

# Sprague Blames Press For Hostility Toward UN

Attitude of some members of the American press is spreading hostility toward the United Nations, Charles A. Sprague, former U. S. delegate to the U. N. and editor of the Oregon Statesman, told Oregon newspapermen and visitors Friday afternoon.

Speaking in the Dads' Lounge, the former Oregon governor pointed out that members of the press in all nations must guard against "ancient" antagonism toward public officials and governing bodies.

"The United Nations is an instrument of worldwide arbitration of disputes. The resolutions are of questionable force, but nevertheless, the U.N. does a great deal to prevent settlement of disputes by force," Sprague said in defending the U.N. against criticisms it has received.

### Outined Work

He outlined the work of the U. N. convention on freedom of information in promoting a free flow of information throughout the world.

"It wasn't until recent years that the U.S. has backed the move to get a freer flow of news work-

ing throughout the world," Sprague said. He explained this was largely because the American press was already free and unrestricted. Therefore it didn't feel the need for a convention on freedom of information.

### Has 'Inferiority Complex'

"The press of small nations—Guatemala, for example—has an 'inferiority complex,'" Sprague said, "because all they can do is use the news pumped in by large news gathering organizations."

Because of their greater need for a turn to press freedom, small nations and countries with a restrained press have been, in fact, more interested in taking up the U.N. convention on freedom of information, than has been the United States, Sprague added.

He told how he defended the American press against strong criticism by Russian delegates in U.N. discussions. Urging strong support by the U.S. press for the convention of freedom of information, Sprague lauded other U.N. accomplishments in promoting the humanitarian, social and economic welfare of needy people.

# Dutch Newsmen Criticizes Play Of Foreign News

"With foreign news published in the American press, the value of sensationalism seems to predominate," criticized Jerome R. Heldring, chief of The Netherlands information center in the U. S.

Speaking Friday on "How U.S. Papers Handle Foreign News," Heldring cited an example of this sensationalism dealing with his own country.

Stories of the recent flood in Holland received wide coverage in the American press, while the fact that Holland had recovered sufficiently from the war to get along without additional foreign aid was generally ignored by the press, he said.

"Little incentive is given the American reporter to fight for a story," said Heldring. This is because almost everywhere he is welcomed by foreign statesmen who don't even grant interviews to newspapermen of their own country, he said.

Other "pitfalls" listed by Heldring that confront the American correspondent abroad are too high salaries and too little knowledge of foreign languages.

# Panel Discusses Press At State Conference

A panel of eight people representing as many walks of life told the Oregon Press conference Friday how the readers see the Oregon press. The panel, which spends, on the average, 87 minutes a day reading newspapers, gave delegates their views on advertising, sensationalism and honesty in the Oregon press.

Moderated by Charles T. Duncan, associate professor of journalism, the panel consisted of a student, educator, housewife, retailer, public official, labor leader, professional man and a farmer. The panel members were not identified by name, hometown, or by the papers they read.

The panel agreed that Oregon papers were "good" and the professional man said that nothing he had seen in the east duplicated Oregon papers in the service of reporting the news.

On the subject of crime news in papers, the panel gave a divided opinion. Some thought there was not "too much" crime news, while other members said there was and that it was "played up" too much. The housewife advanced the theory that perhaps the crime news "helps keep parents aware of their responsibilities to their children."

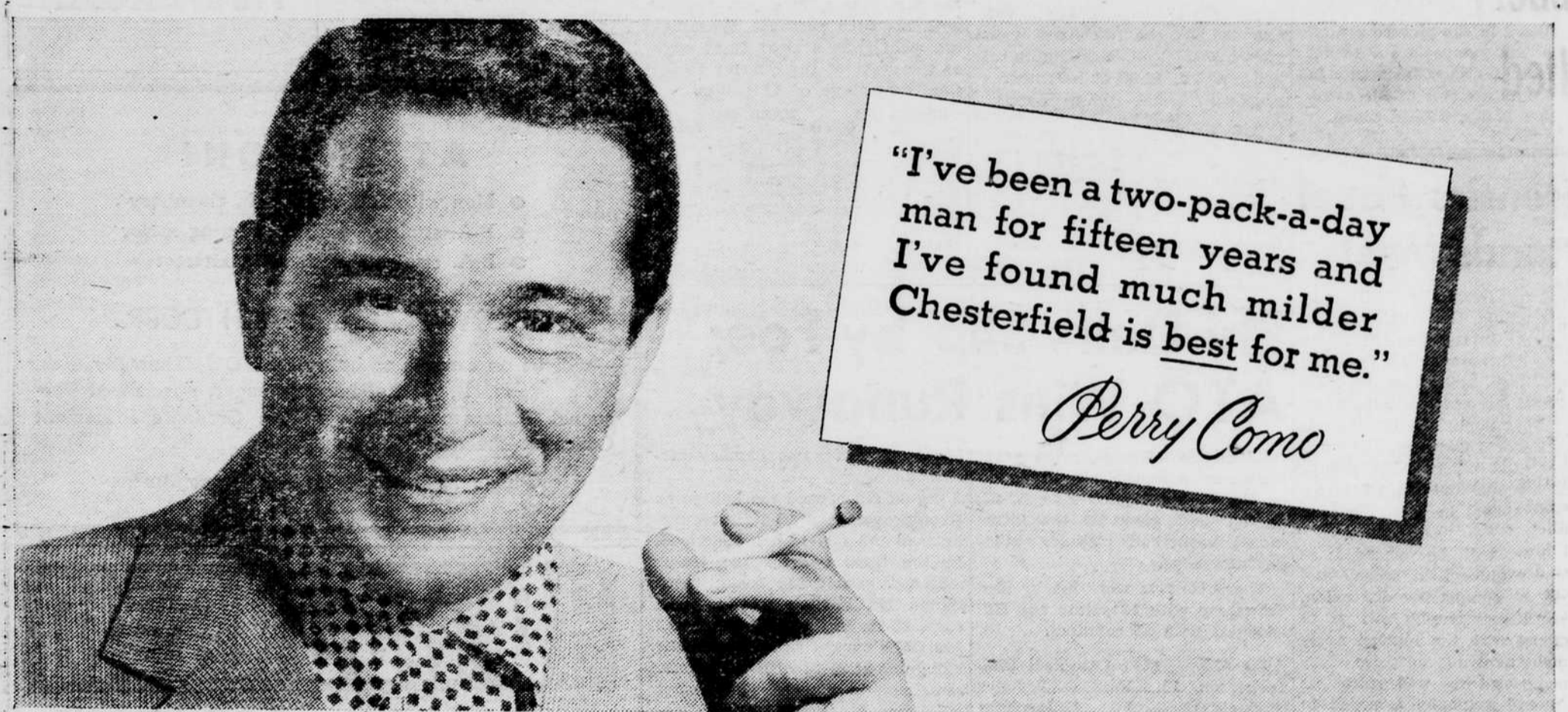
The panel agreed there is "too much" advertising in the papers, but also recognized the fact that "newspapers have to live, too."

Most members expressed complete confidence in the ads, but the retailer, speaking as an advertiser, said in order to make the goods as attractive as possible, "advertisers tend to stretch the truth a little."

# Ex-Dean Comments Upon Experiences

Many chuckles for the younger members of the audience and a few memories of the past years in the newspaper field for the older listeners were provided Friday morning by George Turnbull, former dean of the journalism school and now of the Albany Democrat-Herald.

Turnbull had many amusing comments on his experiences during the past 50 years while working on newspapers. He told of the times he had setting six point type by hand and the days when the advertising and news stories could hardly be told apart on page one.



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