

# The News-Review

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## NOISY DAYS

By CHARLES V. STANTON

We were reading recently in a trade magazine the story of the man who heard that a factory was interested in buying bullfrog skins. He wired the company he could supply any quantity up to 100,000 on demand. Needing the skins badly, the factory promptly wired back to send in the whole 100,000.

About 10 days later a single dried frog skin came through the mail with a rather pathetic letter: "Gents: I'm sorry about this, but here's all the frog skins there were."

"The noise sure fooled me,"

The American public, we believe, is being confused by "noise," as was the man in the story.

The croakings of impending disaster emanating from our radio speakers, the propaganda drumbeating by political parties, pressure groups, Communists and fellow travelers, scare talk from military departments wanting more money, bureaucrats seeking more control powers, and many others, certainly are conducive to general confusion.

While observing National Newspaper week, Oct. 1 to 8, it might be well to take a look at the stream of information furnished the American public.

### No People Better Informed

No people in the world have access to as much information and opinion as do Americans.

We read more than 55,000,000 newspapers every day. We have almost as many radio sets in the United States as are to be found in all the rest of the world combined. We lead in the number of motion picture theaters. We have more magazines carrying information and opinion. We lead in television. But we also have a tremendous amount of propaganda.

Given more information than any other people in the world, Americans have a greater responsibility to evaluate and analyze that information.

Obviously, when differences of opinion exist, one opinion is right and the other wrong. We also find much exaggeration and distortion in the things we hear and the things we see. It becomes a duty of every conscientious citizen, therefore, to attempt to sift out the truth in the information he receives. He must learn to distinguish propaganda from fact. He must recognize exaggerations and distortions as being used for a purpose.

Sensationalism in news and opinion is common. We find that some of our radio commentators, who, to retain sponsorship, must maintain a large listening audience, use the sensational or "scare" formula. They must compete with Spike Jones, Jack Benny, and Superman for their audience. Consequently they try to hold their listening public by dramatization and sensationalism. Not all commentators, of course, are to be so classified, but we have altogether too many of that type.

Nor is the press entirely free from the same condition. In fact, some of the worst offenders on radio also write newspaper opinion columns.

### Free Press Means Freedom

Yet, despite propaganda, exaggeration, distortion and other "pollution" in the stream of information, we should allow no controls or censorship over the mediums through which that information is disseminated for the most vital of our freedoms is freedom of speech.

Only by preserving the right of free speech can we maintain our freedom. A free people should accept the responsibility that accompanies their freedom. They should endeavor to learn the truth.

They are aided in this process by their newspaper, which has an advantage over other means of disseminating news in the fact that it is possible to more carefully study and analyze the things we read, whereas the things we hear and see are not subject to review.

We cannot deny that we find propaganda in our newspapers. When the President of the United States makes a speech, he fills that speech with political propaganda. It becomes the responsibility of the newspaper to print that speech exactly as it was delivered. The same is true of talks by bureaucrats and newsworthy people. Activities of various groups and organizations often are staged for propaganda effects. These events must be reported by newspapers if they are to perform their jobs faithfully.

The reader, however, has a better opportunity to evaluate what he reads than what he hears. The written word makes less appeal to the emotions than does the spoken word. Furthermore it is less subject to misinterpretation.

Then, too, the newspaper's editorial columns and interpretative reports aid the reader in making his evaluations.

Just as long as we preserve the free press and the right of free expression, we will maintain freedom. The moment those privileges are abridged, we are in danger of enslavement.

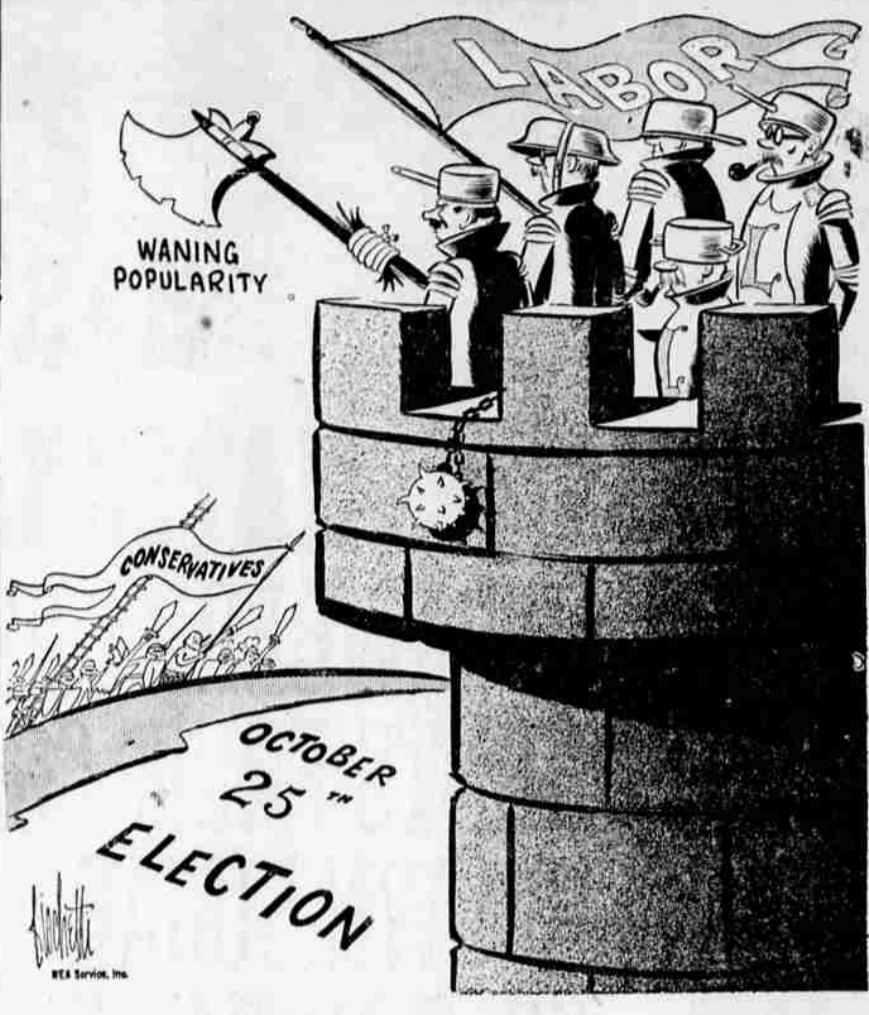
**Scraps From the MENDING BASKET**  
 by Vidnett Martin P.O. Box 874, Drain, Or.

Next time as you skim through the Yoncalla area, remember this picture from "Yoncalla" by Anna Kruse (Drain Enterprise, printers), the revised edition of which has just reached me. Delightful reading, indeed.

"At the close of the century, homes were lighted by kerosene lamps, warmed by fireplaces and every housewife did her own baking. Roads were narrow, rutted, and sometimes impassable; knee-deep in mud in winter and about equally so in summertime. Everyone rode horseback. Ladies in long riding skirts perched on side-saddles, swept gracefully over the countryside. Occasionally a mother with a baby in her lap and one or two other little ones riding behind came a dozen miles or more to church."

"Dances last night from dark to daylight. Folks came by horseback, top buggies, hack or even four-wheeled wagons from twenty miles around to participate. Numbers were called so that each gentleman had his place on the floor. Girls wore long skirts, plenty of them, and bragged of dancing ev-

## The Watch On The Thames



**Fulton Lewis Jr.**  
**WASHINGTON REPORT**

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

ery set from dusk to dawn. At midnight the Rebekahs or the circle, as the case might be, served a bountiful chicken supper, which netted them as much as forty dollars.

An advertisement of Beckley Brothers announced "We carry the best. Fancy, thoroughbred spring hats, neckwear, both ladies and gentlemen. The latest prints in calico and outing flannel. Shoes on the bargain counter."

The Yoncalla Independent said: "Old Mr. Bell has a horseless carriage which he drives through the rough city streets with a series of explosions, balking and stalling, at the speed of ten miles an hour, scaring the horses half to death but always sure of an audience. Mr. Bell, whose experience in driving over the narrow steep roads of the countryside was not happy, had a jill poke fastened to the rear axle of his vehicle with a string passed up from underneath and fastened to the steering handle so that if and when climbing a steep hill the motor pestered out, he merely cuts the string and the jill poke falls, the sharp end digging into the dirt and the car is saved from going over the bank."

I recommend "Yoncalla," revised edition and the original edition, too, to anyone interested in Douglas county, or for that matter, to anyone interested in the "old days."

### Congress Chat

By HARRIS ELLSWORTH, M.C., 4th District, Oregon

The countries which, with our help and leadership, banded themselves together in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (abbreviated to NATO) were nearly all defeated and war-weary nations. After the war no one of them alone represented power worth mentioning either economic, military or spiritual. No one of them stood out as a strong influence, a leader among when the others might rally to promote collective strength and security. Each was vulnerable — if not helpless — in a condition due in part to lack of confidence, or what might be called spiritual decay, on the part of privately owned wealth in the several countries.

Meanwhile the Russian dictator was on the march and well on his way toward achieving the 30-year-old Soviet dream of world conquest. In less than five years they had expanded their political and economic control to include more than 800 million people — or nearly one third of the population of the world. During this period, and until as recently as last year, our own government, the Truman administration, looked the other way — disbanded our military power and kept up the pretense that the Russian rulers were our allies and potentially good neighbors in the world. About all that we did during those years of Russian conquest was to pour money into Europe through UNRRA and ECA but without insisting upon unification or even internal cooperation in Europe.

Since 1916 we have been deeply involved in the affairs of Europe. By the end of World War II we were the strongest power and the obvious leader of the free world. We cannot escape or avoid our responsibility. Clearly our responsibility as the leader in the cause of freedom demands that we gather together in one cohesive and effective force the other free but weakened governments and thus present a powerful and united front against the predatory aggression of the Kremlin.

At long last that is what the United States Government is doing. Economic success and prosperity follows peace insured by adequate military security. The significant fact is that with the building of what is called the Eisenhower European defense system, we and the Europeans are erecting a unified wall of security behind which capital ventures can be made and people can live and build homes and look with at least

**Washington Report**  
 Hear Fulton Lewis Daily  
 On KRNR, 4:00 P.M.  
 And 9:15 P.M.

Oysters can and do change their sex from male to female or female to male in middle age.

## In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

(Continued from Page 1)

have come quickly to the conclusion that mink coat and deep freeze data in connection with RFC loans should be withheld.

The RFC's idea would have been that such disclosures can do great harm — especially to the people who gave and got the mink coats and the deep freezes.

We have to keep in mind that governments as well as individuals are apt to be impressed by the reasoning that wrongdoing isn't so bad IF YOU DON'T GET CAUGHT AT IT.

If our federal agencies are made the sole judges of what the public ought to be allowed to know, I'm afraid the public will never find out much about such things as mink coats and deep freezes and their possible effect on the loan policies of such government agencies as the reconstruction finance corporation.

Much as I dislike censorship, I have to admit that there are things the newspapers must not be allowed to print in time of war — either hot or cold. When we tip our

enemies off to our military plans and our military movements, we are needlessly throwing away the lives of American boys. Such things as that are CRIMINAL.

But —

While we're at it, we might as well remember that it wasn't out of the press (newspapers, magazines, etc.) that the Russians got their knowledge of the atom bomb and how to make it. That came from a renegade scientist who had free run of our atomic installations, both here and in England. When he had found out all he needed to know, he jumped the reservation and went over to the Russians.

And it wasn't the press that peddled secret papers out of the State department to Russian agents who hustled them off to Moscow. That was done by trusted agents of the State department, such as Alger Hiss.

Speaking as one individual, I just haven't confidence enough in our federal agencies will be willing to see them given the power to decide what I ought to know about what is going on in our government.

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