

EDITORIAL PAGE

La Grande Evening Observer

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"What Are You Crying About, Neighbor?"



EVENING OBSERVER'S PROGRESS PROGRAM

IRRIGATION—Complete the Grande Ronde Valley irrigation project.
LA GRANDE—A city of 10,000—Extend the city limits.

TODAY'S TEXT

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.—Romans 12:2.

THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

Truth makes on the ocean of nature no one track of light—every eye looking on finds its own.—Bulwer-Lytton.

A Crack in the Curfew Bell

With the allied food and entertainment industries of greater New York's voluntary decision to decline Mayor La Guardia's "extra hour of tolerance" and abide by Mobilization Director Byrnes' midnight curfew request, the whole fuss between the mayor and Byrnes seems to have simmered down to a tempest in a demi-tasse. But perhaps it is of some interest as an example of how a psychologically sound idea can be defeated by unsound psychology of application.

Byrnes requested the curfew as a means of saving heat, electricity, transportation and manpower. He fortified the request by invoking OPA and WMC sanctions which could, for all practical purposes, put anyone out of business who refused to accede to the request.

Byrnes also mentioned some less tangible but more persuasive reasons for a curfew, and has since repeated them. They are unanswerable. Certainly, as he said, the men at the front have a right to expect some small sacrifices from us at home. And certainly it is a small sacrifice indeed to end one's

merrymaking at midnight.

But these reasons were not given as the impelling force behind the curfew. Instead, Byrnes requested the curfew as a practical economy. And even before it went into effect it was obvious that the saving would be small.

Nevertheless, city governments throughout the land responded patriotically. And none was more enthusiastic than New York's, where the mayor put through the city council a new closing law, with arrest and stiff punishment for violators. Then speakasies sprang up. And soldiers on leave, at loose ends after midnight, got into more trouble than they would ever find in a night club.

So La Guardia reversed himself with equal enthusiasm, defying Byrnes and the city's new closing law which he himself had put through. It won him condemnation almost everywhere except in his home city. But the home city is where the mayor is running for re-election next fall.

And the curfew might thus have stood today knee-deep in ineptitude. But the army and navy orders to servicemen to observe the midnight curfew hour seem to have won the issue for Byrnes where other means merely created an impasse.

The whole thing seems to demonstrate again that you can't legislate responsibility into a people, especially the American people, and most especially by such devious ways. The denouement indicates that Byrnes might have been more successful if he had frankly invoked his curfew on ethical rather than practical grounds.

As it is there is a suspicion that behind a screen of dubious logic Byrnes has made a well-intentioned but misguided effort to replace individual conscience with a governmental substitute.

Doing nothing hurts most just after you finish it.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON — The army's promotion policy on general officers came in for a thorough raking-over last week, when the senate military affairs committee met in a closed-door session to consider the recommended promotion of nine lieutenant generals to full generals.

Chairman Elbert Thomas of Utah opened the discussion by remarking that he had never before known a single period in our history to produce so many generals. Thomas was apparently making a simple observation, but soon found he had struck a responsive chord. His committee refused to vote to confirm the nine candidates without first having chief of staff Marshall appear before the committee and explain the promotions.

Hard-working Happy Chandler of Kentucky wanted to know how these nine men had been selected.

"Men like Patton, Hodges, Patch and Simpson — are the commanders on the western front — are all lieutenant generals now," Chandler observed. "Why shouldn't they be promoted just as soon as these nine men suggested here?"

Styles Bridges of New Hampshire seconded Chandler's question, referring specifically to Patton and Hodges. Chan Gurney of South Dakota pointed out that these four men (Patton, Hodges, Patch, Simpson) are commanders of single armies, rather than of army groups. The generals recommended for promotion are Bradley, Devers and Clark, all commanders of army groups — together with Generals Handy, McNarney, Somervell, Spatz, Kenney and Krueger who hold various home front and overseas commands.

"But Patton and Hodges are lieutenant generals just like the rest of them," Bridges replied, pointing out also that Walter Krueger — one of those named for promotion — is commander of the sixth army, not of an army group.

Senatorial Pique

The senators then got down to a discussion of the individual officers whose promotion they had been asked to approve. They weren't too happy about General Somervell, head of army service forces, but where they really agreed was in their objection to promoting Lieut. Gen. Joseph McNarney to be a full general. McNarney is now deputy supreme allied commander in the Mediterranean area.

As deputy chief of staff until a few months

ago, McNarney succeeded, in his frequent appearances before the committee, in winning the dislike of nearly all members. They didn't care for his personality and never had much respect for his ability. They remembered particularly the time during the last congress, when Senators O'Mahoney, Chandler and Bridges went to the war department to find out about the army's plan to destroy a huge file of complaints brought against officers named for promotion.

Not all members are certain that there was anything wrong with the army's plan, but all remember that they didn't care for McNarney's reception of the three senators.

Finally it was agreed that General Marshall should be brought to appear before the committee before it acted on any of the nominations.

Disgusted with the whole procedure, Senator Chandler declared: "So far as I am concerned, I will support a bill to permit Marshall to promote anyone he wants without senate confirmation. We're just supposed to be here as a rubber stamp, I guess."

Note: General Marshall, in a super-secret session later in the week, explained his passing over Patton, Patch, Hodges and Simpson by pointing out that they were all subordinates to Bradley and Devers. Krueger, he explained, is subordinate to MacArthur, who is a five-star general.

Thus, Krueger's rank will not be as high as that of his superior, just as Bradley and Devers will outrank the generals under them if their promotion is approved, but will be ranked in turn by Eisenhower. Marshall was put through a long grilling on McNarney, who once established the rule that no colonels nor lieutenant colonels, no matter how well trained, could go overseas for combat if beyond a certain age.

Crackdown on Franco

Credit UNRRA with being at least one Washington agency which has cracked down on fascist Spain, and in no uncertain terms. Perhaps this is because it is an international organization.

Anyway, UNRRA has issued a confidential but emphatic order that no supplies shall be purchased from Spain. This is in direct conflict with the state department, which not only sanctions the purchase of goods from Spain, but, much more important, gives export licenses for the shipment of (Continued on Page 6)

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

She needed some dental work done, and so the wife of a navy officer stationed in a small mid-western town made an appointment with a local dentist.

He told her just what she needed done and then asked casually, "What does your husband do?"

When she said, "He's with the navy here," the dentist froze up and told her she had better find someone else to do her work as he was booked solid for several weeks.

"I'll be glad to wait until you can take me," said the navy officer's wife. And then she got the truth.

"I have to save my appointments for permanent people," said the dentist. "This war isn't going to last forever, and I have to take care of the people who are going to support me when it's over."

Sure, the war is going to be over some day. Thanks to the men in uniform — and nobody else.

But their families, when they follow them around the country, over and over again have to step to the foot of the line to let "permanent civilians" take precedence over them.

They are used to finding that permanent civilians get first chances at houses and apartments. And that permanent civilians get special consideration in stores, and that permanent civilians are preferred for jobs.

And now here's a case where you have to be a permanent civilian, or a dentist doesn't want to bother with fixing your teeth.

You'd almost think that it's the permanent civilian who is fighting the war.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Behind John L. Lewis' demand for 10 cents a ton royalty on all coal mined, and behind North Carolina Senator Josiah W. Bailey's proposal to step all such goings-on by law, there is a fundamental question of policy generally overlooked.

Is post war social security to be expanded as a function of government? Or is it to be left as the private responsibility of individuals, paternalistic-minded employers and social-minded unions?

This issue isn't exactly new, but its post-war implications are not clear and not appreciated. Before the new deal, many corporations had pension plans of their own. Many labor leaders objected to them because they were considered anti-union, the idea being that if an employer dangled the reward of a pension before his employees, it made them too willing to be exploited in other ways.

But some of the unions themselves went in for a degree of this old-fashioned paternalism. Typographical and Pressmen's unions, among others, had well-established plans to which their less-fortunate members could retire when too old to work at their trades.

With the passage of the original railroad retirement act and the social security act in 1935, the need for private pension plans largely disappeared and the government took over the responsibility for old-age benefit payments. Similarly, with the passage of the unemployment insurance laws of the various states and the federal government, the need for plans to pay strike or sick benefits was reduced.

The trend all through the war years has been to extend government old-age retirement and unemployment insurance benefits to the millions of workers previously not covered by these laws and to expand the benefits to cover unemployment caused by sickness or accident. "Cradle to grave" social security ideas have caught on and government hospitalization and health insurance benefits of some kind are certain to be provided, eventually.

But now comes John L. Lewis proposing that his United Mine Workers' union be given a royalty of 10 cents a ton on every ton of coal mined, so that the union can set up its own unemployment insurance system, its own medical and surgical service, hospitalization, insurance, rehabilitation and economic protection.

The trite question posed by this issue is, where do we go from here? Onward to greater protection, or backward to the private welfare plans of employers and unions interested in the economic security of their employees and members?

This same issue came up a year ago when the C.I.O. Steelworkers' union presented its demands for such additional benefits as dismissal pay, sick leave, insurance, and guaranteed annual wage, all to be paid for by the employer. Steel company executives asked then if these matters were rightful responsibilities of the employer, or whether the government was not tending to assume more and more responsibility for all such reforms.

It is noteworthy that neither the steelworkers nor the miners have asked that their social benefits be granted in place of government benefits. Instead, private benefits are asked for as a supplement to whatever the government sees fit to bestow.

From this it might be argued that the proper solution of the issue raised by John Lewis is not a Bailey bill to outlaw the collection of royalties for benefits to union members but the passage of expanded social security legislation by the government, which would make the Lewis demands unnecessary.

On the other hand, it can be argued that the miners' demand and the steelworkers' demands offer an alternative to extend government social security, socialized medicine and all that. This alternative boils down to a return to rugged individualism and paternalism — the steel industry to look after the welfare of its employees in the one instance, the miners' union to look after the wellbeing of its members on the other.

Side Glances



"Oh, I won lots of stakes and purses when I was operating my racing stable, but I've done so well here driving rivals that I dread going back to the track after the war!"

McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WM. E. MCKENNEY, America's Card Authority

EVALUATING HAND BY "POINT SYSTEM"

(This is the first of two articles on the Yarnall "Point System.")

Mr. L. F. Yarnall of Ventnor City, N. J., uses a point count instead of honor counts for evaluating the high cards in his hand. He has taken the old Work count, which was an ace, four points;

♠ Q J X	3
♠ A J X X	4
♠ K J X X	5
♠ X X X	6
♠ X X	7

king, three points; queen, two points; and jack, one point. After totaling up your point count, according to Mr. Yarnall, you now divide the total by four to determine the number of honor tricks in your hand.

The point count for the above hand is three for the spade suit, five for hearts, and four for diamonds, a total of 12 points. Divide this by four and with this system you now have three honor tricks as compared to two when using the honor trick count.

When using the honor point system, you must remember that every hand has a constant count of ten honor tricks.

The purpose of this method of counting is to portray the value of lower honors whose values are disregarded or undervalued in most systems. Thus the bidder has a fuller mental picture of the strength or weakness of his hand.

IN FORME YEARS

30 Years Ago

An army of variegated cutworms infested Grande Ronde ranches at various points, and where they have struck the ruin is complete. Umatilla county also was attacked by the pests and state farm experts were called in to combat the plague.

The Neighborhood club made plans to beautify the city, announcing prizes would be awarded to those who had the best lawns, and most artistically arranged grounds.

Twenty-one days after being bitten by a rabid coyote, a work horse owned by D. E. Brannon of Oro Dell, fell victim to rabies and was shot.

15 Years Ago

An ordinance regulating oil traps in business buildings, particularly garages and filling stations, and another changing the La Grande rule on electrical work to conform with the state code, were adopted by the city commission.

Urging a general clean-up of property, Fire Chief C. T. Lindsey pointed out that failure to clear off dry grass, weeds and rubbish often resulted in fires later on that were costly to fight.

10 Years Ago

A La Grande bid for one of the four U. S. army air bases to be established in Oregon, was made by the Commercial club.

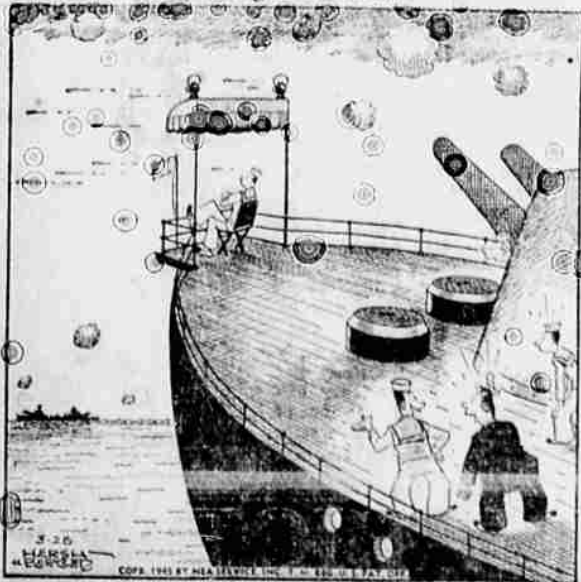
The La Grande Rotary club elected the following directors to serve during the ensuing year: J. Donald Meyers, Merlin Batley, Harry McKinlay, Roy Grettum, Dr. James J. D. Hain, Rev. Clarence Kopp, Elmer McManus, Dr. Ray Murphy and B. F. Wyld.

This Curious World



NEXT: What are spring tides?

Funny Business



SO THEY SAY

The Dresden catastrophe is without precedent. Not a single detached building remains intact or even capable of reconstruction. The town area is devoid of human life. A great city has been wiped from the map of Europe.

the front must be increased. There have been too many smoke-screens designed solely to duck the blame for failure.

It is at best a curious process when an American, a Britisher and a Russian — with no Poles present — sit down together to create any sort of a government in Poland, remembering that preservation of Polish independence and self-government was the world's springboard into this war.

—Sen. Arthur H. Vandenberg (R) of Michigan.