

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Maverick From Texas

Maury Maverick, ex-congressman and ex-mayor of San Antonio, the man who in those offices lived up to the definition of his name, is now touring the west as executive of the Smaller War Plants corporation, and is as breezy as an early day westerner. He is not at all sluggish in his approach as one might expect of a southerner afflicted with political hookworm. When he talks about a ten billion dollar postwar highway system and chains of airports, he surely sounds like a son of the old west.

Maverick managed to get on the Washington payroll soon after the war preparations began. At first he had some berth with WPB which gave him a chance to write letters to states and smaller subdivisions of government. He kept employees of these units busy filling out his questionnaires. Finally he undertook to get state institutions like penitentiaries to undertake war work. It seemed as though he was just rattling around in Washington, with a desk and a title and a line on the payroll sheet.

Finally after business executives, large and small, had played geek-a-boo trying to get contracts for small business some guy in Washington thought to hang this lemon around Maverick's neck. It would still provide him money for beans and bacon; he would still have a desk and a title; he could still write letters; and since half a dozen of his predecessors had failed at the assignment, he could do no worse. So they put Maverick in as chairman of this corporation; and he proceeded to go maverick all round the country, taking the job really seriously.

First Maverick is scrapping to get contracts for small business. Then he is working so small business can get a first crack in reconversion to private business (which was a recommendation in the Baruch-Hancock report). Now he is talking about dividing up the mammoth war plants owned by the government and leasing them in chunks to small business for manufacturing operations. Coming to the west coast he has talked highways, airways and lower freight rates, and always had put in a plea for small business. Not since 1938 when the small business idea first got national attention has it had such a voice as Maverick. He advised the Commonwealth club in San Francisco to: "Make everybody know you're as close to Washington as Maryland and Virginia. Don't take 'No' for an answer." In Portland he boomed his super-transcontinental highway system and his multiple rental plan. Getting down to cases though on his immediate task he has offered the following six-point program to meet the needs of small business:

- 1—small plants should continue to receive all war contracts they can handle, and should get first chance at reopening civilian production.
 - 2—In addition to loans for war production, there should be provision for meeting financial needs of small business in reconversion.
 - 3—The contract settlement act of 1944 should be put into operation as quickly as possible.
 - 4—In the disposal of surplus properties, constant attention must be given to needs and importance of small business.
 - 5—Technical assistance should be available to small business so that it can compete effectively.
 - 6—Incentive taxation for new and small business should be undertaken.
- Maverick may be an uncontrollable critter from the Texas range, but at least he is trying to rattle some dry bones and stir things up so small business can get a change in a world where big business seems to grow steadily bigger and bigger. More power to him.

A report from Stockholm says the Germans have bombs in Jutland which will fly through the stratosphere and strike New York. That is probably just scare stuff; but we can anticipate something of the sort in another world war. Science is just getting a start in the field of jet propulsion and rockets, and if the chemistry of explosives keeps pace we may see robot bombs traveling for thousands of miles instead of the mere 150 which the ones fired in France now do. Somehow though the usual sign-off sentence "Ain't science wonderful?" doesn't seem fitting on a paragraph like this.

Squirrels in Willson park have a busy time Monday mornings salvaging peanuts and popcorn scattered by Sunday park-sitters. The squirrels do not try to drain the bottles however—they're too smart for that.

Editorial Comment

From Other Papers

VETERANS SETTING UP SHOP

It is well that the department of commerce is preparing a series of booklets intended to advise veterans of this war on the establishment and management of business enterprises. Congress already has provided for government guaranty of loans to released servicemen, who wish to venture into manufacturing or merchandising on their own account. Many, probably most of them, will need sound instruction and plenty of it.

The mortality rate among new business ventures is high even in average peace times. A guaranteed loan will make it possible for a man to try out his capacity for small business management but will not of itself do more for him than that. It will not teach him the ins and outs of the business he selects, nor make him a clever buyer, nor sharpen his judgment of locations nor enable him to select qualified employees. On these heads the department should be able to give him some useful hints.

It is to be hoped that the booklets strike a sane balance between pessimism and Pollyannaism and that, above all, they speak frankly of the risks involved, both those attaching to the particular business under discussion and those common to all entrepreneurs. They should inform the veterans that once launched upon the competitive waters of local trade they must expect to be "on their own." Customers will perhaps tend to favor the ex-serviceman over other sellers, especially if he meets the other's terms. But he cannot safely bank upon such preference. —Wall Street Journal.

Scrambled Business

Manufacturers may find their lines as varied as a drugstore's items when the war is over. General Mills for instance, largest flour manufacturer, is now making precision gunfire equipment, and expects to go into the manufacture of household appliances when peace comes. That should give General Electric license to start manufacturing flour.

Not all this business scrambling will prove profitable. Just a few years ago Transamerica corporation, managed by the Giannini interests, branched out from banking and insurance into manufacturing, buying the Axton-Fisher tobacco business in Kentucky. It ran into operating losses, so was finally liquidated by selling the properties to Phillip Morris & Co., and holding the tobacco inventory, which should show a profit, for distribution to shareholders.

Companies will do well to look twice before they leap if they plan to engage in competition with established firms.

Coast Guard

Those people who think of the coast guard merely as an outfit that patrols the beaches and saves lives of crew and passengers on shipwrecked vessels need to be told that the coast guard in war is by no means a stay-at-home outfit. As a matter of fact it has participated in virtually every landing on enemy beaches. It has the job of helping move men across reefs and coral outcrops to the beaches, and then of guarding the beaches. It is part of the navy, as are the marines; and probably it is hard to tell where the work of the three services divide. The coast guard isn't getting as much publicity as some other branches of the service, but it is the fight in the thick of danger, taking grave risks just as it does in peacetime.

The Japs have fired Admiral Shimada as navy minister and given the job to Admiral Nomura. The action was based on the same theory that prompts the bleachers to yell "Get a new pitcher." But what the Japs need is a whole new team.

In Chicago farm leaders are said to be urging democrats to adopt a platform favoring "an economy of plenty with employment for all." Yes; "if wishes were horses, beggars might ride." It will take more than a political plank to give everyone a slice of the moon.

What a boon to writers for Sunday supplements the robot bomb is. They can let their imaginations run riot in predictions of its horrors for world war III.

A Japanese admiral was killed in action, a Berlin radio reports; and didn't meet death in an "airplane accident" to the accompaniment of hara-kiri.

The German radio says "this holy war must now become a total war." Very well, but remember: you asked for it. And for "a thousand years," Hitler said in 1939.

Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

Russian troops who took Grodno in upper Poland to match simultaneous close investment of Kaunas in lower Lithuania have apparently ripped a 100-mile wide gap open in Nazi eastern defenses, shattering at one blow German hopes of halting the red army avalanche short of the Masurian lakes in East Prussia.

With both key bastions of the German secondary defense wall firmly in Russian hands, the strongest natural link in the Nazi front guarding communications with the Baltic states would be punctured. It lies along the north-south course of the Nemunas river between Kaunas and Grodno. Current Moscow bulletins indicate red troops have virtually cleared the east bank of the stream all along this vital sector and may already have crossed it in several places in pursuit of the foe.

East and northwest of Kaunas Russian guns already command the Kaunas-Jonava sector of the Interburg-Kaunas-Riga railway if it is not actually in Russian possession. That leaves some 30-odd Nazi divisions in Estonia, Latvia and all Lithuania north of the Nemunas with only one land escape or supply rail connection southward. That is the Memel-Tilsit-Königsberg railroad, wholly inadequate to handle any such traffic and in deadly danger of being severed by Russian bombing of the river bridge at Tilsit.

German troops north of the river are now virtually dependent upon Baltic sea supply lines to maintain themselves or to make their way southward before the great Russian trap closes in to the Baltic coast below them.

It remains to be seen, however, whether Russian strategy calls for that or for a turn southward in Poland from Grodno for a wide-angled converging drive at Warsaw.

South of Grodno other Russian columns are bearing down on the Bialystok outpost for Warsaw from the east and a sweep down the Grodno-Bialystok railway would face no natural barrier to prevent a pincer movement on the town and a break-through to reach or by-pass Warsaw itself.

Still farther south, other Russian forces are rapidly liquidating the last bulge of the deep Pinsk Marsh salient that protected Brest Litovsk and the Polish Bug river central front defense system from direct attack. Red bombers are battering at Kobryn station, a bare 20 miles due east of Brest Litovsk, and Moscow reports that German troop trains fleeing from the Pinsk salient have been effectively strafed.

The fall of Grodno and indicated early Russian capture of Kaunas paves the way clearly for a tremendous expansion southward of the attack to bring into action Russian Ukrainian armies all the way from captured Kovel to the Carpathians.

The German high command is obviously caught in the same sort of dilemma in the east as it is in the west on a far smaller scale by allied incursions into Normandy. It cannot be certain where the main force of the next Russian drive will fall nor has it a free hand in disposing its limited reserves to meet all Russian threats.



"Element of Surprise, Essential to Victory!"

Inside Washington

Death Could Alter Vote

Illinois Is Key State

WASHINGTON—The republican convention in Chicago overshadowed it, but it was a story that may have far-reaching effects on the election in November.

On the very day that Governors Thomas E. Dewey and John Bricker were nominated, Illinois Secretary of State Edward J. Hughes, merely 56, died in New York City. Hughes was the only democrat holding a major state office in Illinois. He had held the office since 1932. Because of Illinois statutes, the secretary of state controls almost as much patronage as the governor himself and certainly more than any other state official. It was estimated in Chicago that Hughes controlled in the neighborhood of 2500 jobs. That in anybody's state is the nucleus of a considerable political machine.

Hughes' untimely death not only leaves such a machine without a carter, but gives the republicans an opportunity to replace all of the parts with those of their own patent.

Illinois attorneys, versed in the state's constitutional laws, said immediately it would be up to Republican Gov. Dwight Green to appoint Hughes' successor to serve until the next election. That's November, when Illinois also will be balloting on the president and vice president.

There was some constitutional doubt that the governor could appoint Arnold P. Benson, now a state senator, who was the defeated GOP candidate in the race against Hughes. This isn't important. There wasn't any doubt that the governor would appoint a republican.

Most observers in Illinois and here have been placing the state in the doubtful column. As such, with its large electoral vote, it certainly is one of the pivotal states on which the national election might hinge.

With such a condition existing, the death of Hughes assumes national importance. Chicago politicians didn't minimize it. Come November, the republicans will be in complete control of all important state offices and the patronage that accrues to those offices.

National elections have been determined on lesser events. If Illinois should go republican by a slight majority and the state's huge electoral vote should be the determining factor, the outcome

of a national election could almost certainly be traced to a sudden death in New York.

The Literary Guidepost

"Argentine Diary," by Ray Josephs (Random; \$3)

The odd thing about Ray Josephs' "Argentine Diary" is that its publisher chose that title, so close to "Berlin Diary" that it is difficult to avoid the feeling that once again somebody is trying to capitalize on the Shriver success. It is true, however, that the book is in diary form, and that it indubitably is about Argentina—Argentina at the crossroads, to be specific. Mr. Josephs has done a capital job.

For some years he was Buenos Aires correspondent for PM and for Variety. Although Mr. Josephs was in Argentina longer, the book covers the period from June 4, 1943, to January 30, 1944, with an introduction and a postscript to put the main content into perspective.

This period is the one in which fascism came to Argentina, Mr. Josephs reports. It is also one in which the free press disappeared from Argentina soil, a period of confusion. There were many times, he says, when even the heads of Argentine parties did not know what was afoot—or under foot. Mr. Josephs' impression of a common people perhaps 80 per cent pro—democratic manhandling from above is not an undocumented dream, but a remarkably well—documented statement. For North American readers some of the documentation will miss fire, of course, since even today most of us (the author sadly points out) neither know the key South American figures nor try to understand the South American philosophy.

Mr. Josephs left Argentina a few days after the "break" with the axis last January. After that time, as before, he says the fascist virus was being pumped into the veins of South America. His story is a mass of detail, impossible to outline in even a very long article.

But his conclusion is succinct enough. He says that our "hemispheric" break with the axis is false because Spain is also an axis nation, and that Germany, Japan and the tatters of Mussolini's Italy still can, and do, reach into South America through Spain.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from Page 1)

for just as heavy a tax payment to the government, they may hope to escape the tax altogether. This is one reason why farm labor has been seemingly more abundant this season.

The peak was bound to be reached and passed some time; and it is better to have the decline come gradually rather than abruptly. But so long as there is need for ships and planes (and there still is) we must have a working force adequate to supply the goods that are needed. It would be a calamity of the first order, if just when our army and navy is ready to deliver the knock-out punch its blow is palsied by lack of equipment.

Our operations in France and Italy and the Pacific are not without heavy loss and damage to all our military and naval gear. This means a flow of replacements must be kept up, and ships and equipment sent back for repairs. The latter item is increasing in volume in shipyards, and the army is seeking contractors to repair heavy equipment from the Alaska road job, so there is an abundance of work ahead.

War workers will feel more inclined to stay on the job if they feel that public and private interests are seeking to have substitute jobs available when the war work does run out. Our people are under greater compulsion than ever to advance their postwar plans to provide this assurance, both to wind the war up without delay and to prevent destitution and suffering when it is over with.

The Safety Valve

Letters from Statesman Readers

PROFIT ON PEACHES

To the Editor:
I note an article in your "Safety Valve" column in relation to profits on peaches by the basket: per cent of profit is figured on selling price and 10 cents profit on a 35c sale is 28 4/7 per cent, not 40 per cent; which is a fair margin considering the spoilage entailed by the grocer who handles fruits and vegetables. According to Dunn & Bradstreet, 75 per cent of people who go into the grocery business go broke, 15 per cent break even and 10 per cent become independent. It is said that a big percentage of those that fail are former farmers.
W. G. Damon
391 N. Com'l. St.

Today's Garden

By LILLIE MADSEN

Pruning tomatoes can be of very little use after the plants are two feet or so high. When training tomatoes, do not prune off foliage or reduce the size of the leaves. While the plants are very young, an occasional small side branch may be removed.

Mrs. C. B. W. wants information on chrysanthemum care in late July and early August. Should she fertilize?

Ans.: Watering is very important. Fertilization comes next in importance for chrysanthemums are heavy feeders. Some growers like to use a mulch of decayed cow manure or sheep

Kenneth L. Dixon
AT THE FRONT!

Action Yearners
Don't Know When
They're Well Off

WITH THE AEF IN ITALY, July 6 (Delayed) —(P)—There was a little flurry of conversation around the snack bar. Everybody seemed to be looking at Joe, who was talking heatedly and intensely.

That was unusual. Pfc. Joe Cantasano doesn't talk often. When he does, it's almost always to his friends—only now the 26-year-old, short, dark Brooklynite was holding forth in front of a half-dozen guys he'd met just a moment before.

He ended his speech, put his coffee cup back on the counter, walked out the door and got in the jeep. He drove silently, almost moodily, for some 20 miles before he mentioned the incident.

"Those guys are gonna gripe themselves right into trouble," he said. "Sitting back there pullin' guard duty around the airport, with three hot meals a day and sleeping in a building at night—and they haven't got enough sense to let well enough alone."

"They kept telling me they'd like to change places with me. They wanta' get into the infantry. They're going nuts, say they think they're getting a raw deal. Some of them want to join the infantry. Because one gets drunk or something and he thinks he'll burst back into a buck private—hawi!"

He drove a little faster. Rome was still many miles away. Joe had just been pulled out of a heavy weapons infantry company to drive the division's public relations jeep. He'd seen months of line action since Salerno.

"I got a little mad, finally," he said, "so I told 'em if they changed places with me now it wouldn't be so bad. I'm lucky now. This is a wonderful job. But I told 'em if I was back in the line, I would give one of them \$1000 to swap places with me. I told them to stay put—that they were doing their jobs the same as everybody else, and to quit talking about transferring to the infantry before somebody hears 'em and takes 'em seriously."

He thought a while—hunched over the wheel which his fingers

caressed as though the jeep was his proud possession—and he couldn't quite believe he had it. Infantrymen usually walk.

"Guys always gripe," he said. "I gripe. Everybody gripes. But after they've been in the line they don't gripe for action anymore. If they gotta go, they gotta go and they do—but they quit being eager and crowding their luck after that."

"I see lots of them up at the front. Some of them just come to visit, but mostly those don't ever see the combat line. They get a gutfull before they get past the regimental 'CP' even, and guys who transfer and do get into the line get cured quick, too."

Suddenly Joe looked over to see if he was talking too much. Then he concluded quickly.

"I didn't blame 'em. I got a gutfull of it too a long time ago. So does everybody. I don't blame those guys for griping either; they just don't know—"

"But, gee," he worried, "I hope they shut up. I hope they don't gripe themselves into trouble."

1328 Receive Benefit Funds

The Salem office of the bureau of old age and survivors insurance serving Marion, Polk, Benton and Lincoln counties have 1328 persons on the roll receiving monthly payments under this insurance feature of the social security act.

More than half the individuals and payments made in these counties are to Marion county residents.

The payments in Marion county amount to \$11,097.05 per month paid to 290 individuals retired and past the age of 65, to 110 wives of these persons, also past 65, to 26 widows past 65, and to 71 younger widows with 164 minor children.

In addition to these monthly benefits, lump sum settlements made in cases where no monthly payment can be made approximate \$1000 a month.

Japanese Civilians on Saipan Cooperate Fair With Allies

By WILLIAM L. WORDEN

GARAPAN, Saipan Island —(Delayed) —(P)—Can Japanese civilians be counted on for any cooperation at all in Nippon territory conquered by allied forces?

That question, vexing American military government authorities for several years, apparently was answered by the Japanese civilians on Saipan island.

The answer was yes, with reservations.

On this small island are all elements likely to be encountered as interned civilians in later Pacific campaigns. The Chamorro natives are roughly the equivalent in development and probable friendliness of other natives of Pacific islands.

The Koreans on Saipan also welcomed the Americans but not as willingly as the Chamorros.

The Japanese civilians here are mostly Okinawans and therefore not entirely typical of the people who may be met elsewhere in territory of the rising sun empire. As Japs they were considered low class and they lack any of the privileges of residents of Honshu and Hokkaido, two of the Japanese homeland islands. Still they are quite proud of being Japs rather than Koreans or Chamorros.

When first brought into internment camps these Japanese were mostly sullen or frightened, apparently believing what Nippon army men told them of the horrors they could expect from Americans.

Typical of this situation was the answer of a Jap woman brought to a hospital. Obviously she was ill. The standard question was asked by an interpreter—was she pregnant? This one, a former school teacher, drew herself up and replied "No, but I can do nothing now against the wishes of the soldiers." The interpreter blushed a bit as he recorded her reply.

However, after seeing no torture or murder these civilians gradually followed the patterns of the Chamorros and Koreans. They were not too cooperative but they were not hostile.

Where possible Japanese families have been reunited. Medical service is given to all equally as is food and what clothing and shelter are available.

The Japanese are working for their American conquerors and none has yet performed an unfriendly act or sabotage attempt since internment.

It may be that the Japanese military's natural contempt for civilians now is rebounding or it may be the fundamental difference between the civilian and military type of mind. In any

guano. Others prefer the commercial fertilizer which they feed to the plants every three weeks until the buds show color. If the chemical fertilizer is used, place it in trenches a few inches from the plant and cover it over. Watering brings it down to the roots.

event, civilian attempts at suicide in the early days of the Saipan fighting were mostly half-hearted. Later they exhibited full willingness to let their soldiers fight the war for the empire.

Most of the able-bodied Chamorro men are working in labor crews or harvesting crops under American direction. There seems little question that their treatment by Americans is better than under the Nipponese. They reply by doing all they can to make friends with the new invaders.

There have been several indications that the Koreans present attitude toward Americans is predicated upon dislike of the Japanese and on a firm belief that an American victory means a free Korea. Many Koreans interviewed on Saipan said return to Korea—when it is free—is one of their first hopes.

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