

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Government Wage Increase

Last week the Truman administration endorsed a proposal to increase the pay of federal employees by 20 per cent, except that compensation of congressmen, federal judges and top officials in administrative departments be increased \$10,000 per year. The increase would boost the wage bill by \$415,570,000 per year.

The "laborer is worthy of his hire" whether he is a government clerk or a congressman, but the proposed increase, coming as it does after a 15 per cent increase for "white collar" federal employees, seems ill-timed. There is more to the advantages of the employe in federal offices than appears on the surface. There are such privileges as tenure under civil service, vacation allowance which may be cumulative, sick leave, and retirement pay on very reasonable terms as to length of service and amount of annuity. If the civil servant is underpaid in times of inflation, he is overpaid at other periods in the economic cycle. As a general rule, few leave federal service. It is a constant magnet drawing men and women from other employment. The state, for instance, is constantly losing men to the bureau of internal revenue or the interstate commerce commission or other federal agencies. If the federal government increases salaries by another 20 per cent, states will be put at even greater disadvantage in obtaining help.

The correct policy would seem to be to see if, with the return of peace, there may not be a reversal very soon of the inflationary trend. A wage hike by the government would be definitely inflationary and might in itself set off the spiral for further ballooning of the price-wage structure. If economic forces are allowed to operate, naturally government employes will soon obtain an increase in real wages (buying power of money wages) which may be as much as 20 per cent. Why stimulate the factors which will throw the economic structure further out of balance?

Simplification Welcomed

Oregon was a step nearer having a simplified income tax form today and the ruling will find general approval. Circuit Judge Duncan held the forms valid and dismissed the suit of F. H. Young of the business and research bureau. But an appeal to the state supreme court still appears probable.

The argument over the simplified forms has been technical—centering on the contention that the law, as now reduced to the forms in question, was not the same as passed by the legislature. The state tax commission itself investigated the original suit in supreme court in an effort to ascertain just where it stood. Simplification certainly is something to be desired. If there is nothing legally wrong with the current effort in that direction, taxpayers will get a deserved break.

"Big E" Not Wanted

City Commissioner Peterson of Portland has proposed that the carrier Enterprise be berthed in Portland harbor in place of the hulk of the battleship Oregon. The Oregonian protests, however, and will accept no substitute. That in all likelihood reflects the attitude of most Oregonians. They are still sore because the old battleship was taken away for scrap. Moreover, the Enterprise has no identification with Oregon; and that fact is barrier enough for provincially-minded Oregonians.

Secretary Forrestal has stated that the "Big E" is to be preserved, along with the Constitution, the Olympia and other relics of past naval glories. This recognition is deserved. The Enterprise is one of the top hero-ships of World War II. The great carrier figured mightily in the desperate defensive actions early in hostilities. She was in the first naval strike after

Editorial Comment

THOSE AUSTRALIAN BRIDES
Not often does the U. S. A. receive such a tongue lashing from foreign visitors as from a group of Australian brides who after coming here decided they couldn't stand us and beat it right back to mother, bidding romance and everything else on this side of the Pacific goodbye.

The comments are that everything here was "dreadful." We were all in a constant rush, our people were self-centered and selfish and even the children smoked and drank. Unmentioned but probably more important than all the other factors combined was martial incompatability. Perhaps the Aussie girl didn't look quite as alluring after Mr. Yank got back where he could see our own.

But that as it may, we shouldn't smugly brush off the complaints. They have some basis. This country is in something of a turmoil. Those of us who've been here all our lives have noted that, and we don't enjoy it either. Especially would a foreigner notice this if dumped down, as these girls doubtless were, in a place like San Francisco. Doubtless a little could be found by a foreigner arriving in Sydney, though a loyal Aussie might not notice it there. He'd be giving thanks for "God's country."

As to the other grievances, we have selfish people of course, and so has Australia. But many who may seem selfish on casual acquaintance have hearts of gold down underneath. But the Australian girls didn't stay long enough to find this out. So of course has Australia—and every other land.

We hadn't noticed smoking and drinking by children and doubt if there is much. Any would be too much, of course. But there again our notices things in a foreign country that would pass unnoticed in his or her own.

Meanwhile a story from Australia says other Aussie brides are impatiently waiting for boats on which to come to America and other engaged girls are hoping their American sweethearts, now enroute here, will send for them. They evidently give the walls of their disillusioned sisters no more weight than they deserve.—Baker Democrat-Herald.

Pearl Harbor, her planes knocking the Japs off balance in the Marshalls in February, 1942. While she missed having part in the decisive victory in the Coral sea by only a few hours, she contributed greatly to the startling and history-making upset against great odds in the battle of Midway a month later.

Sinkings of the Lexington in Coral sea and the Yorktown at Midway left the Enterprise, Saratoga and Hornet the only carriers in the Pacific for a brief time. Then came the Wasp. The latter, as well as the Hornet, was sunk shortly afterwards. As new carriers poured out of construction yards to join the Pacific fleet the glare of publicity no longer was centered on any one or two ships. But the Enterprise carried on, doing her full share. Along with such cruisers as the Pensacola and Salt Lake City she rates as one of the workhorses of the Pacific war.

The Enterprise has had an honorable career, has suffered heavily from battle damage and has earned honorable retirement. But let her find berth at Mare Island or Bremerton, on federal government annuity. Oregonians do not want her as substitute for the old Oregon.

Higgins Gesture

In New Orleans Andrew J. Higgins announced he would close down the Higgins industries because three of its plants were closed on account of a strike. This should be taken with three grains of salt. First, the Higgins war contracts were ended; so it was very easy to terminate activity in his plant. Second, his postwar plans for employing 30,000 persons may have been largely promotion hopes rather than real blueprints. Third, after a suitable period he will probably reopen what plants he wants to operate.

Industrialists do not throw away plants of real value or plans for development just because of labor troubles. The modern industrialist is a lot tougher than that, which is one reason he survives.

Interpreting The Day's News

By James D. White
Associated Press Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 5.—(AP)—Part of China's "civil war" is occasioned by a Japanese hangover. Japanese militarists devoted considerable planning time before they surrendered to keeping Kuomintang and communist China apart, and their efforts were not entirely unsuccessful.

It might almost be argued that if they had planned it that way, China's post-war confusion could scarcely have worked out more to their liking.

Chinese communists actively are resisting the return of central government troops to what was Japanese-held territory. This threatens to wipe out the beginning of a peaceful settlement which Chungking and red leaders had agreed upon.

Because American troops are supporting the return of Chungking troops, there is perhaps danger that the United States may become more actively involved.

In that case, unless our troops withdraw, they would be aligned with Chungking against the communists in north China, and the dynamic here is that while the Chinese communists at present have no demonstrated support from Soviet Russia, they act as though they thought they might be able to change that one of these days.

Moving Nearer Russia

This column already has pointed out how they seem to be moving northward toward inner Mongolia. If they could consolidate there, they would be adjacent to the Soviet-dominated outer Mongolian people's republic. The suspicion is voiced in Chungking that they may hope thus to offset the treaties of friendship which Chungking signed recently with Moscow which gave Chungking a free hand to settle her own internal problems.

Communist troops under two commanders, Lu Cheng-tso and Nieh Jung-chen, are reportedly menacing the important coal town of Tatum and the Suiyuan provincial capital of Kweisui. If these forces are operating with the strength and mobility with which Chungking gives them credit, they are exceeding anything any communist army has ever done before. They have existed for years, behind Japanese lines, in a wilderness of barren mountains and could make nothing more formidable than a hand-grenade.

When Japan surrendered last August, Chungking charged that in some cases the reds exceeded their authority by disarming Japanese. There is thus some suspicion that the Japanese may have arranged to let some of their equipment fall into red hands.

Playing One Against the Other

This would be nothing new. For a decade the Japanese military played a double game in China which is not generally understood. They fought Chungking and red forces at times, but carefully managed not to dispose of either faction decisively. Why should they? Why fight Chinese when Chinese would save them the trouble?

The Japanese used "the communist menace" as an excuse to invade north China in 1937, but never launched a single decisive campaign against the reds. If any proof of this were needed, one has only to remember that Chinese communism made its greatest strides well behind Japanese lines.

The Japanese army north of China headquarters at Peiping was the administrative center for this decisive Japanese policy in China. The personnel of this command is now in the custody of Chungking officials who have assumed command in north China with American help.

It will be difficult to tell whether any post-surrender Japanese material got to the reds, because about all they had anyway was what they had captured from the Japanese or Japanese puppets, but presumably an accounting will be demanded one of these days.



Stewing in Our Own Juice

The Literary News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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MID COUNTRY: WRITINGS FROM THE HEART OF AMERICA, edited by Lewis C. Wimbly (University of Nebraska, Crowell, \$3.50). Short pieces, sketches, stories or poems by nearly 100 writers have been selected to show what's cooking in the heart of the continent.

The better known names include Katherine Anne Porter, Caroline Gordon, Walter Van Tilburg Clark, James Stevens, Erskine Caldwell, Mari Sandoz, Ruth Suckow, Eudora Welty, August Derleth, Stanley Vestal, Allen Tate, Robert Frost.

The source was regional magazines, which perhaps explains how New England's Robert Frost happens to be claimed, presumptuously, by the Midwest; how Sandburg, Sherwood Anderson, Daniel Long, John T. Frederick are omitted; how some of the authors, Suckow and Stevens, for instance, have not put their best foot forward.

POOL'S APPRENTICE, by Martin Munkacsi (Readers Press, \$1). A boy named Imre is the hero stretched out, as in a Procurestan bed, to fit the 450 pages of this novel.

Imre and his playmates lived, back in 1900, in a little Hungarian village among whose poverty-stricken families the government farmed out harmless lunatics. Out of the mouths of babe and fool, in the traditional romantic manner comes the wisdom which Munkacsi wishes to impart.

The boys play a prank, gossips uncover it, the madness of a race riot is dissipated by the discovery of oil in local fields, the plot of a wicked man to cheat a poor widow is foiled, there's a murder, a hussy is smitten with leprosy, Imre gets rich on the songs of crickets . . . it takes a smart author to weave this variety all into one book.

To Munkacsi's credit it should be said that when painting in his background he does the job simply and well, and gives the little town of Kender a distinct native flavor. He's already at work on another novel, but I hope it doesn't take any time at all from the photography which brought him a greatly merited fame.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5.—The General George report for unification of the army and navy has now been pried loose from the joint chiefs of staffs who had hidden it from President Truman and the public eye since last April.

The prying job was done by Senator Johnson of Colorado, acting chairman of the military affairs committee. He went to the White House and demanded the right to see the report in connection with the hearings on his bill and the similar Hill bill proposing to authorize the unification.

He not only got the report, but the White House furnished photostatic copies of testimony taken by the George committee from 65 officers at the fighting fronts in the field, and all this has been released to the press the past few days.

The George report, you will recall, was first published in this column October 9. The release of the full document now confirms what was then presented to you. Thus the stalemate worked by Admiral King of the navy to throttle the move for a single department, has been broken.

Situation Still Hazy
But the inner situation is not entirely clear yet. The only known opposition now to this agreed method of modernizing the national defense is restricted to the chairman of the naval affairs committees in the senate and house. The others have come around in the past few weeks. But the old navy crowd is doing its utmost to delay action—and rather successfully.

The prospect now is that the Hill and Johnson bills will not be acted upon before the recess of congress which means they cannot be passed before next spring. Overwhelming support will rally to whatever final de-

tailed arrangement is agreed upon between Johnson-Hill and the war department authorities, but the delay of action will be costly. Will Require a Year.

The plan will no doubt require a year to be brought to full working efficiency. The changing of the status of bureaus all down the line will require at least that much time.

Simultaneously also, a reorganization of the top men in both services is in prospect. Admiral King will go as will General Marshall, and there is a definite determination to move younger men to the top of the new single department in which the younger generals of the air force, for instance, will have equal standing as a third department alongside the army and the navy under a single cabinet chief.

The departures of Marshall and King were slated for the first of the year, but an effort has been made to induce Mr. Truman to keep Marshall on for a while to promote the youth draft plan which is his main current interest now, and to keep General Eisenhower in Europe because of the difficulties which have arisen through Russian tactics there, delaying genuine agreement on the peace setup.

There is no valid reason for these delays. The new plan should be launched immediately and the changes in personnel could best be made with the launching of the program. The delay in presentation of the report since last April already has postponed for a year the inauguration of the new setup.

King Argument Lost
Admiral King and the old line navy people have presented their testimony and have clearly lost the argument. Their complaints have been rejected by the vast majority of congress. To put the matter off now further and further, is to tamper dangerously with the defense of the nation.

The new defense plans cannot be worked out until unification is accomplished. As everyone can see it coming eventually, decisions made now are necessarily only of a tentative nature in both

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

review of the events of the war may be deduced from the fact that he sought to get from German sources their own analysis of the causes of their defeat. The summary of the interviews with ranking members of the German command runs like this:

The Germans had no overall strategic plan for prosecuting their conquests and absorbing them into the Reich.

From 1938 on there was in the German command "a constant conflict of personalities in which military judgment was increasingly subordinated to Hitler's personal dictates."

The failure to invade England after the collapse of France in 1940.

The attack on Russia in 1941; Hitler's dependence on his own intuition; the Stalingrad campaign in 1942.

The Germans were surprised at the invasion of North Africa and in spite of their superior numbers they failed to throw back or contain the allied invasion in 1944.

Allied air power.

When military critics review American participation in the world war what mistakes will they find? They will find many. General Marshall admits that the margin between defeat and victory was very narrow at times. A serious blunder might have been, if not fatal, extremely costly.

During the war the swivel-chair strategists had plenty of criticism, but we haven't heard much from them of late. There were mistakes, chief of which was Pearl Harbor, of course. The defense of Alaska was attended with blunders: first letting the Japs get a toehold in the Aleutians and then the frantic effort made to defend Alaska—so costly and absurd Alcan highway and the Canol oil project.

History will examine the Italian campaign carefully and critically and may find its results did not justify the diversion of men and material for continuing the attack above Rome.

The failure of supply to sustain the army's sweep into Germany in the fall of 1944 can hardly be accounted a blunder. SOS performed miracles as it was.

There must have been failure of intelligence or of tactical command at the time of the Ardennes counter-attack last December. That it consumed needed German reserves as General Marshall asserts does not excuse allied failure at that point.

At home we have seen many evidences of war department mistakes and extravagance. Facilities were constructed at heavy cost and then used but a few months, like Camp Abbot. Some camp locations were so poor as to make a scandal. Procurement was something of a panic, and we shall probably find, as we did after the last war, warehouses full of supplies far beyond any possible army needs.

After the game is played it is possible to go over the play and see the mistakes that were made. The Monday morning quarterback does that regularly. This ought to be done for the war department. Surely, we won the war; but if we had it to do over again surely we could improve on our record. But then, we might make other and worse blunders.

services. If Mr. Truman considers the state of the world such that he cannot demobilize speedily and completely, it then must be similarly urgent to get the unification plan into action as the efficiency of the armed forces relies just as much upon that as upon the number of men retained.

V-Bond Drive Leader Makes Appointments

With the Victory Loan on in full swing, Douglas Yeater, chairman of the Marion county war finance committee, has announced appointment of the complete list of chairmen working in various divisions and on special events during the drive. The list follows:

- General chairman: Douglas Yeater, with Francis Smith and Dr. E. E. Borling as co-chairmen.
- Speakers bureau: Wendell Webb, chairman; Glenn K. McCormick, co-chairman.
- Cities division: Gene Vandenezy, chairman.
- Special representative: Arthur Smith.
- Special solicitation: George Riches.
- Industry and payroll savings chairman: Dent B. Reed.
- Retail chairman and chairman for the quality contest: Sidney L. Stevens; James Beard, co-chairman; Fred Starrett, co-chairman.
- Women's division: Mrs. Beatie Kayser, chairman.
- Civilian defense: Miss Hazel Harper, chairman.
- Cradle roll and honor roll: Mrs. Abner Klise, chairman.
- Agriculture chairman: Frank Doerflinger.
- State employes division: Roy Mills, chairman.
- Special events: John Stark chairman.
- Advertising committee: Ted Brown, Ernest Crook and Mary White.
- Publicity: Mrs. Marian Lowry Fischer, chairman.
- Radio publicity: Glenn E. McCormick, chairman.
- Office manager, auditor, secretary-treasurer of the committee: Lawrence Fisher.
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Loyal Warner Succeeded by Billings Man

Loyal Warner, manager of the Salem J. C. Penney store since 1942 and active in civic affairs, was succeeded as local manager of the merchandising firm today by Mal B. Rudd, district manager for the organization at Billings, Mont., for the last four years.

Warner, who started with the Penney store here in 1927, said he was leaving the organization "with regret and appreciation." He left Salem some years ago and successively was manager of the firm's Laramie, Wyo. store, district manager at Denver, Colo., and opened the district office at Salt Lake City before returning here in 1942 "to make Salem my permanent home."

Will Stay in Salem

It was indicated his current change was prompted by his desire to remain here rather than accept an advancement to a larger territory. Warner now is president of the chamber of commerce and the community chest, a member of the board of the YMCA and the Knife and Fork club, a member of the Kiwanis, Elks, Masons and Shrine club and the First Methodist church. He will retain his home at 960 E. st.

Rudd started with the Penney company at LaGrande in 1923. He was manager at Seaside for a year and a half, at Milton-Freewater for five years, at Albany for three years (1938-40), and district manager at Portland for a year and a half. He declared Monday he considered himself an Oregonian, by virtue of long residence, and "appreciated the privilege of making Salem my home."

Active at Billings

Rudd, a native of Mitchell, S.D., was active in the commercial club, Masons, Shrine and the American Lutheran church at Billings. He and Mrs. Rudd have two sons, Bernard, 16, of Kemper Military academy, Mo., and Donald 14, who will enter Salem Junior high. The family plans to move here as soon as housing facilities can be obtained, either in apartment or residence.

Warner said he had no plans to make known as yet, and that he would "just rest" for the next two or three months.

Greenland is a possession of Denmark.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



What's the rush? You could've waited till morning—anybody'd think this was a divorce court?

Restaurant to Be Constructed

Issued a building permit Monday was Mrs. Lottie Smith, operator of the Lions Den at 1610 N. Cottage st., who stated she intended to build a one story restaurant building at 1590 Fairground rd., at a cost of \$8700.

Mrs. Smith said Monday that present arrangements with the Hollywood Lions club would cease after the first of the year. The club, which owns the Cottage st. building, has been holding its weekly luncheons there.

Other building permits issued from the city engineer's office Monday went to Earl Rigg, to repair a dwelling at 985 N. Winter st., \$1000; Max Gehlar, to repair a paint shop at 250 Court st., \$200; J. C. Knight, to alter a dwelling at 1340 Hines st., \$1000; K. H. Holcomb, to erect a dwelling at 1780 North 18th st., \$2000; and to Tallman Bros. to erect a garage at 275 Division st., \$550.

Hearings On Case Set for November 8
Preliminary hearing for C. H. Dunn, who was arrested Monday

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