

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shifts Us" From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor and Publisher Member of the Associated Press

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Revision of Strategy

The debate respecting control of the Dardanelles has resulted in some finger-pointing at Panama and Suez canals. The Turkish answer that the atom bomb makes dangerous dependence on narrow waterways applies to these canals as well as to the straits between Europe and Asia Minor.

Great Britain is getting out of Egypt, which further exposes the Suez canal, and instead is reported to be considering opening a new route across central Africa. The world war showed how tenuous was the lifeline of empire through the Mediterranean, and Britain evidently wants an alternate, if longer, route.

Our statement and military leaders ought also to be considering the vulnerability of the Panama canal. A merchant vessel, in advance of a declaration of war, might carry a bomb for explosion when the ship is in the locks, which might result in putting the canal out of business for months. A plane launched from a submarine might carry an atom bomb to destroy the installations at the canal.

The alternative is not another canal through Nicaragua, but developing better continental routes. Such strategy would call for enlargement of rail facilities across northern states, through the central states and the southern states; also for great, broad highways. With such facilities, and with a two-ocean navy the loss of the Panama canal would not be fatal—it would not be anyhow unless we were given other bad lickings.

The other and preferable alternate is to develop the United Nations so peace may be firmly established, and along with it an atomic control commission which can make the outlawing of military use of the atom bomb effective. The general assembly of the United Nations meets in this country, starting today. Undoubtedly friction will develop; but if the UN can get over its infancy and the diseases attendant on that period it may become the respected arbiter of disputes among nations and the strong barrier against resort to force. When the UN is securely established then we should be ready to relinquish militarization of the Canal Zone. Until that time we must keep it strong, and at the same time be prepared with alternate routes of transportation against its damage or destruction.

Measures on City Ballot

In the city of Salem three propositions are submitted for decision by the electors. The first is a charter amendment which would absolutely prohibit the placing of parking meters on any of the streets in Salem. The other two are amendments to clarify the general charter revision adopted last May. In our judgment the first measure should be defeated and the other two adopted.

To adopt a charter amendment prohibiting installation of parking meters would be to tie the hands of the city council for the indefinite future. That is too much of a denial of the exercise of sound judgment in meeting the city's problems.

When this matter was first proposed there was violent opposition to installing parking meters, led by the retail trade bureau. As time has passed that opposition has moderated. Many businessmen have come to the conclusion that parking meters should be installed here—as a means to speed up circulation of traffic. Other towns, many much smaller than Salem, have installed the meters and the experience is proving highly satisfactory. Rarely have they been ordered out after trial.

This amendment should be defeated, leaving in the hands of the city council power to decide whether or when parking meters should be installed here. We recommend Vote 501 X NO.

The other two amendments straighten out conflicts which developed in the general charter revision adopted by the voters last May. The conflicts arose as a result of last minute alterations before the measure was submitted. The amendments define clearly the elective municipal officers, their terms, and methods of nomination and election. So far as known there is no opposition to these amendments which were carefully drafted to avoid ambiguities or clear up errors in the original charter. We recommend Vote 502 X Yes, and 504 X Yes.

Tired of Milking Cows

Marion county dairymen defend the recent increase in milk prices and cite increased costs they have to bear for feed and labor. One factor which critics of dairymen overlook and that is that most of them are tired. They lost their hired help and the help of their sons during the war and had to carry very heavy loads in order to sustain production. The war is over but hands are not coming back to dairy farms. Wages remain high, good help hard to get. The price question aside, the consuming public owes a real debt to the dairy farmer and his family for their consistent hard work to supply milk to urban dwellers. The dairy farmer hasn't heard of the 40-hour week, two weeks vacation and holidays on pay. Dairying is still a twice-a-day, seven-days-a-week chore.

Caution Signal

Price gauges are rapidly developing heebie-jeebies. They fluctuate widely. Some prices are zooming upwards; others are plummeting downwards. The range and uncertainty of a season of economic change. Prices will act along more independent lines rather than conform to general patterns.

Informed opinion is more fearful of price deflation than of further inflation. Production is really going forward, though retarded in certain areas. So-called "soft goods" are coming into abundant supply. In fact merchants may run into some "distress" merchandise as they shop around this fall and winter. Christmas trade will be enormous, but look for the amber caution signal on inventory accumulations.

A big speculator was caught in the trading squeeze in cotton and lost several million dollars when the price dropped \$25 a bale. The price had gone way out of sight to 40c a pound. It was due for a drop. We can expect the southern senators however to have every the decline in the cotton price.

Editorial Comment

From Our Contemporaries

DAGWOOD FOR PRESIDENT

This is a tale of three characters. Dagwood Bumstead lives in a comic strip. William Lee Knous is Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court and this fall was unopposed Democratic nominee for Governor.

Leon Lavington is State Treasurer, and this fall was unopposed Republican nominee for Governor.

The Denver Post, employing a local public-opinion-poll organization to find out what Denverites thought, had the question asked of a William Lee Knous to Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court: "Who is a Dagwood Bumstead? Who is William Lee Knous. Who is Leon Lavington?"

Eighty-one of each 100 identified Dagwood Bumstead correctly. Thirty of each 100 knew who William Lee Knous is. Thirty-one of each 100 knew who Leon Lavington is. The answer is easy. Get Chic Young to let William Knous and Leon Lavington run in his comic strips.—Christian Science Monitor.

Russia tartly said we had no business supervising elections in Bulgaria. A more effective rejoinder would have been to propose Bulgarian supervision of our elections in, say, Mississippi or South Carolina. Mr. Byrnes would have found that reply hard to counter.

Paul Mallon's BEHIND THE NEWS

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 22—The headlines speak of peace as if it was a routine, some corner somewhere, and might be discovered if we could find a way to it—although actually in distance, it is far off, vaguely unplaced, and is not yet discernible. The technique of the situation is this: The peace treaties, still in dispute, are not on the agenda of the 52 nations meeting in assembly for their first real opening session, Wednesday. This meeting is concerned with some admissions, a site, and routine organizational problems.

When the session really means in that 31 more small nations, mostly those of Latin America (not in the war) are coming into the peace picture.

Now Mr. Byrnes, the state secretary, once said he would take his stalemated problem on the unfinished treaties to this whole world assembly of nations, if stalemated persists. Frankly he expects it to persist. His speech upon his return from the 21 nations in Paris (the nations in the war) was detected by close watchers to be somewhat pessimistic.

Speech Not Chipper Mr. Byrnes came back from the arduous session in Paris, looking chipper, younger in fact than when he left. But his speech was not chipper. He rather indicated between the lines he expected Russia would veto the idea of a free trading Danube, for instance—and how could he then go ahead and make a separate peace with Russia-dominated Rumania, for a free Danube, when Russia would make a treaty with Rumania for a closed Danube. This veto, he expected to be lodged at the coming New York session of the big four council of ministers, because Molotov did not listen to his radio speech, but sent underlings to hear the radio, and stood his ground presented at Paris. Mr. Byrnes had some hope Russia would realize the world did not like her way and would change her position—but not much.

Even if she did, peace is yet far distant. The treaties would have to be ratified by our senate, after debate, and any moderation in principle would be interminably resisted. If Russia gave in, the treaties would hang fire perhaps a year. As matters stand, peace rests only with the "attitude" of Russia, and an attitude is an intangible factor, so peace actually is not around the next corner, or Military Break Possible

Some furies of apprehension were noticed in certain naval quarters simultaneously with the Byrnes speech, and upon the Russian move upon the Dardanelles (to say nothing of the unreasonable attitude of Tito.) At least one naval authority has been suspecting a break might occur in the military (not diplomatic) situation at any time, and the continuing truth is Russia is in no condition for military action and would not be able to sustain more than a limited campaign for a brief period. Military action is not expected.

The only new development tossed into assembly meeting, before it started, was the problem laid down for foreign policy by the Federal Council of Churches. No official here rushed to comment upon it. The attitude of the Byrnes people around the state is that nothing has been said, should be said of a religious nature just now, certainly not involving any clerical hopes, as the recent movement for Christian solidarity has shown firm substance behind the Byrnes policy. Particularly few wished to question this new church advice, inasmuch as it set down the level-headed realities of the basic condition, namely: "Marxist communism in its orthodox philosophy stands clearly opposed to Christianity. It is atheistic in its conception of ultimate reality and materialistic in its view of man and his destiny"—and the statement defended the necessity of maintaining man's "individual human personality." These words stood as a bulwark to the Byrnes policy.

Words Intended for U.S. Later on a program raised some question about our own free enterprise system and how long it will continue—recommending elimination of international intolerance, our own prejudices and practices which lead to tension, cooperation with Russia culturally, religiously and economically and building up democracy. As these words seemed applicable almost entirely to Russia, in view of the vetoed peace condition and vague hopes, the part intended for us, fell upon more or less otherwise busy ears here. You could hear comment that the first part of the statement seemed wisely written by someone like George Foster Dulles, who knows affairs while the latter part must have been composed by someone with more critical, unencouraged hope that the situation warrants.

Thus hope for relaxing tensions was largely assigned to Russia. The early advice that "tensions are unavoidable" was more in keeping with the official mind, as well as the suggestions of all three statements (Byrnes, church council and Vandenberg) that these tensions will continue a long time and we should get accustomed to them, as an adopted, although not wanted, state of international life. This was the true state of affairs.

The overwhelming viewpoint here was that Russia is brazenly bluffing diplomatically, that if one tenth of her bluff is called in a firm and friendly way, she must yield to the common necessity for human existence in an atomic era.



Successful Rocket Experiment

The Safety Valve LETTERS FROM STATESMAN READERS

RENT CONTROL BURDEN

To the Editor:

In announcing decontrol on meat by which he hoped to make everyone happy, the moneyed interests and people as well, Mr. Truman tries to make it clear to property owners that they must almost solely, carry the burden of control, with prices on everything constantly rising, including taxes.

The points mentioned in OPA rent control by which a landlord can adjust his rents, certainly shows a lack of brain power on the part of someone, in setting up such a program. There are other points that anybody, landlord or tenant, would agree that is equally important. One of them is where one buys from a former owner who has moved away and taken on other interests, and was interested only in selling the property and figured it not worth while to make any change in rental with his present tenants.

In this so-called "rent control" program, they propose to scrutinize the rentals charged by various owners of property and keep them all equal according to what you are supposed to charge for what and where located. There never was a time when property owners charged the same for the same layout, any more than grocery-men charge the same for a "pound of butter". However we have the right not to purchase the pound of butter!

Everyone is fed up on all these unnecessary building permits issued for non-essential structures; race tracks, night clubs, mansions being built in various cities, while our veterans stand by and can't build themselves a shack because of such, and the lumber and other materials rolling out of our country by the tons.

The rent control is going to die a natural death for there are not many who are going to pay any attention to it.

Helen Giler 1620 Center Street.

THIRTEEN YEARS OF REPEAL!

To the Editor:

Repeal came Sept. 6, 1933. It followed thirteen years of prohibition.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"I won't go so far as to say our employes are contented—but I will say the working conditions here!"

The Literary Guidepost

By Carle Hodge

THE THREE BLOSSOMS OF CHANG-AN, by Keith West (MacMillan; \$2.75).

Novels based on the indulgences of the ancient rich seldom go unread. Nor do those which concern the woes that beset men to take unto themselves too many women.

In this story of olden China, Keith West has woven the two themes into a poetic tale as exotic and delicate as a Ming vase. It might have been subtitled "or the Three Women of Lien Kin Wai," for it concerns mostly the adventures, marital and extramarital, of a virile but sensitive young government official, Lien.

The author, an Englishman who has traveled extensively in Yunnan and South China and has written two earlier novels with China as a backdrop, unfolds his story in the lyrical, thoughtful prose supposedly adhered to by all well-bred Chinese during the early dynasties.

Lien's three blossoms are his wife, his concubine and his mistress.

No sooner has he met his first love, Hibiscus, a pretty widow whose late mate's body is unburied and scarcely cold, than she has proposed, and he accepted.

In enlarging his household to maintain the prestige of his official position, he buys Jasmin, a plump young servant girl. Despite his intentions to the contrary, she, too, succeeds in conquering his heart. Then Peony, mysterious, but more mature than her predecessors, enters Lien's life.

Peony is as jealous as the other two but stoutly refuses to enter his household. Nevertheless Lien is torn between his affections, and the women nag and bicker.

With typical Oriental stoicism, calculating and almost unemotional, he finally finds a solution. West offers a studied insight into the squalor, greed, plagues and superstition in which the ancient Chinese lived.

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Announcement!

A. E. Danielson, Realtor, has opened a Real Estate and Loan Office at 168 North 12th Street, Salem Listings will receive prompt and efficient treatment. Please call us any time. Just ask for "Dan, the Real Estate Man" Phone 2-4483

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Salem, Oregon ANNOUNCES

A FREE LECTURE ON CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

ENTITLED CHRISTIAN SCIENCE: THE SCIENCE OF HEALTH AND SALVATION BY CLAYTON BION CRAIG, C.S.B. of Cincinnati, Ohio

Member of the Board of Lecturers of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts

In the Senior High School Auditorium Thursday, October 24, at 8 P.M. The Public is Cordially Invited

Boys and Girls Teams Compete

SWEGLE—Extra school activities these fall days center around the ball games, with a boys and girls' team; all members but one are seventh and eighth grade students.

Huey Towery from the fifth grade helps out one team. Captain of the girls' team is Geraldine Bales, a grader, and the boys' team. Members of the girls' team are Donna Mae Brandt, Barbara Van Loh, Norma Wilson, Barbara Harris, Darlene Crawley, Delores Smyers and Shirley Evans. Boys playing are Lanny Dilbern, Dick Smith, John Biles, Arlyn Lee, Roy Kennedy, Jimmy Ames, Eldon Harms, Ronald Nelson, Arnold Hoffman, and Jerry Bales. One game with the boys' team of Auburn has been played and another with Auburn for this Friday is planned.