

1957

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Front Page Edit Page Other Page

Date:

WASHINGTON REPORT

Fairless Commission Pro-Aid

By FULTON LEWIS, JR.

TAKE a careful look at the so-called Fairless Commission which has just recommended indefinite continuation of the foreign aid program, and its basic character becomes evident.

To begin with, it was neatly and scrupulously stacked with members of excellent public repute but nonetheless of predetermined and strong internationalist leanings. Secondly, its widely-advertised jaunt around the world to enable those members to see conditions for themselves consisted entirely of one and two-day stops during which it would be impossible to reach any legitimately definite conclusions.

Sincere and Honest

This is not to impugn the motives of the commission's members. Everyone may be perfectly sincere and honest in his internationalist predilections. Nevertheless, from business or idealistic reasonings, the thinking of each has long leaned heavily in that direction.

There are seven members:

Benjamin F. Fairless, Chairman; retired Board Chairman of U. S. Steel Corporation, widely known as a liberal internationalist despite the liberal-left's effort to characterize him as rapacious big business.

Colgate W. Darden, Jr., former Governor of Virginia, now president of the University of Virginia, U. S. delegate to several UN meetings.

Richard R. Deupree, Board Chairman of Proctor & Gamble, which has important foreign business connections.

John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, which seeks foreign markets for the additional coal its members want to mine.

Whitelaw Reid, Board Chairman of the New York Herald Tribune; like his newspaper, staunchly "modern Republican" and supporter of anything and everything proposed by President Eisenhower.

Walter Bedell Smith, president of AMF Atomics, Inc., wartime chief of staff to then-General Eisenhower; formerly Ambassador to Russia.

the Central Intelligence Agency, and Under-secretary of State.

Jesse W. Tapp, Board Chairman of the Bank of America and longtime high government functionary under the New Deal.

'Impartial' Commission

Those are the members of this "impartial" commission set up to take an allegedly hard look at foreign aid and determine its true necessity.

The group visited 18 countries in a total of seven weeks and three days. Washington to Washington, including traveling and sleeping time. Leaving this capital December 27, it arrived in Madrid on December 28. Its ensuing itinerary, showing arrival dates:

Paris, December 31; Bonn, January 3; Vienna, January 5; Belgrade, January 7; Athens, January 9; Istanbul, January 11; Ankara, January 14; Teheran, January 16; Karachi, January 18; New Delhi, January 22; Rangoon, January 25; Bangkok, January 27; Saigon, January 29; Manila, January 31; Hongkong, February 2; Taipei, February 5; Seoul, February 7; Tokyo, February 9; Washington, February 17.

Flying time between each of the points took all or most of a day, meaning one full day for most of the stops. The calendar shows that the two days and three nights in Paris included New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, during which it is highly doubtful that much work was transacted.

Furthermore, week-ends were included in the Madrid, Vienna, Istanbul, Karachi, Rangoon-Bangkok, Hongkong and Tokyo stops.

Four on Full Trip

Even at that, only four members of the commission made the full trip—Fairless, Darden, Reid and Tapp. Deupree was too ill to go; Smith was too busy with other affairs; Lewis traveled with the party as far as Ankara, then returned to Britain for two weeks of personal study of its economy.

In view of all this the striking part of the Commission's report is that it found as many points to criticize as it

practiced and administered, that it recommended as many changes and circumstances as it did.

President Eisenhower set up the Commission with the certain knowledge that on the basis of their already-recorded views, its members would find continued foreign aid essential. This should be kept in mind in assessing the worth of its report.