

## Making a Tough Climb Tougher



### EDITORIAL PAGE

# LA GRANDE OBSERVER

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## Salesmanship We Don't Need

The phrase "munitions lobby" has cropped up twice in recent presidential press conferences. It came into being because of the ever more common practice of large industries specializing in defense contracts hiring ex-Pentagon officials, both civilian and military, as well as former members of Congress and other retired government executives.

This week a sub-committee of the house armed-services committee started what is being called a "sweeping inquiry" into this practice.

At his June 19 press conference President Eisenhower said: "I think it all right (for Congress) to look into these things (connections between former officers of the government and government contracting officers) because we must be careful and I think that anyone acting in good faith would have nothing to fear of such an investigation."

The committee possibly will call Admiral Arthur W. Radford, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, and Frank Pace, former Secretary of the army, all of whom are now officials of large companies doing business with the government.

This matter is not new. Congress has attempted to enact controlling legislation before. On June 4 the house narrowly defeated a rider to the defense appropriation bill that would have barred for five years employment by defense contractors of retired generals and admirals.

The charge that a powerful munitions lobby is active in the capital is refuted partly by the fact that only 11 of the 50 firms with the largest defense department contracts had registered lobbyists in Washington during fiscal 1958. However Senator Douglas, one of those most critical of ex-military officers going to work for defense industries, reported on June 17 that 721 retired military officers were on the payrolls of 88 of the companies which receive three-quarters of the nation's defense contracts.

Certainly no-one can deny that there is sufficient reason for the investigation. With approximately half of our huge national budget being spent for defense, we have a right to expect safe-guards against any of this money being spent for military items, not because they are needed, but because some ex-general or admiral is able to do a successful selling job.

## Another Great Mass Deception

Russia lost 15 to 20 million men during World War II, says a population expert, which is more than double the number the Soviet has ever admitted losing. As a result Russian women outnumber men two to one in the over 32 age bracket.

Having suffered such a loss, the desire for peace must be a consuming passion with the average Russian. That may account for the Communist regime continually harping on the peace theme—trying to associate Communism with the desire for peace. It is able to justify the

huge expenditures for arms by constantly presenting a picture of Russia surrounded by hostile nations eager to attack.

It fools the peace loving Russian people into believing that they are the ones who are threatened and therefore must be prepared at any minute to fight.

This constitutes probably the greatest mass deception since the era when Japanese rulers were able to convince the Japanese people that all whites were evil beings not even to be permitted to set foot on their sacred soil.

## Clowning Of One Detracts From Other

Newspapers of late have been full of the doings of Governor Earl Long of Louisiana, whose antics in recent weeks have been such as to draw considerable publicity.

Unfortunately, Governor Long's doings have detracted from public notice of another Southern governor.

We refer, of course, to that paragon of segregationist virtues, Governor Faubus of Arkansas.

On the same day Long was going into—or was it getting out of?—one of his state's mental institutions, Governor Faubus commented on plans to re-open Little Rock schools next year on an integrated basis.

Faubus said it will require federal troops "with live ammunition" if Little Rock schools are to operate.

Long could be completely off his rocker

and not do his state or nation as much trouble as Faubus has and will.

Still, attempts are made to lock up Long, while Faubus becomes the darling of the lunatic fringe.

### Barbs

There's a long, long trail awinding when your car stalls in the country between gas stations.

Big wheels in business don't get that way rolling around at night.

Buying government securities tightens the bond between home and country.

Railroads continue to eliminate passenger trains. Maybe, some day, we won't be able to track one down.

DREW PEARSON SAYS:

## General Electric Employs 35 Retired Pentagon Men

WASHINGTON—Sometimes it pays to look behind a congressman's votes or speeches to see what motivates them. When Congressman Samuel Stratton, New York Democrat, defended retired admirals and generals working for big corporations, however, you didn't have to look for the motive. He was quite frank about it.

Stratton is former mayor of Schenectady, N.Y., and now represents that district in congress. He testified quite frankly that the biggest business in Schenectady is General Electric and he wanted retired officers working for G.E. so as to keep defense contracts in New York, not let them go to other companies in California.

This, of course, bears out the very point Congressman Herbert of Louisiana and Santangelo of New York, together with Sen. Paul Douglas of Illinois are making—that retired officers are hired to lobby.

No. 1—It's the third largest on the list of defense contractors. It gets more orders out of the Pentagon than any other company in the U.S.A. except Boeing and General Dynamics. With nearly one billion dollars worth of orders during 1958—\$952,400,000 to be exact—General Electric now outranks Charlie Wilson's old company, General Motors.

No. 2 General Electric ranks fifth on the list of firms employing retired military officers. A total of 35 have been hired by General Electric after they left the Army, Navy, or Air Force.

### Ex-Personnel Chief

The list includes such well-known military men as Adm. William M. Fechteler, who as former chief of naval personnel helped pass on the promotions of many officers now holding top jobs in the Navy department.

Another top brass had hired by General Electric is Gen. John B. Montgomery, who has an interesting record of sliding in and out of the military service and private business.

Montgomery left the Air Force as a temporary major general to take a lush salary with American Airlines, later was hired by General Electric.

Congressman Stratton, Admiral Radford, and other defenders of brass hats drawing corporation salaries contend that they don't have any real influence with former colleagues. However, General Montgomery had enough influence with the Air Force to have them put up quite a battle with the Senate for his promotion as a reserve officer. When alert Sen. Margaret Chase Smith of Maine found that the confirmation would mean a tax bonus for Montgomery, the Senate refused to confirm him.

These are just two out of the G.E.'s small army of retired officers hired to help with G.E.'s billion dollars worth of defense contracts.

Note—Ninety-five per cent of the defense contracts are let on a negotiated basis, without competitive bids. This means that a retired officer can and sometimes does tip the contract scales one way or another.

### George Meany Moans

A hot hassle took place behind the closed doors of the House labor and education committee the other day in an effort "to get" Jimmy Hoffa. It brought a moan of anguish, however, from

## QUOTES FROM THE NEWS

United Press International  
SPRING LAKE, N.J. — Sen. John F. Kennedy (D-Mass.), calling for the Senate to override Eisenhower's veto of the housing bill:

"Urban blight is spreading faster than our urban renewal programs can choke it. We have delayed, we have compromised, we have postponed, watered down and backed down — and the final blow was the President's veto of last Tuesday."

MIAMI — Melvin Mininson, who is honeymooning as a stunt with his new bride in a six-by-14 foot bomb shelter:

"We're not bored. We get a few telephone calls, you know. In fact, we got too many last night."

WASHINGTON—Chairman John L. McClellan of the Senate Rackets Committee, after lawyer Edward Bennett Williams had denied a charge by lawyer Bartley C. Crum that he had offered Crum a big sum of money for a client if Crum would not appear before the committee:

"Somebody certainly varied from the truth. When this comes from members of the bar, officers of the court, such conduct certainly should not be tolerated and should not go unattended to."

WASHINGTON — Adm. Arleigh Burke, chief of U.S. naval operations, discussing Communist methods of infiltration into free countries:

"Military power is not the answer to this type of tactics."

Hoffa's No. 1 labor enemy, AFL-CIO President George Meany.

Meany heard about the closed-door argument when Congressman Jimmy Roosevelt of Los Angeles telephoned him.

"Is it true, Mr. Meany," Roosevelt asked, "that you've agreed to include in the labor bill the Udall-Thompson amendment that no one shall hold a union office if convicted of an attempt to commit murder?"

Roosevelt referred to a proposal by Democrats Stewart Udall of Arizona and Frank Thompson of New Jersey aimed at knocking ex-convicts from high positions in the teamsters. They argued that the amendment would "get Hoffa."

Roosevelt argued that it was a common practice of employers to send men to create a scuffle on a picket line, after which pickets were often convicted on broad charges, including intent to murder.

"If this stays in the labor bill," Roosevelt argued, "a large percentage of union officers couldn't hold office."

However, the amendment passed 14 to 12 on the assurance that Meany approved it. Phoning this news to Meany afterward, Roosevelt asked: "Do you really mean that you're for this amendment?"

"My God!" exclaimed Meany, "is that in the bill?"

"Yes, it is," replied Roosevelt. "Good God, I'll get on it right away."

AFL-CIO representative Andrew Biemiller, ex-congressman from Wisconsin, immediately contacted all members of the labor committee to urge that the amendment be clarified.

## Weary Marines March Through Scorching Heat

DEATH VALLEY, Calif. (UPI) — Two hundred and fifty weary Marines trudged into camp at Trail Canyon Spring early today to end the first night of marching through scorching temperatures in Operation Lo-Hi.

The marchers covered an estimated 16 miles in 130-degree heat during the night. They made camp at Trail Canyon Spring and will resume their 14-day march to Mt. Whitney tonight at 9 p.m.

The Marines, members of the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion of the 1st Marine Division from Camp Pendleton, Calif., started the 14-day hike at 9 p.m. Monday in Devil's Golf Course, about 10 miles south of the Death Valley Monument.

They passed from 252 feet below sea level to an elevation of about 2,000 feet at Trail Canyon Spring, but the heat remained stifling. The marchers will continue hiking at night to take advantage of lower temperatures for the next week.

The Marine Corps said the unusual march route ranging from the below sea level elevation of Death Valley to the 14,996-foot peak of Mt. Whitney where temperatures will be around freezing was undertaken as a training and toughening up mission.

## 38 Homes Lost In Canyon Blaze

HOLLYWOOD (UPI) — The latest fire department report on losses in the disastrous Laurel Canyon blaze listed today 38 homes destroyed, two houses with major damage and 300 acres blackened.

Damage was estimated at two million dollars.

Cause of the four-hour fire which roared through the area Friday still was undetermined. But firemen said there was no indication that it was deliberately set.

Properties destroyed had an average value of \$22,000, according to a Red Cross survey. They ranged in loss from \$9,000 to \$150,000.

Firemen, posted to keep a close watch over the smoldering embers, were recalled from the area Sunday with only a few mountain

## Clickety-Click Land Of Modern Efficiency Is Dream Of Soviets

By ANTHONY AUSTIN  
United Press International  
PARIS (UPI) — The Soviet Union opened a wonderful exhibition in New York last week—of the country the Russians hope some day to have.

According to all accounts, Russia, as portrayed at the Soviet Fair, is a clickety-click land of modern efficiency, comfort and glitter, and this reporter would like to visit that Russia when it is there.

It was not there, except for its first glimmerings, when he ended a seven-month stint in Moscow as UPI correspondent this spring.

The lives of the average Russian seem drab and hard by American standards. From the Russian own words, much of their industry and agriculture was still steeped in manpower-wasting methods.

This is not to say, however, that the organizers of the Soviet exhibition in the Coliseum on Columbus Circle were out to

hoodwink the American public. If that were so, Russia would not welcome thousands of American tourists every year and permit them to travel over wide areas of the country.

"What Is To Be?" The disparity between some of the claims at the Coliseum and the reality on Gorky Street, Moscow, may be explained by a state of mind which fizzes up the borderline between what is and what is to be.

"Russia is the country of the bright tomorrow," said a Russian to this reporter. "We've all been living in the future since we were children."

He was mocking a Russian trait, but with a touch of pride. The Russians acting as guides as their "Exhibition of Science, Technology and Culture" must get a sense of pride, too, rather than dissimulation—though they know that many of the 10,000 items on view are less than representative.

## SULLIVAN IS STUDYING RUSSIAN FOR HIS TOUR

By VERNON SCOTT  
UPI Staff Writer

LAS VEGAS (UPI) — Ed Sullivan, who steps all over the English language on his TV show, is hard at work studying Russian for his junket to the U.S.S.R. later this month to introduce his "really big show" to Muscovites.

Sullivan will spend three weeks behind the Iron Curtain, determined to spread American goodwill among the Reds.

"My whole attitude stems from reading 'The Ugly American,'" the Irish emcee explained.

"We were represented as a pretty sad people losing goodwill in the cold war because we haven't the brains to visit foreign countries and speak to the natives in their own language."

Illiterate or Discourteous "That puts us in the position of being either illiterate or extremely discourteous. Neither of which will gain us friends."

"Europeans and Asiatics resent it, and I don't blame them. When foreigners come to this country on official business they usually know how to speak English. We expect it of them. So why shouldn't they also expect us to put ourselves out a little?"

Sullivan is knocking himself out five hours a day in this resort town working with Professor Alexander Malbin of the Army Language School at Monterey, Calif. He's taking the accelerated course with tape machines, special records and alphabet books.

## Search Party Will Attempt To Find Bodies

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (UPI) — A volunteer search party of nine men from Elmendorf AFB left Monday for Petrof Glacier near Homer, where they will attempt to recover the bodies of three Air Force crew members killed in a C-124 Globemaster crash Jan. 11.

The party will attempt to reach the 4,800-foot level of the glacier by helicopter from Homer. The rescue party hopes to dig through the 10 to 15 feet of snow that covers the crash site. Recovery of the bodies was hoped for within 10 days.

The C-124 from Travis AFB, Calif., was flying over the Pacific Ocean en route to the Kodiak Naval Air Station when it developed engine trouble and headed for Homer. The huge craft disappeared from the Air Force's radar sets and was found later 490 feet from the glacier.

patrol units remaining.

"We will watch it very carefully the next two or three days," said battalion chief Walter C. Runyan. "But we believe there is little likelihood of a new outbreak."

Trouble is, Old Stone Face doesn't sound any better in Russian than he does in English. But he's in there pitching.

### His Knowledge

"I've already learned to say things like thank you, good morning, please, applause and goodbye," he said proudly. Then he gave it a whirl in Russian, and it just might bring on World War III.

Ed is starring in his own revue at the plush Desert Inn Hotel which is very much like his own weekly CBS video show.

He's more relaxed on stage than on the air and manages to score very well in a comedy sketch.

"The troupe I'm taking to Russia includes Marge and Gower Champion and Dick Contino," he went on. "We'll give eight shows a week in Moscow for two weeks, and then move to Leningrad for the third week."

### To Use Russian Acts

"I have an agreement with their ministry of culture to choose six top Russian acts to integrate into our show and to tape them in action for my own program when we get back."

"Russians are particularly pleased when Americans speak their language."

The whole flavor of our meetings with the ministry of culture changed when Bob Precht (a member of my staff) was able to speak to them in Russian. They grinned and talked their heads off to him. Bob's talent helped clinch permission to go over there."

All the injured were listed as critical, but doctors said they were in no danger of dying.

What if the women's dresses and coats that New York fashion writers found fairly good are the pride of Gum's shop windows in Moscow but are seldom seen being worn?

What if the men's suits would cost the average Russian worker two or three months' wages, and Russians on the street look to Americans as though they were outfitted at a charity sale?

The two-toned Volga automobile and the small Moskvitch shown at the exhibition still are luxuries only to be dreamed of by most Russians. The relatively few citizens who can afford cars have to wait a year or longer to buy them (strictly for cash).

### One-Room Apartments

The reasonably attractive model apartments at the exhibition still are not much more than models in the Soviet Union. Most Russian city families have one room to live in, sharing the kitchen and bathroom with other families.

Other similar comparisons could be made. But what is more important to the vast majority of Russians is that a big housing construction program at last has begun and that a plan to spread consumer goods and services is in the works.

What is more important to them is that the Sputniks and the Soviet artificial planets are there, for all the world to marvel at, and that Soviet industry at last has produced some industrial machinery that is ahead of America's.

Living to the drumbeat of The Plan "Outstrip America in 14 years," says Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev, the shabbiness and the queuing-up and the burdens of today become something transitory and almost irrelevant—something less real.

Seen in that spirit, the Soviet Fair in New York must be, as President Eisenhower said a "remarkable exhibit."

## Oregon Woman Dies In Crash

LAYTONVILLE, Calif. (UPI) — Florence Wilson, the wife of Empire, Ore., Mayor Ira Wilson, and two other persons were killed in a head-on crash on Highway 101 four miles south of here Saturday.

The other victims were Andrew Rogers, 79, and his wife, Geneva, 74, of Rough and Ready, Calif.

Ira Wilson was injured along with the couple's two daughters and a granddaughter. The daughters are Linda Lee Wilson and Patricia Johnson. Mrs. Johnson's 20-month-old daughter, Deborah, was also injured.

All the injured were listed as critical, but doctors said they were in no danger of dying.

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