

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Ave"
From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

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Member of the Associated Press

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Dr. Wirt and the Red Scare

The finale to the great comedy-tragedy of the 16-year tenure by the democratic administration apparently will carry the same theme used in the prelude to the first acts.

The rise of the New Deal was marked by the great Red scare in 1934; and Dr. William Albert Wirt was its prophet. The democratic decline and fall is being furthered by the current miasma in Washington.

Dr. Wirt, superintendent of schools at Gary, Indiana, 14 years ago held the same spotlight now occupied by Elizabeth Bentley. He told a house investigating committee that a New Deal "brain trust" was plotting to set up a communist state in America, basing his charges on Washington dinner table conversation.

The 12 points of the grand strategy were:

"1. Keep communists in key government posts. 2. Substitute decrees by executive agencies for organic law. 3. Replace private industry with planned economy. 4. Decentralize cities and redistribute industry and population through housing projects. 5. End private lending agencies and control borrowers by federal monopoly of long-term commercial loans. 6. Dictate policies of newspapers and other avenues of public opinion. 7. Corral the farm vote through subsidies. 8. Quiet business and labor by doles to make them dependent on government. 9. Chill the spine of business by public investigations. 10. Quiet business and labor by doles to make them dependent on government. 11. Call political opponents traitors and use police power to crack down on them. 12. Keep Franklin Roosevelt as the Kerensky of the revolution until he could be replaced by a determined dictator."

Wirt said he thought Henry Wallace, secretary of agriculture; Rexford Tugwell, assistant secretary; Milburn Wilson, department of agriculture; Frederic Howe, AAA, and Robert Kohn, New York public housing architect were members. He also suspected Justice Felix Frankfurter, Raymond Moley, Louis M. Howe and Samuel I. Rosenman of being partners in the nefarious scheme.

Congress was not much impressed by Dr. Wirt's expose; various legislators laughed him off as an "intellectual jackass" or "credulous old duffer." Harold Ickes called him an "old sorehead." And Pravda in Moscow said the whole affair was a "bourgeois plot."

Wirt's accusations were not entirely spontaneous. He was virtually unknown until the house began discussing the proposed securities and exchange act. Then the "Committee for the Nation," which had lobbied against the pure food and drug act and for devaluation of the dollar, came forward with Dr. Wirt's sensational charges. The committee's directors included General Wood and Rosenwald of Sears and Roebuck, Bendix of Bendix Aircraft, Rand of Remington-Rand and their ilk.

Wirt's facts were not entirely erroneous, either. As the Nation (then under Oswald Garrison Villard) put it in 1934: "His words may be wild, but his underlying fears save a modest basis in fact. In the eagerness of the democrats to prove him a liar and themselves sturdy reactionaries, the fact has been overlooked that the Roosevelt administration does include individuals who in the eyes of Dr. Wirt and his friends rate as revolutionaries."

That was 14 years ago. Dr. Wirt died and the people, if they remembered him at all thought of him as the dupe perhaps of his own fears. But as we read the confessions of communists who seem to have had the run of Washington in the 1930s and early 1940s and as we observe the buttoned lips of the Abts, Pressmans and Witts we can't help but recall Dr. Wirt and his warnings, though they seemed silly at the time. Evidently Washington was full of "hot rods" who thought revolution was on the way. They got to the fringes of power, and probably were ready to be vice commissars when the new deal merged into the "new day" of communism. They overrated themselves and misread the impulses of the American people. They are thoroughly discredited; and it is probable that the administration which rather blandly gave them headroom will be swept out of power. Maybe Dr. Wirt did stumble onto something when he visited Washington.

Legislative Apportionment

Marquis Childs dates a column at Portland, Ore. which he visited a few days ago; and it appears in the Oregonian. Childs picks up Dick Neuberger's line that Oregon is "more republican than Maine and Vermont." He cites the small number of democrats in the legislature and comments on the decay of democratic leadership, a fact obvious to all political observers. Childs sees in younger leadership a chance for democratic revival and mentions Monroe Sweetland, new national committeeman and Nicholas Granet, Multnomah county chairman as democratic hopefuls. Then he adds this:

These emerging leaders believe they would have a greater chance to make a showing if, through reapportionment, a fair balance could be struck between the city and the country vote. But this seems unlikely to happen.

The state constitution has long been ignored by the legislature as far as reapportionment goes; but it is by no means certain that democrats would profit very greatly if a fresh deal was made. Multnomah county would get more members in house and senate; but save for a few sessions that county has sent more republicans to the legislature than it has democrats despite the democratic majority in the county.

It has not been partisan opposition to reapportionment as much as upstate (rural) opposition. Then Multnomah county legislators have made little effort to reshuffle the membership. Gilles French from Sherman county has offered plans; but the legislature has refused to make any change. Even Marshall Cornett failed in his effort to switch a senatorship from the Umatilla country to Klamath county.

In general the upstate is more conservative than Portland, more conservative in politics, morals, finance. That and the usual fear or jealousy of the "big city" work to maintain the status quo. Oregon is not alone in its antiquated apportionment system. In Washington the "cow counties," with Skokane and Tacoma in league, blocked reapportionment that would give King county (Seattle) larger representation. California now faces a vote on a proposal to reapportion the state senate. The San Francisco Chronicle opposes the measure. Maybe it fears domination by more populous Los Angeles, but it advances good reasons for its stand. It notes for instance the greater prevalence of bossism in cities and offers testimony that California's rural senators have dealt justly with cities. The state senate, it says, has done better by the cities than the urban-controlled assembly. It concludes:

"Taking this comparison into account, along with historical experience with bossism, there is no reason to believe that we would get better state government by further urbanizing the senate, every reason to believe we would get much worse."

We dislike this ignoring of the constitutional mandate; wish some new formula could be worked out which would use other measures than head count to determine representation. That however is not easy to devise. Our legislators however ought to be giving study to the problem, to be ready with some measure when the next census is reported.

As many Czechs as can do so are busy checking out of their homeland.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

he has done a good job, although occasional complaints are heard from returning observers. That popularity may stay the hand of the war department on occasion—as when the list for retirement is made up.

The end of the occupation of Japan is not in sight. That is regrettable—expensive to the United States and unsatisfactory to Japan. The reason for the delay is that no treaty with Japan has been written. With Russia and the western allies at loggerheads over treaties with Austria and Germany no real start has been made toward a peace with Japan. So government by military occupation promises to continue indefinitely. Presumably MacArthur will stay as long as his health permits.

Of course there was a general desire among politicians from FDR forward to "keep him out of the country." With nominations made for another four years his return should be safe even for presidential candidates. If he stays on in Japan much longer he will become a myth like the emperor before the war to the Japanese people, and quite a legendary figure to people of the United States.

Musicians May Sponsor Free Dances in Area

Local 315, American Federation of Musicians, is wondering this week what to do with about \$1,200 received by it this year from recording royalties.

David M. Nyberg, secretary-treasurer of the union in Salem, said Tuesday that plans are being discussed to sponsor a series of free teen-age dances in this area. It is hoped, he said, to cooperate with local churches and other youth groups.

According to union rules the recording royalties must be used to pay wages to members of the musician's union while playing at some non-profit program.

As the union's jurisdiction also includes towns of Albany, Newport, Waldport, Stayton, McMinnville, Newberg and Oceanlake, the free dances for teen-agers will be held at those towns too, if the plan is approved, Nyberg said.

The union will meet September 13 to discuss the plan. The recording fund is distributed to local unions by the national musicians union. The fund was set up through agreement with the recording companies.

Last year the local union donated its fund to the Salem Cherry Festival association.

Ammonia for Salem Plant Waits in Texas

Anhydrous ammonia supplies promised the Salem fertilizer plant, operated by Columbia Metals corporation, will be on the way from Texas as soon as necessary tank cars can be secured. A. W. Metzger, plant manager, said Tuesday.

J. O. Gallagher of Seattle, president of the firm, is now in the east to ferret out sufficient of the specially insulated pressure tank cars in which the ammonia is transported.

When they are available, said Metzger, the material will be shipped here at the rate of two cars daily, from the two-month allocation of 64 carloads. Beginning with the first arrivals in 10 days or two weeks, the plant on Cherry avenue will go into steady production of ammonia sulphate fertilizer.

The plant has not been in operation since last February 29, when the ammonia became unavailable.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"Why can't The Statesman print a little story on it? ... You always make a fuss when a famous man dies but never when a famous man is born. ..."



Another Job for the Lie Detector

The Safety Valve

FAVORS COMMISSION FORM To the Editor:

There has been intensive interest shown in the movement to submit to the people a plan for a commission form of government for Salem.

There are some who have strenuously opposed the plan through editorial columns and news items. Those who approve the plan have refrained from any comment to refute this premature propaganda. We were primarily concerned with getting the measure on the ballot. Then will be the proper time to present facts and figures in support of our contention that the commission form is the best for Salem.

Now that it seems assured that the measure will go on the ballot I feel that a broad general statement is in order.

First I wish to emphasize the point that the idea of a commission form of government did not originate with the labor unions, as some would have us believe. The labor officials plan was to restore the old aldermanic form. At a public meeting called by some labor officials I objected to both the manager and old aldermanic form. After a detailed explanation of the commission form it was unanimously accepted as the best plan and a committee elected to draw up a bill and get it on the ballot. The labor unions supported it and rendered valuable assistance in circulating petitions. They are for it because it is much more democratic than our present manager form. But it is not their child.

The commission form and manager form are not as far apart as some folks think. The manager form is more costly, the commission form does a better job of managing city affairs at lower cost.

Under the manager form one man is in charge of all the de-

partments of the city, he holds his office by appointment of the council, a commissioner is elected by the people and is in charge only of such departments as are placed under his control. It naturally follows that more efficient and economical management of each department can be acquired under this method than by a one man management of all departments.

A manager form of government is too costly, it is a duplication of effort in that we have managers of the different departments being managed by a general manager. We are now paying nearly \$35,000 per year for management of city affairs not counting the chiefs of police or fire departments.

Commissioners in Portland receive \$5,000 per year. We can obtain three well qualified men for \$15,500 and even allowing \$5,000 more if necessary the commission plan will save \$10 to \$15 thousand per year. It will provide a more democratic form of government and eliminate partiality being shown one department at the expense of the others. I trust no one will consider this a criticism of any person or persons but rather a criticism of a manager form of government. The statements here given are my personal opinion and are not to be considered as coming from any group or committee.

L. F. LeGARIE.

Some factories in Sweden which were moved to caves during the war continue to operate there because expenses for heat and maintenance are small.

Final Hearing On Gov. Snell Estate Set

Final hearing in the estate of design with plastered walls and the late Gov. Earl Snell, killed in a plane crash last year, has been set for September 27 in Marion county probate court, it was ordered Tuesday.

A final account filed by George H. Flagg, executor, shows estate assets listed at \$69,567. Sole heirs to the estate are Edith M. Snell of Salem, 46, widow of the late governor, and William E. Snell, 27, of Portland, a son.

According to Gov. Snell's will the son is to have first choice of guns and fishing and other sports gear left by his father. The residue of the estate goes to Mrs. Snell. And appraisal of the assets of the general account of the late Dan B. Jarman totaling \$17,302 also was filed in probate court by J. N. Chambers, Miller B. Hayden and Mal E. Rudd, the appraisers. Jarman, a former Salem resident, died in California several months ago.

Parks Defends Negro Status

Treatment of negroes in the deep south is not as bad as some writers would lead the public to believe, in the opinion of Alex L. Parks, a native of Alabama and now a senior at the Willamette school of law.

Speaking to the Salem Kiwanis club Tuesday, Parks was quite critical of a recent serial "In the Land of Jim Crow," and parti-

cularly disagreed with the view that sharecroppers in the south were being swindled.

As for disparaging remarks regarding negro educational facilities, Parks said that the entire educational system in the south was "notoriously poor."

Entertaining the club with music and dancing were members of the Hawaiian baseball team which were here to play at Waters field Tuesday night.



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