

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor and Publisher

Member of the Associated Press

The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to the use for publication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in this newspaper.

Fact-finders Stalled

The fact-finding panels seem to have stalled on the first hill. Remember the oil strike of several months ago which President Truman ended by ordering the navy to take over the oil company operations? A fact-finding panel has been working on that dispute for some time, but now it is held up waiting for instructions from the White House as to whether it should consider the question of prices with relation to wages. And the General Motors panel is hung up on the same obstacle, pondering whether it should look into General Motors prices and profits in its effort to find the facts. The UAW insists on opening up the company books, while GMC says that profits and prices are not at issue, lying in the province of OPA. The motor company says it will withdraw if the board takes up this subject and the UAW may withdraw if it doesn't.

Since the fact-finders are purely extra-legal boards at present, they can go no farther than the parties are willing to let them go in their probing. It will take legislation, which the president has asked for, to give such panels real authority and both labor and industry may resist allocation of such authority to conduct probes into disputes.

Our government seems to be in about the same stage it was in 1940 and most of 1941—trying to do everything "short of war." It has held a labor-management conference which proved futile. It has tendered its conciliation service to disputants—but its conciliators get nowhere in the big disputes. It is now attempting fact-finding by a panel of disinterested citizens; and that is slow motion and not very promising. Maybe if the strikes continue the government will get mad and "go to war" against industrial tie-ups through measures for compulsory fact-finding or compulsory arbitration or for labor courts.

Meantime, President Truman must feel like old Noah in the ark. The White House is afloat on a flood of strikes and the doves he sends out haven't yet been able to pick up an olive branch.

Bergi, Affleck and Mengucci

When paint is once again readily available, a goodly quantity should be used to obliterate a sign which advertises to persons arriving here by stage that 98 per cent of Salem's populace was born in the United States. Various business concerns and organizations have at times been credited or blamed with responsibility for that table of statistics, which is probably no longer accurate—if it ever was. Whatever its source and inspiration, it is now not even funny.

Did you read the names of the Salem men who were among the first of the 96th division to return to Fort Lewis? Bergi, Affleck and Mengucci—might have come straight from an All-American line—may be native Oregonians. We don't know where they or their parents were born, but we do know where this trio of men has been. The ancestors whose names they bear weren't on the Mayflower, but the men of this generation have completed a series of adventures just as American as any undertaken by the Pilgrims: In the far reaches of the Pacific they bore arms beneath the Stars and Stripes.

In the newspaper reporter's code, the place of a man's birth is usually the least important fact in his life. Tying together all the portions of a career in an obituary, it seldom rates more than mere mention.

We can't speak for the 98 per cent, but we could call attention to the fact that a Salem merchant who was born in Holland has done one of Marion county's biggest jobs in the war loan campaign. There is a beautiful State street store built with the years of effort of a Russian-born American. That fine portrait you display so proudly may have been taken by a prominent Salem photographer of Scandinavian birth.

Editorial Comment

A REUNION WED HAVE ENJOYED

The Associated Press carried a story during the weekend from Miami Beach, Florida of the reunion of 54 of the famous 79 fliers who took part in the daylight raid on Tokyo April 18, 1942—all of whom with the single exception of the leader, General Jimmy Doolittle, had trained at Pendleton Field from Pearl Harbor night to early February, 1942.

Pendleton people knew all of those 79 aerial crusaders, and most of the families in this city knew one or more well enough to have them in for dinners or parties or some other similar occasion.

Some of them are dead now and some of them are crippled, but most of them survived the raid and the subsequent ordeal of escape, and now are together again. "We've been renewing old acquaintances," said Col. Stanford Chester, one of the raiders. "The bunch has a great deal to talk about. There's time for fun later on."

So went the story from Miami Beach—and it mentioned, also, that Sunday the "bunch" went deep sea fishing, and also paid homage to two comrades who died in crash landings in China immediately after the raid, three who were put to death by the Japanese, and others who succumbed from treatment in enemy prison camps.

It must have been a grand reunion, one that none of those present ever will forget—just as none of the 54 surviving ever will forget those "thirty seconds over Tokyo."

And wouldn't it have been even grander if the reunion could have been held here in Pendleton, where those lads were liked almost as much as to their own home towns?

We doubt very much if there is a single other place in the U. S. where those 54 men in the reunion would have received such a sincere welcome as in Pendleton—if we could have been fortunate enough to have had this postwar "79" reunion.—Pendleton East Oregonian.

divanian birth. It is heartening to know that Bergi, Affleck and Mengucci, who claim Salem as their home, may come home to a Salem where there is opportunity for them to serve and be respected whether their ancestors landed at Plymouth or at Ellis island.

Gas Company Wants Increase

The Oregon public utilities commissioner has the rare duty of passing on the application of a public utility for a raise in rates. The Portland Gas & Coke company is asking for an increase of 10c per thousand cubic feet in its charge for space heating. It claims that the fuel oil it uses costs 43 per cent more than when the rate was fixed and total production costs have gone up 60 per cent.

For most of the period since the first world war the cost of utility services has declined. Even since the present war there have been decreases in electric rates or rebates to customers. While costs have increased, the added volume of business has resulted in higher net profits. The gas company has also enjoyed a large increase in gross volume, but now complains that even with the greater volume of business its net is inadequate. The public utility commissioner will have to make his investigation and enter his decision.

The point to be noted is that in spite of general inflation utility rates have largely remained stationary or even declined, which offers some evidence to dispute the assertion that rate regulation is impotent. Just because we do not have prolonged and generally futile rate cases we should not conclude that the public authorities are asleep. They follow closely the financial reports of operating utilities and are prompt to note when a fair return is being exceeded and to move for rate reductions to consumers. The public has been tremendously benefitted by vigilant regulation of utility rates.

About the only remaining exclusive function of the British house of lords is to sit as a court of last appeal in cases involving the death sentence. To the peers as a court William Joyce, Lord Haw Haw of German radio fame, appealed from his conviction and death sentence. The house of lords voted to sustain the verdict and sentence, so he will be hanged for treason. The British, whose accent Joyce mimicked over the radio, will get the final haw-haw.

Interpreting The Day's News

By John Roderick
(Substituting for James D. White)

YENAN, China, Dec. 20.—(AP)—Chinese communists' national aims—which certainly will come under close scrutiny at the forthcoming "peace talks" at Chungking—never have veered from Mao Tse-tung's oft-repeated program.

Mao is chairman of the political bureau of the Chinese communist party. His report to the seventh party congress a few months ago proposed:

Firstly—Establishment immediately of a provisional coalition government;

Secondly—Inauguration of a regular permanent coalition government through "free and unrestricted elections."

The peoples' political council, which includes elements of the national communist, democratic league and youth parties, could name the interim coalition government. Any deviation from this general program will run into head-on opposition from the communists.

"We cannot agree to any or all so-called measures, proposals or other empty talk," Mao said, "which diverge from this general principle—no matter how beautiful they may sound."

Will the communists approve a meeting of the national assembly, whose representation they assert was "fabricated" eight years ago by the government. (Chiang Kai-shek has ordered the assembly convened May 5, 1946, but the communists want it postponed until Oct. 10, to permit election of new representatives.)

"Getting to the root of this matter, if they do convene this packed national assembly they will only drive themselves along the road to death and create a situation of split and division," Mao predicted.

He said if the present assembly is called it would pass a constitution "which in reality supports dictatorship and opposes democracy entirely without a popular basis." The communists will bring to Chungking their draft proposal for a new liberalized constitution.

Communist views on industry in the new government envision use of an enormous amount of capital coming from two sources: funds accumulated by the Chinese, and foreign loans.

"Foreign loans are welcomed because they will be beneficial to both Chinese and people abroad to develop large-scale light and heavy industries and modernized agriculture," they said. "On this basis the field for foreign investments in China will be extraordinarily large."

As for labor, Mao's program outlines an eight or ten-hour work day, unemployment relief, social insurance, rights of trade unions combined with protection of interests, private and cooperative enterprise.

The land program calls for ownership by the tenant of the land he tills, as well as a plan for transforming a large section of the rural population into an urban group for running future factories. Mao estimates there are 360,000,000 peasants in China.

When a new democratic coalition government appears, Mao intends to hand over the communist eight route army—with a proviso the government do likewise with its forces. The latter are in "serious condition" he maintains. He urged reform of the conscription system which he terms "rotten to the core."



A Pack of Troubles

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON
(Distribution by King Features Syndicate, Inc. Reproduction in whole or in part strictly prohibited.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20 — The republicans are being pinched and pressed by a demand for a forward-looking platform which will rouse the people to enthusiasm.



Paul Mallon

The news has caused them to look weak on this score. A statement of principles tediously accumulated and then watered down for full agreement among republican members of congress, failed to please the national committee at Chicago.

A number of national committees thought there should be something stronger, more flashy, and they extracted a promise for the creation of a committee on development of national policy.

This committee is now appointed, one a member of congress who is a national committeeman; two others who are lawyers and state leaders (but no governors); and three women.

The committee has no intraparty complexion which is noticeable, except that all are representatives of the big states. It is to be a permanent committee, to function as a platform declaration board from time to time, consulting, they say, with members of congress.

Publicity stunt
Frankly, nothing flashy can be expected. My information suggests the wiser heads at the highest desks in the party were thinking of publicity more than anything else in this move. They see Mr. Truman holding frequent press conferences from which his every word circulates throughout the nation.

The titular head of the republican party, Governor Dewey, not only suffered a political impediment of speech through defeat, but has chosen voluntarily to remain tongue tied on

the republicans attempt to get together to compose honey-dewed words into broad generalities, which will be agreeable to every person and offend no one, this seems to be true.

Actually, it is not. The republicans have made a record of opposition in the Truman administration in which the cleavage between the two is clear. It could be accurately expressed in one sentence. The republicans are against the CIO economic, political and international theories of government; the Truman administration is against them only in exceptions and not as a rule. (Full employment spending, unemployment compensation, labor control legislation.) The republicans vote against them in such complete majority as to establish a party character.

Waste of Time
It all seems a little extraneous, therefore, to talk about soul-stirring platforms, and history rather indicates it is a waste of time. No party in my time has won an election with a declaration of principles.

In my 30 years of modern political experience, the ins have always remained in until the people got tired of them and voted them out. What was said about issues never seemed to make much difference.

In particular, platform declarations have been the least important phase of politics. The leaders get together and haggle over language for weeks and months. Finally they come out with many thousands of words which have been leveled to the lowest common denominator of appeal, and the day after they are issued no one can remember what was in them.

This is necessarily so. Look at the democratic party experience for proof if you need it. While Mr. Truman has taken one position on issues as a titled leader, his democratic congressmen have generally taken an opposite stand, as they did with Mr. Roosevelt.

To Run On Own Records
A republican tells me none of the Truman program has been enacted by his congress except the bill to abolish war time. I have not checked this, but I have heard authentically that the democratic congressmen have met and decided they will not attempt to draw up a statement of party problems for the coming race, but will let each man run on his own record, using the Truman coat tails or not, as each chooses. There is to be no democratic "platform."

My idea is that unless you have a single man heading a ticket you can't get a concise and worthwhile declaration of principles the people can understand. Only in the expression of individual personality can such cleavage be expressed clearly to the people.

Now I know many fine politicians believe that a strong assertion at Chicago would have electrified the people, and are sincerely hoping one will now come from the new committee.

In their fond hope they remind me of popular public thought during the depression. Nine out of ten men then believed that if some particular economic device could be created the economic faults of civilization could be perfected. They thought there was such a thing as a panacea. They concocted all manners of such schemes, many of which were put into effect.

They were just wrong in their original premise; it was not true that there could be such a thing. I do not believe there can be such a thing as an electrifying political platform.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

lacked and our own political spellbinders generously fed our American ego. At last the old world has doffed its cap to the new, though not without a feeling of regret, as though an age had passed.

It is true that the United States has set the pace for the present age, with its emphasis on industrialization, on the harnessing of natural energy to ease the labor of mankind. Blessed with rich resources and peopled by men with inventive genius and organizing ability, our country forged the weapons of victory in two wars and provided a standard of living for its people which is the envy of the rest of the world.

An added reason for overleaping the Atlantic is the growing importance of the far east, particularly China. The defeat of Japan ended one threat but solved no other problems. Instead it left others in its wake. The far east becomes a sensitive political spot on the earth's surface, and the UNO wants to be located where its seismograph may record the tremors and quakes in Asia as its political "crust" settles.

Though the sceptre of power may have passed from the countries of Europe, it will be recognized as the nursery of western culture of which our own is but an extension. From the Mediterranean basin and from Europe came the arts and sciences which compose most modern civilization. What of the older cultures of Egypt and the near east survives came to us through the filter of Greece and Rome. From Homer to Housman, from Phidias to Rodin, from Pythagoras to Einstein, from Plato to Bertrand Russell, from Galen to Pasteur, from St. Augustine to John Wesley, from Aristotle to the Curies, Europe was the cradle for man's intellectual and moral development. Europe's contribution is part of the heritage of all humanity.

Nor should we conclude that Europe is a spent force. Wrecked though it is economically, ruined as are its cities and factories and churches, it remains the home of some 400,000,000 people west of Russia, rich in varied natural resources and abundantly rich in human skills. If it will only let, wars alone and concentrate on its industries, its arts, its universities and scientific research, there is no reason why it cannot continue the intellectual and spiritual center of the world.

The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. Rogers

SOLDIER OF DEMOCRACY: A BIOGRAPHY OF DWIGHT DAVIS. By Kenneth S. Davis. Doubleday, Doran. \$3.50.

How a normal boy, a scrapper raised in Kansas, an average student with apparently no absorbing goal, born of ancestors with pacifist religious convictions, grew into the general in command of the armies which defeated Germany in the east is told in this detailed biography.

Born in Texas, where his father held a poorly paid job, Dwight was taken back to Abilene, Kans., to live on what was definitely the wrong side of the tracks. Uncles, aunts and grandsons were fairly well to do, but Dwight's own father never made much money. By contrast the six sons were markedly successful and two of them, Dwight and Milton, achieved international reputations.

Dwight learned the need for hard work, the value of money. He won respect with his fists, and on the football field. He went to West Point somewhat by chance, his scholastic record was undistinguished and, because of a bit of violently unjust disciplining, he suffered a knee injury barring him from football. In World War I he proved too valuable in camps at home to be sent abroad. Later he served in the Philippines, Washington, France and the Panama Canal Zone where he was inspired by then Brig. Gen. Fox Connor to dedicate himself to his profession with a seriousness new to him. He rated first in his class in the army's toughest school, at Leavenworth, and was notably ready for war when war came.

Ardent admirer of his subject, Davis presents his case with eloquence. He correctly lays great emphasis on Eisenhower's success in creating unity in the international command; makes a laughable figure out of Giraud; aligns himself with the many who have criticized the state department's treatment of de Gaulle.

An exhaustive study, this will remain an essential book in the history of America's role in World War II.

A bride in Morocco sits motionless, eyes and mouth closed for five days after the big event, while women passing by come in to look at her.

Warning Sent Kimmel Prior To Disaster

(Story also on page 1)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—(AP)—Adm. Richmond Kelly Turner, testifying before the Pearl Harbor committee today described an order sent to Rear Adm. Husband Kimmel 10 days before Pearl Harbor which was aimed at preparing the fleet for war.

On Nov. 27, 1941, Kimmel was sent a dispatch which advised it was to be considered "a war warning" and instructed that he "execute an appropriate defensive deployment preparatory to carrying out the tasks assigned in WPL 46."

The letters and figures stand for war plan No. 46 which was part of "Rainbow 5," the general plan for operations in a war with Japan.

Turner said defensive deployments under the plan had been worked out in detail and should have sent the fleet out ready to fight, extended reconnaissance, and dispatched submarines for surveillance and possible attack on an approaching enemy.

Deploying Required
"Instead of being concentrated," Turner testified, "it (defensive deployment) meant that the commander in chief of the Pacific fleet could take operating stations for the most probable attack."

That, he asserted, would have sent fast ships northward, the direction from which the attack actually came, to cover an area in which there were no islands from which enemy could be reported.

Against such a fast force as might be expected to make any attack, he said, the American battleships would have been of "no use" except to combat landings. He added that the proper disposition for that sort of action would have been at sea, where they could move in on landing forces.

Fleet Caught
The fleet—six battleships, six cruisers and a dozen destroyers—was caught in the harbor.

Relating his expectations as to Japanese action, the admiral testified that a drop around Nov. 25 or 26 in the volume of communications among Japanese fleet units caused him to conclude that the bulk of Japan's navy was at sea.

From other information, he said, it was apparent part of the fleet would be used in an amphibious movement into the south China sea. He declared the remainder of the Japanese units "could go only two places"—to defensive deployments in the Japanese mandated islands and to raid Hawaii.

Turner said it was his own opinion that there was about a "50-50 chance" as to which of those two places the Japanese would move and that "a lot of other officers felt that way too."

Curiosity Gets Best Of New Jewelry Clerk

WACO, Tex., Dec. 20.—(AP)—Police Chief C. C. Maxey and seven policemen dashed to a local jewelry store after the emergency bell rang twice, urgently, today. The store was covered front, and back," said Maxey. "Nobody came in; nobody went out. "But no bandits. Just a new clerk who wondered what the bell button was for."

BELGIUM RATIFIES PLAN

BRUSSELS, Dec. 20.—(AP)—The Belgian chamber of deputies and the senate today unanimously ratified the Bretton Woods monetary stabilization plan.

GRIN AND BEAR IT



"Well, they got nice rooms in back of the store, but they won't rest unless we buy the store!"

At
Stevens

Diamond Solitaires, Wedding Rings or Matched Sets. You will find our Collection Complete.

Make your selection for Christmas giving now.

Budget Payments

STEVENS & SON

330 Court St.