

commission has established," the report said, "that Carretta was a capable and very honest functionary inspired by sentiments of humanity toward the prisoners, and it has been proved in the clearest way that during the German occupation Carretta did wonders even at gravest risks to favor political prisoners."

Carretta probably was not the first nor is it likely that he will be the last innocent victim of war-inflamed mobs. But the manner of his lynching, and the facts which have now come to light, should have a restraining influence for the future. Mob rule can never be compatible with justice, and the disgraceful murder of Donato Carretta is the clearest possible evidence of that fact.

De Gaulle to Moscow

General de Gaulle's forthcoming trip to Moscow at the invitation of Marshal Stalin is an important move in the complicated diplomatic game now being played in Europe. But whatever its international implications, it unquestionably emphasizes the rapid rise of liberated France to something like its prewar status as a great power, together with the general acceptance of the provisional government to speak and act in France's name.

It should be noted that Stalin's invitation came during the latter stages of Mr. Churchill's visit to Paris and his prolonged conversations with De Gaulle. For more than a year, authorized spokesmen of British and imperial interests have been suggesting the creation of a Western European "bloc" wherein France would play the leading continental role in conjunction with Britain. That idea apparently did not sit well in Moscow, despite the fact that Soviet diplomacy clearly is fashioning some such creation in Eastern Europe. It therefore generally is understood that the British Prime Minister did not pursue the subject when he was in Paris.

However, this does not imply that De Gaulle has cooled towards Britain. On the contrary, there is every indication that Anglo-French relations are on an increasingly stable basis. Presumably, what De Gaulle and his advisors have in mind is a policy of balanced friendship with both Britain and Russia, in which France would not only serve as the link between the two but also automatically would become the head of the smaller nations of Western Europe. Such concepts have been suggested at various times by spokesmen of the provisional government as far back as the days when it sat at Algiers with an equivalent diplomatic status and uncertain political prospects.

Besides the larger diplomatic aspect there also is France's domestic politics to be considered. The chief uncertainty within France is the relation of the Communists and affiliated left-wing groups to the provisional government. While there are no formal ties between the French Communists and Moscow since the dissolution of the Comintern, there can be no reasonable doubt that the French Reds take their cue from Moscow. Thus an understanding arrived at between De Gaulle and Stalin would have a tranquillizing effect on the French political situation.

The Question of Asylum

The Irish government has made clear that if it sees fit to do so—on the basis of justice, charity, honor or national self-interest—it may grant asylum to fugitive Axis leaders. The memorandum handed by Prime Minister De Valera to our Minister in Dublin promises only to keep Eire closed to "all aliens whose presence would be at variance with the policy of neutrality, or detrimental to the interests of the Irish people, or inconsistent with the desire of the Irish people to avoid injury to the interests of friendly states."

From the American and Allied standpoint, according to our State Department, this position is not entirely satisfactory. The Irish government, of course, does not say that Eire's doors will be open to individuals like Hitler, Himmler, Goering and Goebbels, but neither does it say that they will be closed. Accordingly, it is at least conceivable that one or more of these Nazi leaders may yet fly to Dublin for sanctuary there. At any rate, judging from the Irish statement, such a possibility seems more real as regards Ireland than as regards Sweden or even Argentina and Spain, all three of whom seem to have been more definite in ruling themselves out as probable places of refuge.

In view of the De Valera government's past record of neutrality—including its rejection of our American appeal to eject German and Japanese agents in Dublin—there is nothing particularly surprising in its determination not to surrender its right to grant asylum. As a sovereign nation, Eire unquestionably has that right. So, too, has Portugal, which apparently has taken a similar position. The only question is how the Irish, the Portuguese or any other neutral or non-belligerent people will respond if Hitler or Himmler or somebody of that sort asks for a safe haven.

The Irish memorandum declares that there is no "comprehensive international code" covering this subject, but actually the established practice is to grant asylum only to political offenders, not to criminals, and it is as criminals that the Allied world officially regards the Axis leaders—criminals who must be brought to judgment and punished in the countries where they have committed such atrocities as the leveling of Lidice, the cold-blooded killing of hostages, and the mass

slaughter of thousands of helpless prisoners.

In the opinion of the United Nations, in short, Hitler and company are not mere revolutionary agitators but murderers with blood upon their hands who deserve no sanctuary. It remains to be seen whether Eire, Portugal and the other neutrals and nonbelligerents entertain substantially the same view. If they do not, then the question is likely to become an extremely mischievous and delicate one in the months ahead.

'Stadium Week'

It is possible that Senator Butler's earnestly spoken words of protest over too much "fanfare" about the stadium were based on a misconception of the purposes of "stadium week."

The effort now being made to focus public attention on this needed postwar undertaking was launched in the hope of getting the ball rolling. The Senator may not know how difficult a thing that is to do in Washington, where we have no voters or representatives in the Government. This stadium project has been hanging fire for almost twenty years, partly because there was no attempt to organize and properly direct the energies of all those who are convinced of its desirability. Unless some tangible start is made, it will hang fire for another twenty years. But a start has been made. Legislation already has been prepared which should result in a formal study of the most feasible methods of building and operating a national stadium, to be placed on land already acquired with local taxes.

It is unnecessary to remind anybody "that there's a war on," just as it is unnecessary to point out that Washington slums must be reclaimed, hospitals must be built and a great many other things done to make this a better city. Exploitation now of the stadium idea and immediate initiation of the always slow processes by which such things are accomplished in Washington just war results later on. Senator Butler may have no fear that "stadium week" has made us forget the war.

The father who arrives just too late to prevent a son from making, as he thinks, a fool of himself by marrying a some unknown girl, often discovers that his tardiness is the best day's work he ever did in his life.

This and That

By Charles E. Tracewell.

How to have a window box feeding station for birds is explained in the following letter.

"Just in case some of your readers might wish to have a window sill feeding station like ours," she says, "here is a pattern for them to follow."

"A box, 6 by 6 by 6 inches, open at one end with the floor board 3 inches longer at the open end, that is, extended at that end—forming a porch—wood which is tacked a strip of wood like a solid fence, 1 inch higher than the floor. On this fence the birds alight to peck at the food, which in fair weather is put on the porch. If it is rainy weather, it is protected from the rain—and they go in after it, too."

"The box open end faces south. The box is anchored to the window sill by an eyelet screwed into the box and a small brass hook screwed into the adjacent woodwork so it cannot be blown off in stormy weather; the box being made of lightweight wood of half-inch thickness—plywood preferably, nonwarping."

"I left my box natural wood color, without any painting. The box need not be more than 4 or 5 inches high, wide and deep, if one has a narrow window ledge."

"With this simple arrangement of box, costing next to nothing, one can have a lot of pleasure watching the birds come to eat. It is a lot of satisfaction as well."

"Only one mockingbird has called on us thus far this autumn. The birds stream to our window sill feeding station by the hundreds from across the street, a park."

"Titmice, nuthatches, chickadees, five or six blue jays in the mornings of every day, occasionally several varieties of small woodpeckers—very scary—and redwings."

"The blue jays announce their coming with loud squawks and cries and all the other birds make way for them. These jays are bold and cunning birds; it is as good as a circus to watch them gobble down the shelled peanuts."

"We feed them raw shelled peanuts and sunflower seeds. The latter are becoming harder to get and more expensive than last winter."

"There are many ways of putting up a window sill feeding station. Our correspondent's method is a good one."

"Even a bare sill will do, in a pinch. The food which falls to the ground will be gobbled up by birds on that level, but, of course, the donor will not be able to watch them."

Letters to The Star

Frank Kent's 'Apple' Column

Brings Some Answers

To the Editor of The Star:

Frank R. Kent's column on "Apple Selling" marks an all-time low. Without necessarily agreeing with the verdict of the American people, it has been pretty much of an unwritten law for losers to accept defeat and speedily to put behind them the rancor of political campaigning.

Mr. Kent, however, has not seen fit to do either, but chooses instead to keep bitterness alive at a moment when, more than at any other time in our history, we need national unity. His column on campaign falsifications is a case in point. Rebuttal to his charges could be made, buttressed by facts; countercharges of campaign falsifications could be laid at the door of the opposition party, but all of this would give his column a dignity that it does not deserve.

Americans have come to regard things that are said to sway voters' emotions as "campaign oratory"—quoting the honest words of the late Wendell Willkie. After writing his column Mr. Kent would have been hard pressed to answer the challenge that faces each of us each day: "What have I done today to help to win this war?" SERVICEMAN.

To the Editor of The Star:

Let those who believe that Herbert Hoover caused the depression in the early '30s and the aftermath of closed banks and millions of unemployed read and carefully note the facts presented in Mr. Kent's article in The Star for November 13.

Since Mr. Kent is not in the white-wash business, undoubtedly what he said is true.

Let the New Deal apologists cover up, if they can, the method used by the administration to appease Pettilio and his hi-jacking union. This coddling of Pettilio by Mr. Roosevelt is a new low in his appeasement of unions, a sell-out of the masses to the privileged few.

Let those millions who voted for Mr. Roosevelt not complain when the war is over and we all have to pay the continued high taxes which will be necessary to finance 16 years of New Deal folly. They will get just what they voted for—political corruption, graft, bungling in Government and later on a deluge of unemployment. But human nature being what it is, these particular voters will probably be the first to criticize. JOHN J. BOUSHKA.

To the Editor of The Star:

Call it political fiction if you like or call it by any other name you wish, but the fact remains that millions of us during the Hoover depression were obliged to do things that were on a level with apple selling to earn an existence.

I am an electrical engineer and for three long years I was compelled to sell electrical appliances to make a bare living. Hundreds of other engineers were in the same boat that I was.

But we don't expect Mr. Kent to understand how President Roosevelt gave hope to millions of us Americans.

We might have been in the depression after many other countries had recovered, but the truth is that millions of people's self-respect—were might say even their mental balance—was saved by Mr. Roosevelt, and that is what counts and that is why the millions of American laboring men love and adore Mr. Roosevelt. Mr. Kent cannot understand that, and he never will. W. R. K.

To the Editor of The Star:

As a 14-year reader of The Star, I should like to inquire if it is not high time, now that the political campaign is over, that we be spared the tirades of embittered Communist Kent. If you think his column of November 13, I am confident that you will agree that the venomous trivia indulged in by him should be denied precious newspaper space. E. S. MITCHELL.

Criticizes Swiss Government

To the Editor of The Star:

I have been reading The Star for the past 15 years, and this is the first time I am asking you to print a letter.

I feel that your editorial of November 13 entitled "Switzerland Under Fire" is a gross misrepresentation of facts. It seems that you believe only what the Swiss government tells you. For you the Swiss people do not exist. The Soviets take the people into consideration and not a few smart alecks, the so-called "government."

Some 13 years ago the Swiss government (a small group of Nazi-Fascists) made a law which foisted many people, including you. They made a law outlawing Nazi-Fascism and Communism. Armed with this law, they (the government) instituted a reign of terror against all ordinary people, accusing most of them of being Communists. Any one who disagreed with the government immediately was seized and prosecuted as being a Communist. But no one ever was arrested for being a Nazi-Fascist. Why should they (the government) arrest themselves? If you don't call such tactics anti-Soviet, what is anti-Soviet?

If Switzerland, Spain and Portugal are anti-Hitler, why don't they up and fight Hitler with the rest of the world? Why hide behind the false neutrality?

OSCAR L. MORTIMER.

Chinese Girl Protests

To the Editor of The Star:

Let's start getting ready for World War III.

With Ireland refusing to close her borders to war criminals who want to retire there to cook up plans for the next struggle, with France demanding equal prestige with the United States and Great Britain in the settlement of the Rhineland, and with 32,000 workers deliberately quitting the Paterson, N. J., plants making B-29 bombers so we will be forced to negotiate a peace with Japan, the end already can be foreseen.

I know that my name seems un-American or non-American, but this Chinese girl was born in the United States of American-born parents and I resent our letting down at a crucial time like this.

We are behind schedule on the manufacture of trucks, tires, shells, airplanes and tanks. Our boys, according to Government statistics, are being killed and wounded at the rate of 1,000 a week ever since Pearl Harbor; and yet 32,000 workers refuse to make B-29 bombers because of some minor differences with the management.

I doubt if there are any strikes going on at the Mitsubishi bomber factory in Nagoya, Japan. Maybe they are more patriotic there; maybe they really love their flag. MISS CHU CHUN-MUI.

This Changing World

By Constantine Brown

Spectacular developments on a scale approaching in fury the battles in Normandy are expected from the offensive now getting under way along the whole Western Front.

Before the real cold winter sets in, the Allies will attempt a final drive to dislodge the enemy from his present positions and effect a breakthrough. While political leaders, such as Prime Minister Churchill, seem convinced that a winter campaign is inevitable and that the decisive phase of the Western European war will come next spring and summer, Eisenhower still believes he has an excellent chance of overcoming the main Nazi resistance before the middle of December and taking over German areas in the west from which the new final push in 1945 will be much easier.

The delay in the offensive was due principally to the fact that the various army commanders along the West Wall had to wait for important consignments of ammunition and tanks. The German defensive positions are very strong. The German Army, while not as formidable as the Wehrmacht in war, is fighting with the despair which comes from the knowledge that if it is defeated there is no hope for anybody in the Reich.

This determination to fight to the bitter end and behind strongly fortified positions forces the Allies to use enormous quantities of war material, especially shells of all caliber. Any attempts of the ground forces to advance without a devastating barrage involving millions of shells would otherwise be either doomed to failure or be so costly that the local successes gained in one area could not be further developed.

The acquisition of new ports—such as Antwerp and improvement in communications from our landing bases to the front have enabled the assembly of quantities of ammunition considered essential for a major offensive. This very difficult operation is now completed.

The Germans are fully aware of the situation. In all their broadcasts the Nazi military commentators are stressing the point that the next few weeks will be the most critical in the west.

On the Record

By Dorothy Thompson

In the papers of Abraham Lincoln there is an amazing pastiche written for no other eye than his own, though some reflection of it is in the second inaugural address. It was written toward the end of the Civil War, which seemed to be dragging out endlessly, despite the overwhelming weight of arms and power that was with the North. Lincoln noted:

"In great contests, each party claims to act in accordance with the will of God. Both may be, and one must be, wrong. God cannot be for and against the same thing at the same time. In the present war it is quite possible that God's purpose is to destroy the world from the purpose of either party."

I am almost ready to say that this is probably true, that God will this contest and wills that it shall not end yet. By His mere power over the minds of the contestants He could have saved or destroyed the Union without a human contest. Yet the contest began. And having begun He could give the final victory to either side any day. Yet the contest proceeds."

If the object and justification of all great struggles, upon whose dreadful altar the youngest and purest are sacrificed, must be to discern and establish the will of God, which can only be interpreted as justice, and humane and universal principle, then a mystic mind like Lincoln's might say today that in this war "it is quite possible that God's purpose is something different from the purpose of either party."

For certainly we have gone far astray from the purposes for which this war began. In its beginning there was a sense of the indivisibility of the world, and of freedom and justice among all peoples of the earth. The principle of nationalism was recognized but limited. Liberation meant the liberation of the people within their natural frontiers, the right of people to possess the land which their labor had built, and to preserve and deepen the culture peculiarly their own. The drawing of new frontiers to disconcert the consent of the peoples and for reasons wholly to do with power was condemned. So also was the division of the world into great areas of "vital space" or "Lebensraum," each under the domination of a major power. Such a concept ruled at Munich and was repudiated by the peoples of the world.

If the insight into the nature of justice and freedom which animated with

Writer Urges Parley Of 'Big Three' in U. S.

American People Would Like to See Stalin, Says Lawrence

By David Lawrence

If there is one thing that the recent election settled it is that a majority of the American people feel President Roosevelt is indispensable to them at this moment of crisis in our history. Yet the President is being invited to go overseas and take the risks of travel in war areas. Press dispatches from abroad are predicting a meeting of Messrs. Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt to be held somewhere in the Middle East. This means either a ship or a plane journey for the President. The last time he went to Tehran he picked up a germ which bothered him for a long time and caused him to lose weight. It started more serious rumors about his health which, of course, were unfounded.

During the campaign an issue was built around the possible interruption of Mr. Roosevelt's leadership for health reasons, and many Republicans argued that a vote for Mr. Roosevelt in the last election might turn out to be a vote for Senator Truman. What the argument really did was to emphasize the indispensability of Mr. Roosevelt.

Fuzzing Complacency

What seems puzzling at the moment, therefore, is that the American people seem so complacent about a trip abroad by the President. Possibly it is because he has made such trips before and has come through without accident. But it does seem as if more journeys overseas are bound to raise the question as to whether it is wise for Mr. Roosevelt to take further chances.

The President said when he accepted the nomination that he would serve in the office if he were "so ordered by the commander in chief of us all—the sovereign people of the United States."

Nobody in the Government is going to tell Mr. Roosevelt that he ought not to make the trip. Only the American people can advise him against it.

There is no good reason why Mr. Roosevelt should have to go abroad if a meeting of the "Big Three" is planned. Marshal Stalin has never been to the United States. The American people would like to see him. He ought to see something of this country in order to understand its peaceful purposes and the American people's friendship for the Russian people. Prime Minister Churchill has been here before and would be welcome again. There are plenty of places in the United States where the "Big Three" could meet in seclusion. Or they might even meet at Quebec.

Reason for Parley Here

There is an especial reason why the other two heads of state ought to come to Mr. Roosevelt. Entirely apart from the fact that the United States is supplying the principal manpower on the western front today and is furnishing the tools from this arsenal of democracy, the fact remains that Mr. Roosevelt does not get around easily. If he were in an airplane and something happened, he would be at a serious disadvantage because he does not have the free use of his legs due to the ravages of infantile paralysis many years ago. If something happened to his warship at sea Mr. Roosevelt could be transported therefrom more easily to a small boat than from a plane. But even if all the factors were such that his safe return could be assured, there still remains the danger of moving around in the Middle East where last time he picked up a flu germ.

The fact that a trip by the President is being spoken of publicly by the European press indicates that there is such a plan in the making. It means that Mr. Roosevelt is considered by his physician to be in good enough health to make the trip. But the question is whether he should make it.

Surely if Messrs. Stalin and Churchill cannot come to this side of the Atlantic, then there ought to be some training of a second man in the Government to take the President's place in these foreign conferences. Senator Truman, the Vice President-elect, doesn't take office until January and is free to go on a special mission for the United States Government at this time. Along with him would go the United States chiefs of staff, who are, of course, familiar with all the problems that would be discussed at the coming conference. Mr. Roosevelt could be kept in touch by telegraph and telephone.

The country would probably breathe more easily if the President were not traveling around in the Mediterranean, where German weapons of vengeance are by no means as yet completely exterminated.

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Up to the Parents

From the Baltimore Sun.

Most educational authorities agree that the major reason for the decrease in (secondary) schools was the fact that many young people left school to take war jobs. Thousands of them, having gone to work in the summer, simply kept on working and failed to return to their classes. What those young people should have realized, and what those who are now in the military and air, now that reconversion is in the air, is that their education is frequently more important than any immediate aid they can give, as workers, to the war effort. Here in Baltimore, as elsewhere throughout the country, the local department stores and shops are praising the primary obligation rests with the parents. They have the best opportunity and the most direct responsibility to impress upon their children now of high school age that they represent the future for which we are fighting and must prepare themselves for it.

Signature

This is the summer's end, beneath a flame-blue sky;
The golden scythes rich with a softened light
And one last poised as if transfixed forever there
Regarding with casual cold eyes the season's flight.

And now the drying meadow grass, ash-gold in pallid sun,
Ripples the crumpled silver waves beneath the last warm wind,
And one by one and silently the weed seeds drift away,
The fire of goldenrod expires, its yellow fronds are thinned.

Bronzed butterflies still hover by the smoke-blue thistle stalk,
The oak leaves are still firm upon gnarled bough;
Only their secret weary whispering implies the end,
A summer's end, but summer was never looser than now.

FREDERICK BRIGHT.