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SNIPING AT THE PRESS

By CHARLES V. STANTON

We wish all News-Review readers could have listened in on the convention of Oregon newspaper publishers at Gearhart last Friday and Saturday.

For nearly 20 years the American public has been hearing criticism of the press from high placed political leadership. The press has been branded as the "tool of Wall Street." It has been charged that American newspapers are distorting and coloring the information given its readers. The public is told that the press is interested only in profits and not in service. Propagandists have shed copious tears because so many newspapers have suspended publication, reducing competitive situations and leading to so-called "monopoly."

We would be naive indeed if we believed that this prolonged propaganda effort has not had its effect upon the minds of some people. Evidence indicates, however, that despite constant sniping at the press, prestige of the newspaper has improved rather than deteriorated.

If the public could listen in on a meeting of publishers and editors, readers would have ample proof that much of the criticism voiced by political leaders and their hatchet men is unfounded. Not that the press is perfect nor that room is lacking for improvement. But attendance at a newspapermen's convention would quickly cause the neutral observer to realize that publishers and editors are working industriously to correct mistakes, improve service and preserve freedom, initiative and competition.

At last week's convention of Oregon publishers, for instance, there was little talk about profits or business. Instead we heard speakers urging greater effort in presentation of unbiased, uncolored news; a deeper search for truth, rather than acceptance of "handouts"; a strong and aggressive editorial program. We heard an analysis of the continuing effort to handcuff the press, to make it subservient to political domination, destroying its effectiveness as a bulwark against dictatorship and totalitarianism. We heard Justice Rossman of the Oregon Supreme court tell how power to make laws is being increasingly transferred from the legislative department of government to the bureaucratic edifice of the executive department. We heard much serious discussion on the importance of keeping level heads in these days of emotional impact.

No Monopoly Of Opinion

Reference was made by speakers to recent surveys into the field of newspaper "monopoly." These surveys show that many newspapers have been forced to suspend publication because of increasing economic pressure—the squeeze between mounting labor and material costs and the point of diminishing returns on advertising and circulation charges.

We haven't investigated the truth of this statement, but we were told that Salem, Oregon, is the only city of less than 100,000 population still having two competing daily newspapers. Certainly if Salem isn't exclusive in this situation, it is at least one of very few.

But independent surveys report that analysis of newspapers in non-competitive fields show that those papers are, in most details, better newspapers than those having competition; that they work harder to keep out competition than they do when fighting competition. They try to give their readers such a good newspaper that prospective competition is discouraged from trying to break the existing newspaper's hold. To do this the press must prevent any monopoly of opinion. While newspapers succeed in preserving divergent opinions and objective or unbiased news coverage, the so-called monopoly benefits the reader, surveys indicate.

At last week's convention we served on a committee with two of Oregon's best known editors. One supports the "liberal" point of view. The other has been strongly identified with the rock-ribbed Republican tenets. These two editors are widely separated in their opinions. Their opinions are equally available to the reading public. Both publish newspapers in which the news content is presented objectively, uninfluenced by editorial opinion. Each is honest, sincere and extremely conscious of editorial responsibility.

There can be no such thing as newspaper monopoly while the press is served by men keenly aware of the need to keep the public fully and accurately informed and who offer with sincerity the differences of opinion that naturally exist.

Editorial Comment

From The Oregon Press

By BILL JENKINS
Klamath Herald & News

A highly important meeting of certain officials will be held some day this week or next at an undesignated spot according to a source which was not revealed. Among matters to be taken under discussion will be tax measures, a change in the standard of living, revision of city and county ordinances and sweeping changes in the school system. Results of the meeting will be published at the discretion of the group. The move follows on the heels of a congressional meeting held several days ago at which the entire economic and social structure of the United States was changed. Results and findings of this meeting have been declared "top secret" by several unidentified legislators and will not be released for public consumption.

If you saw a story like that in a newspaper you'd probably get pretty hot under the collar. The first thing you'd do would be to phone the paper and try to find out just what the story was about, how it was going to affect you and how much it would cost you. If you heard it over the radio you would be left in a hell of a quandary as to just what the announcer was talking about. But most of all you would be worried.

Of course you haven't seen any stories like that—yet. But you will in the near future if you—Mr. and Mrs. America—don't wake up to what is going on around you and do something about it. We are

"And To Think That We Invented Gunpowder"



In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

(Continued from Page 1)

up by a boat that came to the island for that purpose."

But, the dispatch adds, 18 other Japanese sailors and soldiers, with a single machine gun, REMAIN on the island, unconvinced that the war is over and still determined to sell their lives dearly.

They have been there ever since June 12, 1944, when American dive bombers sank three Jap ships in the island's harbor, thus marooning them.

What has been wrong with these Japanese all these years? This seems to be about it: THEY'VE JUST KNOWN SO DAMNED MANY THINGS THAT AREN'T SO.

Here's the odd part of the story: THEY WEREN'T FORGOTTEN. Their plight became known in Japan. Their relatives started writing to them, getting the letters to the island by any hook or crook they could think of. The letters related that the war is over and it's time to call it a day and come home.

No soap. These Japs on the island at Ananah were just too smart to be caught by any such cock-and-bull story as that. They knew what was what. It was all just a scheme on the part of the wicked enemy to lull them and get them out of their island fortress and make prisoners of war of them. In their minds, they conjured up all the terrors of a POW camp, and said to themselves, NOPE, we're gonna fight it out to the bitter end.

So they've stayed on the island. We aren't so smart, either.



"Don't Underestimate the Power of a Woman" is the title of a little pamphlet which is available for twenty cents, a 32-page story that is inspiring reading, written by Dallas Johnson and Elizabeth Bass Golding. (National Women's Forum Inc., 266 Fulton Ave., Hempstead, New York)

"Frictions are like bumps in the road. They jar the passengers and delay progress. . . the best way to reach common objectives over a road you are going to travel again and again is to get rid of obstructions. . . The women's groups (there are 348 of them in Nassau county!) decided to clear away the bumps of inter-group misunderstandings.

"They openly recognized that there are social, religious, and cultural differences; they tried to define them and understand them, and to eliminate them as problems. The blue-print used in Nassau county could easily be adopted in other counties." In Nassau county it's the WFC, Women's Forum of Nassau County in Worcester county it's the WFC, etc.

The center page of the 32-page story is an alphabetical list in fine print of the sponsoring organizations: AAO, BFWC, B'nai B'rith, various community clubs, public libraries, church organizations, Jewish Catholic and Protestant groups, Cassar, Cornell Etc., WCTU, various women's clubs, medical societies, League of Women voters, a long list of parent-teacher groups, and the YPTA, Zonta. . . all working together for a common goal through representation in a women's forum. There is a story of what happened after the Long Island train wreck. One chairman had attended thirteen funerals that day. No wonder the WFC meeting that day accomplished much!

Communities under consideration as new critical defense areas, the committee said, include: Washington—Bremerton, Ephrata, Kennewick, Pasco, Othello, Richland, Oregon—Astoria, Idaho—Argo, Blackfoot, Idaho Falls.

The first real tree surgeons were foresters appointed by the Romans to care for and protect their trees.

for seven long years, during six of which the war has been over.

That's what comes of knowing so many things that aren't true. We laugh scornfully.

We say HO! HO! HO! Those sap Japs! They were so suspicious of EVERYBODY ANYBODY, so they stuck it out on their island, squatting behind their machine gun and watching for enemies when all the time the war was over and they might just as well have been at home with their families and their friends.

Serves 'em right.

Wait a minute. Maybe these Japs aren't so unusual.

Here in the United States of America—which, according to our proud boast, is the most enlightened country on earth—WE KNOW A LOT OF THINGS THAT AREN'T SO.

If we're employers, we know that labor is out in our throats. If we're wage workers, we know the boss is scheming to rob us. If we're consumers, we're suspicious of the producer. Practically every mother's son of us is ready to bite every other mother's son in the leg at a moment's notice.

And yet— If we didn't know so much that isn't true—

We could be getting along with each other in relative peace and harmony and would all be a lot better off than we are now when we spend most of our time looking for a chance to bite the other guy in the leg.

We aren't so smart, either.

Fulton Lewis Jr. WASHINGTON REPORT

(Copyright, 1951, King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

AUSTIN, Texas — Senator Brien McMahon, Connecticut's upholstered gift to atomic confusion, isn't any smarter now than when he jumped in to help the Democrats try and make a chump out of Senator Joseph R. McCarthy.

This time McMahon thinks he has a dilly that will take the Democrats off the hook for backstopping President Truman's ouster of Gen. Douglas MacArthur. He proclaimed loudly the need for investigating the so-called China lobby. He never got taken up on anything so fast in his life.

Senator Styles Bridges, who likes to lean back and spear the Connecticut senator's burgeoning ego every now and then, said fine, but let's enlarge it to include the Communist Chinese lobby, along with a few others, including the multi-million dollar British lobby in the U.S. In addition Bridges pointed out that the Communist party, U.S.A. in 1949 demanded a congressional investigation of the China lobby.

From this moment on McMahon never opened his mouth. He was stung into silence so fast he didn't even have time to warn Secretary of State Dean Acheson, who had trotted off to confer with President Truman about permission for such an investigation.

The President, who can't tell a Communist from "good old Joe" Stalin, said anything Acheson wants is OK with him. When Acheson got back on the stand to report the good news to McMahon, Bridges was ready with one of the greatest jobs of political dissection since McCarthy peeled the hide off Senator William Benton in debate on the Tydings investigation of Reds in the department of State.

After taking on the China lobby, Bridges suggested the Senate look into the lobbying activities on behalf of all the anti-American countries in the U.S. He wants to check up on how the lobbyists for Communist countries get their pay, the ex-government officials, a rascal stepped into the lucrative jobs on quitting the government, and just how they help the Russian dominated countries influence American public opinion.

Acheson caught on. He got frostily flustered. He should. When Acheson was under-secretary of State, a law firm provided a \$50,000,000 loan for Communist Poland. The fee on something like this usually runs well over \$1,000,000, which comes out of the loan, naturally.

The State department had to approve the Polish loan before it could be granted. That made it easy for Acheson—he was right there handy in the department.

And it was approved, over the violent objections of Arthur Hays Sulzberger, then ambassador to Poland. Acheson asked for Lane's views regarding the loan. He must have expected concurrence, but got instead a blistering list of objections to why it should not be granted. At this affront Acheson promptly neglected to confer with Lane again, although Lane was in Poland and knew the Communists would use the \$50,000,000 to arm Communist military forces, which they promptly did.

Most of Acheson's pals have the same inside track today. Take Lauchlin Currie, former White House assistant who was accused by Elizabeth Bentley of passing state secrets to Communist cour-

Eccles To Quit Federal Reserve Board, Report

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Marri-ner S. Eccles, a storm center in the Roosevelt and Truman administrations, will resign from the Federal Reserve board this week, close friends said. These sources asked not to be named.

The 61-year-old millionaire banker, chairman of the board for 14 years before President Truman demoted him in 1948, was reported as definitely decided to quit "in a very few days" although his term on the board runs another seven years.

Eccles has long manifested his intentions of leaving after completion of a book of "public and personal recollections," on which he has been working for a year and a half. The book, "Beckoning Frontiers," is now on sale.

In it, Eccles climaxes with his version of his demotion a colorful story of his life and that of his father, a free-enterprising Mormon who came out of the slums of Glasgow to amass millions as a Utah pioneer.

For the demotion, Eccles blames the Giannini banking interests of California, saying these old foes got him dropped as chairman—in hope he would resign—by applying "great political pressure" upon President Truman.

Eccles also points an accusing finger at Secretary of the Treasury Snyder, close friend of President Truman, charging that Snyder gave covert aid to the Giannini in banking matters and implying he had a hand in promoting Eccles' demotion. Snyder's only comment was that Mr. Truman has a mind of his own.

FULFILLS TRADITION

OSHKOSH, Neb. — (AP) — It's true what they say about rabbits. A white New Zealand doe here produced 36 bunnies in four months. One litter had eight baby rabbits, the next 11, and the third 17.



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More Vets Come Back From War

SEATTLE — (AP) — Another big contingent of army combat veterans from Korea has returned home to the accompaniment of sirens, whistles, bands and welcoming cheers.

But best of all for many of the 1,300 enlisted men and 99 officers was the greeting by families, relatives and friends who crowded the pier at which the transport Pvt. Joe Martinez docked.

With orderly haste, the returning soldiers piled down gangplanks and climbed into trucks which took them through a "welcome lane" of townpeople in downtown Seattle to the Fort Lawton processing center.

After formalities of checking through the center, all the veterans will continue their homeward journey for 30-day leaves before reassignment.

The 1,488 returnees comprised the fifth group to debark here since the army's rotation program went into effect several weeks ago. Arrivals now total more than 8,500 officers and enlisted men, all of whom served six months or more in Korea.

A GRASS FIRE PUT OUT
A grass fire Sunday on the property of A. E. Gilley on Cedar street was extinguished, reports Fire Chief William E. Mills.

Two Man-Sized Salmon Give Fisherman Shaking

KETCHIKAN, Alaska — (AP) — A couple of man-sized salmon came close to shaking a couple of fishermen out of their 34-foot boat here.

Tony Perkowsky and Jerry Morrell, Alaska communications system employees, hooked the big ones at the same time. It was quite a tussle, but worth it.

Perkowsky's weighed in at 66 pounds 7 ounces to take top place in Ketchikan's king salmon derby by a 15-ounce margin. Morrell's was just a little fellow by derby standards — a 40-pounder.

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