

# EDITORIAL PAGE

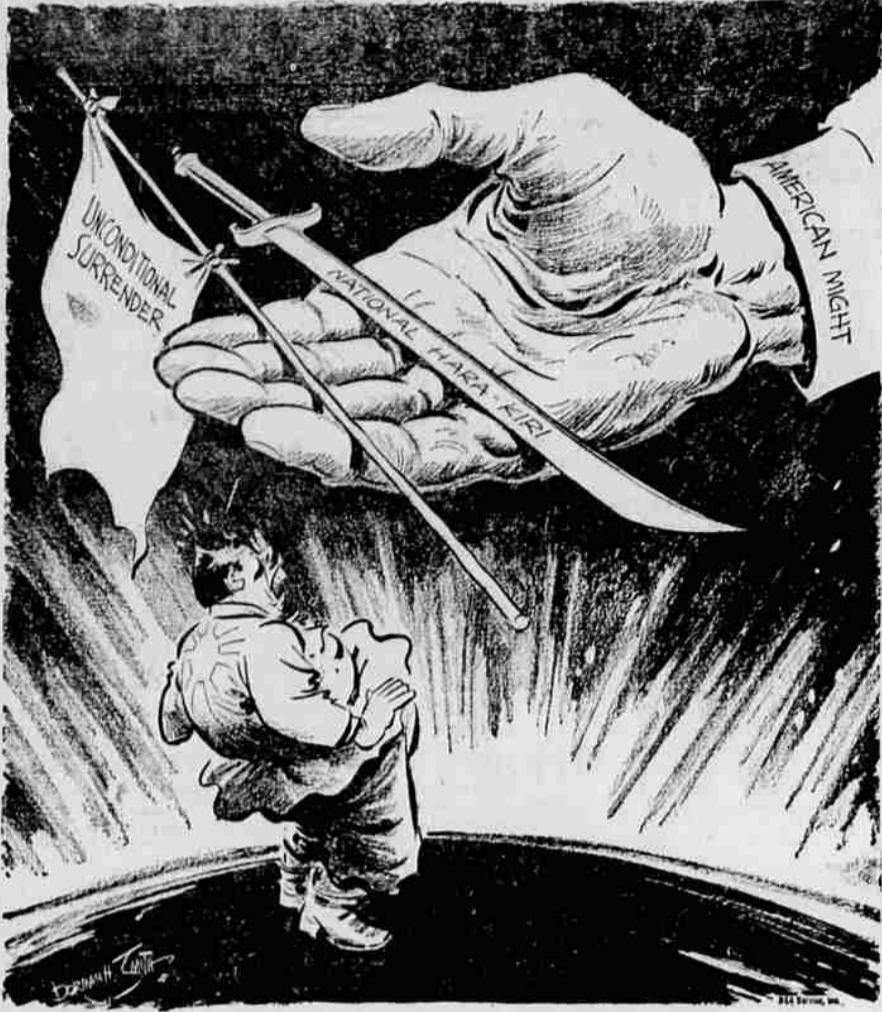
## La Grande Evening Observer

Frank Schiro, Publisher

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Page Two

### A Choice He Can No Longer Avoid



#### EVENING OBSERVER'S PROGRESS PROGRAM

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

#### THOUGHT FOR TODAY

And Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees.—Cowper.

#### The Strike Weapon

Harry Bridges, the powerful and unpredictable west coast labor leader, is quoted as saying that the strike weapon is no longer effective in the United States.

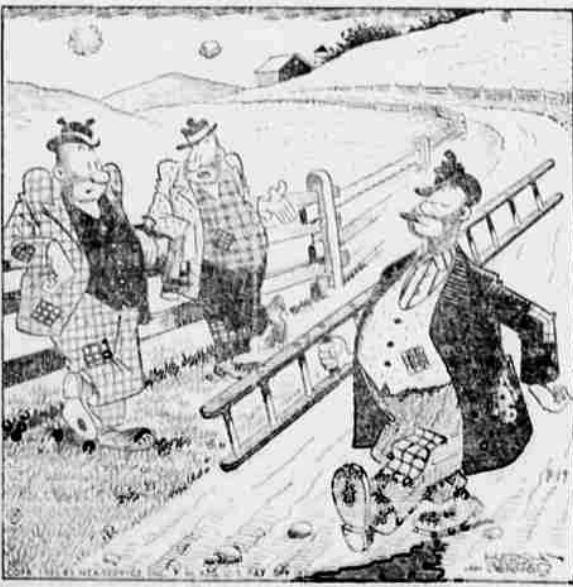
Probably Mr. Bridges is not the only high-up unionist who has reached that conclusion, though no others have expressed themselves with such flat finality. And, whether or not the Australian head of the longshoremen's union made his statements with mental reservations, there is abundant evidence to support it.

It was inevitable public opinion should turn against strikes and strikers in war industries. Responsibility for work stoppages which cost time and lives was usually fixed on local officials and local membership. Most of the top union officials condemned strikes in their own domains.

Nevertheless, the whole union movement has suffered some loss of public esteem. And the result of these violations of the wartime no-strike pledge may be evident in the days of peace to come.

Some weapons should be handled

#### Funny Business



"He's going fitzy—he sleeps only on top of haystacks!"

#### SO THEY SAY

The United Nations charter is both a binding agreement to preserve peace and to advance human progress and a constitutional machinery by which nations can cooperate to realize these purposes.

Dr. Leo Pasvolosky, U. S. state department expert.

France expects, when the discussions begin concerning the larger problem of the security of the Middle East, that France's interests will be fully honored.

—Undentified French official.

I've got kind of a sentimental feeling that I don't want to make a motion picture until the war's over.

Joe E. Brown, actor.

Meat doesn't exist in Japan and there is milk only in small quantities for babies under 10 months.

—Arthur Karem, missionary repatriated from Japan.

## Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON — Congressional hullaballoo over attempts to corner the American rye market has only scratched the surface. If congress should ever dig deep enough, it will unearth one of the juiciest stories of riding the grain market the country has heard for a long time, including some of President Truman's close supporters, chiefly Ed Hurley, former treasurer of the democratic national committee.

Other democrats active in rye were Senator "Pappy" O'Daniel of Texas, Senator "Happy" Chandler of Kentucky, Attorney General Dab Kennedy of California, and Senator Scott Lucas of Illinois.

Senator Lucas was chiefly engaged in trying to lift transportation restrictions so the Chicago boys could unload their tremendous quantities of rye. Chandler and Kenny were let in on the deal through their friend, Ed Pauley. Their profits were relatively small, Chandler making less than \$100.

They were stowaways compared with the really big operators, General Foods, owned in part by Mrs. Joe Davies, wife of Roosevelt's former ambassador to Belgium and to Russia. General Foods, after buying 89 percent of all the deliverable supply of rye and being stuck with it, then performed a beautiful salesmanship job in persuading the Belgian government to take a million bushels off its hand—paid for by U. S. taxpayers through lend-lease.

The department of agriculture has now ordered a hearing on the earlier rye gyrations of General Foods. However, no hearing has yet been ordered on more recent developments, including the operations of democratic bigwig Ed Pauley and the glamorous salesmanship by which a million bushels of rye were unloaded on the Belgians.

One other interesting point is why the war production board ordered distillers to use 10 percent rye in making grain alcohol. Obviously this helped the General Food boys.

#### No Ceiling on Rye

The story begins in the winter of 1942, when ceiling prices were put on all grains

except rye. Official explanation for this exception is that rye was way below parity—around 52 cents a bushel—and the ceiling price was left off for the benefit of the farmer who deserved to get parity, which is over a dollar a bushel.

However, this left rye sticking up like a sore thumb as the one grain in which speculators could trade, and General Foods immediately went into the market, working through a well-known Chicago grain operator—Dan Rice. General Foods' excuse is that they were hedging against inflation. At any rate, they began to buy rye in tremendous quantities until, by Nov. 29, 1943, they had so much jammed into Chicago elevators that Charles Metcalf, vice president of General Foods, was called on the carpet by the business conduct committee of the Chicago board of trade and warned he had so many relatives and friends buying rye for him through disguised brokerage accounts he was barred from buying any more December rye futures.

Finally, in May, 1944, the General Foods rye corner reached the stupendous total of 13,202,000 bushels or 89 percent of the entire rye crop.

It was for trading through this period—1942-44—that the agricultural department cracked down on General Foods.

#### Elevators Jammed

However, it is since May, 1944, that some of the interesting things happened.

During the summer of 1944 there was so much rye heaped up in Chicago elevators the war food administration instructed the WPB to order grain distillers to use 10 percent in making alcohol. Naturally this was a boon to General Foods. It helped get rid of its accumulated rye.

Ordinarily, alcohol distillers don't use rye. Whether someone pulled political wires to get rye used during the summer of 1944 is not known. Anyway, WPB issued the order on instructions from the war food administration and on the excuse that room had to be made in the Chicago elevators for wheat.

## WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

In case you haven't noticed, summer is really here—officially, that is. You can't always rely on the calendar to tell you when summer has finally arrived.

But you can count definitely on its being summer when newspapers begin to carry stories that shorts have been banned on the streets of this or that city by a conventional minded mayor or police chief, and that the women are being sent home to put on more clothes.

Only the story I'm looking at right now has a happier ending than most. It says that the women of Decatur, Ill., are defying the police ban against the wearing of shorts in public and, making the most of American freedom, are wearing shorts whenever and wherever they like. It looks as though the police chief of Decatur is going to have quite a law enforcement problem on his hands, if he carries out his threat to issue warrants for all women who fail to "fully clothe themselves" before appearing on the streets.

Good for the women of Decatur, who have

decided not to let any man tell them how to dress!

If men want to swelter through the summer heat in the get-up of a cocoon, that is okay by women. They're polite enough so that they don't even wonder out-loud about the quality of the masculine mind that hasn't figured out anything more sensible for summer wear than heavy suits, long-sleeved shirts, and neckties.

If men are such slaves to the conventions that they cling to that kind of costume when the thermometer moves up to 90 and over, that is their business. Women are willing to be broadminded about it.

But as for themselves, that is a different story. Women like cool clothes in summer, and if some of them like comfort so well they aren't hesitant about wearing shorts on the street, that is, or rather should be, a matter between themselves and their mirrors.

After all the feminine mind should be just as capable as the masculine mind in the matter of deciding when a woman has "fully clothed herself."

## Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, July 18—A "water lobby" to fight the creation of more U. S. river valley "authorities" like TVA—the Tennessee valley authority—is now emerging as a potent pressure group on the Washington scene.

Most of the 31 national land and water organizations making up this lobby are not new. But their banding together for the avowed purpose of stopping the spread of valley authority idea is highly significant. It marks the beginning of what may be a long and bitter fight over the post-war development of every section of the United States.

Motives underlying this fight are deep and difficult to fathom.

While it would be natural to think any opposition to the development of more TVAs would come from the old private electric power utilities lobby, connection between the power lobby and the water lobby does not appear on the surface.

F. O. Hagie, secretary-manager of the national reclamation, one of the five organizations whose Washington representatives make up the coordinating committee of the unofficial and unnamed water lobby, has a simple explanation of its existence. He says the 31 organizations are simply fighting against a change in the American form of government. Hagie contends that dividing the United States into nine regional authorities of three men each, as proposed by Mississippi Rep. John Rankin's bill, would give these 27 men more political power than all the 48 governors and state legislatures and federal government too. He is against that.

But, the issue may not be that simple, either. For a better insight of what's behind this fight, you have to appreciate what water is and what it does to keep the United States a going concern. Water isn't just stuff to drink and bathe in; water is billions and billions of dollars. To the farmer, it is necessary feed for livestock and crops. It is needed in irrigation, fought in soil erosion. It is drainage, it is large navigation in rivers and canals; deeper, it is harbors for ocean going ships. In flood time, it must be controlled; behind dams it generates electric power. It is the life blood of commerce, and all the trade associations depending on water, have a stake in the idea of river valley development.

In almost all of the United States west of Omaha, water rights for irrigation are more valuable than land rights. This is hard for most easterners to understand, but it is so. And, any time anyone comes along to disturb water rights, proposing to turn them over to some new authority that doesn't control them now, he has a war on his hands. More people have been killed in the west over water rights than for cattle and sheep rustling or highway robbery. Now the importance of this water fight begins to register.

The disposition of billions of dollars worth of lush "pork barrel" congressional appropriations is at stake in contracts for river and harbor improvement, flood control projects, dam and canal construction, irrigation and reclamation, soil erosion and drainage. Control over the government agencies now administering these matters is another factor not to be overlooked in this battle. War department's corps of engineers, interior's bureau of reclamation and public power sales, federal power commission, and department of agriculture today share these responsibilities. While it is now claimed that the conflicts between these agencies were largely resolved by the flood control act of 1944, rivalry still exists and each agency has its backers who do not want present policies changed or given to new authorities.

These are some of the reasons why the water lobby has been able to bring together such diverse interests as the New York State Water association, Ohio Valley Improvement association, Florida Waterways congress, Texas Water Conservation association, California Water council, American Power Boat association, Propeller club, American Merchant Marine Institute, Pittsburgh Coal exchange and a score more.

The coordination committee now managing the affairs of the 31 organizations includes besides F. A. Hagie of the Reclamation association, William H. Webb of the National Rivers and Harbors congress, Roy Miller of the Intracoastal Canal association of Louisiana and Texas, E. W. Rising of the water conservation conference, and Lachlan Macleay of the Mississippi Valley association.

Further look at the authority issue and the water lobby activities will be given in the next issue.

### Side Glances



"How soon will I get the bomb?"

## McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

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

#### GEN. MARK CLARK BRIDGE ACE, TOO

I certainly enjoyed seeing Gen. Mark W. Clark, during his recent visit to New York, and he reaffirmed the fact to me that when things settled down he would be glad to visit one of our victory tournaments to help

me the other night at six and I made seven and then he insisted I should have bid the seven." Well, even though seven can be made you will admit it is a tough hand to bid.

The opening lead was won with the ace and one round of trumps taken. The ace and king of spades were then cashed, discarding two hearts from dummy. Now the ace and king of hearts were cashed and a low heart ruffed in dummy, dropping Gruenther's queen. Declaren returned to his hand with a trump, led his now established heart, discarding dummy's losing club for the overtrick.

None	Gruenther
♠ K 5 4 2	♠ J 10 8 6
♠ A J 10 8 6 5 4	♠ Q J 7
♠ A 4	♠ 2
♠ Q 9 7 4 2	♠ K Q 5 3
♠ 10 3	
♠ 3	
♠ J 10 8 7	
♠ 6	

Gen. Clark	
♠ A K 3	
♠ A 9 3	
♠ K Q 9 7	
♠ 9 2	

South	West	North	East
1 ♠ Pass	3 ♣ Pass	4 N T Pass	Double
3 ♠ Pass	6 ♣ Pass	Pass	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening—♠ J 19			

## IN FORMER YEARS

#### 30 Years Ago

Prof. J. B. Horner, who with the late Mr. Grimmer helped build the first brick building in La Grande, is in La Grande from Corvallis where he now occupies the chair of history.

Miss Susanna Deal, Hanna Rogers and Austin Sloan went to Union Saturday to visit friends. Mrs. William Ash and daughter, Mina, are leaving tonight for San Francisco to visit relatives and see the fair.

#### 15 Years Ago

Harley Richardson returned to La Grande after a 10 day trip to San Francisco. While there he visited an art and gift exhibit, and displays of American and imported merchandise.

Miss Florence Houston, Miss La Grande in the state wide beauty contest held in Portland, was rated high among the 11 contestants, to represent Oregon at the International Pageant of Pulchritude at Galveston, Tex., next month.

#### 10 Years Ago

J. L. Hedden and his son, Louis Hedden, accompanied by George Balch of Baker have gone to Los Angeles where they will attend the buyers convention. They expect to be away about two weeks and will attend the San Diego International exposition while in California.

Mr. and Mrs. Hal Bohnenkamp have returned from Wallowa lake where they spent several days vacationing.

### This Curious World



ALMOST A MILLION OIL WELLS HAVE BEEN DRILLED IN THE UNITED STATES... WITH OVER 200,000 OF THEM DRY-HOLES!



THREE TONS OF HARBING COUNTY, A NORTH DAKOTA KILLER WOLF WAS ESTIMATED TO HAVE DESTROYED \$50,000 WORTH OF LIVESTOCK BEFORE ITS CAPTURE IN 1925.



WHICH ONE OF THESE ISLANDS IS NOT TOUCHED BY THE EQUATOR? SUMATRA, BORNEO, JAVA.

ANSWER: Java, which lies south of it. Sumatra and Borneo are bisected by the equator.

NEXT: Dringing secrets.