but he apparently ignores the frontiers with the greatest opportunities of all, namely, the intellectual and spiritual.

President Roosevelt's Mistake

President Roosevelt says that the League of Nations failed because it lacked "teeth." The simple truth is that it failed because it lacked "religion." It is still impossible to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. A spiritual awakening is needed to raise not only our national income but the income of the entire world. Our difficulty is that we consider only the seen things such as land, forests, mines, harbors, etc., and entirely overlook the greatest of all natural resources, namely, character, brains, initiative, imagination, courage and willpower. The greatest of all undeveloped natural resources are the brains of a little child, and 7400 of these are born in the United States every day.

It is well to have our soils produce more food per acre, our coal to produce more heat units per ton, and to speed up our machinery and airplanes; but the greatest opportunity lies in developing these unseen factors. Every school child has the potentialities of a Thomas Edison, or a Henry Ford. Instead of a few there should be 100,000 such men. Then there would be no worry about national income or federal debt. This could be done through a spiritual awakening. Then we all would concentrate on making better people instead of fighting over what now exists. I hope every reader will clip this column and turn it over to his preacher, physician or school superintendent.

The Campaign

The political campaign has developed two unexpected features in Nevada—the strength of the republican candidates for United States senator and representative in congress.

George W. Malone, in his campaign for the senatorial nomination, immediately developed strength among the people and came through with a handsome vote and a definite majority over his two competitors. He has the support of the business, agricultural and mining elements of the state and the confidence of the workers. He thus becomes a formidable opponent against his democratic rival.

The other surprise is the instant popularity of Rex Bell, republican candidate for representative in congress. Both Bell and his competitor on the democratic ticket, Berkeley Bunker, are popular Clark county men and it is predicted that this county may, as in some other contests, be the deciding factor in the November election.

We expect that in both the senatorial and the congressional fights Clark county will be the outstanding battleground of the state.

Two Philosophies

The two major parties differ radically in their philosophies of life. The new deal party is built upon the idea that the government should take care of the people. That is the basis of the whole new deal philosophy of life. It absolves the citizen of any obligation to care for himself, much less the government, and encourages inefficiency, slothfulness and dependency. The proof of this is that during the first eight years of the new deal seventy billion dollars were spent in so-called relief projects and the estimated ten million men without jobs in 1932 were still without jobs in 1940. It took the war to provide the business activity necessary to provide employment for all.

The republican party is based upon the theory that each man is free to engage in activities of his own choosing and that men should be encouraged to help themselves—that the development of individuality and not the subserviency of regimentation is the ideal system.

In short the opposing systems promote dependency or independence according to your choice.

End Of The Line



Q's and A's

Washington Column

Q—What was the origin of the Christmas card custom?

A—English school children wrote Christmas goodwill expressions as examples of penmanship some 250 years ago. The custom developed into big business.

Q—Who are the five top allied commanders in the Pacific war area?

A—MacArthur, Stilwell, Lord Louis Mountbatten, Nimitz, Chiang Kai-shek.

Q—In AAF parlance, what are "focus cats"?

A—Photographer pilots.

Q—How many persons are employed in the United States?

A—About 54,000,000.

Q—What percentage of our war spending is lend-lease?

A—About 15 per cent.

The hottest political and economic potato the president has yet had to field on his luncheon tray will be served to him about October 14, when the National War Labor Board is scheduled to complete its week of deliberations on A.F.L. and C.I.O. petitions to break the Little Steel formula and make its recommendations to the White House. That will be about three weeks before election. If he stalls off decision until after election it will be a miracle. But regardless of the date on which decision will be made, the president will be damned by his enemies, the republican employers, if he does break it, and he will be damned by his friends in organized labor if he doesn't.

Although the administration is committed to upholding the principle of wartime wage stabilization as a means of curbing inflation, there are a number of cuts and alibis which might be presented in justification of authorizing wage increases.

Greater "Take-Home" Pay Granted

The most peculiar argument is that the republican platform is against arbitrary wage freezes.

Aside from that, it can be argued that the Little Steel formula has already been broken by the mine workers' and railroad brotherhoods' wage cases, in which the government gave those groups concessions in the form of portal-to-portal pay, overtime and other extras which, while not technically increasing base rates of pay over Little Steel formula limitations, did give greater take-home pay than a strict interpretation of the formula would have warranted.

Or, the buck can be passed to congress for not carrying out all the provisions of the president's seven-point program to keep the cost of living from spiraling upwards. Specifically, the president recommended more subsidies, limitation of salaries to \$25,000 a year maximum, revision of the parity formula for agriculture and still higher taxes, none of which the congress saw fit to give him. If that line is accepted, it can be argued that point three of the seven-point stabilization program—calling for ceilings on wages—should also be raised.

It may be argued that the Little Steel formula is based on false figures, the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Cost of Living Index giving an untrue picture of wartime living conditions. Labor has contended this all along. If such contention be accepted, then the Little Steel formula could be mathematically revised with the technical excuse that the stabilization program is not being broken at all! Perish the thought! The Little Steel formula is just being applied as it was intended to be.

Labor Wants War Wager Perpetuated

You may well watch, however, for a new line of argument in authorizing the granting of wage increases. This comes from the realization that the war against Germany is about over and a concerted effort by labor is necessary to keep the present take-home pay—including the overtime—as the postwar base rate of pay. In other words, what labor would like to have is the present, wartime, 48-hours' pay for 40 hours of postwar work.

The attempted justification for this is that even with overtime, the present average industrial labor take-home pay of \$46 a week is just about what it takes to get by on in these days of higher prices, and that any reduction of this take-home pay will mean that industrial workers will be forced to sell their war bonds, reduce their standard of living, or go into debt. As a means of keeping up the national income, maintaining the present consumer buying and spending power, developing postwar industries and stimulating business, it is seriously argued that those higher wage rates are an economic necessity to prevent postwar depression.

It will take more political courage than there probably is in the whole world to stick by the Little Steel formula and try to live up to the principles of the wage stabilization program. But how any yielding of the line on wages can mean anything else than higher prices and a generous measure of postwar inflation is something you'll have to get from the great rationalizer himself.

Vocal Complications

It may be a gag of Frank Sinatra's press agent, but a communique from Vancouver says the local school board is going to investigate The Voice's effect on students and see if it has a "demoralizing" action.

The results of the test will doubtless be varied, from outright belligerence (male) through negative indifference to the flushed countenance and glazed eye and, in extreme cases, mild hysteria.

Then a clinical comparison will undoubtedly be made. The researchers will discover that the symptoms are markedly similar to those which accompany puppy love, hero worship, jitterbugging, and the inordinate craving for Sloppy Joe sweaters, ankle socks, charm bracelets, autographed raincoats and the products and society of drug store soda fountains.

The prognosis probably will be eventual recovery, i. convalescence painful to the parent and pleasant for the patient, and no lingering complications.

In Hollywood

By ERSKINE JOHNSON
NEA Staff Correspondent

Hollywood's No. 1 wolf (Ah-o-o-o-o) bared his teeth today and bristled in defense of what he called the most maligned character of modern times—the Hollywood wolf.

"The genuine wolf," Jean Negulesco—a gentleman worthy of such a compliment—said, "is a personality of charm and the ideal companion for the beautiful lady."

"He is definitely not a heel." Having cornered a flickerwolf, we figured we might as well let him have his say. After all, ladies who speak derisively of the Hollywood wolves continue to accept their invitations.

By way of introduction, Jean (Ah-o-o-o-o) Negulesco cuts quite a swath in the nocturnal scene of Hollywood and in the glare of day as well.

By day he is Warner Bros.' top director at the moment. He megaphoned "The Mask of Dimitrios," just completed "The Conspirators" with Hedy Lamarr and Paul Henreid, and now he's working on the film "Nobody Lives Forever," in which actor John Garfield stars.

When the lights go on along the night club strip, Negulesco is bon vivant, master of the continental charm, gourmet extraordinaire, and companion of such glamor ladies as Veronica Lake and Anita Colby.

The Formula

So let's let the wolf howl in defense of Hollywood wolves. He howls:

"Sometimes I get very disturbed about this matter—not for myself, you understand—because something that really requires a great deal of brains and talent is turned and twisted into a very unfortunate misunderstanding."

"I suppose the principal explanation of it is that there are a lot of fellows around Hollywood who would love to be wolves but simply cannot seem to make the grade."

"Now, for example, there are a certain group

of brothers in Hollywood who are rather persistent with the young ladies, but they persist in the old continental hand-kissing routine, which became old hat about the time of the bustle. That's the sort of thing that gives wolves a bad name."

"First of all, understand one thing. The real wolf never is so gauche, never commits the unforgivable faux pas of indulging in what is so crudely referred to as 'making the pass.' That is clumsy."

"These are a few of his accomplishments and virtues. He dresses well, but never obviously. In fact, he is never obvious about anything he does. He is a gourmet. He knows where to go for food, for dining, for atmosphere. He knows what foods and which wines to order. He is an excellent dancer, particularly in the rumba and the tango, but he never dances in a manner to attract notice on the floor. He is completely devoted to his partner."

"He observes all the little niceties that mean so much to a woman. He finds out which are her favorite flowers and sends them."

Picks "Ten Best"

"Most of all, he must have a good sense of humor, particularly about himself. If his engagement does not materialize as interestingly as he hoped, he must accept the loss in good grace and make sure that the evening is a complete success to his companion, if not to himself."

Jean Negulesco picked the 10 best wolves in Hollywood. Here they are:

Van Johnson—charming and interesting in a quiet, friendly way; Bill Girard—the 20th Century-Fox producer; Felix Ferry—an agent associated with the Leland Hayward agency; Helmut Dantine; Errol Flynn; Arthur Hornblow, Jr., ex-husband of Myrna Loy; Jose Iturbi; Don Loper, the dancer; Frank Orsatti, the agent, and Brian Aberne.