

# EDITORIAL PAGE

La Grande Evening Observer

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## Seems Silly to Ride a Good Thing to Death



**EVENING OBSERVER'S PROGRESS PROGRAM**  
**IRRIGATION—Complete the Grande Ronde Valley Irrigation project.**  
**L.A. GRANDE — A city of 10,000 — Extend the city limits.**

### A Cheer for the Bureaucrats

Cussing the bureaucrats has been a favored and almost universal practice among Americans during the entire war period. Much of it still is going on. And honesty compels the admission that we have done our full proportionate share of the cussing.

But with this confession — and still insisting that bureaucrats deserved much of the cussing they received — this thought occurs:

Isn't it time, and doesn't justice require, that the bureaucrats — like the devil — be given their due?

And, if given their due, can any reasonable person honestly deny that, on the whole and under the conditions existing, wartime bureaucrats did a splendid job and made an indispensable contribution to victory?

Emphatically, these statements do not attempt to argue for the perpetuation of widespread bureaucracy in government. Heaven forbid! Let us be rid of the war-born alphabetical agencies as soon as the nation's postwar economy will permit. That would be soon for most of them.

But eagerness to be rid of the agencies and the restrictions they represent cannot and should not deprive them of any credit due for whatever job they have done during the worst emergency ever to face this nation. We think they

are due a great deal of credit.

True, they made many mistakes. There were instances of confusion, bungling and even absurdities. Beyond any question, many bureaucratic actions and policies did more to hurt than help the victory effort.

But such things were inevitable when one considers that the gigantic agencies usually had to be thrown together overnight to tackle jobs which held the fate of a nation in their balance.

Far more than offsetting any mistakes made is their record of achievements. Prices were not allowed to get out of hand, as they did in world war I and the Civil war. The American people never lacked abundances of food and other essentials despite scarcities of individual items. Necessary materials were channeled to the places where they could be utilized best for victory. Production and supply represented miracles surpassing anything of similar nature in history. And, in all these achievements, the war agencies — the bureaucrats — played their indispensable parts.

Furthermore, it should be remembered that few of those who served in the more important bureaucratic positions wanted their jobs. They were drafted just as much as any man on the firing line was drafted. They served when every minute of service must have been miserable because of the criticism and abuse heaped upon them.

So isn't it about time that some of us tone down somewhat in our cussing of the bureaucrats? Aren't they deserving of at least one lusty, whole-hearted cheer for a job which, on the whole, was amazingly well done?

### Funny Business



### SO THEY SAY

Now more than ever before we must make it our business to see that the means to wage war be kept in the hands of those who hate war.

—James V. Forrestal, secretary of the navy.

I think the management of our broadcasting systems will agree that, by and large, the public receives over the air not necessarily what it wants, but what it doesn't complain about.

—Paul Porter, chairman, federal communications commission.

If a man is an American, he deserves to be treated as an American. His ancestry is not to be held against him. That's one of the things we fought a war for.

—Pittsburg, Pa. Press.

The welfare of this country demands that every boy and girl receive the best preparation for his future work.

—Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York.

## Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—Those who watched President Truman operate with Stalin at Potsdam say he employed a masterful technique. In the evenings he drank and sang with Stalin. They literally had their arms around each other . . . But next day during diplomatic negotiations, Truman was formal, polite, and cold as steel . . . Some military observers see significance in the make-up of the army's Pearl Harbor board and the fact it criticized chief of staff General Marshall. One member was Maj. Gen. Henry Russell of Macon, Ga., who commanded the division made up of Georgia national guardsmen at Fort Jackson, S. C., from September, 1940 to May, 1942. Then just as the division was about to go overseas, he was relieved . . . This was in line with the army's frequently unfair policy of taking commands away from national guard officers in favor of West Pointers and regulars . . . General Russell resented this bitterly. He had spent almost 20 years with the Georgia national guard and had a fine overseas record in the last war. So he protested right up to General Marshall himself. Marshall, however, refused to change the order. Russell stayed home and eventually became a member of the Pearl Harbor board where he helped find Marshall guilty of neglect . . . Gen. George Grunert, who headed the Pearl Harbor inquiry, an A-1 officer, is another who had trouble at the top. Serving in the Philippines under MacArthur along with Lieut. Col. Dwight Eisenhower, both he and Eisenhower got in wrong with MacArthur and were sent home. It was the best break Eisenhower ever had . . . Grunert enlisted as a private, never went to West Point.

### Cupid Over Congress

One congressman bachelor traveling in Europe almost didn't come home a bachelor. He is Rep. Mel Price, former corporal in the army and now a democrat congressman from east St. Louis, Ill. He had a close call from cupid—and at first he didn't know it. Price was in Rome, anxious to study the Roman civil government and knowing no Italian, enlisted the services of an American Red Cross girl who said she spoke the language. She went with him to question local Italian officials.

Arriving in a room of Rome's municipal building, the girl began to quiz the clerk

regarding his duties. Apparently her Italian left something to be desired.

Smiling at the two Americans, the clerk left the room, but came back and asked them to sign the register. The girl had completed her signature when Congressman Price noticed a priest entering the room, smiling broadly.

Whereupon the gentleman from Illinois got suspicious. Using sign language and a few words of Italian he discovered he was being asked to sign a marriage register. The priest was on hand to tie the knot the minute he had signed. Price departed immediately.

### Capital Chaff

Senators are looking forward to better eating, now that Derwin Darling has come back from two years in the marines to resume management of the senate restaurant . . . Alleged United States opposition to the Kilgore unemployment compensation bill cracked open last week. Forty-seven state administrations were reported opposed, but it now develops that Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Oklahoma, Washington and California are definitely for the bill, with Connecticut and several other states about ready to support it . . . When Nelson Rockefeller was eased out of the state department, workers in the building were startled to see truckers removing the furniture from his office. He had furnished his suite with his own furniture. When the truck pulled away, even the chandeliers, which were Rockefeller's personal property, had been taken.

### Different

During the recent reparations negotiations in Moscow, Ambassador Averell Harriman frequently reminded U. S. colleagues how the Russians had cleaned out every movable piece of nazi machinery from their zone of Germany, even removing machinery from what later became the American zone of occupation in Berlin.

Harriman termed these operations "looting."

When the U. S. reparations party got to Potsdam Harriman inspected several plants in the area which the U. S. had taken over from the Russians. All had been stripped clean. Harriman kept muttering, "those Russians . . . See WASHINGTON . . . Page 6"

## WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

Parents who don't think their 18-year-old kids should have to go into the army now that the war is ended are making their voices heard through their congressmen.

They don't want their boys to "have their lives interrupted" at this point.

It is only human for them to see the problem from their point of view. But they might be more willing to see Johnny get into uniform if they stopped to look at the situation from somebody else's point of view.

Let them look at it for instance—from the point of view of a war wife whose husband has already put four years overseas, broken only by one two-month's leave. He is still overseas.

His wife has lived alone for four years and for four years has had full responsibility for bringing up their son, who is a chubby two-and-a-half year old when his Dad was shipped out of the country before

America was at war.

Now he is a tall kid, going off to school. He needs his Dad at home far more than parents need their grown sons around the house.

Furthermore, that man, already set in his profession, had his life interrupted by military service much more drastically than would any young man's life be interrupted who hasn't even finished his education.

There is one pile of letters on congressmen's desks that have a perfect right to be there. The ones from wives whose men have served long periods of time overseas and are still writing home. "I don't have any idea when I'll get out of here."

But however much parents personally may hate to see their boys who were fortunate enough to miss action in the war get into uniform to help maintain peace—logic, justice and necessity aren't on their side.

## Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—The lid can be lifted a little now on planning for the military government of Japan.

The impression prevails that the United States is occupying Japan today in about the same fashion it occupied Germany after the first world war—loosely and with disastrous consequences leading to the second world war. The Japanese situation is therefore worth examining closely to see if the old mistakes are being repeated.

In the sense that the Japs are being allowed to keep a form of government of their own choosing, the comparison between Germany in 1918 and Japan in 1945 may be true. Actually, that is not the whole story.

A joint committee of state, war and navy and other government department planners have been working on plans for the occupation of Japan for over a year. They prepared a number of plans to meet varying situations.

The most extreme called for complete government of Japan with the emperor removed. The most lenient called for government of Japan by its war-time government. The plan actually adopted is between the two extremes, but closer to the latter than the former. Right or wrong, it was decided to retain the emperor. Removal of the kaiser in 1918 didn't keep Germany from going on the rampage a generation later.

If the Japanese emperor had been removed, orders to the Japanese people would have read, "The U. S. military government in Japan" orders thus and so. Under the plan adopted, the orders to the Japanese people are written by the military government just the same, but they read, "We the emperor of Japan" orders so and so. After the orders are written, they are given to the Japanese government to pass out as their own. In this respect, the military government imposed on Japan is more strict than in the token occupation of Germany after the last war. How it will work out remains to be seen.

Chief of military government on General MacArthur's staff is Brig. Gen. William Crist. He was in Washington just before

full instructions on military government. First orders issued by General MacArthur under these instructions have already been posted.

General Crist's military government forces will consist of more than 4,000 specially trained officers. About 1,500 have had actual military government experience on Saipan, Okinawa and other Pacific islands liberated by MacArthur and Nimitz forces. For the past year, some 1,800 more officers have been undergoing special training in eight U. S. universities where military government schools have been in operation. As these schools have now been closed, their facilities of nearly 700 specialists in Japanese language, industry, law and customs have been moved to Japan. They are supplemented by specialists on sanitation, communication transport and so on, withdrawn from Europe. All these military government officers have had pin point training for specific assignments, mapped in advance.

Japanese government will be controlled from the top. All members of the cabinet, for instance, must be acceptable to General MacArthur. Orders to provincial or municipal governments will go through MacArthur to the responsible heads of Japanese government. If a mayor or police chief turns out to be uncooperative he will be told to replace the offending official with someone acceptable.

General MacArthur's forces and his military governors will not occupy every fishing village. His combat troops on the main islands will number only between 750,000 and 1,000,000. They will occupy only the key governments and communication centers, with main forces in strategic centers, from which they can move to put down any disorders.

In broad outline, this is the administrative setup for governing Japan. In addition there is the formidable job of rebuilding the Japanese economy to put it on a peace basis, eliminating the potential to make war just as completely as it is being eliminated in Germany today. That means doing a far

### Side Glances



"I hope you give me better grades in English this year—I spent the summer reading ever so many comic books!"

## McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY America's Card Authority

### MRS. WAGAR—PLAYS GOOD MAN'S GAME

Mrs. Margaret Wagar of Atlanta, Ga., came to the recent national tournament and, as usual, walked away with a championship. She won the national Mixed team-of-four championship and finished second in the women's pair event. It has often been said that Mrs. Wagar plays a man's style of game. I don't know whether that is complimentary or not, as today there are several fine women players, like Mrs. Wagar, who are said to play better bridge than men.

Mrs. Wagar lost no time in getting to six diamonds on today's hand. She won the opening lead in dummy with the ace of spades. She did not discard a heart, as she might have to ruff out two hearts and a club. She discarded a club from her own hand, providing for the establishment of the fifth heart. A small diamond was led from dummy. East played

low, Mrs. Wagar went in with the queen, cashed the ace of hearts and ruffed a heart. She returned to her hand with the

♠ A 8 7 6 5 4	♠ K 3 2		
♥ 5	♥ Q J 4		
♦ 10 7 5 3	♦ A J 8		
♣ K 2	♣ Q 10 9 3		
♠ Q J 10 9	♠ N		
♥ 10 8 3 2	♥ E		
♦ 2	♦ S		
♣ J 6 5 4	♣ Dealer		
Mrs. Wagar			
♠ None			
♥ A K 9 7 6			
♦ K Q 9 6 4			
♣ A 8 7			
Duplicate—Neither vul.			
South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
6♣	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening—♠ Q 14			

ace of clubs and ruffed another heart. Now she led a trump toward her hand, and East with ace-jack could win only one trump trick.

## BARBS

Peacetime ice cream shortly will replace the wartime variety on the market. The thought of it, melting in your mouth, instead of the container, is pleasant.

A Missouri doctor says 40 is the ideal age for love. Wonder how old he is? We'd guess about 40!

Proposals in President Truman's first peacetime message included plenty of work for everybody—including congress.

Thrift is one thing that is worth a lot of money yet doesn't cost a cent.

There is strong sentiment in favor of bringing all our armed forces under one command—and the sooner that command is "go home" the better the boys will like it.

### IVORY WAS VALUELESS

Before the Arabs came, ivory had no intrinsic value in the interior of Africa. Natives killed elephants merely for their flesh. They could not trade the ivory for anything and it became so plentiful that it was used for fences, door posts, roof supports and hundreds of other ordinary purposes.

## IN FORMER YEARS

### Thirty Years Ago—

La Grande's aster growers this afternoon and tomorrow come into their own. The aster show sponsored by the Neighborhood club in reality began today, for yard judges toured the city to pick out the most attractive aster beds in the city limits.

So completely has the water situation reshaped itself that the O-W shops were connected up with the city mains today after having been shut off for several weeks during the water famine.

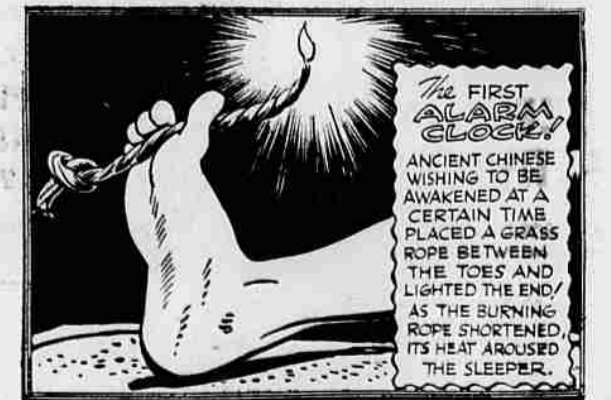
### Fifteen Years Ago—

Twenty-five La Grande country club golfers will go to Pendleton tomorrow for an intercity tournament, play to be based on the Nassau system.

### Ten Years Ago—

The works progress administration is being asked for five armories instead of four for eastern Oregon, it was learned here today. Originally, reports of the applications sent to WPA listed only La Grande, Baker, Pendleton and The Dalles. Now word has been received that an application also was sent for an armory for Union.

### This Curious World



### Quoting Odds

YOU CAN HAVE A LITTLE MOUTH AND ALSO A LARGE ONE; Says DOROTHY WEST, Asheville, North Carolina.



EL PUEBLO DE LA REINA DE LOS ANGELES DE LA PORCINCULA

THE ORIGINAL NAME OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.