

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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What's That \$15 Billion Dollars For?

There is a bad case of the jitters in Hawaii these days, as well there might be. Not that the islands feel they are in imminent danger of a new attack but the undetected flights of B-36 and B-50 planes from the mainland give rise to wonder whether the military has learned much since Pearl Harbor, after all.

The "day of infamy" is too fresh in the minds of most islanders to permit of a lackadaisical attitude toward such events, and the incident certainly won't go unnoticed in other vulnerable spots such as Panama and the borders of the mainland.

This is no time to have our guard down. We do not believe any power is really to challenge us—but too many of us didn't believe it prior to Dec. 7, 1941, either. And we have our doubts that potential enemies of current times will "call their shots" as much as did the Japanese, to give us what could have been ample warning seven years ago if we had heeded it.

If it is essential that we pay \$15 billion dollars a year for a military defense establishment, it certainly is essential that we do everything possible to protect that establishment from another knock-out blow or blows.

It is refreshing to have the military admit its inadequacy in detection. But it shouldn't happen again, anywhere.

a flank attack about which the men aren't too happy. It happened during the IWA convention in October when the auxiliary adopted a resolution opposing the Marshall plan just after the union had approved it. The Marshall plan, it should be understood, is the acid test for communism in CIO circles. The communists regularly denounce it, while the non-communists strongly support it.

When the IWA auxiliary expressed a view contrary to the union's line of thinking a real issue was created. Naturally the men reacted: "Are we mice or men?" "Who wears the pants around here, anyway?" The ancient instinct of the male reasserted itself, and in a referendum the member unions voted to vest authority in the executive board to suspend or revoke the charter of any ladies' auxiliary which "ceases to be of assistance." It's all right for the ladies to make coffee and sandwiches for the boys on the picket line, to march in parades and sew the banners; but freedom of thought and speech remains under male domination. No heresy is to be tolerated.

The ladies' auxiliary is one of the singular phenomena of our time. Most male organizations have them, from the medical association to veterans' groups and patriotic, fraternal and labor bodies. They are the product of the emancipation of women. When men began taking their wives to conventions something had to be found to occupy their time, so the auxiliary was created. It provides an excuse for meeting, with addresses of welcome, badges, reports, past presidents and political manipulations. Through the year busywork must be thought up to keep the locals alive.

What a problem auxiliaries must have. The accident of marriage thrusts the women into association. Their bond is not one of acquaintance-ship or mutual interest, but the second-handed tie of a common interest of their husbands. When one looks over the auxiliary he is struck at once with the strange taste of males for mates, which is matched only by the impression he gets when he looks over a bunch of ungraded males and sees what women, from choice, agree to put up with. It is a wonder that auxiliaries are able to stick together and prove as successful as they do in keeping out of each other's hair—and off the toes of their masculine counterpart.

So a toast to the Ladies' Auxiliary for what it does and for what it endures. But let's not hear of any resolutions from the auxiliary that conflict with the policies of the master males!

Last week we commented on Christmas being too commercialized and that the true meaning of Christmas was lost. Our point was illustrated perfectly this week when we overheard two men talking as they passed a Salvation Army lass shivering by her kettle on a Salem street. One of the men exclaimed to the other: "It beats hell when they have to bring religion into Christmas!" Wonder why he missed hearing of the Star over Bethlehem, the lowly Manger cradling the Christ child whose birth puts the true meaning into Christmas?—Jefferson Review.

Politics and the Spy Chase

The public should be getting a bit disgusted with the political horseplay which attends the current spy investigation. President Truman calls the house committee's work a red herring and the committee itself a "dead" one. Committee members rejoice in kind and criticize the attorney general for neglecting his duties and fumbling his investigations. And the state department comes up with the comment that it now uses mechanical codes which hardly can be broken so risks of intercepting secret communications are much less than 10 years ago.

What ought to be a thorough search for the truth and appraisal of blame has become too much of a political football. The president is not justified in calling the house investigation a red herring, because after all it did turn up the physical evidence of microfilms in a pumpkin shell. But the pulling and hauling between congress and the administration is creditable to neither party.

The Ladies' Auxiliary

Any organization with a credo has to combat heresy; but we never expected it would start with the Ladies' Auxiliary. Yet that is what happened with the IWA-CIO. This union of timber and lumber workers has had a running fight with the communies who were led by Harold Pritchett of British Columbia. The anti-communists got on top and stayed on top, whereupon Pritchett and his BC group led a rebellion. This the parent organization is taking in stride though it has meant getting some of their officers roughed up lately in a picket-line fracas at a BC mill. But the Ladies' Auxiliary of the IWA staged

Pumpkin Documents of Little Import

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11—It is high time for the affair of Alger Hiss and Whittaker Chambers to be placed in some sort of sensible perspective. The state department certainly has not helped much, by nervously asking the House Committee on Un-American Activities to look up much of the contents of Chambers' microfilm-stuffed pumpkin. In fact, those who should know best say that the full texts of the Chambers documents would bore most people to tears.

As reliably described, the papers fall into five categories: first, full texts of cables from the Paris and other embassies; second, sets of type-written sheets containing brief summaries of cables; third, three such summaries in what is alleged to be the handwriting of Alger Hiss; fourth, certain notes on naval intelligence reports in the handwriting of another official whose name has not been disclosed; and, fifth and finally, original copies of completely unimportant navy technical orders on such fascinating topics as light switches.

For anyone who remembers the dark Munich period, the documents may have a certain nostalgic interest. From London, it is understood, former Ambassador Joseph P. Kennedy reported that the then Italian Ambassador Count Grandi was made very happy by Neville Chamberlain's accession to power.

charge. Prentiss Gilbert, sent word that representatives of the small European neutrals were fearful that the United States might encourage Britain not to appease Hitler, and from Paris came the report that one of the sillier French ministers, Yvon Delboe, had been much cheered up by Hitler's interest in the "humanization of warfare."

Besides reams of such stuff, there are apparently one or two documents of slightly more recent significance. A long intelligence report from China, for instance, shows that Colonel, later General, Joseph W. Stilwell sympathized with the Chinese Communists even in 1938. Add up the whole, however, and the best judges assert there is not a line, a fact or an incident which should cause a tremor in any foreign office in the world today, unless foreign offices are wise enough to tremble to see what fools eminent statesmen could be in those tragic years before the second World War.

If the documents disclose anything at all, in short, they prove that the security of the American government was then virtually non-existent. But everyone who is reasonably well-informed has always known that this was the case. Right down to and after Pearl Harbor, the state department's codes were considered to be so hopelessly insecure that President Roosevelt customarily passed his more important messages through the navy communications net. The chances are that most of these very documents, secured by Chambers with such toil and fear, were far more easily obtained by the cryptographers of half a dozen foreign nations by the simple expedient of decoding radio intercepts.

Furthermore, this absence of American security in the years up to the outbreak of war was a natural phenomenon, resulting from the obvious fact that the United States did not then have a foreign policy. We have now

acquired a foreign policy, and with it we have acquired an elaborate security system, widely admired and envied abroad.

What the present proceedings thus boil down to is simply an attempt to prove whether the individuals accused by Chambers, such as Hiss and the late Harry White, are or are not guilty as charged. The trial of individuals is surely a matter for the courts, and not for committees of congress.

In the present instance, it is true that if the accused plead the statute of limitations (which Hiss emphatically has not done) the case against them will collapse. Chambers asserts that he began his work for the communies in 1937, which was why he began to keep the documents transmitted to him by his contacts. He says further that he left the party, and ceased to receive documents, in the spring of 1938. His story really ends over ten years ago.

At the same time, the shocking unfairness of such heroes of the House Un-American Activities committee as the un-mourned J. Parnell Thomas, has tended to obscure the sober service rendered by Rep. Richard Nixon. Nixon's shrewd persistence led to the current disclosures. It is valuable to have our past lack of security brought home to us. It is valuable also to have it brought home, once again, that the communist party is, in essence, a party of espionage agents.

But in order to capitalize on these values, it is time to stop the sound and fury, and to begin the more serious business of considering whether legislative or other remedies are still needed. In the existing atmosphere, this task can be best assigned to an independent commission of distinguished men, commanding the same general confidence as the Royal Commission that did such good work in Canada. (Copyright, 1948, New York Herald Tribune, Inc.)

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

signatory nations. Under it the signers would agree to imposition of sanctions to enforce the rights. An international tribunal would have authority to give binding decisions in enforcing the covenant, and the U. N. assembly would be the policeman to enforce the court's decisions. Viewed as a documentation of individual rights the new charter undoubtedly has merit. As Mrs. Roosevelt says, news about it will seep through iron curtains and penetrate all parts of the world. But when one contemplates enforcement of all the rights promised in the document he is quite appalled. Our own laration of independence made the then bold statement that "all men are created equal." Yet only now are we getting around to legislation to enforce the rights implied in that declaration. The United States will presumably be one of the first nations to sign the Covenant. Will it then permit a U. N. police force to end discrimination in housing in Harlem or race discrimination in the theatres of the national capital and in the DAR Constitution hall?

The right to a job is guaranteed or protection against unemployment. But how would such promises be made good in over-populated Haiti or Italy? If Spain becomes a member of U. N. and a signer of the Covenant how will full religious liberty be maintained there?

What we call rights are matters of growth and development. They are related to economic status, to the level of education and intelligence, to concepts of social organization and the establishment of forms of government and legal procedure. No charter and no covenant will release persons from their environment, from their history and from their personal limitations.

True, there are many obstacles to attainment of civil rights which need to be brushed aside; prejudice, as in the case of race or color; bigotry, as with religion; privilege, as with economic opportunity. Some of these may be erased by law. Others call for education, a painfully slow process. The U. N. bill of rights will do much toward defining human rights in the civilized society. To enforce it with a policeman's club is a task the world is not ready for.

The Safety Valve

END STREAM POLLUTION

To the Editor: According to newspaper reports, the Oregon Game Commission contemplates raising the price on hunting and fishing licenses more than 100 per cent. The reason, or should we say excuse, is that fish and game is becoming scarce, and the commission seems to think that higher license fees are the cure. In a sense, yes. It would be entirely proper for out-of-state hunters and fishermen to pay an added fee, since they pay no taxes or help in paying reforestation and conservation bills. On the other hand, why should residents pay extra for the highly modernized and expensive methods of artificial propagation of wild life, when at least part of the answer is simple. For example, for years we have

CLUTCH TROUBLE!



talked about stream pollution, but very little has been done about it. Industries have been warned against polluting our creeks and rivers, but nobody even tries to enforce even the most sanitary regulations.

During the summer of 1947 a boy was drowned in the Willamette river near the inter-county bridge. I was told by a policeman that all members of the rescue squad got sick, except the attendants in the first aid car. The stench coming from the river was nauseating. Raw sewage and off-fall from industrial plants up and down the Willamette valley simply poison the water to such an extent that even to swim in the river is dangerous.

It is nearly impossible for fish to live in this filth. The small fry trout must often run or fight for their lives when the larger fish try to make meal of them. Often they lose some of their scales, in which case the polluted water causes infection, and they die. Clear, clean water is a natural healing agent.

When salmon enter our rivers they are doomed. When in the process of building their nests they scrape off some scales, the polluted water infects this raw spot, and a fungus growth starts which often kills the fish even before they reach their spawning ground. Higher license fees would only give more game and fish to those who can afford to buy up duck ponds and shorelines along favorite streams, while those who are held at their jobs during the week, would in a great many cases be forced to give up their already slim chances of getting a little relaxation with rod or gun.

Why not DO something about stream pollution and restoring natural cover for game, instead of just talking about it? J. L. Prange.

13 Million in Soviet Prison Camps; Royall Estimates

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (AP)—Secretary of the Army Royall said the best estimates are that Russia has 13,000,000 persons "confined in death dealing concentration camps."

He used that figure in discussing the recent Berlin government balloting. In that election, Royall said, 1,300,000 German voters "although living virtually within a stone's throw of ruthless soviet troops and soviet controlled police... marched boldly to the polls and cast their ballots in favor of a chance for democratic freedom, cast them against a cruel and oppressive regime."

Tussing Appointed to National Committee

Appointment of Aubrey Tussing of Salem as a member of the appeals committee of the interstate conference of employment security agencies was received Saturday. Tussing is chief referee for the Oregon state unemployment compensation commission.

The appointment is one of eight throughout the United States, according to the notice from M. O. Laysen, president of the conference.

Streets Pose Problems in School Area

Rival contentions of the Salem district school board and property owners near Leslie school over part of never-opened street on the site of Leslie field track probably will come to a head Monday night.

A public hearing is set for 7:30 p. m. before the regular city council meeting in city hall to air the school board's request for vacation of several streets and alleys, never opened but never vacated officially when the Leslie school property was developed.

The school board has initiated a similar legislation recently which successfully vacated old "streets" which existed on paper only and actually were "covered" by schools and playgrounds in recent years.

At the Leslie site, however, one of the streets is in question—Raynor street formerly named Alder street—because of new homes and new property development near the school.

Property owners Myrl G. and Ruth Clark in that area will bring a request before the council for the opening of this street "to better serve residents in the vicinity of South Capitol, Oxford and Howard streets, just east of Leslie junior high school."

The street in question would be between Oxford and Rural streets, 800 feet west of Berry street.

Clark has offered to sell the school district enough property, for \$1,600, to place an alternate street to serve the area, but the school board has not acted on the offer.

The world's first cog railway, begun in 1869, still operates on the 6,288 - foot summit of Mt. Washington in New Hampshire.

Silverton Hills Dispute Aired

Controversy over two Silverton Hills roads was aired again Saturday in the Marion county court.

The complainants were Robert A. Bankston and William Brice, owners of property in the area. Bankston alleged that Trifon Opris, who lives in the district, has closed a road on his property, shutting the two men off from the Bridge Creek road.

The other road is the Silver Falls logging grade, which the county recently took over. Bankston said the road is in a state of disrepair and that it is impossible for him and his neighbor to use the route.

The court said the county engineer would investigate the problem.

Loans Available For Improvement Of Small Farms

Loans for improvement of under-developed, family-size farms are available through the farmers home administration office at N. High st., for Marion and Polk counties, according to Bartly W. McVeigh, county supervisor.

With a maximum loan of \$12,000, the funds may be used to clear, level or drain land, to give basic soil treatments or to construct or repair buildings. Repayment period is 40 years.

McVeigh said an applicant should have livestock and equipment, or cash with which to buy them, adequate for a full-time economic unit. Farms in the two counties which met administration requirements for approval during the past 10 years had an average gross income for 1947 of \$7,000.

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