

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Banning the Banal

Congress beat a hasty retreat from its legislation to insulate American soldiers and sailors from literature or films of any degree of political seriousness above a comic strip, and corrective legislation has been passed and signed. The repealer is designed to open the gate to most everything except that the services are forbidden from circulating out-and-out political propaganda (whatever that is). So now Beard's "The Republic," and Bowen's "Yankee on Olympus," and magazines like The Nation and British newspapers can be distributed and sold in PX's, and the war department will not have to solemnly march uphill and then down on whether the movie "Wilson" and Fibber McGee and Molly's film recordings will be allowed in army camps. Government agencies will not pick the banal on the supposition that it must be politically sterile.

OWI or whatever it is that distributes film has had a hard time to do a job that satisfies. Movies follow the flag, even ahead of beer and missionaries, in this day and age. Guam's movie house opened "under new management" on Aug. 10th, but all that was on hand for showing was a two-year-old movie, "Stormy Weather." On the other side of the globe, when OWI furnished the movies for Rennes, France, on the heels of the army of occupation, it offered as a newsreel, pictures of the allied bombing of Cherbourg; Helen Kirkpatrick, able correspondent for the Chicago Daily News remarked that the initial program "did little credit either to the OWI, Hollywood or the United States as a whole." It was a benefit performance, too, with the regional commissioner and high French officers present.

The Rennes "premiere" included a film autobiography of a jeep, a movie of the production of British Lancaster bombers ("Particularly unsuited to a people who have been subjected to that bombing"), and then the newsreel of the allied bombing of Cherbourg and the ruins of Montebourg. As Miss Kirkpatrick wrote, "It produced a mass intake of breath."

What evidently is needed is a little more intelligence in selection of movies, especially for showing to audiences of foreigners. Now that OWI doesn't have to apply a means test to movie politics, perhaps it can get out of the low-grade second feature bromides and exhibit films that do credit to the USA and to Hollywood.

Unity on Foreign Policy

It is quite conceivable that through John Foster Dulles as the Dewey mediator common ground of assent with reference to international organization for peace may be developed. Dulles has talked with Wendell Willkie, and is scheduled to talk today with Secretary Hull. His own ideas, as developed in the report he made for the Federal Council of Churches, are definitely in favor of a council of nations without burdening it at first with too heavy a load of idealism. If there could be a positive understanding which Dewey and Hull and Willkie could subscribe to the effect would be not merely to remove this aspect of postwar problems from the political campaign but also to offer the world a unity that would be inspiring. While no declaration, even if jointly signed, would necessarily bind the United States because the president and congress alone have that power, it would go a long way toward insuring affirmative action by these agents vested with authority and would serve to guide the people of the United States in their own thinking.

Just what the effect would be on the political fortunes of Roosevelt or of Dewey is quite incidental. Both Hull and Willkie have stated that the discussions should not be based on a plane of political profit or loss. The important thing is to hammer out a policy that can stand as the American policy, backed both by republican and democratic leaders. If this can be accomplished the political campaign can go forward without embarrassment to our allies or comfort to our enemies. It is a consummation devoutly to be wished.

The Corvallis state guard company fought the battle of Marys Peak over the weekend, the victorious climax being the noon lunch of sweet corn, hamburger, coffee, watermelon and canteloupe. No foxholes were dug, and neither Indians nor Japs made a night attack.

Prime Minister Churchill pulled the lanyard of an American cannon on the Italian front. That's more than our commander-in-chief's wife has done yet; but give her a little time. She may make a trip with the paratroopers.

Writers of letters to editors are quarrelling as much about whether the president's trip to Hawaii was indispensable as whether a fourth term is. Voters will have a chance to settle all arguments on Nov. 7.

The military experts are looking for civilian clothes to start a new job of experting, but radio commentators are still gargling their geography.

Editorial Comment

INGALLS' PARAGRAPHS

Here is suggested a proper punishment for Hitler—if they catch him. Remembering how anxious he was to get to England, put him astride one of those rocket bombs and shoot him across the channel.

An elderly woman gets her pleasure going to funerals; an elderly man gets his looking at the thermometer.

Listening to the news these days is a sporting event. You can make bets with yourself as to whether the broadcaster is going to swallow his tonsils or his adenoids while trying to give a French pronunciation to the towns the Yanks capture. If they would give the American pronunciation, the listener would be able to follow the army more accurately. —Corvallis Gazette-Times.

OPA and the Liquor Board

Here comes that horrid OPA again. After once giving its blessing on a plan of the Oregon liquor control commission to "liquidate" its surplus of imported brandy, rum, and gin by offering a bonus (at regular prices) of an extra fifth of whiskey with each purchase of two bottles of the imported liquors, OPA recalled its approval and turned thumbs down on the deal. Having regularly forbidden deals of storekeepers who required purchases of a lot of furniture before they would sell a refrigerator or an electric range, or of farmers who auctioned off grindstones at fancy prices and then threw in a tractor or a binder, OPA just couldn't let the state of Oregon get away with the smart merchandising which it had planned. So the advertised "bonus" of an extra fifth of whiskey, when loaded down with two bottles of Cuban brandy or Virgin island rum, is cancelled.

Just what the commission will do to work off its stocks of the ersatz liquors bought during the whiskey drouth is not disclosed. It would hate to take a loss on its inventory, yet with distilleries resuming operations and the end of the war around a nearer corner than prosperity in 1932, the commission has something of a selling problem to dispose of its accumulation of these whiskey substitutes. Of course the goods are not perishable like peaches and cream. Their alcoholic content provides a self-preservative; so the commission can if it wants to liquidate its rum and brandy in an orderly manner, though as the shipyard demand tapers off that time may appear of considerable duration. Whether there will be further thawing out of the whiskey freeze by the commission remains to be seen.

At least the OPA is vindicated. Having said "no" to the marketers of lamb in the northwest it repeats its negative to the liquor commission. But it leaves the commission with a rum headache that won't leave by noon.

Homecoming

The orchestra concert at Waller hall Monday evening was something of a homecoming both for players and audience. Hometown people were delighted to see and hear the summer orchestra, particularly those who "grew up" in the Salem Philharmonic and were home again as matured musicians. The performance was by no means juvenile. It had a finish that was surprisingly good considering the newness of the organization. The program was well adapted to the imbalance of the orchestra, whose brass section was short and tympani missing due to absence of men at war. Lewis Pankasie made his debut as symphony director, and while his newness in the role was apparent he kept excellent control and enjoyed earnest response from his players.

Waller hall was filled to standing room, which shows how hungry the people are for music. They miss the band concerts of former summers, and have missed the Philharmonic concerts, suspended for the duration. This is a happy augury for the successful revival of the orchestra when the war ends.

Harvard university has been given a 20-ton calculating machine said to be the greatest thing of its sort in the world and able to give the correct answer to any mathematical problem in a few seconds. Here, at last, seems to be a chance to discover how old Ann is and, also, the right answer to that question about the hen and a half and an egg and a half. —Bend Bulletin.

But it will not tell who killed Cock Robin, or what the governor of North Carolina said to the governor of South Carolina.

Hitler used to talk of lebensraum. — living space. All he has in prospect is dying space and not much of that.

Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

Synchronizing with allied-French operations in the west, mighty Russian armies apparently have mounted a culminating double attack in the east aimed at Warsaw and the Danzig corridor in the north and at the Galati gateway to the Danube valley and the Balkans in the south.

The Russians have captured Iasi, key outpost on the Pruth river above the vital Galati gap. Early collapse of the German flank to the Black sea to split Bulgaria off from the axis must follow a Russian retirement from the whole Balkan peninsula in due course.

Northeast of Warsaw the main Russian drive has dug deep into the Bug-Vistula triangle east of the confluence of the two rivers. There are indications that the Bug already has been crossed by the Russians somewhere in the Nowy Dwor - Wyszow stretch to outflank Warsaw from the north as it is already outflanked to the south by Russian bridgeheads over the Vistula. The river represents the last natural defense line protecting the Danzig corridor route above the Vistula from a Russian march to the Baltic which would cut off all East Prussia and the Baltic states from Germany.

Bulgarian collapse as an axis partner inevitably would follow a Russian surge into the Danube valley via the Galati gap. The fate, not only of Warsaw but of all German armies north of the westward curve of the Vistula around the Polish capital to the Baltic, seems no less hinged on a Russian breakthrough over the Bug.

The final squeeze of the gigantic allied-Russian multiple pincer attack to end the war this year appears to have started.

There is not much doubt that the Russians have been holding back their strike at Galati to await allied exploitation of the Normandy invasion, now far ahead of schedule. Meanwhile they have been playing an artful game with the foe far to the north.

In the face of happenings farther south in the Warsaw region and on the Romanian sector, Russian retreat from the breakthrough to the Baltic below Riga and the delay in frontal assaults upon East Prussian frontiers look like deliberate moves. They were designed to suck German reinforcements northward while the Russians built up strength in Poland and Romania for their real power blow.



Birds of Passage

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 22—No private telephone or backoffice appendages were involved in the Hull-Dewey front page jockeying on world peace.

The participants spoke all they had to say in headlines. But the refined politics, the subtle parry and thrust, were neglected in the reports, although these established Dewey in a new international character and will be of inestimable importance in the campaign.

The administration's campaign policy has been to play Dewey to the public as a barefoot boy in international affairs, without experience or ability for leadership. To tear down this conception has probably been the most difficult technical task of the republican leadership, because by common understanding (without any agreement whatsoever) partisan discussion of war or peace has somehow been made taboo.

At the same time, Mr. Roosevelt has been using war and peace developments as his justification for the fourth term. In fact, this has been his whole campaign thus far.

Some months ago I wrote that he intended to go to Europe to campaign from the peace table, but I understand now he may go to China first.

Perhaps the Russians may not have desired to talk definite postwar political arrangements at the top man level, at this time. Possibly our conquest of the nazis may not have moved as fast as expected, either event, this current Dumbarton Oaks conference of Ambassadors and undersecretaries may not be over when the European war is over, and Mr. Roosevelt might have to talk to Churchill alone in Europe, rather than have a big conference before election.

The Dewey developments fairly well broke into this general line of Roosevelt's campaign. It happened this way:

"THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler



"I refuse to consider as REALLY engaged unless you erase your name from Cynthia Smith's babushka."

What more equal or fairer justice could be prescribed than that the area, formerly run by an international syndicate of French, Belgian and German business men until Hitler stole it from them, restore with its resources the damage Hitler has done!

The French tried to make the Ruhr pay for the last war. The Germans always outmaneuvered them. Even after the French moved their armies in January 11, 1923, they were unable to get lumber and coal reparations promised, because of German passive resistance.

The Germans finally got the Dawes plan, whereby they made others pay their reparations to the French, and, if I am not mistaken, they borrowed money from us for that purpose.

Finally the French got 490 million marks in cash and 491 millions in goods at an expense of 184 millions out of the Ruhr, but the internationalization of that area now would not only destroy the roots of German war power (leaving them only 20 per cent of their coal and iron production) but it could be made to pay some of our own war debt, since we largely have financed this war.

Mr. Willkie has acted like a bear with a bruised nose, and this has not required acting ability. First Mr. Roosevelt tried to get Willkie's following by inviting him to come to the White House. Now Dewey invited him to Albany.

He went neither place, but he spoke of "our party" in his telegram to Dewey, while he is supposed to have told Mr. Roosevelt he did not intend to get mixed in politics.

Now the game here is to draw Messrs. Dulles and Dewey into definite commitments as they have come thus far. Some republican senators fear their candidate will become involved at Dumbarton in specific arrangements which will not prove popular. I do not think so, (specific agreements are unlikely), at least I believe Dewey's intention is fully to protect himself.

To date, anyway, Dewey thus has adroitly moved to dispel the administration campaign illusion of his incapacity and isolationism and interposed upon the basic Roosevelt campaign scheme. In short, he has put his shoes on—and kicked.

The Literary Guidepost

By John Selby

"WE RIDE A WHITE DONKEY" by George Panetta (Harcourt, Brace; \$3).

"We Ride a White Donkey" is a book about one of those wild Italian families, by George Panetta. Mr. Panetta's Caparuta family is almost exactly like Saroyan's Armenian families, for example, they speak a different dialect, one that Mr. Panetta reproduces wonderfully well. And after explaining the title, we shall go on to some other matters about the book.

The title is taken from a Calabria saw; in Calabria you are said to be putting a person or a family on a white donkey when you make it or them conspicuous by talking too much about them. The Caparuta family stays on the donkey for 186 pages.

The book is extremely funny. The Caparuta family lived somewhere in what the "service clubs" would call Greater New York, but exactly where I don't know—they seemed to be in the neighborhood of Broome street on Manhattan most of the time, but when they started out for a picnic, they started from Brooklyn. This is important only because it indicates Mr. Panetta's light-hearted method. None of the rules concern Mr. Panetta.

The Caparuta family must have been uncomfortable to live near. They always shrieked, they never conformed, their fights were invariably conducted in public. The cardinal virtues were as dust to the Caparutas. No matter what one of them did, Papa (and Mama) stood by. Papa could neither read nor write. He and Mama worked out a credit-jumping system under

Kenneth L. Dixon
AT THE FRONT!

Anzio Was Never
Like New Front
Along the Riviera

WITH THE AEF IN SOUTH-ERN FRANCE, Aug. 17—(Delayed)—(R)—Even at the risk of being called a debunker, comes now the time to tell the public that this is no beachhead. It's a full-fledged front—and then some.

Comparing this with Anzio, for instance, is like comparing the Podunk Center gymnasium with Madison Square Garden. The first big difference is seen from the sea, where the whole coastline is dotted with shipping. There are more than 800 big naval vessels, to say nothing of countless small landing craft, ducks, PT boats, tugs and so on.

From this invasion armada supplies and troops are being landed all along a 50-mile stretch of the Riviera. At Anzio you could stand at one spot and meet every soul who came ashore.

Riding a PT boat it took us nearly an hour to find the particular beach where we were supposed to land, and we put in at the wrong place several times. At Anzio there was no such trouble; everybody ran the same gauntlet through "bomb bay" in order to reach the tiny Nettuno docks.

Once ashore the difference becomes far more marked. Here you can ride half the day along the coast without getting shot at, even by enemy artillery.

By way of contrast it will be recalled by the citizens who were there, that at Anzio you got blasted by German big guns before you ever got off the boat. And until the day the Anzio beachhead burst its bonds to overflow on to Rome there never was a time when you were out of range of those guns. And there never was a time when you could drive more than 30 minutes in any direction without running into rifle fire.

What's more, any time you looked up from that open road you realized the Germans were looking down on you from the Alban hills. Here, we already control the heights many miles inland—only the doughboys look down on the Riviera drive. It's a wonderful feeling.

There are a hundred such little differences between this and any other beachhead the soldiers have known in North Africa, Sicily and Italy; air superiority such that when ack-ack guns begin banging you look only for protection against falling flak—with few exceptions. At Anzio you always looked for protection from bombs.

The first week at Anzio you ate whatever you could get and you were doggone glad to get it. This is D-day plus 2 here and hot meals are being served three

have come thus far. Some republican senators fear their candidate will become involved at Dumbarton in specific arrangements which will not prove popular. I do not think so, (specific agreements are unlikely), at least I believe Dewey's intention is fully to protect himself.

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What does all this add up to? Simply this: farm prosperity is closely linked with urban prosperity, with full industrial employment. It depends also, as far as some particular crops are concerned, on considerable exporting, so there must be a healthy foreign trade—which in turn calls for stable exchanges and balancing imports. The alternative is either severe depression in farming communities or the bundle of gadgets first introduced under AAA and continued in a variety of treasury bonuses, most of which are distasteful to farmers, even though they take the benefits.

In another article I will review the prospect respecting farm population and labor.

Stevens

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and Repaired

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