

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sweeps Us; No Fear Shall Awe"  
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## Handy Andy Vinson

Fred Vinson has been a Handy Andy in the government for many years. So many times has he been shifted one might judge him as jack-of-all-trades and master-of-none. Within the space of a few years he has been congressman from Kentucky, federal judge, director of war stabilization, head of RFC, director of war mobilization. Now he has been chosen to succeed Henry Morgenthau as secretary of the treasury. President Truman has picked Roosevelt's ex-handly man for the highly important job of guiding the country's finances through the war and postwar period.

Roosevelt had the habit of playing his favorites, sometimes not very successfully. He shifted his men around from job to job like pawns on a chessboard. Old faces and names were continually bobbing up in new spots. Vinson, however, is rated much higher than a court favorite. And for the new assignment he is given credit for having special qualifications.

Vinson cut his eye-teeth on taxation as chairman of the subcommittee on taxation of the house ways and means committee. This is where tax bills originate or come to life and where legislation is finally whipped into shape. Vinson had generous experience there. This gives him special equipment for the treasury portfolio because the nation's finance and economy depend largely on our taxing system. Morgenthau's management of war financing has been reasonably satisfactory, but he never did succeed in getting on well with congressional committees. His recommendations usually were tossed out the window and he was a forlorn figure in his appearance before committees of congress. Vinson, an old hand as congressman, will have a better approach to the congress which, after all, is the tax-levying body.

It is not an easy task which Vinson assumes. The government debt rose during the last fiscal year \$57,679 million to a peak of \$258,682 million. Continuing war costs will roll up new increases this year. The job of the secretary of the treasury is to keep money on hand to meet bills. This means he must seek to maintain the country's credit so bonds can be floated successfully and collect taxes in huge amounts. The pinch may come when national income drops faster than do public expenditures.

The debt situation is not too unfavorable, however. For one thing, the interest cost is very low. The computed rate of interest on the public debt for the last year was 1.936 per cent. For the war debt the average interest cost was 1.75 per cent as compared with 4.25 per cent for the first world war. With an abundance of capital seeking investment, interest rates will remain low, which makes the burden on the current budget much less. Vinson has no reputation as being a "funny money" man. He is not one who would be expected to resort to tricks on investors; and he is tough enough to call for continued heavy taxes for financing our government, which is the only honest and sound method of doing the job. He is not a Wall street banker, but he is one to have respect for the counsel of men experienced in finance. In this new assignment he may consider himself no longer the convenient tinkerer and trouble shooter for FDR, the catchall for heavy jobs, but as the man responsible for directing national fiscal policies as the country emerges from long and costly warfare.

## Pullmans for Soldiers

ODT was caught with its shirttail out in the movement of troops from eastern points of debarkation. Stories of returning veterans being shipped across the continent in crowded, antique daycoaches are not pleasant reading. In their eagerness to get home the men are

## Editorial Comment

### CONTRIBUTION TO CLARITY

Friends and foes alike of the Murray "full employment bill" have tended to muddle the issues by too free use of politically handy phrases and over-simplified arguments. Federal Reserve Board Chairman Eccles makes a contribution to clarity when he points out that the true objective should be "stabilized economic progress," not "continuing full employment" at war-time levels. Too much emphasis, says Mr. Eccles, has been placed on government's residual responsibility to step in to check a deflationary spiral by large expenditures, and not enough on government's initial responsibility to encourage private enterprise.

The 60,000,000-jobs slogan, seized on as tactically expedient, may not depict the real or even a desirable goal. As Mr. Eccles remarks, it might be possible to achieve continuing full employment but at a very low standard of living. That is not what the nation strives for. That would be no more than stabilizing the economy on a share-the-poverty basis.

On the other hand, those who oppose the Murray Bill have over-emphasized full production as the goal, implying that a healthy if not a 60,000,000 employment level would automatically follow. But unless full production shares with labor the benefits of labor-saving inventions, and with the consumer the results of cost-reducing methods, this goal could prove to be as disappointing as the many jobs for little money.

"Full" production, with its benefits equitably shared, might bring the nation what it properly wants, short of the 60,000,000 jobs. It could bring a much higher standard of living. And what does a high standard of living mean for a people if there cannot be fewer of the young and the elderly who must work for their food and shelter, if there cannot be more full-time mothers and home-makers, if there cannot be increasing numbers who can defer paid employment while they train for greater service?

Neither numbers of "jobs" nor quantities of things are in themselves sufficient measures of a nation's welfare.—Chastation Science Monitor.

willing to put up with poor accommodations but there seems to have been defective planning to have such a chorus of complaints arise—lack of beds, lack of seats, lack of water.

Only a few days ago did ODT cut reservation period from 30 to five days, and only now is it reaching out for sleepers in overnight service, diverting them to soldier use. Why weren't these steps taken before? Why today to civilians, many of whom have no urgent business requiring travel now?

We had plenty of warnings, but people get callous to warnings and think that "one Pullman space for me" will not be missed. Sharper restrictions were needed to meet the situation, and they were belatedly imposed. All the sleepers in the country, if necessary, should be utilized to transport war veterans on long journeys, limiting civilian travel to that urgently necessary.

## Macy's to San Francisco

Announcement that R. H. Macy & Co. is buying the old O'Connor, Moffatt and Co. store in San Francisco points up the planning of big merchandisers to become bigger. Macy's in New York does the biggest retail volume of any store in the country. It has a few branches, but this purchase is its first on the west coast. It is reported to have plans for further expansion as the war comes to an end.

Allied Stores, a store holding company, has been very active in adding retail units. In the northwest its operating organization is the C. C. Anderson Co., with numerous stores in Idaho, eastern Oregon and Washington. It is the most aggressive of the chain store outfits at present in entering new towns.

The older organizations have mostly just held steady during the war—Woolworth's reduced the number of its stores slightly. They will probably all try to multiply to take advantage of the spending orgy anticipated when civilian goods are again produced in volume.

The forecast in retail trade seems to be for increased competition among increasingly large retailing organizations.

## Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON  
Associated Press War Analyst

Events beyond the Pacific leave no doubt that the air and sea blockade of the Japanese home islands has been completed by American forces in preparation for the next major move against the foe. And it has been accomplished even before redeployment from Europe to the Asiatic war theater is more than well started.

The past week brought definite evidence also that by-passed enemy garrisons on Pacific islands from historic Wake to the Solomons and New Guinea are dying on the vine; and that the powerful jaws of an allied east-west annihilation vise have been set in place in Burma and Borneo that spells doom for trapped Nipponese invaders in Indo-China, Malaya and the Dutch Indies when the southern squeeze is driven home.

General MacArthur's formal announcement that the campaign to redeem the whole Philippine archipelago had been completed in 250 days highlighted the week's developments. In that time a greatly superior Japanese ground force had been totally destroyed except for remnants impotent to impede the attack on Japan itself. That was promptly capped, however, by disclosure that medium bombers of the 5th air force had shifted their operating base from Luzon to Okinawa and immediately joined in the ever increasing air assault on Japan.

Linked with MacArthur's assignment of General Stilwell to command the 10th army with headquarters on Okinawa, the shift of one powerful wing of his air power to the same forward base is significant. Its mission is primarily strategic at the moment but when the hour for invasion of Japan comes, the 5th air force teamed up with navy carrier planes will be in a position to give ground troops close tactical support.

Pending that, round-about communications via Korea between Japan and all but isolated enemy armies in China have come under American air attack. Rail bridges and tunnels on the Korean-Manchuria line were targets of the strike. It illustrated the fact that air encirclement of Japan has now extended to every northern avenue of approach to the Asiatic mainland as well as to western sea lanes across the Yellow sea.

Perhaps the most startling episode of the week in the Pacific, however, was the appearance of a Japanese hospital ship off Wake. On interception by an American destroyer it proved bound for that island to take off sick and wounded members of its garrison. Re-examined on its return trip, it was found loaded with close to 1,000 enemy army and navy personnel in such condition from illness or hunger that Japanese doctors said many could not live to reach Japan. The ship was waved on its dismal way by the American destroyer commander.

There is no known precedent for that incident in the Pacific war. The action of the American commander in permitting the ship to visit Wake and return to Japan unmolested with the doleful freight could have been foreseen; but the fact that it was sent out at all on such a mission by the foe is a reversal of Japanese practice. No previous attempt to succor the sick and wounded on by-passed islands has ever been reported. They were left to die with their still able comrades in every case.

Just why the exception was made in the case of Wake it is difficult to see. There was virtually no chance that the ship could escape detection by American sea and air patrols and no indication that it attempted to do so. Yet by that unprecedented mercy gesture to which the American command replied in kind, the plight of the remaining enemy garrison on Wake was fully disclosed. The island is ripe for recapture at any time. The visit of the enemy hospital ship was a virtual invitation to come and take it.

## USS Porter Sinks, But No Lives Lost!



A Kamikaze Jap suicide plane sank the U. S. S. destroyer William D. Porter off Okinawa early in June but not a single American life was lost. The Porter is pictured mortally stricken from the explosion of a Jap suicide plane and rapidly sinking as the LCS 123 (foreground), which rescued all the Porter's crew, stands off. (International)

## News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON  
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WASHINGTON, July 7 — In previous columns I concluded the Russian system is not communism, socialism, bolshevism or Marxism, but a despotism in the name of (but not by) the lowest class economically, intellectually and spiritually, and I came to the decision our democratic way of life had no valid grounds for fear of Russia.



Paul Mallon

Her people are friendly, likeable, not grim like their government, and her production and her methods, as well as her social results, are so far inferior to ours that our lowest sharecropper or poorest-paid worker would think he was in heaven now, if fully informed of comparative conditions.

I narrowed the ground of irritation and possible trouble between us, to the single factor of the political attitude of the Russian government, in my search for a common ground of genuine understanding which would enable us to live in peace in the post-war world.

Unlike her people, her economics and her production, her socio-communal despotic government is competitive, aggressive, sometimes belligerent — and nearly always unfathomable, and therefore frightening, or at least unsettling.

The core of this trouble can be found in the conclusions made by our globe-girdling editors who went out for three months to promote a free press. They offered an interesting report, expressing hope that a pledge for free exchange of information, without censorship or political use of news, would be incorporated at San Francisco. (It was not.)

I judge also they did not find much hope for press liberty, or even much will for it, outside of the British Empire and the United States. You cannot have liberty without a free press, and you cannot have a free press without liberty.

The San Francisco agreement pledged freedom of language, but what good is that, without freedom of speech?

But what does Russia think? Her editors were so far from our

line of thought as to be completely incomprehensible of our meaning of freedom. They think it is freedom to work under a complete government censorship of all their news—not just military news, but economic news, political news and every other kind.

They write only what the government wants, and the government is a single-headed dictatorship operated by one legal party of 4,000,000 people in a population of 183,000,000.

From the news standpoint, as from every other, Russia has walled herself in against the world, completely isolated herself. Our reporters there are confined to the Hotel Metropole for living room, may not fraternize with Russian officials or people, can get news only which has been printed in the few official government papers.

But their reporters roam the United States at will, indeed even have representatives attend all our press conferences, including those of the president, and write freely anything they wish.

How is it possible to live in peace with a completely self-isolated nation, which believes freedom is suppression, and liberty is autocracy? If understanding is the basis of peace, how are we ever going to know Russia, without free news from her, much less understand her?

I have heard some people say she suffers from an inferiority complex. Perhaps. It is true also her government seems to be Slavic on personality, and therefore can be sensitive at the same time it is suspicious, emotional, aggressive and even belligerent.

Perhaps, also, she is afraid to let her own people know too much, and therefore feels she must censor any understanding of their government by them as well as by us?

I might attempt to track down the why of this were it not true that the same attitude of the government extends far beyond news into other fields. Russia refused to go into our air conference at Chicago, even to discuss letting airplanes go over her country. As matters stand now, she has isolated her air from the world as completely as she has isolated her land and her news.

Before the war all our world flyers had trouble getting permits to cross Russia. To get

into Russia by land or sea is as difficult a task as by air. In all ways Russia seems bent on living outside the normal world, and she is taking all she can get of Europe into the same impenetrable subterranean chamber of isolation with her.

How are you going to live in peace with that, whether you love it, appease it or hate it?

I hear some people attribute this all to Russia's suspicions of us or of Britain. Suspicious of what? No one wants Russia. No one around here would have it. I do not think the ground for Russian isolationism is "suspicion" or "fear." It might be an inferiority complex, and it might be purposeful politics.

Whatever interpretation you accept, the conclusion is inescapable that unless this situation is eliminated, there cannot be peace.

The first thing I would do to put us on an even mutual plane is to have congress enact a law putting us on a reciprocal basis as to rights. Whatever rights Russia grants us, we would grant her.

The law should, of course, apply to all nations. If their system requires them to house our news correspondents in isolation, her correspondents should be similarly restricted in this country. If her air is closed to the United States, our air must be closed to her.

If she denies our citizens the right to free travel in her country, her citizens should not have the right to free travel here. If the democratic party is denied representation in Moscow, the communist party should enjoy no rights among us. If our press is suppressed there hers must be suppressed here.

This should be done, not in any belligerent way, but merely as acceptance of her principles for her, retaining ours for our own people. It should be a basis of mutual understanding where-by we both may live in permanent noncompetitive peace.

Thus, we could eliminate irritants which are bound to make for trouble, and do it fairly and justly, without criticism or antagonism. Thus, also, we can eliminate both fear and suspicion.

## The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. Rogers

"TOLSTOY AND HIS WIFE," by Nikhla Polner, translated by Nicholas Wreden (Norton; \$2.75). With things Russian very much in the public mind at present, this stirring account of the great novelist and moralist who lived in the old Russia but won the endorsement of the new is very timely.

The book is much more, however. It records the life of a genius. Polner, friend of both count and countess, is more interested in the man than the pennant. Assuming we know "War and Peace," "Ann Karenina" and the other unforgettable novels and essays, he gives a brief rounded portrayal of the young officer who had the reputation of sowing wild oats, the perplexed sutor, the husband inflamed by hot passion and hot temper, and the troubled philosopher who reasoned, from observation of his own wealth, that poverty was preferable, yet was unable to break away from his riches until almost the end of his life.

Sonya Behrs was still in her teens when Tolstoy, 34, married her. It is a long and arduous journey from the early days when he wrote that "each day I spend away from you I worry and think about you more vividly and passionately" to the wretched time when he confided to his diary: "As long as I live, she will be a stone tied with a rope around my neck."

Before the end came, the countess, fighting desperately to preserve for herself and children the big estate created by Tolstoy the novelist but menaced by Tolstoy the practicing Christian, would be caught riling his papers in the dead of night.

Faithful church member in

**Doughboys Want To Get Home and This Proves It.**

**OCCUPIED GERMANY**—(AP)—The main idea of various entertainment and educational programs now under way throughout the occupation army is, of course, to prevent homesickness. With that in mind, company E., of the 335th infantry regiment, recently held a sort of GI Hit Parade contest. It was to pick the songs most popular with the doughboys so the 84th division band could concentrate on them.

Hearing the songs they liked best the GIs were expected to get music on their minds and forget how much they wanted to go home.



Kenneth Dixon

However, after asking the men of his first platoon to submit their list of favorite songs, Tech. Sgt. True Lofton of Windsboro, La., was forced to report:

"I am afraid that the purpose of the program is not a complete success in this platoon."

One look at the list his men had submitted showed why:

1. Show Me the Way to Go Home.
2. Hurry Home.
3. Home Sweet Home.
4. My Old Kentucky Home.
5. Home on the Range.
6. Back Home in Illinois.
7. My Home in Indiana.
8. Home in San Antonio.
9. My Blue Ridge Mountain Home.
10. There's No Place Like Home.

Speaking of home in San Antonio, it will be some time before PFC. Manuel Fernandez, of that Texas City, gets back there if he has to go via the army's discharge system. Manuel is a line company soldier in company B., 334th infantry regiment, and has three children. Yet he has only 21 points.

The reason is that Manuel was married at the tender age of 14, became a father when he was 15 and now all his children are over 18 years of age, hence no help at all in the point system.

## Practical Religion

By Rev. John L. Knight, Jr.,  
Counselor on Religious Life,  
Willamette University

I received a letter last week from a sailor friend of mine (SK 3/c) who is now in the Pacific. Knowing that there was soon to be a new arrival at our home, he devoted most of the letter to that coming event. In that letter was the following brief paragraph, which needs no further comment:

"Let's hope and pray that he may have a clean, bright, peaceful world to grow up in. Let's make sure that he, and all of his generation, are taught that war is not a thing of romance and glamor and a strong way of life, but that it is an ugly, bestial, useless thing, and an admission of failure, an acknowledgement that civilization is not something we've accomplished but merely something we're striving for."

He was compacted of contradictions. His relations with his wife, whom he made in his own likeness but could not make over in his next succeeding likeness, was only one example. He condemned money wrested from the poor, but kept on using it. He disapproved of charity, but was fabulously charitable. He refused royalties on his plays, but when the countess accepted them, he took the money to succor the needy.

PHILADELPHIA—(AP)—M a y or Bernard Samuel sent presents to other cities in connection with an airport opening and today listed these return gifts: Crabs from San Francisco; a crate of oranges from Los Angeles; box of cigars from Pittsburgh; a 10-gallon hat from Kansas City, and a string of trout from Lake Michigan.

GLENWOOD, Ia.—(AP)—Mrs. T. L. Smouse turned back the pages of time when she appeared at church wearing a "new" hat. Back in 1888, she said, it used to be the style to wear your new bonnet for the first time—not on Easter Sunday, but on the Fourth of July.

MINNEOTA, Minn.—(AP)—Firemen had a July 4th celebration they will long remember. They answered their first alarm since Nov. 4, 1944.

## GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"We need new postwar subscription lists. Speedy! What with that GI Bill of Rights, nobody will be working their way through college, any more!"

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