

# The Oregon Statesman

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

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## State School Support

Two years ago the state teachers' association initiated a measure providing that all state income tax receipts above an amount approximating that which was then being expended for general state expenses, be apportioned among the school districts to offset property taxes. There were numerous bugs in the bill and it was opposed by the press and by most everyone who studied it carefully.

But a majority of the voters, seeing only that it provided a means of utilizing the surplus and promised property tax relief, approved it. The teachers' association then admitted the measure was faulty and promised to cooperate in its amendment by the legislature. The promise was kept and the taxation committees of the legislature did a good job. What started as a mistake was turned into good legislation; and it probably wouldn't have happened if left to the legislature in the first place.

The legislature limited the schools' share of the surplus to \$5,000,000 a year. Now the teachers' association proposes to "double the ante." The program presented by its executive secretary at last week's meeting of the state board of higher education proposes \$10,000,000 of state support for public schools, the additional amount to come not necessarily from income tax receipts but from sources devised by the legislature. Of the additional \$5,000,000, not more than \$3,000,000 would offset property taxes.

Having seen one "bad" school bill turn out good, one does not lightly oppose the second similar measure. However, some fundamental principles are involved. In the first place, the proposal to "freeze" the program by adopting it as a constitutional amendment is questionable.

In the second place, the question arises—how much state support for schools is wise? The state, according to Dr. Frank Parr, the association's executive secretary, now provides 36 per cent of school funds; this bill would raise the state's share to between 50 and 60 per cent. Directors of the numerous school districts govern the expenditures. They are answerable to the taxpayers in the district—not to the state. The more the state contributes, the less incentive for school district economy. In the past, many districts have been too niggardly, particularly in the matter of teachers' salaries. Some substantial state support therefore has been a good thing. Between that and the manpower shortage, teachers' salaries are about up to a decent standard.

It is a matter of record on the other hand, that the "property tax offset" has not worked out 100 per cent. Necessity for raising teachers' salaries, it must be granted, virtually made that impossible. But the question is—how much farther, if any, should state support go? To date, the program is not in final form; opinion as to its merits or lack of merit should await the drafting of the proposed measure. But the key issue is the extent to which school boards should be provided with funds, for the expenditure of which they need not answer to the taxpayers who elect them.

Meanwhile the question of equalization of school costs goes begging. At any rate, it is not clear that this proposal provides any part of the answer.

## Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON  
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There are startling intimations in the war news that the German retreat into Rumania may be headed for the Carpathian mountains-Danube delta line, virtually abandoning Nazi troops in the Crimea and the Odessa region to their fate.

With the Dniester river crossed by Russians on a wide front in the center and red forces already firmly gripping positions in the Carpathian foothills in southern Poland, there seems no other short, naturally strong line available for a Nazi stand in the south.

The Dniester break-through virtually undermines both the Prut and Siret river positions in Rumania proper as potential defense fronts.

Nazi seizures of complete control in all Hungary, reported from Ankara, lends color to this theory. Budapest is the focal point for all rail and road connections leading to the passes of the Carpathians and of the Transylvanian Alps. Whether brewing revolt against nazism in Hungary is also involved or not, military necessity could well explain the German move.

Russian spearheads in Bessarabia are closing in on Balti junction through the gap in Dniester line. Balti's fall would cut the only northern escape route for German forces still in the Dniester-Bug trap, driving them southward toward Odessa.

Beyond Balti lies the last Prut crossing of the Odessa-Tirapol-Iasi railroad, the only other westward escape hatch from Odessa. Its garrison and other Nazi troops being herded toward it by Russian pressure from the north and east are all but trapped.

There is no reason to expect any better prepared Nazi defense on the Prut or even the Siret than Russia met on the Dniester. The Germans failed even to blow up Dniester bridges or destroy Dniester ferries behind them, or to defend the western bank of the river. There is no other line of equal natural strength for defense in central-Rumania short of the towering Carpathians on the west flank of the Siret valley.

Southward to the Black sea coast of Rumania, however, the Danube delta offers a strong barrier to a continued Russian westward sweep. It is toward some such last-ditch defense front for his badly shaken eastern Balkan flank that Hitler's armies routed from the Ukraine seem to be staggering.

That would mean abandonment of all eastern Rumania from the Polish border to the Black sea to the Russians, however. It could mean Russian entrapment of the bulk of Nazi forces in the Ukraine and in southeastern Rumania against the Black sea to stand cleft in Odessa or attempt a sea borne escape.

## Friend Shoots Friend

The loss of 410 men in 20 transport planes from the anti-aircraft fire of their own ground forces reminds one of the fatal "charge of the light brigade" at the battle of Balaklava in the Crimean war. There into the "jaws of death" rode the six hundred. That charge, from which few returned, was because "someone had blundered."

The shooting down of the allied transport planes in the invasion of Sicily was a blunder, but one for which there is explanation. The allied planes followed right after enemy planes, and so ran into the fire of their friends on the ground who could not distinguish them. There was assuredly a defect in communications, which proved costly; and this experience, like others in this war, should teach a lesson and cause a tightening up of the liaison among elements in the service. It is a bitter dose to lose gallant men to the stupid firing of those on their own side.

There have been other reports of the difficulty of distinguishing friend or foe in aerial combat, particularly at night; and undoubtedly damage and losses have resulted from fighting in ignorance of identity. That is part of the melee of combat; but there ought to be full coordination between ground and air forces, not only to avoid injury to friends but to combine strength to do injury to the enemy. The success of the western front is going to depend on the closeness of coordination of air and ground forces and the navy. Then all greater risk probably will be to ground troops, as they seek to keep close to the bomb barrage of planes and artillery. These risks are part of the war game as now played; and we can only hope they will call for no heavy cost, as at Gela.

## News Behind The News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, March 20 — If anyone tries to tell you the American schools have not broken down in both scholarship and discipline, cite to them these following facts:

The navy found incoming freshmen at the leading universities so far below its educational standards, it had to institute the V program. In a test to 4200 freshmen at 27 leading universities, 68 per cent were unable to pass the arithmetic test, and 62 per cent failed the whole test. Among the same candidates for naval reserve officer training, only 10 per cent had taken elementary trigonometry in high schools, only 23 per cent had more than a year and a half of math.

But, in order to enroll the number of men needed by the navy, Admiral Nimitz wrote in a letter to Prof. Bredvold of the University of Michigan, November 21, 1941, that "it was found necessary at one of the training stations to lower the standards in 50 per cent of the admissions."

Not half the graduates of the elementary schools in Tennessee today can read and write well. The condition is exposed in an article in the Tennessee Teacher by School Superintendent H. I. Callahan, who says:

"The testimony of high school principals and teachers bears witness to the fact that more than half the children finishing the eighth grade in Tennessee schools are unable to read with ease, comprehension, and pleasure; that they are very poor in the elementary mechanics of written English involving the simpler phases of capitalization, punctuation, and paragraphing."

It is impossible to teach the products of lax elementary schools a foreign language in college, as Dr. T. Braxton Woody, University of Virginia school of romance languages, says:

"As the sorry products of progressive education filter into our classrooms, the problem of what to do with them becomes more and more acute. It is really unreasonable to expect them to learn a foreign language since our modern educators have failed lamentably in their efforts to sugar-coat the pill of learning."

If the parent will sit down with his high school child one night, he will find the average cannot figure the area of a floor if the sides are given in feet and inches; cannot name three countries in every continent; they would not know the capitals of six states, or five rivers in the United States or any country. (A Philadelphia teacher, name withheld.)

Teachers are required to pass pupils even if they do not know the work and this has created a generation of lazy, spineless boys. (A teacher.)

"I know a fine city superintendent who was ousted because he stood for the old fashioned type of schooling, and another more 'open minded' was selected to make schooling easier." (Council Bluffs, Iowa, school superintendent.)

The leading educators are interested in enrollments, surveys, teachers credits, new fangled subject and textbooks, publishers, palaces of education. ("...") "to the neglect of sound disciplinary and moral training."

"Restrictions are necessary. There is no easy road to education." President Jenkins, Georgia Military College.

Progressive schools do not produce young men valuable to the army, since their lack of discipline at an earlier time produced a frame of mind that called them to look with resentment upon military discipline. (Junior College of Connecticut.)

But best summing up is by a department head of one of the largest junior colleges in California, who discovered:

"Only one quality in which the student brought up in the new dispensation surpasses his predecessors; he has infinite self-assurance, and shyness is almost non-existent. But this self-assurance is often a liability for the teacher cannot crack his complacency."

"Knowing less and less about more and more things, he fails to develop intellectual humility necessary to learning and feels certain he already possesses all the answers. In his ignorance, he is frequently arrogant, and he does not understand the necessity for applying himself to hard tasks that do not strike his passing fancy."



The Sky Writers

## Today's Radio Programs

KSLE—TUESDAY—1230 Ea.

- 7:00—News
- 7:05—Marion Farm & Home
- 7:15—Rise n' Shine
- 7:30—Morning News
- 8:00—Cherry City News
- 8:05—Program Parade
- 8:15—Woman's Way
- 8:30—Tango Time
- 8:45—Pastor's Call
- 9:15—It's the Truth
- 9:30—Cliff Edwards
- 9:45—Orchestra
- 10:00—Music
- 10:05—Song and Dance
- 10:30—News
- 11:00—News
- 11:05—KSLM Presents
- 11:15—Let's Remember
- 11:30—Organalities
- 12:15—News
- 12:30—Musical Serenade
- 12:35—Matinee
- 1:00—Lum n' Abner
- 1:15—Musical Melodies
- 1:30—Spotlight on Rhythm
- 1:45—Let's Remember
- 2:15—US Navy
- 2:30—Four Nocturnes
- 2:45—Broadway Band Wagon
- 3:00—Concert Hour
- 3:15—Roundup Revisers
- 4:15—News
- 4:30—Crescendo Club
- 4:45—Teatime Tunes
- 5:00—Broadway Tunes
- 5:15—Let's Remember
- 5:30—Russian Balalaika
- 5:45—Tonight's Headlines
- 6:00—War News Commentary
- 6:30—Evening Serenade
- 6:45—Music
- 7:00—Texas Jim Lewis
- 7:30—Red Cross
- 8:00—Concert Hour
- 8:30—War Fronts in Review
- 8:45—Music
- 9:00—Mascante
- 9:15—Excursions in Science
- 9:30—News
- 9:45—James Abbe in Air
- 10:00—Arthur Wilson
- 10:30—Serenade
- 10:30—News

KGW—NBC—TUESDAY—620 Ea.

- 4:30—Lorenz
- 4:45—Lorenz
- 5:00—Lorenz
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## The Safety Valve

Letters from Statesman Readers

### SAYS HATE A FACTOR

To the Editor:

In your editorial of Saturday, "Stalemate in Italy", I want to admit you were right in saying that the differences between the war in Italy and Russia was that the soviet fight on home ground while we fight far from our base.

There are other factors concerned in this—whether we like it or not we must have a full fledged hate campaign started, yes, spend millions on it like we have on the salvage issue. Why continue spending money on campaigns like this when the need for scrap is nearly over because aren't defense factories that used this scrap closing down.

Hate—that keeps the reds rolling the arrogant Nazi back on their once so steady feet, hate—that keeps the perfidious of Jugoslavia almost berserked pumping the Nazi left and right, hate—that keeps the Chinese armies after years of retreat fighting forward again, hate that must come to the fore which will let steam roller attack the west wall once the second front is opened.

We can't win a war with kid gloves. We can't listen to people who deplore the fact that the use of flame throwers against the Japs are inhuman. Every American soldier wants this war over with after the defeat of our enemies, and one thing will and must do it: hate that wins wars and makes more militant soldiers.

Pvt. Michael Dupor,  
St. C. Co. 1,  
Camp Adair.

11:00—The Guiding Light

- 11:15—Today's Children
- 11:30—Light of the World
- 11:45—Hymns of All Churches
- 12:00—Women of America
- 12:15—Ma Perkins
- 12:30—Pepper Young's Family
- 12:45—Night to Remember
- 1:00—Backstage With
- 1:15—Stella Dallas
- 1:30—Lorenz Jones
- 1:45—Young Widder Brown
- 2:00—When a Girl Marries
- 2:15—Portia Faces Life
- 2:30—Just Plain Bill
- 2:45—Front Page Farrell
- 3:00—Bowls of Life
- 3:15—Vic and Sade
- 3:30—B. Boynton
- 3:45—Rambles Reader
- 4:00—Dr. Kate
- 4:15—News of the World
- 4:30—Musical Theatre
- 4:45—Golden Gate Quartet
- 5:00—Orchestra
- 5:15—OK for Release
- 5:30—How Do You Do It?
- 5:45—A Date with Judy
- 6:00—Mystery Theatre
- 6:30—Fiber McGee and Molly
- 7:00—Bob Hope
- 7:30—Ead Shalton
- 8:00—Red Wings in Pleasure Time
- 8:15—Commentary
- 8:30—Johnny Presents
- 8:45—Ronald Coleman
- 9:00—Hollywood Theatre
- 9:30—News Finishes
- 10:00—HomeTown News
- 10:30—Labor News
- 10:45—Ronny Mansfield
- 11:00—Voice of a Nation
- 11:30—Music
- 11:45—War News Roundup
- 12:00—News
- 12:30—2 a. m.—Swing Shift

KEK—BN—TUESDAY—1310 Ea.

- 6:00—Musical Clock
- 6:15—National Farm and Home
- 6:30—Western Agriculture
- 7:00—Music
- 7:30—Top of the Morning
- 8:00—No. 10
- 8:30—The Listening Post
- 8:45—Breaking News
- 9:00—Our Spiritual Life
- 9:15—Music
- 9:30—Breakfast at Sardi's
- 10:00—News
- 10:15—Sweet River
- 10:30—Baby Institute
- 10:45—The Mystery Chef
- 11:00—Banking Talking
- 11:15—The Mystery Chef
- 11:30—The Mystery Chef
- 11:45—The Mystery Chef
- 12:00—Songs
- 12:15—Hollywood
- 12:30—News
- 1:00—Sam Hays
- 1:15—Bob Nichols
- 1:30—Eino Newstrom
- 1:45—What's Doing Ladies
- 2:00—Music
- 2:15—The News
- 2:30—Ted Matson
- 2:45—Grace Elliott Reports
- 3:15—Glenn Howard
- 3:30—No. 10
- 3:45—Orchestra
- 4:00—Music
- 4:15—The News
- 4:30—The Sea Round
- 4:45—The News
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## Today's Garden

By LILLIE MADSEN

Mrs. F. G. H. is one of the lucky gardeners. She writes: "We recently bought a little place and it has a bit of woodland on the edge of our small lawn. The former residents had a cow in this but we are not planning on this as my husband works at the wrong time to have a cow. I plan to make a little wild garden of it. It is too large to keep up but I thought perhaps I could plant some shrubs and bulbs in it. What would you suggest?"

Answer The bulbs should be planted in autumn, and such as snowdrops, grape-hyacinths, the phloxes, eye narcissus, trumpet daffodils, scillas, erythroniums, are all good. The wild native flowering currant, Oregon grape, rhododendrons, mock orange, white dogwood may also be used. The single white violets, the single blue violets, forget-me-nots, are all good too. Avoid double or variegated flowers. Do not plant in any definite forms. Be careful of uniformity in planting. In other words, keep the place looking as if it had "just grown" and not been planned. You should enjoy such a place a great deal.

## Looking Ahead in Washington

By the Washington Staff of the Associated Press

WASHINGTON, March 20—(AP)—Look for an announcement that Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., will lead the biggest command he has had yet.

Whatever mortification and indignation army big shots may have felt over the slapping incident in which "Old Blood and Guts" was involved in Sicily, it's a safe bet that they deem his abilities as a combat leader indispensable and will give him a more important job than any he has held to date.

Hamburger: The ration-enthroned hamburger may become democratic again next summer and fall. The war food administration will recommend that OPA designate spare ration stamps for purchase of hamburger and other low-grade cuts of beef during the heavy slaughter envisioned in the WFA's plan to encourage "liquidation" of low-grade beef cattle during the coming six months.

The supply of low-grade cuts of beef may be particularly heavy during August, September, October and November, so heavy that the supply couldn't be disposed of at present ration point values.

Boosting the infantry: Combat correspondents, of the type which the marines have used to give the nation some first-rate first-hand battle narratives, are about to make their appearance in the army.

The reason: To boost the infantry. Some of the army's highest ranking officers believe the war has proved the infantry once more the indispensable combat arm, and believe, too, that the foot soldier hasn't received his fair share of attention.

Two-pilot fighters: The ever-increasing range of American fighter planes may lead to two-pilot fighters.

Because the present range is thought to be about the limit of one pilot's endurance, a two-pilot fighter might answer the fatigue problem.

But even if the ideas adopted, such fighter planes won't be buzzing around escorting bombers in the near future. It would involve development of entirely new craft or redesigning of an existing plane.

Finland: Regardless of who

turns down whose terms, and how often, the realities of the Finnish-Russian peace remain fixed. Finland's position is essentially hopeless and she knows it. She wants to explore every possibility of getting terms even a little easier.

Taxes: Scheduled tax talks by at least two ranking treasury officials have been canceled at Secretary Morgenthau's personal direction. There'll be no further revenue requests this year, and Henry-Morg wants the late congress administration unpleasantness forgotten—if possible.

## Senate Battle On Restricting TVA, Today

WASHINGTON, March 20—(AP)—Foes of the proposal of Sen. McKellar (D-Tenn) to restrict operations of the Tennessee valley authority girded today for a battle on the senate floor, but McKellar confidently predicted senate approval.

Debate on McKellar's amendment to the \$8,577,000,000 independent offices appropriation bill was postponed until tomorrow by protracted controversy today over the appropriation for the federal communications commission.

The amendment would require TVA to place its revenues of approximately \$70,000,000 a year into the general fund of the treasury and require the authority to obtain direct annual appropriations. At present the authority's revenues go into a special revolving fund from which it carries on its own operations within broad authorizations by congress.

Sen. Bankhead (D-Ala), who announced he would take the floor against the McKellar plan, told a reporter he was convinced it would hamper the activities of the TVA and limit its capacity for producing electric power for war industries.

Sen. Bankhead (D-Ala), another foe of the McKellar proposal, said it would thrust upon congress the responsibility for technical decisions that should be left with the TVA board.

"As far as the taxpayers are concerned, there's no difference in their (TVA) using their own funds or getting the money out of the treasury through direct appropriations," Bankhead asserted.

Reporters mentioned that Ed Crump, Memphis democratic leader, had declared his opposition to the McKellar amendment, and asked McKellar whether this indicated a break between him and Crump.

"Oh no, I hope not," McKellar replied.

## College of Puget Sound Eyes Postwar Expansion

TACOMA, March 21—(AP)—Post-war plans for expansion of the College of Puget Sound to meet an expected 50 to 100 per cent increase in enrollment include the construction of a men's dormitory to house approximately 100 persons, as an immediate project, it was announced today by Dr. R. Franklin Thompson, president.

## Around Oregon

By the Associated Press

Viron A. Moore was named superintendent of Parkrose schools at \$4000 a year. . . . Portland's Swan Island shipyard launched its 58th tanker, the Grand Mesa, for the National Park of Colorado. . . .

Jefferson county led the state in the fourth war loan drive with 219 per cent of its quota, the state war finance committee reported. . . . Charles F. Millering, Newberg, a taxicab driver, was arrested in Portland by Oregon liquor control commission agents on a charge of violating the Knox law. . . .

Mayor Earl Riley of Portland announced he would be a candidate for reelection this year. . . . Oscar Pursett, court-appointed receiver, delivered control of the Portland AFL Boilermakers union to newly installed local officers. . . . Guy Haynes, Carlton, was reelected president of the Willamette Valley Lumbermen's association at the annual meeting in Eugene. . . .

## Stevens

Diamonds Re-Styled!

... with a modern morning. We will reset them while you wait. Designs and estimates without charge.

Don't discard your old-fashioned jewelry. Bring it in and for a very reasonable cost, we will make it like new.

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