

# EDITORIAL PAGE

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## Getting Ready for the Next Round



### EVENING OBSERVER'S PROGRESS PROGRAM

IRRIGATION—Complete the Grande Ronde Valley irrigation project.  
LA GRANDE — A city of 10,000 — Extend the city limits.

### Our Stewardship of the Atom

President Truman made a persuasive case for government control of the "business" of atomic power in his message to congress. He logically set forth the urgent reasons why a domestic policy must precede and govern further domestic development in this field, and why international agreement to renounce the military use of atomic power must be reached before any international exchange of information is possible.

A comforting corollary to the president's message is the interesting background on the atom bomb's development which William L. Laurence has been permitted to make known. Laurence, a science writer for the New York Times, was chosen by the war department to explain the bomb to the lay public. From 1939 on he was intimately associated with the experimental program. He witnessed the test explosion in New Mexico and the atomic bombing of Nagasaki. In short, he knows his subject.

And Laurence says the "secret" of the atom bomb is not one secret, but thousands. The theoretical possibility of releasing atomic energy has been known for 40 years. But it was a longer road from theory to the atom bomb than from the Wright brothers' first plane to the B-29.

The "secret" was discovered, Laurence says, because the scientists working on it had recourse to America's great sources of natural power and her great

industrial facilities. The atom bomb would not have been possible in 1945, he explains, without TVA and Bonneville dam. Neither would it have been possible then without the resourcefulness, inventiveness and accumulated wisdom of many American industries.

Laurence emphasizes the "secret" of unlocking atomic energy is no cook-book recipe. It involves thousands of new developments, and it has led to some revolutionary by-discoveries and by-products, including the creation by man of a new element in the universe, called plutonium.

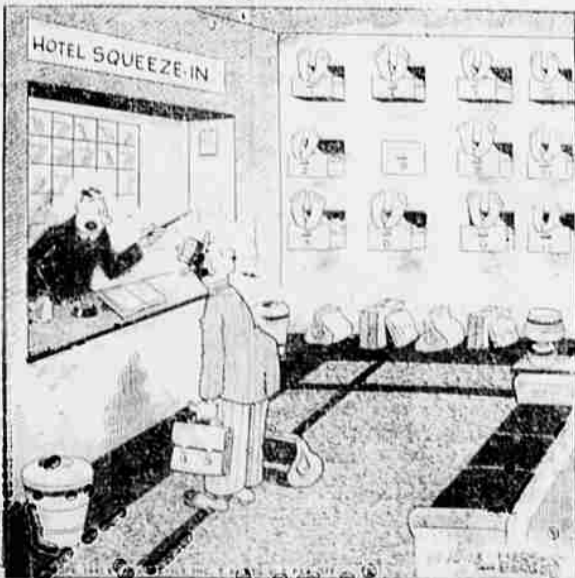
It thus seems safe to assume "giving away the secret of the atomic bomb" is not so simple as it has sounded. Laurence does not doubt other countries can and will discover that secret. But he does not believe that any of them, judging from American experience, could do it in less than five years.

Few countries have our combination of power and industrial development. And, for another thing, the world supply of uranium is not accurately known.

Uranium is the only known source of releasable atomic energy. It yields, after a costly and complicated process, uranium 235, which was used in the atom bomb. But 1,000 pounds of uranium produce only seven pounds of U-235. Before the atom bomb, uranium was a relatively unimportant metal. There are only three large deposits of high-grade ore known, says Laurence. These are in Canada, the Belgian Congo and Czechoslovakia, and the last was pretty thoroughly worked out by the Germans.

So other countries must have uranium and power and a tremendous industrial setup before they can catch up with this country in the atomic-energy field. Meanwhile it would seem that we may maintain our stewardship and develop our leadership without anxiety, toward the end this awesome power may become the benefactor and not the destroyer of mankind.

### Funny Business



"No 5 important if you care for it!"

### SO THEY SAY

One of the greater dangers to the future of this country is failure to correct mental disorders.  
—Maj. Gen. Louis B. Hershey, Selective Service Director.

There is one sound rule to be followed in making investments. Take time to investigate.  
—Independence, Mo., Examiner.

It is not possible for the United States to be prosperous if the rest of the world is in depression. It is not possible for other countries to maintain economic balance if industry in the United States is not producing at high levels.  
—Wendell Bere, assistant attorney general.

Every regulation which is continued after V-J day should be submitted to the acid test of industry criticism, and if the regulations cannot be fully justified, they should be abandoned.  
—Bulletin, National Association of Shoe Manufacturers.

## Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—A keen scrap raged behind the closed doors of the senate commerce committee before the committee finally voted 10-7 to reject the first federal job appointment sent up by President Truman. Subject of the debate was former Congressman Ray McKeough of Chicago, named by the president as a member of the maritime commission. (He was confirmed Thursday.—Ed's note.)

Republican Senator Owen Brewster of Maine led the fight against McKeough's approval, on the grounds naming a CIO man to the commission would appear to be favoring the CIO over the AFL. McKeough was Illinois director of the CIO political action committee during the last election.

Democrat Senator Warren Magnuson of Washington, who served in the house with McKeough and knows him well, argued to turn down the appointment because McKeough was connected with the CIO would mean no labor man could be appointed to the commission.

"Any labor man you get will be a member of one or the other labor groups," Magnuson said. "Will this committee tell organized labor its members are not eligible for federal jobs?"

To this, the Senator Guy Cordon, Oregon republican, replied: "What we have here is, as the late President Cleveland said, a condition and not a theory. McKeough happens to have been an especially active representative of one of the labor groups. I think labor doesn't generally object to a man in another labor group who has not actively participated in partisan questions."

Magnuson pointed out that McKeough, rather than being a member of CIO, had simply been hired by CIO to do a job in the 1944 campaign.

At this point, Maine's Brewster came through with the argument which republican members say settled the issue.

"It wouldn't be fair to put McKeough in that sort of a job," Brewster argued. "As soon as we do that, everything he does is in danger of misinterpretation. If a decision he might make favors the CIO maritime union, the AFL can holler favoritism. On the other hand, there is the danger he will be so anxious to avoid any charges of favoritism he might be unfair to the CIO groups."

Committee republicans agree this argument is the reason they decided against approving the nomination. While southern democrats Bailey of North Carolina—chairman of the committee—and Bilbo of Mississippi voted for McKeough and even spoke

in his favor during the meeting, two of their colleagues who see red whenever CIO is mentioned joined the republicans in voting against confirmation. They were John Overton of Louisiana and W. Lee "Pappy" O'Daniel of Texas.

### Army vs. Navy

Hugh Delacy, scrappy freshman representative from Seattle, asked the \$64 question at a recent session of the naval affairs committee. "Admiral Denfeld," he asked the new chief of naval personnel, "in view of the fact that it was the navy and the marine corps who really did the major part of the fighting in the Pacific, don't you think it would have been proper to make a naval officer supreme commander in Japan?" Admiral Denfeld grinned but did not answer. Members of the officers' club at Fort Meyer, Va., were upset because, when President Truman visited there recently, he did not stop in the club-house. They had had all the slot machines removed. . . . Cmdr. Gene Tunney is planning to make a stab at the Connecticut senate seat now held by Adm. Tommy Hart, who was appointed to succeed the late Francis Maloney. . . . Eric Johnson, who has taken over the movie job formerly held by Will Hays, is planning the construction of a huge motion picture industry building here in Washington. It would house offices of the picture companies, as well as work space for camera crews shooting Washington and facilities for theatermen, actors, studio workers and anyone else connected with the industry.

### Atom Expert Disappears

Expert on Atomic energy, Werner Heisenberg, has disappeared. His whereabouts remains a complete mystery. The war department won't say whether he was captured by the allies or escaped. Heisenberg is recognized as the world's leading nuclear physicist. He may be hiding in Spain or Argentina. Both of these countries have sufficient resources to develop atomic bombs. . . . A secret nazi file linking every important German industrialist with the nazi party even before Hitler came into power in 1933 has just been discovered by the American army. Watch for developments on this when the war trials open. . . . On November 1, the army will stop microfilming V-mail after doing the stupendous job of carrying 1,750,000,000 V-mail letters. Families with V-mail forms on their hands, however, can still use them. The army will see that they're delivered as regular mail without microfilming. . . . Secretary Fred Vinson is by all odds the most statesman-like negotiator in the British conferences for postwar help.

## WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

Department stores report that they are having a terrific run on exotic lingerie, that black nightgowns are selling faster than hotcakes and the girls are rioting over any kind of underthings that are "sugar and spice and everything nice."

The story is that wives of returning soldiers are putting together a "second honeymoon trousseau" to welcome their men.

We suspect, however, that a good bit of this buying is being done by the hard-working young things who have spent most of the war years in slacks and sweaters or similar un-feminine garb. Now, with savings from their war jobs, they are splurging on the frilly things they've wanted all

this time.

And there probably are WACs and WAVES represented in the crowds around those lingerie counters. Who has missed the feminine things any more than our girls in uniform?

More power to them all.

The war wives and war workers and service girls deserve the best. And if they shell out forty-nine of sixty-five dollars for a sheer, lacy, practically transparent bit of fluff, can we really criticize it as unnecessary extravagance? Let's just put it down as morale-building and indicative of our American characteristic of going after what we want.

## Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—When President Truman stood up as best man at Bennett Clark's wedding to actress Violet Hening, it wasn't just a gesture of friendship between two ex-senators from the same state. It was also the culmination of a friendship begun in the first world war when the two men served as officers in the 35th division of Missouri and Kansas national guard. Right after Truman became president, another of their ex-buddies came to Washington and cornered Clark at the Mayflower hotel. "Look!" he said, "I want you to go see Harry Truman and tell him I want a commission. I don't want one of these Pentagon commissions, and I don't want to go to the Pacific, either. But I can do 'em a lot of good in France, and I want Truman to get me made a brigadier general." Clark was himself a former senator out of a job at that time, so this large order floored him. When he recovered, he came back with this: "Look," he said, "When this war started Harry Truman and I both held reserve commissions as colonels. We both went out to see General Marshall and told him we wanted to resign our seats in the senate and be called to active service. Marshall turned us both down. So how in the world do you expect Harry Truman to get you made a brigadier general when he couldn't even get himself made a colonel?"

Dr. Vannevar Bush, who is head of the office of scientific research and development and likes to be thought of as an engineer, has invented a new doodling game to help him while away dull care at banquets or conferences where the speakers get particularly boring. Most people in this predicament either go to sleep or pull out a pencil and draw crazy designs on the white linen tablecloths. Bush's mind is too alert for the former and not destructive enough for the latter. So, he takes a piece of paper, tears it up into 100 or more little half-inch squares, and spends the evening arranging them in engineering designs. All the while he hears every word and never misses a trick.

Ira Mosher, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, is entitled to unemployment compensation under the Massachusetts state law. Some of his advisers have tried to get him to apply for it, with still photographers and the newsreels present, just to show up some of the weaknesses of existing jobless insurance laws, but the N. A. M. head says he isn't interested in that kind of publicity. Mosher had to give up his salary-paying business connections some months ago, to devote his full time to N. A. M. work. The law says anyone who can't find work in the same locality and at apparently the same rate of pay is entitled to unemployment benefits. There was only one job of the kind he had—head of an optical instrument company—in the Southbridge, Mass., town where he lives. And, as the N. A. M. job carries no salary with it, Mosher would legally be entitled to relief.

The new, life-size oil painting of Frances Perkins, former secretary of labor, hung in the labor building third floor elevator lobby along with portraits of other gone and forgotten secretaries, shows Madame Perkins with hat off. This in spite of the fact she never took her hat off in all the 12 years she was in office, and her tricorn got to be more a trade mark than George Washington's. Only major change which Secretary Lewis B. Schwelienbach made in the secretary's office was to order in a big brass spittoon. It seems the former occupant didn't use one. But now that there are more labor leaders coming into the department to do business, all the soft, fawn colored carpets are taking a lot more punishment from shoes and burnt matches than they used to.

New York and Chicago ad-man William Benton was in Washington for two weeks, hiding out in a Statler hotel suite, before he was confirmed and sworn in as assistant secretary of labor in charge of public information policies. He spent this time bon-

See BEHIND THE SCENES . . . Page 4

### Side Glances



"It's like a dream, Ethel—little did we suspect last year at this time we could drive down to the football games and spend the fall weekends with you!"

## McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY America's Card Authority

### WHEN IN RUBBER, PLAY RUBBER BRIDGE

There is a difference in the play of the cards in duplicate and rubber bridge. A duplicate player might easily lose today's hand, because he would figure on mak-

<p>Fishbeln ♠ J 9 7 5 3 ♥ J 10 8 7 5 ♦ 10 2 ♣ 4</p>	<p>W N E S Dealer ♠ A K Q 9 6 4 ♥ K 7 ♦ K 8 7</p>	<p>None ♠ J 9 8 6 5 ♥ J 8 5 3 2 ♦ A K Q 8 6 2 ♣ 3 ♦ A 4 3 ♠ A 10 9</p>
<p>Duplicate—N-S vul.</p>		
<p>South West North East 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♥ Pass 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♥ Pass 4 N.T. Pass 6 N.T. Pass</p>	<p>Opening—♦ 10. 13</p>	

The hand was played in a duplicate game at the Mayfair Bridge Club in New York against our good friend Harry Fishbein. South, the declarer, was a very fine rubber bridge player who did not quite realize that, although his contract was six, it was important to make seven in duplicate. When he won the first trick with the ace of diamonds, he simply led the deuce of spades. Fishbein won with the jack and knocked out the king of diamonds, but South cashed the ten of spades and claimed the balance of the tricks for top score—at both rubber bridge and duplicate.

## IN FORMER YEARS

### Thirty Years Ago

That more Union county people should grow popcorn is the contention of those who have given the subject study. A La Grande man yesterday exhibited popcorn of magnificent quality, increased in standard by his own attention, and it is likely some of this particular garden will go to the land show.

Several extensive potato growers are digging their crops. While the estimates say there will be insufficient, or at least not more than enough to meet the home consumption in this county, it is apparent that several crops will yield nicely.

### Fifteen Years Ago

In the ball sweepstakes at the country club golf course Sunday, C. H. Reynolds was first with an 83 and was 5 down on par. J. C. Batchelder was second with a 93, seven down on par, and John Theisen was third with a 95, seven down on par.

### Ten Years Ago

Allotment committees of government corn-hog control associations of Umatilla, Wallawa, Union, Baker, Malheur, Grant, and Harney counties met at the city hall here today to make plans for holding a referendum vote on whether or not the corn-hog contract should be continued during 1926.

With county trucks available for use next week, it is planned to put a surfacing of good, black dirt on the L. H. S. athletic field.

### This Curious World



### Ritz Korner



ANSWER: Seaweed.

NEXT: The versatile jaguar.