

EDITORIAL PAGE

16 SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, THURSDAY, JAN. 29, 1948

Parking Problem Tough; Police-Tow Tougher

Not to be unduly pessimistic, but we foresee a short, unhappy life for Police Chief Mike Mitchell's new sweep-'em-off-the-streets approach to the traffic problem.

Most San Franciscans, and especially motorists, feel at least as badly as Chief Mitchell or Mayor Robinson about the traffic mess.

San Franciscans generally will be displeased with the new system for two principal reasons: First, because the kind of peremptory-violence represented by the tow-it-away-and-let-the-owner-hunt-for-it technique has a cat-and-mouse flavor that automatically arouses keen resentment among democratic-feeling people.

Second, and more important, because this kind of "solution" of the downtown parking problem is strictly a dead-end alley.

There remains, of course, the necessity for taking such steps as are feasible to keep traffic free and moving in the downtown area until such time as the long-range solutions of adequate parking space and improved access can be accomplished.

We suggest that more will be gained by a policy aimed at preventing all-day traffic-impeding parking than by waiting until the car is parked, whistling up a tow truck and hauling it away.

Approving General Clay's reluctance to dismiss Dr. Johannes Semmler as executive director of Bizonia, we also approve the ultimate dismissal of Dr. Semmler.

Cause of the dismissal was a speech in which Dr. Semmler, a German, savagely attacked the occupation policies as to food and coal.

This was a touchy matter, and General Clay properly took account the possibility that the dismissal would be construed as a muzzling of the right of free speech, and hence propagandist material for both the vestigial Nazi sympathizers and the Communists.

Dr. Aurelia Reinhardt, who died yesterday, was one of the great scholastic figures of our time, a gifted teacher, a dynamic administrator and a warm personality.

Sen. Brooks' Brave World

It is to be hoped that hungry Europeans are spared reading all of the recent anti-international argument of Senator Brooks of Illinois, some of which is enough to fill the European with a final despair.

For before European nations should be considered for Marshall Plan assistance, said this statesman, they "must balance their domestic budgets, they must change their . . . bureaucratic controls and false currency values."

This kind of stuff will be recognized by most Americans as a bad joke, but it is not so certain that most Americans will also recognize the mischief in another part of the Brooks plan:

We should not, he said, "subsidize Socialist governments that foster and follow policies that stifle individual initiative and retard production."

Does this prove that Socialism is good? It proves nothing of the sort. It shows, we think, that there are economic circumstances left in the train of war which demand temporary employment of realistic and drastic measures.

The British have recognized the necessity, and it is at least a good guess that Britain will find the road leading back to solvency.

Obviously, not a country in Western Europe could qualify for Marshall Plan aid under the Brooks conditions.

The reported Russian terms for an Austrian peace settlement are hopeful, because they at least provide something definite for the Big Four deputies to talk about when they meet in London next month.

It is always hopeful when you can get the Russians to agree on what they want, even if at first you cannot agree with their demands.

"Ten per cent less than what we are entitled to," said Molotov.

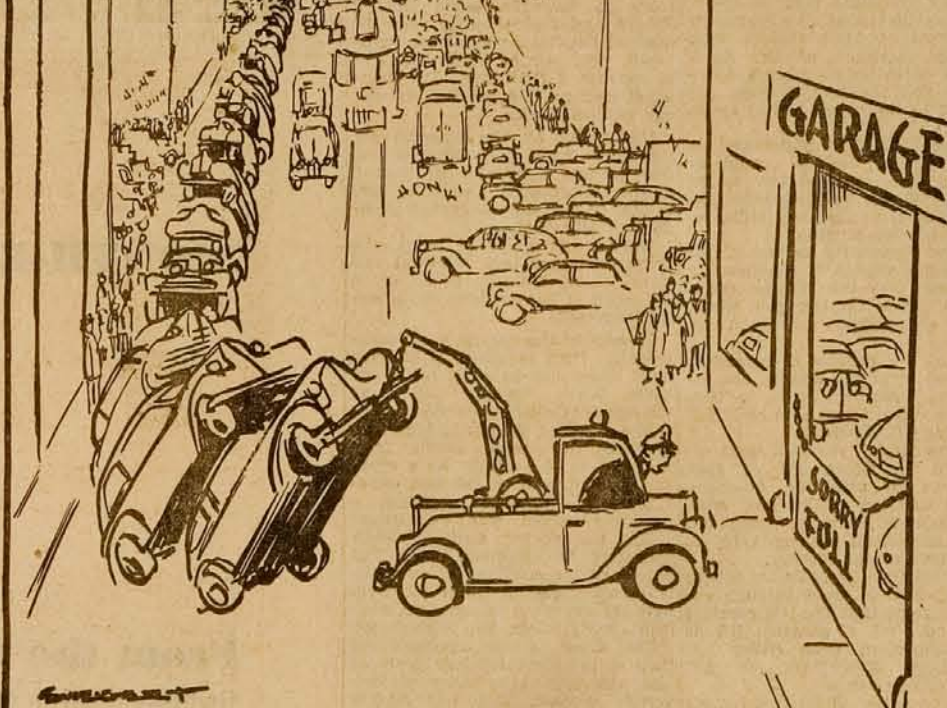
When he was asked "10 per cent of what?" he replied: "What was agreed at Potsdam, less 10 per cent."

Obviously, the United States, Britain and France should immediately consider and begin to bargain with Russia along these lines.

Interestingly enough, the Russian demands just about double the terms of the compromise proposal submitted by the French to the Big Four last November.

There may be found in these counter-claims ground for driving a bargain. Even though the United States would be aware that ultimately its money would pay the Russians off (since we are supporting Austria's economy to the tune of well over \$100,000,000 a year), the benefit in ridding the country of the Red army, plus the British, French and our own forces, would be worth much out-of-pocket expense.

If the American Government should be disposed to see the Russian claims liquidated on some such basis as is proposed, it should exact some hard concessions in return.



One Little Difficulty With the Police Tow

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND Uniforms in the White House

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28—For 13 long years under Franklin Roosevelt the Navy had the inner track at the White House.

Political reports from various parts of the country indicate that Truman's loyalty to his personal doctor, Brigadier General Wallace Graham, will cost him perhaps a million votes.

But old guard Republicans, backed by a powerful private-utilities lobby, opposed the compromise. For some time the debate has been worked out by a GOP Congressman Dick Welch of San Francisco and unanimously approved by the Public Lands and Surveys Committee.

That night, the power-lobby boys took advantage of the lull. They rallied their forces and had all their Congressmen on deck when debate opened next day.

The Communist newspaper in Paris, Humanite, recently published a violent diatribe against this columnist and the Friendship Train, among other things accusing the people of Strasbourg of spending more money on Friendship Train posters than the cost of friendship food.

When several floods hit Eastern France, the Friendship Train Committee in Paris rushed several tons of flour to Strasbourg and the surrounding area. This flour was made into small loaves of white bread and distributed to the homeless with a label which read "From the Friendship Train."

PALESTINIAN SITUATION Zionism and American Security

Editor The Chronicle—I want to express my personal appreciation of the three articles written by Carroll Kilpatrick about the Palestine situation.

Basically there are two errors in that policy. In the first place it provides no solution to the so-called "Jewish problem" in that Palestine will never be the "homeland" for more than a very small minority of those of Jewish faith.

Secondly, and of even greater immediate importance to the American public is the fact that we are flirting with our national security.

to the FCC last summer, he continued to sit in Congress in order to finish his work on the Appropriations Committee where he did his best to meat-ax appropriations for Western irrigation, power and reclamation.

Last week this same issue came up for debate in the House of Representatives after a compromise had been worked out by a GOP Congressman Dick Welch of San Francisco and unanimously approved by the Public Lands and Surveys Committee.

He is John Taber, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee and watchdog of the Federal budget. The other Auburnite is Taber's secretary, Amelia Aveduti.

Her plans, however, backfired. For the slogan reminded Taber that he had to write a long letter to the Republican National Committee.

When she looked at her slogan, she discovered that some mischievous visitor had inserted "and" before the word "vote."

The decision of the U. N. was based on certain assurances and assumptions which have already proven false—the Zionists said they could keep peace; now they ask money, arms and manpower from the U. S.—Economic union of the whole of Palestine was a known and proclaimed necessity; boycott is rampant—one of the Zionists' chief pleas was for immigration of Jewish DPs from Germany; already they are talking about reducing immigration far below their former goals.

California Then and Now

Mr. Shippey approaches his parallels under a number of heads. It's an old California custom, he notes, to gamble on anything; to eat, drink and be merry; to tell tall tales; to be hospitable; to seek shortcuts to heaven; to dress dramatically; to deal in real estate.

This framework lends itself well enough to the retelling of old yarns, and Mr. Shippey has a high old time with the odds and ends of history and near-history that he fits into his picture—tales of bandits such as Black Bart and others; of gold seekers early and late; of Southern California's cults, (and the true story of the "ordination mill," established to take advantage of the provision that regularly ordained ministers of any religion should not be interfered with, which actually "ordained" the once-famous duck of a radio comedian named Joe Bonomo.)

Keep up the good work. GEO. L. LEVISON. San Francisco, Jan. 26, 1948.

The people of Strasbourg were so delighted at getting this food that they themselves took the initiative and printed these labels.

Following this, a group of Strasbourg citizens set up a committee called "Pain de l'Amitie," which has been producing 10,000 "petit pain" (white rolls) each day from flour brought in by the Friendship Train.

Auburn, N. Y., has allowed two of its leading citizens to migrate to Washington, D. C. and Washingtonians would gladly give one of them back to Auburn.

The recovery of Western Europe depends on an exchange of services as well as of merchandise and upon a confident outlook into the future, so that the immediate needs of one country may be supplied in exchange for future services to another.

Don't be a Dem fool—Vote Republican in 1948.

Among the various "series" books—American rivers, mountains, lakes and whatnot—there is one called the "American Customs Series," in which various regions are interrelated through what may be considered customs that belong more or less to that region.

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Under each of these heads and some more, Mr. Shippey spins yarns of the old days and then of the new, illustrating his point that what California does today is rooted in its yesterday, that the old customs are at the bottom of it all.

In Russia They hussia.—edB

SAFETY

Freeways

Editor—Freeways are the highways of the future. The new Bayshore freeway is the first real freeway to be opened in the Bay Area.

Too Late?

Editor—The U. S. made a terrible mistake that it didn't take over Western Europe when it was down flat, just after the shooting—France, Italy, Britain, etc. Russia would have her side.

Jumpers

Editor—Your paper of January 22 printed the suggestion of a Mr. W. Keene-Jackson of Glen Dale, Md., that our Golden Gate bridge have a "live-wire fence" for those people who jump over.

The Franc

Editor—The devaluation of the franc by the French government has set the war-torn economy of Western Europe on the road to recovery.

Ex-Convicts

Editor—Few people think of ex-convicts as humans. They are so much so that 50 per cent of them return again to prison largely because of the treatment they are given when they are again one with the world.

'Gutless'

Editor—We hear so much these days about the tyranny of the people are enslaved, etc. Even the German people, or some Germans at least, had the guts to revolt against tyranny.

Prediction

Editor—A prediction: Any day now the Arabs are going to fold their tents and silently steal away.

A BOOKMAN'S NOTEBOOK California Customs

liked to believe what isn't true—and he's under "Tackling the Impossible," are tales of Californian accomplishments on the grand scale, from the building of the Bay bridges to the bringing of water to Los Angeles.

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