

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Indictment of Communists

Federal indictments have been returned against 12 top hands in the communist party in the United States. They are accused of advocating the overthrow of the American form of government by violence. Included in the number are W. Z. Foster, party head, Benjamin Davis, a city councilman in New York City, John Gates, editor of the Daily Worker, several party secretaries and executives of state branches of the party.

We have an idea the government will have a hard time to prove its case. It may quote CP literature and cite communist practice abroad, but still have a hard time pinning on these individuals conspiracy to overthrow our government. The prosecutions may be part of the current political battle in which all parties except the New party are campaigning against the communies. Or it may be part of our anti-Russian jitters.

That communist theory embraces revolution there is no denying. Socialists favor the democratic method of balloting to change officials and the constitution and invoke the socialist experiment. The communists have no faith in the ballot-box method and prefer the shortcut of revolution—bombs, executions, ruthless use of force. There are communists however who may believe in the ideology of the party without having any stomach for bomb-tossing and blood-letting. They accept the Marx-Lenin thesis as inevitable but the only contribution they will make is to pay their party dues and take part in cell diatribes. Whether they violate any law in letting their political and economic thinking range that way is doubtful.

Conviction for the crime of treason requires the testimony of two witnesses to the overt act. In the impending cases the accused will doubtless demand that the government prove some overt act performed by the defendants individually or collectively. So long as the communist party is not outlawed it is hard to see that mere party membership or activity could be construed as criminal without proof of some overt action.

We need to keep our poise in all this crusade against communism. They are no imminent threat here. What we face in Europe is quite as much old-fashioned nationalism and aggression by Russia as its jargon of communist lingo. If our breach with Russia leads to war then the domestic communies will be handled under war laws. Meantime we should not become panicky.

Background for Berlin

The grief we are in for in Berlin is partly in payment of a blunder made four years ago by trusting American diplomats negotiating with the canny Russians. Wes Gallagher says in an analysis for the Associated Press. Our unwillingness to step on our ally's toes as far back as 1944 gave the Reds the edge and, so far, they've turned it to their advantage.

In a three-power protocol in 1944 the European advisory commission made up of U. S., British and Russian representatives, negotiated the present occupation areas of Germany and Berlin. It was then decided that the Russians would "liberate" the German capital even though the U. S. army could have been there first. Prague fell to the Red army under similar arrangements and the Russian share of victory in Austria was another courtesy.

The Berlin occupation agreements established the right of western powers to keep troops in Berlin but provisions for a right of way to get in or out of the city were neglected. Later Ambassador Winant refused to insist on written permission for a western land corridor on grounds that this would imply distrust of our friends the Russians. He just took their word. The 20-mile wide air corridors for use by the west were granted us in 1945.

Until the time came for the squeeze, the western powers used the railway and autobahn and waterway transportation by Russian suzerainty. Closing the land routes for "repairs" was easy; the west had no legal recourse. Stopping air traffic, however, seems to have the Russians stumped for the time being. Their actions depend on whether or not they feel they can afford to risk out-and-out war. For them to halt the air bridge requires a military act, just as it would require a military act of force for the west to break the land blockade, Gallagher points out.

Meanwhile, before any ultimatums are given or hostilities break out, there remains an escape hatch. Since the Berlin mess does threaten world peace it is fit material for the United Nations security council to chew over.

Nice Kitty—Bang!

The little red fox of story-book fame has taken quite a beating lately in the unkind words and thoughts of ranchers north and west of Salem, and no one could blame the ranchers, either. Now it develops that maybe the little red fox isn't entirely to blame. Discounting the usual chicken-yard inroads of skunks, coons and other smaller wild life, it appears a good deal of the loss may have been occasioned by the hardy cougar, or his kin, which Joseph Singer chased out of his back yard in the Wallace road area Monday night.

The cougar was no dumb cluck, either. He must have known that Mike Morris was not yet living on the property he recently purchased next to the Singer place. Or, come to think of it, it might be that he was looking for Mike. Mike is the Lebanon man who recently bagged three of the cougar's distant cousins, and undoubtedly now is considered fair game by the entire cougar family.

The story would make nice reading in newspapers of the east, where cougars have been practically unknown for years—and where one popular conception of the far west still rests with painted Indians, stalking panthers, outraged bears and lost trappers. And a cougar really is a panther, too, so the tale could be made to sound like a tall one. Maybe our chamber of commerce could entice the Felis concolor (that's what the encyclopedia says it is) to surrender on a downtown street to give it even more spice.

In the meantime, we don't blame Singer's children for giving up their back-yard camping-out, for the time being. Getting nipped by a cougar would make the west just a little too wild.

Upsy-Daisy

"Higher, Higher, Higher" is a headline on the front page of the Oregon Teamster over a story telling of mounting cost of living. On the same page another headline: "Wage Boost Won," telling of a "substantial wage increase and other benefits" obtained for truck drivers.

Another example of cause and effect; but don't ask us which came first, the egg of wage increases or the hen of high prices.

Germans in the western-controlled sectors of Berlin were not fooled by soviet promises of food (to be paid for in Russia's brand of German marks). They ask why, if Russia has food to spare, the east Germans aren't getting more, and why Russia has shipped out of east Germany as many tons of food as it has. Russia is using wheat promises as bait in its play for big fish.

New Pumper Aids West Salem Fire Protection



Fire protection in West Salem will be aided when equipping of the surplus fire pumping trailer shown above is completed soon. The 500-gallon pumper unit was given to West Salem by the city of Salem which obtained the unit from surplus civilian defense stores. Shown looking over the unit are, left to right, Police Chief Bill Porter, and W. L. Hucksaby, building inspector, both of West Salem. Additional hose and equipment will outfit the unit. (Photo by Don Dill, Statesman staff photographer.)

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from Page 1)

our society is reviewed in the July news-letter of the National City bank of New York. In the race up the spiral prices received by farmers and average hourly earnings of workers have exceeded the rise in cost of living. In other words these groups are relatively better off. Those who have suffered are the ones with relatively stable incomes: public officials (teachers are slightly better off), salaried executives, holders of bonds and stocks, those living on pensions or annuities.

The bank-letter comments on the effect of this inflation as follows: "Month by month, year by year, people who have been considered with justice the mainstay of our society—the great middle class—have been rewarded for their prudence and self-reliance in steadily depreciating coin. These are the people who save for retirement, for the rainy day, for family security, as best they can with the resources at their disposal. They are the people who responded most generously to the calls for funds in the loan drive of the war emergency. They are the people who pay most of the taxes. They are the people who provide wise leadership in community life all through the country. It is a dangerous business, in a free society, to grind them down, take away their incentives, frustrate their efforts toward security."

We see that President Truman is going to "do something about" inflation. His secretary says there will be a concrete bill on high prices, but the "details have not been settled." At the special session the president will urge federal aid to education, the Taft-Wagner bill to provide more government money and credit for housing, which by increasing government spending will feed the fires of inflation.

Since the advent of the new deal government policies have been a primary source of inflation. The fruits are proving bitter to the taste. Trying now to put curbs on prices, such as meat, is to wrestle with effects, not causes. Unless we go at the causes, price controls will be futile and irritating. Artificial supports for farm prices, easy credit policies, heavy government spending, government fostering of labor monopolies are prime contributing causes of inflation. What will the administration and the congress do to cure them?

County Voters To Decide on Memorial Fund

Whether Marion county shall institute a \$25,000 levy to provide for a veterans' memorial building will be decided by county voters at the November 2 general election. Marion county court Wednesday ordered the vote on \$25,000 tax levy outside the 6 per cent limitation. The sum was not budgeted into the county's budget because there was no room for it within the limitation clause, County Judge Grant Murphy said.

If approved, the fund would be apportioned by the court between two veteran groups who applied prior to the July 1 deadline. The applications included a joint petition from the American Legion post and Veterans of Foreign Wars post at Aurora and another combination request from Disabled American Veterans and Spanish American War veterans of Salem.

Crater Lake Rim Road Closed by Snow, Slides

The Crater Lake rim road is still closed because of snow and slides along the west side for about six miles in the vicinity of Watchman and Hillman peak and probably will not be open for public use until the end of July, E. A. Collier, maintenance engineer for the state highway commission announced Wednesday.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"The workers in America are enslaved... many of them are constantly in debt in an effort to drive a better car than their capitalistic boss..."

YMCA Secretary Praises Groups Character Work

Characterizing the YMCA as a means of teaching boys and men to have integrity of character, as well as a bulwark against communism, Frank B. Lenz, traveling secretary of the YM's international committee, addressed Salem Rotary club Wednesday noon in the Marion hotel.

Lenz said the YM had been constantly opposed in communist countries, but that it was still at work in some places behind the iron curtain. Poland has more Ys now than before the war, he noted. The war destroyed 105 Y buildings, he said, but not a single secretary or board member collaborated with the enemy.

2 Salem Reserves Train with 104th Infantry Division

Two Salem army reservists are participating in the annual two-week training encampment of the 104th infantry (Timberwolf) division at Fort Lewis, Wash., the army information service announced Wednesday.

They are Sgt. Gordon A. Hewitt, 501 Court st., and Sgt. Richard N. Gookins, 360 Lincoln

Dr. R. Withey Appointed WU Students Dean

Willamette university's president, Dr. G. Herbert Smith, has announced the appointment of Dr. Raymond A. Withey as acting dean of students.

Withey replaces Dr. Lawrence A. Riggs, who leaves during August to assume his position as dean of students at Depauw university, Greencastle, Ind. Withey will assume his responsibilities immediately so that he may have an opportunity to work with Riggs before his departure.

During the past year Withey has served as counselor of religious activities and assistant professor of religion at Willamette. He will continue his duties as religious counselor. Withey is a graduate of Harvard university where he obtained his bachelor of arts and master of education degrees. Before receiving his Ph. D. in 1947 at Boston university, he did graduate work at Cornell university.

Both men are veterans of World War II. Hewitt spent the major portion of his duty with the Korea place guard in the 17th infantry. Gookins served two years with the military police with the 98th division in the Hawaiian Islands and in Japan.

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Prison Inmate Given Writ of Habeas Corpus

A writ of habeas corpus was granted to Claude Kenneth Castle, Oregon state prison inmate, Wednesday by Marion County Circuit Judge E. M. Page.

The writ was granted on petition of Castle who contends he is illegally imprisoned. The writ order requires George Alexander, prison warden, to produce Castle on August 20 in court for a hearing.

Castle was sentenced to prison for life in 1941 by Polk County Circuit Judge Arlie G. Walker. A judgment order attached to the writ petition shows that Castle was sentenced under the habitual criminal act. It charged him with having been convicted of four felonies.

The prisoner contends no grand jury habitual criminal indictment was returned, no jury was sworn to try the case, information against him failed to indicate if he had been lawfully discharged from any prior convictions and that the Polk county circuit court was without jurisdiction in the sentencing.

Roving Cougar Blamed for Killing Lambs

Killing of five lambs, possibly by the same cougar which prowled Monday night along Wallace Road, was reported Wednesday by Chester H. Fisher of Eagle Crest, about three miles west of the road.

Fisher said he and his son, Chester C. Fisher, heard a commotion in the son's sheep about midnight Tuesday night. They rushed out and heard one lamb bleating as it was carried away by the animal.

The Fishers did not see the invader but believed it to be a cougar, which they said had been in the Eola hills for several years and to which they had lost sheep and pigs from time to time.



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Eight Eastern Editors to Visit Salem on Tour

Representatives of eight eastern newspapers, currently touring under auspices of the Pacific Northwest Tourist association, will be entertained by the Salem Chamber of Commerce Sunday with a luncheon at the Marion hotel.

In the group are Josie Stout Thurston, Des Moines Register and Tribune; Harry W. Smith, Cleveland Plain-Dealer; Charles Collins, Milwaukee Sentinel; Naomi Doebel, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Gazette; Arthur Juntunen, Detroit Free Press; John Troan, Pittsburgh Press; Leonard R. Barnes, Detroit Motor News and George Keane, New York World Telegram.

The editors will tour eastern and southern Oregon, stopping at Eugene Saturday night. They will visit Albany and Corvallis enroute to Salem Sunday, and continue on to Portland, Longview, Olympia, Seattle, Yakima, Hanford, Grand Coulee dam and Spokane.

Lumbering Tax Total \$350,000

Collections of the forest research tax for the first four quarters of its existence so far total \$320,673, the state tax commission announced Tuesday.

Wallace S. Wharton, in charge of the assessment and taxation division, said late returns would increase the total to \$350,000. The tax is collected at the rate of five cents per 1000 feet board measure of forest products harvested commercially each quarter year.

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