EDITORIAL PAGE

La Grande Evening Observer

Frank Schiro, Publisher

THURSDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 4, 1945

Back to Prewar Normalcy

Impatient Strikes

With public interest centered on strikes in Detroit and New York, the end of the foremen's strike at the B. F. Goodrich company in Akron, O., the other day attracted scant general attention. Yet the unhappy and inconclusive outcome of that walkout seems so typical of many recent strikes that a brief review of its history might be in order.

A long dispute between foremen and management over employment functions and status led some 800 Goodrich workers of the newly-organized Foremen's Association of America to petition the national labor relations board to certify the FAA as a collective bargaining agent. Hearings were in progress and briefs had been requested from both parties' attorneys when, on Labor Day, the foremen struck.

The strike continued for 22 days. Toward the end the strikers indicated a 25-to-1 desire to go back to work in a secret-ballot poll conducted by an independent foremen's group. Joint efforts by officials of the company and the Goodrich local of the United Rubber Workers to resume production under emergency supervision also seem to have hastened the strike's end.

And what was the result? Sixteen thousand Goodrich workers were idle for 22 days. Their pay stopped. Numerous local businesses suffered in consequence. Reconversion was frozen in a large factory of one of the country's most important industries. Thousands of tires were not made — tires that the country needed for safety and efficient conduct of business.

As for the foremen's case, it is right where it was on Labor Day. The NLRB has not heard all the evidence. Twenty-two days, thousands of tires and thousands of dollars are lost, and nothing has been settled.

The strikers have gone back to their jobs without penalty or impaired legal rights. If they resume their case and the NLRB certifies the foremen's group, and if the courts uphold the certification, the company will have to recognize the FAA as a bargaining agent.

But it is doubtful that this strike has won the foremen any friends, or advanced the solution of an employment problem that is not confined to the Goodrich company. It has simply illustrated again the destructive effect of labor's occasionally rash impatience.

Perhaps the impatience is justified. The wheels of government labor machinery have certainly moved slowly and haltingly in the past. They should and according to present indication, will move more swiftly and smoothly in the future. But strikes will not hasten the reform.

Participants in these impatient strikes are but a small percentage of labor. And organized labor makes up a rather small percentage of our total population. But impatient strikes hurt everybody. In time they are bound to create an unjust prejudice against labor in the nonunion public.

National prosperity is the public's concern. And needless impediments to prosperity will eventually bring public demand for stricter government control of labor, if labor itself does not preach and practice a greater degree of public responsibility.

Funny Business

"We're sure to score this time if he can hang onto the ball!"

● SO THEY SAY

Loaning money is a poor road to international friendship.
—Herbert Hoover, former president.

Thoughtful persons agree that just one more war is all that is needed to destroy utterly institutions of civilization and anihilate the peoples of the earth.
—Springfield, Ill., State Journal anadn Register.

Every effort will be made to hire returning veterans and to cooperate with rehabilitation programs for wounded veterans.
—Leroy A. Beers, president, Institute of Carpet Manufacturers.

Prompt re-establishment of our overseas commercial connections is an important factor in laying the foundation for our future economic welfare and maximum employment.
—Thomas Jefferson Miley, secretary, commerce and industry association of New York.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON — President Truman's tough-talk with the ways and means committee went directly counter to the confidental letter the White House had sent to Senate Leader Barkley of Kentucky in which the $25-a-week payments was listed as "desirable" but not "indispensable."

Credit for writing Barkley this letter, now found to be directly contrary to Truman's real stand, is given to George Allen, who is turning out to be the most potent mystery figure around the White House.

The best story-teller in the capitol(with the exception of Chip Robert), Allen was transplanted to Washington by Senator Pat Harrison of Mississippi, and has thrived here ever since. First he was commissioner of the District of Columbia, later became vice president of the Home Insurance company, which he still is.

But the smartest thing George ever did was to attach himself to the Truman vice presidential campaign train last year and became the close buddy of the man who was to be president. While big-shot politicians were hanging around Roosevelt, George Allen traveled with the neglected vice president, amused him and helped write his speeches.

So now, Allen is constantly around the White House, a potent, charming, and very reactionary adviser. He was even consulted about the three new judges for the court of appeals for the District of Columbia—which may be one reason why Truman picked three ex-supporters of the power companies. He was also given credit for working with Leo Crowley suddenly to terminate lend-lease. Finally he is credited with authoring the senate memo which undermined the Kilgore $25-a-week compensation bill.

Whether the memo was sent without Truman's reading it, or whether he read it too hastily, is not known. Either way, it proved a bombshell. Either way, also, some of Truman's senatorial friends are wondering whether the continued influence of the gentleman from Mississippi is healthy.

Current wise-cracks in the nation's capital: The northern carpetbaggers once invaded Mississippi, but now Mississippi has reversed it and recaptured Washington. Not only does George Allen sit at Truman's elbow, but Senator Bilbo, chairman of the District of Columbia committee, is cirtual "mayor" of Washington, while the son of the late Senator Vardaman of Mississippi is Truman's naval aide.

Note—Chief Mississippian missed around Washington is ex-Congressman Ross Collin, the man who forced the war department into spending money on the first flying Fortress and who did so much to streamline the army.

Labor Chaff

Secretary of Labor Lew Schwelenbach demanded that Truman reorganize the labor department last July, but Truman didn't budge until after the Ford Motor shutdown . . . Schwellenbach himself also has moved slowly . . . In the oil strike, he let four days pass before labor and management held their first meeting . . . Excuse is that both sides needed time to get to the meeting . . . Present-day communications permit a secretary of state to fly to London in less than 24 hours, but it takes longer to get a union head and a company president to Chicago.

Truman's labor department reorganization is largely synthetic . . . He transferred the U. S. employment service, the war labor board, the war manpower commission, and the retraining and reemployment operations of the veterans administration to Schwellenbach . . . Same day Truman abolished the war manpower commission, his friend, Senator Scott Lucas of Illinois, pushed a bill transferring the U. S. E. S. back to the states. (In Chicago, Truman's pal, Mayor Ed Kelly will be the main benefactor.)

Truman and Schwellenbach are pinning their hopes for labor peace on the forthcoming labor-management conference still four weeks away . . . They hope both sides will agree on some formula for settling labor scraps without strikes. Others are dubious.

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

When students at Hunter college, New York City, go in to talk to Prof. Doran Lewis, head of the department of home economics, she tells them: "You can't lose if you choose home economics along with liberal arts studies. It will serve you well whether you devote full time to home and marriage or become a career girl."

Prof. Lewis is so right it is a wonder that all colleges and universities don't require their women students to take some courses that will fit them to be homemakers.

For whether or not women marry and rear children, practically all of them must make some kind of home. And if they are to be happy, well-adjusted individuals, they must do a good job of whatever kind of home-making they attempt.

The working girl who, by the wise handling of her money and her creative cleverness, contrives to make a livable home out of an inexpensive apartment and second-hand furniture has a much better background for herself than the girl who just assumes that because her salary is small she must live in a dreary hall bedroom.

Yet the average college girl with a career on her mind seldom realizes that along with learning a specialty whereby she can earn a living she also should be learning how to be a home-maker.

The chances are she eventually will marry. And even if she doesn't she still has to provide some kind of home for herself.

Perhaps one reason why so many single career girls have such dreary home lives is because they have neglected to prepare themselves for living while preparing themselves to earn a living.

If schools want to turn out happy as well as successful women, they shouldn't let girls get through school without some fundamental home-making training.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—How many secrets of state did President Roosevelt take with him to the grave? Or putting it in a less ghoulish light, how many of these "Roosevelt-promised-me-before-he-died" revelations are there going to be?

President Truman has just had to issue a statement that there is no record of President Roosevelt's having made a promise to King Ibn Saud he would not support the Zionists' fight for Palestine against the Arabs, as they have claimed.

Disclosure the Japanese secret code was broken before Pearl Harbor and the then-impending attack should have been known to U. S. high command creates another embarrassing situation.

Edouard Daladier, former French premier, declares in Paris President Roosevelt had in 1938 secretly refused an offer to start payments on French war debts owed to the United States. Early in September, Secretary of State Byrnes admitted that at Yalta, Roosevelt and Churchill had secretly agreed to Russian occupation of the Kurile islands, even though the soviet had not yet declared war on Japan.

Before that, there were other disclosures of other secret agreements giving Russia three votes in the United Nations assembly, and on splitting reparations payments from the axis.

Breaking these wat secrets indicates there are still many more hidden agreements and facts that need to be brought into the open. But at the present rate of progress, it will be 1955 or 1960 before the U. S. department of state will be able to publish the first volumes of diplomatic records covering the second world war. This 10 to 15 year lag in making documents that should be known now appears to be normal. Diplomatic records of the first world war weren't published till the 1930s. The diplomatic record of 1930 was published just a few weeks ago.

The fault of this snail's pace publication of what should be red hot stuff isn't entirely the state department's. It just hasn't been given enough staff to pour through the tremendous official files and pick out the important papers that should be made public.

Next year, however, is going to be a big year in state department publishing circles.

The records of the Manchurian incident of 1931—which really began World War II—will actually be published then. So will the records of President Lincoln's administration. That's right. The inside story of the war between the states, as revealed by White House papers, will finally be made public in 1946. Just 81 years after Lincoln was assassinated.

The delay in publishing Lincoln's papers has a direct bearing in the difficulties in getting World War II records made available for the guidance of policy makers today. Ever since way back when, it has been the custom to consider a president's state secret papers as his personal property. Gradually the Library of Congress has been able to acquire most of these files by their being made public until after everyone concerned is safely dead. That is what has delayed publication of Lincoln's papers.

President Hoover carted off his personal papers to Palo Alto, Calif., where he built a library to house them. President Roosevelt's papers are going to his home in Hyde park. Roosevelt thought he was making great progress in overcoming the "personal property" theory of disposing of this state papers by directing that they be preserved as national archives.

But the fact remains, when anyone wants to examine the White House papers on events leading up to this last war, it will be necessary to send a research staff to California or New York to dig into the records of the past 16 years.

The handicap this system puts on congress and on the state department and White House staffs now in office is obvious. They can't make good on foreign policy decisions unless they know what the commitments of past presidents and secretaries of state have been. Until some speed-up can be attained in the publication of records which should not be so secret, too many people will be kept in the dark, and there will be much confusion. The public is entitled to know the truth about what went on in the secret war and know it faster.

Side Glances

"Doing my homework last night I got a great idea—why not scrap geography for a while? In a few years Japan may be just a suburb of the Philippines!"

● McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WILLIAM E. McKENNEY — America's Card Authority

HEART FROM DUMMY IS KEY TO SUCCESS

While in Washington recently on business for War Orphans Scholarships, Inc., I visited William Cheeks' club and saw this interesting hand played.

West won the opening spade lead and immediately returned a trump, which declarer allowed to ride to the seven-spot. East very wisely did not put up his queen.

North: ♠ Q ♥ A 10 9 7 6 ♦ 4 ♣ A J 10 6 5 3
West: ♠ A J 7 2 ♥ 5 3 2 ♦ K J 10 8 5 ♣ 2
East: ♠ 10 9 8 6 3 ♥ K Q J 4 ♦ 7 2 ♣ Q 4
South: ♠ K 5 4 ♥ 8 ♦ A Q 9 6 3 ♣ K 9 8 7
Dealer: South
Rubber—Neither vul.

South	West	North	East
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 N.T.	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	6 ♣	Pass

Opening—♠ 10.

At this point, if the declarer had attempted to discard a losing heart on the king of spades, he would have lost the contract. He made the correct play of a heart from dummy, won with the ace, ruffed a heart in dummy, ruffed a small spade in his own hand, ruffed another heart, and then ruffed the king of spades. This allowed him to ruff the third heart and establish the ten-spot. He cashed the ace of diamonds, ruffed a small diamond with the ten of trumps, laid down the ace of clubs, and picked up the queen. The jack of trumps and ten of hearts won the last two tricks.

● BARBS

By HAL COCHRAN

Wouldn't it be great if all the grouches were as bad off as they think they are?

The War Department has released 257,000,000 chocolate bars to civilians. Better buy some more washrags, mother!

Restrictions on home building will be removed Oct. 15. For years

it was thumbs turned down—now it'll be thumbs smashed up!

People who marry for real love seldom do it again.

Now that we have peace, there is only one great China question left—who will wash the dishes?

Peacetime has started manufacturers blowing about their goods again. Trade winds!

● IN FORMER YEARS

Thirty Years Ago—

All general lounging and rest rooms in the depot are now resplendent with new seats. The seats are long, attractively stained, and enhanced the appearance of the depot the moment they were in place

Stimulated by exceptionally fine weather, entries are coming from the north, the south, the east and the west today, and so encouraging is the animal and agricultural departments of the county fair which opens in earnest tomorrow morning, that the management has tacked one day to show — the fair gates will not close until Oct. 9.

Fifteen Years Ago—

The new Liberty theater, remodeled and redecorated, was formally opened to the public last night with the show of the talking comedy "So This Is London," featuring Will Rogers.

Julius Meier, candidate for governor, will be in La Grande Oct. 7 and will speak before an open chamber of commerce luncheon in the Sacajawea Inn.

Ten Years Ago—

The railroad business continues booming, and in La Grande the word has gone out that more men are at work now than since 1930. In other words, railroading here is at the highest point it has been since the depression really hit the western part of the country.

Employes of the Larison-Frees Chevrolet Motor company late yesterday donated $15 to the Union county Amos L. Helms first aid car.

This Curious World

NEXT: Wild geese and their flying wedge.