

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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"Punish Your Enemies"

One of the long-standing rules of AFL on the political front has been: Reward your friends, punish your enemies. It is not new with organized labor. The anti-saloon league followed the same rule and endorsed thoroughly wet candidates who were pledged to vote "dry." The trouble with the rule is that too often it looks at only one angle of an office-holder's action and takes a decision on that one thing.

Thus organized labor has given no endorsement to Walter Norblad, republican candidate, mainly, it is believed, on the strength of his vote for the Case labor bill. Oddly enough, Homer Angell, consistent "friend" of labor, voted for the bill too but retains AFL support though the CIO endorsement has gone to Lew Wallace, his democratic opponent.

In view of the trend of feeling, however, labor may wish it had accepted the Case bill, for more stringent legislation impedes.

This subject was discussed very competently in an article in the New York Times magazine by Prof. Henry Steele Commager, noted historian, of Harvard university. He holds that "implicit if not explicit, in labor's political program are policies that threaten not only the welfare of labor itself but the integrity of the American political system." And he cites as bad examples the threat of A. F. Whitney of the railroad brotherhood to spend millions from the brotherhood treasury to defeat Truman because of his action in the late railroad strike, also the "box score" prepared by CIO-PAC.

Three paragraphs from Dr. Commager's article deserve quotation.

Now we need not approve of President Truman's handling of the railway strike, or of the Case bill, or of the mangling of OPA or of the other dubious measures which organized labor has demanded in order to perceive that labor's apparent determination to make these things the exclusive test of political support is potentially dangerous. Nor need we oppose political activity on the part of organized labor in order to deplore measures which are tending to the creation of a labor party or to the domination of the Democratic party by labor. For while present labor policies may tend, temporarily, to the advancement of progressive legislation and to a more healthy representation of labor's interests, they tend, in the long run, to the domination of our party and political system.

Let us look first at the logical implications of the policy of putting candidates solely by their stand on legislation which affects labor. This policy requires the subordination of all other issues to so-called labor issues, and assumes that members of labor unions are workers first and citizens second. It assumes that labor issues are the most important of all domestic issues, and that domestic issues are more important than international issues. It purports to disregard a Congressman's vote on such vitally important measures as those dealing with the war, national security, world economy and the United Nations, and judge him only by his vote on such matters as the Case bill or OPA legislation or housing.

This is not only wrong from the point of view of national welfare, it is misguided even from the point of view of labor. For in the long run the welfare of labor will be far more deeply affected by world security and economy than by such essentially temporary matters as anti-strike legislation or housing or even price control, important as these things may seem at the moment.

The structures implied in Dr. Commager's comment apply to other groups beside labor;—to farmers, to businessmen, to manufacturers. Votes should not be cast just on the basis of selfish interest, but on the basis of the general public good. The record of an office-holder, whether legislator, congressman, senator or administrative official, should be viewed as a whole and measured in terms of the best interest of the whole community.

Labor Government and the USSR

One argument used in the campaign for the labor government in Britain was that it would get along better with the USSR than the conservative government under Churchill. The latter, it was well known, had difficulty in getting on with Stalin even as allies in the war. But the labor government's foreign policy has deviated little from that of its predecessor in power. In fact, British socialists are bitter critics of Russian communism.

In sessions of parliament last week Prime Minister Atlee and Foreign Minister Bevin were sharply critical of Russia's postwar conduct. Winston Churchill, as leader of the opposition, directed an inquiry of the government as to whether Russia had 200 divisions of its army planted in liberated or occupied countries of Central Europe. The prime minister professed ignorance, and many papers, including the London Times, scolded Churchill for posing the query. The latter replied in an address before his own constituency when he repeated his question and indicated that from his information the reply would be in the affirmative. He also said he had consulted his party associates and friends before raising it.

It might be said that Britain is selfishly looking after its own interests, and protecting its lifeline of empire. Oddly enough the critics of Britain become also the apologists for Russia and defend its aggression as justified for its own security!

The British government does have a responsibility to its own people—some 40 million crowded on two small islands. But it has a larger responsibility to the world in preserving the essentials of freedom and withstanding the spread of totalitarian forms of government.

If the British and the Americans appear to be teamed up often at the tables of diplomatic discussions, it is not that one is trying to bolster the other, but rather that their conceptions of freedom pretty much coincide. They agree not out of self-interest merely but because their minds run in the same direction. As we believe in the western idea of freedom and popular government we should defend it as a matter of principle.

Regarding a possible shortage of electric power—there is a shortage now, not in supply at the source, but in supply at the meter. It is due primarily to lack of transformers. This shortage is felt wherever demand for energy is increasing. Here in Salem for many months the power company has been desperate to obtain transformers to serve customers. A ban was put on adding more house-heating customers last summer, and some new homes are unable to hook up heavy power loads, like water heaters, because the transformer serving the section can't carry the added load. Eugene faces similar troubles, and the municipally-owned plant there is scrambling for transformers. Relief will not come until production catches up with the demand which accumulated during the war years.

Tourist facilities at one of the Oregon coast's most under-rated attractions were destroyed by fire this week. They consisted of the restaurant and service station at the Sea Lion caves near Florence. Certainly such facilities, or better ones, should rise from the ashes before the next tourist season. It is well worth the climb of the long-winding stairs to see the sea lions in their natural habitat of rocky caves along the Pacific shoreline. The attraction fully warrants a growing emphasis in national advertising and publicity regarding the northwest.

The Bend Bulletin calls the turn on the relay of information on release of funds for the Deschutes irrigation project through Lew Wallace of Portland, candidate for congress from the third district. Secretary Krug gave Wallace the information to release to the public, though the latter isn't running for office in eastern Oregon and money for the Deschutes will butter few ballots in Multnomah county.

Paul Mallon's BEHIND THE NEWS

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 26—The advance tip had been circulated inside that Mr. Truman's speech would be more than a welcome to UNA—indeed a major policy speech. But when he delivered it in his exceptionally mild voice it sounded like it was a restatement of well known peace axioms, and it barely held the top headlines against such developments that day as Churchill's unanswered question whether the Russians have 200 divisions (possibly 3,000,000 men) in occupied Europe, Moscow's advertisement of another "cut" of an unstated amount in its war budget which was supposed to have been cut by \$10,000,000,000 already—and the unprecedented politeness of Molotov at UNA. These latter three unexplained simultaneous developments were what really interested people more than Mr. Truman's peace philosophy, although none of them was definite. One local morning paper did not even have an editorial on the Truman speech, and the other carried an editorial which said things almost as platitudinous as Mr. Truman seemed to say. Import Becomes Apparent.

Actually those who were in on the diplomacy of the speech, however, recognized it as an all encompassing major world development. Insert the question of Russia and her tactics between every line and you will learn why the inner groups read it with eagerness. Or keep the Wallace deviation and the planned defection of appears in mind and you will be struck with its proper import.

What Mr. Truman deliberately did was to lay down an official policy of actual individual freedom as the American cornerstone upon which to build world peace—minus all the previously uttered confusions at San Francisco, London and Paris as to what freedom is. He stated the case properly and unmistakably at long last. He not only demanded a peace of justice, but told what justice is. At last he said a forced agreement was no agreement at all. An imposed understanding cannot be a lasting understanding. He called for genuine mutual understanding, and he confessed the Big Four does not have it.

That these words are almost precisely the same as you have read in this spot since early 1942 is of no importance. People who have never read this column or even the president's speech have now come to believe these things of the world which retain their vigor as Harper's magazine and the Atlantic Monthly.

There has been a revolution in weekly magazines, too, save for "box office," its October advertising revenues exceeding \$2,000,000. Of the above, all have succumbed save the Post and the LBJ. The only serious magazines left of the period which retain their vigor as Harper's magazine and the Atlantic Monthly.

trating these new factories back behind the Urals away from bombing. But this is about all we know. Now Mr. Molotov's sudden acquisition of western manners of politeness at UNA has caused more high talk here than the Truman speech or the Russian army. This is in full contrast not only with the San Francisco organizational meeting of UNO, when Molotov was almost brutally isolationist socially as well as politically—and with the last Paris meeting just over, when Molotov pushed which retains the vigor around in their private conferences, at the outset, as if he did not exist. Russian statements breathed fire, antagonism and what might be called vetoism. Not so at the New York opening where Molotov thanked nearly everyone for everything publicly, and even congratulated Mr. Truman.

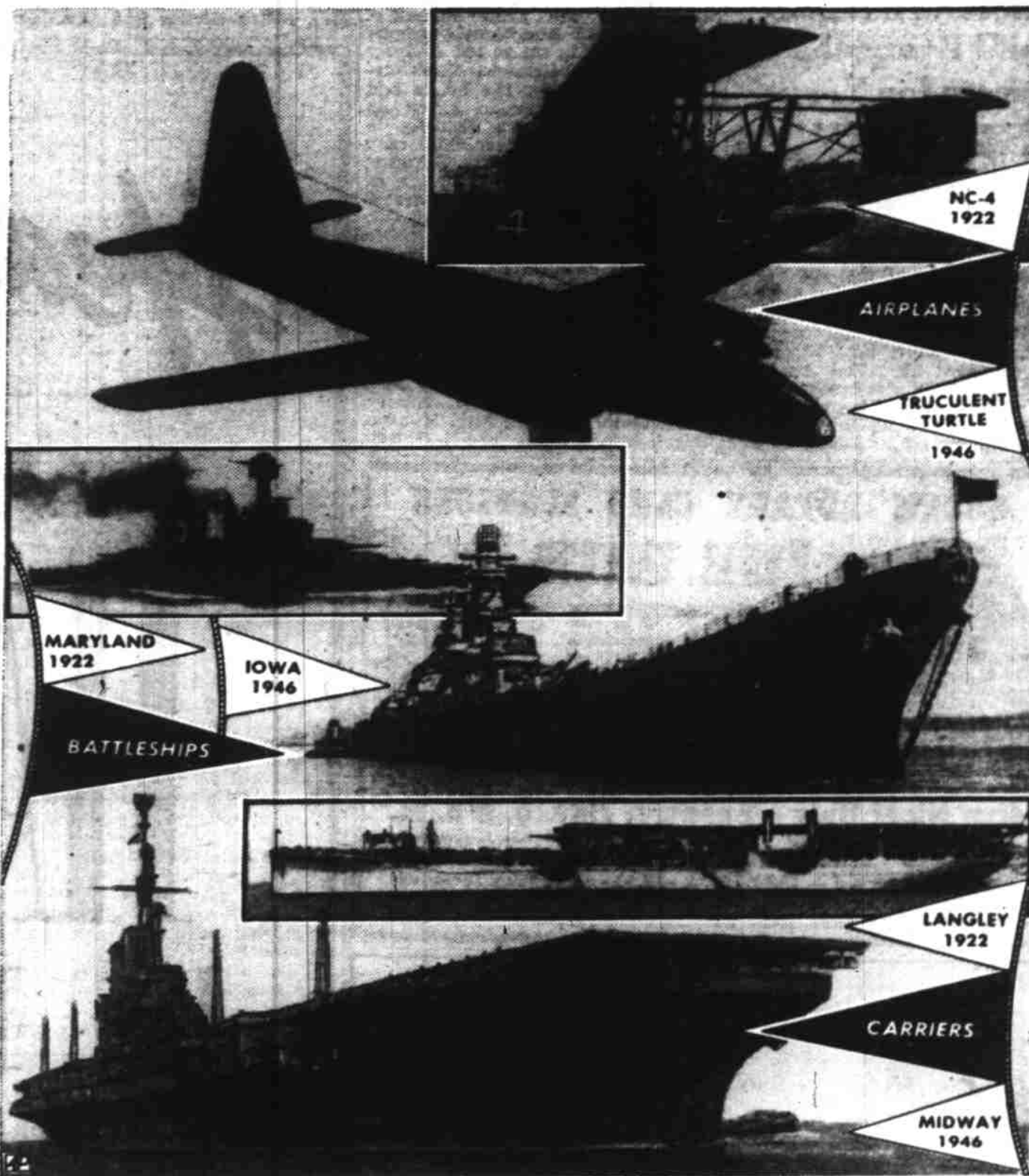
Few hardy souls will yet predict this means Russia is coming around to a gracious acceptance of common grounds for peace. The most careful common interpretation is that Moscow has altered her social line, and even perhaps her political line, to an extent which is not yet clear. She could not stand up before the world in her belligerently isolated position. Certainly the peace debates at UNA may be on a more friendly and hopeful plane.

The Ecclesiast wrote, long before the invention of printing, that

"THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler



They're a trifle uncomfortable for dress, but the chicks really go swoony for 'em!



The nation salutes the world's largest and most powerful navy in its 25th observance of Navy Day today. The first observance was in 1922 when the United States, under terms of the Washington Naval Limitation treaty, was engaged in scrapping the world's greatest potential fleet. Oct. 27 was selected as Navy Day because it was the birthday of President Theodore Roosevelt, "patron saint" of the navy, who sent the fleet around the world in 1908 as an expression of his policy of "Speak softly and carry a big stick." Today the navy is on "peace-keeping" duty in virtually all parts of the world. Pictures show "big three" examples of the power of the fleet in 1922 and 1946.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

of the making of books there was no end. Gutenberg's invention multiplied many-fold the output which had perplexed the oriental sage, until now vast storehouses can scarcely contain copies of printed works. No matter how omniverous a reader may be he can in the limits of a lifetime read only a fraction of literature, past and current. The book review magazine is indispensable both as informant and as sieve, keeping the reader acquainted with what is new and giving a judicious appraisal of the offerings. The Times Book Review is standard in the field. Now 50 years strong, it can go ahead with confidence for another half-century and longer of service in the field of literature.

In the field of literary criticism The Nation was more distinguished than as now, but it was the Dial, published in Chicago, which was exclusive in the field—a well-edited periodical, whose reviews showed high quality in literary style and penetrating judgment. It was moved to New York some years ago—and thence to the literary graveyard. The important independent magazine of literary criticism today is the Saturday Review of Literature which has earned distinction. The review supplements of the Times and the New York Herald, together with book review sections in various magazines, enable the public in at least a speaking knowledge of current publication.

In its anniversary number the Times lists the best sellers of 50 years. To mention names of a few is to excite nostalgia—memories of hours of absorption in reading such books as "Quo Vadis" (1897), "David Harum" (1899), "The Crisis" (1901), "The Virginian" (1902). At the half-way mark is "Main Street" (1921). In later years are such lengthy novels as "Anthony Adverse" "Gone with the Wind," while the top sellers of the last four years—"The Song of Bernadette," "The Robe," "Strange Fruit," and "Forever Amber"—reveal a wide disparity in the popular taste. Most of the product of the half-century, it must be admitted, flowered briefly.

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Absentee Ballot Deadline Passes

As the deadline for voting absentee ballots passed Saturday noon, the books showed that 128 Marion county voters cast absentee ballots this year, according to Mrs. Galdys White, election clerk at the Marion county clerk's office.

Approximately two-thirds of the absentee votes were mailed into the office, Mrs. White said. Of the total, 80 came from Salem voters and 48 from precincts outside the city. This year's absentee ballot shows an average number of votes Mrs. White said. The largest number of absentee ballots in the county's history were cast in 1944 when 3,800, mostly from servicemen, were received.

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