

EDITORIAL PAGE

La Grande Evening Observer

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The Nonconformist



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

Billions for Britain

American thinking has changed considerably since the day when President Calvin Coolidge over-simplified the complicated matter of Europe's war debts by observing, "They hired the money, didn't they?"

Twenty years ago the entire nation would probably have screamed like a tribe of tattooed Indians at the mere thought of a foreign power asking this country for an outright grant of money, or a loan without interest. But today Lord Keynes is over here making such a request of Britain. And in spite of a few intemperate and inflammatory outbursts from both sides of the Atlantic, the American people are taking it pretty calmly.

It is not surprising that they should, for events of the past two decades in this changing, shrinking world could scarcely have failed to teach us some lessons.

We have learned that the Coolidge country-banker philosophy, though morally sound, didn't solve the intricate involvements of world economy. We have learned that when a major power can't or won't repay a debt there is little recourse which would not be harmful to

the creditor in the end.

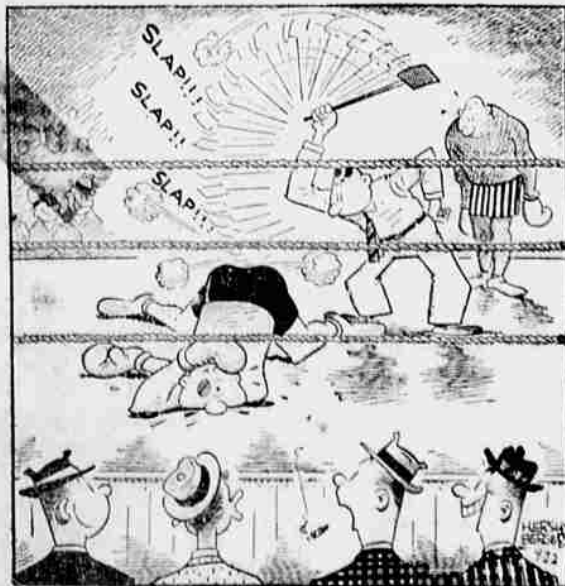
And we have learned, or are learning, some lessons at home that can apply to international problems. Gradually we have come to realize that slums depress and threaten a whole community's living standard and impede its progress. It has begun to dawn on us that suppressing one section of society and withholding opportunities from it puts a drag on the whole society.

So, perhaps, it is becoming clear to Americans that they cannot be prosperous in a world society impoverished by war, a society in which their best former customers are without funds to buy. Nor can they be safe or happy in a world where want and discontent invite chaos and threaten peace.

But that does not mean that this government must give England a gift of money and a pat on the head. For if America does that for England, she will be expected to do as much for France, Russia, China and all the other countries that have suffered grievously in the recent conflict. With her present tremendous debt and her tremendous future commitments to her own citizens, America cannot afford to play philanthropist to the world.

At the very least, it will be necessary to know how the receiving nation intends to use a grant or loan before the money is shelled out. Assurance must be given that American dollars will not be used to foster monopoly or otherwise hinder the development of a sounder, healthier international trade than the world has known before.

Funny Business



"He uses a fly swatter for counting 'em out—they have a better chance of coming to!"

SO THEY SAY

A great many of the major units of the fleet that can be spared (will be) back in American waters by this coming October.

—Rear Adm. Louis E. Denfeld, chief of U. S. Navy Personnel.

The motorist is short-sighted indeed who yields to the urge for a long-delayed trip without reasoning that the tires of his car are in no condition to withstand such travel.

—Cheyenne, Wyo., State Tribune.

I believe there is a clear majority now which is convinced that bootstrap legislation, deficit financing and regimentation must be stopped.

—Rep. Charles A. Halleck of Indiana.

Japanese militarism has been crushed. And world peace demands that it remain crushed, in the manner that is prescribed for the German people.

—Burlington, N. C., Times-News.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—Chief topic of conversation at the recent closed-door caucus of house republicans was President Harry Truman. Had he been there, he would have disliked some of the references to him, but he would have felt pleased to note how strong a man the republicans think he is.

For a dozen years, republican sessions featured vitriolic outbursts against the late President Roosevelt. For a time after Truman went to the White House, little was heard about him in the discussions. But now the republicans have decided they have just as dangerous an enemy.

Rep. Charley Halleck of Rensselaer, Ind., summed it up this way near the close of the session:

"We've got to quit electing Truman. The way we're operating here, the only fight Truman will have in 1948 will be within his own party—the fight between the democrats and the commucrats."

Plenty of vitriol was thrown on Truman from all sides. "He's just as determined to give America away to England and the others in Europe as Roosevelt was," shouted reactionary Howard Buffett of Omaha. He referred to Truman as "Harry Truman Pendergast."

"We're in a situation now where it's practically suicide to stand up and make a speech for America," howled Frederick "Doc" Smith, of Marion, O.

Several analyses of Truman were made, with a strong feeling he is a more dangerous man than Roosevelt.

"He has learned at the Pendergast school," said Nebraska's Buffett, "and he has learned to appear modest and homey."

Among other crimes the GOP holds against Truman is the fact he is not a college man—all his simplicity and his lack of polish merely mask a sharp political mind which, in its way, is just as dangerous to the GOP as was Roosevelt—if not more so.

Congress Thrives on Battle
 "What Truman is going to do," one mid-western republican said, "is to let this congress have its way." Deduction was this would be tough on GOP congressmen. They thrive on political battles.

The republicans were told, for instance, they will not get a chance to vote on abolishing the draft because democrat leadership will keep the issue from a vote until the pressure gets heavier. Then at the right psychological moment, it was predicted, the White House will abolish the draft by executive order.

Otherwise there was little done in the caucus. It was supposed to work up a legislative program, but little of constructive nature was said. John Taber of Auburn, N. Y., ranking republican of the house appropriations committee, made his usual speech calling for economy in government.

As usual, he was seconded by Harold Knutson of Minnesota.

At this point Clarence Brown of Blanchester, O., walked out.

"What's the use of staying," he remarked, "when I can read it all in Drew Pearson's column later?"

Only once did the republicans hear anything which made them wince a bit. This came from progressive Charley La Follette of Evansville, Ind., who spoke on the pending legislation to create a fair employment practices committee. Because it was apparent that the republicans are not bestirring themselves to put through this legislation, La Follette reminded them that their 1944 platform definitely calls for support for FEPC.

"It's about time we stopped crucifying our own candidates," said Indiana's La Follette. "If we are to be honest about this whole thing, why don't we select as our candidate someone in congress whose vote has never deviated from the republican policy? Let's put up such a man and let him run with this simple platform: 'I stand on the record of the republican party in congress.'"

Most of his colleagues either did not catch or did not like this sarcasm.

Quizzing German Officers

One of the smartest operators attached to the U. S. strategic bombing survey, which studied bombing damage in Germany, was Sgt. Paul Baran, former Harvard instructor, and a refugee from Hitler. Baran was given the job of interviewing Col. Gen. Franz Halder.

Up until Himmler eased him out in 1942, Halder ran the German army. However, he was forced to sit before Sergeant Baran for two long hours and answer rapid-fire questions. After the interview, General Halder, with considerable respect in his voice, said:

"May I ask my interviewer a question?"

Sergeant Baran nodded permission.

"Is all American intelligence on a level with this interrogation?"

Baran replied he thought it was.

"Then I would like to say, sir," replied Hitler's former chief of staff, "that your knowledge of Germany's strategic plans is greater than the Fuehrer's."

Capitol Chaff

The army officer, reported in this column to have spent his time with the U. S. strategic bombing survey collecting German portraits, has now been busted. . . . Officials promise that no enlisted-men photographers who served with the bombing survey in Europe will have to go to the Pacific. . . . A hot row is on between the navy and the treasury over the coast guard. Peace-time duty of the coast guard is to patrol the coasts, keep down rum-running, save shipwrecks at sea, etc. Therefore it was under the treasury. But the navy took it over in wartime and wants to keep it.

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

Papa, your personal peace is over. Mama has the old buying gleam in her eye—and what is worse—so do all her friends.

The talk over the bridge tables these days goes something like this: "The very first thing I'm going to buy is a dish washer, and then I want one of those new washing machines that does everything but hang up the clothes, and then—"

Every woman has her eye on some super gadget, and then, of course, she'll have to have all the gadgets her friends buy. Then there'll be a race to see which one can out-decorate the others, and out will go the comfortable old sofa and in will come something in pale chartreuse you won't dare put your feet on.

It's going to be an era of keeping up with

the Joneses to end all such eras.

Remember, Mama hasn't been able to go in for household gadgets for a long time. And while you thought smugly that the days of her having to have something, just because the girls in the bridge club were mad for it, are a thing of the past, the urge for buying was just dormant.

Now it is coming to life again. And you might as well be prepared. Maybe Mama hasn't started selling you on all the stuff she needs yet. But her friends have already sold her. And the next step is selling you.

So take your feet down off that old sofa. Your days of taking it easy are over. Mama wants THINGS again. And you know Mama well enough to know that if she wants them she is going to have them.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Tracing the source of ideas in President Truman's message to congress reveals that 14 of the points were covered in a program put forward by Senator Claude Pepper of Florida, Senator Harley M. Kilgore of West Virginia and a group of new deal senators and representatives who held a rump caucus of their own just before congress went home on recess. The new dealers' unofficial platform covered only domestic issues. Truman supplemented them with sections on selective service, lend-lease and other foreign policy issues that had arisen since the end of the war, to complete his message.

Sixty labor organizations and their affiliates are bringing representatives from their locals into Washington to back up their capital lobbyists in a drive to secure passage of the full employment bill. They claim 198 pledges of support from house members, 50 from the senate. They will put on the heat to get enough additional votes to assure a comfortable margin, which they do not yet have. With some amending, prospects for passage of full employment bill seem favorable. Opposition has not been able to dramatize its case.

Most common explanation given for retirement of Nelson Rockefeller from his position as assistant secretary of state in charge of Latin American affairs is that he was a republican. Republicans are asking how this contributes to the administration line the United States should have a non-partisan foreign policy? Democrats reply by pointing to fact Byrnes took John Foster Dulles to London with him as an advisor.

Army's effort to convince the public that atomic bombs did not contaminate the

ground at Hiroshima and Nagasaki by inducing radio-activity is backfiring. Bombs over Japan were timed to explode high, to prevent this condition. But the fact the New Mexico atomic bomb crater is still contaminated, two months after the first test, is pointed to as proof the ground would be contaminated if bombs were accidentally exploded at lower levels.

Said a cynical colonel to his general, "Well, I suppose the atomic bomb will revolutionize army thinking to the extent of making them realize the horse cavalry is obsolete."

Said the cynical general to the colonel, "You're wrong. They've already asked for two additional remount stations."

Commercial airline pilots are trying to balk modification of civil aeronautics board regulations which limit landing speeds to 80 miles an hour. Plane manufacturers want limit raised to 100. Pilots claim this unsafe. CAB position is that speeds in excess of present 80 mile limit can be permitted on big airports for transoceanic planes. For smaller airports and shorter planes, landing speeds will be kept down. Many military planes land and take off about 100 and are considered safe.

First U. S. movies to be distributed in Japan were prepared under direction of overseas branch of office of war information, long before the Nips surrendered. They have Japanese language titles dubbed in. They were distributed to Jap film companies free by army public relations. Hollywood companies have 45 more pictures in preparation for distribution through Japanese trade channels.

Side Glances



"I'm sweating out my 50th mission in this thing!"

McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY America's Card Authority

BLACKWOOD BID OKEH IF USE IS LIMITED

Lately I have noticed many experts using the Blackwood four-five no trump convention when it is obviously asking for aces or kings. The ordinary way to bid today's hand might be as follows: South, 1 diamond; North, 1 spade;

♠ A J 10 8 5 3	♥ 9	♦ K 8	♣ A J 7 6
♠ 9 7 6 4 2	♥ Q 6 5 3	♦ None	♣ J 10 7 4
♠ None	♥ Q 8 4 2	♦ None	♣ 10 7 6 3
♠ K Q	♥ A K 8	♦ A Q J 9 5 4 2	♣ K
Duplicate—Neither vul.			
South	West	North	East
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
4N.T.	Pass	5♦	Pass
5N.T.	Pass	6♣	Pass
7N.T.	Pass	Pass	Pass
			22

South, 3 diamonds; North 4 clubs; South, 4 hearts (a slam try bid); North, 4 spades; South, 6 spades; North, 7 spades.

East opens a diamond and the contract is defeated. If North and South get to seven diamonds, West will open a spade and defeat them.

If the hand is opened with a

BARBS

General MacArthur promises "no kid glove policy" for the Japs. We're for bare fists, ourselves—right on the chin!

Now is the time to get your final tossing in on that fresh greens salad. The home-grown season is about over.

If the young ex-nazi has done to him what should be done to him, Germany is going to be full of reform schools.

Good cooking isn't as much of an art these days as being able to get the good things you want to cook.

"Dancing is fine exercise," says an instructor. So is just straight wrestling.

two-bid, and North and South are not playing the ace-showing convention in response to a two-bid. North will make a positive response of two spades. South now bids four no trump, which is obviously a Blackwood bid asking partner for aces. When South receives the information that his partner holds two aces, he bids five no trump asking for kings. North, with one king, bids six diamonds, and South can practically count 13 top tricks. He safely bids seven no trump, which cannot be defeated.

The expert using the Blackwood convention to a limited extent gains its advantages without experiencing the disadvantages involved in using it too often.

IN FORMER YEARS

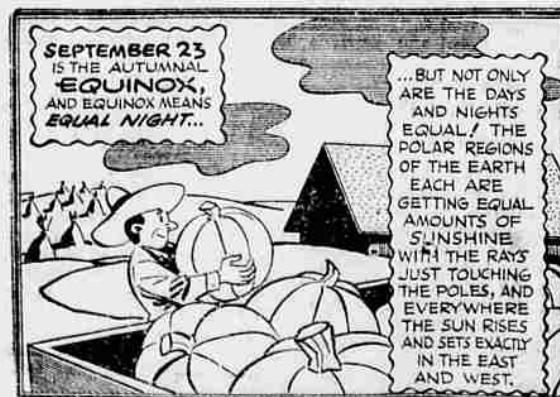
Thirty Years Ago
 R. A. West, the well driller, struck an artesian flow of water on the Ed Fickle farm, six miles north of Union, yesterday.

Contractor G. H. Rush has closed with the George Palmer Lumber company for the erection of a two-compartment dry kiln to be added to the present equipment. The present heating plant will be used, and the kilns will be duplicates of the present ones, made serviceable for the automatic stackers which are loaded without hand kindling and then run into the kiln.

Fifteen Years Ago
 Fred E. Kiddle walked a double win at the country club yesterday when he won the Andrews and Son golf bag in a 36-hole tournament, and also took first place in the ball sweepstakes, match play against par. Development for plans for the opening of the fall-winter run of the Ross Packing company dehydrator in east La Grande, near the La Grande Flouring mill, indicates the first work will begin about Oct. 1.

Ten Years Ago—
 The price of local cash wheat stands at about 62 for western white, and 66 cents for soft bulk, according to the Pioneer Flouring mills.

This Curious World



Kwiz Kozner

THE FAMOUS RAINBOW BRIDGE IS FOUND IN WHAT STATE... ARIZONA, NEVADA OR UTAH?



ANSWER: Southeast corner of Utah.

NEXT: Do chimney swifts really roost in chimneys?