

# EDITORIAL PAGE

## La Grande Evening Observer

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Page Four

### That's the Trouble With Leaning Too Heavily



**THOUGHT FOR TODAY**  
In every house the Christ is born.—  
R. W. Gilder.

### Lend-Lease and Gratitude

Recent events must have proved extremely disillusioning to those Americans who have imagined that nations which have benefited from the generosity of Uncle Sam would be so eternally grateful that they never would think of saying harsh things about the old gentleman.

But, as realistic people expected, gratitude has been proved once more to be a fleeting emotion. It now appears that many nations maintained the appearance of gratitude only for so long a time as the United States kept the gravy train running. When that stopped, the expressions of gratitude not only ceased, but gave way to violent criticisms.

The gravy train, in this instance, was, of course, the lend-lease assistance which President Truman terminated at the end of the war — just as it was intended to be terminated from the beginning. And it may or may not have been significant that the first and most violent criticisms came from Great Britain, which received nearly three times as much lend-lease aid as all other nations combined. And seemingly there was none in Britain to speak up for Uncle Sam. Rival political leaders who rarely agree on anything were as one in assailing the termination of lend-lease.

However, the reactions that have occurred shouldn't surprise anyone. The

same thing happened after the other war. It was inevitable that it should happen after the one now ended. It happened — it had to happen — because it was the natural reaction of human nature.

When the idea of lend-lease first was conceived and put into operation, the beneficiaries of it unquestionably were grateful — frantically grateful. Their position was one of desperation and despair. Lend-lease was new hope. Without it their situation was hopeless. With it, despairing peoples got their first faint glimmering of the victory eventually achieved.

No one can doubt the sincerity of the gratitude at the outset. But as the torrential flow of lend-lease aid continued in full flood, the recipients became accustomed to it. And, human nature being what it is, these nations may have reached the psychological point of feeling that lend-lease was something to which they were entitled. Some obviously reached the point where they felt, when it was discontinued, that something which belonged to them was being snatched away. Resentment was natural, though without justification.

However, everyone should recognize that lend-lease had to be ended at some time. It was inevitable that, when the time came, recipients of help wouldn't like it. They aren't any more resentful now than they would have been if the president had waited one, or five or 10 years to call the halt.

So perhaps it is just as well that Mr. Truman acted when he did — and it saves U. S. taxpayers many millions.

### Funny Business



### SO THEY SAY

Passenger car transportation in the United States is in such a state of decrepitude that fast or careless driving will turn millions of units into scrap iron and scrap rubber.

—H. J. Brunner, president, American Automobile Association.

One element of a healthful city is a comfortable city. A comfortable city means all the trees that can be nurtured.

—Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Times-Leader.

Only the grace of God can give real peace by washing from the souls of men the leprosy of greed and hate and lust and pride from which future wars can come.

—The Rev. Thomas F. Maher, St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City.

Many of us think we have influence until we try to use it.

—Worland, Wyo., News.

## Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

By HAROLD L. ICKES  
Secretary of the Interior

WASHINGTON — When I was asked to contribute a column in order that Drew Pearson might have a vacation, I accepted in my most obliging manner.

It was one of those invitations that either ought to be declined vigorously or accepted with ostensible good grace. I did not want to find myself in the situation of the man who was invited by an eager hostess to come to dinner on a Monday.

"No," was the reply, "I have an engagement for Monday evening."

"Let's make it Tuesday."

"I am sorry, but I must be out of town on Tuesday."

"How about Wednesday?"

"Wednesday is out, too; I have to attend a meeting of a board of directors."

"That is too bad; can you come on Thursday?"

The answer was with apologies to Will Hays, Presbyterian elder of Sullivan, Ind., and movie czar: "Oh, hell; I'll come on Monday."

I thought that I could run off a column for Drew Pearson with both hands tied behind my back. I did not flatter myself that I could improve upon Pearson but, after all, since it is no trouble to read him, it was fair to conclude it would be no effort to reproduce him. It might have been different with certain other columnists whose names are distasteful to me. I am not often wrong—or at least I won't admit it—but I was this time.

### Cabinet Muzzled

There are some subjects upon which I could be spontaneously fluent but which would require asbestos paper for their safe rendering. I simply forgot once again that to a member of the cabinet, a discussion of almost any current topic is "verboten."

I am supposed to live in an intellectual vacuum. And so the thrusting facts and opinions that teem within my mind on such subjects as Hirohito, Franco and certain members of congress and colleagues of mine in the government must be kept in their

place. For years I have wanted to have my say about Generalissimo Franco of Spain. But it wasn't until my surprised eyes ranged the columns of the Portland, Me., Sunday Telegram of Aug. 5, that at least I became aware that I could speak a piece about Franco.

### Ben Franklin

In order to write something even the most sensitive contemporary cannot even imagine to be "controversial," I will thumb back through the pages of American history until I come to the engaging subject of Benjamin Franklin. He ought to be safe enough and, so far as I know, he has no direct descendants. Or has he?

B. Franklin of Pennsylvania was at least a three-dimensional man—or even four could be claimed for him if one cares to give any credit to his alleged amorous accomplishments. Here was a man who was a living refutation of the bright aphorism, which had not even been coined in his day, that "the female of the species is more deadly than the male."

Franklin, as a statesman, has stood head and shoulders above most Americans in that category. I am confident that, as such, he will continue down the long stretch of time to be a colossus. In addition, he was a scientist of originality and power. He was a writer of parts and, as a publisher and editor, I venture to say that if he were a contemporary instead of an ancient he would be able to hold his own today.

I will not be regarded as indulging in what anyone might properly regard as a "controversy" in dipping briefly into the life of a man who was a great American during his lifetime and an increasingly great American since his death. According to James Parton, one of Franklin's biographers, "it was his boast that his own newspaper, the Pennsylvania Gazette, during an existence of nearly 60 years under his own management and that of his successors, had never assailed the character of a private individual, nor indecently criticized the conduct of a public man."

## WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

In Kansas City a family who had been waiting for a telephone for three years, finally got one—and on a private line, too, or so they thought.

Imagine their consternation when they discovered that the lineman had connected their phone to an airway's line and all the family's telephone conversations went on the air over the airline's radio transmitter, to planes and stations everywhere.

"How perfectly awful," murmurs the woman with telephitis, who spends her mornings gossiping with first one friend and then another. Yet, like the unsuspecting Kansas City family, her calls are probably being broadcast, too, even though not quite so extensively.

For the woman she telephones to tell a bit of gossip because "I know you won't repeat it, my dear," in all likelihood passes it

on by telephone to three others, who in turn pass it on to just those they are sure they can trust, and so on.

In a way that round-about method of broadcasting telephone conversations is likely to prove even more embarrassing than if they had gone out over a radio transmitter.

For stories get changed and enlarged with the telling. And the feminine mind often reads meanings into words that weren't actually there. "She didn't actually say so, but I'm sure that is what she meant."

So the woman with telephitis needn't feel too sorry for the family whose private conversations were accidentally broadcast.

Pretty much the same thing is happening every day to her own confidences. For no telephone line can be regarded as private so long as there is someone on the other end of the connection.

## Behind Scenes in Washington

By DOUGLAS LARSEN

NEA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—Now you take this issue of pleats, tucks and shirrings. It just goes to show you that there are still going to be plenty of things to get all het up about, even if the mean old war is all over but the reconversion.

You'd never dream how much peace-time economic significance there was in a pleat, a tuck, a shirring, a dolman sleeve, whatever that is, a swirl, a drape, a bustle, a train, the length of a skirt or suit coat. Or would you?

Male reporters shouldn't have to write pieces about these things. But for the past week or so, great gatherings of the hairy-chested sex have been holding two industry advisory committee meetings per day and far into the night out at the War Production board, trying to decide what should be done about pleats, tucks and shirrings.

These I. A. C. meetings have developed into near fights. Fighting is a sporting event. Ladies should not write sports, though heaven knows the gal reporters for the fashion magazines have been bothering the WPB boys half to death, trying to find out if the rules were going to be changed on pleats, tucks and shirrings. You'd think this was the most important story of the war.

Coming to think of it, maybe it is, so here goes off the deep end and way over head and hands into what seems to be one of the things the war was fought for—what to do about pleats, tucks and shirrings.

It seems that the Marquis of Queensbury rule governing pleats, tucks and shirrings is WPB order L-85. L stands for limitation. Back when the war was new and there was a shortage of everything, it seemed there wouldn't be enough cloth to make enough garments to half-cover the backs and gams of the country's women and near—or do they say, junior misses?

So, to conserve textiles, the garment industry leaders were called together and submitted to L-85 after 84 other things had been taken care of. Among other things, L-85 took all the pleats, tucks and shirrings out of the female attire for the duration. It was a patriotic sacrifice. It saved millions of woman-hours of labor which would have been required to put all the pleats, tucks and shirrings into wherever it was they

would have gone.

But comes VE day. Comes VJ day. Comes cut-backs of textile requirements for uniforms, tents, parachutes, bandages and blankets. Lo and behold, first thing you know there's a coming surplus of cloth. Comes quickly to Washington the garment industry advisory committees to get back their pleats, tucks and shirrings, and the war is on again.

Three points of view, and the industry split down the middle on each question. The children's sportswear industry A. C.—not athletic club, advisory committee—says take off the controls and put back pleats, tucks and shirrings now. The woman's dress industry A. C. says keep 'em out till after Dec. 1. The women's cloak and suit industry A. C. says keep 'em out till March 1, 1946. What to do? Peace is supposed to be reigning here in Washington, but actually it's confusion as usual.

The trouble is that a lot of the garment makers have their fall and winter models already made up—and without pleats, tucks or shirrings. If WPB now knocks out L-85, the high price line manufacturers will immediately put all these extra trimmings in new models and the women—silly dears that they are—after four long weary dull years without pleats, tucks and shirrings will flock to buy them. And all the garment makers who have their season's merchandise made up without P T and S; will be stuck with a show case full of out-of-style garments which won't sell worth a darn.

But Paris comes into the picture. The Paris coutou—how do you spell that word?—the Paris dressmakers haven't any L-85 to cramp their style, and they're draping yards and bolts of stuff on every conceivable curve. How can American designers compete as long as L-85 is kept on the books?

Who's in charge around here, anyway? Did De Gaulle bring his minister in charge of pleats, tucks and shirrings along to work this out with Lee Crowley? Won't the French settle for a few million tons of coal and keep pleats, tucks and shirrings out for six months more? Was Stettinius instructed on this before he went to London to organize UNO? Hurry on back here congress, and let's get some of these important things settled.

### Side Glances



"I hope you don't think I'm intruding, but will you let me know when he proposes by mail? I've got a bet with the postmaster!"

### McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY

America's Card Authority

### CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF DOUBLE SQUEEZE

The busman takes a holiday. National tournament directors seldom have a chance to play bridge. However, I played in a local duplicate game in New York recently with A. M. Sobel, head tournament director of the American Contract Bridge League. He

♠ A J 10 7 2	♥ 10 4	♦ A 7	♣ K J 7 3
♠ K 4 3	♥ K J 9 7	♦ 3	♣ 10 9 6 4
♠ 6	♥ 8 6 5 2	♦ 10 8 6 4	♣ 3
♠ Dealer	♥	♦	♣
Sobel	Q 8 5	K Q 9 5 3	A 5
Duplicate—Neither vul.			
South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 N. T.	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	6 ♠	Pass
6 N. T.	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening—♣ 10.			31

ed the queen. The spade finesse was taken, then two more rounds, clearing that suit. The diamond suit was started and when the ace dropped West's jack, Sobel played the seven from Jack dummy. East played the eight and Sobel finesse the nine-spot. Two more rounds of spades were cashed and East was squeezed. In order to protect the diamond suit, he had to let go his club stopper. Sobel then played a heart and went up with the ace, then cashed the king and queen of diamonds, putting the squeeze on West. He could not hold the club stopper and the king of hearts. Thus with the aid of a Vienna Coup (the play of the ace of hearts) and a double squeeze, Sobel made seven-odd.

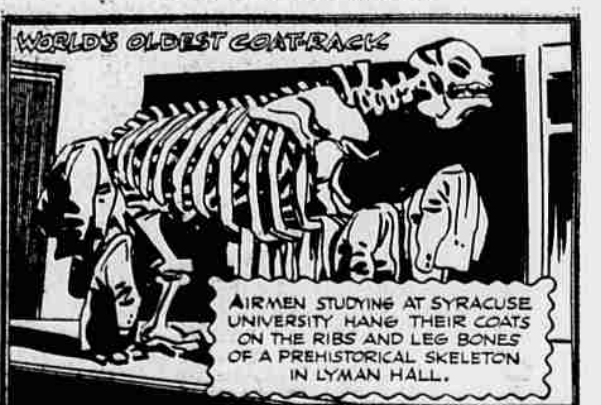
### IN FORMER YEARS

**Thirty Years Ago**  
OW has issued a statement setting forth a summary of expenditures made by that company from day to day in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. The sum of \$15,573,355.92, the equivalent of \$50,893.30 for each working day in the year, has been spent. Fire originating in a woodpile in the rear of the George Pierce residence, 2208 Cedar street, this afternoon threatened destruction of a half dozen comfortable homes, and was confined and controlled only after laying waste the woodsheds, barns and outhouses of three dwellings.

**Fifteen Years Ago**  
All four flouring mills operated in this country by the Pioneer Flouring Mills of Island City are working day and night at present to fill an order for 7,000 barrels of flour for the Orient, it was learned today.

**Ten Years Ago**  
The La Grande and the Grande Ronde valley request for establishing of an army air base or depot in Union county is now before the board which has the responsibility of making the selection, it was learned today. Members of the Joseph city council voted unanimously at a special meeting to make application to WPA for a recreational center and gymnasium, which it estimated will cost the city about \$7,000.

### This Curious World



Airmen studying at Syracuse University hang their coats on the ribs and leg bones of a prehistorical skeleton in Lyman Hall.

### Quoting Odds

"EVEN WHEN RUNNING DOWN, A CLOCK CAN BE FAST," says Mrs. Clyde Welch, Wellington, Nevada.



House centipedes, regardless of how you feel about them, are beneficial to man and should be spared since they prey on injurious insect pests in the house.

NEXT: Twenty-four-hour bombardment.