

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Swaps Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Recognizing Bolivia

The alacrity of Argentina in extending recognition to the new regime in Bolivia may not be due altogether to any fascist sympathies of the government headed by Maj. Gualberto Villarroel. It may be prompted by Argentina's ambition to re-establish itself as the leading state of South America and by its feeling of loneliness as it has stood out against breaking with the axis. Meantime our own government which took little time before recognizing the militaristic regime in Argentina, which has proven more fascist than its predecessor, withholds recognition of Bolivia, as do the remainder of the Latin-American states, except the Argentine.

There are some indications that the revolution in Bolivia was not a pro-Nazi coup, but a revolt which found a considerable base in the economic conditions in Bolivian mines. These mines yield 80 per cent of Bolivia's national income, but are controlled, 90 per cent, by the great Patino, Hochschild and Aramayo mining interests. Patino, the tin king, is a native Bolivian, but lives in England in luxury. His affiliations are with the British, and it was not until this war that there was any tin smelter in the United States. Bolivian tin ore was shipped to Great Britain for refining. The lot of the native miners was very poor. A strike by tin miners brought on them the heavy hand of the military and a number of workers were killed. The price increases demanded by the mining interests and granted by the allies failed to trickle down into the pay envelopes of the miners. Bolivia's labor laws went unenforced, and when reports were prepared to show the evil labor conditions which prevailed and the lack of enforcement of protective laws, the American minister at La Paz worked with the owners of the mines to prevent its dissemination in this country.

The real leader of the revolution is said to be Victor Paz Estenssoro, who while a nationalist and opposed to domination of the country by foreign interests, is also something of a reformer. In his formal statement, Senor Paz said:

In the economic aspect the new government will try to better the workers' conditions and those of the middle class and to take advantage in all possible ways of the richness that is to be found in Bolivia.

There can be no quarrel with that policy by outsiders. After all, the natural wealth is the property of Bolivia. We have a proper concern that the resources be made available for fighting this war which is to preserve the independence of Bolivia and Argentina as much as of other countries. If the new government conforms to its initial pledge of meeting its full obligation to the United States and Great Britain and to the allied South American nations then we cannot complain. Certainly our country has no occasion to sustain the mining oligarchy which has kept Bolivia as a colony for decades.

Dairymaids

"Where are you going to, my pretty maid, I'm going a-milking, sir, she said."

The dairymaid has long been celebrated in song and story, in art and poetry. But she has been largely a product of poetic license. Unless she was a 4H girl she didn't know how to milk, though sometimes "ma" helped with the milking. Now the state college is going to attend to this matter, and hold a school for dairymaids.

It all comes about because few seem to respond to the want ads: Help wanted—Male—dairy hands. The milkmen have gone to war, if not in sailor's blue or army khaki, then in the tin hat and visor of the welder. At any rate they have hung their striped overalls, the true mark of the dairymaid, on the nail in the closet, and left the dairy farm. Just as Kaiser and Boeing and Ford, the operators of dairy farms must turn to the reservoir of woman-power to tend their herds. And the state college comes forward with a course of study to fit the ex-beauticians and housemaids for jobs on dairy farms.

Let us hope that some dash of glamour is added—slacks with arty decoration, say, lest the course draw no students. The pay is good, but in these days women can be choosy. Whether exemption from laundry and cooking, and access to the housewife's fur coat on Saturday's off will be a sufficient attraction we cannot say, but the paycheck should have some embellishment.

The girls who are graduated from the course will find there is more to the job than just a pastel print of a Dutch girl with blue bloomers and pail and milk stool. They will find there is such a thing as 5 a. m. for example, and muley cows, and bawling calves. But if they can do milking and like it, and serve as engine hostlers in railroad shops surely some will be attracted to dairymaking. Traditionally tending the kine was a woman's chore; and the invaluable 4H clubs have done much to make girls really fond of Jerseys and Guernseys and even square-breed Herefords. So the college may perform useful service, and help save the day for Oregon's dairymen.

Labor leaders are indignant over a statement attributed to Gen. Marshall, that recent labor disputes would result in prolonging the war because of the boost to enemy morale. There is real ground for that opinion. The axis powers will exploit these disputes to prove internal discord and weakness in America and so encourage their people to hang on in hopes of collapse here. At a time when we should present a united front it is nothing short of tragic betrayal of country to jeopardize the lives of men in service by paralyzing war industry for economic advantage, by any group.

At a time when employment in Portland has passed its peak the FHA is going ahead with 484 out of 848 housing units in East Vanport city. Perhaps they will be needed, but the trend is in the other direction. What a lot of second-hand bathtubs, stoves and refrigerators will be thrown on the market when these housing units are "liquidated."

News Behind The News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, January 4.—Mr. Roosevelt involved himself in more than the usual vortex of intercession (big phrase for a mess) in handling the rail strike negotiations.

One reason was most of the government action was directed with exceptional slickness in his name while he was off to Hyde Park or somewhere.

Most eminent slickness in the background was Anne Rosenberg, who made a big living in New York as labor advisor to large corporations including Macy's department store when she was not sitting quietly in on what the president calls his "little labor cabinet of Bills Green, Fanny Perkins, et al.

It was Miss Rosenberg who helped War Mobilizer Jimmy Byrnes draft the original call to the railroad brotherhoods to come in and negotiate, and while she did not appear in the meetings, much of the government strategy can be attributed to her.

The brotherhood leaders feel considerably beaten up by their experiences with the government. Much bitterness will long lie beneath their skins for several detailed reasons which I will outline later.

But their ire must be considerably balmied by the financial settlement the government granted. Mr. Roosevelt in effect broke his own little steel formula—again.

His emergency board had offered a four cent increase which was supposed to be founded on that formula, but in the end he gave the operating employees what will amount to at least 11 cents, about two cents of which is concealed in one week's vacation with pay.

The press accounts all called the increase nine cents, adding the four cents regular increase and five cents overtime which was evident in the announcements, but the vacation is figured by experts to add two cents more per hour for a more accurate total of 11 cents.

But there are hidden tricks in it. The 13 non-operating brotherhoods which refused to sign the agreement, after operating brotherhoods had accepted the proposition, went to see Mobilizer Byrnes and asked what a provision in it meant—one which seemed to say vaguely railroad workers could get no more increases for the duration of the war. Mr. Byrnes told them exactly what it meant.

The brotherhood leaders who had signed earlier, considered the provision "unimportant" (they said) apparently reserving the right to contest Mr. Byrnes' interpretation later if prices go much higher. But the leaders who had not signed, implied their colleagues had been deceived by the government.

This was only the last of a series of similar occurrences through which the government split the brotherhoods right down the middle, making them perhaps easier to handle, but leaving them with the conviction they had been gypped one way or another.

At the outset of the negotiations, Mr. Roosevelt had seemed fully amenable to much of their demands, even suggesting in one private conference that any few cents of pay increase around the government formula could be handled by adjusting overtime one way or another.

But when this agreement came to fruition, they found it required them to accept "interpretations" of law by the administration, meaning Mr. Byrnes. They felt they would be bound thereby to practically anything Byrnes wanted.

That started the trouble which led to the strike call in the first place, a trouble which brotherhood officials say could have been settled in 24 hours at any time in the last 30 days if the government had not continuously complicated its proposals with these little slick paragraphs here and there.

The brotherhoods certainly did not wish to strike. They knew a strike would be unpopular, indeed, could not be carried out in the face of war necessities. But they wanted to be the ones to call off their threat.

Instead, the government seized the roads without telling them or offering them a chance to give in. They had not broken off negotiations.

The brotherhood chiefs lay around the Hamilton hotel here from the Thursday before, until 24 hours after the seizure without receiving word of the coming action, or invitation to negotiate. Then on Tuesday Brig. Gen. Somervell called around to talk about government operation.

The operation itself was a legal technicality, nothing more. The government merely notified the roads they were under government operation. Not a single soldier or government official went anywhere on any railroad property.

The men received their paychecks signed by the companies as usual. So will stockholders. There was no visible or physical seizure anywhere.

In effect then, the seizure was only a legal device to prevent a strike which the unions did not intend to stage anyway.

The charge has been made in congress that Mr. Roosevelt seized them because he wanted to get control and keep it. This cannot be true. When this administration wants to seize anything, it starts a publicity campaign against private operation. All administration publicity has praised private wartime operation.

Furthermore, he would not have placed the management in the war department, but probably in one of the new deal bureaus if he wanted to retain control. Mr. Roosevelt was here in the last war, saw what a bad job the government did with operation then, has always talked in press conferences against government operation.

But this action presented him to the public in an unusual, new light as a strong manager if not a disciplinarian of the labor unions—in fact, the strongest and best managed unions of all. It rather established a new character for him politically.

At the same time, the railroad labor got around the little steel formula. No resentments or recriminations presumably would be in order, on the part of the unions at least, if the government had not been so devious, and in several spots, just a little too slick.



'Forgotten Man?'

Today's Radio Programs

KSLM-WEDNESDAY-1200 Ks.

7:00-News.
7:05-Mission County Farm and Home Program.
7:15-Rise 'n' Shine.
7:20-News.
7:25-Morning Moods.
7:30-Cherry City News.
7:35-Music.
7:40-Tango Time.
7:45-Pastor's Call.
7:50-It's the Truth.
7:55-Popular Music.
8:00-News.
8:05-A Song and a Dance.
8:10-Music.
8:15-News.
8:20-Organizations.
8:25-Matinee.
8:30-Orchestra.
8:35-Mal Hallett's Orchestra.
8:40-Milly's Melodies.
8:45-Spotlight on Rhythm.
8:50-Isle of Paradise.
8:55-US Marines.
9:00-Music.
9:05-Broadway Band Wagon.
9:10-KSLM Concert Hour.
9:15-The Aristocrats.
9:20-News.
9:25-Soy's Town.
9:30-Natl. Industrial Information.
9:35-Serenade.
9:40-Melodies.
9:45-Tonight's Headlines.
9:50-News Commentary.
9:55-Evening Serenade.
10:00-Ten-Two-Four.
10:05-News.
10:10-Charlie Hamp's Ballads.
10:15-This Is Your Business.
10:20-Keystones.
10:25-This Is Your Business.
10:30-Breakfast Bulletin.
10:35-Interlude.
10:40-The Open Door.
10:45-Mustangs.
10:50-Treasure Star Parade.
10:55-Old Times.
11:00-News.
11:05-News.
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KGW-NBC-WEDNESDAY-600 Ks.

4:00-Dawn Patrol.
4:05-Labor News.
4:10-News.
4:15-News.
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Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON Copyright 1944 by the Associated Press

A three-way soviet squeeze that threatens to entrap vast German forces lends emphasis to Marshal Stalin's declaration "that 1944 will be a year of victory for the United Nations."

The iron man of Russia made that statement at Cairo, obviously basing it on the expectation of destroying a substantial portion of the Nazi armies in retreat and that's just what may be shaping up now in the frozen land of the Dnieper.

Principal attention has been paid to the Russian breakthrough to the Polish border. But, south of that striking development in the upper corner of the Kiev bulge, Russian troops are forging what appears to be a triple entrapment pattern. They are following the oldest military axiom, divide and conquer, in a determined effort to surround or destroy virtually a third of all German forces still in Russia. Success must inevitably shorten the war in Europe.

There have been many indications that with the German lines split in the north, the weight of the Russian attack would turn southward to mop up. That impression was heightened by Moscow announcement of the capture of Belaya Tserkov on the extreme left flank of the Kiev bulge. Its fall represented a significant step toward the last foothold on the Dnieper river front southeast of Kiev to escape encirclement. It means

also gravely increased danger to German forces further south and east in the great bend of the river.

The Russian southward drive from the Kiev bulge to Volodarka or beyond which broke the Nazi hold on Belaya Tserkov seems aimed at primary rail and road networks. It is already tending to pinch Nazi supply and escape lines serving the depths of the bend and raises an expectation that a matched Russian attack in the south to close the great Dnieper sack on the foe may come at any moment.

The Odessa-Nikolaev-Cherkassk railroad, spanning the base line of the Dnieper bend, is the vital lateral communication for the invaders east of it. It is menaced at both ends. A Russian crossing of the Dnieper at its mouth to take Kherson and push on to the Nikolaev, 40 miles to the north and east on the Bug estuary has been in the making for weeks.

It begins to look as though Russian grand strategy called for an effort to cut the Nazi army south of the Kiev bulge into three segments for annihilation. Three distinct entrapment threats are clearly developing, exclusive of the by-passed Nazi garrison of the Crimean peninsula long ago sealed off.

A greater German disaster than Stalingrad is taking shape south of the Pinsk marshes to the lower reaches of the Dnieper river.

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6:30-Jeri Sullivan.
6:35-The World Today.
6:40-News.
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