

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
From First Statesman, March 23, 1851

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They Keep It on a High Plane

There are interesting sidelights on the variable in human character in connection with The Statesman's "Politics on Parade" which is giving each contested candidate a chance to tell his story in his own words.

Quite a few of the stories already have been received and several have been published. The others will appear from day to day.

Some of them indicate their candidacies are soundly based on past accomplishments; others set forth primarily what they hope to accomplish; a few blend the two approaches. Some of them evince a willingness to comply fully with the request this newspaper made of them in order to present a true picture to its readers (they were asked to mention their family and home, business, civic, church and fraternal connections; experience in politics and other lines). Others prefer to present themselves from other standpoints.

A few have made interesting presentations in the first person; most have preferred to make their portrayal in the third.

There were only two restrictions placed by The Statesman—the stories must not exceed 300 words, so that everyone has a fair chance, and they may contain any material whatever "short of libel." It is to the credit of all that thus far there has been no statement offered that even verges on libel. The candidates as a whole apparently have elected to stand on their own feet—perhaps critical of their opposition, for right or wrong, but definitely without innuendo or personal aspersions.

There is a chance inherent in opening the columns of a publication for anything a person wants to say. With a good many of the returns already in, however, The Statesman has no regrets and congratulates the candidates on a fine portrayal. The stories truly are theirs.

Conflicting Authority

The detention of Mme. Irene Joliot-Curie at Ellis Island apparently was an unfortunate example of poor coordination between federal departments, and if such is proven to be the case it is mandatory that prompt action be taken to eliminate such confusion in other touchy cases.

The widely-known physicist and daughter of the discoverers of radium was first detained by immigration officials when her plane from Paris landed in New York. Then, without explanation of any kind, she was ordered released by Attorney General Tom Clark.

The conservative and unusually non-committal Associated Press says "she apparently was caught in a no-man's land of conflicting authority between the state and justice departments." This is no time for incidents like that. There has been an onus on the Nobel prize winner both because of her frankly sympathetic attitude toward communism and because her visit in the United States is under the auspices of an organization suspected of being subversive. Regardless, however, we're entitled to know what transpired.

A Frank Appraisal is Refreshing

If frank appraisal is good for the soul, the Coos Bay Times should find it out. The only daily newspaper in southern Oregon's largest port took a long look at its city last week and found that it "certainly cannot be proud of its waterfront." It went the whole way, too, and said its bay-side was "dirty, filthy, hazardous," and that "boat owners must risk their necks getting over the rotten docks to their mooring places, and then practically dig their vessels out upon occasion." Its worst castigation was that "we can't even call the waterfront picturesque." If the latter allegation is true, that should settle it. The only excuse for the unkempt appearance of many of our smaller ports is that they are picturesque. And now that Coos Bay has properly looked itself over, maybe we'd better have a glance around ourselves, port or no port.

The incurable romanticist will watch with interest what happens to Helen Warren and former sailor M. J. Figley. Helen, now 34, put a note in a bottle 20 years ago and dropped it in the Willamette river near Newberg. Figley, now 22, recently found it. The note asked the finder to write. Helen, still unmarried, says she still wants the finder to write. Figley, informed that she is "blue-eyed and blonde," says he will. Ah, the suspense!

Dedication of Willamette's new Baxter hall is a noteworthy milestone in state educational circles. The new hall, bearing the name of the late beloved bishop, has long been needed, and its completion as one of the most modern college dormitories on the coast, in the face of an economic stringency the end of which not yet is in sight, is proof of the earnest faith which backed the plan. Baxter hall will be home to thousands of men in the next generations. It is a worthy monument to the man-it honors.

This is neither pro nor con on the daylight-saving argument but we can't refrain from commenting that the opponent who wrote he didn't want "God's time" changed rather imposed on the Diety's part in the matter. Mankind is going to have to take the blame for whatever the clock says—earlier or later.

If things keep up like this, Portland will have its mayor chosen without an election. Out of 10 candidates, one already has quit and two others have been tossed out of the race on technical grounds. "Ten Little Indians etc. etc."

Ten men in a jeep were injured when the vehicle overturned. The jeep was exonerated of blame.

Editorial Comment

From Our Contemporaries

WHAT ARE THEY WAITING FOR?

It wasn't by accident that President Truman placed the Marshall plan's passage at the top of his list of emergency steps to meet the European crisis. By any reckoning the plan is the first order of business.

His recommendations regarding military preparations require, and merit, analysis. The Marshall plan has been under constant and searching analysis for nearly 10 months. Everything that needs to be said about it has been said.

The senate has already adopted it.

The house foreign affairs committee has approved the \$5,300,000,000 figure incorporated into the senate bill and its passage is hope of a few die-hards to get in their last licks—for the record.

We say to the house of representatives: Get this measure passed, and onto the president's desk for signature. Each day lost, at this point, plays directly into the hands of the Soviet Union.

The promise of the Marshall plan, more than anything, saved France from communism last fall. The speedy enactment of the Marshall plan—the translation of the Marshall plan promise into fact—will weigh heavily in the decision to be made by the Italian people April 18.

The Marshall plan will cost no more a week from today than today. But a week's delay, at this critical time, could cost the victory in the cold war.—(San Francisco Chronicle.)

Holy Week Services

At Pratum Scheduled

PRATUM—Special services will be held at the Methodist church during Holy week with the pastor, Rev. W. R. Gourley preaching Tuesday at 8 p.m. March 23. Dr. Raymond A. Withey, jr., of Willamette university will speak Wednesday night and Thursday Dr. Roy A. Fedje, district superintendent will bring the communion meditation. The Mennonite church will bring the music for the union service Friday night.

Holy Week and the Freedom Train

With 2 col cut Freedom train
(Editor's Note: The following presentation of Holy Week was provided by Dr. Chester Hamblin, president of the Oregon Council of Churches, and is published herewith in furtherance of the symbol into which the week has grown.)

Today we stand at the threshold of Holy Week. From Palm Sunday to Easter, Christians throughout the world will be thinking of the events in the last week of the life of Christ.

It is sufficient for us in Salem that Holy Week is just prior to the week of Rededication, which is supposed to prepare us for the visit of the Freedom Train. What will be our thoughts as we enter the train and view those documents that have meant so much in our democratic history?

Basic Ideas Paramount
Looking at the Magna Carta, the Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, will we remember the basic ideas that produced them? If we do, we shall recall that the foundation of our democratic heritage is in the Christian tradition, with its emphasis on the sovereignty of God, the brotherhood of man, the dignity, rights and responsibilities of free men as children of God. Our democratic ideals represent the fruits of a tree that has spiritual roots.

Can we continue to enjoy the fruits without the tree and its roots? Holy Week provides the occasion for deepening these spiritual roots in this day when freedom is in peril in the world.

Observance Spreads
There was a time when only the Roman Catholic and liturgical churches placed much emphasis on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Today, almost every denomination makes much of the observance of this week. Because of this earnest practice in the churches, for many communities Holy Week is a week that is different. Civic clubs, social clubs, secular organizations and every denominational school groups either suspend their regular meetings or if this is not practical, the main feature of their programs is of a religious nature.

As we seek to make democracy vital, we may do so by giving more attention to the deep spiritual and human significances of Holy Week.

"Meaningful Week"
During this period as the average citizen turns from purely social functions and the senseless pursuit of pleasure, as many civic organizations emphasize the meaning of the week in a non-sectarian way, life will be enriched with a deep sense of purpose, a higher scale of values.

This is the most meaningful week in history. What would it mean in our community if every person made it a point to think of life's high purpose and spiritual significance during this week? What would be the result if all Christian parents with their children were to gather at their own churches to celebrate the traditional Maundy Thursday communion services? What if all of us take time Friday to meditate on the meaning of the cross of Christ, meaning of the cross of Christ, day, which came from the old saying, "God's Friday?"

Observance Vital
Probably we would go on buying and selling, eating and working in the days that followed. But not as before. Our lives would have a new significance from our deeper appreciation of God's love and our human brotherhood.

Yes, it will be well for us in Salem to observe Holy Week. It will strengthen us only for the week of Rededication, but for every week. With a new sense of man's high purpose before God, we will be inspired to labor together not for the "Century of the Common Man", but for the world of God's common humanity.

White Elephant Sale To Benefit House Fund

PRATUM — Pratum-Macleay home extension unit meets with Mrs. Harry Martin at Macleay Tuesday, March 23, at 1:30 p.m. Mrs. Cornelius Bateson and Mrs. Nile Hilborn, project leaders, will present the lesson on care of the skin. A white elephant sale will be held to raise funds for the Azalea House project.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"—And then you put it on at the start of 'John's Other Wife' and slumber slowly until 'Portia Faces Life'—"

The Story That Never Grows Old



The Freedom Train will be in Salem April 6.

MATTER OF FACT Communist 'Momentum' May Force Unwanted East-West Crisis in Italy

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop

WASHINGTON, March 20.—The "very, very serious" view which Secretary of State George C. Marshall and his chief advisers are taking of the present crisis springs in part from the belief that Soviet Premier Josef Stalin may have set in motion forces which he can no longer control. The experts are almost unanimously convinced that Stalin has no desire to provoke a war with the United States. Yet the aggressive Stalinist policy since the war has, in a sense, caught Stalin (and with him the world) in a trap.



Joseph Alsop

The nature of this trap is illustrated by what is happening, and what may happen, in Italy. Secretary Marshall has now said clearly that if the communists gain control of the Italian government no further American material aid will be forthcoming.

This means that if communist leader Palmiro Togliatti comes to power in Italy, he will be faced immediately with a catastrophic economic situation. The only manner in which he will be able to deal with this situation is by an absolutely ruthless dictatorship. As one observer put it: "He will have many more mouths than he can feed, and all he could do is shut them up."

Moreover, Togliatti is perfectly conscious that this is the case; he has remarked frankly to an interviewer that if American aid to Italy were cut off, a dictatorship would be essential. Yet a dictatorship sufficiently ruthless to "shut up" some millions of starving Italian mouths could hardly be achieved without civil war. And a civil war in Italy, as already pointed out in this space, could all too easily spread into a general war between east and west.

Togliatti Has Plan
According to one entirely reliable observer just returned from Italy, Togliatti has a plan for dealing with this danger. If the communist-controlled front should gain over 40 per cent of the vote, the front could probably make it impossible for a non-communist government to function. A period of chaos would then ensue. The smoldering but weak Italian president, Enrico de Nicola, according to this forecast, would then call on

Togliatti to form a government.

Togliatti would surprise the world by his apparent moderation. He might not demand a single cabinet seat for the communists. Rather the cabinet would be composed of aging and feeble anti-Fascist "intellectuals," of the stripe of Francesco Nitti, for the which he can no longer control. The communists Togliatti would ask only minor posts—perhaps the under secretaryships of Interior, Justice and War. These ostensibly unimportant posts would be filled by young, energetic communists, who would of course quickly assume the real authority.



Stewart Alsop

This sort of window dressing could not, of course, deceive the American policy makers. Yet it would confront them with a terrible choice. Either the props could be pulled out from under the Italian economy immediately, on the assumption that American aid would be used only to fatten Italy until Togliatti found the moment ripe for taking over. Or American aid could be continued, on the theory that the threat to withdraw it would be a sort of tentative insurance against the repetition in Italy of the Czech coup.

Inherent in either choice would be a frightening risk—the risk of a disastrous strategic defeat in the west. Between the Soviets and the western world. For the fall of Italy to total Soviet domination might mean the fall of all Europe and the near east to Moscow.

Risks for Russia Also
Yet for Stalin and the Politburo the risks are at least as terrible. For since Truman's speech to the congress, the Kremlin must know that the extension of Soviet domination to Italy carries with it risk of war. No one can know what is in the minds of the men in the Kremlin. Yet those best fitted to judge believe that they have two main objectives in Europe. The first is the consolidation of the Soviet eastern European empire, so that ERP can not act as a magnet drawing eastern Europe out of the Soviet grasp. The second is the wrecking of ERP, so that the western European countries can never recover sufficiently to free themselves from the threat of Soviet domination by means of what Truman called "internal aggression."

Yet Stalin undoubtedly wishes to achieve these objectives without war. There is no doubt that Stalin would welcome the addition of Italy to the Soviet sphere but it is unlikely that he would consciously risk war to this end. Yet what can Stalin do? The political aggression which he has unleashed on Europe is not so simple a matter as ordinary military aggression. It is not a matter of ordering divisions to advance or halt. Even if Stalin could call off Togliatti, to do so would be to undermine communist and thus

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

beautiful, actually warm, about the first spring-like day they have had in the east.

New York's St. Patrick's day parade is now more traditional than real, insofar as participation in it by the Irish is concerned. For the Irish have long since been quite thoroughly Americanized, fused in the great American melting pot. Irish names survive, of course, and love of the "auld sod" still abounds with those of Irish descent, but actually there are more Jews and Italians in New York than Irish. The latter were pretty much submerged in the later immigration from southern and eastern Europe—a fact quickly observed in reading the lineup of the "Fighting Irish" of Notre Dame. But the Irish have made a notable contribution to American life, not the least of which is their sense of humor—"Pat and Mike."
Mehitable and I left the parade marching up the avenue to see "Medea" at a theatre on 45th street. This old Greek play by Aeschylus, adapted for presentation by Robinson Jeffers, American poet, is surely tragedy—Medea works terrible vengeance on Jason, her faithless husband. Judith Anderson, as Medea, is a most competent tragedienne. The play itself is one of the great dramas of literature, and the Jeffers adaptation brings it well within the range of modern theatre.

At the Grand Central station in the evening I ran into Harold Stassen, taking the night train for Cleveland—heads up in his campaign for the presidential nomination. He asked me about Oregon, and I assured him he had made a very favorable impression on his recent visit.

The Safety Valve

LETTERS FROM STATESMAN READERS

Liked Editorial
To the Editor:

Congratulations to Editor "W. W." on his ringing editorial in today's Statesman bringing out the point "overlooked" by the president.

It is most opportune and to the point. It is one of the best that I have read in the over 30 years that I have been reading editorials in leading U. S. newspapers.

May we have more from the same pen? If so, people will read the editorial page and (some of them, perhaps) "think things over." I should like to see articles along the same line headlined on the front page.

J. E. Putnam
Salem, Ore.

STOP STALIN

To the Editor:
I am interested in stopping World War 3. Why not? I had a son in World War I, and grandsons in World War II. Stop Stalin now, don't wait weeks, months nor years, but now, and we can do it. Just as fast as Stalin mobilizes an army drop a few bombs on it and destroy his air fields. Stalin is taking over one small country after another without a declaration of war; why should we have to wait on a congress that is loaded down with political inertia?

Treaties, pacts and agreements have no more effect on Stalin than a raindrop on a duck's back. Force or the atomic bomb is the only thing that Stalin will recognize. About eight months ago when Stalin put thousands of

Soviet power in the whole non-Soviet world. This in turn would compromise the Soviet power to wreck the European recovery program, and the success of the European recovery program would threaten the whole Soviet empire in eastern Europe. That is the tragic trap into which the aggressive Stalinist policy since the war has led the aging dictator in the Kremlin, and with him, the world. (Copyright, 1948, New York Herald Tribune, Inc.)

troops into Zeck and Austria was the time to stop him. Right then, Stalin should have been given orders to withdraw at once or we would blow Moscow off the map and he would have had to do it, because at that time he was afraid of our atomic bomb.
But Molotov bluffed the U. S. out of all of this loss of time—anyway long enough for Stalin to learn that we would not molest him in his advances and prestige. And now since the president's address we are faced with more delay and to Stalin's advantage. Again asleep at the switch, we are just waiting for another Pearl Harbor, before we wake up. There is no question that we right now have enough to start the ball rolling and without any more delay, and there will be less loss now than later. Now is the time to drop some bombs on Stalin's army before Italy's election. Why not leave it to our war heads. They will do it.

H. L. Clark
1620 S. Church st.

Jefferson School Appoints Staff For Newspaper

JEFFERSON — Donald Miller's name was omitted in last week's honor roll list. Donald has made the honor roll each six weeks this year, having no grade under a two average. He is the younger son of Postmaster and Mrs. Clarence Miller.
Doug Bradley took a busload of students to the state basketball tournament at Eugene Friday.
The high school news staff appointed this week includes Mary Ricks, Darlene Borst and Bonnie Chilton, students; Paula Smith, associated student body news; Lucille Bentley and Mae Jorgenson, sports; Mary Kirsch, organization; Peggy Steele, tennis; Jamie Hutchings, classes; Betty Wintermantle, gossip; Joan Johnson, society; Shirley Bentley, track.

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