

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Squays Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor and Publisher

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On McWilliams' Trail

The trial of the near two-score persons charged with sedition came to an abrupt end with the death of Edward Eicher, the trial judge, in Washington months ago and has never been revived. Little has been heard from the principal defendants since. But it is not to be expected that the big shot pro-nazis would surrender their ideas even with Hitler's defeat. So it is not surprising that Joe McWilliams who was one of the most offensive of the pre-war agitators for a domestic fascism is caught working in the same lines as before. How he was located in Cleveland and how his goose there was cooked through the skilled work of a newspaper reporter is related in a recent issue of Editor and Publisher. The story is worth reproducing, and is as follows:

CLEVELAND, Dec. 11.—A reporting job by Eugene Segal, Cleveland Press, with a follow through by the Scripps-Howard Newspapers, has resulted in smashing the Nationalist party in its present form. One morning last June, Segal got an anonymous phone call in the Press editorial room telling him that Joe McWilliams was registered at Hotel Stadler in Cleveland under the name of J. Williams. McWilliams openly preached fascist doctrines from soapboxes in the Yaleville section of New York, ran for Congress in 1936 and later was indicted for sedition. Segal's caller said the Press had better do something about McWilliams pretty quick or the caller and some friends would get McWilliams in an alley and "take care of him."

Segal told his caller to indulge in no hoodlumism himself while he would try to find McWilliams and determine his business in Cleveland. The same morning another "tip" came to the Press editor, Louis Clifford, that an unidentified man registered at Hotel Stadler and was soliciting funds from industrialists for former U. S. Senator Robert R. Reynolds' Nationalist Party.

Segal went to the Stadler lobby and after a four-hour search was rewarded by seeing McWilliams, whom he recognized from pictures. He followed McWilliams to Hotel Cleveland. McWilliams was met by a large and bulky gentleman with whom he drove off in a big car. Segal got the license number of the car which he checked in New York and found had been issued to Rue S. Malone, a woman. Further check showed she is the wife of J. Victor Malone. He found Malone registered at the Cleveland and learned he was the representative of Reynolds.

The next day Segal followed McWilliams to Hotel Cleveland. McWilliams and Malone left the hotel to board a street car. Segal followed them in an automobile to the end of the line and saw them enter the offices of a Cleveland industrial plant. During all this shadowing of McWilliams, Segal noticed a little brown sedan and a black car on the trail. He thought first it was a bodyguard for "Handsome Joe," but later concluded it was an FBI man. This was never determined.

During the next week, Segal continuously followed McWilliams and Malone, on the rounds to the offices of executives of big Cleveland plants. In a manner which cannot be disclosed he obtained a list of almost all the factories they visited. He interviewed the industrialists and they had solicited for money and found they sought large contributions to the Nationalist Party with promises that the new party would aid the business interests of both major political parties in the north with southern Democrats into a new party.

The new party, Segal learned, would take all curbs off business, suppress labor, stop immigration, and no agreements were made with foreign nations—especially Russia. They attempted to frighten these Cleveland business leaders with stories about Communist activities and, depending on the industrialist, they had solicited for money and found they sought large contributions to the Nationalist Party with promises that the new party would aid the business interests of both major political parties in the north with southern Democrats into a new party.

Carl Mote, Indianapolis, was dropped as president of the Farmers' Guild and recently Bishop Toelen of the Catholic Diocese of Mobile, Ala., suspended a priest, Rev. Arthur W. Terminiello of Anniston, Ala., nationalist propagandist. The Bishop suspended the priest for refusing to obey an order to stop sending out literature which, "we considered detrimental to the church and to the unity of the country." Segal had exposed the Rev. Terminiello's activities. Many denials and protests have come to the Press and Scripps-Howard offices but in no case has the organization been or will be, obliged to publish any retractions or the letters of the protestants. Segal has since followed up his exposes of subversive groups and individuals by publishing an anonymous telephone tip.

We Can't Blame Them

The expressed sympathy of the general public with the GI desire to return home apparently has led to dangerous ground. There certainly should be no condoning of the march of 4000 men on the 21st replacement depot at Manila. Not that any blame can be attached to veterans for their longing for the homeland. They have served courageously and well, and it is a proud nation which is welcoming them by the hundreds of thousands. But there is nothing to be gained by dumping them on the mainland so fast that facilities cannot handle them. And the commanding officer at Manila, while perhaps too blunt, is right in declaring that "you men forget you're not working for General Motors. You are still in the army."

Distasteful as it is, the fact remains that by the very necessity of discipline and control an individual loses a great deal of his individualism in the military. For at least the "duration and six," he is subject to the orders of the war department which may or may not feel free to publicly explain actions that, on the surface, appear out of line to the best interests of the men involved. Mistakes, too, have been made and will be made. But the shooting is over; our men are comparatively safe in all parts of the world. Our own impatience to have them home should not be such as to inspire still further their own natural inclination to rebel against continued absence. The armed services, if they can't or shouldn't bring the men home any faster, could render a distinct service by keeping them busy, thus decreasing the pressure on the military and providing some other emotional outlet than what amounts, more or less, to peaceful revolt against things-as-they-are.

We want our men home, too, but we don't want an under-mining of the great organizations through which victory was won and must be maintained.

With the veteran's administration reaching out for more doctors, and many of the latter finding work with the army and navy agreeable, there will not be as swift a recovery from the lack of medical assistance as may have been anticipated with the war's ending. It still behooves people to keep out of the hands of doctors by staying well. This advice is always received better after the holiday than before.

What Is Well-Dressed!

Mrs. Stanley Mortimer, an umpty-umph socialite of the east, has been named the best dressed woman in the world. A mighty fine title, we'd say, and one of which we expect Mrs. Mortimer is quite proud. And so far as we know, the missus well deserves it, and may all her Christmases be as bright.

But who picked her? The New York Dress Institute. The institute may be all right, too, and all the little instituters. But have they ever been outside 5th avenue in New York?

How could Mrs. Mortimer, in pure attractiveness, stack up against an Oregon girl in neat pinafore, saucy hat, well-fitted if economical coat, walking to the corner grocery, a fleck of rain on her pink cheek and a quick good-morning smile?

And the Duchess of Windsor who de-kinged a kingdom! She was fifth in that list of well-dressed women, and a well-gotten-up one, it might be said. She dresses as befits her so-called "station in life." But if she looks any nicer than many a woman we've seen this holiday season right here at home, we've yet to see a picture that shows it.

This little dissertation isn't meant to bring out any moral like "beauty is as beauty does." It's meant to say that the New York Dress Institute can look out of its window or peruse its charge accounts to its heart's content—we've got our own ideas of what well-dressed means, and it doesn't run to any more diamond earrings, furred trappings, or be-jeweled necks or arms than can be shown by our more modest and unostentatious women.

Aimless Weapons

What to do with a storm-bound, disabled or otherwise unwanted airplane—especially if it is a few thousand feet in the air and travelling a couple of hundred miles an hour—is going to be an increasingly important problem as the number of planes increases in civilian life. The question already has been brought home to the residents of Chillicothe, Ohio, where a twin-engine army transport craft crashed after flying pilotless for 900 miles from the heart of Nebraska, where its crew bailed out. Fortunately, the crash was in an open field and no lives were lost. But such good luck couldn't always obtain.

It is difficult to see how there ever could be a complete overcoming of the hazards from a stricken plane, but to the limit of a pilot's ability a plane that has become no more than an aimless weapon should be headed toward a quicker and more controllable landing that is possible by setting its instruments for a further sustained flight.

Interpreting The Day's News

By Russell Brines
(Substituting for James D. White)

TOKYO, Dec. 26.—(AP)—Premier Kijuro Shidehara's cabinet clearly is unwanted, but it probably will remain as an interim administration until late winter.

The Shidehara cabinet has taken more body blows than those which toppled its predecessor. The public has a general lack of confidence in its ability to solve livelihood problems. It also had stood under a series of directives from General MacArthur, the most important of which eliminated military pensions and recently imprisoned Prince Morimasa Nashimoto.

It still is too early to say for certain how long the cabinet will remain, but indications are that politicians will retain the groggy group in office until after the late January elections. Then, the first party government in nearly 20 years is expected to be inaugurated.

Last Only a Month
However, any successor government would have only one month in office before the election results would force another change.

Meanwhile, finance minister Viscount Keizo Shibusawa has the inside track for the presidency of the dominant progressive party—a potential springboard into the premiership.

Seven members of the house of representatives said the progressive party soon would settle an internal fight for the influential premiership.

Shibusawa, 49-year-old former governor of the bank of Japan, is the main voice of a strong group advocating young leadership. The party once made overtures for the leadership to former premier Prince Fumimaro Koyama who recently committed suicide, and subsequently considered the retired Gen. Kazushige Ugaki, 76. Shibusawa supporters say that Ugaki also is out of the picture.

The progressives claim 270 seats in the house of representatives, a clear majority. Because their political machine is considered too strong for the opposition—particularly among the untutored electorate—the progressives are expected to retain their leadership.

Normally, the party's president would be named premier after the general election.

Succession Planned
Joji Matsumoto, minister without portfolio and the cabinet's constitution expert, said that in the future premiers should be recommended to the throne by the retiring premier.

Recent elimination of the office of lord keeper of the privy seal and so-called modern elder statesmen—former premiers of whom all but two have been imprisoned—necessitates a new technique for selecting the government.

Matsumoto has said that if a cabinet were forced to resign because of opposition of the diet, the head of the opposing party automatically would be named premier.



Stickling to Their Ship
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News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON
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WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—A German artist died at 78 in a small mountain town in Europe. I had never heard of her, but a national liberal weekly which guides the political thoughts of so many Americans, observed her death along with taxes, the full employment bill and such things, saying she was a "silent voice of protest against the wretchedness of the lives of the common people."



They did not say she was a good artist. They said she was "widely known" for her political position. They did not mention any work of hers as being superior artistically, only that her canvas had some distinction in anti-nazism.

Earlier, I had seen the last play of one of our leading playwrights, the one who worked on Mr. Roosevelt's speeches in campaign time, and also on war propaganda, while continuing his playwrighting art on the side. He always got his jobs mixed, but in his last play he finally demonstrated how silly your own war propaganda can sound after the war is over. He wanted to prove newspaper editors are fascists, and he had some racial issues (fostered by the bitter) mixed in with the plot, in accordance with political formula of war days, but not even his utmost liberals could stand it.

War Ended Too Suddenly
The war ended too suddenly for him and the play he had begun to write months back.

No good art is political art. I venture to say politics corrupts art. The very nature of a dominant propaganda purpose prevents political art from being good art in every canvas, play, book or sculpture conceived for political purposes, the political motif inevitably leads the artist away from superior craftsmanship and true artistic conceptions. His message rules his presentation. Books like "Uncle Tom's Cabin" may carry exciting war messages and have great propaganda effect, but in this

will judge it also that in quality. The trouble is the small portion of superior art is obscured by prevailing political judgments in the great mass of production. In my home town I have Hopper, Burchfield, Bohrod, Speicher, Lucioni, Matson, Chapin and James, for whose work I have paid my hard-earned cash—which shows what I think of good American art today. I will buy others when I can get them. Doesn't Mix With Politics
A few weeks ago, an American artist, N. C. Wyeth, was killed by a train and a few paragraphs noted his death. One of his last works was a spring house with pale stones and green grass which breathed a spirit of receptive coolness. It was a beautiful thing, perfectly done, yet publicly unmentioned and un-advertised. I will bet you it will be hanging in museums when this German woman's work is in the basement.

There is soundness in art—but not when they try to mix it with politics, as they are doing today.

The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. Rogers

THE SHORT NOVELS OF DOSTOEVSKY, with introduction by Thomas Mann (Dial, \$4). In these 800 pages are these six novels: "The Gambler," "Notes From Underground," "Uncle's Dream," "The Eternal Husband," "The Double" and "The Friend of the Family." The earliest is "The Double," published in 1846, and the latest "The Gambler," written in 1867. They range in mood from the farcical and hilariously funny to the sublimely tragic. They tell of love, cuckoldry, jealousy, matchmaking, greed, crime, vice, gambling, hypocrisy, perversion, petty evil and tremendous, cosmic evil; they tell of humanity degraded, repulsive, magnificent.

Or rather, they don't tell it, they are it. You don't read Dostoevsky, you suffer or delight with him, you blush, cringe and cover with his characters. I'm not sure that his books can be called likable. They create a strange, mysterious tension, like walking on the brink of a precipice or living over dynamite. There's no rest or peace. There's only a terrific strain constantly drawing near the breaking point; there's a merciless succession of binding and awesome revelations; on page after page gates are flung open before your astounded eyes with the crash and thunder with which the gates of heaven and hell swing wide.

In their scope these are not in a class with "Crime and Punishment" or "The Brothers Karamazov," but it seems to one who thinks this Russian incomparably the greatest novelist of all that they plumb depths as black and awful.

Mann's praise of the matchless Russian is equally unbounded. After recalling Dostoevsky's nerve-shattering escape from execution and noting the fearful epileptic attacks which interrupted his creative work, Mann speaks with an enthusiasm and eagerness uncommon to him of the "titanic" novelist's "epic moments" and "colossal dramas."

This volume introduces the Dial's "Permanent Library" of the best short, or lesser known, works of great authors. There couldn't be a better choice.

GREEK OFF TO LONDON

ATHENS, Dec. 26.—(AP)—The Greek government said today that Vice Premier Emmanouel D. Tsouderos and Minister of Supplies George Kartalis will leave for London Dec. 28 to continue discussions on measures to stabilize the drachma and other reconstruction problems with the British government.

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Housing Lack Drives Board To Portland

The "GI department" of the state unemployment compensation, commission, now with the commission in the old high school building, will move a large unit of its tabulation machines to Portland within the next two weeks, according to a commission spokesman. Salem's housing shortage, plus the unexpected number of claims pouring in, are the main causes for the move, the spokesman said. Experienced tabulation machine operators brought here for the huge task cannot find living space, he stated. The GI department is a government agency within the state compensation commission setup which pays veterans readjustment claims. To date the claims have been twice the amount expected, 70,000 claims per week having been coming into the department, and it is expected that by January 1 the weekly average will rise to 80,000.

Rotarians Hear Frank Bennett At Luncheon

"A father can have no greater happiness than to have a successful son," Frank Bennett, city school superintendent, told several dozen sons of Rotarians at the annual father-son luncheon meeting Wednesday noon. Speaking to fathers and their sons, who ranged in age from 4 year old Larry James Leighton, son of Scout Executive Lyle Leighton, to sons themselves members of Rotary, Bennett reassured them all upon the question of Santa Claus. If the salt of their being is used to savor that which is around them, if the light that is within is used as a beacon for others to follow, those persons and what they have done will be remembered, the speaker said. "Nations do not make people great, people make the nation great," the speaker said, and cited outstanding examples in the persons of Abraham Lincoln and Oliver Wendell Holmes, with their contributions to the nation's history.

Vern Esch, Salem high school senior, sang two songs, "It Might as Well Be Spring" and "Dreaming of a White Christmas." Harry Johnson introduced the speaker and the singer. When the score is totaled, Boston (after San Francisco) should rank very high as a site for the new Geneva (and better luck to it). The location of the buildings would need to be outside Boston, some place say like Wellesley or Braintree or Arlington. The British might object to Lexington; yet it must be admitted that the cause which was born in Boston and baptized at Concord and Lexington has shown great powers. The United Nations organization itself is but the true flowering of the old New England idea of liberty with justice.

Scout Honor Society to Meet

About 30 scouts of the area are leaving Thursday for the annual meeting of the Order of the Arrow, national camping honor society, at the coast guard unit of Camp Meriwether, scout camp on the coast south of Tillamook. Feature of the three-day meeting will be the granting of the second brotherhood honor of the society to the following: Lawrence Hobart, troop 52, Silverton; Glenn Kleen, troop 3, Salem; John Thompson, Explorer troop 17; Tom Ulmer, scoutmaster of troop 14, S. E. Salem; Richard Easton and Ted Roake of ship 12, Eastern, and D. L. St. John, Gervais.

The election of officers will also be held. Present officers are Frank Deckabach, Richard Easton, Bob Wagers, and Robert Schaechtick. Scout leaders going on the trip are D. L. St. John, Verne Merrick and Lyle Leighton, scout executive.

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By Lichty



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