

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Too Late for De Gaulle

After the Italian elections, comment was offered in The Statesman to the effect that one casualty in that election was Gen. Charles de Gaulle in France who had been attempting a comeback with his anti-communist Rally of the French People. Now we note that the correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor quotes a hotel director at Tours, France, as saying: "General de Gaulle is all right, but I think he is too late." In short, the communist flood in western Europe has crested. The correspondent, with the quotation as text, went on to discuss the French situation currently. France, he says, is "basically on middle ground," avoiding extremes of right and left. The French people, however, have little enthusiasm for a "Western Union" for military purposes—they are worn out with fighting. As for the role of de Gaulle, he observes:

General de Gaulle's ideas, if advanced a year ago, could have profited from the popular fear of a communist coup and perhaps brought him to power. But today the situation has changed. Recovery is moving along, government restrictions are easing, and the Marshall plan is priming the French economic pump. These things, plus the French victory over the communists last fall in the great nation-wide strike, plus the Italian electoral victory over communism—all these mount up to apparent passing of the peak of communist danger when the situation presented maximum political advantages for General de Gaulle.

Steadily the evidence accumulates that Europe's years of agony are easing. Aid from America has helped to restore confidence of Europeans in themselves. We should not sacrifice our own good faith or blast this reviving abroad by the penny-pinching resorted to by the house in paring down the funds for ERP. Our prestige is worn thin enough by our own diplomatic blundering; it should be wasted no more by congressional pig-headedness.

Developing the Rogue

Anticipated today is a head-on clash between wildlife conservationists and irrigationists at the hearing in Medford on plans for development of the Rogue river and its upstream tributaries. The reclamation bureau engineers have put in a good many years of study and come up with two plans for dams on the upper Rogue and its tributaries. The dams would store water to prevent floods and provide water for irrigation. One plan would produce a certain amount of power also.

Facing the idea of any dams on the main river will be representatives of sportsmen's associations, the Wildlife Federation and Isaac Walton clubs. They point to the value of the Rogue as a recreational paradise which draws many visitors and fishermen every year. High dams, they fear, will ruin the Rogue for fishing and impair its natural beauty.

On the other hand, many who live in the region are convinced the waters are of greater value for use in irrigating farm lands and providing additional electric power. They will have their representatives at the hearing to point out the advantages of regional development in farming and industry.

Outdoorsmen will raise their voices for preserving the wild beauty of the dashing Rogue. Its fishing should be protected, not injured. Other places can be made to grow food; but the wilderness cannot be manufactured. Once destroyed, it is gone forever. It may be that provision may be made in the upper river for some water storage which would reduce flood losses and increase water supplies in the summer season for irrigation; but the Rogue is a splendid asset in its natural state and the hands of man should not despoil it.

Vanport and Housing

Dr. Richard M. Steiner, plains-speaking pastor of the Unitarian church in Portland, put the blame for the Vanport disaster on the Portland housing authority and the people of Portland. He laid the housing authority guilty for failing to evacuate Vanport and for subservience to private interest groups which oppose government housing, and condemned the people for being willing to let veterans and their families live in the bedraggled remnants of a temporary housing project.

It is now there is a rush to do something in the wake of the disaster which wiped out the city. Cabinet officers and federal agents fall over themselves rushing aid to the area. Senator McClellan of Washington asks congress for \$10,000,000. Congressman Angell of Portland asks for \$75,000,000 for providing replacement housing. These are opposed because there is no precedent for such action. Meantime, trailers are rolling to Portland to take more temporary shelter.

Perhaps we should back off and take a look at the nation's housing as a whole. Not many federal projects are located in the path of floods, but there are numerous residential developments doing duty long after the war crisis for which they were thrown up has passed. And the lower house of congress seems content to let them stay in use, judging by the way it has bottled up the Taft-Wagner-Ellender bill. The opposition comes from the allied real estate-mortgage financing interests which object to the very modest provision for federal aid for housing for low income groups. If the bill comes out of committee it will be stripped of this provision. As a result, Americans will continue to live in flimsy housing, in dark and unsanitary slums.

The Vanport disaster is legally described as "an act of God." Vanport itself wasn't. And the hundreds of other Vanports are acts not of God but of man, products of the failure of men to cooperate to build here a good society.

Ruling Hits Gas Station Setup

If the ruling of a federal court in Los Angeles is sustained on appeal, the prevailing practices in sale of petroleum products will be greatly upset. The past custom has been for a major oil company to make a contract with an independent distributor, in which the latter agrees to handle exclusively the products of the company or those it sponsors. Often this agreement was a condition of the sub-lease of the distributor's location from the company. Now a federal court holds that this is unlawful restraint of trade. The independent, say the court, should be free to handle what products he cares to.

While the ruling is not final, it is easy to see what a readjustment would be involved if it is upheld. Marketing methods would be greatly altered. The suit did not affect company-owned stations, so the result may be to encourage extension of company ownership and operation, thus putting the independent out of business—which is hardly helpful in promoting free competition.

Not by suicide, as did Jan Masaryk, but by resignation as president did Edward Benes repudiate the communist seizure of his country. Previously he had yielded, probably out of a sense of duty to his country, when he approved the reorganization of the cabinet of communist Premier Gottwald. The late vote-yes-or-nothing election evidently proved too much for the old patriot to endure. So Benes, who thought he could do business with Stalin, resigns as mark of his disapproval of the way the communists do business.

President Truman outlined his farm program at Omaha. He will repeat Tom Dewey's mistake and talk on agriculture at OSC (nee OAC).

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

considered. Roosevelt made his own decisions, often after conference with a few of his intimates.

No love was lost between Ickes and Wallace, especially after Hopkins told Ickes that Wallace had tried to get him to gang up against Ickes and complain to the president. Farley was the calculating politician. Roosevelt, we are told, expressed the belief (probably well-founded in view of Garner's strike-a-blow-for-liberty reputation) that, after each cabinet meeting John N. Garner would relate the details to his cronies on the hill.

Secretary Hull glowered at Morgenthau for his amateur efforts in foreign affairs, and bristled with Tennessee wrath over Ray Moley's undercutting at the London conference in 1933.

It was 40 or more years before the Gideon Welles dairies were published. Welles was secretary of the navy in Lincoln's cabinet; and his diaries are good source material on the men who clustered around the throne of the only man four times elected to the presidency have wasted little time in getting into print. There's the financial consideration, for one thing, and pay for these papers is high in these days of the split competing magazines. There may also be a desire to contribute something to public knowledge of the history of a tremendously vital era. On the whole, however, the tone of most of the writing is ex parte—a denigration of the author, sometimes accompanied by side jabs at colleagues.

Eventually the FDR synoptic gospels by Ickes and Morgenthau and Hopkins and Farley will have to be compiled. Only I fear the illumination supplied by the insights will bring out more of the seams and warts of the faces of his associates than reveal the complex character of Franklin Roosevelt.

Welfare Workers Volunteer Help For Flood Area

Eighteen volunteer workers from Marion county welfare commission have been helping interview and assist Vanport disaster victims in Portland, Marion Bowen, welfare administrator, said Monday.

The Salem women worked two shifts from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and 4:30 to 1 a.m. the past three days. They are getting no extra pay for their aid to the Portland services. Besides Miss Bowen, the volunteers are Margaret Callaghan, Janice Collier, Jane Craven, Winifred Condon, Mary Laughlin, Naomi Phelps, Margaret Pemberton, Ruth Jaynes, Margaret Maddox, Ardis Dillon, Eileen Donaldson, Helen Wilson, Olive Mallory, Elizabeth Aebischer, Virginia Seamer, Betty Vaughn and Barbara Pierce. Meanwhile, a skeleton crew of workers is taking care of routine activities at the Church street welfare commission office here.

Health Schedule Notes Preschool, Varied Clinics

A preschool conference for children who will enter Englewood school next September is being held at the school today from 9 a.m. to noon, according to a weekly schedule of the Marion county health department.

A child health conference for north Marion county also is to be conducted at the Woodburn city library today from noon to 2 p.m. at the Salem Memorial hospital is to be the scene of a fluoroscopic clinic from 1 to 2 p.m. today.

Child health conference (by appointment) is slated for the department's Salem Masonic temple office on Thursday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Examinations for milk- and food-handlers will take place at the department Friday. Vaccinations and immunizations will be given at the department office Saturday from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"My husband and I went on a buyers' strike once—and the money it took to fill us up again was a fright!"



Northwest's Harvest

4th Convention Ballot Held Crucial for Dewey

By Joseph Alsop
WASHINGTON, June 7 — It is early yet for the boldest to begin forecasting the pattern of events that will unfold amid the bustle, squallor and confusion of the republican convention at Philadelphia. This, therefore, is emphatically not a forecast.

It is, rather, a report on what two or three of the most highly placed republican professionals are inclined to think may happen, after peering into the chipped old crystal balls, thumping through their almanacs, watching the flight of birds, and using other expedients to pierce the dark mystery of the future.



On the first ballot, these wisecracks think that Gov. Thomas E. Dewey will show 300 plus, Sen. Robert A. Taft 200 plus and Gov. Harold E. Stassen 150 plus, while Sen. Arthur H. Vandenberg will get the 43 Michigan votes and a handful from enthusiasts elsewhere. This is a balance of strength presaging a deadlock, in a convention which requires 548 votes to nominate.

Acres Upon 2nd Ballot
The second ballot will bring out the acres in the hole, which the stronger candidates, Dewey and Taft, will have carefully concealed with a view to impressing everyone with their irresistible strength. (A candidate who did not hide his acres in the hole would be regarded as a man who did not play our curious political game according to its curious rules.)

When the acres have been triumphantly slapped upon the table, Dewey is expected to rise to about 370 plus, while Taft goes to 250 or above. After his recent misfortunes, Stassen's acres are not considered to be numerous, despite the game fight he is making. The Taft strength is thought likely to come near its peak on the second ballot. (Taft-backers among the republicans are already

kind of republican who favors the little man from Massachusetts.

Vandenberg has three immense assets. First, he is without doubt the most eminent single figure the republican party boasts. Second, he is everybody else's second choice, after themselves. And third, although he has no organization, and is still driving his supporters almost wild by firmly not conning, he has some very shrewd operators who want him nominated.

If Dewey does not go over, the odds on Vandenberg will be heavy indeed. The possibility of Vandenberg's withdrawal cannot be wholly discarded. In this case, the republican convention will become a sort of writhing basket of eels.

Time will tell whether the wisecracks are right. They are virtually certain, anyway, to revise their opinions again before the republicans gather at Philadelphia to propose a leader for this nation in the combined atmosphere of a wardrobe's chowder-march and annual rally of jollier morticians.

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Wharton L. West Dies in Hospital; Rites Wednesday

Funeral services for Wharton Lewis West, Salem resident since 1915 who died in a local hospital Monday, will be held at W. T. Rigdon chapel Wednesday at 1:30 p. m.

The Rev. George H. Swift will officiate and interment will be in Mt. Crest Abbey mausoleum. West, who resided at 125 Wandler Way, was born in Portland March 17, 1869, and received his education at the old Bishop academy. He had been a salesman in the Willamette valley, spending 25 years of that time with the Tru-Blu and Loose Wiles Biscuit companies. He was retired from the latter company in 1938 after an auto accident. West was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal church.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Viola West of Salem; two children, Lewis N. West of Berkeley, Calif., and Charles S. West of San Rafael, Calif.; and five grandchildren.

Myrrh, mentioned in the Bible, is a mild stimulant to the healing of wounds and can also be used to protect inflamed tissue.

Willamette Seniors Near Finale; Talk Stresses 'Common Man'

Final examinations began Saturday at Willamette university. The regular class schedule is discontinued and all activity now points to finish of the school year and annual commencement exercises this week end.

Examinations continue through Friday. Commencement is Sunday.

A sermon stressing the importance of "the common man" was preached by Dr. Raymond A. Wilthey, jr., Sunday afternoon at Willamette's annual baccalaureate services for the graduating senior class. The university's religion professor spoke in First Methodist church.

Dr. Wilthey described recognized great world leaders as but representatives of the greatness of vast masses of people "whose destinies they have shaped." Said the baccalaureate speaker, "There can be no great leader unless he is supported by citizens who are inspired with the spirit of greatness."

The stress of the present calls for greatness on the part of every individual, Dr. Wilthey declared. The Rev. Brooks Moore, pastor of First Methodist church, gave the invocation, President G. Herbert Smith of the university read scripture, the Willamette choir sang and Prof. Joseph Schnelker was organist.

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