CHINA: Past and Present

By Bob Considine

WITH PRESIDENT NIXON IN CHINA — The President has not had much opportunity to talk with the Chinese about his second favorite subject. Next to world politics, he knows sports best.

The President will not be making any post game phone calls to the winning locker room this trip. In China, there are no winners or losers, no champions or runnersup, no leagues and no dough for the participants. The Chinese interpreter to whom I've become quite attached, thanks to a thin wire leash attached to my nose, explained this remarkable state of affairs the other day in Peking.

"We engage in sports because it creates friendships and builds bodies," Mr. Hsu said patiently. "We don't believe in the personality cult of the champion."

"We have boxing in the People's Republic but it would be very impolite and very strange if one man should try to knock out his opponent. They box for the joy of expanding their friendship and to improve their health. Why should one man try to knock the other to the ground?"

I told him that the American fight racket was coming around to Chairman Mao's philosophy. Hsu was pleased, and continued his rundown on the state of sports in the new China (Pop. 800,000,000).

"There are no bars in the

"We have no golf, of course," he said, "and no baseball, which I have heard is your national sport. Our national sport, it must be said, is table tennis. There are reasons for this beyond the spread of friendship. It is a very cheap game to play. All you need is a table, two little bats, and a plastic ball. There is no horse racing in China proper, but men and boys ride little horses in our outlying regions. Tibet and Inner Mongolia. There is no betting, no thought of winning. Just great fun and friendship.

"We play basketball on every playground, every school, every factory. A school basketball team can play another school one day, a factory team the next. The same with what we call football and you call soccer. Soccer games have attracted as many as 80,000 people to the Stadium of the Workers. But the people do not come to see one team defeat another. They come to watch the spirit of friendship and health building."

I was beginning to feel faint, so I asked him to move into some other sphere of joy within the People's Republic. Like taxes.

"We pay no taxes," he said, surprised by the question. "What we earn we keep, every penny of it. Of course, our people don't make the great salaries of America, but we can obtain a place to live and pay for our water and electricity for about five per cent of our monthly salary.

"We don't need the kind of nightclubs where you Americans waste your money. We have our opera, ballet, concerts and movies. These are not attended just for the sake of entertainment. There is a message for the people in every such activity, an inspirational message based on the Chairman's thoughts. (One current play portrays pre-revolution supporters of Chaing Kai-shek wearing Mafia-type fedoras and smoking big black cigars. P.S. They are put to rout by Chairman Mao's people.)

"We can see our finest opera for 70 cents, our best films for ten cents. So we can do many things just as easily as the peoples of other countries who make large sums of money but must give most of it back in taxes."

I asked him where the nearest bar was.

People's Republic of China," Mr. Hsu said. "Except for maybe one or two holidays a year, we don't drink. You see, we don't need it."

Mr. Nixon and Premier Chou En-lai were clearly in cheerful spirits when the 73-year-old chief executive of the world's most populous nation called on the relatively young President of the world's most powerful country.

The President was waiting outside his "Fishing Terrace," as the two-story buff-colored guest house is called, when the Premier drove up in his big black Chinese-built limousine. "Ni Hao," the President said in Mandarin with a slight accent of Whittier, Calif.

The President was careful not to put a question mark at the end of the salutation. It came out as it was intended, meaning "hello."

The two men whose deliberations could conceivably affect the course of mankind posed for a few pictures, then entered the guest house and repaired to a reception room where Mrs. Nixon — who has been a gracious catalyst in bringing the two deliberators closer together — was waiting with tea.

Minutes later, as the principals and their advisers took their places across a long table with a green baize top, the photographers were given another whack at them.

After the expenditure of a small fortune in flash blubs, the Premier smiled at the lensmen and said, "You must take more pictures of your President." The President laughed, then said, "Pictures are very effective."

Pencil and pad reporters either chose to ignore the remark or sniffled unhappily.

The President and his staff, headed by Dr. Henry Kissinger —Secretary of State William P. Rogers was meeting elsewhere with second echelon officials— were wreathed in smiles as they witnessed Chou En-lai's method of saying "knock it off," to the cameramen and the "pool" reporters.

The Premier narrowed his burning black eyes, smiled tightly, and said, "If the press wants to see any more places of interest they can apply to the Department of Information."

Baptism Agreement

Filipino Lutheran and Roman Catholic clergymen sign a solemn agreement in which both denominations recognize the validity of Baptism performed in either Church. Signing the agreement at Trinity Lutheran church, Manila, are, from left: Dr. Alvaro A. Carino, president of the Lutheran Church of the Philippines; Father Pedro S. Achutegui, SJ, secretary of the Roman Catholic Bishop's Commission for Promoting Christian Unity; and Archbishop Teopisto V. Alverto of Caceres, president of Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines. Agreement is the result of two years' dialogue between the two Churches.

British Anglicans Open Communion

London (RNS) — Years of controversy came to an end when the General Synod of the Church of England approved, at its Spring session, a new canon providing for the admission to Holy Communion of baptized members of other Churches.

The canon, known as B.15A, is the result of long discussion, both in the Convocations and in the Church Assembly, which preceded the Synod as the Church's parliament.

Even so, voting was not unanimous, and there was a far-from-full attendance by the Synod of 550 bishops, clergy and laity. Altogether, 24 bishops, 111 clergy and 136 laity voted approval, while no bishops, 31 clergy and 15 laity voted against, making the overall ballot 271 to 46.

The canon has now only to be given the Royal Assent — a certainty — to become ecclesiastical law. Its exact words are that there shall be admitted to the Holy Communion in the Church of England "baptized persons who are communicant members of other Churches which subscribe to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, and who are in good standing in their own Church; any other baptized persons authorized to be admitted under regulations of the General Synod; and any baptized persons in immediate danger of death."

It adds that if any person of another Church "regularly receives the Holy Communion over a long period which appears likely to continue indefinitely, the minister shall set before him the normal requirements of the Church of England for communicant status in that Church."

The canon is being sent for the Royal Assent in the form of a petition to the Crown. Bishop Gerald Ellison of Chester told the General Synod, "We are making history. This is the first time the General Synod has exercised its rights to present a canon to the Queen."

Opposition came from a few Anglo-Catholic members. One, the Rev. Ronald E. Head of Oxford, objected that there were no requirements that members of other Churches should have been confirmed.

73 P.C. Favor Nixon Trip, Poll Shows

Chicago — (RNS) — A Louis Harris survey taken just before President Nixon left for China indicated that 73 per cent of the American people approved of the journey.

The survey, taken between Feb. 9 and 14, indicated that by 63 to 19 per cent, the American people feel the trip will result in more trade between the U.S. and Red China; and by 58 to 21 per cent, they feel this country will officially recognize Communist China.

The Harris national cross-section of 1,480 households also revealed that by 39 to 32 per cent, the public feels that Russia and China will compete to try to make arrangements with the U.S., and by 51 to 22 per cent, it does not anticipate that the U.S. and Communist China will agree to control nuclear weapons.

The general question of approval or disapproval of Mr. Nixon's trip to Peking had also been asked by Harris surveys in August and October. Those surveys also reflected majority approval, by 68 to 19 per cent and 62 to 24 per cent, respectively.

'Foul Crime' Decried By Cardinal Conway

Aldershot, England — (RNS) — Irish Republican Army (IRA) terrorists exploded a bomb at British Paratroop Brigade headquarters here killing five women, a Roman Catholic army chaplain, and a male gardener, and injuring at least 17 other persons, 14 of them soldiers.

A spokesman for the "official" wing of the IRA in Dublin, Ireland, claimed responsibility for the explosion — one of the worst such incidents in England in the long troubled history of British-Irish relations. Aldershot, Britain's largest military training center, is 35 miles southwest of London.

The chaplain, Capt. Gerard Weston, 38, had recently been given a medal — Member of the Order of the British Empire — for efforts to reduce tensions in Northern Ireland. He was ordered out of Ulster for his own safety after threats on his life.

Authorities said the bomb was planted in a car parked by the terrorists outside the mess hall.

Cardinal William Conway, Archbishop of Armagh, Northern Ireland, and Roman Catholic Primate of All Ireland, in a stinging condemnation of the bombing, said that "words cannot express my horror of this foul crime."

He added that the Irish people "will be sickened and revolted by it."

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