

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING CO.

CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, President

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Price Control in Practice

It was not a hopeless picture of the future which Banker E. B. MacNaughton painted for a Salem chamber of commerce luncheon audience on Monday—and by the same token neither was it a bright picture, particularly that portion of it which dealt with the immediate business future. Since successfully combating the dictatorships necessitates the temporary adoption of their methods, regimentation of business is under way; the operation of many types of business will be more difficult, successful operation will depend upon ability to make the necessary adjustments. In some cases, even under the most capable management, the necessary adjustments will be impossible.

Mr. MacNaughton's predictions were voiced with obvious reluctance and doubtless with such restraint as candor would permit. We feel rather safe in assuming that few of the businessmen in his audience accepted them as wholly impersonal statements having no possible relation to themselves. As for the retail grocers who have been working night and day to make the adjustments necessary to compliance with the "general maximum price regulation," they must have considered his remarks rank under-statements.

The impression gained by a Statesman reporter in surveying the price control situation last weekend was primarily one of confusion occasioned by lack of adequate, clear and non-contradictory instructions. Possibly few of the merchants, harassed additionally by a shortage of experienced help, had been able to pause long enough to gauge the probable over-all effect of the regulation upon their business.

The National Association of Retail Grocers, endeavoring to gauge the results in advance, is pessimistic. It predicted in a recent bulletin that price freezing would mean "outright ruin" for some retailers and went on to point out that those retailers and wholesalers who tried to cooperate voluntarily in holding prices down, will be penalized more than those who followed, in March, a contrary course. Other inequities in the control regulations are also cited.

We rather suspect that the association, or rather its spokesman who makes lugubrious predictions, is an advocate. In the interests of his members he wants to be in position to protest and to obtain adjustments—some of which doubtless will be necessary and will be made.

A Wall Street Journal writer who made as competent a survey as could be made in view of the fact that no actual results are yet available, was somewhat less lugubrious, though not what you'd call optimistic. Margin between buying price and selling price is going to be reduced on some items. In no case will a merchant have to sell at an actual money loss, except temporarily on goods bought since March 1. If his selling price is less than the buying price, he won't buy.

Thus the retailer's problem boils down to one of overhead and volume—well, with such additional worries as maintaining personnel and getting merchandise, and perhaps we shouldn't have said "boils down." But there it is. The merchant who can maintain a volume of sales sufficient to match his overhead at the reduced margin, will get along.

People have to eat. For that reason retail grocers suffered less than many other businesses in the recent depression. For the same reason someone is going to be in business, selling groceries, in the months and years ahead—no matter what else happens. Salem's grocers, our reporter learned in making the survey last weekend, are not downhearted—just a bit distraught over their temporary problems. The rest of us can afford a bit of sympathy for them. Not too much—they don't need it. And supposing they do have problems? Who hasn't?

Three Up, Three Down

Through the public power advocates are by their own campaign arguments estopped from use of the alibi, the war with its monopolizing demand for Bonneville power and its priority upon the materials for power line construction served to discourage creation of new PUDs in Oregon at the recent election. Three districts were on the ballot, all three were rejected.

Otherwise the conditions were favorable. In the Washington county and Columbia county cases the cities and larger towns were excluded from the proposed districts so that the rural vote which in a majority of previous elections has supported the proposals, was in these instances predominant. Yet the Washington county project lost by almost 2 to 1, the one in Columbia county by a substantial margin.

In Union county, home of Walter Pierce and Henry Hess, and the scene of a much more persistent pro-Bonneville campaign allegedly directed from the office of Administrator Raver though this is denied, the margin of defeat was slight—some 22 votes to be more exact. For obvious reasons the rates charged by a private utility in LaGrande are somewhat higher than those in Willamette valley cities, so that the advantage of Bonneville "postage stamp" rates there would seem more attractive.

Little more needs to be said of the result of these elections but some comment upon campaign methods seems to be in order. The private utilities used wartime conditions as an argument against creation of the PUD. They opposed diversion of Bonneville power from war industries and the use of scarce materials for unnecessary expansion or duplication of power systems.

Any intelligent citizen was privileged to judge for himself that the power companies were glad to have this argument and that their motives were in part selfish—but that didn't make the argument any the less sound or pertinent, nor their use of it inappropriate.

But Bonneville Administrator Raver in a radio transcription used by the PUD advocates, said this argument was "a cheap type of self-serving patriotism that hides its real selfish motive behind the American flag." A similar statement was used in duplicate advertisements published in all three of the proposed districts—illustrated with a cartoon of a repulsive Nipponese appearing figure wrapped in an

American flag. Some newspapers refused to run it in just that form; the American Legion post at LaGrande ran an advertisement condemning the PUD ad. Resentment was widespread and may linger on to embarrass PUD advocates when they resume their campaign—which probably will not be until after the war.

British war production workers enjoyed a holiday on Whit Monday, May 25—their first general holiday this year. Most holidays have been cancelled but health authorities recommended that this one be observed and the government and public opinion concurred. But the workers had nowhere to spend the holiday but at home. No special holiday trains—and no automobile tours. They've had gasoline rationing since early in the war.

News Behind The News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, May 25—Mr. Roosevelt lightly rapped the knuckles of Vice President Wallace and his mis-named board of economic warfare again last week and told it to stop reaching deeper into the prerogatives of State Secretary Hull.

Everyone outside has considered this argument an uninteresting technical dispute over power. Not much public attention was drawn to it.

In my opinion, the issues involved constitute the second most important story in Washington and the world. Down beneath the conflict in authority, it seems to me, is a basic fundamental difference of opinion as to procedure in the post-war world. The manner in which these two opposing forces are eventually aligned will determine the course of the world we live in for perhaps many generations.

The opposing forces do not yet admit that this fundamental conflict exists, but you can see it sticking out of their respective speeches as obvious as the Washington monument and Jefferson memorial. There is no need to go beyond their spoken official words to prove it.

In the first place neither side is thinking primarily about economic warfare. Mr. Wallace's primary interest is to prepare a plan for the post-war world. A few weeks back (May 9) he made a speech called "The Price of Free World Victory," which seems to be drawing considerable reprint publicity because of the attention it did not attract at the time.

In that speech, Mr. Wallace said a lot about liberty with which everyone agreed (no one is against world liberty anywhere in our realm so this point can be accepted as unanimously adopted), and then he illustrated his post-war purposes with an anecdote as follows:

"Half in fun and half seriously, I said the other day to Madame Litvinoff: 'The object of this war is to make sure that everybody in the world has the privilege of drinking a quart of milk a day.'

"She replied: 'Yes, even half a pint.' 'The peace must mean a better standard of living for the common man, not merely in the United States and England, but also in India, Russia, China and Latin America—not merely in the United Nations, but also in Germany and Italy and Japan.'

Inadequately but pointedly this illustrates what Mr. Wallace and the thinkers with whom he has surrounded himself are driving at. His right hand men are Milo Perkins and Louis H. Bean, former officials and economic advisers in Mr. Wallace's former agriculture department. Their tendency is to look at the world through farmers' glasses, and to guide their vision along new deal spending and social reform lines.

They want a new deal of the world to come out of this war. They talk of diet in India and China, working hours and needed ease in Japan and Germany, the necessity for industrializing small and remote nations, a lot more spending by us and a lot more morale reforming by us to bring these things about.

The speeches of Mr. Hull and his group of associated thinkers do not sound like that. Around Mr. Hull are Herbert Feis, economic adviser; Assistant State Secretary Adolph Berle; Leo Pavolsky, special assistant, and even Norman Davis sits in occasionally. Theirs seems to be the practical trade approach in contrast to Mr. Wallace's spending-social reform visionary approach.

Of course, both sides occasionally work into their public utterances a little of the other side's medicine, but their emphasis is distinctly contrary, although they will concede so far that their ideas only "overlap," "duplicate," and "intermingle."

The Hull group lays heavily upon the Hull reciprocal trade means of establishing a new world, abolition of tariff barriers, and restrictions to trade, free access to raw materials. As I get it, their idea is not so much to remake the world, as to make it work.

Presumably they would not finance industrialization of China, for instance, but would swap our typewriters, automobiles and industrial products for what the Chinese already have, soy beans, silk, etc. They do not seem to me to be worrying so much about whether a Belgian worker would have a five, four, three or two day week, or whether he drinks milk or beer, but would take the products of his labor in return for some of ours.

It seems true the way Hull's boys are thinking might cost us considerably less money than the way the Wallace boys want to go about it, but the new congealing theory is not to be costless. One of his men is working on an international long-term credit plan in which some organization like the RFC would invest large sums of our money in under-developed nations to enable them to produce.

Also both sides agree the world expects to depend on us for food and clothing immediately after the war, and these must be furnished like the war implements—on credit.

As Mr. Roosevelt has divided them now, they are to keep out of each other's hair as much as possible and act polite to each other (as they certainly are), but the question Mr. Roosevelt will have to decide eventually is which side is right, and he may take a look, before deciding, at the side of the treasury debt after the war to see how much world new dealing we can afford, and how much taxes the people of this country will want or be able to pay to finance it.



The Leading Lady

Radio Programs

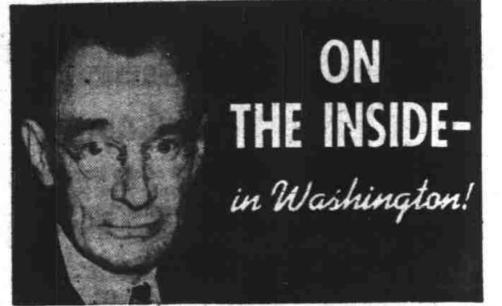
- 6:30—Rise 'N Shine.
- 7:00—Hudson Brief.
- 7:30—Rise 'N Shine.
- 7:50—News.
- 8:00—Your Gospel Program.
- 8:30—Jerry Sears Orchestra.
- 8:30—News Briefs.
- 8:35—Music A La Carter.
- 9:00—Pastor's Call.
- 9:15—Harry Owens Orchestra.
- 9:30—Hollywood Hi Jinks.
- 10:00—World in Review.
- 10:00—Musical College.
- 10:30—Women in the News.
- 10:35—Melody in Miniature.
- 10:40—Lud Gluskin's Orchestra.
- 11:00—Kuns Morgan's Orchestra.
- 11:30—Melodic Melodies.
- 11:30—Dittmars.
- 12:15—News.
- 12:30—Hillbilly Serenade.
- 12:35—Willamette Valley Opinions.
- 1:00—Lum and Abner.
- 1:15—Melody Melodies.
- 1:30—News in Brief.
- 1:45—Sing Song Time.
- 2:00—Four Notes.
- 2:15—Salem Art Center.
- 2:45—Isle of Paradise.
- 3:00—Herb Jeffery's Songs.
- 3:00—News.
- 4:15—News.
- 4:30—Teatime Tunes.
- 5:00—To the Ladies.
- 5:30—Dinner Hour Music.
- 6:00—Tonight's Headlines.
- 6:20—Evening Serenade.
- 6:30—News Analysis.
- 6:30—Evening Serenade.
- 6:30—Tonight's Headlines.
- 7:05—Interesting Facts.
- 7:15—Lud Gluskin's Orchestra.
- 7:30—Witty Gal Sunday Opinions.
- 7:50—Kuns Morgan's Orchestra.
- 8:00—News.
- 8:00—News Strings.
- 9:00—News.
- 9:15—Popular Music.
- 9:30—Dance Band Air Waves.
- 10:00—Lily's Dance.
- 10:30—News.
- 10:45—Dora Kirby's Orchestra.
- 11:00—Bert Hirsch Presents.
- 11:30—Last Minute News.

- These schedules are supplied by the respective stations. Any variations noted by listeners are due to changes made by the stations without notice to this newspaper.
- All radio stations may be cut from the air at any time in the interests of national defense.
- 8:00—Old Refrains.
- 8:15—Helen Hiatt, News.
- 8:30—Don Vining, Organist.
- 8:45—Keep Fit Club With Patty Jean
- 9:00—Breakfast club.
- 9:15—Jimmy Blair, Singer.
- 9:30—Breakfast at Sardi's.
- 10:00—Baukhage Talking.
- 10:15—Second Husband.
- 10:30—Amanda of Honeymoon Hill.
- 10:45—John's Other Wife.
- 11:00—Just Plain Bill.
- 11:15—Geographical Travelogue.
- 11:30—Stars of Today.
- 11:45—Keep Fit With Patty Jean
- 12:00—News Headlines and Highlights.
- 12:15—Your Livestock Reporter.
- 12:30—Market Reports.
- 12:35—Musical Interlude.
- 12:45—Stella Unger.
- 12:45—News Headlines and Highlights
- 1:00—Club Matinee.
- 1:00—News.
- 2:00—The Quiet Hour.
- 2:30—A House in the Country.
- 3:00—Stars of Today.
- 3:15—Kneass With the News.
- 3:30—Sunrise Serenade.
- 3:45—Beating the Budget.
- 4:15—Mr. Keene, Tracer.
- 4:30—Belen Ortega, Singer.
- 4:45—Diminutive Classics.
- 5:00—Flying Patrol.
- 5:15—Secret City.
- 5:30—Jack Owens, Singer.
- 5:45—News of the World.
- 6:00—Serenade for You.
- 6:30—James Abbe Covers the News.
- 6:45—Fantasy in Melody.
- 6:55—Ramona & Tune Twisters.
- 7:00—BN.
- 7:30—Red Ryder.
- 8:00—Air Base Hi Jinks.
- 8:30—Information Please.
- 9:00—Down Memory Lane.
- 9:30—News Headlines and Highlights
- 9:45—Essex House Orchestra.
- 9:55—News.
- 10:00—Cugat Rhumba Revue.
- 10:30—Broadway Bandwagon.
- 10:45—Palladium Ballroom Orchestra.
- 11:00—This Moving World.
- 11:15—Organ Concert.
- 11:30—War News Roundup.
- 11:30—News.

- 12:45—Right to Happiness.
- 1:00—Backstage Wife.
- 1:15—Stella Dallas.
- 1:30—Lorenzo Jones.
- 1:45—Young Wilder Brown.
- 2:00—When a Girl Marries.
- 2:15—Portia Face Life.
- 2:30—The Andersons.
- 2:45—Vic & Sade.
- 3:00—The Bartons.
- 3:15—Music by Schrednik.
- 3:30—News.
- 3:30—Personality Hour.
- 4:30—Funny Money Man.
- 4:45—News of Today.
- 5:00—Orchestra Solo.
- 5:25 Navy Chat.
- 5:30—Norace Hecht.
- 6:00—Burns and Allen.
- 6:30—Fibber McGee and Molly.
- 7:00—Bob Hope.
- 7:30—Red Skelton & Co.
- 8:00—Fred Waring in Pleasure Time.
- 8:15—Lum and Abner.
- 8:30—Johnny Presents.
- 8:30—Adventures of Thin Man.
- 9:00—Battle of the Seres.
- 10:00—News Flash.
- 10:15—Your Home Town News.
- 10:30—Musical Interlude.
- 10:30—Moonlight Sonata.
- 11:00—Swing Your Partner.
- 11:15—Biltmore Hotel Orchestra.
- 11:30—News.
- 12:00-2:00 a. m.—Music.

- KALE—TUESDAY—1300 Kc.
- 6:30—Memory Timekeeper.
- 7:00—News.
- 7:15—Memory Timekeeper.
- 8:00—Breakfast Club.
- 8:30—News.
- 9:00—News.
- 9:00—Jim Doyle.
- 9:15—Woman's Side of the News
- 9:30—This and That
- 10:00—News.
- 10:15—I'll Find My Way.
- 10:30—News.
- 10:35—Women Today.
- 10:45—Buyer's Parade.
- 11:00—Cedric Fester.
- 11:15—Dancing.
- 11:30—Concert Gems.
- 11:45—Luncheon Concert.
- 12:30—News.
- 12:45—Ed Camden Orchestra.
- 1:00—Rustic Wax Shop.
- 1:15—New York Racing Season.
- 1:30—Mutual Goes Calling.
- 2:00—President's Press Conference
- 2:05—David Cheskin Gang
- 2:15—Sweet and Sentimental.
- 2:30—News.
- 2:45—Bookworm.
- 3:00—B. S. Berovovic, Commentator.
- 3:15—Baseball Roundup.
- 3:30—John Agnew, organist.
- 3:30—Hello Again.
- 4:00—News.
- 4:15—Johnson Family.
- 4:30—Confidentially Yours.
- 4:35—Music Depreciation.
- 5:00—Voices in Song.
- 5:15—Jimmy Allen.
- 5:30—Captain Midnight.
- 5:45—Jack Armstrong.
- 6:00—Treasury Star Parade.
- 6:15—News.
- 6:30—Kay Kyser Orchestra.
- 6:45—Movie Parade.
- 6:55—News & Views.
- 7:15—Ned Jordan.
- 7:45—Gems of Melody.
- 8:00—What's My Name.
- 8:30—TBA.
- 9:00—News.
- 9:15—Harmony Home.
- 9:30—Fulton Lewis, Jr.
- 9:45—Tom Thumb Theatre.
- 10:00—Jan Savitt Orchestra
- 10:30—News.
- 10:45—King & Panell Orchestra.
- 11:00—Ella Fitzgerald Orchestra.
- 11:30—Jan Savitt Orchestra.

- KGW—Tuesday—420 Kc.
- 4:00—Music.
- 5:30—War News.
- 6:00—Sunrise Serenade.
- 6:30—Early Birds.
- 7:00—News Headlines and Highlights
- 7:15—Music of Vienna.
- 7:30—Stars of Today.
- 7:45—Sam Hayes.
- 8:00—Studio.
- 8:15—James Abbe.
- 8:30—Symphonic Swing.
- 8:40—Lotta Noyes.
- 8:45—David Harum.
- 9:00—Bess Johnson.
- 9:30—Bachelor's Children.
- 9:30—Deep River Boys.
- 9:45—Musical Bouquet.
- 10:00—Women's World.
- 10:15—News.
- 10:30—Homekeeper's Calendar.
- 10:30—News.
- 11:00—Light of the World.
- 11:15—Arnold Grimm's Daughter.
- 11:30—Guiding Light.
- 11:45—Hymns of all Churches.
- 12:00—Against the Storm.
- 12:15—Ma Perkins.
- 12:30—Pepper Young's Family.



By KIRKE L. SIMPSON
Wide World War Analyst for
The Statesman

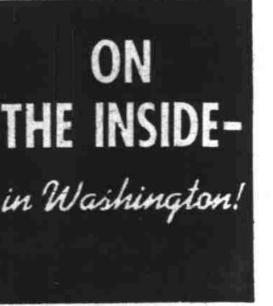
Conflicting reports from the Kharkov front in Russia throw little light on the probable duration or outcome of the first pitched battle of the summer campaign; but they do reveal that for once the Russians are on something like even terms with their Nazi foes in modern war equipment.

The size of the armies involved can only be conjectured from the fact that an irregular fighting front more than 200 miles long appears to be aflame with attack and counter-attack. That means troops by the hundred thousand on both sides.

More than two weeks have elapsed since Marshal Timoshenko seized the initiative and struck out to hamstring an impending German offensive before it could get rolling. In that time, there has been no intimation that the Nazis have succeeded in gaining control of the air or breaking armored panzer columns loose to lunge deep behind Russian lines.

Lacking those two prime factors, which have figured in every preceding German victory in Russia, the battle of Kharkov may go down in history as the turning point of the war. Even Russian failure to take Kharkov or to break through to the Dnieper crossings and undermine the whole German southern flank could not be set down as a defeat if it delayed Hitler's promised master offensive.

If Timoshenko has succeeded in sucking into the blazing struggle any substantial portion of Nazi reserves behind the Ukraine front and worn them down by



By EDITH BRISTOL

square shoulders. "And there are enough of us here in this room to prove it—no matter if all the police on earth find evidence to indicate that he did."

"That's right, Martha," Allen said. "We had enough to work for when we were trying to find out who killed the victims. But now we've got to protect the living. Somebody's out to hang both killings on Lance."

"Lance carried his own gun when we found the Durfee car—and how could they accuse him of that when the car was over the cliff when we got there?"

"Landers admits that is the weak place in the case—but says it could be possible. The car might have been sent over the cliff before we started our search," said the sheriff.

But I wasn't thinking about the Durfee killing, just then. Uppermost in my mind was the question: "Who, if anybody, heard Lance make that indiscreet remark about the rat poison? Who was using that against him? Who had access to his room in the camp and could plant a gun there to accuse him?"

The poison threat must come first. And suddenly I remembered!

But, for once, I didn't tell Allen what I remembered. This time I'd try by myself and see how much I could find out. The city detectives had quickly found a scapegoat—in the person of Lance. The Gallina sheriff was working in his own way and, so far, had disclosed nothing. Now, I'd try a little independent detecting on my own account.

(To be continued)

'Crime at Castaway'

By EDITH BRISTOL

Chapter 25 Continued

"I'm coming to that. That's what makes me feel that a hick peace officer from the sticks may find things out, after all—if you give him time."

I knew Allen took time and did things his own way. Right now his own way was slowly driving me frantic. "What happened?" I asked again.

"Early this morning, somebody, a man's voice it was, telephoned headquarters here and asked for one of the detectives working on the case of Estelle Gregg. The two men from here had just got back from this apartment. One of them took the call."

Sometimes Allen's deliberate way of telling his story was the most infuriating thing!

"Where did the call come from?" Martha asked. She was getting impatient, too.

"It was from a pay station in the city here. They checked the call. The man's voice said he could give valuable information that would lead to the discovery of the person responsible for Mrs. Gregg's death—and also for other crimes. He then added that he, the speaker, had overheard Lance Gregg threaten to poison Mrs. Gregg."

"That's preposterous!" Martha exclaimed. "Lance could no more poison anybody than—than—" Words failed her. But something clicked in my memory. What had Lance said, only yesterday morning? Was it only yesterday? "The only thing I'd like to give that dame would be a double portion of rat poison!"

The words flashed back to me. And Lance had said them there in the hall, returning from the drug store with the fatal sleeping tablets. But who had heard him?

CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX
Allen went on with his report. There wasn't much more to tell. "Landers and Howell must have stepped on the gas. They covered the ground at Castaway, and at the same time had two men up at Gallina dam at the construction camp. They missed Lance but they searched his room—that's when they found the gun."

Now Sydney, for the first time, asked a question. "But what about the records? Don't you have to get a permit? Don't you have to sign for a gun when you buy one?"

"They covered that angle, too," Allen answered. "The gun was bought, about three months ago in a San Francisco pawnshop—and the record of the safe charges it to Lance Gregg, Berkeley. The signature on the permit gives the name Lance Gregg and the address is his fraternity house over near the University campus. He was a California student, you remember, three months ago."

The Safety Valve

Letters from Statesman Readers

VOTE AFTERMATH
To the Editor: If Gov. Charles A. Sprague knew the feelings of the people he would have no cause to feel blue over the election. Of course I boosted Mr. Snell. I stated to the voters that Mr. Sprague had made us a good governor, but that I liked Snell just a little the best, and you know just about every voter I talked to said that was just their ticket, they liked Sprague but liked Snell just a little the best.

I still think that Mr. Sprague would make us a fine United States senator, and I am sure that if he will run against Rufus Cust Holman, Mr. Sprague will find that most of Snell voters will switch to Mr. Sprague for the senate two years hence.

No, you are not unpopular Mr. Sprague, you have made us a good governor and we know that you are a fine man, so just take a little rest and about January, 1944, make your announcement for the US senate and you will see that the people think that you are OK for the office to which you fit into.

A. A. Anderson,
Newberg, Ore.

Get Your Gun!



—From Akron (Ohio) Beacon-Journal.