

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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"Death to the King"

The escape of Gen. Mario Roatta, high-placed fascist who was on trial for war crimes, seems quite in character with pre-war practice in many of the lesser countries. Bribery or influence at the right moment or the right place has often brought release to political offenders. So the Italian people are not boiling over without cause when they riot in Rome to denounce the escape of a hated fascist. Even at this distance his escape seems to have been very neatly arranged.

The demands of the populace for a change of government: "Out with Bonomi, death to the king," reveal the unstable situation in Italy, due in considerable measure to bad handling by American and British generals and politicians. The complications of the armistice whose terms are not yet revealed, the recognition of Marshal Badoglio, the retention of the royal house of Savoy apparently on allied insistence, and Britain's veto of Count Sforza for a seat in the cabinet have created popular distrust. The deficiency of food and necessities of life has accentuated the unrest.

The people want to do a job of getting rid of the useless king and the insipid Crown Prince Umberto who functions as lieutenant general. They want also to get rid of the fascist overlords and underlings who hover around the seats of power still. There is far more of anti-fascist strength among the Italians than there is of anti-Nazi strength in Germany; and the Italian opposition includes many men of capacity. Bonomi himself is a man of recognized integrity, but he may be compromised by the impositions of the allies.

It is most unfortunate that our diplomatic offensive is so much inferior to our military offensive. We have done a poor job in statecraft in North Africa, in Italy and in France. We seem to be holding back the people of Italy from establishing a real democracy. Thus our prestige declines and the fruits of victory slip through our hands.

McKellar on Evans

Senator McKellar of Tennessee is one of the survivors of the (BRIM) stone age in politics. He is a relic of the south which produced Ben Tillman of South Carolina and Jeff Davis of Arkansas, men who could shoot words from the hip designed to slay a man at 20 yards.

Some time ago McKellar paid his respects to Drew Pearson, classifying him as a liar of many varieties. Some days ago in the senate he took on another newspaper man Sillman Evans, publisher of the Nashville Tennessean, whose paper lambasted McKellar and his cronies Boss Crump of Memphis on occasion. In presenting for publication in the Record a letter from Crump to the Tennessean in which Crump hung on the line his native bile against the paper's publisher, editor and reporter, McKellar offered his description of Publisher Evans, in part as follows:

If I were describing Evans, however, I should say that he is a cross between a jumping bottled jerboa and a drunken alley cat with a large admixture of mangy and flea-bitten dog thrown in. If he should die and appear at the gates of Hades, I am quite sure the devil would not admit him if he knew about his foul, filthy, lousy, lying, and corrupt record in the Nashville Tennessean.

All of which must have added to the entertainment if not the enlightenment of the august senate. It is of national interest however to know that the art of personal vituperation has not wholly died out in the country of its richest flowering.

"One Strong Heave"

General Eisenhower and his great generals and armies were unable to destroy the German forces west of the Rhine which was their great objective. They did maul and cut up some German divisions, but evidently Von Rundstedt has succeeded in evacuating most of his troops and their equipment to the east bank. This was skillful withdrawal along strict military lines: posting of strong rearguard forces to hold back the attacker, and then effecting an orderly retreat. From reports weather sided with the

Editorial Comment

VETO

The Yalta compromise on voting power in the international security organization turns out to be a bargain in which it appears Marshal Stalin gave up nothing. He still has the veto on which his delegates at Dumbarton Oaks insisted. Under the terms of the compromise the little countries can talk but that is all it amounts to; action remains as the Russians wanted.

This question remained unsettled at Dumbarton Oaks because the British and Americans insisted that no one of the Big Five should have a veto on action while the Russians were equally set on a veto. After Yalta it was announced that the point had been ironed out by acceptance of a compromise offered by President Roosevelt.

As given out yesterday by the state department the compromise provides that any country will be barred from participating, in the council, in deliberations as to what to do about a charge of aggression brought against it by another nation. But when the decision is made any one of the Big Five has an absolute veto.

This leaves the question how anyone of the Big Five is to be stopped from aggression. Let us suppose a case. We do not want to seize Cuba and are not going to, but suppose we did? Cuba would then ask the international council to restrain the United States and abate the seizure. The council would hear the complaint, with the United States sitting outside, and would vote, let us say, that the aggressor must get out of Cuba. Then with a merry laugh the United States would say, "Veto."

What then could the world peace organization do? Nothing, lawfully; the United States would be within its rights in refusing to obey.

This is serious. The little countries, which have no veto, might be proceeded against and be hampered into line. But not one of the Big Five if it turned aggressor. In their case the sole protection is a mere assumption that no one of them wants to or will commit an act of aggression.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Germans, the thick skies preventing the tactical airforce from lacerating the returning columns. This implies no lack of skill or courage on the part of the allies. The troops drove with power and determination. They simply could not move ahead fast enough to entrap the Germans.

Now the Rhine river has to be crossed, but experts do not regard this as so delaying a task as piercing the Siegfried line. The defenses on the east bank are not nearly so strong and the allies have a long line of riverbank under their control. From this they can surely pick a feasible, if not an easy crossing. Once across the Rhine the final battle for Germany will follow.

Once again the exhaustion of reserves, of men, of equipment, of provisions, of munitions, of morale, will determine the result; and Germany must be running low on all these. Once the Russians are across the Oder line in force and the allies across the Rhine, the final cruncher blows can be driven against the constricting Nazi lines. As Churchill says, "one strong heave" from east and west should conclude the major phase of the fighting.

Correction as to HB 345

In Wednesday's editorial on HB 345 the statement was made that special carriers (log, lumber, gravel and dump trucks) were exempt from the act. This was an error, though it was based on a news report of the debates on the bill in the house. The special carriers will be required to pay the same fees as other commercial highway users, though they will not be required to obtain operating licenses as common or contract or private carriers.

The only exemptions from the fee schedule are farm trucks and city bus lines whose operations are covered by city government. HB 345 is thus a better bill than we thought it was. It should pass the senate, although we understand there are strong pressures against it from certain classes of operators. The object of the bill is to assess against commercial users of highways their fair and just share for use of the roads. The schedules are based on studies made over a period of four years and are as nearly scientific as the engineers and statisticians of the highway department and public utilities department can make them.

One of the best proofs of the accuracy of allied airmen is the fact that the cathedral of Cologne still stands in the desert of destruction that was the heart of that Rhenish metropolis. If the bombardiers could successfully "miss" a target, they surely could register a goodly proportion of hits. The remainder of Cologne proves that, too, for it is a city destroyed as part of the strategic bombing conducted by the allied air force to crush the enemy's power to carry on war.

A tank is coming into production, the T26, which Undersecretary of War Patterson says is the answer to the German Tiger tank. Fine, but an "answer" implies tardiness in invention. We like to keep ahead. In many things we do: radar, bombsight, heavy bombers; but Germans are inventive too: robot bombs, stukas, and heavy tanks. We need to keep in mind that designing of equipment is a constant race, even while the war is in progress.

Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

Despite a news blackout on First Army operations in the Bonn-Cologne sector on the Rhine which may cover an immediate American attempt to force a river crossing, the center of gravity in the European war seemed definitely shifting from west to east again.

That was the implication of a German official announcement that Marshal Zhukov's White Russian army, the cutting edge of the Russian sweep from the Vistula to the Oder, was on the move. It said the Russians, paced by a massive gun barrage, were striking full force at the Kustrin and Zedden east bank redoubts that guard the critical span of the middle Oder 40 and 30 miles respectively from Berlin.

That represents at least a 50-mile-wide assault from a point due east of Berlin to an even closer range attack due northeast at Zedden. It also indicates Russian selection of the most vulnerable sector of the Berlin siege perimeter for the initial effort to breach the Oder line because of the flat lands lying west of the river.

There is no natural obstacle of any consequence beyond the Oder confronting the Russians except a few minor streams and the Steinberg hills, a low cluster lying between Bad Freienwalde and Strausberg. As usual Moscow ignored the Berlin report. It is not apt to say anything of operations there until objectives have been attained and consolidated; but the scene of action as outlined by the Nazis sufficiently indicates what that objective must be. There is ample elbow room west of the middle Oder for establishment of a wide and deep bridgehead from which to launch the final march on Berlin from the east and northeast under more favorable terrain conditions than in an approach from the south-east across the Neisse-Oder line.

With all central and western Pomerania cleared of the Nazi foe, Zhukov has nothing to fear on his right flank. On his left, Ukrainian armies have pulled up abreast of the Oder front along the Neisse and are in position to widen the final attack perimeter three-fold if they have not already struck. And width of assault front is a vital element in Russian tactical deployment. The wider it is the thinner drawn must be the ranks of the dwindling German army to oppose it and the easier the achievement of a breakthrough to Berlin itself.

The very silence of Moscow as to developments on the middle Oder line is significant. With the right flank situation cleared up by close investment of Stettin at the Oder mouth, Moscow turned far to the south for an official report on a Red Army victory. It told of a surge northward in Slovakia at a point 80 miles east of Bratislava and the capture of Banska-Stavnic. The town lies due north of Budapest on a through rail and road connection leading direct through Jablonka Pass to the south side of the Moravian gap through which Russian forces have been slowly edging toward Vienna from the northeast.



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Keep That Link Strong

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, March 7.—(AP)—What is the crafty John Lewis up to? It is plainly discernible from the inside.

He has a bad situation on his hands in a sick industry. Any miner who is enough of a mechanic to change a spare tire has been able to go into the shipyards and earn more money than at the very hard task of mining coal.

Miners, in my opinion, deserve higher wages. But as I say the industry is economically anemic, and the government can not do anything about the general wage level anyway because of the Little Steel Formula.

So, with the industry practically shoved to the sidelines, Mr. Lewis has begun a new rapier match with his onetime political playmate, now personal enemy, Mr. Roosevelt, who will tell the war labor board what to do.

Incidentally I understand the government is already fully prepared to take over the mines April 1 after the threatened strike goes on no more than 24 hours. Having done this once before the operation will be routine with no interference in coal supply and probably no change in conditions or wages of labor. A 30 day supply for industry is probably available if any hitch develops in this performance.

At any rate in the face of this economic predicament, Lewis has come forward with a series of subterfuges and circumlocutions to justify his job of always getting the miners a little more each year or so.

He proposes to get his wage increases by doubling vacation allowances up to as high as \$100, premium allowances, full portal to portal pay and some other similar non-wage extractions.

But his biggest trick is his plan to make the American people—mostly the poor who use coal and cannot get it under specialrate contracts as railroads and industries do—pay his union 10 cents a ton tribute. This idea, he stole from Petrillo, the musical-union czar.

But Petrillo is not the inventor. He is now exacting about two cents on every phonograph

record purchased by the public, and this was the first union leader to collect private excise taxes on a national scale, but the scheme of collecting such tribute for no services whatsoever, originated in some small union contracts years ago.

Lewis, of course, did not invent the sit-down strike either, but he imported it from France and perfected its use in this country, as a sabotaging means of extracting from employers. If he and Petrillo get away with this collection of tribute, it will in my opinion, bring an early doom to existing labor leadership.

There is no basis in common public justice for a union collecting tribute from the people for any purpose. Formerly labor always based its plea for wage increases on an appeal against injustice.

Now Petrillo is collecting his two cents per record, not to lift the worker's wage, but to furnish free musical concerts (he says).

The mine workers would not get a wage increase from the Lewis tribute as he intends, he says, to use the fund for their medical assistance and insurance. Actually Lewis, if not Petrillo, has in the past used such union money to buy elections (his half million dollar advance to Roosevelt in 1938) and he will again.

Their funds are secretly manipulated by them beyond the power of public or worker inspection, although they have no money except that which is paid by the public in prices because the employers (who must file public balance sheets and pay income taxes) have no money except that which the public pays for products.

These men are becoming Little Caesars exacting tribute from the people, including the poor who are great consumers of coal, if not phonograph records. They are growing out of their bounds of union leadership and are trying to make their organizations super-governments to fleece the people with ever-expanding racketeering methods.

Incidentally, another union Caesar, Sidney Hillman, simultaneously is running into difficulties with similar excesses in his latest venture toward a labor alliance with the Russians.

It develops that his proposed world labor league would leave him and his CIO with fewer

votes even than Britain, and the league would be controlled by the 27,000,000 Russian workers (claimed) with the Toledana communist leader crotomfmw communist labor crowd in Mexico (who will vote in the international organization as if he had the 4,000,000 workers claimed although he has actually about one-tenth that much).

The British are already scared and showing signs of running out on Hillman, with whom they originally cooperated.

The recent Detroit and other strikes exhibit excesses in various lines which would take five columns to tell. Some say here the biggest strikes were solely designed to get the government to take over the plants, although no well-run union wants the government messing into its affairs.

In short, behind all the labor news recently has run the undercurrent of further justification for the prediction that the growth of power of unions is declining abruptly in the coming years, solely because too few of its leaders knew how to use its great new power wisely and intelligently in the real interest of both the worker and the public.

The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. Rogers

"WALS I HAVE SEEN," by Gertrude Stein (Random House; \$2.50)

If Gertrude Stein writes it, I like it. Don't ask why. Or, yes, ask if you want to, but understand that it is impossible to crowd into this column all the literary and personal reasons which have piled up over the years.

Some of the reasons are in this book. In the first place there is the author's extraordinary knack for accurate reporting. No one tells such revealing stories about the French, no one quotes them so significantly.

You'll enjoy particularly the farmer who says it isn't Hitler alone, but all Germans: "It is not their leaders who are to blame, they are a people who always choose some one who will lead them in a direction in which they do not want to go, it is their instinct for suicide, the twilight of the gods."

The endless circle of war and peace and war and peace is shown in what might be called the parable of the girl and the chewing gum. Miss Stein warns the child not to swallow the stick, given her by an American soldier, but the child already knew; her mother had told her; some one had told the mother when she, in turn a little girl, had been given her first gum by an American soldier in World war I.

You will respect, too, Miss Stein's utter honesty, as in her debatable opinion about Petain. You will delight in the occasional graphic description, for instance of Miss Stein walking with her white dog in the moonlight, against the rugged backdrop of the Alpine foothills which for years have been the summertime home of Miss Stein and her friend, Alice B. Toklas.

Of course the controversy about Miss Stein is the style. The publisher, who by the way printed this book handsomely, claims it will all be intelligible to children.

The book seems to me to reflect admirably the bruised spirit of a country which, while momentous global decisions are being made, must sit in a corner and wait.

BACKSTOP BILL FAVORED

The senate Wednesday passed a bill (HB 261) by Sen. Coe McKenna, Multnomah county, which would permit the state to borrow funds from the federal government in event of too great a drain on the state unemployment compensation commission trust fund in the war-peace transition period.

Dixon AT THE FRONT!

By Robert Wilson (Substituting for Kenneth L. Dixon.)

ON THE WESTERN FRONT—(F)—Despite flying steel, mud, cold, and rain the frontline can be a wacky place where doughboys give an ox a hotfoot and take German prisoners with a stick of gum, or where a four-footed "Don Quixote" attacks a B-25 propeller.

It was somewhere in Belgium that a farmer's ox slipped on a bridge and snarled up military traffic for miles. All the curs-words in the doughboys' vocabulary failed to get the beast up. Pfc. Frederick S. Amato, former Boston nightclub entertainer from Lawrence, Mass., did it by sticking four matches into the animal's hoof and lighting them.

When Medical Sgt. Robert Arnett—unarmed—jumped into a

foxhole a German thrust a rifle into the Crawfordsville, Ind., man's face. With Hoosier coolness, Arnett pulled out a package of gum and handed the German a stick. The German took it and gave Arnett his gun.

Lt. Harry L. Simmons Jr., of Moundsville, W. Va., did even better with a chocolate bar. When two Germans straggled out of the woods to give themselves up at a battalion command post, Simmons talked briefly with them and one headed back into the woods. He returned with 10 more Germans.

"I just gave that Kraut a chocolate bar, slapped him on the back, and told him to go bring back his friends," Simmons said.

The front is a pretty casual place, too. Pvt. Thomas Oliver of Springfield, Ark., was returning to his command post with a can of drinking water. Noticing a nearby figure, he yelled, "Hey, bud, give me a lift with this can." The answer was a guttural sound and the click of a pistol. Oliver ducked and hurled the can as the Nazi took to his heels.

Lt. Dick Macconnell of Utica, N. Y., ordered his men to dig in when they moved to a new position. Noticing two idlers leaning against a tree, Macconnell said, "I told you guys to dig in." Stepping forward in their German uniforms, the Nazis said in English, "We've been waiting for you all morning. We're your prisoners."

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

without the active participation of the mighty USSR? The other great allies, Britain and the United States, though they have assented to the fifth partition of Poland as a price for Russia's cooperation, could not in good conscience invite the stooge committee that Stalin has propped up in Lublin as a government of Poland.

So no Poles will come to San Francisco, though no people has suffered in such large degree, and no nation has been more united and courageous in its fight against Nazi Germany. Geography spells its fate: a flat expanse of territory between two jealous and mighty nations, plus an almost fatal deficiency in the field of diplomacy.

I wonder though if the ghost of Poland will not be in San Francisco. The soviet delegates, contemptuous of spiritism and flushed with Russia's renaissance nationalism, will see no ghosts, nor want to see them. But will not the ghost of Poland haunt the smaller nations, the ones lying cheek-by-jowl with the great powers, the ones most deeply concerned about a peace that offers them security? Will not the ghost of Poland haunt those whose independence Britain and France joined arms with Germany in 1939, haunt their delegates at San Francisco, in spite of Churchill's labored defense of the Yalta partition?

If so, it would not be the first time that the ghost of Poland has hovered over gatherings of statesmen. Dead and buried though Poland was for a century and a quarter, its spirit still lived, lived in the hearts of 20,000,000 people, and finally came to life in 1918. The announcement that Poland was not invited to attend the meeting at San Francisco highlights the tragedy that has been Poland for nearly 200 years. Crushed by its enemies, forsaken by its friends, perhaps in the unrolling of time Poland may experience another resurrection.

Statutory Measure Back in Committee

The senate sent back to committee Wednesday house bill 346 providing for two statutes of Oregon citizens in statutory hall, after Sen. Frederick S. Lampport, Salem, objected that the measure would prevent a statue of the late Sen. Charles L. McNary from being chosen.

The bills provides that the subject of a statute must have been dead 25 years.

Separate Klamath Dispute Proposed

Sen. Marshall E. Cornett, Klamath Falls, said he would introduce a proposed constitutional amendment to create a 31st senatorial district comprising Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson and Lake counties.

Those counties, plus Klamath, now make up the 17th district. Klamath, under the new proposal, would be the 17th district by itself.

Portland Civic Center Bill to Be Offered

A bill sponsored by the Portland postwar development commission, designed to clear the way for construction of the 32-block Portland civic center and the use of revenue bonds to finance it, will be introduced in the house probably Monday by several members of the Multnomah delegation.

"THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler



"If you'll tell Herby I cooked supper, I'll tell everyone we wear each other's clothes, mom!"

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