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"Freedom of the Press belongs to those who own one."

A. J. Liebling of the New Yorker

October 20, 2003



Commentary

A Support Vote From the U.N. is Like Kissing Your Sister

While the Bush administration trumpets success over the 15-0 vote before the United Nations, that unanimous vote is just an admission that it is pap. Any resolution on Iraq that is supported by Syria and France cannot contain any teeth at all.

The United Nations is so hypocritical that it is actually funny. The European countries, France, Germany and Russia in particular, demanded and got a more specific timeline for Iraqi independence before they would come on board at the last minute.

I find this particularly humorous because the war in Bosnia, fought by the United States and then turned over to the same Europeans some four years ago, shows no sign of a timetable for turning over the control of Serbia to the Serbs.

Apparently, the Europeans demanded and got a December promise from the United States, for a turnover of less than a year, while the Europeans have not even discussed a timetable four years after the Bosnian war was over.

The European nations, or at least the "Old Europe" under the leadership (?) of France, is simply nettling – and likely to diminish. Europe is in the throes of a serious transition. The Socialists lost a lot of power when the voters turned right in 2002 and 2003, and even the vaunted British Labor Party,

home for decades of the “Looney Left” is actually pretty conservative.

More importantly, Britain has decided to challenge France for the leadership of Europe. Europe was marching unfettered down the road to a Socialist Utopia when the wheels started to come off. Europe may still limp to the finish line, but I would bet against it. There are too many problems cropping up...like the Swiss voting to refuse to join the Euro currency, and the Queen questioning whether the new European Constitution calls for all countries, including Britain, to subsume their sovereignty to a European Court. (Yes, it does.)

The Brits have gone a bit wobbly lately, but such swoons are not uncommon among nations. A Britain looking at the prospect of following a French lead is a Britain nearing revolt or at least a rapid recovery from its swoon.

It is the Labor Party of Britain that is questioning the taxing proposals of the European Union, declaring that the confiscatory rates would drive capital to the United States, Hong Kong, or even Switzerland – if you can picture Switzerland being called a “lower tax state.”

So, despite the seeming resistance of European powers to the dominance of the United States, Europe is actually a fading economic power, was never a military power, and is in a chaotic state. About the only thing that unites France, Germany and Russia is their opposition to a dominant United States – and their votes in the Security Council are the only weaponry they have.

So long as we continue to seek Security Council approval, we give France, Germany and Russia an opportunity put a thumb in our eye. We should stop being their punching bag, and that will turn them on themselves in an intramural squabble.

Go for it! Nuclear-tipped Iranian missiles are a threat to Europe, not to us. We should back off until Europe pleads...in the Security Council.

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