

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Liberty League in Slacks

Sidney Hillman, chairman of CIO's PAC, was nettled over the inquisition given him by members of a house committee investigating election expenditures. He branded the questioning and declarations of persons opposing the PAC as a "below-the-belt campaign." He asserted his political action committee was not out to capture control of either political party, and declared it was not a communist front. As to expenditures he said his committee had spent \$371,000 including \$67,000 in primary and state elections.

If Mr. Hillman finds himself in difficulties it is because he has previously boasted of the money which his committee would have for spending. The amount reported as planned for spending in the presidential campaign was \$3,000,000 which is the top limit under the law. He need not be surprised if there is public resentment at any such spending.

The new dealers shouted to high heaven over the Liberty league of 1936, a coalition of republicans and democrats in spats who seemed to have the idea they could get rid of "that man" if they spent enough money. The masses of the people revolted and "that man" carried 46 of the 48 states. The PAC is a sort of Liberty league in slacks, a coalition of CIO and other left-wingers who started out with the same idea that if they spent enough money they could recast "that man." As the public reaction was noted Hillman quit talking about \$3,000,000 and announced that the fund would consist of voluntary contributions instead of forced assessments on CIO unionists.

The AFL and railroad brotherhoods are miffed at the CIO political front, fearing that it will invite public crackdown on all organized labor. If Roosevelt is defeated the post-mortem may show that this Liberty league in slacks was an important accomplice.

1918 and 1944

The "doughboys" of 1918, now grown grey and bald, must gaze open-mouthed at the headlines which tell of how their sons in this war are racing through Chateau Thierry and Soissons and Chalons. They recall how bitter the fighting was at these points along the Marne and the Aisne rivers in the summer of 1918, how the Americans blunted the German spearhead at the second battle of the Marne and how they and their allies nipped the German salient at Soissons in the beginning of the great drive which ended with German capitulation.

The 1918 doughboys will not admit their sons are better fighters (or will they?), and they will claim, and rightly so, that the situation in 1944 is vastly different from 1918. The Germans along these rivers are only a rear-guard, not the massed and battle-hardened veterans of Hindenburg's regiments. The Americans have the initiative, they are rolling with magnificent equipment, and finally they have absolute air supremacy.

So instead of feeling at all chagrined at the ease with which the Yanks of 1944 are crossing the Seine, the Marne and the Aisne the survivors of the 1918 fighting in northeastern France are, we know, exulting with the thrill of great victory. They can reminisce as they read the names of the cities and towns that Patton's armor is flashing through, and when the sons come home—won't they and their dads have a lot in common, a lot to talk about?

Tucked away in the news without much prominence was the information that the French government of Algiers which is headed by General de Gaulle would take over control of French civil affairs, which the general is proceeding to do. This is with the approval of London and Washington. Evidently our commander-in-chief made a retreat from that political "strong point."

Editorial Comment

More Evidence

The disruption in the War Production Board again calls attention to Mr. Roosevelt's record as an administrator, which is getting pretty bad.

This disquieting thing comes at the height of production needs. It is linked to shortages of shells and other vital war materials—shortages not the less disturbing because so far they show in failure of production schedules and have not yet reached actual physical shortage on the firing lines.

The effects on civilian affairs now and in future industry and jobs are not so clearly evident but they are extensive. The feuds of which the people catch fleeting glimpses arise from conflicting theories and interests that block practical action now and in the period ahead.

These things exist because they are not corrected at the top. Mr. Roosevelt has picked some very good men, also some poor ones. In justice to him, anybody can pick bad administrators; not everyone can pick good ones.

But good men, in the practical affairs of industry and economics, must have firm footing and be able to get positive decisions.

This is not feasible when political provocateurs are scattered through the top ranks of the agencies that administer the war and lives of the people, under the powers congress has delegated to the president.

It is only when the seething conflicts break out into dramatic personality battles, and public outcry is raised, that Mr. Roosevelt acts. And the action then is not decisive as to the issues, but consists of reshuffling jobs and authority, and the emergence of agencies with new, unfamiliar names.

As the war gets along there is evidence that Mr. Roosevelt is just a bad administrator.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Country Editor's Wife

The first of the week the Boss said that we had a full paper this issue and he wouldn't need this column. So we, with that responsibility off our mind and a few extra hours, felt as free as the wind and planned accordingly. Then at noon, he rushes home saying we must add two extra pages this week and for us to come down to the office pronto. This only proves that a wife is just a luxury a man thinks he can do without until he gets into a pinch and then he shouts bloody-murder for the little woman.—Gladys Shields in Jefferson Review.

Lamb to Scapegoat

To express its resentment over failure of OPA to suspend rationing while Oregon lamb growers got their lambs to market, the Coos Livestock Marketing association crated a live lamb and shipped it to Chester Bowles, director of OPA at Washington. Accompanying the lamb was a letter to Bowles stating that the purpose of the shipment was "to acquaint him with the lost market value when lambs are kept beyond prime marketing stage." The shippers probably chuckled with a sort of sardonic glee as they anticipated the surprise and disgust of Mr. Bowles when the Oregon lamb is delivered to his Washington apartment or hotel room. Perhaps the SPCA will intervene however and take the lamb to the city pound where it may get food and drink and perhaps grow into a very proper ewe or buck.

Growers of lambs in Oregon do feel hard done by on the marketing of their product. They believe that OPA has lacked understanding of the practical side of marketing lambs, which are definitely a seasonal crop, even if not perishable like strawberries. At the same time the shipping of a live lamb to Mr. Bowles seems rather a juvenile method of expressing resentment. Bowles will hardly accept delivery of the lamb—he will turn it over to a butcher or a farmer, and whatever inconvenience it may be caused will add only to his irritation. It is after all a mistake to make Bowles the personal scapegoat for Oregon lambs just because he directs the vast establishment of OPA.

The proper approach is the direct approach, as was made in Portland Sunday, when a straight, factual statement was made. This drew Bowles' admission that the lamb business had been poorly handled here and his agreement to look into the matter on his return to Washington. Of course time is wasting and the need for relief is fading, so there is not much chance of getting a modification in time to do any good this year. But we do not believe the stunt of consigning a lamb to OPA will accomplish any good purpose though it may provide a safety valve for the aggrieved spirits of the sheepmen of southwest Oregon.

Biddle's Suit

The Pendleton East Oregonian says "It will be interesting to see what Mr. Biddle can accomplish" by his suit against the railroads. He will pile up a lot of expense for the roads, consume a lot of the valuable time of the management which now is straining itself to handle its war work, and may get some sort of a note concerning settlement if the roads decide that fighting is useless against the government. As far as lower rates or better service goes, Biddle will not accomplish anything much in that direction. The roads breathe by grace of the ICC now, and the ICC isn't relinquishing its responsibility. Years ago the people put the railroads in the class of regulated monopolies, and not even Mr. Biddle and the supreme court can restore the era of free railroad competition.

If the Bonomi government in Italy wants to do a good job it should adopt a Bon-ami policy. With that it could scour without scratching.

Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

Caught within the expanding jaws of a vast new allied web, broken and disorganized Nazi armies between the Seine and the Belgian border in France are threatened by the same fate that befell thousands of their comrades in Normandy. They are menaced on the flank, front and rear by converging American, British and Canadian forces that already have blasted German hopes of standing again behind the Marne, the Aisne, or even the Somme.

From Rouen to Paris the looping Seine has proved a peave. It was punctuated deeply and widely by the allies even before Paris fell. There are indications in the uniting of British and American Seine bridgeheads on a 30-mile front between Mantes and Vernon that a left flank power drive is impending, aimed at Gisors and Beauvais to match British-Canadian assaults on Rouen farther down the river.

Above Paris speedy American third army columns have duplicated their Brittany breakthrough to fan out north, northeast and east in a mushrooming attack that holds a triple threat for the enemy. Pivoting on captured Paris, Patton's racing armor has stormed across the Marne, and Ourco and even the Aisne at a pace that reveals critical weakness on that flank.

In the huge allied envelopment drive upon the Nazi robot bomb launching bases in the Pas de Calais area, another American spearhead was forming at Leborget, the great French airfield on the northeastern outskirts of Paris. The lot was being forced to fight in a dozen fronts simultaneously while allied planes poured a ceaseless fire on his columns and communications.

The German plight north and northeast of Paris was growing more desperate by the hour; but that was not all the woe the day brought for him. On the eastern and southeastern face on the vast American bulge beyond the upper Seine the threat of direct invasions of Germany itself was increasingly apparent. Nazi broadcasts said Chalons on the road to Verdun, Metz and the Saar valley had been reached by Americans. South of that another American spearhead pushing east from Troyes and moving along the road to Roul and Nancy. And still farther south, American Seventh army advance elements from the ever deepening and widening Riviera invasion area were poised somewhere on the headwaters of the Rhone in a position to sweep around against the Belfort Gap entry to the Rhine valley.

The deployment of German defense forces is almost beyond military comprehension unless it has been based upon Nazi high command orders to guard the robot bomb launching installations even at the sacrifice of every other consideration. It was that which obviously dictated the hopeless stand west of the Seine.

Elementary military logic would have dictated a German retreat behind the Seine north of Paris weeks ago to meet the threat of the American breakthrough into Brittany and the Loire valley.



Glamor Girl

The Literary Guidepost

"Time Must Have a Stop," by Aldous Huxley (Harper's; \$2.75).

As an old lady from the Ozarks used to say to me, "It makes a body wonder." It makes a body wonder what the selectors for the Book-of-the-Month club, the Literary guild, and all the other book clubs are about when a minor masterpiece such as Aldous Huxley's "Time Must Have a Stop" is passed by. In this remarkable novel Mr. Huxley has at last recovered from the learning complex that afflicts his family, and been content to write a story. To be sure, the story has more overtones than a Turkish cymbal, but it is authentically a story, authentically a character study, authentically moving and honest. I just realized that contrary to the Huxley tradition, "Time Must Have a Stop" is also good fun.

Basically, it is about a genius of the traditional mould, and deliberately so. Geniuses (as Huxley knows) aren't at all like Sebastian in the book. But Sebastian is exactly the catalyst needed, so Huxley makes him walk the streets of London or Florence composing quite wonderful poetry, makes him sensitive, nervous, weak, physically beautiful to the point of danger, cruel—and amusing.

Then Huxley does an amusing and delightful thing. He inserts Sebastian into a typical Somerset Maugham situation. He lives with a heartlessly dull English family in which the daughter, not so dull, is mad about the 17-year-old boy. Sebastian's father is an iceberg and a socialist fanatic, completely uninterested in his son. His mother is dead, having disgraced herself, or not, as you will. And then Sebastian goes to Italy to visit his sybaritic uncle, and a catastrophe renews him.

But all the characters have that wonderful spicy flavor that Maugham gets. They are like literary bombons dipped in the bitter, substantial chocolate of Huxley's satire. The lot of them mean something, but happily they can be meaningful without boring the reader, and after 12 years of reading a book a day I can say this is the rarest of all virtues in an author. This is an inadequate sketch of a wholly adequate literary performance; the book cries for reading.

Great sectors of the home front, upon which the immediate economic future of the country depends, have become leaderless or confused by conflicting leadership, which is worse. Harsh and over-strained as these words may sound, they spring from a mere scanning of surface events, and are beyond concealment.

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News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 29—It is being reported generally how the new dealers have recaptured the war production board from business, but that is the least of the story.

—True enough, the secondary business leadership remaining down inside WPB is not the dynamic type.

New, 36-year-old top man Krug has not had a career which would develop business contacts, except adversely (he was an engineer in the TVA and WPA).

Coming up in his outfit are men like Maury Maverick, new deal politician and head of the smaller war plants division, who has been conducting a novel business-endearing campaign for months, taking every business complaint from every congressman as a major issue, writing nice letters to the business involved, to the congressmen and anyone who might be pleased thereby.

Behind Krug will be the similar new deal men who try to persuade FDR into left-handed trails at every fork of the road.

But this aftermath of the fatal Nelson-Wilson feud is only a side phase of the greater evidence that the whole business reconversion program has become involved in tanglefoot up to its knees — the same glue which mired WPB.

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Mr. Roosevelt appreciated re-conversion as a dominating phase of the peace-prospects and last winter designated his wise

man, Bernard Baruch, to work out a policy.

Baruch did, and his man, James F. Byrnes, was appointed to carry it forward, but Baruch has been in either silent rage or despair (both seem justifiable by the disregard of his leadership) and has said not a word lately, while Byrnes has told congress he was quitting the demobilization directorship, and his friends fear he also will quit the government January 1.

On the disposition of surplus property, Will Clayton, the official administrator, advocated one course before congress only to find himself blocked (not by republicans) by new dealers who protested his plan to turn land over to the RFC (Jones) instead of the department of agriculture (Wickard) or interior (Ickes). There's, therefore, no official policy on surplus property, and no leadership.

The CIO-new deal element promoted the Murray-Kilgore bill on industrial unemployment, but their efforts to get the president out in front for them had failed up to the moment this column went to press, and congress is passing a modified George bill, sponsored by the more conservative administration elements. There is no White House policy and conflicting leadership in this matter.

Contract termination legislation has been passed, but is involved in administration conflicts, and from the diverse ways of the democratic leaders in congress, shows the administration attitude has not been defined in any reconversion conflict (see also Wilson's resigning statement).

Republicans are sitting back, waiting for the right time to say this all proves what Governor Dewey contended, that the elderly men here have demonstrated their ineptitude; that the Roosevelt machine is going to pieces. They can make much of Mr. Roosevelt's confusing statements on the Nelson-Wilson matter.

Friday, August 18, the president denounced questions about Nelson being exiled to China as "wrong and unjust," and a "dis-service to the country," whereas the following Friday he welcomed and encouraged the same speculative inquiry by saying it was "an iffy question" (meaning it might or might not happen).

The difficulty is so glaring, I look for Mr. Roosevelt to move first. Always in the past he has covered similar administrative failures by creating a grand and glorious new organization on top of the failing bureau.

I look for a message to congress or a public statement of some kind, shaking up the manpower commission and perhaps some other bureau, establishing some new official leadership on the issues, with perhaps a new super-duper outfit with a catchy alphabetical name to conceal this postwar XYZ, denoting both an unknown quantity and complete mystery.

Harvest Almost Ended

PENDLETON, Aug. 29 —(AP)—With an estimated yield of 5,000,000 bushels, the Umatilla county wheat harvest is 95 per cent completed, farm leaders said today.

Kenneth L. Dixon
AT THE FRONT!

Considerate Nazis
Leave Their Bikes
For Yank Infantry

WITH THE AEF IN SOUTHERN FRANCE, Aug. 23 —(Delayed)—(AP)—The speed of this fast breaking front is giving doughboys a rest from walking—and in more ways than one.

In the first place they are riding trucks part of the time, except when they have to stop to clean out what the communiques always call "small pockets of resistance."

For another, they are capturing enemy vehicles varying from Volkswagens to bicycles.

One infantry squad had to pause in the village of Peyrolles, near the Durance river. They drove the enemy out so fast that equipment of all kinds was abandoned in frantic haste: toilet articles, footwear, clothes, etc. But more important were the bicycles.

Pvt. Vernon Sutherland, of Cranston, R.I., grabbed the first bicycle and started scrapping the barrel of a machine gun on it. It looked like the doughboys might have more walking ahead for the Maquis reported other "pockets of resistance" in the immediate area.

So Vernon didn't aim to walk. Neither did Pvt. James Bolin, Sullivan, Ill., who appropriated the next kraut bicycle for himself and then started collecting others.

"I will get this whole column motorized if I can have a little time to look around," James shouted.

Meanwhile, Pvt. Everett Hanna, Decatur, Ill., was topping everybody. He slipped into a building which had been used

as a garage by the Germans and got himself a motorcycle. The squad of soldiers reassembled. An aged French villager stepped out and gave a tricolor to Pvt. Eugene Richardson, Hermandale, Mo. He placed it on his bicycle.

Then the strange half-motorized column got into motion. The villager straightened up and saluted the cavalcade as it wound slowly down the streets of Peyrolles.

Once when I was with an advanced motorized unit I heard a strange order being passed sharply back from truck to truck — and the soldiers who spent five months trying to gain a couple of thousand yards at Cassino let out howls of laughter when it reached our vehicle. It said "This advance will be held down to the rate of 15 miles per hour."

The advance is so fast an armored column ran off two maps—but still kept going. They borrowed French road maps from the Maquis, but there were not enough of them to go around.

So Sgt. Oscar Mervin of New York City, and Capt. Tom Piddington of Plainfield, N.J., had to draw me a freehand map on the back of a piece of scrap paper to show me roughly what the situation ahead seemed to be.

One good reason why such swift advances were possible was shown when we captured a German general and corps headquarters. His desk contained official papers showing where the German intelligence said our invasion was going to land in southern France. The papers were dated 10 days before we hit the beaches east of Marseilles. They showed how the defenses were all set up to greet us.

The only trouble was that the defending troops were waiting west of Marseilles, and from there to the Spanish border.

After a lapse of several months while the new program was being whipped into shape, qualifying examinations for young men interested in the air corps enlisted reserve and the army specialized training programs will be resumed at the chamber of commerce rooms tonight at 8 o'clock under the supervision of the Salem unit of the civil air patrol, it is announced by First Lt. James E. Cannon, commander of the Salem unit.

To be eligible for the examinations the candidate must be under 17 years and nine months as compared with the previous 18-year-old restriction. Lt. Cannon states. Applicants for the army specialized training reserve program must be high school graduates or be able to graduate from high school before attaining the 17-year-9-month limit. These qualifications as to high school do not apply to those seeking enlistment in the army air corps enlisted reserve alone, but only to the ASTRP, he pointed out.

Regular school of the CAP will be resumed at the armory Thursday night after a two-weeks vacation, instruction will be given both the CAP members and those in the civil air patrol cadets which embrace boys and girls in the 15-16 year age group. Officers of the patrol will have complete information for all those interested at the armory Thursday.

Members of the unit and invited guests held a swimming party and weiner roast at the Leslie school grounds Monday night.

Umpqua Forest Fire Brought Under Control

MEDFORD, Aug. 29 —(AP)—Forest service and logging crews today controlled a 100-acre forest fire in the Perist area of the Umpqua divide.

The blaze broke out in a logging operation yesterday and spread rapidly. Rogue river national forest officials predicted there would be no further outbreak, barring high winds.

Stevens

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR OVERSEAS

Of course you're going to remember that man or woman in the service... but be sure to mail your gifts early if you want them to get there in time for Christmas. All gifts for the Army must be mailed by October 15th. For other services by October 31st. Make your selections from our new "gift catalog" and you're sure to please.

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"Young lady, this swooning on hard dance floors has got to stop—understand!"