

Post
9/1/64

Chicago and the Czechs

By Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson

THE DEMOCRATIC delegates who worried about domestic politics in Chicago and scanned the headlines regarding momentous events in Czechoslovakia didn't know that the area where they were meeting is the Czech-Yugoslav independence center of the United States.

Otto Kerner, recently retired as Governor of Illinois to become a U.S. Court of Appeals judge, is of Czech descent and Tony Cermak, Mayor of Chicago when he was assassinated while with Franklin D. Roosevelt in Miami in 1932, was a Czech.

Twice the Yugoslav consulate in Chicago has been bombed by Serb exiles who want to restore the old monarchy and who don't seem to realize that the new independent Communist state of Yugoslavia is one of the best friends the United States has in the Eastern bloc nations. Its independence from Moscow has been an example and inspiration to Czechoslovakia.

South of Chicago is the little town of Lidice, named for a famous Czech village where all the males were lined up before a wall by Hitler in 1942 and shot because they had given refuge to the killers of Reinhard Heydrich, a German police general.

Wendell Willkie dedicated a memorial at Lidice, Ill., commemorating the bravery of the Czech people, though with the passage of time the memorial has been largely forgotten and it is sometimes used as a backstop by youngsters playing baseball.

SHORTLY BEFORE THE occupation of Czechoslovakia, a record number of Czech tourists had signed up to visit Chicago and other cities of the United States.

Air France had arranged to fly 65 Czech tourists from Prague to New York on Sept. 11 on a 21-day tour of the United States, including Niagara Falls, the Ford plant at Detroit (to see American capitalism at work), Chicago, New Orleans, Miami Beach (to see capitalism at play) and finally Washington (the capital of capitalism). They were planning to be in Wash-

ington Sept. 27-30 and then to fly home to Prague.

Strong Words

WHETHER UNITY returns to the Democratic Party after the acrimony in Chicago will depend in part on Hubert Humphrey and Eugene McCarthy. After the events of recent weeks, it will take more than the usual political patchwork to repair the once-staunch friendship between these two men.

During the heat of the convention, Humphrey aides complained that McCarthy was behaving "more like Joe than Gene." They referred to the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy, who made "McCarthyism" a dirty word.

For years, Humphrey and McCarthy fought shoulder to shoulder for the same causes and candidates. Humphrey helped to raise McCarthy to political prominence. McCarthy, in turn, helped to launch the first Humphrey-for-President drive in 1959.

They waged opposite campaigns at the Democratic convention. Humphrey sought to smooth over differences and keep the party united. McCarthy followed a divisive strategy.

He deliberately tried to antagonize the Southern delegations by challenging their credentials, opposing their traditional unit rules and issuing inflammatory statements. The McCarthy strategy was to raise issues that would force the Humphrey delegates to take sides with

either the Southern conservatives or the Northern liberals.

McCarthy's tactics have raised the possibility that Humphrey might retaliate against him when McCarthy comes up for re-election to the Senate in Minnesota. There is little doubt that Humphrey's organization in Minnesota could defeat McCarthy.

But Humphrey has ruled out any idea of retaliation. He hopes McCarthy will campaign for him for President. In any case, he has told intimates that, as a loyal Democrat, he expects to campaign for McCarthy in 1970. But things will probably never be the same again between the two old friends.

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