

EDITORIAL PAGE

La Grande Evening Observer

Frank Schiro, Publisher

WEDNESDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 19, 1945

Page Four

The Man Who Built His House on Sand



TODAY'S TEXT

Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide; keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom.—Micah 7:5.

Two Patriots

Probably Americans haven't any right to criticize the Rev. Martin Niemöller and Toyohiko Kagawa for their attitudes toward their countries' part in the war. For they have only paraphrased the famous words of Stephen Decatur which, as school children, we were made to learn and exhorted to admire: "Our country! In her intercourse with foreign nations may she always be right; but our country, right or wrong."

Niemöller became a hero and a symbol through his brave defense of God's authority over Adolf Hitler's, a defense which led to a long imprisonment, aroused the first open defiance of Hitler's tyranny, and won the sympathy of the Christian world.

But when he was released by the allies, Niemöller, a famous U-boat commander in the first world war, acknowledged that he had offered his services to the Nazi government in 1939.

"If there is a war," he told the Americans, "a German does not ask the question whether the war is just or unjust . . . but feels instinctively that he is bound to serve in some way."

Kagawa was Japan's most famous native Christian layman. He had spent much of his life and much of his never abundant strength in a zealous fight for social and religious reforms. He served

three prison terms for opposing his country's imperialistic wars. But in a recent press conference, he sounded as chauvinistic as one of the Samurai.

"I am for Japan," he said. "I do not like America to conquer Japan because this is my country."

He said that while he didn't like the Pearl Harbor attack, he thought it would lead to independence in Asia. He chided our reaction to Pearl Harbor by asking: "If President Roosevelt had been a Christian, why did he also want to war against Japan?"

He would not admit that the emperor could do wrong. He quoted Christian Scripture to defend the Shinto myth of the Mikado's divine origin: "Obey the authority who is endowed with power from above."

Niemöller and Kagawa are inconsistent. But our own Decatur's famous statement is scarcely a gem of logic. Their words are symptomatic of an ancient, ingrained, universally revered emotion which, misled and uncured, is as much a threat to world safety as the atomic bomb.

What Decatur's country or anybody's country does in the field of foreign relations is dictated by the decisions of mortal, fallible men, acting almost always in secret.

And so, while we can't censure Niemöller and Kagawa, we can feel concern for the thought that they represent. And we can see how long it will be before the noble and sensible notion that the persecution of people in any country is the concern of decent people everywhere can take root and grow.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON. — Usually open-minded Leo Crowley, the foreign economic administrator, suddenly has gone in for secrecy. He is suppressing a report on how much electrical and utilities equipment should be removed from Germany.

What happened was, that a joint committee of U. S. industrial leaders and government officials mapped out plans for dismantling certain branches of German industry. This dismantling and removal of German factories is a key part of the Truman-Morgenthau plan to prevent Germany from arming for another war.

So a joint committee of U. S. business and government leaders, after studying Germany's public utilities, recommended that a certain amount of electrical and power-generating equipment be taken out of the country. Last week a report by this committee was drawn for release to the public. It was assumed by the joint committee and by the other government officials the American people, having made great sacrifices to defeat Germany, had a right to know what steps were being taken to keep her defeated. But just as the press release was ready to be issued, Crowley stepped in. He decreed it should not be issued. As a result, the public was kept in the dark regarding the fact a group of U. S. utilities experts recommended that two-thirds of all power-generating equipment be removed from Germany.

Officials are at a loss to understand Crowley's strange desire to suppress this recommendation. They know, of course, that Crowley is being paid \$70,000 as chairman of the Standard Gas and Electric company in addition to his government salary as foreign economic administrator. But he should suppress information regarding German utilities because he is head of a big American utility remains a mystery.

MacArthur vs. Nimitz

General MacArthur's policy of letting the Japanese continue to rule Korea has riled a lot of people in Washington and elsewhere. Also, some people didn't like his policy of letting the Japs continue their propaganda—until U. S. newsmen finally protested.

Nobody, however, is more grieved at MacArthur than naval chiefs in Washington. They were hoping Admiral Nimitz, who did

such a good job of master-minding the entire Pacific naval operation, would be chosen to receive the Japanese surrender. And when, during the first few days, it appeared he was to be ignored, the navy quietly prompted the White House to make sure Nimitz was at least in on the formal surrender ceremony.

Tip-off on how naval chiefs feel was given by commander of the fleet, Adm. Ernest King in a talk with newspaper friends the other day. He said he hoped they had noticed that General MacArthur had been designated to sign the surrender papers as supreme allied commander for the allied powers, not as supreme allied commander of the allied powers.

"There is a difference, you know," Admiral King said.

King smilingly refused to clarify this, but it was obvious he wanted it understood MacArthur was acting "for" the navy, not as supreme commander "of" the navy.

Merry-Go-Round

When President Truman sent the last batch of 23 generals to the senate for promotion, he forced the army to include two generals he picked himself. They were: Brig. Gen. Frank Lowe of Portland, Me., long attached to the old Truman committee; and Brig. Gen. Wallace Philoon of Auburn, Me. In the latter case, Senator Wallace White, republican leader of the senate who lives in Auburn, went to Truman personally and demanded that Philoon be promoted. White and Philoon both graduated from Bowdoin college in addition to coming from the same town. . . . One man who isn't going to be around on election day in New York is boss Ed Flynn of the Bronx. He doesn't like forthright, independent Bill O'Dwyer, democratic candidate for mayor. . . . One man who won't hold office after O'Dwyer is elected mayor will be Frank Kelly, democratic chairman of King's county.

Service Notes

Attention Surgeon General Norman Kirk, U. S. army: Why is it that at Billings general hospital you have doctors with over 140 points, 37 months overseas combat service sitting idle for three months—despite the shortage of civilian doctors? . . . Also, why is it necessary to compel army surgeons See WASHINGTON . . . Page 6

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

"Elderly Couple Evicted Onto Sidewalk by Son" says a headline in a New York newspaper.

Does that shock you? Well, it shouldn't. It is just carrying to a logical conclusion the modern idea that young married folks don't owe their parents anything and shouldn't have their lives cluttered up by having the old folks underfoot.

Time was when children felt a deep sense of responsibility for seeing their parents through their older years—if they were in need of help.

The parents looked after them when they were young, and it used to be taken for granted that when the parents were old the children would repay them, if there were any need for it.

But that isn't the new idea. The new idea is that young folks "owe themselves" more than they owe their parents. That they have a right to live their lives completely unencumbered by the demands of aging parents. They are constantly warned against tak-

ing parents to live with them, for fear it will break up their marriages. But different generations lived together under one roof in the old days and "Granny" and "Grandpa" were real parts of the family, often giving their grandchildren a valuable association they wouldn't otherwise have had, and helping the young couple through the hard years when there was more work than they could easily handle.

What would have become of some of those old-fashioned families of eight and twelve if Grandma hadn't been around to take care of sick children, make clothes, mend, cook, etc?

But we are smarter than that today. We think we don't owe the generation behind us anything. So we shouldn't be shocked to read that a son has put his own mother and father out on the sidewalk.

That is to all practical purposes what a lot of young folks today have done with the old folks—leaving them to charity or to get along as best they can.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — Like an unexpected after-effect of the atomic bomb explosion, "science" has become a hot political issue. There are five bills pending in congress to foster scientific research. Joint hearings on three of them will get under way Oct. 1. The Byrd and May bills, dealing with army and navy research, are being considered separately. But the inside story of the maneuverings leading up to the joint hearings on the bills introduced by senators Kilgore, Magnuson and Fulbright makes a fascinating story of trying to mix "pure" science with "pure" politics.

Way back in 1942, Senator Harley M. Kilgore of West Virginia began to get excited about scientific research. Organizing a subcommittee on military affairs, he prepared a "science mobilization" bill. It proposed making grants of federal money to aid approved research projects. Nobody paid any attention.

In January 1943 Kilgore revised his bill, putting in a new section on patent control. Briefly, he proposed that any patents coming out of government-financed research should not become private property but should be freely accessible to anyone wanting to use them.

That got him some attention. A group representing manufacturers, patent lawyers and private research organizations met in New York City and organized a project against Kilgore's socialistic proposal.

In August, 1944, Kilgore prepared a third draft of his bill, changing the name of his proposed organization to "national research foundation," to make it more attractive to scientific schools.

Then President Roosevelt took an interest, having some advanced ideas of his own on this subject. In November the president wrote Vannevar Bush, director of the wartime office of scientific research and development, asking him for recommendations on continuing OSRD's work in peace times. Bush was also asked to get together with

Kilgore.

Bush and Kilgore could agree on most objectives, but they differed on three points. The makeup of the board to run the foundation, the way the 150 or 200 million dollar grants were to be doled out, and who was to own and control the patents.

They agreed to leave research by private industry out of the picture. Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas promptly picked up that ball and ran. On July 9 he introduced a bill to encourage industrial research through the department of commerce. Kilgore went to work on a fourth draft of his bill and Bush went to work on his report.

The Bush reply to the president's letter turned out to be a book of 180 pages. It came out on July 19, on the very same day—surprise, surprise—Senator Warren Magnuson of Washington introduced a bill to create a national research foundation on the exact formula of the Bush report. It was quite a coincidence.

Kilgore's revised bill was not ready till July 23. Bush and Magnuson had scooped him by four days. Bush's report hit the front pages and won wide acclaim. Magnuson went to the White House to get Truman's support for his bill. The support was not forthcoming. Magnuson was told to get together with Kilgore and the congress recessed.

When congress reconvened, President Truman's 21-point message had as its point 12 the recommendation for creation of a single federal research agency, with free access to patents, as proposed by Kilgore.

So in brotherly love, Senators Kilgore, Magnuson and Fulbright will sit side by side when hearings are opened on their science mobilization bills next month, and out of their labors must come a law that will let the wolves and sheep, and the goats of industry, science and government pasture together to make U. S. research supreme in the beautiful era of peace that stretches ahead.

Side Glances



"Maybe Eddie Jones does take a bath every day, but if I wanted to open up I sure could tell you plenty of things about him!"

McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY

America's Card Authority

BATTLE COURAGE SHOWN IN BRIDGE

In today's hand, Lt. Joseph Freyland not only entered the bidding against an original forcing two-bid, but kept on bidding until he became the declarer. Freyland was shot down over

won the friendship of every member of the American Contract Bridge League.

Freyland ruffed the opening diamond lead and returned a trump. South won and led his singleton king of clubs. Freyland won this, picked up the trumps and knocked out the ace of spades. In the process of drawing trumps, the declarer returned each time to his hand by ruffing a diamond, and dummy's losing club went on the fifth spade.

IN FORMER YEARS

Thirty Years Ago—

The large new mill of the East Oregon Lumber company at Enterprise will be ready for operation by the middle of October. It will be a double-band mill, with a capacity of 120,000 feet of lumber each 10 hours. The company's railway, built for public service as well as for hauling logs out of the timber area in Wallawa county, was completed last June. Fifty thousand boxes of Grande Ronde apples have been contracted already, according to F. F. Stubbs, who was here yesterday afternoon representing the Shields Fruit company of Milton and Walla Walla. Stubbs stated he had just closed a contract for the Dornberger apples, which with what he had already contracted for from other growers, would make at least 50,000 boxes in sight.

Fifteen Years Ago—

The Ross Dehydrating plant, located in East La Grande near La Grande flouring mill, is to resume operations within the next two weeks, according to announcements made here yesterday. The plant was located here last fall and handled an exceptionally large amount of apples during its initial run.

Ten Years Ago—

The taste that exists in the city water at present may be expected gradually to fade away, City Manager Angus McAllister said today. He explained this taste is caused by algae, and results almost every year late in the summer. The water, in spite of the taste, is said to be pure.

BARBS

September is the month when farmers gather in the crops. Hail to their hay days!

President Truman's plan is "work for every man." Even harder to carry out will be getting every man to work.

Admiral Shimada, who directed the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, says he is ready to face the music. And the music shouldn't last long—rat-tat-tat!

Since gas rationing is off, you should see the autos on the highway—especially before you try to cross the street.

A locomotive will be used for the first non-military trial of atomic power. What a sweet dream—all trains being on time.

Cheese is now ration-free—and we can expect certain types to come back strong.

This Curious World



Kwiz Korner

WHAT TAKES THE PLACE OF TEETH IN AIDING BIRDS TO DIGEST THEIR FOOD?

ANSWER: Gizzards.

IN ARIZONA

PAPAGO INDIANS, USING LONG POLES, HARVEST TONS OF FRUIT ANNUALLY FROM THE BUDGING SAGUARO CACTUS.

COPIED BY REA SERVICE, INC.

T.M. REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

WOODEN SAND AND GRAVEL IN THE GUARD ACT AS MILLSTONES.

GET THE BAG WAS INVENTED.

Funny Business



"This one is equipped with a revolving seat for those who insist on reading titles of records while they're running!"

SO THEY SAY

If we are in for a great era of industrial prosperity, we may be sure that men will not hang around the grocery store on a mere \$20 to \$25 weekly (in unemployment compensation).

—Lt. Gov. Wilbert Snow of Connecticut.

Pedestrians should remember that approaching cars may be coming half again as fast as in wartime and that extra care and agility must be used to avoid being struck.

—Jackson, Miss., News.

If we are to learn anything from the causes of war, it is to moderate our concern for preserving the delicate balances of power and deepen our concern for moral values.

—Rabbi Nathan A. Perlmutter of New York City.

Indians in the United States speak 35 distinct languages. Almost as many as the palefaces.

—Ironwood, Mich., Globe.