The Oregon Statesman

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"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Churchill Campaigning

The British take their politics seriously. Political campaigning there is far more rough and tumble than it is in America.

Prime Minister Churchill, though past 70, is not resting on his laurels, making front porch speeches at No. 10 Downing street. He is out on the hustings, battling as though he were in his first race for parliament.

We rather think the old boy likes it. He was never one to run from a fight, whether in the field, in the commons or in the cabinet. And the people seem to treat him like any other candidate, applauding or booing as the spirit moves them.

While Churchill stands in his own district, he is carrying the campaign through England and Scotland vigorously, calling for a "great majority." He has 50 speeches scheduled in a four-day tour of Scotland. He travels by open car, speaks in the cities and villages. The news report says he was "cheered, booed, handclasped and heckled."

Churchill has squared off toe-to-toe with the labor party whose program he calls rank socialism. He ridicules labor's "far-off dreams and utopianism." He draws hecklers, after the English manner, where name-calling and invective are part of the stock-in-trade at political rallies.

General prediction is that Churchill will win. After all, Britain can't turn down the man whose resolution and appeal strengthened the people in their darkest hour. And in spite of his objurgations heaped on the socialists, his government will probably extend its paternalism only a few steps behind the pace-setting laborites.

Death Without Fear, Regret

The bodies of Lt. Gen. Hitsuru Ushijima, commander on Okinawa, and of his chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Isamo Cho, have been found. They had followed Japanese convention and committed hara kiri. Found with General Cho's body was a white silk mattress on which he had written: "I depart without regret, fear, shame or obligation."

Whatever the Jap philosophy is, it must have some substance to enable a man to terminate his own life with such calm confidence. How many Christians on the eve of death from natural causes can speak with as great self-assurance?

In Germany the allies fought a political ideology; in the Pacific they fight a religious philosophy which is far tougher than fascism. When the normal instincts of self-preservation are suppressed by the compensating glory of martyrdom for the emperor, victory comes only after executing the enemy, as we have found everywhere in the Pacific. If that must be done can we not find some quicker way of accomodating the Japs? Poison gas might serve. It seems more humane than use of flamethrowers.

A coupons are worth 50 per cent more than they have been. A single coupon with the number 16 on it entitles the car owner to six gallons of gasoline against the former four. The increase comes at the time of year when it will be most enjoyed. Many a family now can get in a trip to the beach or the mountains. With more gasoline will come more car-miles of travel, and more chances of accident. Mix caution with your gas, particularly over the period of July 4.

Postal employes can throw a clambake now, if they can get the clams. They have had the first salary increase in their base pay since 1925. Almost without exception postal employes have standards of loyal service rarely equaled, and the public they serve are generally gratified that their requests for more adequate compensation have at last been granted by congress.

GI phone calls from London were far more than facilities could handle over the weekend. Three thousand soldiers wanted to talk home at $12 apiece—probably 90 per cent of them collect with the reversed charges gladly accepted.

From the Liberty street lineup you would think the cigaret tax had really carried.

Editorial Comment

TRUMAN'S FINANCIAL PROBLEM

It is something of a shock to hear that the president of the richest nation in the world is having some trouble living on his salary, like any Joe Doaks or John Doe.

Time was when the president was the only person in our government who could get rich on his salary. Woodrow Wilson was said to have saved $400,000 the eight years he was in the White House, economic Calvin Coolidge saved a lot of money. Hoover and Roosevelt were wealthy, so it made no difference to them.

Truman, however, has scant private means. He went broke in the clothing business after World War I and though not legally bound he kept paying on those debts and finished only after he became vice president. He has to live on his salary.

Well, isn't that $75,000 plus a lot of free services and a $30,000 expense account? Seems like it ought to be ample. The "hitch" is the income tax, which with his family exemptions will leave him $28,600. Then the Missouri state income tax will take a drag out of that.

The new president and his wife have already reduced the White House servant staff from 29 to 20 and Mrs. Truman has constituted herself a watchdog of the treasury so far as White House expenses are concerned, the first time since Coolidge's day the august mansion has had or needed one.

Of course the president must keep up appearances. Economy can go only so far. It looks like congress had better vote the head man a little more money. The $75,000 salary would be ample if he got most of it, but he doesn't, and won't for some years. And he has a living standard that must be maintained, even though he and his wife would doubtless be glad to dispense with a lot of it.—Baker Democrat Herald.

Leopold to Quit

King Leopold has been having a hard time to get back his throne in Belgium. He has been tarrying in Salzburg, after his release from German custody, under the excuse of recuperating from effects of his captivity. Those who have seen him say he looks fit. The fact is that the real reason for his failure to return to Belgium is local opposition to his resuming the throne.

Leopold has been under a cloud since his army capitulated to the Germans abruptly in 1940. At first the stunned allies, France and Britain, were sharply critical of the Belgian monarch for not staying in the fight or not giving notice to the allies of his intentions. Further investigation, however, indicated that he had kept the allies informed of the plight of his armies and their inability to withstand the German blitz; and history probably will absolve him from being guilty of cowardice or defection. Nevertheless, the early criticism lingers in the public mind.

There is one other complaint against the Belgian king and that is his marriage to a commoner. His queen, Astrid of Sweden, it is recalled, lost her life in an automobile accident. The king was disconsolate for quite some time, but during the war married one not of royal blood. That meets with objection in court circles.

But the real opposition to Leopold's return stems from the radicals, the socialists, the communists, who do not want him back. Since these elements are now strong in Belgium the king is unable to constitute a cabinet without them, and their refusal to participate seems to leave him no alternative than to abdicate. Royalty exists today only with assent of the people.

Rosson Heads Department

Hugh Rosson has shown capacity as an organizer in many positions in Oregon and without doubt will again demonstrate real ability as director of the veterans' department of the state. It will be his task to organize the new department designed to give assistance in a variety of ways to war veterans. In an office like this much depends on the energy and intelligence of the director. A lazy or indifferent man would draw his salary and rot on the job. Rosson is not that type. He will work unremittingly to do for veterans the job needing to be done. Not to be overlooked is the further fact that Rosson's experience as political manager in Oregon and his wide acquaintance makes him an asset in the Snell administration.

Lord Haw Haw, accused of treason against Britain, will try to escape on the ground he was born in America. The English will probably give him the "haw haw" on that. No one ever noted that he talked like an American.

Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON
Associated Press War Analyst

Capping General Marshall's recent nomination of Russia's role as the great "imponderable" of the war with Japan, President Truman's repeated references to that conflict in his address to the United Nations conference in San Francisco invite attention.

They were certainly not made inadvertently. Probably no Truman remarks since he became president were more fully canvassed in advance by his advisers. The importance of the occasion would justify that. Nor could Mr. Truman and his advisers conceivably have forgotten that Russia, not at war with Japan, was a major factor in the San Francisco proceedings.

Yet here are three separate exceprts from that presidential speech:

"History will honor you (the conference delegates for it (the world charter). Between the victory in Europe and the final victory in Japan, in this most destructive of all wars, you have won a victory against war itself."

Some paragraphs later:

"We (the United Nations) have tested the principle of cooperation in this war and found that it works. Through the pooling of resources, through joint and combined military command, through constant staff meetings, we have shown what united strength can do in war. That united strength forced Germany to surrender. United strength will force Japan to surrender."

Still again, later:

"But I know I speak for every one of you when I say that the United Nations will remain united. They will not be divided by propaganda either before the Japanese surrender or after."

That Truman language and the contest from which it was taken is open to the possible interpretation that he regarded the United Nations fellowship represented at San Francisco and including Russia as much aimed against Japan as it was again fallen Italy and Germany. There is no record that such an inference drew any protest from Russian sources here or in Moscow, and that fact must add to Japanese unease in Manchuria, prime terrain for tank warfare, at which Russians armies excelled in the march from Stalingrad to Berlin.

Whatever the real significance of Mr. Truman's repeated references to the war with Japan, it was unquestionably a departure from the custom that had previously kept top-flight discussions of strategy against Germany and Japan in completely separated compartments. President Roosevelt's first meeting with Marshal Stalin and Prime Minister Churchill at Tehran followed his session with Churchill and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek at Cairo. That was because of Russian non-participation in the war against Japan. If that war was touched upon by Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin at their victory-in-Europe session in Yalta, it has never been publicy disclosed.

Yet on the eve of his first meeting with his British and Russian fellows of the "big three," President Truman made no attempt to exclude references to the Pacific war from a speech before a United Nations gathering which included Russia. Just what that signifies time alone will tell but it cannot fail to add to the rising aprehension in bomb-blasted Tokyo.

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Fighting Words

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued From Page 1)

they "fog" the mind of the reader.

The third test is the human interest factor. People are interested in people; and news stories about people seem to get wide reading. Ditto on dogs or other animals.

So the news service prods its reporters to aim at "shorter sentences, fewer unfamiliar or complex words, and more human interest."

Like all statistics dealing with the mass, the results seem discouraging. Those interested in physical well-being drag out the number of rejections by the army. Those interested in mental health point to the increasing number who have to be hospitalized for mental illness. Those who worry over divorce or juvenile delinquency can blow you over with alarming statistics. So it ought not to be surprising if the reading age of the masses runs from six to nine. Addicts of funnies and comics do not seem to rate above the kindergarten age.

I do not go much on writing by tape measure. If a reporter uses clear, clean English his meaning will get across. To use a hack-saw every 18 words makes for monotony; and sometimes there are ideas that must be reported which cannot be done in words of one syllable. It dulls one's style if he has to keep in mind the necessity of diluting his writing to a given, low-age level. In fact, if newspapers and periodicals are valuable for popular education they ought to prod the minds of readers to some measure of intellectual effort.

The reporter must adapt his style to his general medium, to be sure; but to my mind dullness is a worse vice in writing than tailoring words and sentences to fit a rule.

MIAMI, Fla.—(AP)—It's hard to believe that any more bottlenecks are needed in the United States—but Pan American airways can prove we're importing the things. "Cargo contents: Two bottlenecks: weight, one-quarter of a pound; value, $2.10," read the way-bill on a parcel air-expressed by clipper from Kingston, Jamaica.

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON
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WASHINGTON, June 26 — A Boston reader wrote me asking what is this thing called communism and why should it not dominate Europe.

The Russians seem to be fairly agreeable peasant people. As General Eisenhower said, they like to laugh and enjoy life. They are not a warlike people.

Paul Mallon

Yet their government comes at you with the grimmest manner ever known to man, from a hole so deeply walled with censorship that it will never let escape a single verifiable statistic about itself, or even a sincere convincing statement of its purpose.

What is this thing with which we are faced? What does it want?

This raises the prime question of the world today, for it is the question behind war or peace, behind the strength or weakness of the San Francisco peace formula, behind prosperity and world trade, world politics—everything that is ahead of us economically, politically and spiritually.

If we are going to live in peace with this new world force, we must know it and handle it. What is it? Is it something to fear? To war against? To appease?

We cannot agree upon these answers until we can agree on what it is. We cannot handle it until we understand it.

An agreeable answer is therefore worth searching for, no matter how long, how much thought or how many columns it may eventually take.

The first penetrating glance at the Russian system will tell you it is not communism. It is not what it calls itself, because it practices the communal ownership and operation theory only on its farms.

In industry, where its government has always made greatest efforts, it follows a kind of socialism, but with "rents and profits" which are repugnant to socialism. So, it is not socialism.

Norman Thomas will be the first to tell you that. The American socialist is the bitterest enemy of the Russian system, although the official title of Russia is "The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics."

Apparently there are all kinds of socialism, including the late Hitler kind. The word nazi is derived from the German title of Hitler's national socialist party. Thus we have Russian, German and American socialism, the most implacable foes of each other, all swearing death against each other. This being so, what is it?

The Russians called the German socialism "fascism," and we have accepted that term, but is it correct? Fascism, in theory, is a government by classes working together. The name was derived from the Italian word "fasces," denoting a handful of sticks held together.

This was the insignia of fascism. It symbolized the gathering together of the various class groups into a supposedly legislative (cabinet) assembly—one representative for the auto industry, one for auto labor, one for the farm, one for the manufacture of farm implements, etc.

Whereas we elected our congressmen to represent geographical districts containing all classes of people, the fascist theory advocated a national representative setup on class lines.

It was Mussolini who instituted this at first in Italy. It did not work. He took it over as dictator on a per diem theory basis. The parliament and councils tended to become a nonentity in a nation where terrorism restricted politics to one party of which there was one leader, and the individual was made the slave of the state.

These indisputable facts suggest our thinking even on this subject has been warped by semantics. There are all kinds of dictatorships around the world. Russia calls all except her own, fascist. This is no more accurate than to call Russia "communist."

Hitler borrowed methods from Mussolini, but not the fascist system. Indeed Hitler had a reichstag (parliament) elected by districts, but he, too, allowed only one party to exist by force, power, terrorism.

Now both Mussolini and Hitler created their systems in opposition to an older political movement in Europe, using all the same methods, but still another form of "cell" representation under a dictatorship — variously called communism, bolshevism and Marxism.

The theory of a dictatorship of the proletariat was conceived out of the German philosopher Marx to overthrow capitalism. The Marx theory was negative and, like most philosophies, broad enough to encourage anything going its anti-capitalist way. The bolshevists favored immediate revolution for overthrow of capitalism and Lenin wrote the communal dogma, compromising the Marx bolshevism, and Stalin has compromised it further.

But the methods of secret police, absolute discipline upon the individual, no free election choices, subjection of the individual to the will of the state, purges, and singleheaded dictatorship were originated by the self-styled "communists," and taken up and imitated with equal or greater violence by Mussolini and Hitler, on the plea of suppressing communism.

I suppose you might losely call the Russian system "Marxian bolshevism," but this would be true only to the extent to which you might say "Moses Christian" to describe Moses as a forerunner of Christ.

Indeed, your justification would be less, because Russia has profits, interest and rents, which Marx described as the horrible habiliments of capitalism.

The Russian system, therefore, is something new—without a written ideology. It is an improvisation, without fixed principles. It is a negation of all existing priciples outside of Russia, but it has no affirmative doctrine, except that it control, and its control be despotic.

I would say the most accurate name for it would be the despotism of the proletariat, which is the sole distinction it enjoys from other despotism carried on by other political parties and contrary groups of politicians in other countries.

I will continue the search for accurate understanding as to exactly what is this thing with which we are faced, or think we are threatened in subsequent columns from time to time in hopes of establishing a sound theory for working with it, or alongside it, in peace.

GRIN AND BEAR IT — By Lichty

"I merely asked him to write a simple ad combining the idea of the returning soldier, sweetheart, a vine covered cottage, mother, and Snodgrass Horseradish!"

Kenneth L. Dixon ...AT THE FRONT!

There's No Front Now to Escape From "Disease"

IN OCCUPIED GERMANY—(AP)—One of the worse contagions to sweep a military area now is inexorably closing in on American troops in Germany. It is called "occupational discipline," and is a similar disease to what once was known as "rear area chicken pox," while battle still raged on the western front.

The only difference was that in those days a doughboy could escape its ravages by returning to the front—and you would be surprised how many did just that.

Now, however, there is no escape. Since there is no front and no rear to this occupational business, all troops must suffer the same emphasis on discipline. Regardless of where they are, they are expected to spruce up, keep their blouses or field jackets properly buttoned or zipped up, and so forth.

High ranking military men say it is necessary especially in the case of somewhat idle troops, in order to keep them from turning into a disorganized, undisciplined mass. And it may be they're right. However, it's just another irritation to the average ex-combat officer and enlisted man.

All of which led to the story about a young infantry lieutenant who eventually got tired of answering by endorsement about his men. Finally - - so the story goes - - this platoon leader sat down one afternoon and answered his most recent notification of his soldier's wrongdoing with a mean gleam in his eye.

The soldier's crime had been speeding, so no one thought much about it until the lieutenant's immediate superior was called to the phone. A few minutes later he came storming to the lieutenant's desk.

"Lieutenant," he snapped frostily, "precisely what punishment did you tell the provost marshal had been meted out to Private Jones?"

"Oh, that," said the lieutenant. "Well, sir, it seemed they were never satisfied with anything I do, so I simply acknowledged receipt of Jones' ticket for speeding and said we'd had him shot."

The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. Rogers

"A DURABLE FIRE," by Dorothy James Roberts (MacMillan; $2.75).

First we had Miss Roberts' "Man of Malice Landing" and now we have a woman from the same Ohio river town, but you'll be delighted with the woman.

Her name is Glee Vanny . . . Glee for Gloria, definitely not for glee. We meet her when she's born and follow her thru her first love affair.

She's a problem child, or perhaps it should be put the other way around: she's a sensible and intelligent child in a problem society; Miss Roberts is tackling the fundamental question of the relation of the individual to his community. Glee's mother is an amiable fuddy-duddy, her father has the brains, and it is from him that she inherits her admirable independence and her need for something more out of life than dances, bridge, teas and pretty frocks.

Somewhere along in the story of this girl's exciting, troubled and often unhappy growth, the idea behind it all loses its momentum; if I may twist the title out of its proper meaning, the fire is not durable.

But where fire does burn, it's bright and hot. The opening chapters are fascinating. You will be deeply moved, also, by Glee's acceptance of love and rejection of marriage, and you'll hope that, by now, with the first affair out of the way, she's well along in the second.

It's a novel I like, but more than that, one I respect. The publisher correctly calls it "sincere and serious" which is more than can be said for most of our fiction.

"TALES OF THE GOLD RUSH," by Bret Hart (Heritage Press).

Here is a collector's item, bound in cream-and-brown, boxed, illustrated handsomely by Fletcher Martin and with an introduction by Oscar Lewis. The volume contains 13 stories, of which the best known are probably "The Luck of Roaring Camp" and "The Outcasts of Poker Flat."

Red Cross and YMCA Lauded By Veteran

Red Cross packages and YMCA sports equipment cannot be given too much credit for their part in keeping war prisoners in German camps alive, Second Lt. Raymond Steinke of the 36th infantry division told the Hollywood Lions club at its Wednesday luncheon meeting.

Steinke, home on a 60-day leave, told of his own experiences as a war prisoner. In chronological order he related the story of the landing at Salerno, his capture and transportation to areas behind the lines, telling of his treatment at various camps.

Motor transportation was badly disrupted, he said, and prisoners were shipped in 40 & 8 cattle cars with little or no food to a processing camp outside Munich. Steinke was then sent to an officer's camp in Poland. German rations of grass soup and black bread given the men when Red Cross packages did not arrive weren't fattening and many of the men lost as much as 20 to 25 pounds each, he said.

Just before the Russians arrived at the camp in Poland, the prisoners were moved to a camp near Berlin, where food and treatment were poor. Russian prisoners received the worst treatment from the Germans, Steinke declared.

On April 21 the German guards were gone and the prisoners were given top priority for transportation home. Even had the Pacific northwest not been "home" to him, it would still be easy to rate it as more beautiful than any part of Europe, the speaker said.

M. Steinbock To Appear on Fraud Charge

PORTLAND, June 27—(AP)—Mike Steinbock, Salem, will appear in federal court here on a charge of making false statements in obtaining permission to build Leonard's Supper club in the capital city.

Steinbock was charged in a federal grand jury indictment with telling the war production board that his establisment's chief purpose was to provide hot lunches for war workers—but constructing instead a club whose opening drew dozens of state legislators last January.

Lumber used for building was better than the grade specified in Steinbock's application, the indictment asserted, and the construction cost almost three times as much as the $5000 estimate given the WPB.

Arrested Monday, Steinbock posted $1000 bail. He was formally charged with violating the WPB conservation order.

Lethal Coektail Called 'Smoke' Kills 4 Men

SEATTLE, June 27—(AP)—Lethal cocktail made with wood alcohol, methyl acetate, kerosene and Ethyl alcohol and known as "smoke" has killed four men, possibly blinded a fifth and made others seriously ill, Dectective Captain James Lawrence said today.

The captain, head of the police department's homicide division, said five men were held on open charges in connection with the case after a raid on a hotel subbasement where the mixture was being manufactured.