

EDITORIAL PAGE

La Grande Evening Observer

Frank Schiro, Publisher

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Page Two

"So Sorry!"



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

But now I am past all comforts here, but prayers. — Shakespeare's Henry VIII.

The Bigger Task Ahead

The first hysteria of jubilation—natural, inevitable and spontaneous sequence, to Japanese surrender—has begun to subside.

And returning once more to the foremost position in the consciousness of the American and Allied peoples is their solemn realization, which was crowded into the background momentarily, of the responsibilities and problems imposed by the restoration of peace.

The collapse of Japan placed the final official stamp of triumph upon the most difficult and dangerous problem of war ever to be faced by free peoples of the earth. The issue long was in doubt. For months and years it took highest courage even to hope that human liberty could survive the threat to its existence. But it has survived after the greatest victory in the greatest war record in history.

Democratic peoples now have crossed the threshold of another era. And they are confronted with problems and difficulties of peace no less in magnitude than the problems of war which have just been mastered. Most thinking peo-

ple are filled with the realization that to gain victory in peace likely will be fully as difficult—and may prove more difficult—than victory in war.

To attempt to enumerate any considerable number of those problems would be an impossible undertaking. But everyone must agree upon the one problem which overshadows all others. That problem finds expression in the determination reiterated times without number that horrors like those visited upon mankind during the past six years must never be allowed to happen again. If they are allowed to happen, then the very best that can be said will be that the sacrifices made during World War II will have been made in vain. Victory in war will be worse than nullified if free men fail to see to it that they win the peace.

No one can set the pattern which will insure the winning of the peace. No one can know just how it will be done. But common sense must tell us that, just as victory in war required its sacrifices, victory in peace will exact its sacrifices, too. We don't pretend to know what these may be. But logic should tell everyone that he will have to give, perhaps a great deal, in return for the blessings he expects to receive for himself and his posterity.

There still is a job—an enormous job—for individuals as well as for nations. But there is bright hope in the belief that, if individuals as a whole accept their part of that job with the same enthusiasm and determination they accepted their duties in war, then free mankind will gain a greater victory in peace than he did in war.

Funny Business



"I hope your vacation has filled you with pep and vigor, Mr. Jones!"

BARBS

Now that the war is over we are safe in trusting the Japs—about as far as we can see them.

Soap may be more plentiful about the time school starts. That's what we call rubbing it in on little Johnny!

Japan's new premier is Gen. Prince Naoto Higashi-Kune—and the press writers are in for a bad spell.

Beef won't be as plentiful as pork for some time. The worst is still to come.

Auto owners went wild when gas was made ration free—and that's now it affected the driving of a great many.

Company is what you can't take your shoes off before.

An eminent physician has stated that snake venom becomes harmless when exposed to ultraviolet light.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

(Ed. Note—Drew Pearson is on vacation. Ellis Arnall, governor of Georgia who recently led the fight abolishing the poll tax, contributes today as Pearson's guest writer.)

By ELLIS ARNALL

ATLANTA, Ga.—The reconversion period will place exceptional strains upon state governments. It will test the efficiency and foresight with which state agencies have prepared for peace. It will determine whether political decentralization, which is almost as essential to security as economic decentralization, is to be retained or abandoned.

The magnitude of the problems facing the federal government will be increased enormously unless state agencies are alert and effective. In the next three or four years there will be the eventual test of whether "states rights" mean anything. Unless "states rights" are coupled with the assumption of responsibilities, they will be about as useful as an arquebus.

During the past four years, public services have been limited to minimum needs for education, public health and public assistance. The physical plants of all units of government highways, public buildings, sanitary facilities, hospitals are in poor condition throughout the nation.

This presents a challenge to state governments to meet needs within their spheres promptly. If they do not do so, they will create a vacuum into which the federal government must inevitably move in response to urgent public demand. Decentralization is not an excuse for a static inaction. It will not be accepted as an excuse. The public has strong objections to centralization, but it has an even stronger antipathy for slothful neglect.

Georgia's R. R. Battle

There has been determined propaganda in America for 30 years to the effect state governments were important. As a southern governor, I was supposed to be righteously indignant on all public occasions about the freight rate discrimination that is one of the main causes of that poverty which is the root of all the south's economic and social ills. But it was presumed, likewise, that action about the matter would be limited to the filing of polite complaints with the drowsy interstate commerce commission and to the assumption in public of a suitable lachrymose attitude. The state of Georgia,

it was assumed, could do nothing about the matter.

Reports from the Tennessee valley authority, the president's committee, the southeastern regional planning board and scores of other agencies disclosed the acute need for smashing the transportation cartel. That industrialization, to balance agriculture, was a prime need for the southern and western states was strikingly obvious. That delay until the termination of the war, permitting the junking of every newly developed industrial facility in these sections, would be suicidal was clearly apparent.

So Georgia sued in the United States supreme court, seeking to break up the intricate unofficial bureaucracy that was imposing outrageous transportation rates on the section.

It could not be done, it was insisted. The supreme court would never entertain such an action. Georgia would be the laughing-stock of the country. The preliminary opinion of the supreme court, accepting jurisdiction in the case in one of the most far-reaching decisions ever handed down by that tribunal, gave Georgia the last laugh.

Lazy State Governments

This illustrates the fact that state governments are not ineffective instruments of the public—if they are put to use. They possess enormous powers. They can protect the interests of their citizens, if they set out to do so. Laziness has been their curse.

State governments can exercise a wholesome influence in safeguarding against monopolies, in encouraging decentralization of industry, and in protecting the natural resources of America from exploitation.

As this country endeavors to organize for reconversion, it is becoming evident two bad tangles in our domestic affairs must be straightened. Prosperity must be better distributed through decentralization of industry. Cartels and monopolies must be eliminated.

Monopoly vs. Democracy

Monopolies have no place within a democracy. They are the implements of the ideologies that have just cost America a million casualties and three hundred billion dollars to suppress. No program of decentralization of industry, with the wisdom of a uniformly prosperous nation, can be realized unless conspiracies in restraint of trade are suppressed.

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

One thing we've got to get busy doing right away is to get a new set of alibies and excuses.

So many of the old ones aren't good even now, and more and more of them are going to be outdated as the months go by.

Look what the end of gasoline rationing has done. We can't stall around any longer saying the reason we don't visit the Whosits in the country or spend a weekend with relatives in a nearby city is because we just can't stretch our gas that far.

And we are going to have to do something one of these days about the living room sofa we weren't going to replace until the end of the war, or think up an entirely new reason for hanging on to the old wreck.

And we can't put off entertaining any longer on the grounds that it isn't patriotic in war time, and soon we'll have to quit saying that we can't get food.

Remember all those wonderful things we

are going to do just as soon as the war was over? Well, somebody may call our hand on those, especially the small fry who have good memories for such wild promises.

And we individuals aren't the only ones who will have to quit using the old alibies and excuses. Firms and businesses that have blamed the war for all their slippings, poor service, and mistakes are either going to have to do better from now on or think up other reasons for giving inferior service.

But don't worry too much about it. Maybe for a while we can get by with blaming the reconversion period for all the things we don't get done. And maybe that will give us an interlude in which we can again start doing instead of talking, producing instead of promising. But it won't be easy. Not nearly as easy as having the war to blame for everything.

Still we used to manage without the war—and maybe we can again.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By DOUGLAS LARSEN

NEA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24—Many new men are arriving in town to take jobs of varying importance in the government as a result of recent cabinet changes.

One of the first things they must learn is how to determine the salary and rank of the bureaucrats around them by their office furnishings. There is no uniform to wear in the government with identifying insignia to mark a first assistant from a second assistant so a man's office must serve that purpose. In the course of years this means of signifying importance has become as rigid in government offices as any set of military regulations governing uniforms.

This is how it goes:

A man doesn't become an "official" until he gets a secretary. If his salary is around \$4,500 the secretary usually has a desk in his office. There's no rug on the floor, filing cases are all around. A picture of his wife and kids is permitted on the desk, but not on the walls. You have to make at least \$7,500 before you can hang anything but bureau pictures on your office wall. If he's a "comer" with a lot of drive he'll have an ash tray with a fountain pen set. He'll have one telephone with extensions.

The next bracket is around the \$6,500 salary. He gets a green rug on the floor. His secretary is in an adjoining office with the file cabinets and he has two phone extensions. According to his own taste he can put a leather davenport in the outer office or in his own. It depends on whether he wants to impress visitors before or after they see him. Infallible clue to this position is a chromium-plated water pitcher set. He wouldn't be caught dead without this pitcher in plain view.

The man moves up. He's getting around \$8,000 a year now. This takes two secretaries, a green rug for the outer office, a red rug for the inner office and an inter-office communicating system with red and green lights if he's got anything on the ball at all. He'll have a mysterious little phone hanging on an obscure part of the desk. The implica-

tion of this is that he has direct communication with the "secretary." A sharp gal in the outer office will know enough to ring this phone once or twice when a visitor is in the office to set the stage for a low-voiced aside conversation presumably with the "secretary."

At this stage of the game you can eat lunch a couple of times a week in the office. A tray with a half-finished meal is considered very impressive.

But at \$8,000 a year the "must" is a conference table. Like the water pitcher set for his assistant, this is it. The option is to have this table running down from the other side of your desk or at the other end of the room with an overstuffed swivel chair at one end, which, naturally, is for you. Depending on whether he took his promotion in stride he might have three water pitcher sets strewn around.

When a bureaucrat gets anything over \$8,000 he can be more flexible in selecting his furnishings.

Such variations as a young messenger boy at a desk outside the outside door is considered in especially good taste. Current magazines on a table in the waiting room for visitors builds up good will with the public. Several of the big timers who have come in to the government from private business have refrigerators in their second inner offices hidden behind a screen. Nobody knows what's in them but the effect on the visitor is astonishing.

Aside from bureaucratic furnishings there are a couple of other clues to a man's importance in the federal system. The most damaging faux pas a man can make is to answer his own phone. If the secretary doesn't ask who is calling and the nature of the business before connecting someone with him on the telephone you can make up your mind he gets less than \$8,000. If he does his own calling rather than have his secretary get the desired person on the phone you can make up your mind he's small potatoes, too.

Side Glances



"It's been an awfully dull summer—the men I've rescued have been of such an age as to cause me to wonder whether it mattered!"

McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY America's Card Authority

MAKES 4 REDOUBLED AGAINST 5 TRUMPS

Lyman R. Brown of New York, who is kept quite busy seeing that there is plenty of high octane gas available for our flyers, finds

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| ♠ K Q 8 2 | ♥ K 10 8 6 | ♦ A 2 | ♣ 5 3 |
| ♠ 10 7 6 | ♥ None | ♦ K Q 8 7 | ♣ K 10 9 8 7 |
| ♠ N | ♥ W | ♦ S | ♣ E |
| ♠ 1 5 3 | ♥ J 5 4 3 2 | ♦ 6 5 4 | ♣ A 6 |
| ♠ Dealer | ♥ Brown | ♦ A 4 | ♣ A Q 9 7 |
| ♠ A 4 | ♥ A Q 9 7 | ♦ J 10 9 3 | ♣ J 4 2 |
| ♠ Duplicate—N-S vul. | ♥ South | ♦ West | ♣ North |
| ♠ 1 2 | ♥ 1 2 | ♦ 1 4 | ♣ Pass |
| ♠ Redouble | ♥ Pass | ♦ Double | ♣ Pass |
| ♠ Opening—♠ K | ♥ 25 | ♦ | ♣ |

East overlook West's opening lead of the club king with the ace, and returned the six of clubs. West returned a club which Brown did not make the mistake of trumping in dummy. Instead he discarded the deuce of diamonds, a loser anyway.

A diamond was returned. Brown won with the ace in dummy, led a small trump and won with the queen. This gave him the bad news on the trump break. He now cashed three rounds of spades and won the balance of his tricks by cross-ruffing.

East with his five trumps was helpless.

IN FORMER YEARS

30 Years Ago

Automobile owners appointed a week ago to act as gleaners of feasible suggestions to make in revision of La Grande traffic ordinance, held an important meeting last evening, and recommendations will be put before the automobile owners in a general meeting this evening at which time the various recommendations will be acted upon and the finished product put up to the city commission for ratification by them.

15 Years Ago

The test block of oiling, authorized by the city commission about 10 days ago in response to a request from north side residents that their streets be oiled, has been completed.

Mrs. L. K. Kinzel won the women's club championship at the La Grande country club course yesterday, defeating Mrs. A. W. Nelson three and two in the finals. The match was interesting and well played, with the outcome in doubt until the last few holes.

10 Years Ago

Already fully accredited by the Northwest Association of Colleges and Secondary schools, the Eastern Oregon Normal school will, upon completion of the new and modern training school and gymnasium for occupancy this fall, fully meet the requirements of the American Association of Teachers colleges.

This Curious World

HOW MUCH IS A BILLION DOLLARS?
 IT'S AS MANY TICKS AS A CLOCK WOULD MAKE IF IT TICKED ONCE EACH SECOND, 24 HOURS A DAY, 365 DAYS A YEAR, FOR NEARLY 32 YEARS.

INDIANS SOMETIMES MADE POISONS OF POISON IVY.

WHAT IS A CARROUSEL?
 TICKETS 5 CENTS

ANSWER: A merry-go-round. NEXT: A creature that outgrows five skeletons.