Oregon Daily Emerald

University of Oregon, Eugene

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A CALL FOR ACTION

ADMINISTRATORS of the National Recovery act have sharpened their axes against employers who attempt to evade the maximum-hours provisions of the industrial codes by instituting the vicious practice of "split shifts"—that is, forcing men to work for stretches of two or three hours at intervals during the day, thus getting the benefit of their services throughout an illegally long day, though the total number of hours actually spent at machines does not total more than the lawful eight.

The split shift is a vicious system. It robs men of needed hours of rest, and leaves them with intervals of vacant time in which they can do nothing but while away tedious hours. It brings them to their homes late at night, as exhausted physically and mentally as if they had labored continuously from early morn until late evening.

That is precisely the form of evasion which the University practices when it forces its janitors to work from 6 until 11 in the morning, and from 1:30 until 6 at night. It robs laborers of hours that should rightfully be devoted to rest, and in effect is the equivalent of ordering a 12-hour day.

* * *

A statement given by Executive Secretary Pallett Wednesday declared that janitors have been employed for the past 20 years on the basis of 10 hours a day. His statement is undoubtedly quite true, but does it excuse or rectify the violation of decent, humane labor standards?

The administration declares that a reduction of working hours might result in the reduction of wages of the janitors. This is an evasion. The question concerns hours of labor, not wages. And the Emerald believes that any attempt to cut the wages of janitors, in violation of the basic principle of present-day labor reform, would excite the determined opposition of every fair-minded citizen of the state.

The administration declares that "the arrangement was discussed with the janitorial force by Mr. Foote, head janitor, and was reported to be satisfactory." On the front page of today's Emerald are verbatim statements from janitors denying that Mr. Foote consulted them with regard to the change in hours.

Dr. Pallett declares that "the impossibility of working eight consecutive hours due to classroom occupancy led to the above arrangement." Yet every janitor interviewed yesterday acclaimed the Emerald's suggestion for a schedule of eight consecutive hours of labor.

* * *

In short, the administration as represented by Dr. Pallett, has failed to give any satisfactory answer to the Emerald's charges, and has failed to take the slightest action in alleviation of its present labor policy.

Why does the administration sit idle while faculty members, students and townsfolk are demanding action? Can the administration believe that this is an issue between itself and the Emerald only? If so, it should disabuse itself of that opinion immediately, for the front page of today's paper shows the great bulk of opinion that stands behind the janitors.

The Emerald has pointed out that the present hours are a violation of the spirit of the N. R. A. It has pointed out the travesty of sweatshop working hours and the abominable split shift in a center of learning and culture.

Most important of all, the Emerald has stated clearly, and repeats again, that a 9½-hour working day is an apparent violation of the state law, which clearly declares that no state employee "shall be required or permitted to labor more than eight hours in any one day or 48 hours in any one week." That fact alone should be enough to spur the administration to immediate efforts to alleviate the deplorable condition that unquestionably exists.

The complaint of the janitors has assumed the proportions of a thunderous demand for action. Can the administration now hesitate to act?

COMBINED ELECTIONS

PROBABLY the greatest question facing the committee on revision of the A. S. U. O. constitution, and one that is typical of many others to be solved, has to do with the time of holding class elections and student body elections. Shall they be held on the same day, or shall they be separated by several weeks, as under the present system?

The former system would cause less interference with classes, and would undoubtedly serve to stimulate the flagging interest in class elections. The great argument against the scheme is the fact that it would tend to bring about the organization of the campus into two big political parties which would strive to control the A. S. U. O. and all the classes.

It is the opinion of the Emerald that the committee should not make its decision upon the basis of politics, but should look to the interests of the student body at large. The argument as to interference with attendance at lectures and recitations, work in laboratories and study in the libraries carries far more weight than any consideration of political expediency.

Spring term brings with it enough distracting events without two full-fledged political seasons.

ELMER THE GREATER

THE teletypes of the nation's press, in their incessant yammering of the day's news, have brought us word of a new national character.

His name is Elmer. He first rose to prominence last year at the American Legion convention in Portland, and became the catchword of the conclave. This year, the Old Guard of convention-goers in Chicago took up the cry, and their Bacchanalian revels made the summer nights hideous with their cry of "Oh, Elllmmmer."

We view with alarm the fact that Elmer has been attributed to the University of Oregon. On this point we shall rise and give battle. Our ace viewer-with-alarm investigated the matter and found that this is gross libel to the institution.

Here's the real, inside story of Elmer:

In the beginning, his name wasn't Elmer at all. It was Ztak, Ab Ztak. An eskimo by birth, the son of an Icelandic grape-grower father, and a Korean mother, Ab migrated with the icebergs one spring and came down to this world of men.

A few years later he bobbed up in Eugene, fresh as a daisy and dumb as a walrus. On some technical matter concerning a third grade education he was not allowed entrance. (Authorities tell us the whole affair smacked of race discrimination.)

Enraged, the young rebel renounced the halls of learning and set forth for new and better fields.

This spring an Oregon graduate, motoring in New York, was halted at a traffic light. While she waited a long Hispano-Suiza drew up beside her car. Within, puffing at a Samovar and speaking rapidly into a portable dictaphone, sat a man she immediately recognized as Ab Ztak. But before she could speak to him, the light had changed and he was lost in the swirl of traffic.

Her curiosity aroused, she investigated the matter. She discovered that Ab had come to New York, transposed his name to Abe Katz, bought an interest in a cloak and suit company and worked himself up to become a movie magnate. Through his phenomenal rise to power, another figure had gone with him, his wife, the former Opal Whitely.

THE FUTILITY OF STATE EMBARGOES

NORTH DAKOTANS, ever anxious to bolster the failing Gargantua of wheat, which with prohibition has long ruled their state, now attempt to put in effect an embargo on all exports of grain. The aim, of course, is a standardized and much higher price on this commodity.

There is no doubt that farmers are making little or no profit on wheat at present price levels, but it is futile for North Dakota to take such a stand as she has embarked upon. With billions of bushels of wheat in the international surplus, North Dakota's move will merely provide a market for the produce of other non-Dakotan growers and pass the buck of surplus back into their own hands.

Although such spectacular measures as Governor Langer employs, (similar in many respects to "Alfalfa Bill" Murray's recent attempted oil embargo) afford the newspapers of the nation yards of good copy, it is doubtful if they do any material good. In the first place, Governor Langer has the railroads down on him for cutting the stays from their business, and outside of this very major consideration it is apparent that he will obtain little or no backing from the federal government.

Discounting, then, the wisdom of the economic principles governing North Dakota's embargo, it becomes obvious that on common sense grounds, Governor Langer has erred. Such measures are not for the individual states to carry on, but should be reserved for the federal government as a last recourse in times of falling prices. The shade of Thomas Jefferson himself would rise up in horror if he saw the extremities to which economic necessity has driven the states to assert their "individual power."

Contemporary Opinion

Student Assistance

THE action of the state public works board in passing favorably on the proposed expenditure of $55,000 for the aid of needy students is a far-sighted action on the part of the board members. It is also a distinct tribute to educators of the state, among whom President George Thomas has been foremost in the advocacy of this program.

The proposed expenditure of this sum will now go before the federal public works board which is under the direction of Secretary Ickes. Governor Blood has indicated that he is in hearty accord with the plan, and at the present time is in Washington working for the approval of this outlay, in addition to the $1,500,000 for the public works program approved earlier by the state board.

If this earlier program is approved, the University will benefit by the expenditure of approximately $500,000 for remodeling of the Park building.

The University's portion of the fund to be used for student relief is $30,000 which would be used almost entirely in the employment of students on projects to improve the campus.

The program has been instigated on the theory that it is wiser to prepare men for jobs so that they will be able to take advantage of them when the opportunity presents itself, than to support prospective students with funds from local relief agencies. Thus the state, by educating these now jobless men and women, who otherwise would be idle is making a profitable use of their time, not only by empowering them to advance in position more rapidly, but by helping them to glimpse the things that are really deserving and worthwhile.—Utah Chronicle.

Tame the Trojans - - By STANLEY ROBE

The European Crisis

"NOT since the years of the war itself have the hours been more critical than now," Dr. Victor P. Morris, of the department of economics, declared in his regular Wednesday night "The World in Review" talk over KOAC. Summarizing the situation, he described the justification which Germany believes she has for her action, the effects of her stand on the disarmament problem, and the attitude the intelligent reader should take.

"Germany demands equality of arms with the major countries of Europe and denies that the war defeat should involve a continuous servitude or her relegation to the status of a second-rate power." Dr. Morris said, "Inasmuch as France, England, and the United States had agreed that she should not be allowed to rearm, she announced two moves—first the definite withdrawal from the Geneva disarmament conference and second the avowed intention of withdrawing from the League of Nations itself. Should these two moves occur, it would simply mean that Germany had defied the Allies again and intends to rearm regardless of their objections.

Bombshell at Disarmament

"Needless to say, this is a bombshell in the disarmament camp—for if Germany begins to rearm, then not the slightest move of European countries, especially France, toward reduction of armaments or limitation can be expected, let alone any move such as might really be called disarmament. The alarm of France will be so great that there will doubtless be a determination on her part to strengthen her weapons rather than reduce them, and the entire old vicious race for arms will be renewed, and, I'm inclined to believe, renewed on a vaster scale than in pre-war days."

Speculating on the consequences of Germany's action, Dr. Morris asked, "Are the fears of France groundless? There will be many who will at once step forward to support the German demand with the contention that Germany has no aggressive intentions but merely is asserting her rights in defense in the midst of nations themselves highly armed.

France Fears Preparations

"Such may be the case. But the French position must be understood also. Across her boundary to the east France sees a country, where, under the aggressive, nationalistic leadership of Hitler, the patriotic fires of emotion have been fanned to a white heat. She sees the organization of vast ranks of the Hitler storm troops. That the weapons may be few does not change the fact that she thinks she senses the preparation of men who could be equipped and thrown into battle array at a moment's notice."

Dr. Morris pointed out that the French realize the deep-seated resentment of the Germans toward their nation, and they fear it. Though it is largely due to France's demand for reparations and to her occupation of a portion of German territory (the Ruhr) a few years ago, the French are alarmed as much as if it were wholly unwarranted.

As for Germany's side of the case, Dr. Morris quoted the preamble to Part V of the Treaty of Versailles, the portion of the treaty by which they excused themselves. It reads as follows: "In order to render possible the initiation of a general limitation of the armaments of all nations, Germany undertakes strictly to observe the military, naval and air clauses which follow."

Oregonian Quoted

Though this is a vague rather than a direct promise, it was understood by the world to mean the beginning of a definite disarmament program. "Nevertheless," Dr. Morris quoted from an editorial in Tuesday morning's Oregonian, "the world suspects, and apparently with reason, that Hitler is taking advantage of this predicament of the nations to get Germany rearmed rather than to get the nations disarmed."

Though no disarmament actually has emerged from the conferences in the last 15 years, the speaker believed that they could not for that reason be declared to have totally failed. "Many long and tedious discussions are necessary," he said, "for this intricate type of problem before satisfactory solutions are found."

"It would seem wise on the part of the Allies simply to go ahead with the work and the discussions of the conference at Geneva," Dr. Morris commented. "If positive agreements can be reached and then put squarely up to Hitler and his group, they will be smoked out into the open with their real intentions.

"Public opinion when finally aroused is a most searching weapon, and there can be little doubt that throughout great masses of the world's population there is a war-weariness that calls most insistently for peace and reduction of arms.

Innocent Bystander

By BARNEY CLARK

HOMECOMING is almost upon us, and soon the old grads will be here, crying into their beer and lamenting the good old days, the happy, happy years of their college life. And right now we might as well put the kibosh on this Good Old Days stuff.

We shall go up to the old timers and say to them, gently but firmly, "It is all very well to sob into your Pilsener and moan about what a hard time you have now and sigh for the days of your youth; but how much do you actually remember of those halcyon times?

Yes, we know you recall the time you and the rest of the boys from Pi Eye Theta put the calf in President Abercrombe's bed, and how you and Zeke Callahan went swimming in the millrace in front of the Gamma Phi house in the nude, following the keg party given honor of Bill Slade's flunking out; but listen, do you remember getting up at 7 o'clock every morning from the concrete slab called a fraternity bed to listen to one of the longest-winded old bores in all history lecture on higher calculus?

"Do you remember the stuff they used to set before you, consisting mainly of old rubber washers and sawdust and optimistically labeled "food"? Do you remember the books you used to pore over, all apparently written by a maniac with an unabridged dictionary in one hand and a slide rule in the other?

"Do you remember the hackings you used to get (and they were hackings in those days) and the burlap undershirts you used to wear, and how sick you were from the generous doses of castor oil administered to you by the dear brothers, and all to get that bit of ill-designed jewelry that you're so sentimental over just now.

"And do you recall the Alpha Phi that made you miserable for a year by stepping all over your boyish heart (they're still doing it), and the fistfuls of money you spent on flowers, and candy, and shows, and dances, and not even a smile to repay your youthful ardor? The answer is 'No.' You've forgotten everything but the time you painted the statue at O.A.C. and got thrown in the jug for it by a six-foot Irish cop. But remember, old timer, WE are still gracing this institution, and references to "joyous college days" leave us quite, quite cold. Perhaps when we come back in 10 or 15 years we too shall sigh for the times that used to be; but until then—please, please—the soft pedal!

* * *

OGDEN GNASHES

Wedding rings
and trousseaus
Are the goal
Of all Chi O's!"

* * *

"That's Joe under the piano."

Reading — and — Writing

PEGGY CHESSMAN, Editor

THE historical legend of Heloise and Abelard, those unfortunate lovers whom circumstance forced to the cloister and veil, is rewritten by Helen Waddell in a style so beautiful and convincing that it has been chosen by the Literary Guild as one of the outstanding books of October. In "Peter Abelard" Miss Waddell continues from the "Letters" of the pair, picturing Abelard, as most writers have, as a lover rather than a philosopher. All his history as a poet of magical ability, a learned teacher, a dialectian, and scholar is lost in the incident of his tragic love.

The author herself is as interesting as the book she has written. Born in Tokio of Irish parents, Miss Waddell received her education in Paris, and now lives in London. Her traveling has brought her into contact with innumerable types of people and has furnished her an unlimited background for writing.

* * *

Just what does an ambassador do in his spare moments? Ramon Perez de Ayola, Spanish ambassador to Great Britain, answers that question by publishing a new book called "Tiger Juan." In a style typically modern the author has created such a drama of love, jealousy, and hatred that he was awarded the national prize for literature in Spain.

* * *

Students of history are hailing the arrival of Bernard Fay's newest contribution, "Two Franklins, Fathers of American Democracy." In this volume Fay reviews what he calls a second American revolution, 1790-1800, presenting his two characters, Benjamin Franklin and Benjamin Franklin Bache.

Through a series of well-presented incidents, Fay brings about his point: Benjamin Franklin Bache, imbued with the political policies of his grandfather, was an outstanding man worthy of fame he never received, quite as outstanding as his ancestor.

* * *

Economic majors, take notice. J. George Frederick's "A Primer of New Deal Economics" is now available at the old libe. It presents the basic ideas behind the N.R.A., an analysis of the brain trust, all in simple, everyday language, and is complete with a chapter of questions and answers.

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for
FALL WEATHER

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TWO of the campus' master syncopators will entertain you this afternoon as a special feature of the Emerald-of-the-Air broadcast. If you could go for a peppy, snappy 15 minutes of the latest in hot melodies, synthetic arias, and hot-cha lullabies, twist your dial to 1420 kilocycles and let the radiant personalities of Louisa Parry and Maxine McDonald issue forth into the atmosphere of your abode. When the sun has passed the three-quarters mark and your hour glass indicates half past four, it is time for all good radios to be tuned on KORE.

The Emerald Greets —

Today the Emerald greets:
JEAN EBERHART
FRANCIS FOOTE
JOHN GRIBBLE
HARVEY FIELD
ELLEN GALEY.

Mannequin

By PATSY LEE

KAPPA KAPPA GAMMA boudoirs, ladies and gentlemen! One of the brightest ideas which anyone has conceived of lately has been put into the flesh, or I should say—the wood—in the Kappa house. All bedroom furniture is the same color—a nice natural tan shade, and it is compulsory to keep it that shade no matter how arty or Bohemian one becomes. A rule which might advantageously be adopted in all living organizations.

Margaret Weed's cheery room seemed outstanding on a stormy afternoon with her little radio booming away on some rag-time piece. Blue is the main color, with red lending a flashing and contrasting note—and the loveliest modernistic mirror scintillates from one corner. The monk's cloth couch cover has blue pleats all the way 'round, and a colorful goats hair and angora rug completes a totally charming effect.

Elephants, elephants, and all sorts of little animals on a bookshelf places Margaret Compton in the collector's class immediately. Bright chintz curtains make her room most attractive. Phoebe Greenman's study room spells comfort and spaciousness in capital letters.

Jean Robertson's cool green boudoir with an oval rag rug is effeminate and dainty. Chintz drapes hang over dotted swiss glass curtains.

Ivy hangs from a green glass bottle—a map of Paris intrigues one, a Fiesta chair (a little squatty thing with red and gold paint) sits below the window—these are the things which make Mary Lou Patrick's room individual and so-

(Continued on Page Three)

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