

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor and Publisher

Member of the Associated Press

The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to the use for publication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in this newspaper.

State Department Reorganization

The department of state has been in need of thorough-going reorganization for years. The ancient edifice creaked and groaned from its aged timber. Secretary Hull never got around to the house-cleaning which was needed. Edward Stettinius, jr., the new secretary, uses a new broom within the first few days of his taking office, knowing full well that if he waited very long the cobwebs of let-well-enough-alone would soon bind him.

But his reorganization will be met with mingled cheers and groans. There will be cheers over the firings and groans over the appointments for successors. Loudest groans will come from the left wingers who thought they won the recent election, but are finding out that while they did the legwork they lost the rewards usually attendant on political victory.

Discharged as assistants are Adolf A. Berle, jr., Breckinridge Long and G. Howland Shaw. Shaw is a career man in the department; Long was third assistant secretary of state in Wilson's second term, and returned to the department in Roosevelt's first term, and is a man of broad knowledge of international affairs. Berle came in as assistant in 1938 from a responsible office in the city government of New York City. To be of maximum value the cleansing should be continued into the department's sections where policies usually originate and where they always lodge for execution (one way or the other).

But what a bewildering assortment does Stettinius draw in for his new staff! The selection of Joseph C. Grew, former ambassador to Japan, is the best of the lot. Grew is a career man in diplomacy, a man of character and substance. His experience will be invaluable to the young secretary. The prime mystery is the choice of Will L. Clayton as an assistant. He had just been relieved as surplus property administrator. Clayton is one of the world's biggest cotton merchants, a Jesse Jones protégé from Houston. He comes from the southern business hierarchy who are anathema to the true new dealers.

As though business was not adequately represented with Stettinius, ex-GMC and US Steel official, and Cottonbroker, Clayton, another of the posts of assistant secretary goes to Nelson A. Rockefeller. He is to take charge of relations with other American republics. Rockefeller has been doing a great work in this field, with the customary Rockefeller devotion to duty; but the business coloration of the appointment cannot be overlooked.

Another surprise package among the new faces is Archibald MacLeish, named assistant secretary of state to direct public and cultural relations. MacLeish is a fuzzy-writing poet who is now librarian in congress. He seems ill-cast for this assignment not because he is a poet but because of the kind of poet he is.

Of the lot Grew alone is a veteran in the field of foreign relations. Stettinius is a tyro and Rockefeller limited to the Latin-American field. Clayton's appointment marks a victory for Jesse Jones over the Henry Wallace crowd, and the roars that will go up from the latter's friends will rend the sky. Jones clashed with Wallace on foreign buying, and the business was consolidated under the department of state. Now a Jones crony takes over, which will make the new dealers feel they have really lost the election. A pinko-poet like MacLeish as propagandist is a pale offset to Clayton in the highly important office of foreign economic affairs.

There will be immediate efforts to place the responsibility, and probably Harry Hopkins who seems to be the White house fixer will get the credit (or blame) for the choices. Hopkins is now a "tired new dealer" who has run out on his old friends. While the left-wing democrats prayed for radical changes in the state department they did not expect to be sold down the river—not as far as Houston, Texas.

Their embarrassment is of minor importance however. The real fear is that the new crew will not only have no more imagination than the underlings who have made many and serious blunders during the Hull regime, but that they will not prove very competent as diplomats. Right when we need to put our best foot forward in the complex and delicate affairs which are coming up we put in a green team, some of whom come from the wrong street.

Editorial Comment

SOVIET FOREIGN STATEMENT

The Soviet Union's six-point statement of foreign policy issued in this country by the Soviet embassy is a welcome and enlightening document. It rules out differences of political system as a deterrent to cooperation and friendly relations with another nation and makes love of freedom and peace their prime requisites. It further renounces imperialistic expansion by the Soviet government at the expense of any other nation.

But most Americans will probably find greatest interest in the officially announced principle of "non-intervention in the internal affairs of other states."

This reaffirms the hands-off policy implicit in the Comintern's dissolution and, for all apparent purposes, lays the persistent ghost of a Soviet government-sponsored world revolution.

These principles of foreign policy were issued over the signature of Col. A. Galin, who identifies them as the program which the Soviet Union has consistently followed throughout its existence.

We may concede, then, that frequent similarity between the thoughts and actions of the communist parties in the United States and Soviet Russia is not to be construed as an alliance between the American communists and the Soviet government, of which the Russian communist party is the dominant political body.

We may also conclude that those who before the recent elections attacked critics of American communists as persons bent on alienating our Russian ally were not completely informed. For it is clear in the light of the Soviet foreign policy statement that these critics were no more likely to injure Russo-American relations than were the authors of articles in the official Soviet paper Izvestia which criticized American republicans.—Eugene Register-Guard.

Rioting in Rome and Athens

A riot in Athens cost 15 lives on Sunday. On Friday at the end of an official review of Italian troops rioting broke out in Rome. In Belgium there has been internal strife since the return of the government to Brussels.

It is usually of a pattern: the resistance of the guerrilla elements to orders to give up their arms, or to objections of the one-time underground to the composition of the government. It boils down to this: a determination on the part of the masses to control the government in their interest.

In Rome the republican rioters pulled down the Italian flag bearing the emblem of the royal house of Savoy and ran up the communist red flag with hammer and sickle emblem. In Athens the E.A.M. (national liberation front) carried out a demonstration which resulted in a battle with the regular army. The Greek prime minister charged that "leaders of the extreme left are preparing the way to civil war."

This is not surprising. The people have suffered; now they want hopes fulfilled. They are deeply suspicious of old governments—of any government. Moreover the communist element sees in the present confusion an opportunity to convert the country in a collectivist state. The shadow of Russia not only as military power but as a social idea looms across Europe. Small wonder then that the liberated peoples of Europe in their bitterness, their zeal, their aspiration should demand greatly enlarged powers for themselves. Contrariwise, the conservative influences, the vested interests, political and economic, are fearful lest their countries go the way of Russia, and work to prevent such an outcome.

Order must be preserved. The fighting allies can't be distracted from fighting the Germans by trouble behind their front lines. But allied control should be limited to maintaining order where the regular government fails. Eventually the people of the several countries must work out their own plans for the future. Probably the socialistic trend will be marked, but it is doubtful if any of the independent countries of western Europe really go communist.

Bus Stop

The work stoppage of the city bus lines Sunday morning was a great inconvenience to hundreds of church-goers, and was the worse because no notice had been given. The grievance (dissatisfaction with the local superintendent) seems hardly reason enough to discommode the bus-riding public.

A bus system operates as a public utility which means that both owners and employees acknowledge a prime duty in serving to the public and so must subordinate what may be regarded as "rights" in other lines of enterprise. At least the drivers should have given the public notice so people would not stand a long time on street corners waiting for buses which never came. Our Salem drivers have had such a fine record of faithful service it was a great surprise that they failed in this instance.

The Vanport deputy sheriff rounded up a bunch of negro gamblers and carted them off to the county jail. The big shot gamblers of downtown Portland still enjoy their immunity, however. And there have been no recent reform crusades rounding up a few Chinese running lotteries.

Efforts are now to be made to "revitalize" the Republican party. They will start by knifing within the Republican national committee.

Interpreting The War News

KIRKE L. SIMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

Surprise seizure by the American third army of the Saarlauten bridge giving direct access to the Saar basin puts the Nazi command in a dilemma.

The Nazis must either rush armor and first line troop reserves to seal off the river puncture by quick counter attack in force, or risk loss of the Saar most on a wide front to expose the Siegfried line to broad based American attack.

There were hints in front line from the Saar sector that enemy armor was being thrown in to limit third army exploitation of the Saarlauten breakthrough. By every sign it could ill be spared from the Roer-Meuse areas to the north where British and American armies are on the verge of breaking into the Cologne plain.

Front line observers estimate that the Germans have massed most of their armor and at least a third of some 70 under-strength field divisions behind the Roer and the Meuse to protect the Ruhr. That still is the potential scene of the most critical battle for the foe.

There is indicated German intention to make a last ditch stand in the north, sacrificing the outer defenses of the Saar basin beyond German frontiers for that reason. The American surprise puncture of the Saar gravely threatens to disrupt that plan, however. It was made by seasoned troops under command of General Patton, skilled at seizing and swiftly exploiting any tactical or strategic advantage.

The fury of Nazi artillery reaction to the Saarlauten bridge seizure disclosed enemy anxiety over the American success.

The diversionary effect of that third army jump upon the greater battle in the north, however, is apt to prove more important than its immediate threat to Saar basin centers. If the east bank foothold can be held and quickly expanded it could prove the break that General Eisenhower is waiting for to throw in his own reserves in the north if it forces shifting of considerable Nazi reserves southward to meet the third army threat.

The other and most notable change in the European war map as the first December week opened was west of the Danube below Budapest. The Russian triple-threat sweep beyond that river in western Hungary was moving at a pace which indicated Nazi-Hungarian forces confronting it either too weak to resist effectively whichever way red army spearheads drive, or virtual abandonment by the Nazis of divisions still retreating from the Balkan peninsula.



The Uninvited Guest

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

(Distribution by King Features Syndicate, Inc. Reproduction in whole or in part strictly prohibited.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—There is no use in trying to deny that much of business swallowed its hopes hard last election day.

A quiet pessimism in those ranks has been evident since then. One nationally known corporation head expressed a widespread viewpoint when he said:

"We have accumulated reserves and if Dewey had won we would have spent these in expectation of post-war expansion; now we will save them for taxes and eventualities which may be imposed upon us."

Openly the big record-making companies (CBS and RCA) threw up their hands and granted Petrillo of the Musicians Union a bounty up to five cents each on the sale of every record for no good reason except that the government had failed to bring Petrillo to terms in a long strike.

The musicians do not need the money and Petrillo has only promised he will expend it to further the appreciation of music. The public, of course, will pay it, as usual.

A wave of strikes and greatly increased wage demands are expected by all after victory in Europe has relieved somewhat the patriotic pressure upon the unions, etc., etc.

But there is another side to the story, not being told. This country already has run to extremes. Thirty years ago it was dominated by selfish financial cliques without any sense of social responsibility or the good of the nation or its people.

They got theirs in 1929. They got it because they became too big, took in too much territory. Men never seem to know how to use power wisely.

The fascist movement in Germany and Italy would today be strong had it not taken in too much territory. Napoleon committed the same error. History is unanimous with evident proofs that those who feed on power allow themselves to commit suicide by their unwise excesses.

The unions are now at that crossroads. Obviously they must change from the Petrillo attitude (radical czarist leadership) so

prevalent among them or they will kill themselves. Their tendency to dominate the whole policy of the country in the past few years cannot continue indefinitely without building up a public resentment which will engulf them, and no doubt lead to the opposite extreme.

Some wise men I know, give them another year at most on their present line. I think the time depends on how they are led. But their bankroll is getting too big, the messes on their hands are increasing, their power is growing too great.

I think, therefore, there is more than an even chance that events will mitigate current fears in this respect, a far better chance than the obvious one indicating they will increase wages continuously to the point of devastating inflation, ruin business and cause socialism, which is no doubt the goal of communists in their ranks.

So also with the fear of the great war debt which hangs over us. This country has the stuff with which to make good. It has manpower, resources, production and efficiency beyond any other nation.

An individual in debt can always borrow money if his chances for successes are measured good. His chance of success is the real gauge of his worth, not the amount of debt he carries.

So also with nations. Their soundness will be measured by their prospects. If we do not become too soft after the war, we can become a great trading nation. If we are skillful in developing foreign trade routes and trade compacts in the wise exchange of our surpluses for what we need, we can find a new international life.

The opportunity certainly exists as never before. Also we can salvage some of this debt if we are careful.

We have proved by this war that we are still a strong nation. Not soon again will any aggressor count us weak.

We can pay our heavy taxes, carry our heavy debt, maintain our democratic free enterprise at its current war superiority if we do not run to extremes, if we have a mind to do it, but particularly if we do just one thing—hold out the hope of success and soundly maintain that prospect.

"THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler



"That's my neighbor's boy—I talked him out of buying a cornet!"

Kenneth L. Dixon
AT THE FRONT
Anti-Tank Gunner
Can Join Medics
Anytime He Wants

ON THE WESTERN FRONT, Nov. 24 (Delayed)—(P)—S/Sgt. Norman E. Hlavac is an anti-tank gunner, but if he wants to join the medics they'll be glad to have him.

German shells hit his company's ammunition pit, wounding two men. One of them had a broken leg.

No medics were handy and the German Kenneth L. Dixon shellfire was intense, so Hlavac got busy and set the man's leg, using a couple of carbines as splints. Despite the conditions under which the amateur medic worked, when the wounded man was taken to an aid station professional, he was so pleased with the splint that he left it untouched until the patient reached the clearing station. There medics sent back the word that Norman could go to work with them anytime.

Speaking of medics, do you remember Pfc. Donald Woodward of Ottawa, Kan., the am-

bulance driver who talked the Germans into releasing him after he was captured one day? Well, everything seems to happen to him. Although he's getting to be an old hand at ducking enemy shells and sweating out barrages, he says this was the most nerve-racking ordeal of all.

He was evacuating a French woman from a front line village when moans emanating from the back of the ambulance indicated he was losing the race. He halted the ambulance and investigated.

A short time later, white and slightly shaken, the Pfc. crawled behind the wheel and continued down the road. In the back of the ambulance the low moans had been succeeded by lusty squalls, indicating that both mother and the new baby boy, Donald, were doing okay.

The service company of the 60th combat engineers now claims a strictly cosmopolitan field kitchen, specializing in Italian, German and Chinese dishes.

Sgt. Ben Juliano of Huntington, Li. N.Y., whose ancestors once served spaghetti in his native haunts, handles the Italian cooking. Pfc. Bert Seigel, a New Yorker who lived in Germany until Hitler seized power there, supervises the frankfurter and sauerkraut menus. Pfc. Sang Yip, once of China, now of Brooklyn, supplies oriental receipts.

Boss melting pot messman is Staff Sgt. Bernard Waterbury of Broken Bow, Neb., who thinks his crack kitchen crew can handle almost any food problem but one.

"In any language," he says sadly, "a powdered egg is still a powdered egg."

The Literary Guidepost

By John Selby

"THE SHAPE OF BOOKS TO COME" by J. Donald Adams (Vintage: \$2.50).

Once a person admits the usefulness of writing about writing, there is no limit to what can be done. J. Donald Adams does admit this usefulness, and now he is publishing a book based on some of the thoughts and attitudes that have distinguished the inside front cover of the New York Times book review section since Mr. Adams took to writing that page instead of editing the whole.

Mr. Adams is a most conventional man in real life, but he is not conventional in the sense that he cannot disagree with common opinion. There is, for example, a legend among writers that popularity means cheapness, and to this Mr. Adams never has subscribed. He is, on the other hand, not sure that the historical novel as produced on these shores will last. This proves that he does subscribe to the strange idea that it is the purpose of books to last, rather than to form the mulch out of which better ideas may grow. Parenthetically, there are a good many who will strenuously object to some of the practitioners Mr. Adams approves. His list includes Kenneth Roberts, Walter Edmonds, Esther Forbes, James Boyd, Le Grand Cannon and Howard Fast. The first and last of these names may seem out of place to some.

Mr. Adams' book is called "The Shape of Books to Come." By this he means the shape of fiction to come, since hardly any consideration is given the rest of the literary field except poetry, and that briefly. Mr. Adams holds a very high opinion of Elizabeth Madox Roberts and of Ellen Glasgow, which is not remarkable. His opinion of Steinbeck is, perhaps, a little higher than some. He has caught Hemingway perfectly, and especially well in the period when Hemingway was in love with his love of blood.

Mr. Adams states his likes and dislikes much better than I can restate them. I do not think his conclusion that the fiction of the future, meaning postwar fiction, will be more "affirmative" is necessarily valid, but I do think that Mr. Adams' wishful thinking along that line is an important straw in the wind.

Of course the original idea of collecting something for support of general government out of operations of commercial users of highways is not, because the people (foolishly in my judgment) passed a constitutional amendment capturing for highway uses every penny that may be collected from motor vehicles or for use of highways. But it will be a step forward if the burden of this support may be more honestly apportioned.

1. Exemption of a large group of commercial vehicles from payment of any motor transportation fee.

2. Utilization of variant bases for computation of fees.

3. Use of "light" weight as basis for computation of registration fees.

4. Advantage of diesel-operated vehicles on basis of present rates.

5. Failure of fuel consumption to rise in direct proportion to gross load, making the fuel tax inequitable.

The recommendations of the committee are:

1. Retain the present fuel tax without modification.

2. A small flat fee to apply to all motor vehicles (in other words apply the present \$5 registration fee to all vehicles). This is designed to cover the administrative charges and certain other "non-weight" road costs; in brief what might be called the "overhead."

3. Apply a graduated mileage tax to commercial vehicles using the highways. These vehicles would be classified into 12 groups, by gross weight. Vehicle owners would report their mileage and pay the amount per mile which is charged for the class in which their vehicles would fall. The rate varies from 3.75 mills per mile for vehicles under 4000 lbs. gross weight (which includes load) to 17.68 mills per mile for vehicles of over 24,000 lbs. gross weight.

Owners who pay this tax would then be entitled to a refund of the amount they pay to the state of Oregon for fuel tax.

The only exemptions allowed are for federal (including rural mail route operators), state, county and municipal vehicles and school buses. Special favors previously granted to farmers, gravel and log trucks and trucks operating in cities and within three-mile limit are withdrawn. The idea of the report is to assess the cost of highway construction and maintenance strictly on the basis of amount of wear given the roads; and that is determined by weight, the heavier the axle load, the greater the wear on roads and bridges regardless of whether the load consists of logs, gravel, sheep or cement.

One virtue of the report is that the scale of fees may be altered from time to time as conditions warrant, without any need for tearing down the whole structure.

New Industries Being Created By Chemurgy

The "rapid substitution of new wood by-products for steel and other metals already can be foreseen for post-war years, and new wood and cellulose chemistry is creating tremendous new industries, Willard Mayberry, country editor and high plains Kansas farmer, told the Salem Knife and Fork club Tuesday night.

The owner and publisher of the Elkhardt (Kan.) Tri-State News said that "chemurgy is the real hope of the lumber industry as well as all other phases of American agriculture. In no other field has the science of chemurgy made greater strides than in the field of tree products.

"The use of lignins, formerly washed down the sewers of paper mills and now saved by exploding wood fibres, has opened a great field of synthetic and pressed wood, while the uses of wood wastes for both alcohol and sugars is in its infancy."

The midwest rancher said the farmer and stockman also had turned to farm chemurgy which he described as "the use of farm surpluses—grain, fibre and animal—through chemical process for finished products other than food." The club's session, at the Marion hotel, was the third of its initial season.

Scout Awards Given at Camp

Twenty-three members of Scout troop 3, led by Scoutmaster Bob Baidorf and accompanied by Paul Deuber, spent the week end at the Smith Creek camp. A camp fire revue was held Friday night; hikes, and an investiture service and award ceremony constituted Saturday's program, and a church service, hiking, tracking and nature service were held Sunday.

Patrol leader certificates were awarded Oren du Chain, Darrell Girod, Martin Knittel and Jerry Boyer. Den chief certificates went to Glen Kleen, Art Jess, Gennett Eleri and Bob Miller, and paper drive lapel pins were given Clifford Girod, Oren du Chain, Bob Miller, Jerry Boyer, Bob Dyer, Kenneth Dresner, Richard Maguren, Gilbert Woods and Martin Knittel.

Stevens
Diamonds - Watches Jewelry
Are You a Fuzzled Santa Claus?
... then you should see the many beautiful and lasting gifts at Stevens & Son which include: Diamonds, Watches, Rings, Silverware, Costume Jewelry and Glassware!
WE ENGRAVE GIFTS IN OUR STORE
Credit If Desired