

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Nineteen Forty Three

Between the national magazines' early copy deadline and the publication date of their New Year's number there occurred, this time, no such devastatingly upsetting event as Pearl Harbor. Thus the havoc Nippon's infamy played with the "experts'" prediction for 1942, even before they reached the newsstands, has not been repeated. Their forecasts for 1943 stand unrefuted by events, at least up to the new year's dawning.

"Look" magazine and seventeen contributors whom it describes as among "the best-informed men in the world" have stuck out their necks again. The list includes however only two of the six who were so hopelessly far out on an already-severed limb a year ago.

Yet without slightest fear of contradiction we may now declare that some of their predictions are wrong. For they disagree on many points. Pierre Van Paassen who was one of the red-faced sextet now asserts: "Hitler will offer an all-out spring offensive—a peace drive, possibly to be launched through Spain or Italy. Should this fail he will—in a last desperate gamble—let loose a gigantic assault on the British Isles."

But just below, Drew Pearson specifies: "I predict that Hitler will pull in his horns and go on the defensive in Europe. He will write off the African campaign, stabilize the Russian front, and make no more aggressive moves."

That they fail to agree and that therefore some are bound to be wrong, is intriguing—especially if one welcomes confirmation of suspicion that even the mighty wise are fallible. More significant however are the points on which several agree; still more significant those on which nearly all agree.

Fairly preponderant opinions are these:

1. That the United Nations will invade Europe.
2. That Schicklgruber will try a desperate gamble.
3. That Italy will be out of the war before the end of 1943.

There is decidedly more general agreement on these points:

1. The United Nations will not achieve final victory, even in Europe, in 1943.
2. On the other hand the axis will grow weaker; its European end may be near collapse at the year's end.

And—these conclusions are expressed or implied by each "expert":

1. In 1943 the United Nations will make progress toward victory.
2. For Americans on the home front, 1943 will be a much tougher year.

For that matter, unanimity of opinion on these last two points is by no means confined to one small group of "experts" but prevails, we have confidence, throughout the nation. Exception to the first conclusion is taken only by a small minority of extreme pessimists; the second is apparent to all but the thoughtless.

And after all, these two things are all we need to know.

Life will be tough.

We'll be moving toward victory.

Thus as a nation we face the year 1943 without doubt or fear—and with no illusions.

Production in Oregon

"In the sweat of every man who labors" not only are taxes paid—as in the era of reckless pump-priming spending we anti-new dealers delighted to quote, to his embarrassment, President Roosevelt as ostensible author of the axiom for which, however, General Hugh Johnson later took credit. "In the sweat of every man who labors" whether with hands or brain, wealth is created.

Emphasis in news stories analyzing the state unemployment compensation's most recent report on "covered" payrolls in Oregon, extending through the third quarter of 1942, was upon the disclosure that shipbuilding, starting almost from scratch early in the previous year, by now had displaced lumbering as the state's No. 1 industry. Nor, for news purposes, was the emphasis misplaced. Here was a development both concrete and noteworthy.

Reaction of thoughtful Oregonians to this information must have been one neither of unreserved gratification nor of unpleasant foreboding, but a mixture. Gratification that Oregon is devoting so great a share of its productive effort to furtherance of the war program; foreboding based upon the possibly debatable assumption that shipbuilding is a transient bubble destined to burst at the war's close.

By contrast, a broader analysis of the UCC report produces a more purely pleasurable impression.

Shipbuilding has advanced to top place—but not one of the dozen other classes into which industry is subdivided for purposes of the UCC report has suffered seriously. Nearly all have advanced substantially.

The news report asserted that all had gained—and that is true if the third quarter of 1942 is compared with the first quarter of 1941. But comparing the corresponding seasons, employment in two classifications has declined. In one case, electric and gas utilities, this reflects merely more efficient utilization of manpower, since volume of service is known to have expanded. In the other, mining, the decline is unfortunate since it represents a shrinkage of production despite the obvious need for minerals available in Oregon.

But with these exceptions plus the printing and publishing division which has not much more than held its own, everything is clear gain. Figures for "agriculture, forestry and fishing" are not reliable since little agricultural labor is covered by UCC, but the trend doubtless is correctly shown, about 15 per cent; lumber and timber products about 20 per cent; wholesale and retail trade, 8 per cent; food and kindred products, 14 per cent; miscellaneous manufacturing, 40 per cent; miscellaneous services, 32 per cent; transportation and communication, 14 per cent; and construction, despite its almost total limitation to war-necessary building, more than 100 per cent.

To get a comprehensible picture of Oregon's over-all employment gain it is necessary to go

back to 1940, not an extremely bad year for employment though it was the last depression year. The total covered payroll in 1940 was about \$216,000,000. In 1941 it was \$355,000,000, a gain of 65 per cent. But for the last 12-months period available, the last quarter of 1941 and the first three quarters of 1942, it was approximately half a billion, a gain of 131 per cent over 1940.

Now in dollars that gain since 1940 was \$284,000,000, of which shipbuilding accounts for only \$102,000,000, or much less than half. There's no blinking the fact that all of the increase is directly or indirectly war-caused; but in view of its considerable diversification, it is unduly pessimistic to conclude that the dove of peace will scare it all away.

The most recent venereal disease report by state health officer is explicit enough to satisfy all critics—as to its meaning. It is headed "newly discovered cases reported for the first time during November, 1942." The total for the state is 115 cases of syphilis, 149 of gonorrhea, one of chancroid. However we again observe that Benton county is next to Portland with 11 cases of syphilis, 30 of gonorrhea—and that oddly enough, all the patients are male. What does that spell? To us it spells confirmation of our previous belief that Camp Adair's cases are being reported in full whereas many civilian cases are not. Now it's up to the physicians to make the statistics show the actual state of affairs; and we rather suspect that will be shocking. As far as that goes, 265 new cases in the state in one month is a figure shocking enough to call for corrective action.

That no candidate for the Salem postmaster-ship formally affiliated with the democratic party was able to qualify, is a matter of embarrassment to the party hereabouts and requires no further comment on our part. On the other hand the sequel will be interesting to watch. One candidate, not affiliated with any political party, has qualified. Will he get the job, or will the recent experience of Marshall be repeated? That city went without a duly-appointed postmaster for months because the candidates with highest ratings were republicans. We should be able to observe how "non-partisan" is the civil service system when it comes to first class postmaster-ships.

If our car had just been equipped with a sail, the other night, what a lot of gasoline we might have saved!

Stewart Says:

By CHARLES P. STEWART

(Paul Mallon is on vacation. In his absence, the Washington column written by Charles P. Stewart, veteran political writer, will occupy this space. Mr. Mallon's column will be resumed following his vacation.)

WASHINGTON—For a would-be kick in the pants to land as a fine compliment may seem paradoxical. Nevertheless, President Roosevelt's recent swipe in the direction of the seat of John O'Donnell's journalistic trousers generally is regarded by John's professional colleagues in the Washington newspaper corps as having been highly flattering. It's the consensus of opinion at the National Press club that it ought to win the lad a substantial pay boost.

The story's been copiously broadcast to capital scribes, but I doubt that the miscellaneous public senses the full beauty of it. A reporter or editor is the chap to analyze it fully understandingly. It's necessary to repeat a bit to rub in the idea thoroughly.

John O'Donnell's chief Washington correspondent of a national news service.

For a long time he's regularly attended what are known as White House press conferences. He's been prominent in the bunch, too. From the president on down, all hands know him.

One of his associates for years has been another of the same gang, George Durno.

George, being eligible now, has been mustered into the military service and at present is an army captain in the Australian area.

What Started It.

John received a letter from him as a friend of a generation's standing. He also got a kind of a twin letter from Jack Turkott, another American newspaperman in the same outfit. They were josh letters. No censor interfered with 'em. There was no reason for any censor to do so.

They struck John O'Donnell as good copy and he played extracts from 'em accordingly.

Somewhat, upon their appearance in print, the frivolity of 'em angered FDR.

As his notion of a reward, he sent a German iron cross to Br'er O'Donnell. He didn't mean it as a reward, either. The iron cross for years has been recognized as the highest recognition of German valor on the battlefield.

That cross unmistakably was intended as an expression of the White House judgment that John was plugging for the Germans.

How FDR got the gawgaw isn't explained, but it's immaterial, considering how long and intimately he's been associated with internationalism. He doubtless has oodles of such tags available.

John accepted his gift very gracefully, merely saying that he'd no notion that his yarn would be misinterpreted.

The point is that so jovial a little spiel's importance should be so overly dealt with by as big a functionary as the United States president. If that isn't a compliment, I'm no judge of 'em.

One-Way Humor

What the executive mansion chronically lacks currently is a sense of humor. It plays horse persistently with the newspaper crew, but it wants no reciprocation.

Mrs. Roosevelt is as sensitive as the president. Her girl callers have to be as careful as the boss's.

It runs all through bureaucratic politics. A censorship isn't so bad that's choked off in advance, but this stuff oozes out and then is called to time after it's appeared in print.

Then it's too late to do anything about it. It'll be worse, too. The censorship will be getting tighter.

There were several suspended mail delivery days. You didn't know what you were delivering or what was due to you that you weren't receiving.

You can't tell just how much of it's censorial and how much it's due to impaired postal service bureaucracy gone cuckoo. It's ceased to mean anything.

'Continued Story'

Radio Programs

KSLM—FRIDAY—1390 KC

6:45—Rise 'n' Shine.

7:00—News in Brief.

7:05—Rise 'n' Shine.

7:15—On the Farm Front.

7:30—News.

7:45—Your Gospel Program.

8:00—Rhythm Five.

8:30—News Briefing.

8:35—Golden Melodies.

8:40—Pastor's Call.

8:45—Hawaiian Serenaders.

9:00—Popular Music.

9:45—John Kirby's Orchestra.

10:00—World in Review.

10:05—Bill Days.

10:20—Women in the News.

11:00—Maxine Buren, Women's Editor for the Statesman.

11:15—Hello Again.

11:30—Rits of Yesteryear.

12:00—Organizational.

12:30—Hillybilly Serenade.

12:35—Willamette Valley Opinions.

1:00—News in Brief.

1:15—Roto Hudson's Orchestra.

1:30—Mildred's Melodies.

1:45—Spotlight on Rhythm.

2:00—Isle of Paradise.

2:15—U.S. Navy.

2:30—State Safety Program.

2:45—Broadway Band Wagon.

3:00—Old Opera House.

4:00—Singing Saxophones.

4:15—News.

4:30—Langworth Concert.

5:00—John B. Hughes.

5:15—Let's Reminisce.

5:30—Golden Melodies.

6:00—Soldiers of the Press.

6:15—TBA.

6:30—Symphonic Swing.

7:00—News in Brief.

7:05—Clyde Lucas Orchestra.

7:15—Hal Grayson Orchestra.

7:30—Gaylord Carter.

8:00—War Fronts in Review.

8:15—TBA.

8:30—Treasury Star Parade.

8:45—Modern Choir.

9:00—News.

9:15—Deeds Without Words.

9:30—Good Night.

9:45—Let's Dance.

10:00—News.

10:05—Chuck Foster's Orchestra.

10:30—Dancers.

11:00—News.

11:15—TBA.

11:30—Good Morning Club.

12:00—News.

12:05—Souvenirs.

12:15—Happy Johnny.

12:30—Memory Timekeeper.

8:00—Breakfast Club.

8:30—News.

8:45—What's New.

9:00—Neke Carter.

9:15—Woman's Side of the News.

9:30—This and That.

10:00—News.

10:15—TBA.

10:30—News.

10:45—Buyer's Parade.

11:00—Cedric Foster.

11:15—Baron Elliott Orchestra.

11:30—Concert Gems.

11:45—Luncheon Concert.

12:00—News.

12:15—TBA.

12:30—News.

12:45—TBA.

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