

DREW PEARSON

ON

THE WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

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DREW PEARSON SAYS: (CAPS) AID-TO-EDUCATION KILLED AFTER WRATHFUL SESSION; SOVIET PURGES SCAPEGOATS; JOHN MARAGON RETURNS TO CAPITOL HILL. (END CAPS)

WASHINGTON.--THE OFFICIAL RECORD WON'T SHOW EVERYTHING THAT WAS SAID WHEN THE HOUSE LABOR COMMITTEE VOTED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS TO KILL THE FEDERAL AID-TO-EDUCATION BILL. SOME OF IT WAS SO UNPRINTABLE THAT A YOUNG LADY STENOGRAPHER ALMOST FLED THE ROOM IN BLUSHES.

THE MEETING BECAME A BEDLAM. INFURIATED CONGRESSMEN, TENSE AFTER LONG MONTHS OF WRANGLING, HEAPED WRATH ON CHAIRMAN JOHN LESINSKI OF MICHIGAN, WHO, AS USUAL, VOTED AGAINST AID TO EDUCATION AND GAVE HIS CUSTOMARY ONE-SIDED PERFORMANCE AS PRESIDING OFFICER.

AT ONE POINT, REP. CLEVELAND BAILEY OF WEST VIRGINIA SHOUTED: "THIS IS A FRAMEUP BY THE CHAIRMAN AND HIS COHORTS WHO ARE OPPOSED TO AIDING OUR SCHOOLS. AND THE MEMBERS OF THE MINORITY (THE REPUBLICANS) ARE IN ON THE RUG-PULLING DEAL."

"THE GENTLEMAN TAUGHT US A LOT ABOUT RUG-PULLING WHEN HE WAS JAMMING A WAGE-HOUR BILL THROUGH THIS COMMITTEE," FLARED BACK GOP CONGRESSMAN RICHARD NIXON OF CALIFORNIA.

"I'M GETTING FED UP WITH ALL THIS BALONEY," SHOUTED DEMOCRAT CARL PERKINS OF KENTUCKY, AT THE REPUBLICANS AND THE CATHOLIC DEMOCRATS.

"ALL YOU FELLOWS WANT TO DO IS KILL THE BILL."

"THAT'S THE KIND OF LANGUAGE YOU HEAR ON A STREET CORNER, NOT A COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS," REPLIED LESINSKI INDIGNANTLY.

THE BLUNT-TALKING PERKINS, WHO HADN'T BEEN AWARE OF THE PRESENCE OF THE LADY STENOGRAPHER, SAID HE WAS WILLING TO APOLOGIZE TO HER, BUT NOT TO LESINSKI, WHO IS A DEMOCRAT AND A STRONG POLISH CATHOLIC. HOWEVER, DEMOCRAT TOM STEED OF OKLAHOMA, ANOTHER STAUNCH SUPPORTER OF THE EDUCATION BILL WHO HAS FREQUENTLY FOUGHT LESINSKI IN COMMITTEE, CAME TO THE CHAIRMAN'S DEFENSE.

"LET'S GIVE THE CHAIRMAN A CHANCE TO RESTORE ORDER HERE," PLEADED STEED, AS A DOZEN DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS SHOUTED AT EACH OTHER OR DEMANDED RECOGNITION FROM LESINSKI. "IT WOULD TAKE A GENIUS TO PRESIDE OVER A RIOT LIKE THIS."

"WHY DON'T YOU BRING THE CHAIRMAN A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS?" DEMOCRAT ROY WIER OF MINNESOTA WAS HEARD TO SHOUT AT STEED AMID THE TUMULT.

(MORE)

TRAGIC FACT THAT CAME OUT OF ALL THIS SHOUTING IS THAT THE AID-TO-EDUCATION BILL NOW APPEARS DEAD FOR THIS SESSION OF CONGRESS. THE SENATE HAD PASSED A BILL GIVING STATES LATITUDE TO DECIDE THE HOT ISSUE OF AID TO PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS, BUT, IN THE HOUSE, A COALITION OF REPUBLICANS AND CATHOLIC DEMOCRATS REFUSED TO VOTE THE BILL OUT OF COMMITTEE. MEANWHILE, SCHOOLS REMAIN OVERCROWDED, TEACHERS UNDERPAID, AND THE NUMBER OF SCHOOL CHILDREN KEEPS INCREASING.

--SOVIET PURGE--

A SOVIET PURGE OF BIG-NAME SCAPEGOATS IS FORECAST IN SECRET CABLES TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT. ALREADY MARKED FOR THE AX IS A. A. ANDREEV, A MEMBER OF THE SOVIET'S RULING COUNCIL, THE POLITBURO.

ANDREEV IS IN CHARGE OF THE COLLECTIVE FARMS, WHICH ARE LAGGING BEHIND IN GRAIN COLLECTIONS AND SPRING SOWING OF SEEDS. ANDREEV'S DOOM WAS FORETOLD SEVERAL DAYS AGO WHEN PRAVDA PUBLISHED A SCOLDING EDITORIAL.

THIS PURGE WILL BE THE FIRST SIGNAL TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD OF TROUBLE INSIDE THE SOVIET.

--TWO TOUCHING FRIENDS--

JOHN MARAGON, THE KANSAS CITY EX-BOOTBLACK WHO ONCE HAD FREE RUN OF THE WHITE HOUSE, RETURNED TO THE SCENE OF HIS DOWNFALL THE OTHER DAY. HE CAME BACK TO CAPITOL HILL FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE SENATE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE CAUGHT HIM LYING ABOUT HIS TAXES AND TURNED HIM OVER TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT WHERE HE WAS INDICTED FOR PERJURY.

THIS TIME THERE WERE NO KLEIG LIGHTS OR NEWSREEL CAMERAS FOCUSED ON MARAGON AS HE PROWLED THE CAPITOL CORRIDORS. BUT ONE OLD FRIEND SPOTTED THE EX-FIXER IN THE SHADOWS, WALKED ACROSS THE HALL TO SHAKE HANDS. IT WAS SEN. ELMER THOMAS OF OKLAHOMA.

"HELLO, JOHN. IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU," GREETED THOMAS.

THEN, STILL WRINGING MARAGON'S HAND, THOMAS ADDED WARMLY: "I STILL HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOU."

IT WAS A TOUCHING SCENE--A SENATOR WHO PLAYS THE COMMODITY MARKET, THEN USES HIS POSITION AS SENATE AGRICULTURE CHAIRMAN TO INFLUENCE THE MARKET, AND A NOTORIOUS FIVE PERCENTER WHO HAS BEEN INDICTED FOR PERJURY AND IS UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR INCOME-TAX EVASION.

--WEST COAST STEEL MIRACLE--

IT DIDN'T MAKE HEADLINES, BUT EASTERN INDUSTRIALISTS ARE NOW TRYING TO SWALLOW THEIR WARTIME PREDICTION THAT A STEEL PLANT ON THE WEST COAST WOULD GO BANKRUPT. THIS WAS THEIR FORECAST WHEN HENRY KAISER, IMPATIENT AT SLOW STEEL DELIVERIES FOR HIS SHIPYARDS, PUT UP HIS OWN STEEL PLANT AT SAN BERNARDINO, CALIF.

BIG EASTERN STEEL MOGULS LIKE U.S. STEEL, BETHLEHEM AND REPUBLIC, SNORTED AND JEERED.

BUT LAST WEEK, KAISER SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH THE TRUNKLINE GAS SUPPLY CO. OF NEW YORK FOR \$35,000,000 WORTH OF STEEL TO BE USED IN THE 1,300-MILE NATURAL GAS PIPELINE RUNNING FROM THE MEXICAN BORDER TO ILLINOIS AT A DELIVERED PRICE OF \$132 A TON.

(MORE)

NOT ONLY DID KAISER SUCCESSFULLY INVADE THE EASTERN STEEL MARKET, BUT HE DID IT IN COMPETITIVE BIDDING WITH SUCH GIANTS AS U.S. STEEL AND YOUNGSTOWN SHEET & TUBE.

THIS CAME ON TOP OF AN EARLIER 1948 CONTRACT TO SUPPLY THE TRANS-CONTINENTAL GAS PIPELINE CO. WITH NEARLY 500,000 TONS OF STEEL PLATE FOR A PIPELINE RUNNING FROM TEXAS TO NEW YORK.

NOTE--KAISER BORROWED THE STAGGERING SUM OF \$123,325,000 FROM THE RFC TO BUILD HIS CALIFORNIA PLANT. HE HAS ALREADY PAID OFF \$35,568,000, PLUS INTEREST TO THE RFC TOTALLING MORE THAN \$20,000,000. AS A RESULT, RFC OFFICIALS DESCRIBE THE KAISER STEEL LOAN AS THE BEST ON THEIR BOOKS.

--SENATE PANTOMIME--

TWO SENATORS ACTED OUT THEIR VIEWS IN PANTOMIME THE OTHER DAY DURING THE VOTE OVER REPEALING THE OLEO TAXES.

SEN. TOM CONNALLY FROM COTTON-RAISING TEXAS VOTED FOR REPEAL OF OLEO TAXES, WHILE SEN. GLEN TAYLOR, THE IDAHO COWBOY, VOTED AGAINST REPEAL AND FOR THE DAIRY INTERESTS.

STANDING TOO FAR APART ON THE SENATE FLOOR TO USE WORDS, COTTONING CONNALLY SHOOK A SCOLDING FINGER AT TAYLOR. BUT THE SENATOR FROM DAIRYING IDAHO SIMPLY MADE MOTIONS IN THE AIR AS IF MILKING A COW.

--TRUMAN AND STALIN--

A BIPARTISAN GROUP OF CONGRESSMEN, LED BY THE 84-YEAR-OLD DEAN OF THE HOUSE, REP. ADOLPH SABATH OF ILLINOIS, WILL STRONGLY ADVOCATE A MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT TRUMAN AND JOSEF STALIN IN THE INTEREST OF WORLD PEACE.

LOCALE OF THE PROPOSED MEETING WILL BE EITHER ALASKA OR SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

WHILE THE PRESIDENT HAS PRIVATELY TURNED THUMBS DOWN ON SUCH A MEETING, ON THE GROUND THAT THE POLITBURO DOESN'T KEEP ITS WORD AND NOTHING WORTH WHILE COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED, CONGRESSMAN SABATH REPORTS THAT TRUMAN NOW MIGHT BE INDUCED TO CHANGE HIS MIND.

AFTER A VISIT TO THE WHITE HOUSE SABATH TOLD FRIENDS THAT THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO GO ANY LENGTH, WITHIN HONOR, TO PRESERVE PEACE.

"IT IS MY FIRM BELIEF THAT MORE THAN 95 PER CENT OF THE PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES AND EVERY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE WORLD DO NOT WANT WAR," THE PRESIDENT DECLARED. "WE MUST NOT LET THEM DOWN."

(END PEARSON COLUMN FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 1950.)

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