

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Politics and Economics

Discussing the ideas of Lord Keynes, economist who is now on the British delegation to the conference at Bretton Woods, the Wall Street Journal expresses the view that the causes of our inter-war economic difficulties were primarily political. We quote pertinent paragraphs:

What we saw in Europe was not basically economic difficulties. It was political difficulties. Economic sores carry their own powerful healing agents. There existed a situation in which the political masters refused to let those healing agents work. They kept the sores open and aggravated them...

If the troubles of the world were political, as they seem to us to have been, a recurrence of those troubles can be prevented by steps to insure political tranquility. If political tranquility is won, then there is a solid basis for economic reconstruction...

When this war is over the men that are left will want to consume and produce and trade with each other. They will do those things unless a lot of crazy political regimes again prevent them. Give them a structure of life on which they can place reasonable dependence and international monetary arrangements will not bother them greatly.

In short, according to the Journal, which is a recognized mouthpiece of American business, the trouble lies not with economics but with politics, or rather with politicians.

The contrary view is taken by politicians of varying hues who blame the economic system with our ills and want to tinker with it. Thus Congressman Jerry Voorhis, new deal democrat of California, in his recent book "Beyond Victory" regards economic discontent as a real cause of war: "the very tinder of war is found whenever young men wander city streets or sit on rural door sills looking out upon a world that has no place for them, for their talents, or—worst of all—for their unborn children."

But the basic fact remains that unemployment, poverty and hunger, in a world where some nations are attempting to dispose abroad of what they term "surpluses" are the most fundamental of the economic causes of war. The possibility that such conditions can continue without issuing into another world war is as close to zero as anything human can be.

(There is a question as to the validity of this thesis by Voorhis, that poverty leads to war, for the nations with the greatest degree of mass poverty and hunger are India and China—decidedly the most pacific of all peoples.)

Congressman Voorhis outlines three "great tasks": rehabilitation of devastated portions of the world; developing healthy trade and economic relations between nations; and setting free the energies and productive abilities of the people and industries with the nations. And undoubtedly he would favor legislation to accomplish those tasks.

So we have the hen and egg controversy over again: The economists saying that things would work out all right if the politicians would keep their hands off and the politicians saying the economists have messed things so laws must be changed to prevent economic ills from leading to another war or great depression.

The simple truth is that you cannot divide man or men into two water-tight compartments, economics and politics. The two are closely interrelated and have been throughout history. Left strictly alone so-called economic laws would eviscerate in jungle law, the survival of the fittest, a fate which the less fit resist by political means. What we try to approximate is a political system in which our economic laws can operate for the greatest good to the people. This results in a continuous rough-and-tumble fight among competing elements. What emerges is a series of compromises which are themselves subject to change when conditions change or the tides of political fortune change.

Politicians should have a better understanding of economics and the economists should have a better understanding of politics, the art of keeping society together in peace.

Marshal Stalin told Eric Johnson that after the war Russia would have two five-year plans. From the descriptions of Russian industries it would seem they have had two five-year plans in the space of three years of war. The USSR is a vast area, one-sixth of the land surface of the globe, rich in natural resources, especially minerals and metals. It will stand continued development, and the Russian workers certainly deserve liberal quantities of consumer goods as reward for their hard labors in war and in peace.

The self-styled "liberal" press which berated Wendell Willkie in 1940 and since, is now hailing its breast in his praise in the effort to disparage the republican party and its ticket. So long as Willkie was a threat to a fourth term he was a terrible guy; now that he is out he is suddenly canonized.

We haven't heard that Corvallis is doing any postwar planning. Perhaps it is figuring on dusting off its World War I postwar plan: the widening of Mohrre st. Debating that should occupy them until World War III.

Sec. Ickes as petroleum administrator has ordered refiners to reduce civilian gasoline from 72 to 70 octane, thus reducing the already low anti-knock content. Ickes may believe in the old saw about "every knock a boost," but the gas motor doesn't.

The president said in his letter to Hannegan that all within him yearned for his home on the Hudson. There's another stream much frequented by politicians after elections — Salt Creek. Come on up, Frankie.

Marshal Stalin keeps his Moscow batteries warm with salutes to victory following his "order of the day." Capture of a good-sized city rates a 22-shot salute by over 200 guns, which is good music to the ears of the residents of Russia's capital city.

State Employees' Association

After previous experience by "trial and error" state employees have formed an independent association of their own and engaged an executive secretary. The organization is composed of persons who are in state employ. Membership is voluntary and dues are kept at a level merely to cover the expenses of the organization.

This independent organization follows efforts to organize state workers into a union affiliated with the AFofL. Failure to attract a sufficient number of members with such an affiliation led to the setting up of the independent body.

Civil servants of the state are interested in security of tenure (civil service) and some system of retirement annuities. They are concerned too about their own compensation and the working conditions in various state departments.

While state employment in Oregon has been kept on rather a high level, with few discharges for strictly political reasons, conditions of employment are by no means uniform. The budget office has endeavored with some success to establish classifications and salary scales; but more work needs to be done. Oregon is getting to a point now when personnel except in the higher policy-determining positions should be engaged on the basis of competence. This should not be done until the war is over, but ought to come then.

State employees have as much right to form an association of their own as employees in private industry. As servants of the state however they have a special responsibility in avoiding the use of the strike weapon, and we are confident that Oregon employees realize that. At the same time the state should treat its employes fairly, both as to pay, security of tenure and retirement allowances.

Peace and Calm

Is Herr Goebbels starting to cringe and crawl? At least he is using a different language in his newspaper "Das Reich" than he has since he became propaganda minister. Now he says that both Germany and its enemies want "peace and calm" after the war. What a change from the "sturm and drang," the storm and stress that was hailed as the birthright of national socialism! Peace and calm indeed; but not until the Nazi leaders brought Germany to the verge of utter chaos did Goebbels talk of "peace and calm." His gibberish now will not divert the allies from crushing Nazi-ism and extirpating its leaders for their foul crimes against civilization.

A Bend man fishing from a boat of a lake in the high Cascades was shot by a man who said he thought he was shooting at a coyote. That's a new habitat for coyotes—in a boat on a mountain lake.

If the democrats want to select as candidate for vice president one who can succeed Roosevelt they should look over their cradle roll. There are the fifth, sixth, etc. terms to be remembered.

Canada has agreed to furnish Britain with a minimum of 100 million pounds of beef in the next two years. That's a lot of beef, but not much for the nation of "beef-eaters."

Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

Monitored German broadcasts were sounding a sadder note at the mid-July weekend that could be more significant of an impending crisis in the war in Europe than even reports from its roaring triple battle fronts, gloomy as they seemed for Nazi authors of the conflict.

Whether voiced by authorized military commentators from Berlin in realistic appraisal of the unfavorable trends of the war, or emitted in hysterical outgivings by Nazi propaganda dispensers calling for a "maelstrom of destruction" and indiscriminate blood-letting, they had this in common: There was a foreboding note of realization of impending doom to be read into them. Yet to what extent they also reflect a rising tide of public despair in Germany as the walls of Hitler's fortress Europe crumble under Russian-Allied pressure can only be conjectured.

There is no warrant yet to believe that the German army has lost its will or ability to fight on. The toll of unwounded prisoners taken by Russians and Allies alike runs high; but if any substantial number have surrendered voluntarily while still there was chance of escape it has not appeared in official or unofficial reports from the battle theaters.

On the contrary, General Montgomery, field commander of the allied invasion army in France, has noted with admiration the courage and skill with which the foe has fought it out against ever increasing odds in Normandy. Fast-paced as the Russian advance has been to bring the distant muttering of the guns to ears in the German homeland itself when the east wind blows, there is yet no evidence of a German rout or lack of the will in German ranks to stand and die when ordered.

Nevertheless it can never be forgotten that German collapse in the first world war began at home, not at the front. And it is from the home front that the air waves now are carrying dark-hued pictures of the situation that hint at wavering public morale that only the rigid repression of Nazi police measures may be holding in check.

Time alone will tell the real situation in Germany. In his recent warning to the people on the Anglo-American home fronts against over-optimism, General Eisenhower was careful not to dismiss the possibility of an internal collapse in Germany entirely; but he made it clear that allied war plans were based on expectation that German armies would fight to the bitter end. There is no suggestion from Moscow of any other expectation in Russia.

Under the relentless pressure of both the Russian and allied attacks, some revision of German dispositions to meet the ripening military crisis is to be expected soon. It may be for that, to prepare the Nazi home front for "disengagement" retreats on both fronts, that the Berlin radio has drawn so somber a picture for German ears this weekend.



"Pincers Movement"

Inside Washington

World Air Routes

By JACK STINNETT
WASHINGTON — The Civil Aeronautics Board has made two announcements recently, the results of which may sooner than anticipated determine the pattern for our participation in post-war world aviation.

The first was an outline, subject to revision, of course, of what the international air routes of tomorrow will be. The second was the announcement that in July, CAB will start hearings on the more than 100 applications for international air routes now on file.

In outlining the world plan CAB told of the nation's interest in international airlines and landing fields.

The proposed routes cover 140,000 airline miles, touching more than 80 countries. Of these, 60,000 miles are over new routes. It would be impossible to describe these world airways here, but certain points are significant. If CAB's routes are followed, the jumping off cities for world travel will be New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Miami, New Orleans, Brownsville, Charleston, Chicago and the Twin Cities, with one other point in the southeastern United States.

Alaska would become a great crossroads between Chicago and Seattle here, and Tokyo, Vladivostok, Shanghai and Hong Kong. Out of New York, Newfoundland would be the point of departure for London, Berlin, Rome and Cairo; as well as for Stockholm, Leningrad, Moscow and Teheran. The southern cities would be the feeders for Mexico and South America, as well as for the southern route to the Mediterranean.

State department officials say clearing the routes will entail an enormous amount of work, but by no means is it an insurmountable task. Many of the lanes cross countries where we already have agreements. Since our policy is to establish these lines purely on a competitive basis, and in nearly every instance to swap reciprocal landing rights in this country, few nations who have any hopes of building future international airlines of their own would hesitate to participate.

The first hearings on foreign service franchises will be on those which operate through the Caribbean to South America and Africa. Both continents now are ready for commercial aviation.

Practical Religion

—by Rev. John L. Knight, Jr.,
Counselor on Religious Life,
Willamette University.

One sure thing that life teaches is that we do not put enough value on the present. It's sometimes hard for us to fully appreciate the significance of this very moment. And yet, our preparations for the future and our memories of the past are being made right now. When we look back on the present moment, what a shame it is that we'll have to admit with Vachel Lindsay:

"If I only learned by heart
Some lyrics learned that day,
I knew not 'twas a giant hour,
That soon would pass away."

The Safety Valve

Letter from Statesman Readers

Dear Mr. Editor:
"It Seems To Me" editorials of the 5th and 11th appear to clash somewhat in their reasoning or am I mistaken?

The editorial of the 11th discussing the subject of bond sales says "For one reason the money keeps flowing back. The government spends as fast as it gets money, so the stream sort of completes a circle. There are few more desirable forms of investment..." This vast spending program seems to have brought about unparalleled wealth to all classes of citizens.

Yet your editorial of the 5th suggests that the 3 per cent Gross Income Tax is going to shipwreck industry. Is not the thought of the 60 at 60 organization voicing the same argument that you offer in yours of the 11th... that the spending of this amount each 30 days will bring about the same happy result? Just another circle but in this instance to enrich the declining years of the aged rather than to destroy civilization.

Cordially,
E. G. KINGWELL,
615 N. 14th street.

Editor's Note—It is true that the Townsend spending plan does contribute to the flow of money, but it contributes nothing to the stream of goods and services for which money is merely the medium of exchange. Instead it withdraws goods and services from the stream. Government spending is for war and the production of war goods denies to civilians goods they desire. This diversion of produc-

BONDS OVER AMERICA

International Bridge

Every morning a thousand Mexican children trudge into El Paso, Texas, to school. Every evening they return home, peacefully, to their parents in Juarez, Mexico.

In all the Axis controlled countries there is no such peaceful bridge. Thousands of children are taken from their homes and schools to remain illiterate working slaves of the Nazi State.

Back the Attack!
Buy More Than Before

Combat Damage Isn't Only Worry Of Ground Crews

AT THE FRONT!

WITH THE AEF IN THE MEDITERRANEAN THEATER, July 5 - (Delayed) — (AP) — Some day Capt. Herbert G. Nafe of La Junta, Colo., hopes to have nothing more serious than combat mission damage to repair on the B-25 bombers in this squadron.

That in itself is bad enough, what with 200 holes up in a single plane after a bad day with flak and fighters. But it's an extra — curricular activity which has given his engineering crew the most trouble.

This is the same Mitchell outfit which was parked at the foot of a mountain over near Naples when Vesuvius blew its top. All of the squadron's planes were damaged by falling rocks and lava — some so badly that they never flew again.

The hot lava piled six to eight inches deep on the wings, melted the metal, consumed the plexiglass and even changed the shape of the struts. There were dents and huge holes all over the planes.

The planes were totally "grounded" — although some

only temporarily. But the war continued, and the squadron had to fly missions, so they borrowed some planes of which Capt. Bailingwire, "knew nothing. So he made a jeep run around the field next morning before the mission boys took off. He told them that as far as the new planes were concerned, "I don't guarantee nothing."

Incidentally the boys flew that and other missions without enough parachutes, flak vests or "Mae Wests." They had been lost in the eruption.

Not long after that incident — which had added gray hairs to "Capt. Bailingwire's" head, the Germans picked this particular group as a target for one of the most extensive enemy bombing raids ever staged in this theater.

The Germans knew their business. Reconnaissance planes, which had flown the photo run during the day, led the German bombers back to this area that night. For 45 minutes, one of the toughest air forces the Luftwaffe boasts blasted the base.

The next morning, Nafe and M/Sgt. Hugo M. Faust, Comfort, Tex., the line chief, found that every one of the squadron's planes had been either destroyed or damaged.

But once again they had to fly a mission — and by now the boys were grimly eager to pay the Germans back in kind. It had been a rough night and several were killed, so somehow, somehow with tape and matches and the bailing — wire, from which Nafe got his name, he and the boys got enough ships ready to fly the bombing job.

That's the way it's been. When the boys come back from the missions shot full of holes, they have to listen to Nafe good-naturedly curse them out. But if he gets too much out of line they remind him that the planes have been hit harder in his care — while on the field — than they ever have on missions.

YWCA Opens Rome Centers For Nurses

Three service centers to care for nurses and other women war personnel have already been opened by the YWCA in Rome, according to advices just received by the World Emergency Fund, YWCA, New York, a participating service of the National War Fund with which the Oregon War Chest is affiliated. Miss Jean Begg, director of YWCA war service in the middle east, in announcing that the Rome centers are under the direction of Miss Nancy Russell, an Australian, added an urgent plea for more Americans.

"Large numbers of service women are already in isolated places both in the Assam-Burma and the Arakan fronts," Miss Begg wrote. "The humidity in these fronts is as high, if not higher than the temperatures, so we shall need women with sound minds and bodies prepared for hard work."

Two Americans, the Misses Emily Rued of San Francisco and Sue Stille of Dayton, Ohio, have been on Miss Begg's staff for a year. Miss Rued is stationed in Ismailia, serving as area organizer for Egypt. Miss Stille was recently transferred from Terheran to act as liaison with the Polish section in Egypt.

"May we have all the help that Americans can give. A cable to YWCA, SEAC will bring your good news and encourage us," Miss Begg wrote.

Four women sent by this Fund are now serving in Great Britain.

Stevens...

The March of Time

IS ACCURATELY MEASURED BY HARVEL

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