

# opinions

## Joseph Kraft

### The Pathos Of Europe

BRUSSELS

"THE PATHOS OF EUROPE," a senior American official exclaimed at the year-end meeting of the North Atlantic allies began here in Brussels. That tragic, almost twilight note does indeed express the tone of relations between the United States and its leading European friends.

For there is now an opportunity to move from the backbiting of doctrinal debate to co-operation in solving the acute mutual problem of energy. But the odds are that the opportunity will be missed, and maybe missed forever, because of political weakness here and in Washington.

The opportunity is very clear. For the past dozen years the baleful spirit of Gen. De Gaulle has imposed upon transatlantic relations an invidious polemic. That ugly spirit has animated all recent disputes about nuclear weapons, sharing the burden of defense costs, fair trading terms and monetary reform.

These petty disputes thrived in the past decade as a luxury afforded by the absence of truly grave problems. But now the Europeans and North Americans are both burdened by the energy shortage.

THE PROBLEM IS PARTICULARLY grave here because the Europeans are so dependent upon Arab oil. The Dutch, who have made no secret of their sympathy for Israel, have been cut off from Arab shipments altogether. The West Germans, heavily dependent on the great refinery at Rotterdam for gasoline, are on the brink of economic disaster. Even here in Belgium, and in such relatively favored countries as Britain and France, the lights are going out, there are restrictions on driving and unemployment is beginning to show.

Mutual effort by the Atlantic countries could plainly ease these burdens enormously. If nothing else, a pooling of research efforts could considerably speed the day when Europeans and Americans could bring into play new sources of energy such as gasified coal or shale or nuclear power. In arguing with the Arabs even now, moreover, a joint stand by the consumer countries would be far more effective than the individual rush to surrender which at present characterizes the Europeans—in particular the British and the French.

But two maladies poison the possibilities. The Europeans, under the spell of French leadership and Gaullist doctrine, still have a thing about the United States as a malevolent superpower. During the last war in the Middle East, the French and British especially, and the Germans to a lesser extent, put obstacles in the way of helping the United States offset what looked like a big Soviet grab for power in the eastern Mediterranean. They also chose to divorce themselves from the United States on energy, the better to appeal to the Arab oil-producers.

ON THE AMERICAN SIDE, there is a sharp division of aims of a highly personal nature. Secretary of the Treasury George Shultz, who wants to maintain currency exchange rates which are so favorable to American exports, has been currying favor with the leading European finance ministers. Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger has been encouraging the Europeans to get on with the job of organizing a more conventional force.

And Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has a personal stake in wringing from the Europeans the declarations of Atlantic principles which he called for in his April speech proposing a new Atlantic Charter. He also committed his full prestige to a settlement in the Middle East.

Now he is lashing out privately and publicly at European reluctance to help him in the Middle East and to be forthcoming with a ringing declaration of principles. He was so furious when Prime Minister Edward Heath of Britain rebuffed some of his criticisms in a mild and indirect way that he almost called off a major speech scheduled for London this Wednesday.

All this petty bickering could now be subordinated to the larger challenge of the energy crisis. My strong impression is that the European public, like the American public, would respond vigorously to a call for generous sacrifice. Dr. Kissinger, with his vast reputation, might well mobilize the European public to push their governments to less ignoble positions. But so far there has been no sign from Dr. Kissinger of such a large purpose. Which is why the spirit here in Europe is so melancholy.

## Tom Wicker

### Nixon And Ford

NEW YORK

THE CONFIRMATION OF GERALD FORD as Vice President of the United States was the last necessary step to make possible the removal of Richard Nixon from the presidency. Whether or not that removal now takes place, it has become at least a live and "thinkable" possibility.

Gerald Ford, above all, is a conservative Republican, whose accession to the presidency could not do violence to the voters' overwhelming mandate of 1972. He is, moreover, generally considered—and investigation has confirmed that he is—an honest, reputable, decent man renowned for precisely the kind of political civility and institutional deference most needed to redeem the Nixonian depredations on government legitimacy. For both reasons, Ford, as President, would be considerably more of an asset to his party and to its 1974 candidates—particularly its incumbents—than a tarnished Richard Nixon ever again can be.

With Ford officially designated as the constitutional successor, Republican pressures on Nixon to clear himself and his presidency surely will become more severe. It is not hard to imagine a committee of, say, Barry Goldwater, Hugh Scott, John J. Rhodes, John Tower and other impeccable Republicans calling on Nixon after Christmas to tell him that it is time he either cleared himself or stood aside for Ford—in the interests of nation as well as party.

THE FACT MAY WELL BE, however, that if Nixon could clear himself by any voluntary action or out of his own resources, he probably would have done so long ago. And there is nothing in his record, or what is known of his temperament, or what has been seen of his recent demeanor, to suggest that he is in a mood to sacrifice himself for country and party—Ford or no Ford.

But as an election year wears on, as Republican candidates perceive themselves to be endangered by Mr. Nixon's presence at the head of their party, as the trials of Mitchell, Ehrlichman, Stans, Krogh and others presumably keep the whole complex of Watergate matters in the headlines, Republican pressures on Nixon are likely to increase rather than diminish—especially with good old Jerry Ford there as an ever more attractive alternative.

WHETHER OR NOT THOSE Republican pressures would lead to an impeachment no doubt depends a great deal on events; but it seems clear that the presence of Ford as an acceptable Republican alternative is vitally necessary to any conceivable impeachment. As a practical political matter, in a Democratic Congress there probably could not be an impeachment of a Republican landslide winner unless the impeachment movement were spearheaded by Republicans. That is why Ford's confirmation is a political event of historic dimensions.

Another possibility flowing from it is that Nixon might now seek to arrange something like an "Agnew deal" with the new Vice President. He could arrange to step down, that is, in return for certain assurance from President-to-be Ford that indictments or other legal actions would not be pursued in the case of a private citizen named Richard Nixon.

More likely, the confirmation of Ford will provide only one more reason why Republicans themselves may move forcefully to oust Nixon from the White House by resignation or impeachment.

# Old Friends At St. Patrick's Last Mass

By CHARLENE PROST  
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff  
It was a consoling, fitting tribute for those who recalled the days when St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 1207 North Sixth Street, was the "cradle of the Irish" and a headquarters for the Rev. Timothy Dempsey's charity operations.

"Now, we didn't come here to make an Irish wake out of this last hurrah, or this last Mass," the Rev. Msgr. James P. Johnston told hundreds attending a final Mass there yesterday. The church, rectory and convent building are to be razed because they are deteriorating.

"What we should do is remember the glories of this beautiful shamrock of the city of St. Louis," said Msgr. Johnston, who was celebrating the Mass. "She has done her work well."

Msgr. Johnston, a robust, white-haired Irishman, is 76 years old. He was pastor of St. Patrick's from 1936 to 1949. He was named manager of the Father Dempsey Charities after Father Dempsey, pastor at St. Patrick's for 37 years, died in 1938.

The monsignor currently manages the Father Dempsey Hotel, 3427 Washington Boulevard. In addition, he manages a day nursery, a rehabilitation shop and two rummage stores connected with the foundation.

There were some at St. Patrick's yesterday who talked of trying to save the 128-year-old structure where, during the Depression years, thousands stood in soup lines every day.

"I just can't see demolishing



LAST RITES AT ST. PATRICK'S: Parishioners and friends of St. Patrick's Catholic Church attending the final Mass yesterday at the old church at 1207 North Sixth Street. (Post-Dispatch Photo)

this church. It's such a landmark. To me, it's almost like seeing part of my heart go," said Sam R. Gentile, a former parishioner who was taking pictures of the church yesterday before the start of the Mass.

Gentile, of 8415 Halls Ferry Road, said that although he had been reared in the neighborhood, he had not attended Mass there for years.

"I haven't been inside this church since 1947," Gentile said.

"But I wasn't about to miss this today... And I'd be the first to sign a petition, if someone wanted to start one to save the church."

A former police officer who walked a beat in the neighborhood when Msgr. Johnston was pastor returned to pay his respects.

"It's almost like losing a good friend," said the former officer, James Van Courtren. Today, he manages the Westborough

Country Club in Webster Groves.

"I remember the soup lines... and the late Mass that we used to call the bartender's Mass..."

"I hate to see the church go," he continued, "but modern times exist, and I guess we have to live with it."

Leo Berger, market master for 32 years at St. Louis Produce Row, was holding the door and greeting those who crowded into the small church, which was refurbished by volunteers with donated materials in the late 1930s.

It was then that the dingy, brick edifice of former years was changed, giving the exterior of the church its Spanish mission appearance.

"I can remember when the Italians, the Irish and the others who worked those long hours at Produce Row used to come up here for Mass early in the morning," Berger said.

"The church was close and convenient. And back then, people could support their churches. Today," he said, "there are so many churches in the area. I guess the people can't support all of them anymore."

The Rev. Donald L. Neuner, pastor of St. Patrick's, will continue as administrator for parishioners of St. Patrick's. Msgr. Johnston said although the church would be razed, the parish would continue with daily mass in a school building completed in 1955 to accommodate children from the nearby Cochran Apartments.

## Guitarist Leo Kottke Performs At Concert

By DICK RICHMOND  
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

At times at the Leo Kottke concert at Kiel Opera House Saturday night, the crowd was so still that it was difficult to believe there were 2700 persons in the audience. The guitarist kept them spellbound with his mastery of the instrument.

What made it even more impressive was that he had to follow two excellent warm-up acts in B. W. Stevenson and Jesse Colin Young. The music of both was enough in variety, competence and duration for any one concert.

The bushy-headed Stevenson, who looks like a buffalo hunter who could skin one of the beasts with his bare hands, recently had a hit with a song called "My Maria." On the song, he does some Aphine vocals, starting high and getting higher. But for the most part, what he and his band played

were original country-rock songs that would be as well received on college campuses as on the hayseed circuit.

Young, for years the leader of the rock group Youngbloods, is now playing jazz-rock and jazz of his own variety with his new quintet. He leads the group on guitar and vocals. The band,

however, is a tight little unit of horns, drums, keyboard and bass, all of which sojourn in the spotlight on a number such as "A Song for Julie." That song, which is from Young's current album, is beautiful, and it was only one of many of that type he played during the show.

After two hours of this kind of

low-key, up-high music, Kottke and guitar came on stage. Kottke does not look as if he belongs on the current concert circuit. He is an anachronism because he looks scrubbed, is clean-shaven, wears his hair short and dresses like a college boy out of the middle 1950s. None of this, however, seems to have affected his music one bit. It is a contemporary as that played by the other two acts.

Kottke has created some complex musical melodies with titles such as "Eggooth," "Busted Bicycle" and "Eight Miles High." Not all of them are finger-burners—he slows the pace for most of his vocals—but after an hour and a half, a listener could reasonably expect him to have aching hands. He didn't.

In truth, he was just getting warmed up and probably would have accommodated the cheering audience with more than two encores if he had not been ill.

## Donald J. Meyer Funeral

A private funeral and burial will be Wednesday for Donald J. Meyer, who was active in city and state Democratic political circles for years. Mr. Meyer, 61 years old, died Saturday in his home at 476 North Kingshighway, apparently of a heart attack.

Mr. Meyer, a lawyer, ran unsuccessfully for president of the St. Louis Board of Aldermen in 1947 and for United States Representative in 1952. He was ap-

pointed an assistant circuit attorney in 1941, but resigned a year later to join the Navy.

In 1949, he was appointed by Mayor Joseph M. Darst as assistant city counselor. In 1960, he was Missouri chairman of the Citizens for Kennedy and Johnson.

Mr. Meyer was divorced. He is survived by two sons, Donald J. Jr. and William E., and a daughter, Miss Marie C. Meyer, all of Long Island, N.Y., and a brother, Roderick M., St. Louis.



RECONCILED: Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor at the Los Angeles International Airport where they boarded a plane for Europe. They are now in Naples, for a holiday to celebrate their reconciliation. "We are back together again, and that must be good," Miss Taylor said. Burton is making a picture in Naples. (AP Wirephoto)

## Stern In Benefit For Israel

By LARRY KATZENSTEIN

Isaac Stern, who performed Brahms and Mozart at three St. Louis Symphony subscription concerts over the weekend, played concertos of Mendelssohn and Vivaldi last evening at a special benefit concert for the Israel Emergency Fund. Stern contributed his services for the Powell Hall event, as did conductor Walter Susskind and members of the St. Louis Symphony.

The concert drew a standing-room-only audience of more than 2700 persons and raised more than \$30,000 for the fund, a spokesman said.

In a way, the choice of Mendelssohn's violin concerto was almost obligatory. No other composer of Jewish ancestry has written a better-loved concerto for violin.

Stern must have played this

concerto hundreds of times in his long career. What can one possibly say, except that it was vintage Stern?—supremely confident, warmly lyrical playing. This is perhaps the kind of music Stern plays best, the nineteenth-century romantic literature on which he can lavish in full measure that sumptuous, silken tone that he produces with such apparent ease.

Stern was joined in Vivaldi's concerto for two violins by Symphony executive Stanley Goodman. While Goodman's playing did not jeopardize Stern's violinistic pre-eminence, at least for the near future, Goodman is a skilled amateur, and he played musically and with understanding. It was a more than merely creditable performance.

Included in the program were a Purcell chaconne and Beethoven's Egmont Overture.

## Dr. John C. Versnel Memorial Mass

A memorial Mass for Dr. John C. Versnel, an oral surgeon who was on the staffs of three St. Louis hospitals, was celebrated today in Immacolata Catholic Church, 8900 Clayton Road, Richmond Heights.

Dr. Versnel, of 760 Kent Road, Ladue, died Friday in St. Mary's Health Center after a heart attack. He was 51 years old. He was on the staffs of Deaconess, St. Mary's and St. Joseph hospitals, and was an organizer of Wings of Hope, a project created in 1967 to aid missions in South America.

Surviving are his wife, Julia Ann; two sons, John C. III and Peter; four daughters, Mrs. Julian H. Hoy, Mary Elizabeth, Katherine Ann and Cornelia Versnel, all of Ladue, and his mother, Mrs. Leonore Kelly Versnel, Dallas.

## Tennessee Williams Given Church Medal

NEW YORK, Dec. 10 (AP)—Tennessee Williams has been awarded the first centennial medal of the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine as "the foremost dramatist of our day."

Readings from the playwright's poetry and prose were incorporated into an evening song service Sunday at the Episcopal cathedral in upper Manhattan.

After receiving the medal, Williams, a former St. Louisan, promised that it "would not fall into inappropriate hands or get lost in my rather gypsylike life."

## 'Martha Deane' Dies

NEW YORK, Dec. 10 (UPI)—Marion Young Taylor, who interviewed Dwight D. Eisenhower, Eleanor Roosevelt and 8000 other persons in her 30 years as host of the "Martha Deane" interview show on WOR radio, died yesterday after a long illness. She was 66 years old.

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