

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Let's Quit Wasting Food

The president's famine emergency committee has made a plea to help tide a hungry world over "a terrible four months" until the next harvest, and the appeal should not fall on deaf ears. It is entirely consistent with the democratic spirit and should not be confused with less dire and widespread needs to which there understandably is a tendency to apply the attitude of "let them lie in the bed of their own making."

The need, too, by no means is applicable only to our erstwhile enemies. It applies to many allied nations or nations which might have been our allies had they been given a chance. And regardless of their being considered friend or enemy, there is no excuse to let the children of the world starve while we throw away "the richest garbage in the world."

The caloric content of the average American diet is so far above minimum needs that there is no question of affecting health in this country even if the suggested reduction in consumption was followed to the letter—which it won't be. We are asked to eat open-faced sandwiches, buckwheat cakes, broiled instead of fried fish, fruit instead of pastries, potatoes, fish, eggs, poultry and seasonal vegetables. It can only be imagined what a luscious meal such foods would make for those to whom a crust of bread means life or death.

It cannot be said in truth that an urge to help feed the starving is entirely selfless, either. A helping hand can do more to win friends and influence people than all the prating about ideologies ever printed. It can mitigate against anarchy, provide the hope of a better world, without which the future is dark. It is far from true that the hand which feeds always gets bit.

Our own sacrifices regarding food actually have been infinitesimal, our bleeding notwithstanding. It is not too much to ask us to quit wasting food—and that, after all, is the crux of the entire presentation.

The Expense Account

If one travels he is apt to wonder who all the people are who put up at the fine hotels, eat at the swanky restaurants, take in a nite club or two of an evening, entertain parties at the theatre. And where do they get all the money?

One answer is the "expense account." Mr. Gallup might take a poll of the people riding on the Broadway limited for a week or stopping at the Palmer house and see how many of them are paying their own way, and how many are traveling on expense account. The proportion whose trip is financed by government, association, corporation, labor union or cooperative would turn up to be very large.

Marvellous is the expense account. Even though in these times it be not stretched to cover overcoats and nylon hosiery it still has remarkable expansive qualities. This is not to imply that it is universally a swindle sheet, which is its "trade" name. But a large portion of the travel is done at the expense of organizations, business, governmental, church, etc.

In wartime most of the travel was on Uncle Sam's soldiers, sailors, marines, officers' families on travel allowances, alphabetical experts hurrying from place to place to help the war get won, industrialists going to Washington on war contracts or back home. The war over, more commercial salesmen are on the go. And business men who do not travel have to do a lot of entertaining of visiting customers and out-of-town vice presidents. (That's where the nite clubs and theatre parties come in).

Abolish the expense account and travel would shrink one-third — and so might business. Though comptroller's frown and presidents gripe the expense account rolls on as relentlessly as Ol' Man River, to the delight and profit of hotelkeeper and passenger agent, waitress and cab-driver.

Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, March 12.—Now let me explain the latest Truman-Bowles wage-price policy issued Monday.

Bars to wage increases are to be removed and patterns established with "ifs" and "ands" and "buts."

One of the "ifs" provides an 18½ cents an hour increase if the local pattern permits, but not necessary. In case this provision does not apply, the cost-of-living pattern will become a "but," although not automatically. The cost-of-living pattern is changed from—and here I quote the official explanation—"an increase in straight-time hourly earnings in the appropriate unit to the extent that increases had fallen short of a 33 per cent increase since January 1, 1941. That is the old, old pattern since February 14. It is to be changed to—1 quote again—"Increases in basic wages if hourly wages of the appropriate unit have not risen 33 per cent since January 1, 1941." This is the different wage policy as the official handouts present it. Different, isn't it?

Firmly Against Price Rise
The price policy is explained with equal simplicity. The new policy—I quote again—"will not mean a new higher level of prices. There are no 'ifs,' 'ands' or 'buts' about this. Upon this Mr. Bowles is firm. His OPA, however, simultaneously provided a "but," if not a butt—or butte. At the very moment of the Bowles announcement, it made public a general increase in the prices of men's and boys' clothing in order to induce manufacturers to release their stores to the public.

Twenty-four hours earlier OPA authorized what it called "substantial rises in cotton textile prices," to spur production of shirts and dresses. Just before that, a general rise of 10 cents a barrel in the price of oil had been authorized by the same official agency under Mr. Bowles. Steel had been sent up by the government \$2 to \$12 a ton. Building material increases had been directed by OPA on lumber specifically and an announcement was issued bragging about the tremendous increases, which, the government said, no longer justified the weak production of such materials. Too numerous for this terse column were other additional price butts, butts—or buttes.

Now do you understand? If not I will put it in a nut shell, where it seems to be anyhow. The recent wage increase formula is to be liberalized, tremendously, but not too much, greatly, a little, maybe and maybe not, but the price formula is not to be liberalized one inch in the struggle to hold the bulge against inflation; that is, not for anything, and by this I mean not anything so far except steel, building materials, fuel, clothing, shirts, dresses, sugar, butter and other foods and other materials.

This is the way they tell it—officially. Yet they wonder why there is confusion. "Ray of Light" Detected
Seriously, I do not think they are as confused as they say. I think I can detect a ray of light behind the flimsy curtain of words, namely this: The government tried to increase wages without increasing prices and found this could not be done. Goods were backed up in some lines because these could not be sold at a profit. These were being kept in storage. Production was discouraged in other lines because it could not be attempted profitably.

A readjustment was necessary in order to get distribution as well as production. This was further advisable as a discouragement to black markets. Indeed, some black markets had become bigger than the white (for further explanation look back upon my columns of the past two weeks). From a political standpoint, also, the relaxations were advisable in order to encourage congress to renew presidential authority over economics in the war powers act expiring June 30.

This maneuver is being covered by as confusing a curtain of "explanations" as ever emanated from a government mimeograph machine, and this is saying something as these machines have seldom been geared for frankness.



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IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

executive head; and the board itself should recognize its chief executive and not bypass him with assigning administrative duties to a subordinate, building him up to the embarrassment of the chief.

Added to the board's worries was the request of a committee from the several institutions for an increase in salaries of faculty and staff members. They pointed out the rise in living costs and the sharply rising level of salaries in industry and government employment. As a result the institutions stand to lose able men and women and to have quality of work deteriorate through lowered morale of staff members.

The committee statement is one which should go out over the state, because it exposes the problem which Oregon faces through its governmental structure. The state has gotten on with modest salaries for many years. During the depression the heaviest cuts were taken by those in the upper brackets. After the depression these persons were the last to have their pay restored and later got the smallest percentage of increase.

We cannot expect to hold in public service men and women of distinguished talents whom we want, particularly in our institutions of higher learning. If we pinch down their compensation. The laborer is worthy of his hire, and so is the college professor.

The state is prosperous enough to increase the compensation of those in positions of responsibility and leadership throughout governmental departments and state institutions. What holds it back is the rigidity of our tax system. The time has come when the state should break some of the things which bind it.

The designing of the battleship Missouri required 550,000 man-days, and the building 3,300,000 man-days.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lighty



"The waiters went out on strike a couple of hours ago—most of the customers haven't noticed it yet!"

The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. ROGERS

AMERICA IS IN THE HEART, by Carlos Bulosan (Harcourt, Brace, \$3).

"I knew that no man could destroy my faith in America... ever," this Filipino writer declares earnestly in the last sentence of a book that amounts in sum and substance to an appalling indictment of this country.

Bulosan was born into a family which aspired to the bright, happy world of tomorrow. For the sake of one brother's education, the peasant father sacrificed bit by bit all the land which supported him, his wife and children, yet even that wasn't enough. One after another the boys, Amado, Marcario, Carlos, came to America with their fond dreams.

They lived precariously up and down the west coast, where they encountered the most virulent kind of prejudice. This was the land of freedom and opportunity to work for starvation wages picking peas and grapes to live in cities in sections where pimps, gamblers and prostitutes didn't object to their darker skins, to steal for food, to vie with Mexicans, Japanese and Chinese for the jobs which paid the least, to be beaten up by white vigilantes.

Carlos is self-educated, which by itself made it difficult to become a writer, and yet the extent of his success is proved by the fact that this volume, "A personal history," is his fifth. But how he could have surmounted the suffering he endured is incomprehensible; and it is doubly incomprehensible that he should have produced even one such charming book as "The Laughter of My Father."

"America Is in the Heart" is the other side of the picture. It is dark and tragic. It lacks, too, it should be added, the literary appeal of earlier works. But it is so stupendous a catalogue of injustice and deprivation and misery that I don't see how he retained the vision and the heroic detachment that leave him confident of our country.

He cherishes a deeper love for America than a lot of Americans feel; we may wonder how many of us would love our native land if we had this stranger's reasons for hating it.

Klamath Would Attract Many, Snell Predicts

No difficulty would be experienced in obtaining enrollment for the Klamath Falls Marine barracks, if the state operates it as a veterans college, Gov. Earl Snell, said in a radio address Sunday night.

"With 5000 veterans alone seeking higher education and with all the other institutions filled to the utmost of their capacity, it is my opinion that the veterans would welcome with open arms the privilege of enrolling for their (freshman and sophomore) work at the very modern, well-equipped Klamath plant," the governor said.

The governor emphasized that no veteran would be forced to go to the school, which would handle about 1500 students.

He said the state either can tell the veterans they can go to school through the acquiring of the barracks, or the state can say, "sorry, buddy, the doors are closed. Come back in two or three years."

Governor Snell said the plans are being drafted in Washington, after which the state board of higher education will decide whether to take over the barracks. He said it would cost \$100,000 to convert parts of the buildings into class rooms, and that the annual cost of operation would be \$400,000. There would be tuition receipts of \$150,000 a year, leaving a net operating cost of \$250,000.

Speech Contest Set for College

High school students from 15 Oregon high schools will meet Friday and Saturday on the Willamette campus in the 12th annual speech tournament. Judged and timed by Willamette forensic students under Dr. Herbert E. Rahe, the contest will include debate, oratory, extemporaneous and serious and humorous interpretation.

Schools participating will be Salem, Washington (Portland), Dallas, Roseburg, Springfield, Grants Pass, Sheridan, Medford, Eugene, Corvallis, Hillsboro, Oregon City, McMinnville, Vernonia, and Beaverton.

The contest will begin in the Willamette music hall auditorium Friday at 8 a.m., with semi-finals on Saturday from 8 to 10 a.m. Results will be announced at 1:30 Saturday afternoon.

Stunt Day Held as Kiwanis Tribute To Frank Bennett

Simulated hair-growing, stiff fines for a variety of "offenses," specialty musical numbers and generally disparaging remarks highlighted the Kiwanis club stunt day Tuesday at a program designed to honor Supt. of Schools Frank Bennett.

Bennett, now Kiwanis lieutenant governor, was paid serious tribute for "many years of faithful service" to the club. The program was under the direction of Chris Seeley.

The hair-growing contest was won by William J. Braun (who donned the fanciest wig) in competition with Dr. Charles Durden, Dr. Lloyd Sanders, Mayor I. M. Doughton, Lee Clark, Roy Rice and W. W. Chadwick.

Numbers on the doozyphone and clarenspiegel were given by Francis Allen and Walter Weather.

Japan Following Logical Plan In Trying to Stir Up Quarrels Among Allies for Own Benefit

(Following is the fourth of a series of seven articles on Japan today by Owen Lattimore, one of America's foremost authorities on the Far East, author of the best-selling "Sedition in Asia," and director of the Walter Hines Page School of International Affairs. Lattimore has just returned from a first-hand survey of conditions in Japan as special advisor to the state department's reparations mission.)

By Owen Lattimore

WASHINGTON, March 12.—(ONA)—The fact that the Japanese would like to get America, Russia, Britain, and China all quarrelling with each other is no proof of any special Machiavellianism in the Japanese mentality. It is the logical and sensible thing for the Old Gang in Japan to try to do.

The most obvious thing to do is to keep the Americans who advocate building up Japan as a bastion against Russia. Bastions are now highly thought of, in place of the cordon sanitaire which was so popular, and so disastrous, at the end of the last war.

Other Americans however, point out that Japan just doesn't have what it takes to make a bastion. To make Japan a satisfactory bastion you would have to return to Japan's Old Gang, as an absolute minimum, not only strategic control but economic, political, and social control of Manchuria and Korea. Since that is out, for other reasons, bastion ideas about Japan are pure nostalgia.

Enticements Are Held Out

Then there is another idea, popular in influential British circles, that instead of going ahead too fast with the industrialization of China, we should maintain Japan as the principal Asiatic industrial nation. A successful China would enormously increase the pressure on the British to withdraw from India, because the Indians would say that if the Chinese can do it, the Indians can too. Better play along with Japan, whose Old Gang at least has the right gentlemanly ideas about monarchy.

Of course, it is difficult to sell the Americans on a policy of holding back the development of China but an industrially strong Japan would keep two jumps ahead of China and make the Chinese look inept. Therefore, since some of the Americans are anti-Russian, maybe the thing to do would be for some of the British and some of the Americans to get together on something that could be launched as a stop-Russia policy but would work out as a stop-China policy.

Defeat Similar to Kaiser's

Then there is the strategic chess move which may be called the Weimar to Hitler, or Japanese Knight's move. Japan's defeat in this war, by an act of surrender, resembles the defeat of the Kaiser in the last war more than the defeat of Hitler in this war. There are implications in this which the Japanese have not missed. Many Japanese are slightly red-eyed in the morning, from having sat up all night reading about Germany in the 1920's, looking for persuasive lines to try out on the Americans.

Under the Weimar Republic, the German Wehrmacht helped to keep up not only its officer formations but its technical progress in aviation and tanks by helping Russia to build up industry and the Red Army, and, through Marshal Tukhachevsky and others, infiltrated German influence right into the Red Army's top command. Why shouldn't Japan do the same thing in China? Perhaps the opportunity might come, in time, to form a joint Sino-Japanese front against Russia.

Invitations Undisguised
Perhaps they might even get backing from the countries which couldn't quite bring themselves to back Hitler against Russia.

Such thinking largely explains why some Japanese have hardly bothered to disguise their invitations to the Chinese to ponder the possibility that America is not necessarily their only friend. They put one twist on the invitation which they hope will be especially persuasive. They recall that the original Konoye policy was one of anti-Red "cooperation" between the industrial and financial conservatives (but not the most feverish saber-rattlers) in Japan

and the conservative wing of the Kuomintang in China.

The Chinese Government did not fall for the argument then, because Japan was too powerful and too dangerous. But now, China is the winner, so wouldn't it be safe?

Bids Made to Chinese

To implement this line, there have been open Japanese bids for the Chinese Government to take over Japanese personnel in Japanese development enterprises, especially in North China.

None of the devices for setting Americans, Russians, British and Chinese against each other is mutually exclusive. The Japanese can play tag in and out among them, using them singly or in combination. And there are some hard-bitten Japanese who are sure they know just how to do it. In the days when the Hitler gang were still just a lot of schemers and plotters, they had no trouble in hiding behind Hindenburg, that supposedly nice old man, the Japanese, who figure themselves as future and, they hope, more successful Goerings, Goebbels and Ribbentrops, hope that they will be able to do without an actual Hitler.

Hide Behind Shidehara

In the meantime, they are as unobtrusively as possible hiding behind that supposedly nice old man, Shidehara, the one-cylinder Premier.

It is for such Japanese reasons as these, and not only for inter-Ally reasons, that the recent step of setting up an Allied Council in conjunction with General MacArthur's Headquarters was a good move. Some fear that its partial power of veto may hamper effective action. On the other hand, the mere existence of such an Allied Council sets a premium on pre-veto agreement, and agreement of that kind is the best way to spoil the Japanese game of tag. (Tomorrow—Democratic Japan?)

Brazilians Talk To Local Group On Thursday

Presbyterians in Salem will have an opportunity to hear the Brazilian point of view from three Brazilian church leaders at a host dinner at the church Thursday, March 14, at 6:30 p.m. Members of neighboring Presbyterian churches in this area are expected to attend.

The speakers are the Rev. Miguel Rizzo, Jr., who is the tireless pastor of one of the largest churches in Brazil. In addition to his regular duties as pastor of the Igreja Unida (United Church) of Sao Paulo, he is a prolific writer, popular speaker, editor of a religious magazine and executive secretary of the "Institute of Religious Culture." Dona Cecilia Siqueira, wife of a well known pastor, is the professor in a secondary school, leader in women's church organizations, poetess and mother of a large family. The Rev. Israel Gueiros, M. D., is a member of an extraordinary family living in north Brazil, a family of 12, seven sons and five daughters, all actively engaged in Christian service. He is at present moderator of the Northern Synod of the Presbyterian church in Brazil.

These three leaders are making a tour across the United States speaking in many Presbyterian churches and they are accompanied by Dr. Peter Baker, a Presbyterian missionary.

Engineer Society Names Hathaway

Gail A. Hathaway, of the office of Chief of Engineers, U. S. War Department, took over the position of vice president of the American Society of Civil Engineers, oldest national engineering organization in the United States, today, succeeding A. C. Polk of Birmingham, Ala., who died in office last week.

Hathaway, an officer in World War I, is a graduate of Oregon State college, and from 1924 to 1928 was assistant to the state engineer of Oregon. He was associated with the U. S. Engineer Department in Kansas City from 1928 to 1937. His work there included, among other things, the hydraulic design of Fort Peck dam.



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Editorial Comment

NO PROFIT IN STARVING NATIONS

In the problem of feeding the hungry peoples of Europe Germany has its place no less than the others. Starvation is predicted there, too, this summer unless more food is shipped in. The point that the Germans, as guilty parties in this world situation, do not deserve to be fed does not control here. There is a much more important consideration.

Starvation in Germany, as anywhere else, will create chaos. When people are falling down in the streets from hunger they are bereft of hope and of their senses. Anything can happen and most likely everything will happen that nobody wants. The United States, no less than the rest of the world, cannot afford that some tens of millions of people in Central Europe shall take leave of their senses.

The restoration of Central Europe to its place in world economy is essential. If Germany is permitted to lapse into despair, confusion and social chaos, the effects will cost the United States ten, twenty, forty times as much as to prevent this by food enough to keep Germans above the starvation line.

All accounts coming from Europe indicate that a crisis is approaching rapidly. Prompt action is necessary.—San Francisco Chronicle.