

# EDITORIAL PAGE

## La Grande Evening Observer

Frank Schiro, Publisher

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### The Broth Should Be More Savory Now



### A Time of Confusion

Right now there is a good deal of confusion in the public mind over the highly important matters of occupation policy for Japan and demobilization of our own army.

Some of it comes from official sources and some from unofficial but important army spokesmen. General Eichelberger has said that if the Japs behave themselves the occupation may not last more than a year. General Wainwright, with his painfully acquired knowledge of Japanese character, says it should continue for 20 years. General Barney Giles has upped the occupation estimate to a full century.

Generals won't decide the length of occupation or initiate any formal government policy, though they may be consulted. When the state department announced that Japanese policy would be made in Washington, not by American occupation forces, it was stating an obvious fact. It was also, by general agreement, rebuking General MacArthur.

This rebuke may have been called forth by the general's remark about reducing the occupation forces in Japan to 200,000 in six months. Or it may have been because of some unpublished disagreement over policy or operation between Washington and MacArthur headquarters. At any rate, it succeeded in getting the public pretty well mixed up.

Some people seem to have the idea that the 200,000 figure applies to the

whole postwar army in the Pacific. They are disturbed by the feeling that we are taking unnecessary chances with Japan.

In other quarters there is an apparent fear that the army is retaining a lot of men needlessly, although the immediate size of our force in Japan is not the determining factor in demobilization.

Probably most of this confusion is inevitable, and probably the only remedy for much of it is patience. It takes almost as long to unwind from a war as it does to wind up for one. There are still supply and transportation problems, as well as separation-center bottlenecks, to slow the rate of demobilization.

But there is an element of danger in this impatience. Every family with a member in the armed forces wants that member home as quickly as possible. That is right and natural. And because it is, it might tempt some congressmen and other officials to turn the whole thing into a political football.

Congress already has its eyes on the 1946 elections. And what the country doesn't need right now is a scramble of legislators to see who can make the most promises for quickest demobilization, and to introduce numerous hurried, ill-considered and time-wasting bills to implement those promises and impress the voters.

The immediate result could only be more confusion. And the ultimate result might be a national defense based on blind faith in the atomic bomb and another skeleton army and navy.

### Funny Business



"We're reconverting—taking out five-dollar bills and putting 21 ones!"

### SO THEY SAY

We are coming out of this war a much poorer nation. . . . government should offer every possible encouragement to individuals and industry to produce and save and create new wealth, and should cut its own expenses to the bone.

—Altoona, Pa. Mirror.

Only men and women who live up to the religious and ethical principles of the Bible can guarantee the democratic way of life, lasting peace and the survival of our civilization.

—Rabbi Jacob Hoffman, New York City.

It is strange indeed to realize that the very things that were forged in the furnace of war will soon add immeasurably to the life that beckons across the broad plains of peace.

—Bayonne, N. J. Times.

Love, of course, makes the world go round, but almost as often it makes it go lopsided.

—Salina, Kan. Journal.

## Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—Economy-minded members of the house appropriations committee are not letting any grass grow under their feet. Chairman Clarence Cannon of Missouri, parsimonious John Taber of New York, and tightfisted Richard Wigglesworth of Massachusetts, ranking republicans, are cutting expenditures to the bone.

But they're under plenty of pressure from their colleagues to permit continued federal operation of the child-care centers. These centers, which make it possible for working mothers to leave their children in competent hands while they are on the job, are scheduled to be closed next month. The protest against closing them has been strong. Especially in the west.

A score of Pacific coast congressmen met Wednesday morning with federal works administrator Gen. Philip Fleming to reach a solution to this problem. Fleming told them child care was never contemplated as a permanent federal project, and would have to be taken over by the states.

Rep. Richard Welch of San Francisco insisted, however, federal operation until the states are ready to take over is imperative—at least until G. I. fathers are back on the scene.

"It is still a war problem," Welch said. "If you could see the pitiful letters on my desk, you would have no doubt about it. Hundreds and thousands of mothers, whose husbands are still in the army, are desperate at the thought the child centers will close down. They can't live on soldiers' pay, and they want to know how they are going to keep their jobs if they have to stay home and take care of their children."

General Fleming, who personally wants to keep the centers open, said he is aware of these problems, but it was clearly understood at the time congress voted the money that centers were to be operated only as a war measure.

Freshman representative George Miller of San Francisco then asked Fleming if it were not true that the FWA has legal authority to keep operating these centers as long as the

funds are available.

Fleming replied that that is true.

"But," he added, "we have an understanding with the appropriations committee that as soon as the war ends we are to liquidate the program."

Liberal Representative John Coffee of Tacoma, Wash., who is a member of the appropriations committee, remarked he knew of no such agreement.

Note—Western congressmen do not maintain that child care should be a permanent federal project, but that more time must be given for states and cities to take it over.

### Merry-Go-Round

The entire California delegation in congress will go to the White House to demand that President Truman intercede with the RFC on behalf of the western steel industry. They feel Jesse Jones' old friends in the RFC are prejudiced in favor of eastern steel and want to close down wartime western steel plants. . . . President Truman may go to New York on Columbus day to make a major address. . . . While the British delegation in Washington is negotiating for a loan or gift, London is trying to swing a big financial deal with our political enemies in Argentina. Implication is that unless the British get what they want from us they will cement closer relations with fascist Argentina. . . . Army and navy brass hats have taken another step which won't endear them to civilians. They have reserved every room in every hotel in Philadelphia for the weekend of the army-navy football game. No civilian can reserve a hotel room in Philadelphia during the weekend—without army-navy consent. . . . watch former governor Drier of Ohio as a dark horse republican candidate for the 1948 presidential race. Harold Dorton's promotion from the senate to the supreme court leaves the way open for him. . . . Secretary of State Byrnes, who has already gobbled up OWI and the office of strategic services, is now inheriting the foreign economic administration and lend-lease. This will make his state department one of the biggest of all government bureaus.

## WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

The governor of Indiana has asked one of the senators from his state to see if he can't get President Truman to set the date of Thanksgiving right away—so we won't be wondering about it.

Perhaps the governor is as fed up with uncertainty as the rest of us—and figures it is now time to give folks a few certainties besides death and taxes to live by.

We thought most of our uncertainties would be over with the end of the war—and of course we were relieved of the biggest, most important one, "When will the war end?"

But thousands and thousands of Americans overseas and their families back home are still nagged by another uncertainty. They haven't the slightest idea when the men will get home.

And thousands and thousands of workers and their families are facing an uncertain

future, because they don't know what or where the next job will be.

There is still, also, the uncertainty of when many of the things we need to buy will be back on the shelves.

And thousands of parents are wondering what the future holds for high school age sons—whether they'll be called on to get into uniform or will be allowed to continue their educations uninterrupted.

There is so much we don't know in this post-war world, that life, except for the one big IF, seems almost as uncertain as it did in wartime.

So no wonder the governor of Indiana thinks it would be nice if we could count ahead of time on Thanksgiving's being a certain day.

We need to be able to count on a few things. We're weary of living by "It's" and "When's."

## Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—Probe deep enough in any labor sore spot and you will find beneath the now cause of trouble an old infection which was never properly healed.

The Kelsey-Hayes Wheel company, strike in Detroit is no exception. Its labor relations record is written large and long in the Washington files of the U. S. conciliation service and war labor board. It has been having labor troubles for years. When Michigan's Gov. Harry F. Kelly announced he would start an investigation into affairs at Kelsey-Hayes, he was merely putting his finger on a perfect case for clinical study.

One of the principal conditions that stands out is that Kelsey-Hayes management has never had a formal written labor contract with its employees. The employees are organized and they do have a union. It is a branch of the famous Amalgamated local 184 of the CIO United Auto Workers.

This Amalgamated local 184 is the creation of Walter Reuther and it takes in the employees of nearly 100 plants on Detroit's west side which do not have U. A. W. units of their own. All have contracts except Kelsey-Hayes.

The record shows the Kelsey-Hayes unit of the union has asked management for a contract to cover working conditions, and the company has also offered the union a contract. But neither party has been able to accept the terms of the other, so over a period of years, labor relations have been allowed to drag along under an armistice that continually breaks out in open warfare.

When a new grievance comes up, settlement must be negotiated. By common consent, it has been agreed that the minutes of these negotiations shall set precedents for future cases of the same nature that may arise. But there are plenty of situations not covered and this leaves the field of dispute wide open.

Most labor disputes eventually are reduced to a clash of personalities. Kelsey-Hayes troubles offer no exception to the rule.

Head of the company is George Kennedy, its president and principal stockholder and chief negotiator with his employees. They regard him as a tough hombre. He is a man of strong will and a lot of convictions on what he considers rights.

On the other side of the picture, a leader in the Kelsey-Hayes union is one Chester (Moon) Mullins, a hot head of the irrespon-

sible variety that can be found in almost every union or club or society ever organized. The Mullins record shows he has been fired by the company 13 times for disciplinary reasons. Somehow, because he was a union officer, perhaps, in the settlement of the Kelsey-Hayes disputes by Reuther, George Addes or other top officials of the U. A. W., Mullins has always been reinstated. Last April, Mullins and a dozen of his associates threw a supervisor out of the plant. The management promptly fired all 13. That caused a strike. The case went to the Detroit regional war labor board which named a panel to investigate. The panel recommended that all 13 should be reinstated to their jobs but when this report came to the regional board, it decided that only nine should be reinstated and that three, Moon Mullins among them, should be fired. The 13th character in the dispute apparently decided the thing wasn't worth fighting for, and left the state.

This regional WLB decision was handed down Aug. 20—four months after the original incident that started the fracas. In the meantime, labor relations at Kelsey-Hayes hadn't improved any, both management and the union appealed the decision to Washington and on Aug. 23, the employees went out on strike.

The Kelsey-Hayes case has today been magnified out of all true proportion. It now has national economic and political significance and you are led to believe that it is holding up the whole reconversion program. Actually, it isn't anything of the kind. The case history is spelled out in detail here just to show how trivialities become tragedies, and how incompetent mankind at time seems to be in dealing with them.

New Council of American Business—the liberal offshoot of businessmen who think National Association of Manufacturers and U. S. Chamber of Commerce are too conservative—will hold its first convention in Chicago, Oct. 10-12. N. C. A. B.'s Washington representative, ex-Rep. Howard J. McMurray of Wisconsin, is in charge of plans. Idea of the first session is to set up a national board of directors with a representative in major industry lines, then announce a prospectus of liberal business principles. It will probably be close to the present administration policy.

### Side Glances



"I had almost forgotten about these canned goods I borrowed from you—but when I read that they were no longer rationed it reminded me!"

## McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY

America's Card Authority

### SQUEEZE PLAY COMES NATURALLY TO LEBHAR

Two of the most popular men in bridge, M. A. Lightman, Memphis, Tenn., and Bertram Lebhar, Jr., New York, finished first and second in the World Championship Masters Pairs this year.

▲ A J 4 2	▲ K 9 8 5 3
▲ 10 4	▲ 6 5
▲ A 10 5 3	▲ Q J 4
▲ 7 6 5	▲ J 10 9
▲ 10 7 6	▲ K Q 8 5
▲ 9 8 7	▲ 6 5
▲ 8 7 6	▲ Q J 4
▲ A K Q 8	▲ J 10 9

Lebhar  
 ♠ A K Q J 3 2  
 ♥ K 9 2  
 ♦ 4 3 2

Duplicate—Both vul.

South	West	North	East
1 ♠ Pass	1 ♠ Pass	3 ♠ Pass	Pass
2 ♠ Pass	3 ♠ Pass	4 ♠ Pass	Pass
4 ♠ Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening—♠ K. 29			

Lightman and Pfc. Robert Appleby won the event; Lebhar and Simon Rossant finished second.

Lebhar, a sports broadcaster, talks so much about double plays and squeeze plays and all the terms describing baseball and hockey games, that it was only

### BARBS

A wallpaper manufacturer says no new designs may be expected before next July. And little Johnny answers, "Oh, yeah?"

Meatless Tuesdays and Fridays are over for New York. It's enough to make the big city folks lick their chops.

Tires made of nylon are in the offing! Look, Mabel, you have a runner in your front left.

Now that bathing suits are being laid away, why not change the famous expression to "One Moth Ball?"

It's a relief not to have to have a drag with the corner druggist in order to get cigarettes.

### Questions & Answers

Q—When was Hong Kong ceded to Britain by the Chinese?  
 A—In 1841, just a century before the Japs captured it.

natural he should employ a squeeze play on one of the tournament hands to win a nice score.

Unfortunately, both Lebhar and his partner had three small clubs, or there would not have been much of a problem in the hand. West cashed three rounds of clubs, so Lebhar had to make the balance of the tricks. When West shifted to a spade, he went up with dummy's ace and ran off his six heart tricks, retaining in dummy the spade jack and the ace of diamonds, and three diamonds in his own hand. East could not hold the king of spades and the three diamonds.

### IN FORMER YEARS

**Thirty Years Ago—**  
 Yesterday's meeting of Toll Gate road boosters at Toll Gate in the Blue mountains was a big success according to word brought from Elgin. Nine auto loads of Elgin boosters met 20 carloads of Walla Walla boosters. They met at the summit and took up the proposition of building a road across the Toll Gate district, using the old road a portion of the way, and adding to it where needed.

Time of arrival of the carload of bass due to arrive today noon has been postponed until tomorrow noon. At that time sportsmen will be ready to take the bass to the waters of Morgan lake and the slough near the Makin place.

**Fifteen Years Ago—**  
 Elgin, 20 miles north of La Grande, is systematically checking up its losses today following a \$50,000 fire that swept part of town Saturday afternoon, and for awhile menaced the entire business district and nearby residences. Arrival of the La Grande pumper truck, manned by local firemen, resulted in stopping the spread of the flames and finally brought the fire under control.

**Ten Years Ago—**  
 A special election was called for Friday afternoon by the school board for the purpose of voting on the proposition to bond the school district to the sum of \$12,000 for the erection of a new school building. The election went about four to one in favor of a new building.

### This Curious World



ANSWER: Gilbert and Sullivan, ham and eggs, Damon and Pythias.  
 NEXT: Why the corn grows tall in Iowa.