

EDITORIAL PAGE

La Grande Evening Observer

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Page Two

"Thanks, but What More Could You Offer Me?"



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

He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.—Samuel 2:9.

How Well Will It Work?

It may have seemed odd to many Americans that the new British government's proposed domestic reforms were announced by a man who is not even an official member of that government.

But as chairman of the Labor Party's national executive committee, Prof. Harold Laski's importance exceeds that of the national committee chairmen of American political parties. He is not merely a boss of political campaigns. He is one of the new government's leading philosophers.

Hence, when he outlined the plan to nationalize successively the Bank of England, the coal mines, inland transportation and the iron and steel industries, one could be certain that he has had a major part in planning that program, and that his counsel will be sought in carrying it out.

But Professor Laski is still not in the government. It will be up to the members of that government to answer

to the British people for the work ability of their new program. They must prove not only that they are "prepared to give the little man . . . all the progressive chance that he requires." They must also prove that political monopoly is better than private monopoly, and that public enterprise is more just, profitable and productive than private enterprise.

And it will be up to the new government to take responsibility for the timing and extent of the reforms. However desirable these reforms may be—and the majority of Britons obviously want them—they must be done right.

Like it or not, the source of much prewar British wealth and many prewar British jobs lay overseas. That source has been dried up and replaced by overseas debts greater than the original investments. As a result, the island heart and nerve center of the British Empire is in a precarious financial position.

Added problems, of course, are the widespread destruction of industrial and business installations and private dwellings, burdensome taxes and, not least, an unfinished war. These must be wrestled with and solved without undue experimentation or intemperate public spending.

The new Labor government has a great opportunity as well as a discouragingly difficult task. But its great challenge is the same one that the conservatives would have faced; not how good is your philosophy, but how well will it work?

Funny Business



"I think it's going to take the former sergeant a few days to get back in the groove!"

SO THEY SAY

The Japanese warlords meant it when they said they were willing to fight a 100-year war if necessary. They figured that we would get so sick of fighting that we would agree to a negotiated peace.

The United States must never again repeat the mistake of throwing away its weapons while the world bristles with threats of war.

The Supreme Court decision which freed them (German-American Bondists) from a more serious charge does not provide good reason for restoration of citizenship to men who have shown they are not Americans at heart.

Our comment on the news that Brig. Gen. Elliott Roosevelt wanted out of the Army can be confirmed to his wife: Who doesn't?

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON — President Truman's friends in Kansas City are hoping he gets all his work done before he comes out to Missouri again because if he tries to work in his Kansas City office, it will be hot.

Truman's two-room suite on the sixth floor of the federal building in Kansas City happens to be one of two offices which can't be air-conditioned. The building's air conditioning system can't be hooked up to these two offices.

However, one other office attachment, hitherto lacking, has now been remedied—a telephone. Throughout all his career as a senator, frugal Harry Truman never had a telephone in his office in the federal building. Instead, he stepped next door and used the phone of U. S. District Judge John Caskie Collet.

Although nothing can be done about the air-cooling, a telephone has now been installed in the Kansas office of the president of the United States.

Army Hoards G.I.s

Some of the reasons behind the war department's insistence on keeping a tremendous two-front army to fight a one-front war, also behind the sudden scramble for conscription, have become clearer since Potsdam.

Brass-hat insistence on keeping veterans busy picking up cigarette butts when they have ample points to obtain discharge, has been puzzling members of congress. Also it's not generally realized that the army and navy together plan to reduce their size by only 10 per cent during the coming year, despite the new atomic bomb, despite Germany's collapse, and despite the fact that it is a physical impossibility to transport such a large army to the Pacific.

The June strength of the army, immediately after V-E day, was 8,300,000 men. Between June 1945 and June 1946, the army brass hats plan to discharge approximately 1,300,000 men. But, meanwhile, General Hershey has announced the army plans to continue drafting men at the rate of 100,000 a month, which, in 12 months, means an additional 1,200,000 men.

This is something the army has not explained. For, unless this policy is changed, the army by next June will be about the same size it is today.

All this is why senators and congressmen have been blowing off steam in recent weeks. Even staunch Democrats are beginning to admit privately perhaps Governor Dewey's campaign charges about keeping men in the army after the war were right.

U. S. Army in Germany

Meanwhile, one secret commitment made by President Roosevelt at Yalta has now

leaked out. This is one reason why the war department is so anxious to rush a peacetime conscription act through congress even before the war is over.

At Yalta, Roosevelt gave a promise that the United States would keep an army of 500,000 men in Germany for four to five years. Half a million men is a tremendous force to keep overseas in peacetime, especially when the executive power to maintain such an army automatically ends shortly after hostilities cease.

The selective service act expires May 15, 1946. That act permits the president to deploy troops overseas without congressional authority until six months after the war. The first war powers act also expires six months after hostilities. So unless a conscription act is passed, or some new power given the White House, an American army of occupation in Germany would be illegal.

President Truman, however, is known to have a lot of new ideas on this subject. At Potsdam, he arranged for the withdrawal of most of the American army from Italy. He also proposed that all allied troops get out of the occupied countries as soon as possible—with the exception of Germany.

This is one of the most important problems now facing Truman. Those who know him well think he will be against manpower hoarding by the brass hats and will favor the national guard-ROTC system of military training.

Under the Dome

Working for the senate may mean more prestige than working for the house. But the pay-off on the house side is far better. During the session just ended, the congressmen not only voted \$2,400 annual expense money to themselves (which the senate refused to do for itself) but also voted raises for employes. The house parliamentary, who was on a salary of \$8,500, compared with \$6,500 for the senate parliamentary, got a raise of \$1,000 and an additional \$500 so long as the present parliamentary is in office. This brings his salary to \$10,000 . . . the house chaplain receives \$2,500 compared with only \$1,680 for the senate chaplain; the house journal clerk receives \$7,000 compared with \$5,000 for the senate journal clerk; and the house postmaster receives \$5,000 compared with \$3,600 for the senate postmaster.

Representative John Sparkman, Alabama, believes in doing things in twos. He has the only set of twins working as secretaries in a congressional office, Anne and Alice Canterbury of Huntsville, Ala. And he's bursting with pride right now because two Huntsville boys—Lieut. Cecil "Bushy" Bolton and S/Sgt. Paul Bolden will shortly be given the congressional medal of honor in a joint ceremony.

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

"Too much petticoat rule," said a probation officer who was diagnosing what was wrong with a 15-year-old who had gotten into some minor scrapes.

That may be good diagnosis—but what is the cure in these times when kids have to grow up entirely under "petticoat rule"?

The majority of women who must bring up their children without a father's help try to do a good job. But a mother isn't naturally equipped to be both a mother and a father.

For the most part, nobody has given war wives help in bringing up their kids. The men left in a community could have organized to help war wives with the problem of bringing up their sons—but they haven't.

It has been left entirely up to the women, and the average kid with a father overseas doesn't come under the influence of men at all. At home there is just a mother, and at

school there are women teachers.

Boys' organizations in most communities are suffering from a lack of men leaders. Yet, when the "petticoat rule" proves ineffectual or downright damaging—women get the blame.

It isn't blame they need. It is help. Bringing up children without a man's example and firmness is something they don't bargain for, whether the father is out of the picture because the home is broken permanently or temporarily because of the war.

One of the things that women regret most about having their husbands away at war is the responsibility it throws on them for being both mother and father to their children. They know the kids suffer from having only a woman to guide and discipline them.

And they are more anxious than anybody else for the "petticoat rule" to end as soon as possible.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

By DOUGLAS LARSEN

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—One of the first man-on-the-street reactions to Russia's declaration of war on Japan was "Yes, as soon as we've got the Japs licked with our atom bomb they decide to get in on the kill."

Stories that the Russians knew nothing of the atomic bomb strengthened this idea. But, regardless of whether the Reds were in on the bomb secret, their declaration of war on Japan is the climax of a plan carefully worked out by the Big Three since the defeat of Germany, maybe longer. It combined to deal one of the most crushing one-two punches in the history of modern warfare.

When it was decided Russia would fight Japan, U. S. officials agreed the Reds would need more fighting equipment; deploying it over the vast rugged reaches of Russia from the distant western front for use against the Japs would be a tough job. The quickest way would be to ship it from the west coast of America directly across. This had its many complications too, but here's how it was accomplished.

For months almost all available Russian ships have been arriving at Seattle and other coast ports. They've been loaded with all kinds of war material and then sailed in almost a straight line 4,200 miles to Vladivostok. This port is the best place to unload for strategic distribution to equip and prepare Russian troops for the job ahead. The route the ships took is the amazing part of the whole plan; they boldly sailed between Hokkaido, upper island of the Jap home group, and Karafuto which is the Jap controlled half of the Sakhalin island, that's practically through the heart of Japan. Coming from between these islands, they entered

the sea of Japan and then Vladivostok. As much of the sea anywhere that can be said to be Jap controlled, this route is through. But the Russians were neutral as far as the Japs were concerned, and went through un-molested.

The Japs may have guessed what the cargo was, but if they did, they decided against risking immediate Russian entry into the war. It was a gamble they lost.

Just how much war equipment got through is still a military secret, but the Big Three must think that the Russians are now to back up the threat of fighting, if necessary. To what extent the declaration was all a part of the first atomic bomb attack is a matter of speculation, but whether by chance or by plan, its effect couldn't have been better.

When and if the Reds meet the Japs on the battlefield, it could be almost any place along the border. There is 85 miles of Soviet owned island of Sakhalin, and Japanese Karafuto. A vast expanse of Soviet land touches Jap held Manchuria on the north and northeast, while a peninsula of Red territory dips southward along the coast of the sea of Japan, touching an eight mile strip at the northeastern tip of Japanese Korea. The boundary in all is about 2000 miles long.

The Siberia-Manchuria boundary is marked for nearly all of its course by great rivers. Vulnerably close to these rivers is the vital trans-Siberian railway, all important connecting link with Vladivostok.

Estimate of the number of Jap troops which could be thrown against the Russians ranges from 1,000,000 to 5,000,000. It must be remembered that in this remote inner Asia region of deserts and nomads, the Russians defeated the Japs in 1939 in an undeclared border war.

Side Glances



"You butchers will wish you had some friends after the war when we downtrodden common people arise!"

McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY America's Card Authority

ETERNAL FINESSE IS HAND'S BIG 'IF'

The mail I receive from the boys overseas is a source of great pleasure. The letters have a little interesting story to tell. One came in recently from Sgt. Harland J.

▲ 10	▲ 92
▲ AQ 10 8 6	▲ KJ 7 4
▲ AK 9 7	▲ 10 4
▲ 7 4 2	▲ KJ 10 8
▲ J 8 7 6 5	▲ 5
▲ 4 3	
▲ 9 3	
▲ 8 5 2	
▲ 9	

Dealer

Duplicate—East-West vul

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 N T	Pass	6 ♠	Pass

Opening—♠ 9 14

Clark, who says that being overseas has not lessened his enthusiasm for a good bridge game, and he still follows our column in his home-town paper.

Sergeant Clark wrote about the hand shown today, which I ran

BARBS

President Truman says the new atomic bomb means a rain of ruin for the Japs. The latest war cry is up an' atom!

Uncle Sam tells us there will be plenty of radios for Christmas gifts. We doubt, however, that the music will have charms to soothe the savage appetite.

If there were no old maids in the world, who would use the expression, "We girls?"

The best tips in connection with vacation are those you save by not taking one.

The leaves will soon begin to blush to think how green they've been all summer.

Many of us were all washed up on butter long before some of it was sold to soap makers.

Victorious Russian generals are living in rent free apartments in Moscow. Imagine even finding an apartment!

This Curious World

ANSWER: Scotland.

NEXT: He carries a weight on his shoulders.