

RISK IN DELAY

Now that the East Germans are showing that they mean business in defiance of the Russians, it leaves the next move again up to the West. But the momentum now gained can be lost with another bureaucratic snafu.

The East Germans are showing by action that they are ready to risk everything just to get a little flour and lard. That's how tough things are. When this program ends, however, the East Germans may start saying to themselves:

1. We risked our lives against Russian tanks on June 17.

2. We risked Communist retaliation starting July 27, to come and get the much-needed American food.

3. What is the West going to risk to help our cause of liberation further?

It is a tough dilemma for the West. "We are playing with fire," say timid officials.

"We will never have a bigger advantage," say the bold.

RISKS WEAK NOW

No one can look and talk with these East Germans without a vivid impression of their undying hatred for the Communists and the hope that their torture may be near the end.

The East German Communist regime, bankrupt and completely discredited, recognizes this seething pot on which it is trying to keep the lid. The new Communist Party program published yesterday, called for ruthless smashing of the anti-Communist underground which it admitted exists everywhere in East Germany.

The East Germans have exposed for us the greatest weakness in the Soviet empire—East Germany. It is now up to us to decide how to exploit it.

Puerto Rico Proves American Opposition
to ColonialismEXTENSION OF REMARKS
OF

HON. CHARLES E. BENNETT

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1953

Mr. BENNETT of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to call attention to the record of the United States with regard to self-government in Puerto Rico. This record clearly proves that the United States opposes colonialism. Although the present Russian rulers publish propaganda against colonialism, these same Russian rulers are establishing and have established a horrible record of aggression, oppression, colonialism and imperialism. The people throughout the world need look only at the facts as they are. These facts will convince anyone that the United States has not lost its belief in the right of people to govern themselves and that the actions of the United States speak eloquently of our beliefs.

The very essence of Americanism is the idea of freedom under God. Our forefathers founded our country with this idea dominant in their hearts and minds: We must never lose touch with this important principle. Whatever may be our trials and tribulations, our goal is right; and principles of freedom under God's guidance will ultimately triumph in our day and in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I include at this point in my report a splendid editorial from a recent edition of the Florida Times-Union, a publication in the city of Jacksonville, Fla.

History of Puerto Rico Carves Work to Workers

Celebration today in Puerto Rico of the island's first anniversary of its status as a free Commonwealth carries a meaningful lesson to the rest of the world, particularly lands dominated by Russia.

The record of American treatment of Puerto Rico, culminating in its independence last year, thoroughly disproves social charges of Yankee imperialism. Socialistic notions and peoples oppressed by Communists will take heart that efforts directed by the United States will not lead to just a change of masters but to freedom.

For more than four centuries after its discovery by Columbus on November 15, 1493, Puerto Rico was ruled by a succession of Spanish military governors. Most were of inferior rank, and most were automatically disinclined to aid the inhabitants.

By 1898, when United States forces occupied the island during the Spanish-American War, most Puerto Ricans starved in abject poverty. Only 15 percent of the population was literate. Few had the slightest sliver of self-government.

United States military rule lasted only 18 months, a civil government then being instituted. In 1917, the island was made a United States Territory and inhabitants given United States citizenship.

Barely half a century after the words of Gen. Nelson A. Miles landed on Puerto Rico, the island had made vast progress under the benign influence of the United States. Industries had been established and agriculture improved, health conditions bettered, and literacy advanced to more than 70 percent.

Economic, social and political progress resulted last year in full freedom. Under a constitution patterned closely after that of the United States, Puerto Ricans at last began to govern themselves.

This bit of history needs to be emphasized abroad. It can help demagogue to oppress and backward nations that hope not far, comes from the United States—opportunities for personal and national freedom spring from America, not Russia.

Mr. Summerfield's Idea Isn't So Radical

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. KATHARINE ST. GEORGE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1953

Mrs. ST. GEORGE. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks in the Appendix of the Record, I include an article from the Courier-Journal, of Louisville, Ky.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed desirable that we have not been able to balance the books of the Post Office Department at this session of Congress. This fact is attested to by mail I am now receiving from my district and other parts of the country.

Postmaster General Summerfield once said that the people of the country are far ahead of Congress in this matter and he was a thousand times right.

The bill (H. R. 5982) was suffocated and talked to death by a few special in-

terested parties. They may now be well acquainted with their efforts but, Mr. Speaker, there is still more than one way to skin a cat.

The article from the Courier-Journal follows.

Mr. Summerfield's Idea Isn't So Radical

From the agonized outcries in the House Post Office Committee when Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield asked for increased postal rates this week, one might have supposed he was proposing something revoltingly radical.

In any sense it was the Article of Confederation, drawn up in 1777, provided for the sole and exclusive right and power of " . . . establishing and regulating post offices from one State to another . . ." and exacting such postage on the papers passing through the same as may be requisite to defray the expenses of the said office.

But it has been a long time since the Post Office Department has exacted such postage as would defray expense of the Department. During the last 50 years of this century, the Post Office Department's annual deficit increased from \$5,400,000 to \$340,420,392.

It is not all a matter of willingness on the Department's part, or even all a matter of inflation. Since 1847, when Congress commissioned the Department to handle postage stamps, it has given it more and more jobs in the service category, that is, services which are not expected to pay for themselves and require a subsidy. There was registered mail in 1855, railway mail service in 1862, city delivery service in 1890, special delivery in 1895, rural delivery in 1896, postal savings in 1911, village delivery in 1915, parcel post with insurance and c. o. d. in 1918, and airmail in 1918.

Now the Postmaster General is asking for increased postal rates to cut the annual deficit by \$240 million. Among other things it would raise the cost of out-of-town letter mailing from 3 to 4 cents.

Mr. Summerfield makes the self-sustaining point that this would be the "biggest bargain on earth" because it would be "a major down payment on a tax reduction." It would cut the cost of tax appropriations by almost a half billion dollars, even if this is scarcely a "major down payment."

At any rate, Mr. Summerfield has reason on his side. The cost of postal services has kept going up, with a rocketing burden on the Federal budget. Granting the justification of a service subsidy, the subsidy is now too large in relation to the charge for service. The Eisenhower administration is pledged to balance the budget and cut taxes. It has faced the tough fact that neither can be done this year. If it meets in every effort to economize the same violent opposition to which Mr. Summerfield was exposed in the House committee, it never will be able to redeem its pledge. No doubt certain economies will be possible. However, here is the question which the Congress and the administration must answer: Will it be worse to leave taxes where they are, or to lop off Federal services, like cheap postal rates?

Time To Consider the Consumer: Public
Against Private Power

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. JOE L. EVINS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1953

Mr. EVINS. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks in the Record, I