EDITORIAL PAGE

La Grande Evening Observer

Frank Schiro, Publisher

SATURDAY EVENING, JUNE 16, 1945 — Page Two

"Thanks for t he Lift, Joe!"

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

But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.—Luke 12:31.

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What Government For Germany?

The Germans are unsuited and opposed to democracy, says Pastor Martin Niemoeller. "The greatest shortcoming of the Weimar Republic," he explains, "was that it never could impose authority on the German people, which longed for such authority."

Pastor Niemoeller knows what he is talking about. And history bears him out. Germany's brief and restless interlude of democracy found most of the people backing one or another faction seeking absolute power. Few wanted the sickly republic, or defended it. They'd probably do as badly again. So what will be Germany's future government?

There isn't much choice. Perhaps a communist dictatorship or, as former Ambassador James Girard suggests, a British-type monarchy.

The latter would impose on the Germans the onerous responsibility of parliamentary self-government. It might work, though, by giving them a figurehead of authority and a certain amount of pomp which, as Mr. Girard points out, might counteract their former adulation of the military.

But such an arrangement would scarcely please Russia any more than a communistic Germany would please Britain. Whatever the solution, it will inevitably be preceded by more headaches for the conquering allies who, without any desire to coddle or please the Germans, must seek for them a government that will provide a minimum of unrest and potential trouble which would upset further the peace of Europe and the world.

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Footnote on the Battle of the Bulge

First newspaper accounts of the German breakthrough in Belgium last December were serious and concerned. But soon we civilians were given to understand that the whole operation had been a "calculated risk," that the attack had been expected, and that the trap which the allies eventually sprang on the nazis had been deliberately set.

Now we learn that the attack really was a stunning surprise. General Hodges and his staff narrowly escaped both capture in Spa and death on the bomb-blasted road to Liege. The Germans came within 500 yards of a 3,000,000-gallon gasoline dump which, if taken, might have made the counter-attack's eventual outcome a different story.

The discrepancy between the two accounts is past history, of course, and perhaps not worth worrying about. But it does seem that the army might have believed that the civilian public, told the real story within bounds of security, would not have thought the less of our generals because on one occasion they didn't behave like omniscient heroes of fiction.

However, it does seem proper, before dismissing the subject, to pay belated tribute to the soldier cooks and bakers and the military censors who dropped their skillets and blue pencils to take up rifles and stem the German tank attack. Their now-it-can-be-told exploits make better reading, it seems to us, than the earlier version of the same story.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—Harry Truman is facing the same kind of mess which, as a senator, he used to investigate so efficiently.

The president has told close friends that he dreads the possibility of some big war scandal being connected with his administration, and today a situation pregnant with possibilities is brewing right under his nose in the surplus war property board. It isn't Truman's fault; he inherited it. But it may boomerang against him just the same.

Billions of dollars of surplus war property are to be disposed of—war plants, machine tools, airplanes, steel mills, aluminum works, airplane factories. Not only is there room for graft, but the companies who get these plums can influence economic history for a decade.

Not much graft is known—so far. But the backstage lobbying for pipelines, synthetic rubber plants, high octaine gas plants can result in greater scandals through favoritism than mere graft.

Eagle-eyed Senator Joe O'Mahoney of Wyoming, alert defender of the public interest, has been scrutinizing some of these things. Here are some of the backstage developments which he is probing:

Best protector of the public on the surplus property board is general counsel Wesley Sturges, who last week was excluded from meetings of the board. He objected to too much big-business favoritism by board members . . . Sturges is a former Yale professor, former U. S. foreign economic administrator in north Africa, former czar of the liquor industry . . . He and ex-Senator Gillette of Iowa were the chief protectors of the public on the board; but now Gillette, tired of the battle, is retiring.

Chief opponent of small-business-protector Sturges is Col. Alfred E. Howse, Wichita, Kan., banker and furniture magnate. Howse had a fine, forthright record in the south Pacific.

He helped expose graft and inefficiency in the air forces, ad his operation of surplus property is equally honest . . . but he belongs to the old big business school which would like to see the Sherman anti-trust act at the bottom of the Potomac . . . Along with Howse are numerous colonels he has recruited from Gen. B. B. Somervell's army of economic royalists to help run surplus property. Their idea is to get rid of war goods as fast as they can, no matter who gets them . . . To some extent this is necessary . . . On the other hand, congress set up an excellent set of principles in the surplus property act by which small business is not to be left out in the cold, while veterans, schools, universities and municipalities get first crack at the vast grab-bag of left-over war goods.

Civil war over the aluminum corporation is the best illustration of the big business vs. little business row inside surplus property . . . The big business group was ready to let Alcoa buy some of the best machine tools in the country, now government-owned and loaned to Alcoa for war prductin . . . . This question of Alcoa's monopoly has raged bitterly ever since Andrew Mellon, father of the giant company, was secretary of the treasury, with an anti-trust case against Alcoa hanging fire in the courts for twelve years . . . Same battle continued between Jesse Jones and Secretary Ickes regarding the new aluminum plants built during the war, which Ickes feared would increase Alcoa's monopoly . . . Despite all this, the big business group inside surplus property was quite willing to let Alcoa keep the valuable government-owned machine tools, thus increase its grip on aluminum.

Attorney General Biddle finally stepped into the Alcoa battle and threw his weight behind little-business-defender Sturges . . . Biddle reminded the board that congress, in setting up the surplus property board had ruled against any concern which the attorney general considered a monopoly. Alcoa, said Biddle, was exactly that . . . this seemed to be conclusive . . . but another backstage fight followed . . . Some board members objected to naming Alcoa by name in the order withholding its machine tools. They won their point. The final order merely referred to companies making aluminum and alumina . . . Day after this order was issued—June 7—the board held a secret session and adopted regulations by which little-business-protector Sturges was barred from further meetings . . .

Sturges was not present to object . . . . Then the board wrote up its minutes making it appear that he was present . . . Sturges, however, has registered a protest, making it clear that he did not concur in barring himself from board meetings.

Interesting aftermath is Colonel Howse's attempt to get a new general counsel replacing Sturges. Discouraged, the latter wanted to go back to Yale—but not until October. Not waiting until then, Howse rushed to pick Col Joe Johnston of Birmingham, Ala., son of famous Liberty leaguer Fourney Johnston, to whom the big utilities paid large amounts to fight the Tennessee valley authority.

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

Every serviceman who returns to civilian life is not going to be able to find in his peacetime job and notch in life the same amount of satisfaction he found in the service.

Just being "another civilian" is going to be hard for some men—used to the special treatment and admiration from civilians which they rightfully had when they wore their country's uniform.

Many young men who went into the service right out of college and attained a fairly high rank during the course of the war will have to step down both as to pay and the comparative importance of their work when they start as beginners at civilian jobs.

For those who expect to have to make that kind of adjustment, the going won't be too hard.

But it will be hard on the man who has become dependent on the prestige of his uniform and his rank.

Any wife who finds her husband having trouble making that kind of adjustment will want to help him. And she can, too, believes Dr. Wilbur R. Miller, who is head of Iowa's state psychopathic hospital and head of the department of psychiatry in the University of Iowa colelge of medicine.

He believes the wife who sees that her husband is not getting to use in his job all of his army-developed ability as a leader, or who realizes that her husband is carrying a chip on his shoulder about the way things are being run here at home should encourage him to become active in the affairs of the community.

"The best thing to do with a person who isn't satisfied with the way things are being run is to see that he gets into a position where he can help run them," says Dr. Miller. And he also points out that communities and states will need the help of the returning servicemen as much as the servicemen may need to put their energy and ideas to work.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—Poor old congress got combat fatigue. The battle of Washington is just too much when taken in unrelieved tours of duty and the C-men are beginning to show it. Over a fourth of the members of both houses are absent with or without leave. On the day somebody threw a luncheon for the new secretary of the senate, Leslie L. Biffle, Senator George was the only Democrat present on his side of the asile, while five lonely Republicans listened to Senator Harold make a heavy speech on the big five veto. Total attendance, seven. Over in the house the record was better with 300 out of the 400 on hand to pass repeal of the poll tax. But that was so hot for some of the southerners they wished they were home and it was a futile gesture besides, because the senate will probably kill it.

Adjournment of congress in July is likely, however, and it's about time because the distinguished members are all stir crazy and they need to go home fo a check-up and to be checked-up on.

The battle neuroses now show on the congressmen in the things they do. The house is always unpredictable but when the senate goes haywire as it did in passing the price control amendment which would guarantee a profit on all produce, then you know it's time for a change. Even Ed O'Neal of the farm bureau retched at this proposal, calling it unworkable, and when that cagy old codger calls any piece of legislation benefiting the farmers no good, it really must be bad.

What you an really be thankful for is the bicarmeral system which permits one house of congress to check the rash acts of the other.

The lower house was clear off form and doubly surprised everyone by (a) passing the Bretton Woods agreement and (b) taking a terrible hack at the president's powers to cut tariffs under the reciprocal trade agreements program. The first was considered as good as the latter was disappointing to the administration.

What seems to have happened to both the reciprocal trade renewal in the house as well as to the OPA renewal in the senate is that the solons were unable to look past their own noses. Both were considered as purely local issues instead of matters of which there should be a national policy. Everybody wants price control, everybody wants tariffs reduced—except on those particular commodities in which he deals. And when congressmen listen and react to such pressures, the only thing that will do them much good is a good long rest mid quiet surroundings.

The two things which President Truman has specifically asked of congress—unlimited power to reorganize the government and increased social security payments—will probably have to ride over until congress reconvenes in the fall. The president needs both these authorizations to deal with immediate problems, but both seem headed for a fight and congress is in no mood to tackle such large orders at this time.

Even with congress out of town for the summer, things aren't going to be dull. Senator Robert F. Wagner's banking and currency committee is fixing to hold elaborate hearings on Senator James E. Murray's controversial full employment bill, and there will be the United Nations charter written at San Francisco to argue about. That, too, will probably have to wait until fall before the senate will feel like considering it for ratification.

Side Glances

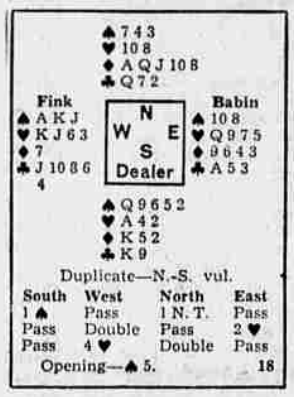
"We wouldn't think of having a neighborhood picnic without inviting you and your wife—and you will bring some wieners and bologna sandwiches, won't you?"

• McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

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

OPTIMISM PAYS WHEN TOP NEEDED

The last board in the Ohio pair championship this year proved a real thriller. We will have to admit that the four heart contract was certainly an optimistic one to get to, but both Elmer Babin and Sid Fink, the defending champions, realized they needed a top to have a chance to win.



Duplicate—N.-S. vul.

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	1 N. T.	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Double	Pass

Opening—♠ 5. 18

Babin played the jack on the opening spade lead and it held the trick. He then cashed the ace and king of spades, discarding a club. A small club was played to the ace and a club returned. South winning with the king. South played the king of diamonds and led a small diamond, which Babin trumped in dummy with the three of hearts. A small club was played and when North played the queen of clubs, Babin trumped with the nine of hearts. The five of hearts was returned, dummy winning with the king. He led the ten of clubs, which North trumped with the ten of hearts. This was overtrumped by Babin with the queen, and overtrumped by South with the ace. At this point, Babin spread the hand and claimed the balance. Even though they won top on this hand, it was not enough. Clare H. Smith and Miss Florence Stratford won the event.

Questions & Answers

Q—What Chinese city, recently recaptured from the Japs, is known as the "City of Willows"?

A—Liuchow, former big American bomber base.

Q—What percentage of American prisoners of war survived the rigors of German prison camps?

A—An estimated 99 per cent.

Q—What is a precentor?

A—A choir leader.

Q—How many members are there of the British house of commons?

A—Over 600. These are elected to represent county and borough districts based on population, as are members of the U. S. house of representatives.

• IN FORMER YEARS

30 Years Ago, June 16

Heine Meidenrich, track and glee club man at the University of Oregon, Jimmie Stoddard, student body editor, and Russell Ralston, a prominent figure in soccer football circles at the same schol, arrived home for the summer vacations.

Paul Schwaiger, of North Platte, Nebr., arrived to visit his uncle E. O. Polack.

15 Years Ago, June 16

Sixty La Grande young men, members of Company E, commanded by Captain W. A. Bean and Lieutenants Jesse Andrews and Porter Webb, detrained at Camp Clatsop station for their six weeks training period.

Miss Eleanor Cleaver is a graduate of the University of Oregon this spring in the department of psychology with a minor in physical education, in which department she has been especially active and interested in interpretative dancing. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Cleaver of this city.

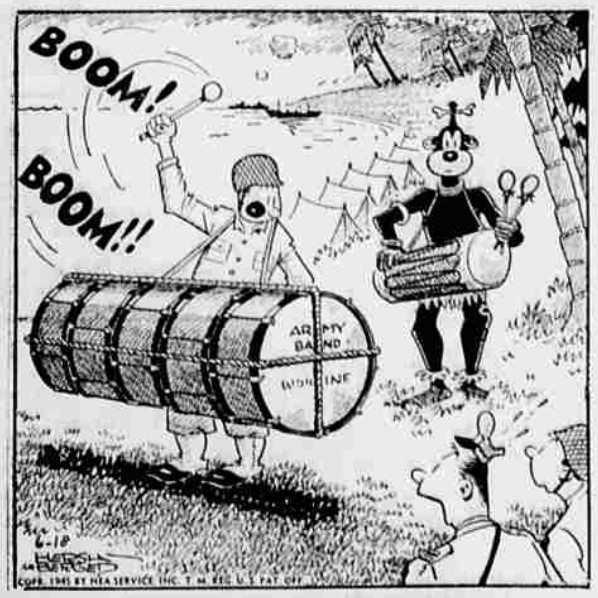
10 Years Ago, June 16

With approximately 2,500 in attendance, the Elks charity circus came to a close in the high school stadium.

Announcement was made that N. K. West and Herman Siegrist had purchased Falk's men's store.

George Singer, foreman of the Grande Ronde packing plant, went to New YYork on a two-week business trip.

Funny Business



"No native's going to outdo me, sir!"

• SO THEY SAY

The democratic form of government suitable to govern the German people has not been discovered.

—Martin Niemoeller, recently freed Berlin Lutheran pastor.

We have come, at last, into an international age. The present generation of youth is the first generation of an international character in history.

—Dr. John R. Mott, president, world alliance of YMCAs.

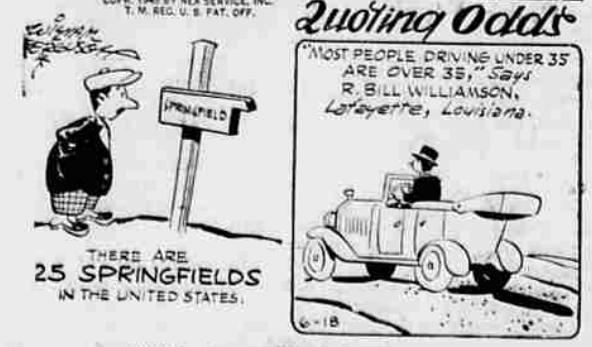
Japan does not want to enslave the American people or exterminate them.

—Isamu Inouye, Jap spokesman, in declaring Japan would soon be in a position to demand unconditional surrender of the United States.

Why, the amateur diplomats who represented the United States at the conference last summer were babes lost in the Bretton Woods.

—Rep. Jessie Sumner, Illinois.

This Curious World



NEXT: Our puzzling animal names.