

EDITORIAL PAGE

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That Mysterious Thing Called Love



Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON — The brass hats, both British and American, have found there is more than one way to support Spanish Dictator Franco. For some time the Spanish fascists have been trying to peddle 2,000,000 blankets to UNRRA. But strong-willed Governor Lehman turned the deal down. He also issued an order that no relief goods were to be bought from Spain. So now the British army is buying the 2,000,000 blankets from Franco and giving them to UNRRA as its contribution. Furthermore, the U. S. army is purchasing an additional 1,000,000 blankets for its own use. Final payoff is that the state department has ok'd the deal. The diplomatic grapevine for weeks has warned that one of Moscow's chief gripes about the state department was not so much Poland, but close U. S. collaboration with Franco. The Soviets can't seem to forget that Franco enlisted the blue legion to fight against them, even if the state department can.

Small Oil Companies Suffer

Like a breath of fresh air was the way government officials described Judge Vinson's brief tour of duty as federal loan administrator. However, some of them are wondering why he permitted his defense supplies corporation to get away with a squeeze play against small, independent oil companies. All oil shipped east gets the benefit of a U. S. government subsidy called a "compensatory rate." This amounts to 1.52 cents a gallon and compensates for the rail haul, which is more expensive than the water route. But Vinson's defense supplies corporation removed the compensatory rate from small oil companies shipping natural gasoline to the east coast. These companies shipped it east, where dealers blended the natural gasoline with naptha and made A-1 gasoline. Removal of the compensatory subsidy automatically puts these small companies out of business when it comes to natural gasoline. Only thing they can do is sell it to the big companies in Oklahoma and Texas, who mix it themselves with naptha and then ship it to the east coast. But the big companies are paid the shipping subsidy — provided they mix it before they ship. It's all a matter of having the mixing facilities in the southwest, not the east.

Torch Singer Stettinius

Handsome Secretary of State Ed Stettinius

spent several days in New York rehearsing for the state department movie on Dumbarton Oaks. But despite rehearsals, moviegoers get a chuckle out of the way Ed rolls his eyes. Reason is he didn't learn all his lines, had to look at a blackboard just over the movie-camera in order to read them. This makes his eyes roll away from the lens as if he were a torch-singer. Otherwise it's an A-1 picture. Philippine President Osma underwent a successful operation in Jacksonville, Fla., recently, is now resting at Ponte Vedra. The state and interior departments both have their eyes on the Philippines.

State's budget carries a salary allowance for a U. S. ambassador to the Philippines. Interior's budget carries a salary for a high commissioner. If there is immediate independence, there will be an ambassador; if not there will be a commissioner. Sir Gerald Campbell, British minister under Lord Halifax, is leaving the British embassy soon. Best speaker at the Hugo Black testimonial dinner was Mrs. Roosevelt. Next best was Toastmaster Alben Barkley. Bemoaning the fact that fighting liberal senators were elevated to the courts, Majority Leader Barkley said: "I have lost so many senators to the courts that you can see by any recent roll call that I myself feel lost." Among the new deal senators promoted to the courts are Black of Alabama, Byrnes of South Carolina, Minton of Indiana, Bone of Washington, Schwallenbach of Washington, and Duffy of Wisconsin.

Jesse Jones' Old Job

Backstage jockeying has been terrific to fill Jesse Jones' old job as federal loan administrator. Controlling the purse-strings, it has become the key position in the post-war setup. For a time, crusading Justice Bill Douglas let his name be put forward. Chief sponsor was FDR's one-time favorite, Tom Coreoran. However, Douglas' close court friends, Hugo Black and Wiley Rutledge, came to him at a dinner, urged that it was his duty to remain on the supreme court. If he left, the court conservatives would have a majority—especially if the Coreoran trade went through and Jimmy Byrnes was appointed to Douglas' place. So Douglas withdrew his name. Alabama's Senator Bankhead at first seemed

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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 whatsoever the unclean person toucheth shall be unclean; and the soul that toucheth it shall be unclean until even.—Numbers 19:22.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Know when to speak; for many times it brings danger to give the best advice to kings.—Herrick.

Freedom and Beyond

Soon after American forces first entered upon German soil, General Eisenhower broadcast an appeal for revolt to the foreign workers inside Germany. The appeal went unanswered, and the revolt did not develop. Now the Americans are finding out why.

Thousands of these slave laborers have been freed by the allied advance. And reporters who have seen them have spoken particularly of their apathy. They are, as one writer described them, "numb." It is not surprising that they had neither the strength nor the spirit to revolt.

We do not know now the exact contribution to this apathy, but it seems safe to construct a general explanation from the imagination. It must have been something like this:

To the first prisoner-laborers, the numbness came with the swift, stunning defeat of Poland, and afterwards of France and the low countries. Before the effect of the blow had worn off they were uprooted and carried off

to supply the conqueror's war machine under threat of the conqueror's guns.

At first they planned underground organization and, perhaps, open rebellion. Those who came later nourished the same plans at first. But not even the most ardent spirit could survive many months of the long, heavy hours of labor, poor and scanty food, and the filth and misery of their dwellings.

Later the allied bombers came, the prelude to liberation but still a source of terror and danger to friend as well as enemy. As the bombings increased so did the brutal vigilance of the gestapo and SS guards. Food grew less and worse, cold and fatigue increased.

Only when the imminent arrival of the Americans brought confusion did these enslaved workers summon the strength to rise up and flee. And when freedom at last had come, their only wish was to be fed and allowed to make their weary way out of the hated land of Germany by the shortest route, whether or not the way led to their homeland.

There are still millions of these displaced prisoners in what is left of Hitler's Germany. Returning them to homes scattered all over Europe is a tremendous task that will require months and perhaps years. Until it is accomplished they must be housed and fed.

And their eventual resettlement will not solve the problem. The nightmare of servitude, which for some has lasted five years, must have left these millions sick in body and mind. It is doubtful that many will recover completely from the experience.

So these men (and women, too) who should have helped form the core of European recovery may instead become problems to themselves, their families, their country and the whole postwar world. They will make up still another segment of the tragic aftermath of war.

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

Great Britain is alarmed over the rise in illegitimacy in that country since Allied soldiers have been stationed there. There was a 50 per cent increase in such births in England and Wales in 1943, compared with figures for 1938.

The question is what are America and Canada, as well as England, going to do about the protection and support of these children after the war is over and their fathers go back home?

If American women were asked to decide on a policy for America to follow in regard to children born out of wedlock to English girls and American fathers, it probably would be "Let England look after them."

Because American women—stirred up by such stories as that of quadruplets born to an English girl and the husband of an American—resent having American homes broken up by girls in other countries.

"If they are going to make a play for our men, then let them take their chances. And if they find themselves with illegitimate babies that is their look-out," is likely to be the most typical reaction of feminine America.

That may not be fair-minded or big-hearted or even neighborly. But it's human. The wives and sweethearts of American service men, who are sitting at home waiting for their return, couldn't be expected to have much sympathy for the English girls who have affairs with American servicemen and find themselves with illegitimate children to look after and support.

So it is probably a good thing that the question of what to do about the illegitimate children of English girls and American servicemen isn't left up to American women to decide.

They wouldn't make an impartial jury.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—An increase in the number of lawyers in Congress is shown by an occupational survey of the 96 senators and 435 representatives sitting on Capitol Hill today. There were 60 lawyers in the senate at the start of the war in 1941, but there are 70 lawyers in the senate of the 79th congress today. There were 230 lawyers in the house four years ago, 239 today.

This preponderance of legal minds—approximately 73 per cent of the senate and 53 per cent of the house—has been frequently mentioned as one of the things that is wrong with congress. This criticism raises the point that if you want to hire somebody to write you a law you'd look first for a lawyer. Nevertheless the big idea of representative government is that it is supposed to pick a good cross section of the population to do the governing and congress as it is now set up gives only a good geographical cross section, picking one congressman for every 260,000 odd souls. What would help, it is claimed, would be to let congress have an advisory body which would truly represent in better proportion the occupations of the people with the correct percentage of bankers, soda jerkers, race track touts, hill-billy, housewives, beauty parlor operators or what have you.

It's a nice idea to fool around with, but a further examination of the previous article shows that it is about as variegated a lot of jacks-of-all-trades as you could ask for.

Even in the senate, top-heavy as it is with lawyers, a lot of them are in business and occupations that are such as banking or law. This makes occupational classification a little difficult. Looking them by their principal avocations, the non-lawyer senators include one newspaperman and publisher, seven businessmen, three farmers and stockmen, four professional officeholders who can best be classified only as politicians, one educator (Thomas of Utah) and one showman and radio entertainer (Taylor of Idaho) who can probably speak for the crooners and

swooners. Not that the newspapermen and publishers rank second only to the lawyers as throwers around of weight. The businessmen run the gamut. O'Daniel of Texas is a flour salesman, Gurney of South Dakota runs a seed and nursery business in addition to a radio station, Maybank of South Carolina is a cotton exporter, and Wherry of Nebraska is an auto and furniture dealer, and embalmer.

It's among the 78 businessmen that you get real diversification of interest. Nineteen are real estate and insurance men, which is understandable when you think how they get around and meet people. Aside from that concentration it's a hot-kettle. Seven builders and contractors, six bankers, four lumbermen, two accountants, auto dealers, oil and gas men, ad men, manufacturers, and one shipbuilder, clothier, adhesive maker, miller, mine operator, grocer, architect, merchant, gold mine, ice cream maker.

Over 20 per cent are veterans—17 in the senate and 10 in the house. Fourteen served in the navy. Eight have served in the present war, one in the Spanish American, one in the Boer War, one in the Revolution of Wyoming. One of the congressmen were fore-born, coming from Connecticut, Maine, Wales, Scotland, Sweden, Bohemia, Germany, Poland, and Greece.

One admits he was born in a cabin. A Leonard Allen of Louisiana.

On the whole, a pretty representative bunch.

Side Glances



"Yes, it's small, but it's the only apartment I could find, and I thought you'd like the cozy foxhole atmosphere!"

McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

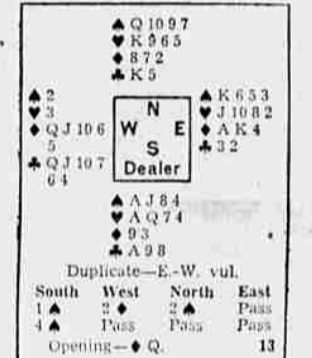
By WM. E. MCKENNEY, America's Card Authority

ANOTHER PROTECTED KING IS SMOTHERED

This is the fifth of six articles on the smother play, the most difficult play in bridge to recognize.

The reason for calling this rare play the smother play is that it literally smothers the opponent out of what seems to be a perfectly sure trick. You can see that when the declarer is forced to ruff the third diamond, it looks hopeless for him to capture East's king, but it is done in the following manner.

A low club is played to the king and the ten of trump played. East, of course, refuses to cover and the declarer plays the



eight spot. Now comes the queen of trump and once again East refuses to cover and the declarer drops his jack on the trick.

he ace of spades is now a singleton in the South hand while East still holds the king and the six of trump.

Declarer's next play is to cash three rounds of hearts and then the ace of clubs.

West is then thrown in the lead by the play of the third club, south discarding a heart, and once again we find that, regardless of what he returns, the declarer can trump in dummy with the seven spot and east must either under-trump and lose his king to the ace or over-trump

Questions & Answers

Q—Are the Japs still plotting our scrap metal at us?

A—Spectroscopic examinations of their weapons says "No."

Q—By what name do the French know Mainz, Germany, Rhineland city recently captured?

A—Mayence.

with the king, which south will win with the ace.
Then the last trick is won in dummy with the nine of trump.

IN FORME YEARS

30 Years Ago

Charles E. Olson was re-elected superintendent of the La Grande high school, and teachers re-elected included Janet Hershey, Stella Hunter, Flora M. Koch, Grace MacMillan and Roy S. McIntosh, Bell B. Edwards, E. A. McEachran, Bert W. Harris, Lucile Ramsdell and Eleanor White. Other teachers engaged were J. S. Howard of Goldendale, Wash., Gertrude Schwalbe of Minnesota, Cecil Hindman, Kansas City, and Fannie Schlapp of Wisconsin.

Circuit Judge and Mrs. J. W. Knowles left for Portland, Corvallis and Eugene. Mrs. Knowles will remain for a considerable time in Willamette valley points after visiting their daughter, Inez, who is attending college in Corvallis.

15 Years Ago

Miss Ethel Hansen, teacher of the first and second grades at the Island City school, was given a birthday handkerchief shower by her pupils. They also took two birthday cakes, which were served with ice cream.

Ernest DeLong was preparing to experiment with a new variety of alfalfa and a new type of irrigation. The tests were under the direction of H. G. Avery, county agent.

10 Years Ago

The Union county dairymen's association met at the city hall with E. C. Harlan, chairman of the state milk board. Harlan reported on what was being done in other sections of the state toward stabilizing the price of milk. Mr. Gertner, president of the local association, was instructed to appoint a committee to devise means of raising funds to pay for the services of a representative of the milk control board.

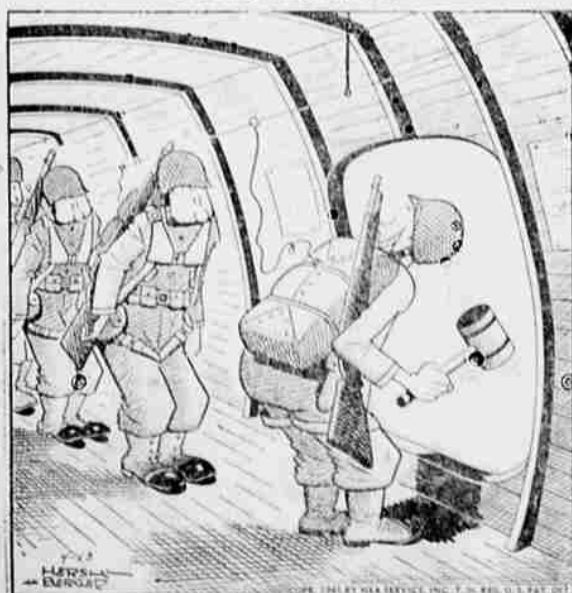
C. M. Humphreys of La Grande was elected president of the elders conference of the Presbyterian church during a meeting held in Baker in connection with the sessions of the Grande Ronde Presbytery.

This Curious World



NEXT: So big Brazil!

Funny Business



SO THEY SAY

If the conflict is prolonged and all Germany's resources are destroyed, it will be of no avail for the German people to say that because we have conquered them it is our responsibility to feed them.

—Rep. Albert Gore (D) of Tennessee.

How people protested when we were about to enter their cellars where they had stored all their property and food. We were looked upon as thieves and plunderers and indignantly they voted wrong.

—Unmailed letter on German captured on Western Front.

There's a funny old difference between the apparent psychology of our men and the Nazis. The German clearly have a sadistic streak in their national character. Their cruelty is deliberate, and it continues, even increases after the end of a battle.

—A Red Army officer.