

The Stratford News

The Real News of Stratford Presented Impartially

Paradise Green
Lordship
Oronoque
Avon Park
Hollister Heights

Baruch Captures Stratford, Pats Ike, Wallops Harry, Blasts Lack Of Courage In Government

Elder statesman Bernard Baruch sat on a green and orange park bench in the clubhouse of the Raymond T. Goldbach Post VFW on Wednesday evening, and for over an hour answered the questions of more than 150 members of the post and its auxiliary.

The program was sponsored by the Ladies' auxiliary of the post. The co-chairmen were Mrs. Edwin Lawrence and Mrs. Barbara Thomas.

Mr. Baruch came to Stratford as a result of a letter Mrs. Lawrence sent him about a year ago. She pointed out in the letter that people here were "confused," and would appreciate Mr. Baruch's help in clearing up this "confusion." He picked the letter from thousands of others asking him to speak.

Mr. Baruch arrived at the VFW clubhouse about an hour prior to the question and answer session, and took a nap in a room fixed for him by the VFW auxiliary.

The event was covered by International News Service, United Press, and the National Broadcasting System for "Tex and Jinx, as well as by the local press.

The questions were submitted to Mr. Baruch in writing and read by Post Commander Perry Hyslop. The questions and answers follow:

Q. Is it still possible to avert another world war?

A. It is still possible, but it depends on us. It depends on our wisdom. To avert war, we must show a great deal more wisdom militarily, economically, and politically than we have shown. We can't avoid war unless we are strong enough. We must arm to

defend ourselves against aggression in the world today. But we must show more competence than we have shown. We must show more courage than we have shown. I do not think that we have militarily proceeded intelligently or quickly enough. I do not think that we have economically proceeded intelligently or quickly enough. If the person who asked that question is not satisfied with the answer, I would like him or her to pursue me to the bitter end. That goes for all questions.

Q. Do you think that General Eisenhower is the man to lead the nation as president at this time of crisis and confusion?

A. I'll stand up to answer that one. . . I have yet in my life to make a political statement. And I don't want to start now. This reminds me of a story about the farmer who went to a seafood supper for the first time, and the first course was clam broth. He took one sip of the clam broth, which was steaming and highly seasoned. He immediately turned away and spit out the whole mouthful. Then he turned to his companion and said: "Many a damn fool would have tried to swallow that." . . . Let me say this, however: I have the highest opinion of General Eisenhower as

a soldier, as a great citizen, as a great civilian, as a great educator, and as a man devoted to the best interests of the people. I can't say more, and I wouldn't want to say less. I would not want to say now that one man is better than the other for the great office of the presidency.

Q. How are we going to pay off the national debt?

A. There is only one way: the receipts have to be more than the expenses. Do you people realize that there are some things in this country that are as dead as a dodo: the five cent cigar, the five cent beer . . . I noticed the bar next door . . . I just read the other day where the subway fare in New York will be fifteen cents. Imagine that! Fifteen cents to ride on the subway! These things I mention are as dead as a dodo because of the ineptitude, and lack of courage and understanding of the United States government. The government lacks intelligence, competence, and courage.

Q. Are the unions getting so strong as to endanger the safety of the country?

A. Let me clarify that I have always supported the just demands of unions, and that at the start of the union movement, I was one of its main backers . . . I was one of the few advisors of President Roosevelt who opposed his plan for conscription . . . Now, however, I think, I believe, I know that they (the unions) are demanding in the crisis more than they should.

Q. If true deliberations in Korea fail, would you deem it feasible to use the atomic bomb?

A. Since we possess the bomb, it is feasible . . . That probably is not what the questioner meant . . . Let me say this: there are a good many ifs in the use of the bomb. We do not know what its use would bring (in retaliation). However, if we do not take military action of a more definitive nature, the worse off we are going to be.

Q. Do you feel that the tactics of Senator McCarthy are good or bad for our country?

A. Do you want me to tell the story about the clam broth again? . . . Broadly speaking about McCarthy, however, I myself have often been the subject of criticism. Something that should be remembered by all is this: if you always do what you feel is right, everything will come out all right. We should not shut off criticism by saying that it is smear tactics.

Q. What is needed to stop inflation?

A. We need wisdom, competence and courage in the government, and it is silly to talk about voluntary effort. We have the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount, yet many people would not obey them if there were not civil laws to back them up. We and the government know the answers to stop inflation. They know them from way back. But they haven't got the courage to use them.

Q. What can we people do about this situation?

"What About Ike?"



"I'll stand for that one," Bernard Baruch said. And up he rose from the park bench provided for him by the VFW Ladies' Auxiliary at the question and answer session at the Barnum avenue cutoff clubhouse on Wednesday evening.

Photo by Hjerpe

A. Remember it when you go to the polls on election day. There is not one person in this room who has not been affected by the incompetence and procrastination of the government (in this matter). Don't let anybody think that he's a zero. This is your country and mine. It is worthwhile preserving and worth fighting for. The boys are fighting for it in Korea. Let's do our part at home: let's let our representatives and senators know that you hold them responsible for this inflation, for this situation.

Q. Do you think a president should serve more than two terms?

A. No . . . I know some that shouldn't have served one.

Q. Do you think that the disarmament program of Acheson and President Truman will bring peace?

A. I hope so, but I don't think it will: We're spread out all over the world and are in a state of semi-weakness . . . I read a story by Jim Lucas in the World Telegram last night where Air Force General Hoyt Vandenberg said that our planes in Korea are outdated. This is a terrible situation. Why are they outdated? They are outdated and the boys don't have

the proper military equipment there because of the incompetence and procrastination of the government. You should ask your senators and representatives "How come?"

Q. What is your opinion of the United World Federalists and the world government movement?

A. World government would be good if we could make it work. However the nations could not even agree on the atomic bomb at a time when we thought we were the only ones who had the bomb. If world government were possible, it would be fine.

Q. For the long range good, should the government be under military or civilian control?

A. Civilian.

Q. Is General Eisenhower a Democrat or a Republican?

A. I don't know. I do know that he is a first class man.

Q. Is our government drifting into socialism and away from the principles of our forefathers?

A. Yes.

Q. Is this bad?

A. Yes.

Q. How can we stop it?

A. Socialism comes when too many people lean on the government and there is not enough of individual enterprise. That is

what happened in England. England is a great country and the English are a great people. But too many people leaned on the government. We should fight with all our being against centralization of power and we should fight for the giving of more power to local government.

Q. Should we loan Britain the money Mr. Churchill is going to ask for?

A. That all depends on how much he is going to ask for . . . In all of the years I have known Mr. Churchill, and that has been about 36 years, I have never heard him make an ignoble proposition. England is in a desperate condition. One example is the fact that the country has plenty of coal, but no one to mine it. It is a case of the expression "coals to Newcastle" coming true. Britain is very important to the United States. I feel that Mr. Churchill's voice is the one in the world that will be heeded more than any other. Together with General Eisenhower, he is the man who can do more to inspire the growth of the army in Europe than any one else.

Q. Do you think it is necessary to maintain a large army in Europe?

A. Yes, or we would never be strong enough to talk terms.

Q. Do you think we'll ever be able to get Stalin to sit down with the Big Three?

A. I think Mr. Stalin is willing enough (to do so).

Q. Do you think that there will be an income tax reduction within the next two years?

A. I don't think there should be, but anything is possible if politics. In 1946, we were the strongest nation in history. Reduction of taxes was one of the causes of weakening us and bringing us to the state we are in today.

Q. Do you have definite proposals of peace with the Russians?

A. Yes, I do have definite ideas. But I do not think it would be proper for a private citizen to promulgate these views. That is the job of the president and the government.

Bernard Baruch Visits Stratford

Baruch: Youth's Okay Sunday Herald

Sunday, November 18, 1951

Normally, I'm not the real serious type and world affairs have always taken a back seat to current school studies and the fate of the Stratford High football team.

Thus, it was with unconcerned emotions that I received an assignment from our Hi Life editor to "get an interview from Bernard M. Baruch during his visit to Stratford."

DAD EXPLAINS

In the first place, I'll admit that I didn't fully realize just how important Mr. Baruch really was in U.S. and world events.

My dad straightened me out on that one in a flash. When he got through explaining Mr. Baruch's position, I felt butterflies in my tummy as the full realization of the importance of this interview penetrated my teen-age head.

What a thrill when I watched the Veteran of Foreign War Auxiliary escort Mr. Baruch to a park bench imported the occasion.

I soon learned that a park bench was associated with the distinguished visitor much in the same manner that bobbysox are with high school girls.

During the formal question and answer period that followed, Mr. Baruch answered all queries with an ease and informality that made it difficult to keep in mind just how famous a man he was and what an authority on world affairs.

Made it easy, that is, for all in the hall except your reporter who couldn't forget that after his talk I had to "get an interview."

During the question period, I was even further excited and,

if possible, a bit more nervous about the coming meeting when, in answer to a remark about Winston Churchill, Mr. Baruch explained how personal a friend he was of Mr. Churchill for the past 35 years!

BARNIE, WINNIE AND BETTY

That did it! I certainly realized now what an assignment I had.

Imagine, Baruch, Churchill and Betty Angeski from Stratford!

The big moment finally came.

Mr. Baruch was escorted to a room off the main floor and I made my way to "get my interview."

Just ahead of me, a most important-looking adult newspaperman approached my target and asked something about Gen. Eisenhower.

In an authoritative tone, Mr. Baruch informed him, "You were told that I am not saying anything."

My heart dropped, because surely that included me.

I edged over to the great man and, I suspect, my nervousness must have been apparent when I requested the "answers to my few questions."

INVITATION ACCEPTED

When a relief when the distinguished gentleman broke out in a broad smile and invited me sit alongside him!

Remember, I'm the one that was supposed to ask the questions, but soon discovered that I was answering more than I could ask.

He seemed most interested in what they were teaching in our high school.

In answer to my question concerning his opinion of the youth of today, Mr. Baruch replied, "Nothing's the matter

with them."

"They have had some mighty poor examples to follow, but they'll come through when needed. The youth of today is all right."

Next I asked what he thought we, the youth of today, could do to improve world conditions.

He replied, "The most important thing is to learn to think."

"Schools today aren't teaching as they used to and what they should."

"Much of what you are learning today isn't as useful as what I was taught in my school days."

"The young people fighting in Korea, though, are doing as good a job at their forefathers had ever done in their wars."

At this point, Mr. Baruch again returned to the subject of thinking, and stressed even further the point of learning to think.

"Taught to think - that's the whole thing."

When asked if he thought that a boy of 18 who is considered old enough to fight shouldn't be allowed to vote, the elderly statesman answered with a "No." That's just like saying a man who can run fast is better than another man."

There were ever so many other things I had to ask but I had already taken more than 20 minutes of his time and had perhaps been responsible for delaying his departure.

All of which is a nice way of saying that the lump in my throat wouldn't allow me to ask any more questions.

That's the story of Mr. Bernard Baruch, one of the greatest Americans to ever live, and Betty Angeski, a Stratford High student.



BETTY ANGESKI of Hi Life authors today's biggest scoop - an exclusive interview with Bernard Baruch.

"Schools today aren't teaching as they used to and what they should."



ELDER STATESMAN Bernard Baruch enriches the atmosphere of Stratford with his presence at a meeting of the Ray Goldbach VFW auxiliary post after the ladies on a chance invited him up for a chat. L-R: Mrs. Edmund Lawrence, Mr. Baruch and Mrs. John Allen, auxiliary president.