

Can We Afford National Defense?

The communist coup d'etat in Czechoslovakia, coupled with Stalin's demands for a "defense" agreement with Finland and mounting totalitarian pressures in France, Italy and other European nations, has brought the international situation to its worst point since 1939.

It is clear that those who dislike and envy us abroad respect only one quality in a country — and that quality is military strength. It is not war mongering to say that the United States must maintain a defense establishment far more effective than any we have ever had in peacetime so long as the world remains in its present explosive state. That is simply insurance for our survival.

According to those who know best, all branches of our military forces, Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard alike, are in a dangerously weak condition. We have sunk, in the space of about two years, from the greatest military power on earth to a third-rate military power.

This was only partially the result of the postwar demobilization. The armed services have been denied requested appropriations for research and development which they consider absolutely vital if they are to keep pace with the Soviet Union, whose army is reported to be still at wartime strength. This has been done, of course, in the name of economy. But while military budgets have been cut, there has been the most flagrant waste in other directions.

As an example, no one can say that socialized government power plants are necessary to the nation — taxed, regulated private industry can provide the service at the lowest practical cost. Yet the billions that we are now spending to operate these plants, and to build new ones, are far in excess of what the armed forces want for basic research. Those billions would help to make the difference between a progressive, prepared armed force, and one which is going downhill. The proposed St. Lawrence Seaway is another example of an incredibly costly public work that, in the view of many experts, is not needed and could not possibly justify itself on economic grounds. And so are various flood control and reclamation projects that, in reality, are a camouflaged form of public power development which simply duplicates existing, adequate facilities.

This is not a political matter. The national defense is the first function of government, regardless of what party is in power. And to say we cannot afford a first rate military establishment at a time when we are wasting untold billions, is to criminally mislead the people.

FROM PILLAR TO POST

By Mrs. T. M. B. Hicks, Jr.

A chimney fire is a terrifying thing. There is a rush and a roar, and suddenly the stove-pipe glows cherry red, first in one small spot and then all around the clock. Shutting off the draft, discouraging the blazing logs with salt and water, then snatching them from the Franklin stove and heaving them into the tub of water under the pump takes only a minute of actual elapsed time, but it seems like a century. Then there is that ominous black cloud pouring from the chimney, a cloud which is soon lighted by sparks and then by tiny tongues of flame, while the roar gathers momentum and the stove-pipe threatens to melt.

Under these harrying circumstances it is very comforting to remember the ho-hum attitude of the fire department in Eugene, Oregon. And also reflect that thank goodness the roof is shingled in asbestos.

Everybody in Eugene, Oregon, burns huge chunks of heart-ir in the furnace instead of coal. The furnaces are made with especially large doors, suitable for the admission of tremendous chunks of wood. The basement, instead of harboring a coalbin filled with anthracite, is stacked with cords and cords of pungent fir, the variety that is full of pitch and needs no kindling. To light a fireplace in Eugene, you touch a match to a protruding splinter, and the black pitch starts boiling out on the hearth. For the furnace, the big slabs are easily split with one blow of the ax, complete cleavage every time and with very little effort.

This type of fuel leads to chimney fires. Residents of a year or more, ones who have already cut their wisdom teeth on the wood-burning furnaces, pioneers so to speak, think nothing of a little chimney fire. They reflect that they had a couple last year, and that all they did, outside of creating a dense cloud of smoke and much interested comment on the part of the neighbors, was to remove the soot from the chimney, leaving it as slick as a whistle. But to a newcomer, one who had never before met up with a wood-burning furnace, the experience was truly nerve-shattering, and led to an S.O.S. to the fire department.

The fire department in Eugene plays checkers in a big way. If the game then in progress was not too engrossing, you stood a chance of getting a ripple of interest from the department with your chimney fire, but if the tournament was tight, you got good advice. We got good advice.

With the long lateral chimney pipe red hot and the chimney proper starting to roar, we felt that we needed aid, comfort, and assistance instead of kind words.

"Well, now, you're new to this country. You're going to get an occasional chimney fire when you use heart-ir in your furnace. Thing to do is cut off your draft, douse your fire, and stay down basement to watch your chimney fire. If the fire doesn't start to let up in about twenty minutes, or if your pipe drops in two, give us another call and we'll be up right away with the chemical outfit. G'bye."

And that was that. Within twenty minutes, true to prediction, the fire was out, but twenty minutes (Continued on page five)

Evans Conducts Famous 1c Sale

Sells Two Items For Price of One Plus 1c

Evans Drug Store in Shavertown, Rexall druggists, are this week conducting a Rexall original One-Cent Sale.

According to Mr. Evans hundreds of nationally advertised Rexall products are available to the public all over the nation on the money saving "Two for the Price of One, plus 1c" plan.

Throughout the years the Evans Store has continued to expand from a small enterprise opened in Shavertown during the depths of the depression to one of the outstanding inland drug stores in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Mr. Evans early saw the wisdom of continued advertising in his hometown newspaper and through every other means available to him including billboards and circulars. He has been a consistent advertiser in The Post through good times and thin and the growth of his business is evidence of how the prompt service for customers, wide range of items carried and advertising can bring results.

\$327 Contributed To Cancer Fund

Those handling the Cancer Fund Campaign in the Back Mountain area were cheered this week when they received contributions totalling \$327.50.

This amount was given by only fifty contributors. The largest amount received from any contributor was \$100 and the smallest was \$1. \$182.50 was received in envelopes forwarded to W. B. Jeter, treasurer, and \$145 was contributed in Wilkes-Barre but applied to the credit of this area.

Joseph MacVeigh is chairman for the Back Mountain Region. Letters were mailed to 1,100 residents of the community by a committee headed by Mrs. Fred Howell of Shavertown. Assisting her are Mrs. Harold Flack, Mrs. Harry Ohlman, Mrs. A. D. Hutchison, Mrs. Granville Sowden and Mrs. Thomas Reese.

Organizations and schools who do not have coin collection boxes, are asked to send their contributions direct to Mr. Jeter at First National Bank. The Drive will continue until the end of this month.

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BOX SCORE
Back Mountain Highway Deaths and Serious accidents since V-J Day

DALLAS	Hospitalized	Killed
LEHMAN	2	11
KINGSTON TOWNSHIP	1	1
JACKSON TOWNSHIP	30	4
MONROE TOWNSHIP	2	4
ROSS TOWNSHIP	3	1
LAKE TOWNSHIP	2	1
TOTAL	81	17

Fire Destroys Scovell Home

Lack Of Water Hampers Three Fire Companies

Fire of undetermined origin completely destroyed the home of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Scovell of Huntsville shortly after one Wednesday afternoon.

The fire started in the second story of the home located on Folies Road and had gained considerable headway before the arrival of Lehman Volunteer Fire Company, Dr. Henry M. Lang Fire Company was summoned and Lake Silkworth Company also responded but firemen were hampered for lack of water and the flames soon ate their way through the entire structure.

Mr. and Mrs. Scovell who resided there with their three small children, were unable to save anything except a refrigerator which was partially burned. Loss was covered in part by insurance.

Mr. Scovell, a contractor and roofer, formerly employed by Bert Bryant, will probably rebuild. Until such time as the family can find other accommodations they will live with a sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Fielding, Wilkes-Barre.

Fernbrook Park Makes Way For New Industry



Fernbrook Park takes on an unfamiliar aspect as woodsmen fell trees and wrecking crews raze buildings to clear the ground for the new plant of Bloomsburg Mills.

Col. John P. Kirkendall Returns From Russia, Germany and Near East

Colonel John P. Kirkendall, who has just finished a three-year tour of foreign service in Germany, Russia, and the Near East, is spending a short time in Dallas prior to proceeding to the Mobile Air Materiel Depot, Brooklyn Field, Mobile Ala., his new command.

On this his latest tour of duty, Col. Kirkendall left the States in March 1945 as a member of the U.S. Military Mission to Moscow. On completion of his duties in Russia, he was ordered to Berlin, in charge of Air Operations, attendant to the Big Three Conference held there in July 1945. Following a short tour of duty as Chief of Staff of Berlin Air Command, which was dissolved shortly after the conference, he commanded two Air Depot areas in the American Zone of Occupied Germany. The two depots being Kassel, on the edge of Russian territory and Ansbach, a small city near Nuremberg, the self-styled capitol of German National Socialism. His last service was on the staff of L. Gen. Curtis LeMay. Col. Kirkendall's duties on the job required extended periods of service in Persia, South Arabia, Egypt and North Africa.

Col. Kirkendall arrived at Westover Field, Mass. in March of this year, having returned on the Army Transport Command's C-54 "Sky-master".

Prior to his last departure to Europe, Col. Kirkendall served 14 months in England, during the height of the German Blitz, on the staff of Gen. Ira C. Eaker. He served in charge of the American Office of Reciprocal Aid (Reverse Lend Lease) in which capacity he was able to obtain from the British many million dollars worth of aid during the early stages of the war.

This program of which the majority of American people knew little or nothing, performed a great service in the housing, feeding, and equipping of American troops quartered on the British Isles during the entire length of the war.

Col. Kirkendall returned to the States in July, 1943, because of a physical breakdown caused by a severe attack of pneumonia. On recovery he was assigned as Deputy Commander to the Air Materiel Command, Middletown, Pa.

Col. Kirkendall was born in Dallas and attended Dallas schools. He also attended Seton Hall Academy, Orange, N.J. before obtaining an appointment to West Point. He was graduated from West Point in 1924 and has been on active service ever since. He contemplates ten more years of active service in the Air Force and upon retirement plans to return to Dallas and live.

Col. Kirkendall is a son of the late George T. Kirkendall of Lake Street and a brother of George B. Kirkendall of Boston, Dr. Henry L. Kirkendall of Worcester, Mrs. Jean R. Kelly of New York and Mrs. Helen L. Hart of Dallas.

Mrs. Kirkendall will remain in Dallas for several weeks before joining her husband in Alabama.

Members of the troop set up a booth on canoeing in which they had a large canoe mounted on rollers. During the show, scouts gave exhibitions of proper methods of paddling and handling the canoe.

Wilson Elected To Manage Team

Two New Teams Join Bi-County League

Tex Wilson was elected captain of the East Dallas team of the Bi-County Baseball League at an informal meeting of team members Sunday at the home of Ted Wilson.

Walter Schultz was elected assistant captain and Ted Wilson was elected manager. Robert Pickett is secretary-treasurer.

Matters of interest pertaining to the club, which last year won the League championship, were discussed.

It was decided to buy some new equipment for the team and to use the same uniforms as last year. Consideration was given to buying new bases and a home plate, the selection of umpires and the advisability of a mobile back-stop or batting cage.

Teams in the Bi-County League are: Beaumont, Vernon, Carverton, Noxen, Harding, Orange, Shavertown, and East Dallas. Both Harding and Shavertown are newcomers this year. Addition of these teams, plus the number of returning servicemen, is expected to produce a faster brand of ball this season.

East Dallas won the regular season championship last year with Vernon placing second. In the playoffs East Dallas triumphed over Noxen.

The Bi-County League schedule opens Sunday, May 2, weather permitting, and clubs will have their preliminary meeting the previous Sunday to decide on a schedule and to approve team rosters.

Manager Wilson said, East Dallas will welcome any one from this section who wishes to tryout for the team. Candidates should be on hand Sunday, April 25 at the Dallas Township field.

Attending the meeting were: Ted Wilson, Melvin Morris, Tex Wilson, Howard Garbutt, Bob Pickett, Walter Shultz, Al Morse, Peanuts Austin, Warren Stanton, Mike Kozik, Chet Austin, Walt Shultz, and Gord Austin. Those unable to attend were: Harry Martin, Fred Stevens, Art Bellas, and Robert Heminway.

Dallas Scouts' Exhibit Receives An "A" Award

Boy Scout Troop No. 281, sponsored by the Dallas Methodist Church, under the leadership of Scoutmaster Fred Butcher, received an "A" Award for its booth in the Boy Scout Merit Badge Show held at Kingston Armory, Friday and Saturday.

Members of the troop set up a booth on canoeing in which they had a large canoe mounted on rollers. During the show, scouts gave exhibitions of proper methods of paddling and handling the canoe.

Roast Pig Supper

Sweet Valley Volunteer Fire Company will hold a roast pig supper at the Church of Christ Hall next Thursday.

Teter Explains New School Act

Back Mountain Lions Discuss Consolidation

The Back Mountain Lions Club was host to school directors and citizens of Hunlock, Ross and Union Townships on Tuesday evening at Roaring Brook Baptist Church Hall.

E. S. Teter, Superintendent of Luzerne County Schools, discussed recent legislation pertaining to schools.

He stated that fifty per cent of the schools in Luzerne County were one-room schools and recommended that several smaller districts unite to form a larger district which could operate more efficiently. He outlined the number of pupils and teachers necessary to provide an ideal administration unit in both elementary and secondary schools.

While the law requires the County Superintendent to make plans for union school districts and submit them to the Bureau of Education before July 1st, he stated that he had no definite plan to offer, but would leave it to the directors and people of the districts to provide a plan.

He recommended an eight-room school for Hunlock Township, and a six-room school for each of Union and Ross Townships. Problem of financing the construction of these schools, estimated at \$15,000.00 per room, which greatly exceeds the borrowing capacity of the districts, was left to the directors.

The Club also heard reports from the committee preparing to celebrate Lions' Week jointly with the Twin Cities Club at the Shickshinny Ball Park beginning May 10th.

Attorney Miner Aylesworth presided and introduced a new member, Russell Worrall.

Fishermen Disappointed

While hundreds of fishermen visited nearby streams yesterday for the opening of the trout season, they found creeks high and fishing poor. No one reported any good catches.

Dutch Couple Impressed With American Standard Of Living

Mr. and Mrs. Jon Suis arrived last week on the SS New Amsterdam from Amsterdam, Holland, and are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. A. S. James of Truckville Gardens.

Mr. and Mrs. Suis are enroute to Baker Field, California, where they will spend some time with Mrs. Suis' son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Van Wingenard. Mrs. Van Wingenard is the former Dorothy James.

Mr. Suis, 45, operates a Ford Parts Agency in Holland. Though he has learned English only in the past year in expectation of his trip to America, he speaks it well.

Both he and Mrs. Suis are impressed with the wealth and conveniences of this country and especially with the beautiful rolling hills of this area. "In Holland", he

Fire Auxiliary Plans Annual Garden Party

Ladies Auxiliary of the Truckville Volunteer Fire Company met in the Fire Hall on Monday evening. Mrs. Harold Yorks presided. Ten dollars was contributed to the Cancer Drive.

Plans were made for the annual Garden Party to be held at the Hall on July 14. Mrs. Murphy, of Scranton, will read a current best seller.

Mrs. Vern Pritchard will be general chairman, assisted by the following committee chairmen: Program, Mrs. John Kennan; Tea Table, Mrs. Lincoln Long; Decorations, Mrs. N. Silverman; Kitchen, Mrs. D. Schooley; Posters, Mrs. R. A. Finney; Tickets, Mrs. Jacob Harrison. The public is invited.

The Auxiliary will purchase three dozen additional chairs for use in the Hall. Refreshments were served by Mrs. William Gregory, Mrs. Elmer Coolbaugh and Mrs. Charles Palmer to the following ladies: Mesdames R. A. Finney, Earl Gregory, Sr., R. J. Gregory, Lincoln Long, Samuel Miller, Franklin Hawke, Raymond Greenwood, Joseph Mather, Clifford Johnson, Vern Pritchard, J. B. Schooley, Miss Pauline Besteder, George Shaver Jr.

D. A. Roberts, Jr., D. E. Schooley, S. B. Dilcer, John Dykman, Karl Stock, Harry Glace, William Glace, Floyd Wells, David Williams, Morris Lloyd, Myrtle Rineman, Dorey Rogers, Neal Kester, V. J. McGuire, John Cowell, Joseph Boyle, George Parry, S. D. Finney, John Kennan, Harold Yorks, N. Silverman, Dale Zimmerman, Charles Palmer, Elmer Coolbaugh and William Gregory.

Firemen Save Barn

But for the timely arrival of Lehman Fire Company on Saturday a large barn on the Skopic property in Lehman Township might have been destroyed by flames.

The company exhausted its 250-gallon water tank before it extinguished a large pile of hay that was burning within thirty feet of the barn. The hay caught fire when high winds carried embers from a pile of rubbish which members of the Skopic family were burning.

Lt. Peter Skopic, Army Air Corps navigator, home on leave from the Canal Zone, highly praised the work of the firemen and expressed his family's appreciation.

Firemen Order Fog Equipment

\$5,088 Is Pledged To Jackson Company

Jackson Township Volunteer Fire Company has purchased Hi-Pressure Fog Fire Fighting Equipment from the John Bean Company of Lansing, Michigan.

The equipment will be mounted on a new F-6 Ford 2-ton truck chassis purchased from Motor Twins. Delivery is expected before May 30 so that the company can enter the Sweet Valley Community Parade on Memorial Day.

The purchase was made Monday night at a meeting of officers and trustees of the company held at General Norman Smith's home in Huntsville. 1,200 feet of hose will be included in the equipment.

More than \$5,800 has been pledged to the company with four districts yet to be heard from. \$1,490 of this amount has been paid in cash. The balance is to be paid within a year.

Officers hope, however, that enough will have been paid in by May 20 so that \$6,800 can be paid on delivery of the equipment.

The next report meeting of solicitors will be held at Mountain School on May 10 because the Rome School will be in readiness for the primary election on the following day.

Township Band Highly Praised

Took Part In Scout Program At Armory

Dallas Township High School Band, led by Alfred Milliner-Camp received scores of compliments and was enthusiastically welcomed last Friday when it appeared as the guest attraction at the opening of the Boy Scout Merit Badge Show in Kingston Armory.

Wyoming Valley Council officials had nothing but praise for the local musical organization and the fine spirit of cooperation shown by the Township School Board in giving permission for the band to volunteer its services and do its part in making the show a success.

A high official of the Scouts said: "Dallas Township can well be proud of this capable organization which represents their school and township. Many people had no idea that there were such fine musical organizations in the Back Mountain area."

Mildred Borton Elected Queen

Township May Day Scheduled For May 6

Mildred Borton of Alderson, daughter of Harold J. Borton, Lehigh Valley Station Master in Dallas, a senior enrolled in the Home Economics Course at Dallas Township Schools has been chosen May Queen, by popular vote of High School Students, to reign over the May Day Ceremonies.

Her maid of honor will be Peggy Martin of Fernbrook. The senior attendants of the Court of Honor will be Mary Carey, Daisy Bellas, Nancy Anderson, and Phyllis Kunkle. Underclass attendants who were chosen are Jackie Mahoney and Clara Ann Evans, Juniors and Lois Klein and Nancy Deibert, Sophomores.

St. Therese's Troop Wins Award At Kingston

Boy Scout Troop No. 232 sponsored by St. Therese's Church, Shavertown, under the leadership of John Butler received a "B" award for its booth in the Boy Scout Merit Badge Show held at Kingston Armory, Friday and Saturday.

The troop set up a booth featuring "Wood Handicraft." During the show, the scouts operated a lathe, small circle saw, and jig-saw which were novelties in that Scoutmaster John Butler had made the equipment from an old sewing machine. John says that he couldn't saw a board straight so he devised a way to make equipment by using a sewing machine and now he can do most everything.