

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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American Rocket

The best illustration of the American operations in France is given by Time magazine. It likens the action to that of a rocket. The breakthrough at St. Lo provided Gen. Omar Bradley with the chute for his rocket. It seemed to gather speed as it advanced, and finally sprayed out from Rennes and LeMans like a rocket spurting fire-balls high in the air. It is not yet clear that the rocket has stopped exploding, but eventually it must. Enough has occurred to make it one of the most brilliant maneuvers in military history. The Oregonian, which had urged a straight drive for Paris rather than a move south across Brittany, now hails General Bradley as a master-strategist.

There is a lack of information as to the exact location of the American advance elements. Perhaps that is to be expected because of the difficulties of communication, but it may well be that the high command has purpose in mystery. Issuing no late reports itself it keeps the enemy confused as to the main outline of the allied strategy. What is evident, however, is the purpose of General Eisenhower to destroy the German armies in France. Paris thus becomes incidental. The moves are directed toward cutting off of large bodies of troops which then can be destroyed or captured. Thus German troops were enveloped in Normandy, again in Brittany, and now in the triangle between Caen, LeMans and Chartres, and the Germans south of the Loire are threatened with being cut off. As General Montgomery says, "the great bulk of the German forces in northwest Europe are in a bad way." If the enemy in France can be destroyed as a fighting element the Germans will have to retire to the Maginot and Siegfried lines, withdrawing from the Low Countries.

The announcement of the formation of an air army under command of Lt. Gen. Bretonnet conveys a hint that hedge-hopping on a grand scale may be done by air-borne troops. If so, perhaps an early objective would be the Calais area to wipe out the base for the firing of robot bombs.

We are in the very middle of great military events in Europe, and the climax of the whole war in the west may develop with startling swiftness. We can be proud both of our fighting men and of the generals who are directing them.

Truck Employers "Strike"

There have been strikes caused by revolt of the workers over failure to get wage increases they sought from the war labor board, but the strike of truck drivers in the midwest is due to refusal of the truck operators to put into effect the seven-cents-an-hour wage increase approved by the war labor board. This is a case of the employers going on strike, and they are the ones who are responsible for whatever impediment is offered the war effort. The government was fully justified in taking over the lines and operating them.

The contention of the companies was that they could not take on the extra cost of the wage increase unless the government provided financial relief to the operators. This claim is hard to take. The railroads, competing with the trucks, had their rates cut over a year ago, and then last winter were required to pay still higher wages to virtually all employees. The roads have been earning less money, but still they are getting by because of the heavy volume of traffic. Trucking companies must be in the same situation as far as profit-margin is concerned.

The responsibility for the work stoppage clearly rested with the truck operators; but probably the majority of the people, when they read about "strike" put the blame on the workers. Since the wage award was granted last November it would seem the workers had waited long enough before taking strike action against the employers.

Oddities in the News

FAST WORKERS
The inconveniences of wartime do have their advantages, at least as far as Mrs. Joyce Thome of Klamath Falls is concerned.

Mrs. Thome, an employe of the Reed Tractor and Equipment company, was using a vacation to go see her husband, Cpl. Van Thome, also of Klamath Falls, who was to be stationed at Santa Fe, N.M. Her train was late at some station in Arizona and she missed her connection.

An obliging conductor offered to look through the cars on the next train to see if he could find a seat for Mrs. Thome. The only place that could be found was next to a soldier who had fallen asleep on the length of the seat. The conductor woke him up and asked him to move over.

Mrs. Thome looked at him and flew into his arms. After a short while of rejoicing, she explained to the mystified conductor that the soldier was her husband who was on his way to his new station in Santa Fe. The conductor replied that that was certainly a relief to him. He said he had seen some pretty fast workers among the servicemen, but what he had just seen took the cake.—Klamath Falls News-Herald.

FOR PETE'S SAKE
When "Old Pete," 202-foot tall Douglas fir, was cut, 118 feet of the giant tree crumbled into dust. "Old Pete" had been left standing too long, and trees must be harvested when mature.—Astorian-Budget.

NOW YOU TELL ONE
REDSPOOT, Aug. 11—(P)—Joe Otterstrom, lower Umpqua rancher, turned up today with a 43-pound striped bass which he claims was caught with an oar-lock.

Otterstrom said he was shifting oars when the fish, leaping from the water, was snagged against the empty oarlock by the gill. Otterstrom hit him over the head with an oar.

FIGHTING BACKWARDS
SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 11—Today's advance-to-the-rear department from Tokyo radio, recorded by United Press:
"Japanese forces, which had been putting up a gallant fight against the enemy in the Myitkyina sector, successfully forced their way back to new positions according to schedule on the night of August 2-3."

Reconversion

When the senate voted to substitute provisions of the George reconversion bill for the Murray-Kilgore bill it marked a definite reconversion for the senate itself. It indicated definitely that the senate was not going to open the treasury for the magnanimous paternalism provided in the latter measure, and that it was not going to centralize further the administration of social security measures such as unemployment compensation.

The battle over the Kilgore bill was sharp but decisive. The republican-democratic coalition had the votes and refused offers of compromise. The White House kept its hands off, and the combination headed by Senators George and Vandenberg succeeded in defeating the Murray-Kilgore proposals by amending that bill and inserting sections of the George bill.

Vital provisions of the Murray-Kilgore bill which were stricken included:

1. Allowances up to \$35 a week for unemployment compensation for veterans and all workers for a two-year term. Instead, present legislation stands: the GI bill of rights for veterans and state grants for unemployment compensation. The George bill covers workers in federal arsenals, etc., on the basis of state provisions, with the federal government footing the bill. Also it guarantees the solvency of state compensation funds.

2. Educational grants with subsistence, for six months' vocational education.

3. Regional and industry advisory councils, sought particularly by CIO and feared by management as giving labor unions a voice in deciding corporate policies.

On its face the Murray-Kilgore bill looked like a bald attempt to buy the electorate out of the federal treasury. It offered a definite encouragement to idleness, and was a wedge toward a vast paternalism for the postwar period. The George bill is a far more conservative approach to the problem.

Willkie & Wallace

President Roosevelt has invited Wendell Willkie to come and talk to him about international affairs. This looks like a political gesture toward the Willkie vote. It is doubtful if Roosevelt is specially interested in Willkie's ideas.

For that matter it does not seem that Dewey is interested in Willkie's ideas, either, though his seconds have been diligently trying to woo Willkie's support of the republican candidate. There is a large bloc of voters who are still loyal to Willkie, both to him as a dynamic, forceful leader and to him for his views on great issues. Likewise there are many voters who think that Henry Wallace got a raw deal at Chicago. If our political party system were not so rigid we might have a ticket composed of Willkie and Wallace. That ticket would get the non-conformist vote, at least.

Democrats are a bit confused in this campaign. Some of them appear to be arguing the "don't change horses" line while others are still running against Herbert Hoover.

The end of the war must be just around the corner. The Dalles is resuming talk of building a bridge across the Columbia.

Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

Ominous developments for Germany and Japan alike marked the mid-August weekend not only on the battle fronts in Europe and across the Pacific, but deep behind the fighting lines where bitter medicine in ever increasing doses is being Russian and Allied brewed for the foe.

There could be left little doubt in the minds of the military leaders at both ends of the now tattered, ragged Nazi-Nipponese Axis that in both zones the war was building up to decisive crises. The day when Germany and Japan alike will be stripped of their territorial loot, and will be besieged within their lairs is no longer distant.

That was sufficiently clear on the war maps as they stood this weekend. It showed up in the still ballooning Allied drive in France that has doubled redoubled and redoubled again the pressure on Germany from the west.

It was to be read into Allied reports from Italy that told of the Germans withdrawing all their forces from Florence. The signs were plain there not only that General Alexander, Allied field commander, was shifting and readjusting his forces for an assault on the mountain-backed German Gothic defense line; but that the Mediterranean campaign was about to expand.

There were hints of impending French-Allied action along the south coast of France to worry the harassed Nazi foe. There were growing intimations, too, that Allied power might be preparing to capitalize on Turkey's break with Germany, to strike into the Balkan peninsula.

Both high Allied commanders in Europe have shifted their headquarters to the continent. General Eisenhower has left Britain to set up his supreme command post in France. General Wilson has closed out in Algiers and moved to Italy taking with him the command strings that run not only to Alexander's victorious legions but to powerful and long inactive British Empire forces no longer needed in Africa, Egypt, Iran and Iraq.

His jurisdiction extends also to Free French divisions still in Algeria, on Sardinia and Corsica. It touches Allied commando and air units cooperating with Balkan patriots an action against the common foe. Wilson's transfer to Italy looms as no less significant than Eisenhower's move to France. Both moves foreshadow new and bold expansions of the attack on Germany from the west and south to match the tremendous new triple Russian thrust against her in the east reaching all the way from the Baltic to the Black sea.

Against the background of this ever darkening war picture for her Nazi accomplice in Europe Japan must read the portents of the Pacific war council at Pearl Harbor, Roosevelt attended and just disclosed. It verified the Churchill announcement that the war against Japan no longer need wait upon the war against Germany for the men and material to drive it at full speed to a victorious conclusion.



Russian Victory Arch?

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from Page 1)

Injured \$40,000 worth when he got burped on the head by a bottle allegedly thrown by band leader Dorsey.

Hill, who seems to have been knocked against a flower pot, suffering cuts and bruises, doesn't yet seek financial assuagement for his wounds, nor does another actor, Edward Norris, who had the usual experience of peacemakers and got himself hurt.

The moral to the tale is obvious, so obvious that it is trite, and I'm not going to append it. Instead of bemoaning the iniquity of Hollywood I am more constrained to extol the manly virtues of the participants in this one-round fight. At least it was genuine, and so much of Hollywood isn't. And the reactions of Dorsey were instant and thoroughly human. His emotional response was the same as would be that of Billy McGrady, the section hand, if he saw some bloke throw his arms around Mrs. McGrady. And Dorsey's motor reflexes were so thoroughly primitive and his action so prompt and so primitive, real caveman stuff, that one can't help but applaud. This occurs so seldom in Hollywood which is built on sham and make-believe and illusion and banal publicity-seeking.

The only regret is that the balcony scene was recorded only in newspaper prose. While it was hardly of a quality to excite a Shakespeare, if we had one such today, to date a Romeo and Juliet piece, still it rated more than just a reporter's story, even though done with a lighter touch than ordinary. It is most unfortunate that no camera man was there to record the pre-dawn battle on film. That one-reeler would have been one most of us would want to see in a midnight preview. As it is, the only chance of a reproduction is when Antonio's case gets into court—if it ever does.

"THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler



"Sinatra, Harry James, Dinah Shore... I don't see Roosevelt, Churchill or Stalin!"

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 13—The new political figure, Sidney Hillman of CIO, has been stating—almost daily that honest - to - goodness he is not trying to capture Mr. Roosevelt, the democratic party, and the congress in this election . . . He is only trying to "cooperate" with them . . . any suggestion otherwise is "distorted" and "unprincipled" . . . so he says.

The facts of the matter are these, as near as I can ascertain them:

The secretary of the democratic congressional campaign committee says the CIO-Hillman front has backed about 75 congressional candidates firmly and directly. All of these are democratic, except one, the republican Representative LaFollette of Indiana.

So the "cooperation" which Mr. Hillman proposes to furnish congress is 75 to 1 democratic, differing radically from labor's generally established policy (followed both by the AFL and railroad brotherhoods) of endorsing, in a truly non-partisan way, the candidates in both parties most likely to be friendly to labor.

These endorsements, says the magazine "Labor", representing no less unprincipled an outfit than the brotherhoods themselves, are not being made by Hillman for the interests of labor, but for the interests of the Hillman front.

In an editorial, "Labor" charged \$6,000,000 would be spent by the Hillman groups to elect men frequently representing causes of no concern to the working man (meaning communist sympathizers, socializers of the extreme left, etc.)

Thus, you may see the true picture. As far as congress is concerned, Hillman is trying to establish a left-wing bloc of at least 75 (I suspect his endorsement list will be much larger) within the democratic party. This may or may not control the party in the house, depending on how many democrats and CIO'ers are elected.

As far as controlling the White House, there seems to be a valid question of who is running who. It seems to me the White House figured Mr. Hillman could be used as banker to back the fourth term campaign. Representative Dies agrees with "Labor" that Hillman will shove in \$6,000,000 before the election is over. Mr. Hillman says \$1,500,000 is his "campaign goal." Whatever the millions, it is more money than anyone else has shown.

Money generally gets what it is after in politics. So far, Mr. Hillman was able to defeat Mr. Byrnes as vice presidential candidate and get Truman in at the convention.

A dozen or more prominent government officials have left their good jobs to "cooperate" with his old political action committee. A vague haze is being maintained over his new group, "The National Citizens Political Action committee," but no radar is needed to detect the fundamentals.

The NCPAC is a legal subterfuge created because the CIO-PAC ran afoul of the law preventing direct financial contributions by labor unions to campaigns. It is a new money bag, to collect contributions from individuals rather than using union treasuries directly.

The whole front obviously is one erected to cover some clever bookkeeping and get around the law. The forced change may impair Hillman's activities, but will not change them, or his purposes either.

Now what does all this mean? Mr. Dies says it represents not so much a labor front as the new deal taking over labor. I do not think so. I do not believe this is labor, or even the new deal.

It seems to me, on its face, purely a left-wing effort to buy its way into political power, to purchase the democratic party, if possible, for cash on the barrel-head.

Hillman is not labor. The crowd behind and around him is not. They are leftists, the extreme left - wing of American politics, the crowd which does not think communism unwise.

That is the only thing they have in common. And that is where they differ from the rest of labor (AFL and the brotherhoods) with the possible exception of Whitney.

The way they are going about it suggests they want to make the democratic party the radical labor party of the country, just as they captured the American labor party in New York state. They look on parties as implements to use for their own causes. Their primary devotion is not to Roosevelt, the democratic party, or even to labor, but to their own radical doctrines. Their group ideology is far nearer the Russian than the American. Wiser labor leaders know that subtler influences are better.

Cadet Blames Field For Shortcomings

SHAW FIELD, SC.—(P)—Every aviation cadet notes peculiarities of the plane he is flying on "Form A." Flying instructors are still smiling over one report. Despite nearly three miles of runways at Shaw, one fledgling wrote: "This plane has a tendency to overshoot the field."

Kenneth L. Dixon
AT THE FRONT
Via Margutta Is Street of Intrigue In Heart of Rome

ROME, Aug. 9—(Delayed)—(P) Via Margutta is a narrow little highwalled tree-shaded street hidden in the heart of Rome, a street of tiny taverns, of shoe-maker shops and courtyards, shut off by huge gates with iron grills.

Behind those gates and the stone walls are homes, apartments terraced one about another, flower gardens, rambling paths and alleys that disappear into dim buildings farther behind the trees and finally up into the hills behind Rome.

The little street provides the perfect scene for the modern legend which has sprung up about it.

"During the Nazi occupation," Romans tell you, "there was more English than Italian or German spoken along the Via Margutta." And while that undoubtedly is a slight exaggeration, still it is founded on fact, and it typifies the cockeyed conditions of espionage, counter-espionage and double-barreled intrigue which has been commonplace in Rome throughout the war.

For years everyone has known that the German Gestapo operated in strength throughout the Italian capital — from its cafe society to its underworld and sometimes the gap between them was not so large.

For months reporters covering this campaign have known that allied espionage experts were practically commuting between the frontlines and Rome. For that matter, the Germans knew it, too but either they couldn't catch them or prove it when they occasionally did get hold of one of our topnotch spies.

I know of one such spy who maintained an apartment in Rome and a couple of others who had difficulty explaining — in triplicate — under expense accounts why hotel rooms in Rome cost more than those in Naples.

I know still another—who sat in the bar of the Grand hotel sipping brandy and soda and yawning while high Nazi officers frantically packed their bags and pulled out of Rome.

But still it is hard to believe such stories—unless you see the Via Margutta and its facilities for intrigue.

American and British spies, Italian and Yugoslav Partisans, neutral Swiss and anti-fascist Romans lived here. There are a host of hideaways in every house and almost every building has several secret exits. The apartment where Ed Kennedy, AP bureau chief in Italy, now lives while in Rome has an escape avenue through the roof. It leads out over other roofs and disappears in a maze of tiled gables and concealing vines.

Also on Via Margutta, the building where AP reporters George Tucker and Lynn Heinzerling make their headquarters when in the capital city is similarly equipped for intrigue. The windows can be used for look-outs covering every possible public approach to the building

or for escape routes. The thick wooden doors have little iron gridded windows in them for identifying visitors—reminiscent of prohibition speakeasies.

The Germans knew about Via Margutta. The Gestapo used to shake the street down regularly and stage "surprise" raids every now and then, but the tipoff and lookout systems usually worked. By the time Himmler's hirelings got inside the houses, everything was in order—not a questionable character in sight.

But in between times the voices which floated down from the windows above Via Margutta's cobbled street were apt to be English as Italian or German—

The Literary Guidepost

"GEORGE BANCROFT: BRAHMIN REBEL" by Russel B. Nye (Knopf; \$3.50).

Russel B. Nye, who teaches English in Michigan State college, has based his first rate biography of George Bancroft, "George Bancroft: Brahmin Rebel," on a good idea. It is that the less brilliant light of some of the less brilliant men sometimes illuminates a period more comfortably (and even more accurately) than the flame of a Goethe or an Emerson. He has chosen a good subject, and he has produced a fine steady light.

Bancroft was born of a rebel churchman of Worcester, Mass., and the daughter of a dispossessed Tory who had long before fled to England. He was born in 1800, and lived to be 91 years old; he therefore lived through the nine decades which joined the pre-democratic period of Washington and John Adams to the expanding United States of the 'nineties. Although Mr. Nye makes less of it than he might, Bancroft also matured at the same time the romantic movement matured, and shared its ferment and was moved to a

certain extent by its tenets. Bancroft wanted to be remembered as a historian, and he is. Mr. Nye does not think he is. Mr. Nye does not think he is a particularly good historian—or rather, he sees and frankly remarks a number of defects in Bancroft's work. Perhaps the greatest was the way in which he bent the facts to fit his preconceived thesis, whatever it may have been. Another (and this was especially notable in the literary criticism he wrote) was a tendency to confuse moral and aesthetic values. To Bancroft, a poet was not a good poet unless virtue triumphed in his work, and no technical triumph would suffice, either.

Just the same, Bancroft wrote movingly, and often the truth and his idea of it coincided, so that the result was remarkably fine. And there were other matters, such as Bancroft's political activities, to round out the story. Bancroft became so useful to President Polk that he was made secretary of the navy; later, while the Mexican war was on, he also was acting secretary of war.

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