

# 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

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## Morse Opposes Service Bill

Sen. Wayne Morse took the floor in opposition to the work-or-jail bill which squeaked through the house with a seven-vote margin Wednesday. Morse declared:

It will be a dangerous day for our representative government in America if the senate ever votes to vest in one man such tremendous power.

He was referring to the authority vested in Director Byrnes of the office of war mobilization and executed through the war manpower commission for placing workers in war jobs and holding them there, which the bill would grant.

There are those who see in this legislation a conditioning of the American people to the yoke of permanent government regimentation. That is the menace which Senator Morse sees. That fear may be exaggerated. We have already vested in the president vast powers, which viewed in the abstract are alarming to friends of popular liberty. But the congress has put definite limits of time for all these wartime grants of authority. Some, like lend-lease, have definite expiration dates, though they have been extended from time to time. Others are limited to the war and six months thereafter. At any rate these powers will terminate; and presumably the war manpower act carries a similar termination date.

Whether the danger foreseen by Senator Morse is false or genuine could only be proven by the lapse of time. The fact is that it is unnecessary to assume the risk. The enactment of the national service bill at this stage of the war cannot be justified on any sound ground. The German phase of the war is moving swiftly toward victory. The goods to sustain the fighting are pouring out of factories. Already there are decreases in the number of workers engaged in war industry due to decline in contracts. War Manpower Commissioner McNutt himself reports a positive betterment in the situation. Conditions are not such as to justify legislation of this character at the present time.

The contention that this is necessary in order to hold up morale of the fighting forces is absurd. With our armies winning sweeping victories in every theatre there appears to be nothing wrong with its morale. At home the people have been pushed around considerably of late to demobilize the joy brigades. It hardly seems necessary to add this measure to the list just to improve morale either at home or abroad.

It looks to the Statesman as though government officials had jumped to the conclusion that a service act was needed back in the time of the December reverse in Belgium, and now are determined to carry the idea through in spite of altered conditions.

There is an odd inconsistency in the attitude of many left-wingers. It occurs in the whole field of the power of the state. Traditionally the democratic idea was the retention of liberty in maximum degree by the people. But the neo-liberals are the ones who keep piling duties on the state and making individuals yield more and more to the state. The inconsistency appears in English political thinking as well as our own. We happened to listen to a transcription of an English forum on the subject of postwar conscription, over KOAC. The conservative member of the dialogue was inclined to favor it; and the socialist member thought it would be a good idea to have everyone working for the state for a period. The conservative seemed to see it as a military necessity; the socialist as a social good. So the socialist though leads to regimentation, which is the very antithesis of our traditional conception of liberty.

That same philosophy seems to affect the thinking on this national service act here. Some favor it because the army and navy say it is needed; others favor it because they think everyone should be working for the government. The latter philosophy is dangerous as Senator Morse points out. And the compelling argument remains that national service is not needed now.

General Eisenhower says that he will make formal announcement when organized German resistance on the western front is broken. From the looks of the headlines we ought soon to say: "Well, what's he waiting for?"

## Editorial Comment

### SEA-GOING AIR BASE

Among naval men the battleship-vs-carrier debate is still warm. And among fliers the old question of whether land-based planes excel carrier-based planes is good for a verbal battle any day. Both debates are likely to be practically influenced by a powerful argument in steel just set afloat at Newport News by the United States navy. The Midway, 45,000-ton "flatop," is twice as large as the carriers which won the battle from which she takes her name and if successful in action may alter several aspects of modern war.

General Doolittle's heroic Tokyo raiders did the "impossible" in getting two-motored bombers off the old Hornet. Who knows but navy pilots will be taking Fortresses off this new sea-going airport? Her runways will be long enough to hurl winged bomb loads far heavier than any projectile fired by guns. The success of American carrier planes against Japan has not finally demolished the theory that land-based craft should be better, but has left it badly in need of reconstruction. Against a floating airfield bigger than many a small town's the landlubber's advantage must taper off.

In the debate with the "battlegoons" the carriers have less concrete evidence. Most opinion holds that carriers and battleships are both necessary, the latter to carry the brunt of attack and maintain heavy firepower. But we have only begun to hear of the firepower that rocket-equipped planes will carry to ranges far beyond the 16-inch gun's. Even a fighter plane armed with eight five-inch rockets packs the same broadside (for one shot) as a light cruiser. Add larger bombs and torpedoes to the offensive power of a Midway's planes, and it looks as if the battleship men will have to launch new counter-arguments.—Christian Science Monitor.

## Sturdy Dutch

While our eyes are following the arrows racing from the Rhine into Germany we forget there is a section of the map omitted from current pictures of the western front. That is The Netherlands. Actually the most of The Netherlands is still occupied by the enemy. The allies have liberated only the southern portion of the kingdom of Queen Wilhelmina. She visited her native land the other day, but still was unable to go to The Hague, to Amsterdam, Rotterdam or Haarlem, great cities of her country.

The sturdy Dutch are still holding out against the invader; of that we may be certain. But they suffer severely. A Salvation Army officer who was interned in Holland in 1940 recently arrived in this country in an exchange of nationals. He reported:

"It is hard to realize that Holland as it is now can be put on its feet again. The condition of the Amsterdam people is more than pitiable. All they can buy are the meagrest of rations; neither clothing nor any of the other commodities of which there used to be abundance in prewar Holland, are to be had. People patch and patch their clothing—and even then there are great difficulties because to find darning cotton or wool is no mean task.

"Many Dutch people tried to get something to eat from the country but the Germans were constantly frustrating them by confiscating what food they had been able to obtain. German guards were posted at strategic crossroads; whenever anyone approached they would search him and take away any foodstuffs he might carry, including a few potatoes for which he had doubtlessly paid a high price."

This spring, rations have been further reduced and the people have only bread and potatoes and little else to live on. There is anxious concern for the early liberation of The Netherlands lest the people suffer permanently from the malnutrition imposed by the "master race," the Germans. The immediate objectives of the British and Canadian forces which operate at the lower end of the line along the Rhine seem to be to get into the Ruhr. The idea is to destroy the German war-making machine there and defeat its armies. The expectation is that if this is accomplished Germany will have to evacuate Holland. So far the Nazi rule has been not to yield ground except under necessity. Thus the Germans still scatter their armies in Italy, Austria, Holland, Denmark and Norway. So it may be that the allies will have to turn north and clean the Nazis out of The Netherlands.

The freeing of the Dutch ought not to be delayed a day longer than necessary. They have been a stalwart bulwark against nazism, and should not be allowed to suffer any longer than can be helped. Nor should we be so greedy of ample food supplies that we withhold foods that are so desperately needed by the people of The Netherlands.

Over at Corvallis an Easter egg hunt is scheduled for next Sunday. All week there will be a nation-wide hunt for Easter ham.

## Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

Despite a tactical security news blackout virtually all along the flaming west front in Germany the broad pattern of the Allied attack is beginning to take shape.

It could be seen clearly in consolidation of the American First, Third and Seventh army sectors beyond the Rhine into a single huge knife, cutting its way into the heart of the great central German plain. It can be discerned, too, now in the swift development of an encirclement threat to the whole congested Ruhr area and the difficult terrain south of it where stiffest Nazi resistance has been met.

The news blackout on the First army front was raised sufficiently to disclose that its tank columns had wheeled suddenly northward above the Lahn to leap 40 miles or more toward a junction with Field Marshall Montgomery's armies slashing eastward over the Westphalian plains. While the exact whereabouts of Montgomery's most advanced elements was unrevealed, field reports pictured them running wild in the open country around Munster. It seemed certain that Montgomery's armor was swinging southward also and that the actual gap between the First army in the south and British-American tank forces in the north was less than 70 miles.

A junction would cut off the whole Ruhr. It might completely trap many thousands of Nazi troops still deployed in that vast industrial community of overlapping, stone-built factory cities. Their encirclement probably would leave exposed a wide and virtually unmanipulated gap along the canal connected Ems-Weser river line.

The northward wheel of the First army tends to verify the impression that frontal attack on the great Ruhr industrial hub was never contemplated in original Allied plans. Defended even by secondary troops, it represented another Aachen or Casino on an heroic scale and the casualty cost of clearing the foe out of those miles upon miles of naturally strong defense positions must have been very great.

Instead the Ruhr valley has been by-passed both north and south. Now it is in immediate danger of being pinched off in a matter of days if not hours with minimum losses. Entrapment of so large a Nazi garrison as is apparently still clinging to the Ruhr salient could be the final knock-out blow in the west.

Just ahead of the First army lies a stem of the Coblenz-Leipzig super military highway. It leads to a junction with the main Ruhr-Berlin autobahn just south of Hamm, less than 50 miles distant from the last officially reported First army spearhead at Langwiesche. That would be a two-day march for General Hodges' armor at the pace it is moving against indicated feeble Nazi resistance.

Whatever the geographical layout of the Allied attack, however, its prime objective is entrapment and destruction of enemy troops in the field. The fast closing Ruhr pocket bids fair to yield an even greater toll of Nazi prisoners and casualties than did the swift clean up in the Saarland and Palatinat west of the Rhine. That cleanup paved the way for the mass victory drive into the heart of Germany.



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## First Man on the Line

## News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON  
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WASHINGTON, March 29—The manpower matter did not come out in final form from the congressional negotiators exactly as expected.

The labor draft was defeated and buried, true enough. Mr. Roosevelt's recommended course was lost. But in its place, a new program was devised which is popularly advertised as a labor freeze.

The title is not exactly accurate. It would freeze all labor—excepting strikers, the ones whose labor is apt to matter most in war production, (according to the bill's sponsors who should know.)

They proudly and officially proclaimed that exemption in both houses of congress. They say strikers do not terminate their employment, at least not legally, and therefore are beyond freezing.

You would think then that the union leaders would be cheering. They are not. AFL's Green calls it "a slave bill," and CIO is also against it, as well as the Manufacturers association and the chamber of commerce (according to a house member who polled them all.)

What the bill actually proposes is to give War Mobilizer Byrnes authority to freeze men in certain areas (not defined) under penalty of jail for a year or \$10,000 fine and to do certain other things, but to bill itself neglects to say union strikers are exempt.

Hence Byrnes might not agree with the advocates of the program in congress and might try to use the legislation to freeze workers against strikes—in which case a court would have to decide, after the strike is over, no doubt.

But Byrnes can and probably will delegate the authority to Manpowerer McNutt who might have other ideas.

Thus the most important angle of the legislation is still undecided. If strikes are exempt, then the government could look pretty silly putting one man in jail for a year somewhere for quitting his job, and letting thousands of men strike beyond the penalties of the bill, and restrained only by other govern-

ment action, if any (war labor board, plant seizure, etc.)

In short the measure merely hands Mr. Byrnes a lot of strong-sounding but not very clear powers. It furthermore tells him to handle them for the following purpose:

(Section 2A): "In order adequately to support the army and maintain the navy during the present war and to carry into effect the purposes of the declaration of war pledging all the resources of the nation to bring the conflict to a successful termination, every individual not in the armed forces shall have an obligation, when called upon, to serve the nation in an activity essential to the war effort."

But the bill does not do that. The powers do not fit that purpose. It does not propose to draft anyone or in anyway rally new workers.

It does give Byrnes power to regulate hiring, rehiring, solicitation and recruitment of labor by employers. He can also put a ceiling on any plant out of business or put it on a small scale or large scale business. Yet he cannot enforce the obligation to serve "on every individual."

How this new program happened to spring up is a secret of the congressional conferees who have done little talking. Only two opposed it, (Dewey Short, the Missouri republican in the house, and Joseph O'Mahoney, the Wyoming democratic senator, both of whom thought it un-democratic.)

My information is that the guiding sponsor of it on the inside was Sen. Warren Austin, the Vermont republican who favors much more—a labor draft. I think he got his main inspiration from the army.

The army has favored a youth draft (for peacetime military trainings) as well as labor draft for war and has the draft solution in mind for practically every problem—or as much draft as possible.

Congress overwhelmingly rejected the notion, so it put the draft ideal into this "freezing-in-certain-areas-except-striker-or-is-it" bill. No doubt it expects the ideal to be implemented later.

This explains the confusion still existing in this latest program as to exactly what should be done. It was an effort to compromise two opposing ideals, and the result could not be otherwise.

## IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

(Continued from page 1) falls into enemy hands, just as Hitler's autobahnen are for Germany now. This fact was a matter of grave concern in Oregon in the early stages of the war. It was realized that our numerous paved highways leading to the coast would be most convenient for Japs to use in advancing inland if they should effect landings on the coast. It may be disclosed now that very careful plans were laid for denying to the enemy the use of these roads, and fortunately the country through which they passed was such that this could have been accomplished without too great difficulty.

Engineers of the highway department studied each highway. They had locations set for blasting off cliffs in narrow portions of canyons and for blowing up bridges. Experienced woodsmen were also enrolled in the state guard with the special duty of falling trees across roadways. All this was designed to slow up enemy progress until our own armies could reach the valley for counter-attack. The scheme was carefully worked out with the approval of army officers responsible for coastal defense.

Fortunately it was never necessary to pull the defense plan out of the files; but it should be kept up and reviewed from time to time as part of our defense policy.

In construction of future highway the military phase should not be overlooked. Such roads should be designed with a few to their use by our own forces and so they might be rendered useless to an enemy if in his possession. Hitler's experience shows the need for considering the dual problem of roads in war-time.

## Flashes of Life

ROCKVILLE CENTER, N. Y.—(AP)—The family of Allan J. Cameron was startled by a loud howl thud.

Cameron, thinking a boiler had exploded, dashed to the cellar. Nothing seemed amiss. Running upstairs, he looked out of a front window and saw an inflated, fully equipped life raft in the middle of the front yard.

Six of the neighborhood children were already in it. Army officials at Mitchell field retrieved the raft, explaining it was jettisoned by an airplane.

SAN FRANCISCO—(AP)—Municipal Judge Edward Molkenburr fined a cab driver \$50 for refusing to take a fare where he wanted to go, closed his desk, stepped from his office and hailed a cab to go home.

"Sorry," said the driver, "can't go that far." The judge wrote down his number.

GRAND COULEE, Wash.—(AP)—An expert looked over the Grand Coulee dam. He was a beaver.

Captured in the main powerhouse, the eager beaver was tossed back into the lake and when last seen was paddling rapidly away, probably full of new ideas about dams.

LUZON, P. I., March 27.—(AP)—Returning to an advance command post after a desperate night Japanese banzai charge had been repulsed, Sgt. Bernard J. McEvoy, former West Orange, N. J., milkwagon driver, and a colonel, were hailed by the driver of another vehicle.

"Hey Mac, what are you doing with that hot cargo?" A hasty inspection showed four sticks of Japanese dynamite—

Kenneth L. Dixon  
**Dixon**  
AT THE FRONT!

Yank GI Has Tooth  
Shot Out But Won't  
Get Purple Heart

By Robert Wilson  
(Substituting for Kenneth L. Dixon)

ON THE WESTERN FRONT—(AP)—The latest humor harvest along the western front turns up a GI who lost a tooth to enemy action—but didn't get a Purple Heart—an MP whose pocket was picked by a Nazi prisoner, and a tanker who put all his eggs in one basket.

Mrs. Ida Mae Kelly's son, who left home at Holt, Mich., to become a private first class in the 10th armored division, is out in front of the 1945 hardluck GI derby. German shrapnel knocked out one of his teeth. The medics informed him he was ineligible for a Purple Heart because the tooth was false.

What happens to policemen in old jokes actually happened to Sgt. William Fox of Ridgewood, L. I., who was frisking a group of captured Germans. Brother MP's called him into the office and handed him his wallet, right out of the pocket of a slippery fingered Nazi in the prisoner cage.

Sgt. William Shake of West Terre Haute, Ind., was getting breakfast when the call came to arms. He put a dozen eggs in a basket, but the basket on the back of his tank, rumbled 25

miles across Germany and fired 60 rounds at fleeing German tanks. Then he stopped to resume getting breakfast. Not an egg was broken.

Two treasure hunting PFC's of the Eighth division spotted a heavy iron safe in a pile of rubble. Licking their lips in anticipation, Mario Chirico, Detroit, Mich., and PFC Kaden (no first name given), Elizabeth, N. J., attacked it for an hour with hammers, axes and crowbars.

Inside the safe they found 12 neatly stacked packages of K rations.

The 30th infantry division boys thought they had nabbed a Nazi general, he was decked out in such highly polished gold and glittering braid. But grilling by Capt. Roy Avis, Council Bluffs, Iowa, unmasked him as a railroad station train caller overrun in a German retreat.

It may not be funny to Paris bartenders, but Brussels soon is to become the largest rest center in the European theatre with the formation of the Belgian leave section commanded by Lt. Col. Frederick Kraschel, Harlan, Ia.

One of the attractions is a mammoth dancehall where a bar, commanded by Lt. Victor Spence, Detroit, Mich., dispenses beer, soft drinks and ice cream—with chocolate sauce.

fused—stuck in the radiator of McEvoy's jeep.

CHATTANOOGA, March 28.—(AP)—W. W. McGhee, Chattanooga timberman figures he was stung—literally—for \$10,000.

In a circuit court suit he asked that amount of a railroad, claiming he suffered permanent injuries from more than 100 stings by bees which escaped while in shipment.

## The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. Rogers

"VICTORIA THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS: THE LIFE OF LEWIS CARROLL," by Florence Becker Lennon (Simon & Schuster; \$3.50).

Alice "tried to fancy what the flame of a candle is like after it is blown out." With this rash quotation which in effect acknowledges that the task she has set for herself is impossible, Mrs. Lennon begins her last chapter.

But if Alice, to conclude the quotation, "could not remember ever having seen such a thing," she—and Lewis Carroll—should be with us today, for in this book we see the flame flare again as much as it's ever likely to.

C. L. Dodgson was a man of many facets, all of them oddities which indubitably added up to genius. He was reverend, artist, photographer, writer, mathematician, lover of little girls, and he was Lewis Carroll. He used cardboard mats to save table linen; he kept his means so he wouldn't repeat; he made tea by swinging the kettle in a 10-minute walk up and down his room; he entertained young guests with a kind of Rube Goldberg—Sandy Calder gadget.

Thought there are an occasional sophistication and polish which do not precisely match the simplicity of the strangely naive Victorian, this book interprets sensitively and imaginatively the author of "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland." The biographer introduces Ellen Terry, Gilbert and Sullivan, Tenniel, a pair of Alice's. She notes the left-handedness that inspires a stanza about the White Knight, Dodgson's birth in the Cheshire of the Cheshire Cat, the learning by rote which sets Alice wrong on what is the capital of what.

This is relevant profound observation. If it doesn't carry us quite to the tum-tum tree, or lift us to the rare level of utish thought, that must be blamed on the recalcitrant Carroll, not on Mrs. Lennon.

"FIRST WHISPERS OF THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS," with introduction by Elizabeth Grahame (Lippincott; \$1.50).

Now almost 40 years old, "The Wind in the Willows," which was the pet of many readers, including the Roosevelts, the other Roosevelts, is traced back to its sources: home, farm and family of the English writer.

The author's widow recalls that the animal's adventures were told first in letters to Grahame's son. Her book, a loving tribute, includes some previously unpublished Grahame pages.

China Seen As Postwar Market  
The Chinese empire is a nation of many divisions but is not a nation "divided against itself," Prof. R. T. Johnson, head of the animal industries department of Oregon State college, told members of the Salem Lions club at their noon meeting Thursday in Hotel Marion.

"Passing from province to province in China is not like passing from state to state in this country," Professor Johnson said, "because each province has its own

## "THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler



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**STEVENS**

THE JEWEL OF EVERLASTING BEAUTY AND LOVELINESS.

Choose and wear it proudly. The birthstone for April.

**STEVENS SON**  
JEWELRY