

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Indictment for War Crimes

Jurisprudence blazes a new trail in the indictment of 24 German leaders and six organizations, charging them with war crimes. The legal instrument itself is 24,000 words in length, reciting the horrible deeds perpetrated on plan or orders of the Nazi leaders. The basic charge is conspiracy for conquest, using the tools of terror and slaughter and aggressive war to compass their ends.

This is a new adventure in the realm of law. Never before have warmongers and war leaders been accused formally and brought to trial for offenses against humanity. In a way the procedure is ex post facto, for no statutes exist for the general crime of warfare. At no time in the past has war been labeled a punishable crime. While in ancient times captives were often put to death, that was the isolated act of vengeance. Modern international law is scrupulous to protect the persons of prisoners, with treatment accorded by their rank. Now the highest political and military leaders of Germany are put in jeopardy of their lives for offenses laid at their feet. It is a new and serious undertaking.

There is abundant reason if not codified law to support the procedure. The crimes committed against Jews, against Poles and Russians, against prisoners of war have been fully documented and shock the conscience of the world. They are in truth crimes against humanity. If the Josef Kramers and the Irma Grees are brought to the bar of justice for their part in administering death by wholesale to victims in concentration camps, shall those who free who plotted the whole scheme of carnage and conquest?

Yet because this is a new venture in justice it is necessary that procedures follow strictly the established principles of courts of law. The evidence, must be specific; the accused must have counsel and fair trials, verdicts must conform to the weight of testimony. Otherwise we lay up wrath against some possible later day of wrath. One trembles to think of the dangers involved in these trials. Will they form a precedent in which the victors of future wars will slaughter the defeated after the rules of ancient warfare? Admittedly it is a desperate gamble—the more fearful because we realize that our country might lose a war sometime.

From Russia and from the remnants of outraged peoples come cries of revenge. The Soviet press calls "death to the cannibals." Moscow's Izvestia says "the thirst for retribution which the Soviet people have been full of for all these years should be and will be gratified. Cannibals Goering, Hess, Ribbentrop, Rosenberg, Krupp, Keitel and all war criminals, the Soviet people send them their curses, damnation to death." Vengeance though, is an evil instinct; the victor nations should take heed lest vengeance, which blinds the mind to justice, control their actions.

November 20, the date when the trials begin in old Neurnberg, will be a solemn moment in world history. It may set up the standards of justice which will restrain the designing of evil men; or it may let loose base passions which will yield a bitter harvest in time to come.

Fish or Cut Bait

It is time the city council took action on the application of United Air lines to rent ground at the airport on which to erect a terminal. It proposes to invest about \$75,000 in the building and for landscaping and to pay the city ground rent for the space occupied. At the end of 20 years the building would revert to the city. The city is asked to build a landing apron at an estimated cost of \$20,000. A short length of road would need to be constructed to connect with the country road, which in turn should be paved to its connection with the Turner road, an extension of Mission st. The alternative is for the city to do all the building for which its residue of \$47,000 from a bond issue is insufficient. To build administration building, apron, road and all would run to \$100,000.

The practical thing to do—in the judgment of The Statesman is to bargain with UAL. The voters will be disinclined to vote more bonds and the sum remaining in the airport fund will be needed for minor improvements or extensions. The council could proposition UAL to build the apron as well, perhaps offering an extension on the term of the lease.

The only other prospective regular user line is Southwest Airways, and provision could be made for it to use the same terminal. There seems little need for the city to erect an administration building when most of the use of the building will be by operators and patrons of the airlines.

At any rate the council should fish or cut bait. Either lease to UAL or proceed with building. In this air age we do not want to be serving liners with a shack for a terminal.

Okinawa is the jinx for the navy. In the fighting our ships and men suffered heavy losses under the suicide attacks of Jap planes. The V-J celebration there was so wild that several men were killed. There were 521 casualties in the typhoon of last week including 28 killed and 70 missing. Now an explosion at the navy recruiting station caused six deaths and 23 injuries. Time for a change in luck there.

A London crowd, chiefly of women, nearly mobbed the Duke of Windsor (nee Edward VI) when he called on his mother. So The Voice isn't the only one who can lay "em out in windrows."

We don't seem to realize that some other countries may not like our brand of democracy as described in the headlines—strikes, murders, divorces, and deficits.

Revolution at Caracas

More people than usual (50) were killed in the revolution in Venezuela which unseated President Isaias Medina Angarita. Generally the army does the job with a few scattering shots knocking innocent bystanders. Otherwise, the revolution at Caracas followed the conventional pattern: a group of army officers dissatisfied with the political setup strike for the government palace and seize authority.

Argentina had a sample of that in repeat edition a few days ago when a group of army officers overthrew the Farrell-Peron regime, itself an army set-up. The variation occurred when Peron got the backing of Buenos Aires workers and in turn threw the rebels out of power. Rarely in South America does a regime change except at the army's whim.

Venezuela has been remarkably free from revolutions. Tight old Juan Vicente Gomez ran the show as dictator for over a quarter century. There have been only two presidents since Gomez.

Democracy gets lip service only through most Latin American states. The strong hand of a president runs affairs—and it has to be strong or he gets kicked out to be replaced by some new dictator who "sets aside the constitution" and promises elections which he expects to control. We will have to wait quite a while before American democracy runs into export demand.

Interpreting The Day's News

By JAMES D. WHITE
Associated Press Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 20.—(AP)—Peace in the Pacific and the world may some day depend upon how Chinese and Russians work together in operating a vital Manchurian railway under a strange and complex new agreement.

The rail system is one of the keys to political and economic domination of eastern Asia. The agreement for its operation is manifestly designed to interlock the personal responsibilities of both Russian and Chinese administrators to such an extent that anything but cooperation would be unthinkable as long as their governments remain friendly.

This agreement is one of six highly important treaties signed between Moscow and Chungking late in August, designed to settle important issues between these two greatest remaining powers.

Behind this series lies the little-understood background of Sino-Russian relations, echoes of which can be discerned in the new treaties.

Russians and Chinese first ran into each other—and trouble—at about the time the Pilgrim fathers were landing on Plymouth Rock. The emperor of China at the time was the great Kang Hsi, a Manchu potentate whose Chinese subjects roamed widely through the wilds of eastern Siberia looking for gold, and for Chinese medicines such as deer-horn, tiger-whiskers and bear-claws.

Russian trappers, headed by a czarist agent named Khabarov, got into serious trouble with these Chinese. The result was the treaty of Nerchinsk, signed in 1689. The Chinese wanted everything east of Lake Baikal. The Russians wanted everything down to the Amur river. Each side feared and knew little about the other, so they compromised, setting the boundary considerably north of the Amur.

This situation lasted until 1858, when a czarist official named Muraviev succeeded in convincing the Chinese (with some show of force) that the Amur was the natural boundary between Siberia and Manchuria. Later, he wangled maritime Siberia, including the harbor of Vladivostok. The Amur turned out to be sort of a joint river. The Chinese had nominal control, but Russian boats could sail on it, and so on.

By 1896 the Russians were trying to complete the Transiberian railway, and wanted to run a cut-off through Manchuria which would save several hundred miles. The czar prevailed upon the Chinese to let him build it, and later a branch line down to Dairen as well.

The line was chartered by Russia as the Chinese eastern railway. It had a Chinese president, and Russian and Chinese stockholders, and was operated by a Russian board of directors. Joint control again.

When Japan won her war with Russia in 1905, she grabbed the southern stem, and in 1935 she "bought" the northern cross-line from Soviet Russia, a purchase which China protested as illegal.

Now Russian troops have reconquered the whole works, and the crossline and the stem down to Dairen are to be known as a single system, the Chinese Changchun line. It is to be administered as a joint Sino-Russian commercial undertaking, reverting to China without charge after 30 years—just about the time set in the original czarist agreement which covered 80 years.

Chinese will furnish the police to protect the line, which will be administered by a joint board of ten, half of them Chinese and half Russian. The chairman of the board will be a Chinese, the deputy chairman a Russian.

Responsibility is divided and carefully distributed, clear down to station-masters. These are to be chosen on a 50-50 basis. If the master is a Russian his deputy must be a Chinese, and vice-versa.

The line supplies and serves Manchuria, the breadbasket of Asia. It is the shortest route to the sea, to Vladivostok, to Korea, to the free port of Dairen.

Whoever controls the rail system controls Manchuria, and there is an old saying that whoever controls Manchuria sooner or later controls China.

China and Russia have scrambled and interlocked control of Manchuria for the next 30 years by treaty. Cynics will call it a Chinese face on a Russian reality, but it is an agreement which could function in much the same way as the interlocking technique which Britain and America evolved during the war in the joint command organizations.



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It's Still a Heavy Load

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 20.—The strike situation has looked worse from the inside than the way you have been seeing it in discouraging headline after headline over accounts of vital men being pulled out here and there with great bitterness, mystery and sometimes violence.

The Truman administration has been working behind its doors the past week trying to get a wage policy upon which to base solutions, but has found it hard to do.

Labor Secretary Schwellenbach thought we had one in the oil settlement, but after the bricks started falling upon his head for that one, he crawled out of the pile with an aching head, aware, no doubt, he had made a mistake.

After all, if you give the men a 15 per cent increase and then grant them the right to negotiate or arbitrate for another 15 per cent, you have not solved much. Another strike for the remaining 15 per cent could be called at any time. Furthermore such a temporary surrender was generally labeled unfair. An employer could not win anything, even the right to continue operations, under such terms.

WLB Beyond Redemption
Then some show was made by Mr. Truman of prolonging the war labor board after blanketing it into the labor department under Schwellenbach. This was what a puglist would recognize as a hard pass at the empty air, as far as settling anything was concerned. WLB men had tremendous power and prestige during the war, but lost it when Mr. Truman gave top-say to Schwellenbach. It is now beyond redemption.

Both AFL and industry were opposed to it, and still are, because it has functioned largely as a CIO weapon. Through it, the Murray-Hillman crowd had a nice thing going. They would

back up the board when they liked its decisions, and strike when they did not. Here again they could not lose.

May Be "Paper Front"
The latest administration resuscitation was planned by Mr. Truman and Schwellenbach with their heads together alone, and board chairman Garrison indicated they would stay on until January 1. Industry and AFL wanted to get them out of town immediately. The resuscitation will get them out of town in a few weeks.

That was all that amounted to and the question thus arises whether any new board would be a paper front for the same old proposition.

Thus the government has been crowded on all the fronts it erected toward establishing a workable wage policy to carry the current interim until labor and management can get together in the big conference, now set for November 10. The inside of that conference would make a column in itself.

"Save the World First"
It should have been held before any of these strikes developed, and was scheduled originally for October, but the labor leaders had to go off to Europe to save the world first.

When the arrangers for the conference gave the great labor-power bellows, John L. Lewis, only one delegate and one vote in this national meeting of industry and labor. Not only this, they imposed upon him an understanding reached among themselves that his solitary delegate could not be on any committees.

The telephone workers, who tied up all communications in the country one day recently just to "test their strength," were at first eager to join the conference, and asked for a place. Later they said they would not participate.

Naturally then, the question has arisen as to how effective the proposed conference can be. Difficulties to Continue
The accumulation of all these inside facts points directly toward continued difficulties—but

difficulties may be better than a bad settlement which settles nothing.

The administration seems to me to be playing on the assumption that the longer the question is held open, the better will be the chance of reaching a stabilizing solution. Certainly no former settlement, made in the years of the Roosevelt administration, solved anything. Those were only surrenders to union leadership, made in such a way as to promise another surrender the next time the leaders wanted to start another crisis.

The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. ROGERS

MOST SECRET, by Nevil Shute (Morrow; \$2.50).

The British Admiralty delayed publication of this novel for months, evidently because there is so much truth in it, or perhaps because it's such a rousing story about the war that the entire Admiralty had to read it first.

It's really a tale of two cities, Plymouth with the once charming harbor bordered in green and across in France, quaint Douarnenez. Charles Simon, Oliver Boden, Michael Rhodes, John Colvin, an old French fishing craft named Genevieve and a flame-thrower... these are the ingredients which, stirred once, explode into a sure-fire yarn.

Shute makes his characters real enough for the purposes of the adventures he has to relate, and handles his plot skillfully. It's a long book, and you'll be sorry it isn't longer.

ANY NUMBER CAN PLAY, by Edward Harris (Harper; \$2).

Charley King has gambling in his blood. He loves his wife Lon, who loves him, and his son Paul, who doesn't, but cards, dice and roulette matter most.

By a stroke of the luck he believes in, he is enabled to open his own place, where the town's elite dabbles in the thrill provided by games of chance which, win or lose, don't hurt them. Charley reserves his respect for gamblers who stake all.

Despite some tense moments, especially a crap game in which the reader can share the excitement without risking his shirt, this seems to me rather a capable than a good novel. I can't decide whether Heth is trying to win my approval of gambling, or persuade me it doesn't pay; as a matter of fact, he does neither.

This is the second recent novel on this subject, and the second to miss a literary jackpot.

MY FAVORITE WAR STORY, compiled by Look editors (Whitney House; \$2.50).

Thirty-four correspondents here pick what each regards as "the most engrossing" war story he knows. They are short, and illustrated; you'll enjoy particularly one about a fellow named Roosevelt, another about what must be the only "flier" ever to land on a ship's bridge.

Recommended Reading

In Salem last week, Dr. Vernon Nash, speaking to the Knife and Fork club: If you would understand problems of modern Asia, read these three books, preferably together. Snow's "People on Our Side," Lattimore's "Solution in Asia," and Rowe's "China Among the Powers." Dr. Clifford E. Maser, addressing Salem branch, American Association of University Women: For an understanding of geography as it relates to living, I suggest reading the works of Ellsworth Huntington of Yale.

The Safety Valve

LETTERS FROM STATESMAN READERS

WAGES AND PROFITS

To the Editor:
The great number of strikes labor is now staging seems to me to indicate a high degree of foolishness on the part of labor union leaders and those standing behind them in supporting their action. It seems to me that labor unions are using little or no judgment in their actions and demands upon employers.

Labor has overlooked the fact that laborers themselves are the greatest consumers of the products and manufactured goods they help to produce and turn out. What is labor going to gain if all laborers demand higher wages and the price of the goods they produce rises by any equal amount? Their added wage will not purchase any more. Higher wages will help to bring about inflation, which can easily lead to economic disturbance for some years to come effecting not only themselves, but also farmers, small businessmen, non-union labor, etc.

Labor union leaders are pleading that employers can afford to pay such high wages because they have made such an enormous profit during the war. Here, again, labor has failed to use good judgment, I believe. Labor seems to have forgotten the high excess profits and gross income taxes levied against corporations and other large employers during the war. If a large amount of profit was made the largest share of it has had to be turned over to the government when these corporations and other employers filed their tax returns. Without outside governmental aid, these employers, in nearly all instances, are going to use millions of dollars of wartime profit in reconvert their plants and factories to peacetime civilian production. Imagine the millions it will require to pay the costs of re-equipping Ford or General Motors plants so that they can resume manufacturing as they were doing before Pearl Harbor and before the armament race began.

Labor, not only in the United States but all over the world, seems to have the opinion that it can live on a high standard with high wages and short hours. Where is the money coming from to pay such high wages? Mostly from the pockets of labor itself, if it has the money to pay with. Who will produce enough goods for such a high standard of living if men and women only work four days in a week? It can not possibly be done, and under the present system of supply and demand, prices will be so high due to scarcity that money will be nearly worthless.

As it is, the greatest portion of the price of anything purchased goes to pay the laborers who help to make or produce the article through use of their skill and energy. If profit is nearly wiped out for the property owner and the employer who is taking the business responsibility and risk for return on his investment, our system of free private enterprise and initiative will soon perish. And, not only the property owners and businessmen who are employers, but farmers and laborers as well, together with their life, liberty, property and happiness.

True! Profit does mean that labor sacrifices a little immediately, but labor gains freedom and liberty in the end by making it possible for private enterprise to exist. In the countries where private enterprise does not exist, neither does individual freedom and liberty. Our economic system of profit making is a method by which the thrifty, ambitious and those possessing initiative and other success-making qualities are given an opportunity to show themselves and are rewarded accordingly by others.

Another major point is to be taken into consideration. Billions of dollars of profit by both corporations and individuals are turned back into the investment and purchase of bigger and better facilities for the manufacturing of a product which will benefit the public in general, which is made up of labor more than any other economic group.

Labor's main problem is to see that certain local situations are corrected where men and women are not being paid according to the wages other men and women in general are receiving for similar tasks. Labor must also see that the following fallacies are eliminated:
The government must support the people instead of the people the government.

That an economy of scarcity can create abundance.
That wages can be increased 20 per cent without an increase in the sale price to the consumer and subsequent inflation.
That deficit governmental and private spending will ultimately balance a budget and create prosperity, and that the more you spend and owe in debts the wealthier you become.

That shortening the work week increases production and makes the country wealthier, or that idleness benefits anyone.
Labor can only succeed, make our country wealthier and happier, and save American democracy by practicing common sense and by abandoning its attempts to "get something for nothing." Signed, Ronald E. Haven, Jefferson, Ore.

KILLED IN ACCIDENT

BEND, Oct. 20.—(AP)—Mrs. Ila Scott Brown, 32, died in a truck-car collision 50 miles east of here today. Hospital attendants resuscitated her husband, Raymond A. Brown, a Culver City teacher, Raymond, 11, and Judith, 5, in serious condition.

HUNTING ACCIDENT

GRANTS PASS, Oct. 20.—(AP)—A hunting accident near Selma on Thursday night cost the life today of 10-year-old Jimmy Howsley, wounded in the abdomen by a gun discharged by Joe Neal Lee, 14, Selma.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"I thought peace would end our worries. Now I have to try to figure out what shortages might develop from labor troubles!"

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