

EDITORIAL PAGE

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They Thrive On It in Darkness



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.

TODAY'S TEXT

And behold joy and gladness, slaying oxen, and killing sheep, eating flesh, and drinking wine; let us eat and drink; for tomorrow we shall die.—Isaiah 22:13

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Where there are laws, he who has not broken them need not tremble.—Alfieri.

Freedom of the Press

On this, the first day of National Newspaper week, we may have more than usual excuse for pointing out to the citizens of our area the importance of a free and untrammelled press.

A free press is important—not to the press itself, primarily—but to the citizenry as a whole whose political and social welfare lies in its free, ready and complete access to all of the facts governing that welfare.

We have learned to regard the citizens of axis nations as uniformed and propagandized masses, subject to the will of their masters, political and social, and trained by carefully based psychological presentations to think and respond to the proper stimuli.

Such persons can be moved like puppets. The ideas which are implanted in their minds become fixations, because they are cleverly tied to basic emotions and they can be roused to emotional heights at will.

They lose their claim to being self-willed and can be induced to act toward

specific objectives though their actions may be diametrically opposed to their own best interests.

This result does not take centuries to accomplish. Hitler and Goebbels were able to accomplish it with a people generally regarded as intelligent in less than 15 years.

The axis example is, of course, an extreme one. We of the United States cannot conceive a similar situation arising in our nation.

It may not be too much to say, however, that a similar situation can obtain at any time in the United States—different only in degree—if the full facts of any national matter can be distorted, withheld or otherwise controlled.

During the war, the American press operated under what was nominally a "voluntary" censorship. It was voluntary in the sense that no mandatory law set up and that no federal representative was present in every newspaper office to see that the news and information received was "slanted" to create certain conceptions and consequent reactions.

However, censorship—in the name of national security—was handled at the source of the news so that completeness of account was controlled and the time of announcement was controlled. It is not for us here to quarrel with that censorship. It is sufficient to state that in that censorship lay the seeds of political and social domination of the people. It is significant that one of the first acts of President Truman after the surrender of Japan was to declare all censorship dead.

The press of this nation has always been acutely conscious of its prerogatives and jealous for their maintenance. During the political and social unrest which we will undergo during the next decade, the press will more than before need public realization of the necessity and importance of a free press in protecting the liberties of the people.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—Last week this column revealed two military intelligence colonels in Washington warned their superiors the Germans were about to launch the disastrous Belgian Bulge attack in December 1944, and urged that General Eisenhower be put on guard. It was also revealed how this advice had been ignored with the result American forces in the Ardennes forest were caught offguard and their thin line of defense wiped out, resulting in 60,000 casualties and weeks of further warfare.

An additional chapter to this tragic blunder can now be told.

On Dec. 10, 1944, six days before the German surprise attack, Col. B. Albert Dickson, chief of intelligence of the second army, wrote a strong report to his superiors warning a German offensive was coming. His report, labeled "No. 37," is in the files of the war department and is available to any senate committee wanting to get the real truth regarding this blunder which cost so many American lives.

Colonel Dickson reported he was convinced they were planning a big attack. He reported a new spirit of jubilant enthusiasm on the part of the Germans he interviewed, a new determination to escape and go back to fight in the offensive. He even reported the Germans were training men to infiltrate behind American lines as American soldiers.

It will be remembered Nazi troops were found dressed in American uniforms.

Colonel Dickson even prepared a map showing villages where German reserves were billeted in preparation for the Belgian Bulge attack. And he urged that they be bombed out immediately. This recommendation was never followed. If it had been, the story of tragic American losses would have been different.

Instead, the 12th army group wrote a report on Dec. 12, refuting Colonel Dickson's report of Dec. 10. It replied such an attack could not happen.

Later, on Dec. 16, SHAEF, headquarters of General Eisenhower, wrote a G-2 "appreciation," stating a German surprise attack could not happen. However, Dec. 16, the date of this report, was the actual day it did happen.

So, later in the day, SHEAF hastily withdrew this "appreciation" and substituted three other pages in its report. The original report, therefore, may not be available to a congressional committee. However, if the senate will find that it contains in black and white the story of how the army was warned the attack was coming, and was even urged to bomb German reserves, but completely ignored warning.

Note—U. S. casualties in the Bulge were 60,000 compared fewer than 3,000 at Pearl Harbor.

Truman Deserts FDR

How drastically Harry Truman and Attorney General Tom Clark are deserting one of Franklin Roosevelt's principles was indicated by a recent incident which few people noticed.

One of the great battles Roosevelt fought was against the big utility companies. But the other day, a judge appointed by Truman to one of the most important courts in the country handled a case, even after his confirmation, on behalf of one of the big power companies. He is Judge Wilbur Miller, recently appointed to the U. S. court of appeals for the District of Columbia, which handles more important test cases than any other appeals court in the nation.

However, even after Miller was confirmed by the senate, he appeared last week before the federal power commission on behalf of the Kentucky Natural Gas company.

This makes it unanimous. For both of the other two judges Truman appointed to this important appeals court, ex-Senator Bennett Clark of Missouri and Barrett Prettyman, also have been attorneys for the big power companies or have been anti-public power.

Note—Bennett Clark was defeated for the senate by the people of Missouri last year after many bitter years of isolationist opposition to Roosevelt's foreign policies. However, he worked valiantly for Truman's nomination at Chicago.

Movie Moguls

Last week a galaxy of the most powerful moguls of the movie world paid a visit on Attorney General Tom Clark. Probably no more high-priced men ever entered the attorney general's office at one time before in history. The group included:

Barney Balaban, head of Paramount; Albert Warner of Warner Brothers; Nick Schenck of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer; Spyros Skouras, head of the 20th Century Fox, and Peter Rathbone, head of RKO.

They entered Clark's office, laid a brief on his desk and departed. The visit lasted exactly six minutes.

Since the salaries of these movie moguls average around \$200,000 a year each without bonuses or stock dividends, and since they were accompanied by a battery of legal counsel probably drawing from \$50,000 to \$100,000 annually each, it was estimated that this six-minute session, including travel time from New York, cost \$25,000.

The brief they handed Clark opposed the government's anti-trust suit against the movie industry.

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

Parents are being urged to keep their children home from school at the first sign of sneezes or sniffles. This — they are told — would cut down immeasurably on the spread of colds and other contagious diseases that in the early stages seem to be only colds.

If parents would really do that there also would be a future benefit to society. At last we might bring up a generation in which these types of pets wouldn't be quite so common.

The woman who comes sneezing and coughing into a bridge party saying brightly, "I really should have stayed in bed—but I just couldn't miss your party."

The man who sits beside you in a movie, coughing his way through a double feature.

The office worker who hasn't missed a day from work in so many years, even though

at that time he has often exposed the entire office force to colds that never got him down.

The neighbor who sends her small child to play with yours because, though he has a cold, she just can't keep him in bed and he is miserable without someone to play with.

The hostess who goes through with her dinner invitation even though she confiders she knows she is coming down with a "terrible cold."

We're afraid of colds. But seldom of our own. The only ones that really frighten us are the colds of other people.

So if children can be taught that when they have a cold they are a menace to others, we may yet have a generation of adults considerate enough to worry as much about exposing others to their ills as they worry over being exposed.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—The labor management-conference opening here Nov. 5 has a three-to-one chance of success, says Eric A. Johnston, president of the U. S. chamber of commerce. Johnston's appraisal is important because he has put in a lot of time during the war years, trying to bring labor and management discord into closer harmony. On his last effort, to write a charter for labor and management, he took a beating.

Predictions have been freely made that the forthcoming conference, called by President Truman and Secretary of Labor Schwellessbach, at the suggestion of Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg, would end in a brawl. Since all past conferences have ended that way, it is easy to make such cheap predictions. Some people apparently don't want the conference to succeed and therefore give it a black eye.

Part of the pessimism comes from those who expect the conference to do more than there is any reason to believe it can do, says Johnston.

To expect that this conference or any conference will be ridiculous on its face to expect that this conference will end the present wave of strikes, or to anticipate that the conference will come up with any program of recommended legislation that will automatically end all strikes is equally silly. The belief held in some quarters on Capitol Hill that if this conference doesn't produce a solution to all post-war labor troubles, congress will have to pass something like the Ball-Hatch bill is dangerous and it gets the conference off to a bad start.

All the mistakes of past labor-management peace conferences—President Wilson conference of 1919, President Roosevelt's conference of 1942, the U. S. chamber of commerce-CIO-AFL charter proposal of last March—

are being avoided. The agenda for the forthcoming conference is being prepared with considerable care and cooperation. What it aims at is a short and simple declaration of fundamental principles in labor-management relations. That is all anyone has any right to expect immediately.

No effort is being made to prepare a finished collection of pious resolutions and platitudes that can be handed to the conferees to mail over for a few days, shifting commas about here and there before adopting and going home. Instead, the six-man advance planning sub-committee headed by Marine Maj. Paul L. Douglas, representing Labor Secretary Schwellessbach, has merely worked toward agreement on subjects that can be taken up by the conference and settled.

That recognition of the right of collective bargaining will be included goes without saying. But, balancing it off, it is hoped that there will be recognition of the right management to manage. There was a statement to this effect in the Johnston-Murry labor-management charter which A. F. of L. and the National Association of Manufacturers walked out on. These two forces are in on the play this time, so there is better chance of success.

Extending the charter declaration on management's right to manage at the forthcoming conference, the settlement of the place of foreman and supervisory employees in industry might be achieved. If agreement can be reached in this field, one of the most troublesome of all present-day labor disputes might be removed from the field of controversy.

The right of management to earn a profit might also be carried forward from the See WASHINGTON . . . Page 6

Side Glances



"I'm tired of this kitchen work—I'd get married in a minute if I knew a woman who could really cook better than I do!"

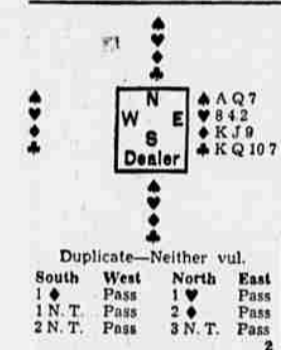
McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY America's Card Authority

TYPE OF YOUR HAND DETERMINES DOUBLE

Harry J. Fishbein brings out a good point in connection with today's hand. He says: "There are certain types of hands on which you cannot double, and this is one of them."

East unquestionably can defeat the three no-trump contract. North at no time has indicated he was interested in going anywhere on the hand, but when



South persists in bidding two no-trump, North finally bids three.

Fishbein points out that, if East doubles, West will open a heart, as the double of a three no-trump contract asks partner to lead the first suit bid by dummy. In this case, the heart suit might be the only lead that would allow the declarer to gain the timing on the hand, and make the contract. East wants his partner to make his natural opening, because East can establish the suit for him on the first round.

Therefore, when you know you

have the contract beaten, do not double and then blame your partner if he makes the only opening lead that will allow declarer to make it.

IN FORMER YEARS

Thirty Years Ago

The state fair management at Salem has announced Union county has won the county agricultural district exhibit in district No. 3. Morrow county was second, and Wallowa county third.

Over 200 head of Malheur cattle have been purchased by Sam Litch of Enterprise. Mr. Litch was in the city this morning on his way home and stated that his new acquisition in the cattle line will be brought in shortly and put on winter range in Wallowa county.

Fifteen Years Ago

Construction work was started today for the Natural Gas corporation of Oregon with mains being dug throughout the city and the beginning of the 185,000 feet of pipe laid.

Ten Years Ago

The relief map of Union and Wallowa counties made by Harley Richardson and on display in the Commercial club windows for many months, was back in La Grande today after six weeks in Portland.

The driest September in 35 years or more, and one of the warmest Septembers in local history came to a close at midnight yesterday.

Funny Business



"Frankly, I think he's playing for money!"

SO THEY SAY

The health and well-being of the human race are rapidly becoming the common problem of all nations. Whether we choose to be or not, we are our brother's keeper. —John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

If they the Japs are handled too gently, they may forget too soon that they lost a major war, and may be too willing to begin preparations for another. —Tolsted, O. Times.

We (the British) are the poorest nation of any of the victors in this war. We must see that "British made" means more ahead than it ever has in the past. —Sir Granville Gibson.

We can't—and mustn't try—to finance every nation in the world back onto its prewar feet. After all, there's a bottom to the American flour barrel, whether British thinks so or not. —Bartlesville, Okla., Enterprise.

Distinctive Jewelry

**DIAMONDS!
WATCHES!**

Costume Pieces

We are pleased to present a very fine selection of jewelry in vogue for the Fall and Winter season. Be sure to see our beautiful diamonds, gracefully styled watches, costume jewelry and gifts of all kinds.

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