

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

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Britain Staging Recovery

Britain's leaders look forward to this year with new confidence and a feeling that a corner has been turned in the long hard road of recovery. Britain's 12 million hard-pressed workers made new records in nearly every branch of industry in 1947—as Sir Stafford Cripps said recently, "The British people are on the march."

Exports of manufactured goods in 1947 reached 31 per cent by volume over 1938 levels and total exports of all goods increased 14 per cent over prewar. The continent is getting British coal again because miners dug 193 million tons during the past year. They hope to export 10 million tons this year under a \$600 million mine mechanization program now under way. The latest weekly coal production figure is higher than the weekly average for 1938.

Under an \$800 million modernization plan, Britain's steel industry is producing about 30 per cent more than the prewar average. Automobile production equals the prewar rate, truck output is double and five times as many tractors were built last year. Car exports are over prewar. Working to replace 18 million tons of merchant shipping lost in the war, British shipyards have two million tons of shipping on the stocks—double the 1938 figure.

Food production by British farmers is one-half the nation's requirements but over the prewar amounts.

Production of electrical equipment, hardware, tools, dyestuffs, locomotives, rayon piece goods, and other industries has also increased substantially over 1938 levels.

But the British people enter their eighth year of austerity knowing they must work harder still and not expect the end of food rationing for a long time to come. Their exports must be greatly increased to pay for their imports (especially of food). The British have a long march ahead and the road is still uphill.

Experts to Study Revolution Effects

An interesting study is being undertaken by experts of Stanford university. Financed by a grant of \$130,000 from the Carnegie corporation a specially recruited staff will examine the effect of social revolutions on international relations. Fields to be surveyed will embrace communications, trade and finance, propaganda, distribution of military and industrial power and ideas of personal and national security. The staff will embrace anthropologists, social psychologists, geographers, military scientists, legal experts, economists, political scientists and historians. They will spend three years in the task.

At Stanford is the Hoover library of war and revolution which has the largest collection of documents of World War I and the ensuing revolution in Russia and which is accumulating all material possible relating to World War II and after. The experts will thus find a good place to start at this library, but undoubtedly they will spend much time in other libraries and in other countries.

Revolution has upset the formalized international relations of the past. Then even the wars were fought on orthodox and legal lines. Diplomatic relations followed strict code. Trade was neatly cleared in London. Karl Marx was author of a book gathering dust on library shelves and the patron saint of a few bushy-bearded radicals who occasionally tossed bombs.

Now international relations have deteriorated, with surprise wars, with trade held under rigid controls, with techniques of propaganda the tools of new nationalism—and only the yearning of the people as expressed in the charter of the United Nations to halt the slide to chaos. The Stanford experts will find out many things; but what will the statesmen accomplish to end the reign of international terror?

Rise in Birth Rate

A nation of senile men and frustrated crones—that was the prediction population prognosticators were touting back in 1933 when the birth rate in the United States slid to rock bottom.

Well, recent figures should soothe the worried demographers. The year 1947 was record-breaking in many ways and one of the most extraordinary was the unprecedented birth rate. Almost four million babies were born last year, 400,000 above the previous record set in 1946. Metropolitan Life Insurance company statisticians estimate that more than 2,400,000 were added to the nation's population through excess of births over deaths. This does not necessarily mean the nation is getting younger—life expectancy has increased and the death rate last year for the nation was about 10 per 1000 population, possibly another record-breaking figure.

But the infant mortality established a new record in 1947, too, with only about 32 babies dying out of 1000 live births. Furthermore, if progress toward better public health and improved child-rearing practices and against disease continues, chances are the children of today's toddlers will have an even greater life expectancy.

Why so many babies? Observers note no return of rabbit-hutch fecundity. Reuniting of families broken by war, high post-war marriage rates, more social security, high standards of living, more jobs and less parental responsibility for child-rearing (nursery schools, diaper services, etc.) are some reasons. Some sociologists think that larger families are becoming the vogue again, too.

However the country may welcome these newcomers they will serve no constructive purpose unless the country provides for them the prerequisites for good citizenship: health, housing, schooling, employment, security.

Architects' Fees

State Treasurer Scott drives too hard a bargain when he demands a scaledown of architects' fees on the new state office building from the requested 6 per cent. While in years past the state may have paid only 5 per cent that was even then recognized as a cut rate, the standard rate being 6 per cent on public work. Under present cost conditions the 6 per cent charge is fully justified. Often in private work the rate goes higher, with 8 per cent a frequent charge by the better architects.

In the case of the office building the appropriation has been doubled since it was first authorized in 1941 which of course gives a higher base on which the percentage will be figured. But the architects have had to revise their plans many times to conform to changing ideas on the part of state officials. They have had a long wait for the work to proceed and have had to pay out substantial sums to their draughtsmen and engineers.

When a contractor is called to execute work not on bid he usually is allowed a flat 10 per cent. The architect supplies professional services for the design of the building and for its safe and economical construction and efficient operation. On his work in large measure the value of the building depends. In comparison with a contractor's fee the architect's 6 per cent is not excessive.

The state has employed for this work a very competent organization, the one which did the work for the Oregon state library and supervised construction for the state capitol. We may expect it to do a very creditable piece of work on the new office building, and should be fairly compensated therefor.

It might be revealing if Mr. Scott will disclose what the Oregonian Publishing Co. is paying in fees to architects and engineers for its new building.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

\$81 in income tax receipts. Under the community property tax law the \$2,320 could be divided between husband and wife and the tax on each would be \$34.00, a saving for the couple of \$38.80 but still \$44.20 over the theoretical 1939 case.

Thus the inflation in wages helps the state and the federal government on their income tax receipts, the more so because no allowance is given for the increase in living costs. However the government in turn suffers from the same cause because it has to pay higher wages for its employees and far more for the merchandise it buys. The old law of compensation still works.

Our tax statisticians have been amazed at the continued climb in income tax receipts, anticipating a bust. I think they have failed to appreciate how the rapid rise in wages and salaries produces larger revenues because the taxpayers move up into higher rate brackets.

The Safety Valve

LETTERS FROM STATESMAN READERS

RECORD ON CAMP WHITE
To the Editor:
On December 16 you had an article in your paper regarding Camp White. I want to correct your information as your paper and many others seem to have entirely missed the boat on the facts regarding the Camp White situation. I am sure that you would want to correctly state the facts and will appreciate being put straight on this subject.

The article in your paper stated that a bill was passed directing the board of control to take over Camp White, and it was vetoed by the governor, and later a bill was passed authorizing the board of control to take it over. Now it just happens that the reverse of this is true, and in my judgment makes the picture very different.

The legislature almost unanimously passed a resolution authorizing a legislative committee to investigate Camp White. Thereafter a bill was placed in the legislature authorizing the board of control to acquire title to Camp White. This bill carried an emergency clause, and it was Senate bill 361. It passed the legislature and was approved by the governor on March 6, 1947 and is now Chapter No. 98 of the 1947 Sessions of the Oregon Legislature.

The board of control did nothing, and later on they requested a resolution authorizing the governor to investigate on his own. This is the third time the legislature voted and passed the resolution. The governor made his investigation and laid an adverse report on the desk of every member of the legislature. Immediately thereafter, notwithstanding the adverse report a bill directing the board of control to acquire title to Camp White was passed for the 4th time, and this was the bill that the governor vetoed. This is the record.

I want to call to your attention that in the first bill which passed the legislature and is now the law of this state and in the bill which the governor vetoed and in the petitions which are nearly completed for submitting it to the people, no place is there any reference to making this a mental hospital.

All that is asked in any instance is that the board of control acquire title, and this does not require any appropriation whatsoever. All it does require is that the board of control use a little good judgment and get the lead out of their feet, so to speak.

I trust that this letter will at least correct your record.
Cordially and sincerely yours,
Lew Wallace, Portland

NAVAJO LABOR URGED

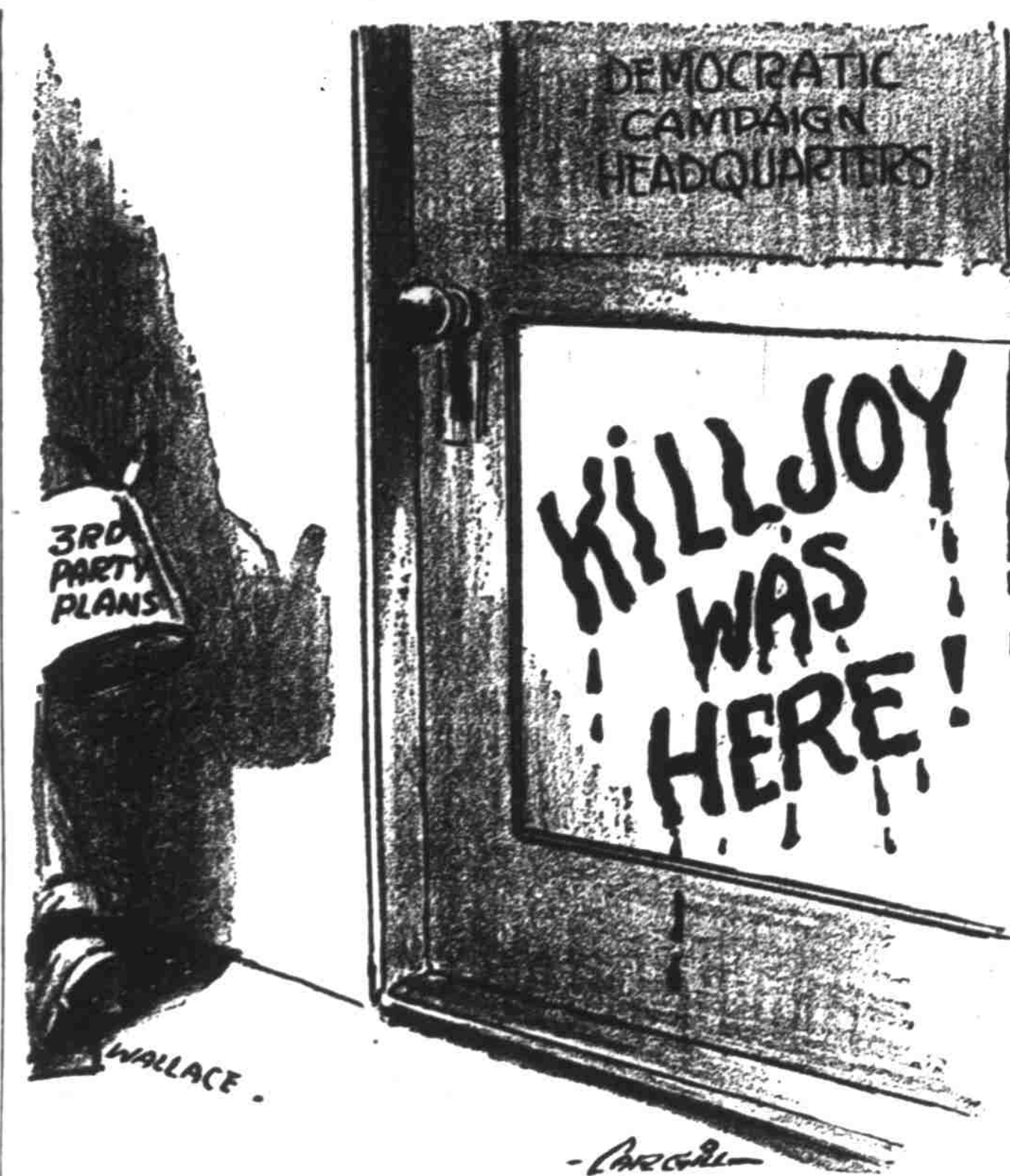
PORTLAND, Jan. 6—A suggestion to give needy Navajo Indians jobs in the Oregon berry fields will go to Washington Thursday. A. W. O'Connell, Gresham berry packer, made the proposal. He said it would provide the Indians with needed jobs and berry growers with needed labor.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"Communists like you go around attacking big business and Wall Street and you wonder why we're never invited anywhere!"



Signs of the Times

MATTER OF FACT

Crashing of Supersonic Barrier

Termed Uniquely Fearless Act

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop
WASHINGTON, Jan. 6—The American people have received a remarkable gift for the New Year.

It has been presented to them by a small-statured, cheerful air forces captain called Charles Yeager. And it is perhaps typical of the times in which we live that, although like the atom's bomb Yeager's New Year's gift has great potentialities for peace, it can become an efficient instrument of mass extinction in a new war.

Yeager is the first man in the world to have penetrated the sonic barrier. He has flown a plane faster than the speed of sound, which is any of the world's best aviation experts doubted could be done at all. They had suspected that the speed of sound was an aerodynamic barrier through which no man could pass alive. Now that Yeager has penetrated the barrier, the experts will tell you that it is the most important event in the history of aviation since Orville Wright flew his flimsy kite at Kitty Hawk; that it opens up a whole new dimension in the science of flight; that it is a development comparable in its way to the invention of the atomic bomb; and that it requires the recasting of many basic strategic concepts.

They will also tell you, as one air force general has soberly remarked, that Yeager's feat "will rank with the bravest acts of American history." It had been attempted before. One of the most recent attempts was in an English De Havilland plane especially designed to penetrate the sonic barrier.

Sudden Flash, Explosion
Observers on the ground reported that as the De Havilland roared into the sonic speed zone there was the sudden flash of an explosion. The plane must have disintegrated, since no trace of plane or pilot was found. For years pilots had been saying that to hit the speed of sound was to hit a stone wall, and the De Havilland tragedy seemed to prove it. Yet Yeager volunteered to try again. In a small rocket-propelled air forces experimental plane, the XS-1, suspended at take off from the belly of a B29 bomber, he succeeded.

It is difficult, according to the experts, to exaggerate the significance of his success. In the first place, it proves that a human being is capable of surviving the terrible buffeting administered by the sonic barrier, and the awful speed of supersonic flight. In the second place, Yeager's flight has proved that a plane of fairly conventional design can pass through the barrier. Many technicians had believed that the job could only be done, if at all, by a plane shaped much like one of the Germans' supersonic missiles—like an attenuated bullet with swept back wings. Yet the XS-1 is shaped much like other high speed planes. Immense power, rather than unconventional design, sufficed to force both plane and pilot safely through the sonic barrier into the strange dimension of speed faster than sound.

Yeager's flights has by no means given all the answers to the wholly new problems of supersonic flight, and most of the answers which it has given are of course secret. But this much is known. Once the sonic barrier is penetrated, there are no further known aerodynamic limits to the speed of flight. Moreover, on the far side of the barrier, what the technicians call the "fuel-speed-range ratio" is altered.

Range Potential Increased

Thus not only the speed of the plane, but also its potential range, while it remains on the far side of the barrier of the speed of sound, are greatly increased. Obviously the possibilities opened up by the conquest of this fourth dimension in aviation are staggering. Yeager, and the scientists who made his feat possible, have vastly accelerated the process begun by the Wright brothers of squeezing the size of the world. The old Sunday supplement standby of a two or three-hour flight from New York to London becomes more than a theoretical possibility. But unfortunately the significance of Yeager's penetration of the sonic barrier is not confined to the pleasures of intercontinental weekends.

No doubt it will be some time before a piloted long-range bomber is developed capable of duplicating Yeager's feat in his tiny plane. But such a supersonic bomber also becomes more than a theoretical possibility. That in turn means that traditional strategic concepts must be re-examined. For Yeager's flight has demonstrated that a plane capable of carrying an atomic bomb, and of being guided to its target by a pilot flying at speed as great as to be almost immune from interception from the ground is now practical. Indeed, already the technicians are speculating seriously on the potential use of a piloted supersonic plane as shepherd guiding a great flock of unpiloted supersonic missiles to their target.

Bad Security Break
The air forces consider the publication of the facts of Yeager's flight the most disastrous security break in many years. That it itself illuminates the strange dilemma in which the world finds itself in the year 1948. For the development of such weapons as the supersonic plane clearly demands a true world authority—"one world."

Yet post-war Soviet policy has made one world impossible. And while the world is split in two, the United States must look to its security in the secret race for ever more perfect weapons of mass annihilation.
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Left Over Gift

Awaits Someone

Home Agent Says

Among the unclaimed Christmas gifts under the Marion county home extension tree is one dress form, made to measure, Eleanor Trindle, Marion county's representative for Santa Claus, reports.

The dress form is to be one of three made at the dress form demonstration in West Salem city hall Friday, January 9, starting at 9:45 a.m. Lucy Lane, clothing specialist from Oregon State college, will give the demonstration for the Polk county women in and near West Salem and has invited interested Marion county women and those from Salem in particular to attend the demonstration.

Then in a good neighborly spirit Mrs. Viola Schaefer, Polk county agent, offered to let some Marion county woman to be one of the three to get a dress form, but so far no one has claimed it, Miss Trindle said Monday.

A motion picture showing the various details of making a dress form will be shown so all those at ending will learn how to do it. Then Miss Lane will make three forms, before the women forget how its done after seeing the motion picture.

The Polk county women have claimed their "gifts" but so far no Marion county woman has come forward to ask for the favor. Marion county women are asked to notify Miss Trindle if they intend to attend, all are to bring sack lunch and the West Salem women will serve coffee at noon.

A second dress form demonstration will be held January 21 at Dallas for women of the other end of Polk county.

Improvement of

Turner-Aumsville

Road Requested

Six petitions seeking improvement of the Turner-Aumsville road from Turner to within approximately a mile and a half east of the state prison annex were placed before Marion county court Tuesday.

Hearing on the petition will be considered sometime next week, the court said Tuesday. The petitions, signed by over 100 residents living along the road ask that the road be resurfaced, widened by at least two feet on each side and other general improvements installed.

The petitioners state the road is narrow and rough and is in an unsatisfactory condition for safe travel.

SHERIDAN LOGGER KILLED

One fatality, 752 covered accidents and nine claims for occupational disease benefits were reported to the state industrial accident commission here during the week ended January 1. The fatality involved Tom J. Thornley, Sheridan logger.

Names Added

To Jury List

Twelve additional names, including those of four Salem residents, were drawn for the January term of Marion county circuit court Tuesday by County Clerk Harlan Judd.

The new jurors, including six men and six women, are ordered to report at the courthouse Tuesday, January 13 at 9:30 a.m. Clerk Judd also drew an eight-name Marion county district court jury panel to report at district court this morning at 9:30 o'clock.

Salem circuit court jurors are B. B. Boylan, Minnie E. Cooper, Wilma Girod, Madeline R. Nash. Others include Conny Tracey, Turner, Albert P. Millasp, Horeb; C. A. Blake, Donald; Ruth A. Schuebel, Croisan; Nellie Hathaway, Champog; Hans Christian Hagerdon, Silverton; Roland C. Kleen, Auburn, and Ruth V. Evans, Brook.

The district court jury included Leonora K. Shinn, William Neimeyer and James C. Pike, all of Salem; Walter Frampton Green and Frank Edward Hubbs, both of Silverton; Cecelia Ditter, Sublimity; Joseph A. Lux, Mt. Angel; and Cora A. Geer, Englewood.

Auditors Criticize

County's System

Of Bookkeeping

Several general criticisms of Marion county's official bookkeeping system were contained in an audit report of the county financial statements filed with the county court Tuesday by the local firm of Bowers, Davis and Hoffman, certified public accountants. The auditing covered this county's financial statements for the fiscal year ending last July 31. No criticism of fund balances was indicated.

It was indicated that the estimated delinquency for the current year's levy in the county budget was not determined for all funds, that certain of the estimated expenditures were not itemized correctly and that the expendable surplus used to reduce property tax levies on the various funds

were less in some funds than the actual amount provided by law. The report also indicated that revised accounting systems were needed in the road fund, sheriff's office, health department and in most of the justice of the peace districts.

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