



Blaðaúrklippur.

Bjarni Benediktsson – Stjórnámál – Utanríkisráðherra – Utanríkismál – Blaðagrein – The New York Times – NATO - 1953

Tekið af vef Borgarskjalasafnsins

bjarnibenediktsson.is

Einkaskjalasafn nr. 360

Stjórnámálamaðurinn

Askja 2-12, Örk 4

©Borgarskjalasafn Reykjavíkur

h, both foreign and domestic dump-
r- ing), a similar set-up for rice, a
is provision for raising the price peg
id under "manufacturing milk," and
by one for freezing the existing acre-
te age for cotton.

Not only has the conference ver-
on sion of a farm bill become increas-
re ingly objectionable from the stand-
is point of the Administration with
et each passing day; its deterioration
of has begun to raise questions as to
ot whether it can command the sup-
de port even of the Senate. Meanwhile,
ve another question that had begun to
ch be asked a week ago seems to have
i- been answered. The question was:
R "What is the conference committee
ne trying to do—is it trying to pro-
cm crastinate so long that it will be too
Mr late to derive any benefit from
s- whatever farm measure should be
ion ct passed by the two houses, or is it
pti a- trying to confront the President
vir h- with a bill it knows he cannot pos-
ld s- sibly sign with a clear conscience?"
of At this point one might be forgiven
of for concluding that the answer is:
of "Both."

ICELAND AND NATO

The Parliament of Iceland has
voted by a majority of 38 to 18 a
self-contradictory resolution which
has caused concern throughout the
Atlantic community. The resolution
reaffirms the country's adherence to
the North Atlantic alliance, of which
it is a founder-member. But it also
calls for the withdrawal of the
American defense forces, the only
defense forces on the island, and for
the transfer of the American-built
bases to the care and protection of
the Icelanders, who are specifically
barred from military activity.

If carried out, this resolution
would leave Iceland, which sought
American protection from the Nazis
during the war and is now a vital
air and naval base and an essential
radar warning post against a trans-
Arctic air attack, without any de-
fense whatsoever. It would thus be
open to a surprise seizure that would
expose the whole Atlantic world to
danger. For that reason there is
good hope that the resolution will
not be put into effect.

This hope is based on the assump-
tion that the good sense of the Ice-
landers will reassert itself. Adoption
of the resolution seems to be pri-
marily an election maneuver of the
Farmer-Progressive party. But the
issue looms so large that the elec-
tion, scheduled for June 24, becomes
in effect a plebiscite on whether or
not Iceland shall be defended. On
that issue the most outspoken opo-
nents of any defense, the Commu-
nists, lost 19 per cent of their
vote in the election of 1953, com-
pared with 1949.

There is no blinking the fact, how-
ever, that for the present the action
of the Icelandic Parliament is at
least a psychological blow to the
North Atlantic alliance. It is also
a violation of the obligations Iceland
assumed to "maintain and develop
its individual and collective capacity
to resist armed attack by means of

Both
A
MS
K
31, 1956