

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.

Swiss Neutrality

From the standpoint of international law the United States can maintain no case against Switzerland for selling supplies to Germany. Switzerland is a declared neutral and as such is free to trade with any belligerent with which it can do business. Since Germany is right at its border there has been no interruption in trade with country because of the war.

The United States may not like to see Swiss food and other products going to Germany, but unless it can maintain effective blockade of Germany it cannot stop the shipments. Under international law Switzerland is within its rights, and would be justified on legal grounds to do as one Swiss paper recommended—"definitely refuse to accept demands of any nature."

In the early period of the war there was fear lest Germany would occupy Switzerland and thus destroy one of the old and true democracies of Europe. Fortunately no such occupation was carried out. At that period the Swiss government seemed to show favor toward the nazis, perhaps because of the fear based on its proximity to the triumphant Germans. In later days no complaint has been heard until the announcement that the United States is curtailing its shipments of goods to Switzerland in reprisal for the latter's trading with Germany. That is, of course, within our rights under international law, and if such supplies are proving of direct assistance to Germany their curtailment is in order.

The warring world, however, remains in considerable debt to Switzerland. It furnishes a home for the International Red Cross which extends its army of mercy to all belligerents. It is helpful in the handling of work for War Prisoners' aid. Without the help of these intermediaries for which Switzerland offers haven, the lot of prisoners would be much poorer. Our nation needs to keep this in mind as it scrutinizes the manifest of shipments to Switzerland.

News Discrimination

Correspondents accredited to army headquarters in France are boiling over with indignation, both over the news suppression which has prevailed since the beginning of the German offensive and second over the discrimination in the release of news. The censorship has been rigid, for a while blacking out all news of the preceding 48 hours. More reprehensible has been the reported discrimination. The British Broadcasting corporation, a British government agency, has been getting and giving out news before it has been released to correspondents. Sometimes releases were denied even after BBC had put the stories on the air.

Just now Time magazine broke the story of the appointment of Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery as commander of the northern field army, but the chief of army public relations at Paris, Brig. Gen. Frank A. Allen, refuses to permit correspondents to send the story out until an official chronology is made public. The report intimates that Time and United Press, which also used the story, broke the release date. But why was there any withholding of the announcement from Dec. 20 to Jan. 5?

The correspondents feel they have a duty to the public and are as conscientious in discharging that duty as any professional group. They chafe under censorship, though they recognize the need to preserve military security. Their ire against news discrimination. This unfairness will be understood by the general public. Perhaps combined protests may obtain results.

In the Baby Berry case in Los Angeles the jury couldn't decide whether it was Charley Chaplin or two other men. But the case didn't show the one-time poor little boy of the London music halls in very good light.

Editorial Comment

DANGER SIGNALS

A recent morning's gist of news contained two warnings of gathering opposition to a world security organization. One was voiced by John W. Davis, one time candidate for president, ambassador to London and solicitor general of the United States. The other came from Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker, that colorful figure whose adult life seems to have been a series of escapes from death.

Here are two men of vastly different temperament and background, each has the capacity to see through to fundamentals and, fortunately, each has the courage to tell what he sees. The warnings they voice are timely.

Mr. Davis lived through and was a participant in the stormy debate of twenty-five years ago over the League of Nations and American adherence to the Versailles treaty. Undoubtedly he is well aware of the forces which at that time defeated American adherence to that international arrangement and possibly he sees the same forces in operation today.

Moving picture versions to the contrary, it was not the cabal of some little group that defeated Woodrow Wilson's plans. They were defeated because the sentiment of the country, at first overwhelmingly in favor of the league, gradually turned. That can happen again and for the same reasons.

Capt. Rickenbacker mentions another of the forces that turned American sentiment in 1919, the returning soldier. He says bluntly that the faith of American boys in American ways and institutions may be so strengthened by their stay on foreign soil in association with other peoples that they may very readily subscribe to a hands-off policy in world affairs.

Certainly the returning soldier of 1919 was in that frame of mind and it will be a miracle if similar influences do not operate to place the soldiers of this war in a similar mood. Capt. Rickenbacker is in a position to know what he talks about.

With the notable exception applying to Cordell Hull and his successor, Mr. Stettinius, it has seemed to many that American foreign relations have been conducted with the purpose of mystifying and confounding the critics of the administration rather than with the purpose of evolving a foreign policy which the country will understand and accept. Unless that atmosphere is cleared away, we may expect the events that Mr. Davis and Capt. Rickenbacker fear.—Wall Street Journal.

Inter-allied Criticism

In the present period of free-for-all criticism some of the British are snipping at the United States for its scolding at the British. London papers both conservative and liberal take occasion to lecture the United States on its own deficiencies.

The fact is that we have this criticism coming. The London Spectator, for instance, inquires "What does America want?" We must admit that our president has been secretive and unresponsive in defining the foreign policies of this country. Even Churchill confessed himself baffled for lack of advice from Washington.

Another criticism leveled at the United States is that Europe never can be sure that the United States will carry through on its obligations to help implement the peace. Without doubt many European leaders fear that once the war is over and our armies back home the United States will let Europe stew in its own juice. Such being the case they do not relish such advice from this country on how postwar Europe should be set up. And this criticism has validity.

This mutual exchange should not become a name-calling brawl. It should result in a clearing of the atmosphere, and, let us hope, in a fresh statement of policy which the peoples of Britain and the United States can support without compunction.

We have no desire to propagate any anti-British feeling in this country or any anti-Russian feeling. But we must retain our own independence of thinking and be ready to speak out if any of our allies embark on policies we believe would be injurious to the war or detrimental to peace.

It is now announced that President Roosevelt will address the nation on Saturday evening next, summarizing his message to congress scheduled for that day. It is expected he will devote considerable time to matters of our foreign policy. We hope he will and that he will not talk in his frequent "Daddy-knows-best" manner. The people of the United States are mature, and they are deeply stirred by the trend of political events—more concerned about them than the current military situation. Unless the president speaks out clear and strong the confusion in the public mind will be deepened. This nation and the world await word from the man in the White house, lately so sphinx-like.

Shoe stores are having a run on shoes as patrons rush to convert coupons into footwear. A real run would start if non-run nylons were offered at hosiery counters.

Interpreting The War News

KIRKE L. SIMPSON

Plagued by appalling winter weather, the battle of the Belgian bulge is building toward a climactic clash.

German and Allied observers alike have heralded it as the most decisive action of the war in the west. On its outcome largely may hinge the duration of the war in Europe. Belated disclosure from Allied supreme headquarters of British as well as American forces now engaged, and of a shift in highest field assignments that divides the bulge front into north and south flank sectors, the one under British and the other under American top operational command, definitely changes the whole strategic picture.

It goes far to confirm the view that the great Allied pincer operation against the narrow and vulnerable waistline of the Nazi bulge into Belgium marks far more than an attempt to regain lost ground and restore the situation prior to the German breakthrough through smash in mid-December. It looms now as a full scale Allied offensive, not merely as a counter-attack.

It is now disclosed that British troops had arrived to back up the shaken American First army on the critical northern flank of the German breakthrough within 48 hours of the first German onset. The assignment of British Field Marshal Montgomery to command of all Allied forces on that flank as well as the whole northern end of the Allied lines came at the same time.

The situation then developing in Belgium warranted the command shift. Deepening enemy penetration of American First army lines near the left center of its previous wide front had made quick communications difficult. Division of the bulge front enabled the two topfield commanders to concentrate on their own specific tasks, not only for the defensive phases of the fight but in preparation for the concerted offensive now developing.

It seems clear that more than a routine emergency shift in command due to communication difficulties was involved. The fact that it took place within 48 hours after the foe struck and when the full scope and weight of his blow and the size and nature of the forces he had committed to the attack was becoming apparent is probably significant. That word of the command change and also of the arrival of British troops was so long withheld at supreme headquarters is also important.

One of all circumstances now revealed can be deduced the impression that a major policy decision was made by the highest Allied military command even before the German drive had begun to slow down. While it was hinted at in Eisenhower's subsequent confident order to his troops, only now does a glimpse of its far-reaching nature begin to appear, and of the moves made behind the lines to implement that change in plans promptly and effectively.

There seems no longer question that all previous winter offensive plans were shelved by the Allies as soon as the true nature of the German thrust was revealed. The risk the foe was taking as well as the grave threat his deep but narrow drive into Belgium held for vital Allied communications must have been the dominant factor considered in Allied councils.

The judgment, later expressed by Eisenhower and now well blue-printed in the all-out nature of the Allied counter-offensive, was that the chance presented to come to grips with the enemy in the open, not against his deeply fortified Siegfried line positions should not be lost. Destruction of enemy armies, not capture of key towns or forts, is the objective of all warfare. Enough of the flower of the German army in the west has been committed to the Belgian bulge operation to warrant a major Allied effort to smash it utterly.

Nazi commentators so interpret Allied offensive moves. They say with good reason that the most titanic battle of attrition ever fought in western Europe is taking shape in that limited bulge area.



Distributed by King Features Syndicate by arrangement with The Washington Star

Your Federal Income Tax

WHEN AND WHERE TO FILE RETURNS

Income tax returns of citizens and residents of the United States are required by law to be made on or before the 15th day of the third month following the close of the taxable year, which for most individuals is the calendar year. Accordingly, returns for the calendar year 1944 must in general be filed not later than midnight of Thursday, March 15, 1945.

However, if a taxpayer who is required to file an original or amended declaration of estimated tax by January 15, 1945, files his annual income tax return for 1944 (on Form 1040) and pays all tax due by January 15, his return will serve as both a return and declaration and he need not file the 1944 declaration. This applies to farmers who choose to defer filing declarations last April 15; others who filed 1944 declarations but desire to change their estimates by filing amended declarations; and all persons who owe the final installment of 1944 estimated tax.

Non-resident aliens who are residents of Canada or Mexico, and whose wages are subject to collection of United States income taxes at the source by withholding under the pay-as-you-go system, are also required to file their returns at the same time as United States citizens and residents generally—that is, by March 15, 1945.

If a taxpayer died in 1944, his final return should be filed by his executor or administrator on or before March 15, 1945.

Members of the military or naval forces who, when the return is due, are on active duty outside the Americas or the continental United States (the states and District of Columbia), or are on sea duty, may postpone filing returns and making payments of tax until the 15th day of the fourth month following the month in which they cease to serve on sea duty or outside the continental United States, but not beyond the 15th day of the third month following the month in which the war officially ends.

This postponement applies also to civilian employees of the United States government, or of federal agencies, who are detained by an enemy.

In unusual circumstances a resident individual may be granted an extension within which to file a return, upon application to the collector of internal revenue for his district, if appropriate reasons are shown. If the

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—The thinking Mr. Byrnes, assistant president, came out straight for honest equal treatment of "the Avery and Petrillo alike" in the public interest.

Advocacy of equal justice for unions as well as managements started an immediate controversy within the administration. Mr. Byrnes had said one way to accomplish like justice was through congressional enactment of a law opening the courts to both parties.

At once war labor board member Davis (who let the Petrillo get away with defiance of his board and got the troops in upon the Averys) said such a law would tie up enforcement in the courts and hinder his purpose of adjusting labor disputes.

Thus the old political game of rag-matag proceeds into a new phase.

At the time Petrillo was defying WLB, and maintaining his victorious strike against its order, Mr. Roosevelt claimed there was no law to make Petrillo obey. Thus the public must pay a few cents tribute on every record it buys forever to Mr. Petrillo, for no service whatever in its interest.

But there was a law which would have brought him to terms—this very war labor board act. True enough, congress did not intend the act should be used to "seize" labor unions as Montgomery Ward has been seized.

Yet the administration stretched the intent of congress to a rather far-fetched interpretation to get the army into Montgomery Ward. Congress said the seizure power should not be used except in "a war industry." The retail stores of Montgomery Ward would hardly seem to be war industries.

The public knows what kind of goods it buys from those mail order and department stores

extension is granted, the taxpayer is subject to an interest charge of 6 per cent per annum on the amount of tax payable, from the original due date until paid.

If returns are filed by mail, they should be mailed in ample time to reach the nearest collector's office under ordinary handling of the mails on or before due date.

houses—garden implements, clothes, practically everything saleable, except war industry products: Yet Attorney General Biddle legalized the seizure by ruling the stores as war industries.

Economic Stabilizer Vinson established exactly the same government position on the Petrillo strike. He publicly denounced the musicians' walkout as impeding the war effort. Mr. Roosevelt thus could have seized a radio station by stretching the law no further than in the Montgomery Ward case.

If he had, Petrillo and his unions would have been subject to penalties, fines and jail for not working. Army officers could have moved in upon Petrillo's office, demanded his books, issued orders to him to send his men back to work. It could operate his union or any other striking union in the same loose way Montgomery Ward is being directed.

What the government needs is not a law, but the desire to act, which has been absent so far.

Some outward signs imply Byrnes was merely allowed to speak his personal mind in expectation that the labor board would block him in congress or otherwise, and the matter shoved down to a plane of endless controversy—without action.

I do not think so. The government had got itself into such an unreasonable and dangerous labor situation, something will have to be done.

Take the Monkey Ward case, as it should be called, because it has without doubt resembled from the beginning a drama in a monkey house more than adult human action.

The real reason the government went in there this time was to give the workers a raise. That is the main physical change dis-

The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. ROGERS

"MY LIFE TO THE DESTROYERS," by Capt. L. A. Abercrombie and Fletcher Pratt (Henry Holt, \$2.75) "Attack on Pearl Harbor: This is no drill"—with that electrifying message delivered to the bridge, this book gets off to an exciting start. It ends with Abercrombie's farewell words, as recorded by naval historian Pratt to destroyer crews: "God bless and guide them, for they are the men who see war at its hardest and of whom one hears the least."

Abercrombie's Drayton sank the U. S. navy's first big Japanese submarine on the day before Christmas, 1941, then doubled the score. She did escort jobs; played a role in the crucial battle of Midway; fought in the Gilberts; helped to wreck the Tokyo express which ran reinforcements down the inter-island slot to Guadalcanal.

When war broke out, both Yanks and Japs learned by doing. With more experience Japan might not have lost that first sub; and this country failed to relieve Wake island's defenders, Abercrombie claims, through ignorance.

The Drayton's career resembled that of most destroyers, the authors say. But she must have been a little different. Her commanding officer won the Navy Cross with two gold stars, though he maintained "there are no one-man heroes aboard warships." He carried symphonic recordings, and some of his men found excuses for hanging around the cabin door when he played them.

There are interesting minor touches: the engineer who took his bicycle around the Pacific lashed to a stack; the prudent crew which gave the captain his present long before Christmas in fear that, by then, they'd all be in Davy Jones' locker; the off-

Kenneth L. Dixon AT THE FRONT! WACs in Italy Have Souvenir to Prove Nearness to Action

By Ruth Cowan (Substituting for Kenneth L. Dixon)

ADVANCED 5TH ARMY HEADQUARTERS, Italy, Dec. 31.—(Delayed)—(AP)—WACs on the job here have a souvenir in their orderly tents that proves they've been under bombardment. It's a four-inch bomb fragment that came slashing into their tent on a recent afternoon when some Jerry planes were over this way.

"I was just putting some wood into the stove," related Cpl. Bertha Audet of Manchester, N.H. "When the bomb fell, I plopped down on the ground, then this piece came singing in... whew!"

Other fragments likewise slit holes in several other tents in the WAC area, but none of the women soldiers was injured.

The story of this small detachment of WACs, mainly employed in communications, could be called: "From a Palace to a Tent!"

After four months in North Africa they landed in Naples on Nov. 15, 1943. For a few months they lived in an Italian palace.

As advanced headquarters moved forward, this group, commanded by Lt. Vivian Watson of Waynetown, Ind., moved with it and into tents.

These tents are pitched, at the moment, high up in the Apennines. Life is a saga of mud when it rains, but now—and it's no military secret to the enemy—it's snow, sleet, fog and bitter cold.

The WACs live four to a tent, and one way to get out of hav-

ernible in the initial action. The management, employes, and business were left (while conforming) substantially the same as before, with the one main difference—the workers got a raise.

But the government's excuse for moving was that a strike there was impeding the war effort, or threatening to. Yet it did not move against strikers. It seized the management. The workers cheered when the government came in.

Thus the government has got itself into a position where it must serve the unions, more than the public. If Monkey Ward had cheated the public on prices, it would be taken to court. But if it "cheats" the union, (not saying it did) the government seizes it.

The unions thus have more power than either the government or the public. They cannot lose. If the WLB decision goes against them, they can do what Petrillo did, hang on until the companies are forced to pay. If they win WLB, the army will enforce the decision.

Even a labor government like this one will not long care to play second fiddle to union leaders. The unions are clearly getting out of its hand and power beyond its legal reach, with a wave of strikes expected by everyone as soon as V-E day.

Therefore I look for Mr. Roosevelt, one way or another, to seek and get more power, or at least more of a legal excuse from congress, to keep the unions in line—his line. He is now a prisoner in theirs.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued From Page 1)

to make sure that a man has had a fair trial and that there has been no subsequent discovery of evidence which might alter the conclusion as to his guilt. For this reason it is proper that there always resides in some authority like the governor the power of commutation or of pardon. But unless there is some showing that the trial has been unfair, the jury influenced by passion or the evidence false, there is no justification in efforts to stay the execution.

In this Folkes case, people cannot forget the singularly atrocious crime which the man committed: murder compounded of lust. His fate was the consequence of his own evil mind and deed.

While it is only natural for close relatives to press claims for clemency, extension of clemency merely for the sake of the relatives is of doubtful virtue. As a general rule they probably will have more peace of mind if the state puts an end to a life of heinous crime. Then, after the first agony of grief, their feelings are assuaged by the fact that they are no longer haunted by the fear of fresh misdeeds of one they loved.

As for society it has seemed to me that if a person shows himself so definitely anti-social as to commit a crime like murder under premeditated intent he has made himself outlaw from society and should be treated as an outlaw, either by execution or confinement in prison. Of those who have gone to the gas chamber in later years it may be said that society has lost nothing in their passing, and may have been spared new crimes.

The Jewish calendar has 383 days; Julius Caesar's, 365 days; Mohometan, 355 days. The Gregorian calendar today is used in all Christian countries except Russia.

★ Diamonds ★ Watches ★ Jewelry Store Hours Starting 1945 WILL BE 9:30 A. M. to 6:00 P. M. Not Open Saturday Nights Stevens & Son

"THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler



©1945 by United Features Syndicate, Inc. "Here, take 'em! -EM just go out in the yard and shake another Bush!"