EDITORIAL PAGE

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Frank Schiro, Publisher

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There's But One Answer

Political Weather Prediction

What this world needs today, it seems to us, is more people like Dr. Charles G. Abbot — or at least more people with Abbot's confident spirit.

Dr. Abbot is a 73-year-old astrophysicist who for many years has been observing the sun's variations of temperature and the earth's variations of weather, and noting what he claims is a cause-and-effect relationship between the two. As a result, he says that weather can be forecast far in advance, and that we can be a lot safer, richer, and happier by taking that into account.

For example he predicts severe droughts in the northwest United States in 1975 and 2020. He says we'll have some funny weather this year (as if we hadn't already), and he sees no reason why people shouldn't pick a sunny day for weddings or picnics months in advance.

"I am a bold man to try to change the fashion in thinking about the weather," Dr. Abbot admits. "But some day my theories will be accepted, and then farmers won't have their crops ruined and people will enjoy life more."

A group of the world's citizens will be meeting shortly in San Francisco in an endeavor to match in the world of politics what Dr. Abbot has attempted in the world of nature. It will not be their purpose to deny the capricious climatology of individual and national emotions, but to try to foresee their changes and, by wise preparation, render them harmless.

Through most of history men have deplored the evils of war without denying war's inevitability. Twenty-five years ago most of the world's nations banded together and, like King Canute, forbade the tide of war to advance. Yet as they did so they sat like Canute and stared in impotent fascination as the rising waters lapped about their feet.

Perhaps when the nations meet again they might be wise to adopt Dr. Abbot's attitude, rather than King Canute's. The world does not expect the nations' delegates to deny that storms will ever rise again in the breasts of peoples and of governments. It does expect them to evolve a way of foreseeing them in time to prevent another tempest such as that which spreads death and destruction throughout the world today.

The men and women of the San Francisco conference will have to match Dr. Abbot's boldness in trying to change the fashion in thinking about war. But if they can match Dr. Abbot's promise for the future of their theories, they will have done well indeed.

Mankind would certainly welcome a political climate in which "farmers won't have their crops ruined and people will enjoy life more."

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End of a Legend

In a burst of academic humor, the dean of Balliol college, Oxford, invited a distinguished visitor from Hollywood to address the student body. The visitor was Mr. Samuel Goldwyn, in England on a lend-lease mission.

Mr. Goldwyn has long been famous as the implacable foe of the King's (and Oxford's) English. But he played his assignment at Oxford straight. Not only did he avoid all Goldwynisms, but he took the pledge.

"For years I have been known for saying 'include me out'," Mr. Goldwyn confessed, "but today I am giving it up forever."

This is heavy news. We have long suspected that Goldwynisms were the creation of press agents and Hollywood columnists. But these noval misconstructions of well-worn phrases were richly amusing, even though the alleged creator was innocent.

Now Mr. Goldwyn, by his renunciation, has destroyed the Goldwyn legend. Not only that, he has cut himself off from reams of free publicity, all for the sake of dignity. In Hollywood, that would be considered treason or madness. It just goes to show you what the atmosphere of Oxford can do to a man.

Funny Business

"He wants to get used to sleeping under gunfire, sir!"

• SO THEY SAY

I have no doubt that powerful forces in Germany and Japan are preparing even now for their next attempt to conquer us. We will try to keep them impotent, but only a permanent army of occupation would be able to keep them from rearming eventually.
—Harry L. Hopkins, presidential adviser.

Now that the air has introduced a new factor in naval strategy, it is still more impossible for any one power to maintain control of the seas as we once did.
—British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden.

If our men don't kill right away, on the first evening, they don't kill at all. I know, for example, how I felt when I first touched German soil. I had seen much suffering and I had sworn to be vindictive. But after all, I found that a woman is a woman and a child is a child in any country.
—A Red army officer.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON — For months the Albanian radio has been broadcasting daily appeals to the outside world for food, clothing and medical supplies. But although UNRRA is supposed to care for the war-torn countries, and although Albania has suffered more than most, UNRRA still has been unable to enter Albania.

Backstage reason, according to UNRRA officials, is that the British want to send 1,200 British army officers into Albania to supervise relief for UNRRA.

This, in turn, horrifies the Albanians. A total of 1,200 British officers in tiny Albania could mean a throttle-hold on the country, if they wanted to exercise it. And knowing all too vividly what happened when Great Britain went into neighboring Greece, the Albanians refuse to admit the British military.

Faced with starvation or military domination, they have chosen starvation.

The British proposal to send 1,200 officers into Albania is based upon an agreement that whenever a country is liberated, relief supplies must be the responsibility of the Allied military for the first six months and UNRRA must work under the military.

However, Albania was never occupied by any Allied army. Neither British nor U. S. troops entered it. But now that the Nazis has been completely chased out, the British want to go in under the excuse of administrating UNRRA relief.

The Albanians see no excuse for trading one set of foreign troops for another.

Note—The British also demanded of Tito that they send more than 1,000 British officers to handle UNRRA relief inside Jugoslavia, but Tito refused. Finally Russia backed him up and Tito got his UNRRA relief without British troops —, only 40 UNRRA workers and 60 British workers. UNRRA officials are hoping the British will make some similar compromise in regard to Albania.

Byrnes and Battleships

Secretary of the Navy Forrestal was irked when War Mobilizer Byrnes chopped 72 warships off the navy's program, but the admirals were not merely irked. They were fighting mad — especially Admiral Ernest King.

Byrnes had found out that the navy was planning these ships for post-war, not this war. He knew their construction would take away valuable steel from the army and other strategic uses.

For instance, the tractor and farm-machinery program is scheduled for a cut of about 40 per cent because the army claims it is already short of steel. This, despite the desperate need of producing more food. So Byrnes figured the post-war ships could wait until after the war, since they won't be finished for two years or so anyway. Also he figured that it was perhaps the job of congress — not the admirals — to decide how big the post-war navy should be.

All of which nearly broke the heart of Admiral King. He had been talking for months of starting now to build a post-war navy; also had been indiscreet regarding the country—now an ally—against which those ships might be used. Maybe this also got back to Byrnes.

Circus Goes to Jail

The circus stopped in Washington to water the animal the other day on its regular trip north. It stopped a little sorrowfully. There was none of the blare and fanfare and braggadocio of the old days. It was going north to open a new season and try to pay several million dollars to the victims of the Hartford fire, after which its vice-president, its manager, its canvasman, its seatman, and several others will surrender in Hartford to go to jail.

These top executives looked visibly different this year. Jim Haley, vice-president and director, is a long slab-sided chap from Alabama, who is called "Slim" and is thin anyway. But now he has lost 30 pounds and is literally wasting away.

Twenty years ago he came down to Sarasota, Florida, from the Alabama sandhills without a nickel in his pocket, educated himself, and slaved his way up until he was appointed general manager of the Ringling estate. It was his careful handling which reduced the estate's debt to the government from $4,000,000 to around $850,000. He even took over the Red Cross chairmanship, pulled the chapter out of debt, and made it one of the first counties in the United States to triple its quota for three straight years.

Slim Haley went into the circus as financial manager at the request of the several factions of the Ringling family, whose descendants have been fighting each other. He never pretended to be a circus man. He was a fiscal agent. But he was in Hartford on the day of the fatal fire, was arrested, and sentenced to a maximum of five years in jail.

The seatman on the fatal day had set up the seats exactly as he had before, day-in-and-day-out, for years. Also the canvasman. Then came the fire, the tragic stampede, and scores of children crushed.

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WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

A group of New York chorus girls, out of a job because their night club has become a restaurant answered, "Don't be silly," to the query if they would go into war work or other essential jobs.

They have much more important plans for themselves than that. They are going to try for Hollywood careers, take dramatic lessons, go into modelling.

One summed up their attitude with "Us chorus girls are unsuited for war work."

It looks as though their experience in a chorus line would be fairly good training for work on an assembly line.

They have to stand on their feet in a chorus—and they would have to stand on their feet in a war plant. Their chorus girl hours should have prepared them for working nights and sleeping days—as the girls do on the swing shift. The keen competition they have known among themselves could be put to use in outshining other workers at turning out war material.

And as for handling the wolves around a war plant, it ought to be easy to put a fresh foreman in his place, when a girl has had to know how to outwit society's play boys.

Besides, very few girls now working in war plants were "suited for that kind of work." They just went ahead and learned it—the way a chorus girl learns a new dance routine. And many of them are just as young and just as pretty as the average chorus girl.

So it looks as though in shrugging off the suggestion that they might perhaps get into essential work for the duration the chorus girls are out of step—out of step with the times.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—Movements to introduce in state legislatures full employment bills patterned closely on the national full employment bill introduced in Congress by Senators Murray of Montana, Wagner of New York, Thomas of Utah and O'Mahoney of Wyoming, are being watched in Washington with closest interest.

California is leading off this procession, with a state full employment bill sponsored by the 36 Democratic members of the state legislature. Accompanying the California bill is a resolution memorializing congress to pass a national full employment bill as a necessary companion piece of legislation to the proposed state law.

A similar bill is expected to be introduced in the New York State legislature in the near future, and from advices and inquiries received in Washington from various state capitals, there may be other state law-making bodies considering such measures this year, when 32 of the 48 are in session.

The California bill follows closely on the pattern of the parent full employment bill introduced in the U. S. Senate, with the one important exception that it makes the primary responsibility for supporting maximum employment a function of the state government, and calls on the federal government to supplement the state aid only to the extent that the state government is not able to meet its unemployment problem for its own citizens.

By incorporating this provision in the California bill, one of the major criticisms of the federal bill has been removed. When Senator Murray transmitted to the senate without recommendation the first draft of a full employment bill, late in 1944, one of the cries raised against it was that it was more federal paternalism, more making the national government responsible for the welfare of all the citizens without effort on their part.

One of the big kicks against WPA was that it by-passed local government. By having a state government assume the primary responsibility, the federal government's load would be materially lightened and the move to put more of the functions of government back on the state level should be considerably furthered.

Aside from this one change, the California bill picks up much of the language of the revised Murray - Wagner - Thomas - O'Mahoney bill as introduced in the U. S. senate in January.

The governor would be required to submit to the state legislature an annual budget estimate on the total state economy, public as well as private, for the following year. Included in the budget would be an estimate of the labor force, and the number of job opportunities. On that basis, the state legislature would be called upon to develop new industries, develop state resources and encourage through state action public works and non-governmental expenditures which would take up the slack in employment. Finally there would be a presentation of the relationship between the state and federal programs.

The California proposal is not interpreted as being a "job guarantee" program, and it is no sense a state WPA program which would merely transfer the tax burden for supporting public works from federal to state governments. But for the state to assume large burdens of government is in direct line with recent votes in congress, which handed back to the states greater responsibility for managing their own unemployment and social security programs in the reconversion period.

Some students of government in Washington even go so far as to advocate the creation of a department which would be responsible for increasing Federal-State cooperation, an almost entirely neglected field of public administration.

Side Glances

"The mayor just got over that crick in his back from shoveling snow, and there he goes with a new garden spade—looks like another night call for me!"

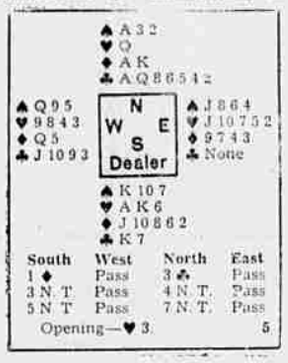
• McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

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

STRIPPING DEFENSE TO MAKE SIX N. T.

I just received a letter from an old friend who used to be associated with the Knickerbocker Whist club in New York, Maj. A. E. Dobereiner. The major tells me he has been overseas five years with the Canadian staff in London and while he has experienced the battle of London and the V-1's, he hated to come back because he has four children in the services.

He said he was playing some bridge at Fort Frontenac the other night when this interesting hand came up. Commenting on



South	West	North	East
1 ♦	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 N. T.	Pass	4 N. T.	Pass
5 N. T	Pass	7 N. T.	Pass

Opening—♥ 3. 5

the bidding, the major said they simply used the "pole vault method."

The opening diamond lead was won with dummy's jack. Five rounds of spades were cashed, on which east discarded the nine of hearts, showing that he held the heart suit.

In the meantime, west discarded the nine of clubs, so now the major cashed three more diamond tricks. Then, to strip east's hand of clubs, he played the jack of clubs and went right up with the ace.

Now, all he had to do was lead the jack of hearts and let east win it with the queen and east was forced to return a heart into the major's ace-ten combination.

Questions & Answers

Q—What is musically noteworthy about Krefeld, Germany, western front city?

A—Karl Wilhelm composed "Die Wacht Am Rhein" ("The Watch on the Rhine") there in the middle 19th century.

Q—Are there many airports that can accommodate B-29s?

A—Only about 10 in the world. (There are 2200 airports in the U. S.)

• IN FORMER YEARS

30 Years Ago

Earl Reynolds won the high school cross country run. He went the two miles and a half, in a sea of mud every step of the way, in 14:28½. L. Larsen was second in 14:30 and Melvin Larsen third in 14:33.

Miss Nora Arbuckle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Arbuckle, returned from Portland where she spent the winter attending a business school.

A flue fire that threatened the Greenwood school building did no damage, but led spectators to believe that the roof was in flames.

15 Years Ago

The Christian Endeavor rally of the Christian church was held the Christian church was held here with about 60 young people present from La Grande, Wallowa, Baker, Union and Elgin, guests of La Grande at dinner and a pep rally. Rev. C. E. Swander state secretary of the Christian church from Portland, and the Rev. C. W. Mosely Sunday school superintendent for the northwest district, were present.

Observance of national boys' week, and a short talk by Warren Cornell, Union county game warden, featured the Lions club luncheon. Elmo Stevenson, scout executive, was present with four Boy Scouts, Roy and Gilbert Stein, Robert McMillan and Glen Victor, who gave demonstrations.

10 Years Ago

Miss Helen Hertzog of La Grande, was elected to teach the school at North High valley for the following year. Miss Hertzog completed her work at the local normal school at the end of the winter term.

Fred Bennion, of Helena, Mont., representative of Rotary International was a guest of the La Grande Rotary club.

W. H. Loisman announced that he had purchased the interest of Charles Graham in the L and L drug store.

This Curious World

NEXT: Why mosquitoes do like they do.