

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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War Games

Whenever the war-worriers need need scare-reports with which to turn grey the hair of their listeners, they view with renewed alarm that Russia is moving troops westward and engaging in war maneuvers.

C. L. Sulzberger, the New York Times' intrepid correspondent in Paris, dashes some cold water in the face of these "hot war" rumors.

Despite a lot of belligerent talk before United Nations, there appears to be no material sign that actual hostilities may break out, he says. There is no indication that the Russian bloc during the past weeks has taken any major steps preparing for an imminent war. There seems to be "no suspicious military movements, no accumulation of transport in strategic areas, no unusual preparation of supply depots, no sudden assembly of military materials in potential jumping-off points."

The buzzing and harassing of air lift planes by Russian Yak fighters is merely the familiar Russian nuisance tactics carried into the air. They are disagreeable and possibly dangerous, but they are nevertheless in the actions-short-of-war category.

The "gradually accumulative long-range defensive preparations" of every nation economically able to stockpile military supplies are not new or unusual. Except during the semi-fake periods of disarmament, nations have always felt the best insurance for peace was adequate defense in case of war.

Rearmament, stockpiling of supplies, training of troops and other long-range preparations by Russia, Britain, France, the United States and other nations, therefore, can be regarded as normal for a critical political period.

They do not, by themselves, mean war—any more than our own current war maneuvers—Operation Combine.III—in Florida mean war. Football practice games don't count in the conference totals, either.

Food Costs Pass the Peak?

Some decline in food prices, particularly meats, is reported. This confounds the experts who predicted a price rise in meats this fall, as growers under the abundant corn crop to feed out their stock.

What has brought the price down is the operation of the law of supply and demand. When the price got higher than consumers felt they could afford to pay they reduced their buying. The buyers' strike agitation had its effect. Housewives became more price conscious and hunted for bargains.

An easing of food costs would lower pressures for wage increases. Employed workers are hearty eaters and sensitive to food prices. Barring unforeseen upsets it looks as though living costs have passed their peak, though the descent as far as averages go will be slow, retarded by government price supports and high operating costs of food processors and distributors.

Slot Machine Racket

Governor Warren's crime commission comes up with a report that the slot machine racketeers

were all set to organize 22 cities for their business, using 309 business outlets. The promoters were said to be assuring their agents of protection from the attorney general's office. That charge is the basis for indictments in one of the counties.

What happens in California happens here, too, except that in this state the attorney general, George Neuner, is a foe of the slot machine bandits. Consequently, they are trying to defeat him in the coming election. The gambling interests are backing Neuner's democratic opponent.

Actually, there has not been a real cleanup in this state. In some cities the slots still operate openly; and in Salem they operate in some so-called clubs, with the legal approval of the district attorney. A crime commission in Oregon would have a fertile field for investigation if it made a real probe into the ring that runs the illegal gambling devices.

Gatch Named Commissioner

Admiral Tom Gatch is to be commended for accepting the appointment as member of the state liquor commission. His standing and record give conviction to his promise:

"I was assured by the governor the liquor situation in Oregon is clean and I can assure all hands that, by-the-etheral, it's going to stay that way."

Governor Hall will by this stroke restore public confidence in the commission and in the state's control system which was badly shattered in the late embroglio.

We express hope that Admiral Gatch will not limit his tour of duty to the remaining months in the Hall term but will continue to serve in the new administration, for we feel confident he will be wanted.

Senator Taft says that the government's budget for the current year will be balanced with an adequate margin left over, but not enough to warrant tax cuts. They should come, he thinks, in excise levies. Some of these levies, such as those on communications and transportation, are quite burdensome. Excise taxes on jewelry and furs are very heavy, but they still belong in the luxury class which is the favorite victim of tax-gatherers. Perhaps we should be happy that no tax increase impends, considering what we are spending for European relief and rearmament.

Harry Truman says electing Dewey will lead the country in a headlong dash toward another depression. There is no proof Truman can read a crystal ball with any degree of accuracy. He foresaw a business bump in 1945-46 and urged legislation for Henry Wallace's 60,000,000 jobs. Congress balked—and now more than the 60,000,000 are employed. If a depression is coming, and it may be, it will come whether Tom, (Dick) or Harry is president.

A Salem inventor claims to have discovered how to get power out of water. The real discovery however would be to get power out of the air (sunshine, wind). Air is the one element in universal distribution over the earth.

Illinois Demos Push Formidable Slate

By Joseph Alsop

CHICAGO, Oct. 6.—If Gov. Thomas E. Dewey is the modern-minded republican he claims to be, he cannot much like many of the coattail riders he is likely to help re-elect this year. Dewey is anything but non-partisan. Yet one would think he might actively prefer the democrats here in Illinois, where the ancient republican system of government by big businessmen and little politicians has been carried to such a peculiar extreme.

There is only one big businessman, Col. Robert R. McCormick, and he runs both the governor and the republican senator. The redoubtable Colonel forcibly imposed the brassy Sen. C. Wayne Brooks on the Illinois republican organization, which had the good taste not to like the man. Brooks has belonged to McCormick ever since and still does. As for the governor, Dwight Green, he was originally the protégé of Chicago's other colonel, the late Frank Knox. But Green also belongs to McCormick now, as the republican convention at Philadelphia rather ludicrously proved.

At Philadelphia, the naive Dewey managers could not believe that the governor of a great state, at the head of a delegation of state payrollers, was not the master of his soul. They wanted to do a deal with Green. The unhappy Green desperately wanted the vice-presidential nomination and began negotiations.

But McCormick wanted Sen. Robert A. Taft and it was as though a little white poodle in a vaudeville dog-act had scut-

tled to the corner of the stage to commit a nuisance. The terrifying trainer cracked his terrible whip. The little poodle ran back to his place, but its paws under its chin and pretended nothing had happened. To the bitter end, at McCormick's word of command, and despite his yearnings for the vice-presidential nomination, Green stuck with Taft's candidacy. It was the strongest showing of personal power in recent political history. And no one can doubt that Green at least has the virtue of obedience.

Green's state administration has little else to boast of, however. Its general flavor is best suggested by the big campaign issue centering around the Centennial mine disaster. A close connection is publicly charged between this ghastly tragedy, the peculiar immunity of the mines to state inspection and certain large payments into the war-chests of the state republican organization. And these charges have not been convincingly refuted.

The real irony of the situation lies in Dewey's position, however. After bitterly opposing McCormick at Philadelphia, Colonel McCormick is giving the merest lip-service to Dewey's candidacy. Meanwhile "The Chicago Tribune" daily flails Dewey's chief foreign adviser, John Foster Dulles, as a sinister leftist. Yet if Dewey did not head the republican ticket, the two McCormicks, Governor Green and Senator Brooks, would be in grave danger of defeat. With one hand, Green and Brooks clutch Dewey's coattails; in the other hand, they hold a dagger to stab Dewey in the back later on.

The Illinois republicans need Dewey's help for two reasons. The Wallace party has been ruled off the ballot. And the democrats have nominated the forceful, public-spirited Adlai Stevenson for the governorship,

and for the senatorship, the able, progressive Paul Douglas. Stevenson is a rich man, bears an honored Illinois name and will attract many normally republican voters. Douglas is a liberal professor, served conspicuously well in Chicago city politics, has a superb war record and enjoys solid, impassioned labor support. Both are making energetic campaigns. With all their differences, they are exactly the sort of men the democrats need if they are to make a comeback.

The republicans are countering the Stevenson-Douglas threat by spending \$20 for every \$1 of the democrats and by using some pretty crude campaigning weapons. Douglas, for example, is both a severely wounded Marine veteran of the second war and outstanding among American progressives for his unyielding fight against the communists. Yet Rep. Fred Busbey, a minor league "Curly" Brooks, is quarantining the state howling that Douglas is a "red." This is only one more instance of a dangerous practice. (It will be impossible to solve the serious communist problem, if the debate is to be dominated by the mindless belaboring of squalid hacks.)

None the less, impartial observers of both parties concede that Stevenson and Douglas have a definite outside chance to defeat Green and Brooks. The polls give Dewey a nine-point margin over President Harry S. Truman in Illinois. If 5 per cent of the voters split their tickets—as a good many are expected to do—the McCormick-men will be beaten.

More probably, of course, the McCormick-men will win. But this will only be because the voters think Dewey is different and does not mean government by big businessmen and little politicians. If the future proves the contrary, the political consequences are likely to be volcanic.

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"October's Nut Brown Ale!"

Your City Government

(Editor's note: Mayor Robert L. Elstrom of Salem, in a move to stress on all residents that "the city is a municipal corporation, your corporation, and you are its stockholders," recently prepared a series of articles on its government. Excerpts from the articles will appear from time to time as a matter of public information.)

In the improved efficiency of its government, Salem has made the greatest progress in the past two years.

As an example, you now have the most efficient fire department Salem has ever had. Under a new chief, your firemen have been trained. A fireman today is required by examination to know his job, and he does. Your city also has more and better fire-fighting equipment, and it renders a better brand of emergency service.

You may have noticed the little red truck that trails other apparatus to all fires. If you have had a fire at your home, you know the men on that truck comprise the clean-up crew which cleans up the mess in your home after a fire. And without charge.

Salem has four fire stations, all well located, and in the event of a fire, the program of efficiency includes the shifting of apparatus from one station to another to provide for emergency protection at all times.

Until about two years ago, the city hall siren was sounded each time a fire was reported. That doesn't happen any more.

Except at the regular noon-hour on week days, the city hall siren is now used only as a signal for calling out all firemen when there is a fire of such proportions that it is felt they are needed.

We have made similar improvements in the operation of your police department.

The day of the two-fisted, browbeating type of hard-boiled cop, for example, is fading. We have made many changes in the Salem department and the effort to eliminate such officers has been included. The qualifying standards have been raised and we are getting a new, more intelligent type of officer.

We recognize that there is still room for improvement and we are going about the job in an orderly, well-conceived plan. As we said before, Salem is a good place to live and we want to make it even better.

(Editor's note: The Statesman has been carrying excerpts from a report by Mayor Elstrom on the city government. Within limits of space its columns are open to constructive analysis by competent sources on any subject of general interest.)

Literary Guidepost

By W. C. Rogers

MY GLORIOUS BROTHERS,
By Howard Fast (Little, Brown; \$2.75)

Two centuries before Christ there lived in the little village of Modin, half way between Jerusalem and Joppa, the patriarch Mattathias and his five

sons, Judas, Eleazer, Jonathan, John and Simon, who is narrator for most of this stirring but uncontroversial novel by an author who frequently is the center of controversy.

Antiochus Epiphanes, the King of Kings, was determined to exact the maximum taxes from his Jewish subjects, and to inflict upon them, who believed in an invisible God, the greatest indignities and humiliations; Antiochus' mercenaries set the torch to their holy towns, desecrated their holy altars, despoiled their virgins, tortured and slew their menfolk.

But the worm turned. When one day Pericles, the king's warden for Judea, caught young Jonathan, his brothers Judas and Simon heard the child's terrified scream and killed the depraved overlord and his guards. He was replaced by the equally vicious Apolles, but the fervor of the brave sons was fired by the example of their father, the wisdom of Rabbi Ragesh, and the misery of the liberty-loving but enslaved people. You, Judas, said the rabbi, shall be the Maccabees and lead the Jews to freedom.

Fast has recreated a historic period and a heroic people. Historical novels of this quality are rare.

The history of policing literature has uniformly been bad. Enforcement officials are often narrow-minded prudes; and some of them are too stupid to be able to judge literature. The state will fall into a pit of its own devising if it enacts this Lynch law on publications.

What should be done about the naughty comic books? Frankly I do not know. But I do not want to see Oregon set up a censorship covering literature and art just to screen out the bad comics. There is such a thing as responsibility of parents for their children which certainly includes scrutiny of their reading material. As for adults they should be able to look after themselves without having the state peer over their shoulders to see what they are reading.

Realizing that space is limited we will endeavor to confine our statements to facts which have a direct bearing on the question involved. We would be glad to submit a series of articles such as the mayor has submitted, giving the other side of the question.

Sincerely,
L. F. LeGarie
Chairman Citizens
Better Govt. Comm.

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Lecture Pending

GREAT FALLS, Mont.—(U.P.)—A lecture was in order for his three year old son when City Fireman Walter L. Lehman returned home from a tour of duty at the station. Firemen were summoned during the day to put out a blaze started by the boy playing with a cigarette lighter. Lehman had to remain on duty at the station, though, while other firemen went to his home to put out the flames.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"You wonder if the world is still going to pot? ... Am I to take it that our honeymoon is over then, Gordon?"

Earthquakes in Alaska 50 years ago caused some sections of the coast to rise as much as 50 feet.

Fish apparently obtain about all the water they need through their skins and the food they eat.

MR. MOTORIST

Automobile Liability and Property Damage rates have been on the increase as you will see when you receive your next billing. Since this is general news, I think it only proper to make the announcement that this increase does NOT affect the FARMERS INSURANCE GROUP to the same extent as it affects others.

Compare our current rates for \$5,000/10,000 Liability and \$5,000 Property Damage in Salem and in all of Marion County. We write this protection for \$12.70 each six months—a \$5.00 sales cost the first time only.

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