

The Oregon Statesman

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

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING CO.

CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor and Publisher

Member of The Associated Press

The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to the use for publication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in this newspaper.

Stepping Stones to Tokyo

Japan has already won its war in the Pacific; such is the dismal picture painted by Clark Lee in a recent article in Collier's. Lee was an AP correspondent with the American forces in the Philippines, left before the surrender, and has since written a book. Lately he has signed on as an INS war correspondent. Lee's theory is that Japan has built a naval and aerial wall about its conquered empire and has settled down to the task of developing its ill-gotten gains. Time is on Japan's side.

All this has some color of truth, as The Statesman has previously pointed out. There is a flaw in Lee's reasoning, however, which was demonstrated in the action of the Solomons and another flaw being disclosed at Attu. According to Lee, our encroachment in the Solomons was not a serious matter to Japan. It was just the beginning of an "island by island" reconquest which would take years, and would never succeed because Japan's strength would grow with time.

But what happened? Whether because Guadalcanal was a serious threat to Japan or for face-saving reasons, the enemy expended a huge naval and air force in an unsuccessful effort to recover it. The attempt was clear loss, and one which the enemy could ill afford, insofar as ships and planes go.

The other flaw in the Aleutians is that in holding an island empire the Japs cannot bring up reinforcements to meet attack unless they control sea or air or both, which they do not. The Oregonian had an original and valuable comment on this phase of Pacific strategy:

"Our point has been that the Japanese island positions, which looked so redoubtable when the Japs first accomplished their sweeping expansion, actually have a fatal weakness. This weakness lies in the immobility of the reserves, once the United States has established absolute superiority in the air. In other words, the Japs will become like a football team which cannot move its secondary purposes of defense. The players who have the duty of backing up the line will not be able to move to meet the off-tackle buck or the end-around run. That would be fatal in football and no less fatal in battle."

"In the battle for Attu, for example, there appears to be no possibility of Japanese reinforcements. Our navy, but particularly our air force, holds control and sees to that. And anywhere in the Pacific that we can establish these conditions, our forces should be able to move virtually at will. A defensive force that cannot move its reserves to the point threatened is as good as beaten."

By this control of sea and air, so far as it can be preserved the United States can advance by stepping stones or even by direct move on some island closer to the home islands of Japan. The task would be to isolate the island from sea or air reinforcement, and then speedily overwhelm it. With ample air power based on China the job would be greatly simplified, and eventually that combination ought to be worked out: land planes from China and surface, submarine and naval air force coming in by sea.

Japan has not won its war in the Pacific any more than Hitler has won his war in Europe, though he has not been ejected from a single country in Europe where his armies marched. Blockade and pressure and attack will ultimately crush him. The same thing is true in the case of Japan. Once the chore in Europe is done, the concentration of ships and planes and army on the far-flung Japanese territories will cut and slash them to ribbons.

We cannot say what our strategy is, but there are numerous indications that our army and navy are building the foundations in bases and supplies, in ships and men, so that when the signal comes the attack on Japan can be launched in full vigor.

Sheep or Wolves?

And now the country has the spectacle of John Lewis getting in bed again with Bill Green. And after all the mean things John said about Bill and Bill said about John!

What about the burning issue of the industrial union, the vertical type of organization that Lewis favored as against the craft unions, or horizontal form of organization of industry? And what about Lewis's feud with Bill Hutcherson of the carpenters' union? Remember the fist fight at one national convention between the pair. Now it is reported that John L. and Bill are buddies again.

No preliminary build-up for reunion, no protracted negotiations or anything of the sort. John L. merely brings his 500,000 United Mine Workers back to the gates of A. F. of L. and asks that they be let in.

They are not coming as sheep, for John L. walks wide these days. If they are not coming as sheep they may be coming—as wolves. Little Red Riding Hood better be careful.

Shrive His Soul

The report that Mussolini has gone to the pope for counsel suggests the old verse:

"When the devil was ill,
The devil a monk would be;
When the devil was well,
The devil a monk was he."

In other days Mussolini was independent, free-thinking anti-clerical. His concordat with the pope was a marriage of convenience on his part. So there is bitter irony in the picture of this sawdust Caesar hitting the sawdust trail.

Perhaps the best deal would be not to invade Italy. If we did we would have to feed the 45,000,000 inhabitants. They'd like nothing better than juicy lend-lease meat, some fresh vegetables and flour for macaroni. Better clear away the island barriers and get food to the Greeks who have been loyal to our side and suffered more than almost any country. Let Italians wait for the free food baskets.

The mountain of beryllium north of Gold Hill turned out the same as the mountain of tin over near Burns. Oregon continues the richest state in phony metals.

Tax Stalemate

The defeat of the senate tax bill in the house, throws the two tax bills into conference committee. One was the house abortion, the Robertson-Forand bill, the other the senate version of the Ruml plan. It's anybody's guess what will come out of the committee, if anything. Tax legislation has been so encumbered with the barnacles of politics that there is little hope for anything constructive to emerge.

Why not, then, forget the skip-a-year plan for the present, and turn to the real problem: raising more money by taxation? That is the main issue, not forgiveness of taxes for 1942, 1943 or any other year.

Since the desire is not only to raise revenue but to mop up spending power about the quickest and easiest way of doing both would be to enact a sales tax. A tax of from five to ten per cent on sales would roll in the money, dry up a portion of the excess spending power which cannot find outlet in available merchandise, and reach many people now in the big money who are paying little or no tax.

This paper has not seen the need for any state sales tax, because our revenues are ample. But the federal treasury needs money, lots of money; and a general sales tax would provide it without any complicated system of rebates, surtaxes, or payroll deductions.

"Let's go."

We have wondered why "Sips" uses the expression "by gum" so often. However, as president of his false teeth association that's probably as strong as he can go.

The "poison gas" the Japs refer to in their bulletins about Attu must be their own propaganda blowing back in their faces.

News Behind The News

By PAUL MALLON

(Distribution by King Features Syndicate, Inc. Reproduction in whole or in part strictly prohibited.)

WASHINGTON, May 20—Churchill's broad explanation of allied strategy did not entirely satisfy complainants in congress.

What the fairly wide group behind Senator Chandler's viewpoint has been trying to do is to induce the British to put a formidable army in against Japan on the Burma line. They also wanted to draw out officially a British promise of full cooperation in running down the Mikado.

Official quarters here have been disturbed for some months by Mr. Churchill's promise to demobilize some of the British military forces after we get Hitler, a speech which Anthony Eden tried to explain away unsuccessfully when he was in Washington.

The new firm Churchill pronouncements stilled these fears successfully, but left the Burma line proposal unsettled. He is up against a difficult proposition there.

The Australian parliament recently extended the limit to which their draftee could fight. It now runs up almost to the equator in some areas where hitherto draftees could not even be sent off the Australian mainland (their volunteers go anywhere).

The Indian army runs nearly a million men, but most of these have been kept at home for protection against the Indians embarked on anti-British crusades, passive but occasionally bloody.

This Indian army could be put into the field if Gandhi, et al, would quiet down at home, and if adequate British officer leadership was furnished them. However, a large sea expeditionary force would have to be organized.

The dribble army which the British pushed through the high mountains on the Burma border and into the jungle has been driven back almost to the border and is too weak to do anything.

The congressional critics really believe China will collapse and fall out of the war unless the Burma road is opened. A more general and equally authentic opinion in Washington still is that the Chinese may remain too weak to do anything under existing circumstances, but will be able to plod along until the Roosevelt-Churchill strategy contemplates crushing the Japs (increased aviation help is apparently forthcoming, as Churchill implied).

Politics beat the Ruml plan—administration politics. Mr. Roosevelt's threat of a veto may have carried some weight, but the house democrats were simply determined not to let the republicans get any more credit than necessary for having pushed tax easement.

Leader Joe Martin, who made the Ruml plan republican by adoption, picked up plenty of political hay on the proposition. One worker constituent in his district wrote significantly that he would save \$50 of back debt to the government, and did not care what Henry Ford saved. A leading democrat came up to Martin and told him the local democratic club in his city had been discussing the Ruml plan, and one of the local leaders said:

"This fellow Martin is like the Roosevelt of ten years ago. He wants to give us something."

The democrats tried to make out that the plan favored the rich, and succeeded in smearing any common intelligent understanding of the complex situation.

The truth is the plan would have raised less taxes than now from the man whose income is declining (not many of them); more taxes from the man whose income is increasing (the bulk of war salaries); and do nothing for the man whose income has been the same the past two years—until he dies or his income does increase or decline. Then his back tax debt would be wiped out.

In some few isolated instances, a rich man would have been helped (Senator Byrd mentioned these in the debate) above the poor man but not in any general way.

The truth remains that the Ruml plan was the only one proposed to put the country on pay-as-you-go without requiring some measure of double taxation for the current year.

Any compromise, therefore, is not likely to be effective. The man with an income of \$100,000 (cited by the president) now pays around \$70,000 in federal income tax, and a state tax, in addition. He obviously cannot pay much if any additional taxes on his earnings. To him, any compromise would be a capital levy.



'Ghost Goes West'

Today's Radio Programs

KALM—FRIDAY—1330 Kc.	Next day's programs appear on comics page.	1:30—Uncle Sam.
7:00—News in Brief.	9:00—News.	2:00—Newspaper of the Air.
7:05—Rise 'n' Shine.	9:15—Speaking of Sports.	2:30—This Life is Mine.
7:30—News.	9:25—General Barrows.	3:00—Music.
7:35—Morning Moods.	9:35—Tilton Lewis.	3:15—'Topsy at the Duncans'.
8:00—Rhythm Five.	10:00—Soldiers of the Press.	3:30—Keep Working, Keep Singing.
8:30—News Brevities.	10:20—News.	3:45—News.
8:35—Pastor's Call.	11:00—Shady Valley Folks.	4:00—Raffish.
9:15—Uncle Sam.	11:30—News.	4:15—Sam Hayes.
9:20—Let Us Forget.	12:00—News.	4:30—Easy Aces.
9:45—Round-up Time.	12:30—News.	4:35—Tracer of Lost Persons.
10:00—World in Review.	1:00—News.	4:40—News.
10:05—Song and a Dance.	1:15—News.	4:45—News.
10:30—Langworth String Quartet.	1:30—News.	4:50—News.
11:00—Maxine Buren.	1:45—News.	4:55—News.
11:30—Hits of Yesterday.	2:00—News.	5:00—News.
12:00—Organalities.	2:15—News.	5:05—News.
12:15—News.	2:30—News.	5:10—News.
12:30—Billieby Serenade.	2:45—News.	5:15—News.
12:35—Matinee.	3:00—News.	5:20—News.
1:00—Lam 'n' Shine.	3:15—News.	5:25—News.
1:15—Nello Hudson's Orchestra.	3:30—News.	5:30—News.
1:30—Melodias Melodias.	3:45—News.	5:35—News.
1:45—Spotlight on Rhythm.	4:00—News.	5:40—News.
2:00—Isle of Paradise.	4:15—News.	5:45—News.
2:15—U.S. Navy Variety Program.	4:30—News.	5:50—News.
2:30—Broadway Band Wagon.	4:45—News.	5:55—News.
2:45—News in Review.	5:00—News.	6:00—News.
3:00—Charles Magnante.	5:15—News.	6:05—News.
4:15—News.	5:30—News.	6:10—News.
4:30—News.	5:45—News.	6:15—News.
5:00—Merrick's Vocal Group.	6:00—News.	6:20—News.
5:15—Records of Reminiscence.	6:15—News.	6:25—News.
5:30—Cyrus Orchestra.	6:30—News.	6:35—News.
5:45—Tonight's Headlines.	6:45—News.	6:40—News.
6:15—War News Commentary.	7:00—News.	6:45—News.
6:30—Cyrus Orchestra.	7:15—News.	6:50—News.
6:45—Popular Music.	7:30—News.	6:55—News.
7:00—News in Review.	7:45—News.	7:00—News.
7:05—Clyde Lucas' Orchestra.	8:00—News.	7:05—News.
7:30—Keystone Karavan.	8:15—News.	7:10—News.
8:00—Fronts in Review.	8:30—News.	7:15—News.
8:10—Music.	8:45—News.	7:20—News.
8:30—Treasury Star Parade.	9:00—News.	7:25—News.
8:45—Norman Hebbitt.	9:15—News.	7:30—News.
9:00—News.	9:30—News.	7:35—News.
9:30—Guest Night.	9:45—News.	7:40—News.
10:30—News.	10:00—News.	7:45—News.
KALE—MBS—FRIDAY—1330 Kc.	10:15—News.	7:50—News.
6:45—Uncle Sam.	10:30—News.	7:55—News.
7:00—Around the Clock.	10:45—News.	8:00—News.
7:15—Texas Rangers.	11:00—News.	8:05—News.
7:30—Memory Timekeeper.	11:15—News.	8:10—News.
8:00—Cheer Up Gang.	11:30—News.	8:15—News.
8:30—News.	11:45—News.	8:20—News.
8:45—What's New.	12:00—News.	8:25—News.
9:00—Boat's Carter.	12:15—News.	8:30—News.
9:15—Woman's Side of the News.	12:30—News.	8:35—News.
9:30—Edgewater Arsenal Band.	12:45—News.	8:40—News.
10:00—News.	1:00—News.	8:45—News.
10:15—Curtain Calls.	1:15—News.	8:50—News.
10:30—This Moving World.	1:30—News.	8:55—News.
10:45—News.	1:45—News.	9:00—News.
11:00—Buyer's Parade.	2:00—News.	9:05—News.
11:15—Bill Hay Reads the Bible.	2:15—News.	9:10—News.
11:30—Center Genes.	2:30—News.	9:15—News.
12:00—Music.	2:45—News.	9:20—News.
12:30—News.	3:00—News.	9:25—News.
12:45—On the Farm Front.	3:15—News.	9:30—News.
1:00—Music.	3:30—News.	9:35—News.
1:15—Sheelah Carter.	3:45—News.	9:40—News.
1:30—Texas Rangers.	4:00—News.	9:45—News.
1:45—All Stars Dance Parade.	4:15—News.	9:50—News.
2:00—Pat and the News.	4:30—News.	9:55—News.
2:30—Phillip Keyne-Gordon.	4:45—News.	10:00—News.
2:45—Warrior Women.	5:00—News.	10:05—News.
3:00—Hello Again.	5:15—News.	10:10—News.
3:45—Stars of Today.	5:30—News.	10:15—News.
4:00—Pulton Lewis.	5:45—News.	10:20—News.
4:30—Johnson Family.	6:00—News.	10:25—News.
4:45—News.	6:15—News.	10:30—News.
5:00—Sunday Days.	6:30—News.	10:35—News.
5:15—Superman.	6:45—News.	10:40—News.
5:30—Hi-way Patrol.	7:00—News.	10:45—News.
5:45—The Goldbergs.	7:15—News.	10:50—News.
6:15—News.	7:30—News.	10:55—News.
6:30—Parade.	7:45—News.	11:00—News.
6:45—Montgomery vs. Jack.	8:00—News.	11:05—News.
7:15—Lone Ranger.	8:15—News.	11:10—News.
8:45—Music Without Words.	8:30—News.	11:15—News.
	8:45—News.	11:20—News.
	9:00—News.	11:25—News.
	9:15—News.	11:30—News.
	9:30—News.	11:35—News.
	9:45—News.	11:40—News.
	10:00—News.	11:45—News.
	10:15—News.	11:50—News.
	10:30—News.	11:55—News.
	10:45—News.	12:00—News.
	11:00—News.	12:05—News.
	11:15—News.	12:10—News.
	11:30—News.	12:15—News.
	11:45—News.	12:20—News.
	12:00—News.	12:25—News.
	12:15—News.	12:30—News.
	12:30—News.	12:35—News.
	12:45—News.	12:40—News.
	1:00—News.	12:45—News.
	1:15—News.	12:50—News.
	1:30—News.	12:55—News.
	1:45—News.	1:00—News.
	2:00—News.	1:05—News.
	2:15—News.	1:10—News.
	2:30—News.	1:15—News.
	2:45—News.	1:20—News.
	3:00—News.	1:25—News.
	3:15—News.	1:30—News.
	3:30—News.	1:35—News.
	3:45—News.	1:40—News.
	4:00—News.	1:45—News.
	4:15—News.	1:50—News.
	4:30—News.	1:55—News.
	4:45—News.	2:00—News.
	5:00—News.	2:05—News.
	5:15—News.	2:10—News.
	5:30—News.	2:15—News.
	5:45—News.	2:20—News.
	6:00—News.	2:25—News.
	6:15—News.	2:30—News.
	6:30—News.	2:35—News.
	6:45—News.	2:40—News.
	7:00—News.	2:45—News.
	7:15—News.	2:50—News.
	7:30—News.	2:55—News.
	7:45—News.	3:00—News.
	8:00—News.	3:05—News.
	8:15—News.	3:10—News.
	8:30—News.	3:15—News.
	8:45—News.	3:20—News.
	9:00—News.	3:25—News.
	9:15—News.	3:30—News.
	9:30—News.	3:35—News.
	9:45—News.	3:40—News.
	10:00—News.	3:45—News.
	10:15—News.	3:50—News.
	10:30—News.	3:55—News.
	10:45—News.	4:00—News.
	11:00—News.	4:05—News.
	11:15—News.	4:10—News.
	11:30—News.	4:15—News.
	11:45—News.	4:20—News.
	12:00—News.	4:25—News.
	12:15—News.	4:30—News.
	12:30—News.	4:35—News.
	12:45—News.	4:40—News.
	1:00—News.	4:45—News.
	1:15—News.	4:50—News.
	1:30—News.	4:55—News.
	1:45—News.	5:00—News.
	2:00—News.	5:05—News.
	2:15—News.	5:10—News.
	2:30—News.	5:15—News.
	2:45—News.	5:20—News.
	3:00—News.	5:25—News.
	3:15—News.	5:30—News.
	3:30—News.	5:35—News.
	3:45—News.	5:40—News.
	4:00—News.	5:45—News.
	4:15—News.	5:50—News.
	4:30—News.	5:55—News.
	4:45—News.	6:00—News.
	5:00—News.	6:05—News.
	5:15—News.	6:10—News.
	5:30—News.	6:15—News.
	5:45—News.	6:20—News.
	6:00—News.	6:25—News.
	6:15—News.	6:30—News.
	6:30—News.	6:35—News.
	6:45—News.	6:40—News.
	7:00—News.	6:45—News.
	7:15—News.	6:50—News.
	7:30—News.	6:55—News.
	7:45—News.	7:00—News.
	8:00—News.	7:05—News.
	8:15—News.	7:10—News.
	8:30—News.	7:15—News.
	8:45—News.	7:20—News.
	9:00—News.	7:25—News.
	9:15—News.	7:30—News.
	9:30—News.	7: