

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Another Quest for Normalcy?

History never repeats itself, but sometimes people make serious attempts to backtrack and live again the old ways, hoping that warmed-over causes will produce the same effects under contemporary circumstances. There's talk in these times about a revival of the "gold old days" and those who think in flashbacks speak of "normalcy" again in tones of reverence.

A rereading of the chapter on normalcy in "The Rise of American Civilization" by Charles and Mary Beard is a key to understanding the drift of contemporary thought, and the parallels between then and now warrant inspection.

When Warren G. Harding told America that this country needed "not heroics but healing, not revolution but restoration, not surgery but serenity, not nostrums but normalcy..." he was greeted by a great shout of affirmation. The time was ripe for change, the book points out, and GOP leaders told the party that any good republican can be nominated for president and defeat any democrat. Warren Harding and his successor, Coolidge, were made to order.

During Wilson's administration, organized labor had attained a power both in private industry and public affairs that was most disconcerting to businessmen who wanted to run their own affairs. "Industrial democracy" became a new word as workers got easy pay increases. And the president's internationalism was as distasteful to those who pined for the gilded era as was the new freedom women had won, the Beards state.

After the armistice, when the Wilsonian federal machine began falling apart, the stage was set for a strong reaction against everything the progressive upheaval had produced... from the eight-hour workday to income taxes.

Wilson's critics argued that only the prosperity won by the sale of supplies to the Entente Allies at enormous profits had enabled the country to escape gathering the "bitter fruits of fanaticism," and disillusioned youth learned that the war had been a fight to "save our skins" rather than "save democracy." Russian, German and Austrian archives exposed the sordid diplomacy by the Entente Powers which had precipitated the war in hopes of dividing the spoils. And Wilson's idealism was discredited.

So the preachers of normalcy swept into power. Free enterprise was god. Though the prices of commodities continued to rise above the highest war levels, there were no attempts at federal control. The protective tariff was expected to fill the treasury so industrialists would be relieved of taxes on war profits. Strikers were treated like revolutionaries and injunctions curtailing activities of unions were hailed as calculated to "end the labor menace." Star chamber and third degree methods were used to "stamp out Bolshevism."

The noted historians continue with the statement that the administration exerted itself to protect American interests held "in the sacred trust of humanity" in foreign lands, even at the cost of a few marines now and then. Taxes were reduced on the incomes of the wealthy "with a view to leaving more money in the hands of the rich for investment, so that the opportunities of the poor to gain profitable employment might be multiplied." Government interference with business mergers, investments, trusts, and so on was minimum. Subsidies for roads, health, education and other social purposes were discontinued as a violation of states' rights. Aid to farmers was dropped in the name of economy.

Land values and farm labor wages were inflated to the bursting point and farmers sank deep into debt. There were some spectacular ups and downs on the stock market but the officials said everything was "sound." American bankers lent millions abroad even though no one was sure how the heavily indebted nations could pay back.

It was a wonderfully shining hour. And no one foresaw that very soon the mirage was to dissolve. The good old days turned out to be ersatz after all.

Nowadays, of course, people have more sense.—M.W.

Clean Comics

It all goes to show what the force of aroused and articulate public opinion can do. Fourteen comic magazine publishers have adopted a moral code that promises to purge the "funny books" of sexiness, sadistic tortures, religious and racial prejudices and glorification of crime.

The crescendo of protest by parents and teachers, juvenile authorities and some newspapers reached new heights recently when comic books were banned from newsstands in several cities. In Ohio a judge asked police to crack down on sales of "illegal" comics to minors. He said there was "no question of the harm caused by making available to children the depraved accounts of brutal crimes."

When a Chicago youngster was sentenced to 22 years in prison for the murder of his seven-year-old playmate, the judge indicted "horror" comics. He noted that over 50,000,000 comics and horror books are read by children monthly and that something must be done to make them wholesome; by law, if the publishers will not properly censor their own work.

A Chicago school principal agreed. "Comics are responsible for some of the irresponsibility developing among children today. They emphasize entirely wrong ideas in many cases. They give a wrong perspective on life. It is the same with many movies," he said.

In Detroit, 18,000 members of the Parent-Teachers association entered a drive to ban "the purveyors of filth, poisoning the minds of our youths and netting millions while contributing heavily to a strong cause of juvenile delinquency."

These, and other, efforts have resulted in the code which manufacturers of 15,000,000 of the 50,000,000 comic books sold monthly in the United States have promised to obey.

Now, if radio program for juveniles and the motion picture industry will follow the lead set by these publishers, the mental fare for the nation's kids would become more palatable.

With July 4th falling on Sunday folk will have a double—or triple holiday. There will be no lack of opportunities for diversion. Those who like thrills and spills may go to the St. Paul rodeo or the Albany timber carnival. Those who want more moderate entertainment may go out to the ball park or Marion Square. Mountains and beaches will attract many; and a lot of people will just stay home (and probably have a better rest than if they had "celebrated").

The price of sugar weakened this year because of great increase in sugar production. But "to keep the price of sugar up" the government cut the quota of allowable imports from Cuba by 300,000 tons and then by another 500,000 tons. In consequence raw sugar went from \$5.05 a hundred to \$5.60. Yet the president is continually berating inflation and high prices, and blaming the 80th congress for price increases. What has the administration done to lower prices of foods or to lower wages?

These hot days may dry up the strawberry crop but they are ideal for curing hay. And the hay is needed to insure ample milk supplies next winter. On the whole nature cooperates pretty well in this valley.

Slav Explosion Supports U.S. Theory on Reds

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop

WASHINGTON, July 2.—The schism between Marshal Tito's Yugoslavia and Generalissimo Stalin's Soviet empire is so vitally important, so far-reaching in effect, that months will pass before this historic event can be seen in the round. As an episode in the strange history of the Kremlin, the wisest authorities here place Tito's declaration of independence on a par with the great purges of the thirties. The purge trials made the informer, the slave labor camp and the lash into permanent features of Soviet society. This new event is also expected to play a fundamental part in shaping the Soviet future.

There is general agreement as to how the event occurred. Essentially, what has happened is the direct result of a crucial difference between the Yugoslav communist party and all other communist parties except, perhaps, those in China and the Far East.

In the western world, the communist parties are subsidized by the Kremlin, and ruthlessly controlled both by this power of cash and by the party "apparatus," which is operated by the MVD. In eastern Europe, except in Yugoslavia, the ruling communist cliques do not need subsidies, since they have national revenues to draw on. But they are largely headed by men like President Boleslaw Bierut of Poland, whose previous employment is believed to have been the Polish desk at MVD headquarters in Moscow. Furthermore, these Moscow communists, who marched into the countries they now rule in the tracks of the Red army, brought the MVD "apparatus" with them. In Yugoslavia, on the other hand, the leaders are men like Tito himself, Kardelj and the chief of the local secret police, Rankovic. These men fought through the war as partisan leaders, brought their own Yugoslav communist party into being in wartime, and forged their own "apparatus" of control from local materials.

Tito's Army 'Offensive'

But the Kremlin always insists upon absolutism. It was an offense against all the rules that Tito should control his own large army. It was a downright outrage that he should control his own secret police. The Kremlin therefore sought to infiltrate Yugoslavia, and to install a Moscow-managed "apparatus" of control. Tito and his group, with unexpected independence, strongly resisted these attempts to infiltrate their country. Their resistance was successful, and this terrible but triumphant heresy led to the present open break. Such is the great break's real background. A reconciliation is always possible, but is considered extremely unlikely. For the Kremlin cannot make deals with heretics as it could with Hitler; nothing less than abject submission can be accepted from professing members of the faith. Yet Tito is able to maintain himself in Yugoslavia, short of open aggression by the Red army, and from past experience Tito must know that if he now abjectly submits, he will have a short life.

36 Divisions Lost

As to the great break's meaning, this is on several levels. First and most obvious, the Soviet empire has at least temporarily lost Tito's 36 Yugoslav divisions, together with a strategic position of incalculable importance.

Second, and almost more significant, the great break confirms the basic theory of American foreign policy as set forth in George Kennan's "Mr. X" article and elsewhere. This theory has been that the combined pressure of western competition and internal



Our Earthquake

ly divisive forces would eventually loosen the Kremlin's grip on eastern Europe.

Thus it has been hoped eventually to reduce the overweening Soviet strength, which is the cause of the precarious balance in world relations. Until this week, this theory was theory only, without any solid proof. What has happened provides the needed proof of the theory, and provides this proof from two to five years earlier than anyone had hoped to expect.

Tito Attacks Myth

Third, and perhaps yet more significant, Tito has brusquely attacked the myth of the Kremlin's unchallenged authority. This myth is the very heart and center of the Soviet imperial system. One of the shrewder experts has been reminded by the great break of the old story of the silly old king and the innocent little child. It will be remembered that his majesty had been sold non-existent clothes, which were supposed to be superbly beautiful, but visible only to honest men. Not liking to admit that they could not see what honest men were supposed to see, every one praised to the skies the garments that were not there. And then a little child, observing the king's elderly nakedness, shrilly inquired, "Why does the king have no clothes?" After that every one lynched the cheats who had sold the imaginary clothes.

Tito has done the equivalent. If the Kremlin's authority is not sacred and inviolable, then Soviet power must rest exclusively on the Red army and the secret police. Empire builders who have to maintain their sway by naked force are always in trouble. And this is especially true of the Soviets, since Russian soldiers and secret policemen commonly succumb to the temptations which exist even in eastern Europe, as soon as they are sent out of the Soviet homeland's airless, repressive atmosphere. Altogether, it is not surprising that the new development has caused open jubilation here.

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BANK STATEMENTS SOUGHT
Call for statements showing the financial condition of state banks as of June 30, 1948, was issued here Friday by A. A. Rogers, state superintendent of banks.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"It's quite possible I'll be home early dear... On the other hand, I'll probably be late..."

Merits, Dangers of Fireworks Capped by Safety Council Plea

By Marguerite Wright

Balls o' fire! They can make the Fourth of July a bang-up holiday and they can cause death and injury and property damage, too, so safety officials and purveyors of fireworks join in warning celebrants to be careful.

Salem police Friday were chasing down reports that fireworks were responsible for a dozen or so grass fires that flared up during the hot days this week, and several fireworks concessions told the Statesman they were redoubling efforts to insure safe handling of their wares.

None of the merchants in more than 30 temporary suburban stands are "supposed" to sell the potent little "M-80's" to children, salesman Bob Meaney said. These TNT-packed crackers are army surplus and carry a powerful blast for only a nickel, and "you'd better run as fast as you can after you light the fuse," he warned.

The various other fireworks, ranging in price from two for five cents to two dollars, are all "absolutely safe" if they are handled properly. Users are wise to follow instructions.

Rockets 'Harmless'

Rockets—little ones up to the big four-pound displays—should be shot from troughs. They do their fancy work high in the air and are "cold" when they come down—therefore harmless, Meaney added. Buzz bombs fly around and explode unexpectedly, so it's best to be somewhere else when they do. "Fountains" cone-shaped noise-makers — are part of the "safe and sane" series, which manufacturers promise, are just what the name implies.

Even for the tiny Chinese "lady fingers" which are not supposed to hurt, the best rule is never to let anything go off in your hands. The miniature two-for-five TNT bombs would burn if you do. To make sure firecrackers don't explode in your hands, it helps to pinch the back ends. "Dragon Nests," which kick out sparks and "Gushers" for colorful night displays are "harmless."

Sparklers Advised

Safe for children are the milder noise-makers like cap pistols and the traditionally favorite "Sparklers," G. H. Allen, another salesman, advised. He suggested roman candles for effective and safe displays, but they must be pointed toward the sky and never aimed at another person. "Hell-copiers" just leave a trail of smoke in the air and are perfectly harmless, he said.

"Torpedos" are silvery balls you throw down on a cement sidewalk for explosions and "Cop Callers" are gadgets to hook on the spark-plugs of a car. These are said to be harmless to the automobile, but who can say what they might not do to the unsuspecting driver! One salesman urged pranksters never to throw firecrackers into passing cars. They might start a fire, cause a crash or otherwise damage automobile and occupants.

Stand 6 Feet Back
Among the miscellaneous fireworks that should be operated by responsible persons are pin wheels to attach to posts and aerial bombs which explode and send out displays (stand six feet back!).

Despite what manufacturers and salesmen say, the National Safety Council thinks children cannot be expected to handle even so-called "safe" firecrackers, and the American Medical Association doesn't approve either. They advise as the best course—for an exciting but safe evening Sunday night—to let the adults assume charge of the fireworks programs.

SINGER'S WILL REVEALED

LOS ANGELES, July 2 (AP)—Singer Beryl Wallace who with her close associate, showman Earl Carroll, was killed with 41 others in a recent Pennsylvania airliner crash, left an estate of "over \$10,000" to her immediate survivors.

Navy Unit Command Changed



Salem's organized navy reserve unit gets a new commander. Lt. Cmdr. Vernon Gilmore, left, outgoing commander, is shown shaking hands with the new skipper, Lt. Cmdr. Samuel Mallicoat, in a command change ceremony on the Salem naval armory grounds Thursday night. Apprentice Seaman Adam Mack, center, is bearing the colors while enlisted men in background stand at attention.

Reduction in Foreign Mail Costs Revealed

Postage rates on relief packages sent to a number of European countries and China will be reduced four cents a pound effective July 6, Albert Gragg, Salem postmaster, was notified Friday.

The packages must not contain edible fats and oils with a retail value of more than \$5, nor a total of more than \$5 of certain medicine and drugs, must be non-perishable foods, clothing or clothing materials, shoes or shoe materials or permitted household utensils, the regulations provide.

Countries to which these rules apply include Austria, Belgium, China, France, Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Luxembourg, Greece, Italy, or the U.S. or British zones of Germany. The packages must be labeled USA gift packages on the address side of the package and this shall be shown on the customs declaration.

These provisions do not apply to the Russian zone, it is stressed in the notification received by Gragg. Limited surface mail may now be sent to Israel, the Salem office has been notified.

Valley Obituaries

SYMPATHY FOR BERLIN
HAMBURG, Germany, July 2 (AP)—The people of Hamburg today declared themselves in sympathy with their blockaded compatriots of the western sectors of Berlin. The city council voted unanimously, except for the communist minority, to give up one day's food ration for the Berliners.

Gilbert Loy, Jr.
BUENA VISTA — Funeral services will be held Saturday afternoon in Independence for Gilbert Loy, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Loy, who died at his home Thursday in Buena Vista. Besides his parents he is survived by a brother, Richard.

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