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This World War Three?

THE United States is at war with North Korea. That is the fact now that American planes and warships are attacking the Korean communists as the latter endeavour to land on the coast of the Korean republic and try to interfere with the evacuation of Americans and other nationals from Seoul.

It is to be assumed that, since the British government has already endorsed the American action and that the United Nations security council is on the verge, if it has not already done so, of calling upon other powers to also send military aid to the Korean Republic, British, French and the rest may be expected soon to join in the action.

With the western powers now deciding that the line of further Communist aggression is to be drawn in Korea, the question of whether or not it shall be a shooting war instead of cold war seems up to Russia which, of course, is not, as yet, officially involved. It should soon be known whether this is World War III—the atomic war.

GOVERNMENT VINDICATED

ALTHOUGH the Korean crisis has robbed the Schuman plan for the pooling of western Europe's heavy industries of the headlines in the international news, the British Parliament has been able to have its talk about the matter and it was all settled yesterday with the Attlee government getting its expected vote of confidence on the handling of the matter.

The division notwithstanding, Labor government and Conservative opposition apparently felt very much the same on the matter. The government felt that it could not go into the Paris talks without committing itself to the support of the plan. The opposition proposed that Britain should go into the Paris conference without committing itself. The important thing was that both sides were agreed that there should be no advance commitment and that is the British attitude.

Time is beginning already to show that the government took sound ground when it decided at the outset that it could not endorse the Schuman plan with all its implications, the most important of which was that it would have lost its sovereignty over its most important industries, yielding control to a rather vaguely defined international body. The Labor government took exactly the same stand that any other party would probably have taken were it in power.

As for the United States, why should she have been annoyed at Britain not transferring its sovereign and democratic power over these industries to an unnamed board? Could it be conceived that United States would itself ever give up its private ownership and control of its steel and coal industries to such a board? Of course not although, it might be suggested, for sake of argument, that, if it was good for Britain to do so, it would be good for the United States.

Britain, while not taking actual part in the Paris talks, will, of course, take a keen interest for from them might well arise a closer federation of the western democracies with which Great Britain and the United States and Canada also could and would well co-operate.

Meantime, the conclusion, of course, is unhesitating: that, in the existing circumstances, a transfer of power as proposed is out of the question. The broader question is not a Party matter. No British Government, of whatever Party, would, or could have done otherwise than did Attlee.

Why then have other Governments been willing to do what the British Government has declined to do? That is their affair. Most of them are understood to have accepted the French assurance that the declaration does not in any way commit them—that it does not, in fact, mean what it very plainly says.

What they consider it to mean we shall presumably see as the Paris negotiations proceed. But it will be very surprising if we find that any of them (including the French) have in fact agreed to any real transfer of powers from their own Parliaments to an outside high authority, or to accept the decrees of that authority as binding on their citizens. If that proves to be so, the British Government's attitude will be fully justified.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE FOR TODAY

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. Psalm 121: 7.



As I See It

WOMAN QUESTION

PORTLAND, Oregon:

The most interesting feature of last week's conference on international affairs was the round table discussion. The group I led contained about five men and twenty-five women. The men were school teachers or minor professors. The women were quite different in their backgrounds. There were some writing for credits on university courses. Some were just nice old ladies. Several were the kindly sort of American women who do all the work in welfare drives and all such enterprises. A few were war brides, or young refugee types originally from Europe.

THE LIVEST WIRES IN MY group were young married women. One was a Swiss born, French speaking little lady. Her eyes just gleamed with interest in the discussion. She got so excited that she could hardly wait her turn to pop up and have her say. It poured forth out of her with easy flow. Her speed was amazing, considering that she thought in French, then translated into English as she went along. At that she spoke English about twice as fast as most of us.

Another young woman, also a veteran's wife, was German born. She too is an eager participant. Her ideas were so different from the Swiss girl's that the rest of the groups got a real thrill out of it all.

We had a living demonstration of how national thought patterns have a way of expressing themselves.

ONE DISCUSSION WAS ON the race and color question: As our assignment concerns Europe, and as all the western European countries are old style imperialisms, governing many millions of colonial, non-white people, the importance of the question was self evident. We agreed, I think, that Communism's greatest challenge

stems from its racial equality appeal, and not from the economic base.

But here, in these United States, one is never far enough detached from the race and color question not to realize its gravity. You are wise to handle with care the emotional dynamic lying around—especially when the groups are so mixed.

THE LIVELIEST DISCUSSION we had was not on our agenda at all. I told these American women what British trade unionists had recently said, when brought over to learn the know-how of higher U.S. per-man-hour output.

They explained it by the U.S. wives. These drove their husbands very hard, said the Britishers in explanation of their own lower output. The American had to keep on the hop to keep his wife satisfied—that is, to earn enough for the family to keep up with the Joneses.

Strangely enough, most of the U.S. women in this group agreed that the critical Britishers were partly right—that relatively more American wives ARE good and husband drivers.

I HAVE HEARD THE ATTITUDE of American wives discussed by many alleged authorities. Many European visitors have the idea that a high percentage of American women are frustrated and dissatisfied with life in general—hence take it out on their husbands.

That seems to me only half or quarter or maybe only one-fifth of the whole truth. The average American woman is a pretty competent person. By inheritance and training she has capacities of very high order.

But the challenges that she ordinarily meets in life are puny, compared with her potentialities. She could do really big things—but hardly ever gets the chance to get out of the little local circle or family rut.

The job that she gets the chance to do is just not satisfying enough—after her two or three children reach school age.

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LETTERBOX

THANKS TO DR. GREENE

It has been brought to my attention that Dr. Greene, medical practitioner of our city, attended the late James Edward McLean, who committed suicide a few weeks ago while being treated for cancer, and that since October, 1949, Mr. McLean received regular treatment including an operation in February, 1950, and continuous treatment up to the time of his death, for which no charge was made by Dr. Greene.

And in addition, prescriptions for drugs were furnished by Dr. Greene up to the time of deceased's death and further Dr. Greene kept in constant touch with the Cancer Clinic of B.C. on Mr. McLean's behalf, which denotes human sympathy and kindness, and is hereby gratefully acknowledged by myself. And further, if any statement in my letter of June 21 can be construed as imparting inoffensive to the state of Mr. McLean's health or suffering by the physician who attended him, I hasten to say here to your inference was intended.

Therefore, I wish to publicly thank Dr. Greene for the service he rendered and apologize if any statement in my letter could be construed as an attack on the physician who attended the late Mr. McLean.

GEORGE B. CASEY.



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