

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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When Innocent Suffer

Whether Laurence Duggan's death was an accident, suicide or murder may never be known. Whatever the cause it cut short a brilliant career in public service. He was admired and respected and trusted by such men as Sumner Welles and A. A. Berle, former under secretaries of state. His latest work was to handle the exchange of university students with European countries which had promotion of international understanding as one of its purposes.

It seems impossible to divorce his death from the fact that his name had come up in the current espionage inquiries. Whittaker Chambers asserts he never accused him of revealing state department secrets. Now, Rep. Richard M. Nixon of the investigating committee says that recent developments had cleared Duggan's name. If worry over any cloud on his loyalty drove him to jump from a 16th story window in New York City, then the clearance is indeed belated.

It is a terrific thing to accuse innocent people of grave offenses. At best a certain stigma or at least notoriety thereafter attends them. The weapon of publicity is merciless, and those seizing it must use it with great care. Duggan has been a victim in this instance which should arouse the grief of the whole country.

Judge Walker Withdraws from Case

Out of an excess of zeal some persons addressed letters to Judge Arlie G. Walker while he had before him the matter of attack on the annexation of the Kingwood district to Salem. Judge Walker could have cited the correspondents for contempt of court if they tried to influence his decision. Rather than do that the judge dissociated himself from the case. A new judge will be named to hear the case.

Probably those who wrote the judge did so in ignorance of its impropriety. Hence, we refer to it editorially and add the comment that when a case is before a judge the only approach to him is through attorneys representing the sides involved, in formal proceedings. The public, no matter how much interested, must keep out of it. When, however, a judge renders a decision it becomes open to comment, approval or condemnation. The constitutional guarantee of freedom of speech protects the individual in his criticism of the judge or of the decision, subject only to the laws of libel and slander.

We Don't Forecast, Honest

We don't believe in passing the buck, at least not much, but we'll be a double-dyed ring-tailed raccoon if we want to take the rap for the weather forecasts.

Not that we aren't in sympathy with the weatherman, and also we're perfectly willing to give him our grandma's prescription on how to predict. But sometimes it really gets us down

when a friend will comment, in a blinding storm, that "the paper said it would be clear."

We'd like to get it on the record that "the paper" doesn't have a thing to do with the forecast. And it doesn't do any forecasting, either. Once in a while it may grumble around about the weather and intercede with the elements for help. But more often it is content to let nature take its course—and a pretty nice course it usually is.

As for forecasts, "the paper" just prints what someone tells us. If the weatherman says it's going to rain, and then the sun comes out, that's just pure contrariness. But it isn't our contrariness, honest.

Decency in Government and Politics

The reaction of democratic leaders to the misrepresentations of the sheriff-elect of Multnomah county in his election campaigns is disturbing to friends of good government. Instead of condemning such means of getting office "under false pretenses" the local leaders come to his support and promise to provide him with adequate bond.

The way was open to repudiate him and his methods, for he was only a two-day democrat, having changed his registration from republican just a few days before he filed as candidate for sheriff. But no democratic leader in state or county has risen to rebuke such political practice—not even the ever-vocal Monroe Sweetland, democratic national committeeman. And Walter J. Pearson, the new state treasurer, is busy as a bird dog to help the political fabricator to qualify with bond.

The democrats may call the expose "politics," but as the Oregonian says it is a matter of morals, not politics. It further proposes that the late victor resign his office after qualifying and that the county commissioners then appoint a respectable and competent democrat to the office—which ought to expunge the accusation of politics. The fruits of victory taste sweet to the democrats in Oregon but they can become bitter if moral standards are sacrificed for political advantage.

A letter signed only with initials does not qualify for publication in our Safety Valve; but one such received warrants a paragraph. It deals with that public nuisance, the person who dumps garbage on roadsides and in drainage ditches in the country. When that happens we wish some one would gather up the stuff and dump it right back on the offender's lawn. Garbage disposal is simple: have the sanitary service make regular pickups, or else haul the garbage in closed containers out to the sanitary fill and leave it there. Don't despoil the countryside and give offense to country neighbors.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, EVERYBODY

Crime and Punishment

From the San Francisco Chronicle

In the news last week was a brief item, quoted from Moscow radio, telling of five- and seven-year prison terms handed 12 directors and engineers of Soviet factories for turning out defective and substandard goods.

This latest purge of Soviet factory officials has been traced to publication in Pravda of a complaint about rubber-soled shoes manufactured by the Kapranov factory. A comrade alleged that a pair bought by his daughter lost their soles in four days and a pair given her in replacement lasted only three days.

This follows a regular pattern. First there appears in Pravda, or Izestia, or Trud, or the Literary Gazette, or one or another of the official Soviet journals, according to the sphere of the offense, sharp complaint of something gone wrong in some phase of Soviet industry. This accusation should be notice to the responsible individuals involved to beat it fast to another country, except that escape is impossible. Then follows arrest of the accused, some sort of trial, condemnation and punishment.

The penalty may range from a figurative public parade in sackcloth and ashes, accompanied by recantation, as in the case of the Soviet composers and the genetic scientists, up to hard labor in a Siberian prison camp or death. At the end, Moscow radio may tell the world briefly what befell the culprits.

Examples of this operation in progress are easy to find in the Soviet press. The following examples are drawn from translations by the Far Eastern Institute, University of Washington:

Here is one from Trud of July 11, 1949. The Vice Minister of Trade of the RSFR says the Kirov Raipromkombat tried to sell at the Sverdlovsk fair "crudely fashioned women's and children's sandals." The Krasnokamsk Gorpromkombat offered "poor toys made of papier mache." The Syzran Nnogopromsoyuz could not find buyers for "teddy bears and bunnies of poor quality material," also expensive. A lot of rusty buttons, says the Vice Minister, crude woollenware, children's shorts and other products

had to be withdrawn from sale. Such examples could be multiplied—all of them pointing directly to unhappy days for the heads of the enterprises involved. Soviet industry evidently has trouble getting going effectively and whatever the causes the executive managers have to take the rap.

To turn to other phases of Soviet life: Here is Pravda, June 5, 1948, charging that the Ministry for the Construction of Fuel Enterprises had fulfilled only 27 per cent of its allotted plan for the first quarter of the year. "Intolerable and unjustifiable delinquency," says Pravda. This language meant nothing pleasant for the heads of this Ministry.

In the Literary Gazette, October 2, 1948, the Soviet Academy of Sciences is taken for a jolting ride. It "ignores the history of the USSR," "some comrades (in the academy) treat this branch of historical knowledge as journalism or current politics, but not as a science." The situation is termed "appalling."

Literary Guidepost

By W. G. Rogers

THE LAW OF THE SOVIET STATE. Andrei Y. Vyshinsky, general editor, translated by Hugh W. Babbs (American Council of Learned Societies—Macmillan; \$15)

Written in 1936 just after Vyshinsky prosecuted Kamenev, Radek and others for treason, translated for the first time, this volume which, according to the foreword, is read by "every Soviet student of government and law," ought also to be read by every American student of the same subjects.

It does not seem, it is true, to have much information new to us, unless we are surprised to learn that the president of the United States can name major judges "to assure himself a majority in the supreme court," or that John Adams (I assume George Mason is meant) drafted the Virginia Declaration of Rights. But this book is not just dry law. This is, in fact, definition plus exhortation; this is

In Trud, July 13, 1948, the Basin Committee (Comrade Baklan, chairman) at Vladivostok is flatly blamed for the lack of water sport facilities at that port and the Territorial Committee for Physical Culture and Sports (Comrade Tertychny, chairman) is charged with lack of interest. Farewell Comrades Baklan and Tertychny!

Two authors are denounced, one of them (Literary Gazette, March 6, 1948) because he did not bow profoundly enough to Lenin; the other (Voprosy Istori, April, 1948) because in a book on the Japanese-American war in the Pacific he gave too little attention to the Red Army.

Running a police state is a tough business. Doubtless plenty of the delinquencies charged are real but it is easy to see that the system lends itself to trumped up or technical charges for purposes of political or personal reprisal. The manager of a collective farm better not have a drought unless he is solid with his superiors.

In view of the period when this was written as if to argue that Hitler should come in for much attention. But Vyshinsky and his contributors are not content with calling Fascists "bloody and barbarous" to other foes they apply equally searching terms, not as if to argue but to destroy and liquidate. Enemies like Trotsky and Bugharin are "bandits," and others are "devilish . . . traitorous . . . malicious . . . perverted" folk.

The book begins with the assumption that the old state, "a machine to crush and to oppress the toilers," must be destroyed before a new can be built. And the new must be "mighty and invincible." Its law will not be like our bourgeois fabric, the expression of abstractions, but must arise out of "the economic production relationships." Then follow descriptions of the constitutions of 1918, 1924, and 1936, the final Stalin constitution which is explained and extolled at length

"THE STOCKINGS WERE HUNG BY THE CHIMNEY WITH CARE—!"



YM to Open Doors to Young Vacationers

Closed today, the Salem YMCA will open its doors Monday morning to the annual swarm of vacationing youngsters who splash in its pool, play games in its lobby, enjoy sports in its gym and learn about Salem through much questioning on a series of tours.

While girls are swimming in the morning, beginners at 9:15 and advanced at 11, the boys will be participating in the trips. These will leave the YM at 9:30 daily with guides. The schedule includes National Battery company on Monday; Valley Packing company, Tuesday; Thomas Kay Woolen mills, Wednesday; Oregon Pulp and Paper company, Thursday, and state penitentiary, Friday. Side trips will also be to the capitol, fire department and canneries.

Movies will be shown at 2:15 and 4:15 p.m. daily to both boys and girls. Swimming for boys will be at 1 to 2 p.m. for cadets and preps; 2 to 4 p.m. for junior and senior high school. Gymnasium sessions will be from 1 to 4 p.m. daily for junior and senior high school students, from 4 to 5 p.m. Monday for cadets and from 4 to 5 p.m. Thursday for preps.

A city-wide doubles ping-pong tournament will begin Tuesday afternoon, with play each day at 3 p.m. Medals will be given by the Y's Men's club.

Heating Fumes May Cause Severe Illness

Dangerous fumes from prolonged heating in closed houses such as in the current cold spell—can cause severe illness, Dr. Willard J. Stone, Marion county health officer, warned Friday.

The health department investigated a recent Salem case when nausea, headaches and unconsciousness resulted from what was believed to have been heating fumes from a closed fireplace.

Heated living quarters should be properly ventilated, Dr. Stone said. Heating equipment also should be in good shape and should also be properly ventilated.

Bus Company Asks To Borrow Funds For Construction

The Portland Traction company Friday filed with the Public Utilities commissioner here application to borrow \$400,000 to cover the cost of construction operations during 1949.

An analysis of the application and figures on file in the utilities commission show that for the 12 months ended October 31, 1948, earnings of the traction company represented a return on the origin-

al cost of the property, plus working capital, of 1.45 per cent.

The interurban property, during the same period, showed a return of 36.01 per cent. Officials said the latter figure was significant for the reason that Mayor Earl Riley and Commissioner Dorothy Lee op-

posed taking over the interurban property on the ground it would prove a "white elephant."

The interurban property operates largely between Portland, Oregon City and Estacada and most of its revenue is from freight business.

Final Word on Duggan Death Inconclusive

NEW YORK, Dec. 24—(AP)—Police today gave their final word on the death of Laurence Duggan—"he either accidentally fell or jumped" from his 16th floor office last Monday.

Police commissioner Arthur W. Wallander advised Mayor William C. Dwyer of the official findings after a complete investigation of the death of the former State Department official. Wallander said there was nothing to indicate foul play.

Duggan, 43, was president of the Institute of International Education at the time of his death. Police originally termed the death a "fell or jumped" case but made a complete investigation at the request of former undersecretary of State Sumner Welles.

Welles said he did not believe Duggan had killed himself because of the contents of a letter Duggan wrote to Welles just before his death. His family expressed belief it was an accident.

In Washington today, Attorney General Tom Clark called Duggan "a loyal employe of the United

States government," and two congressmen admitted they deserved "some honest criticism" for publicizing a later-discredited report that Duggan aided communist spies.

Diary of A Sidewalk Superintendent



Dec. 25—Took my regular stroll downtown to inspect the new Stevens and Son place at State and Liberty. After working hard all week, telling the masons how to do this; helping the carpenters on that . . . thought I'd take the day off! Gives me a chance to see how I'm doing. . . . Couldn't get inside to check everything but did have a pretty full view of the outside. Surprising how fast it's coming along. Looks as if I'd figured a January opening date about right! Be a relief to have it finished. Look for big gift from Sid when he finds out how conscientious I am . . . looking after Stevens and Son . . . even on my day off!

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WE HOPE YOU LIKE YOUR GIFT

and if it came from STEVENS, we want you to know that we will gladly make any exchanges, size your ring, or adjust and regulate your STEVENS watch . . . We want your gift from STEVENS to be perfect in every way and we ask you to give us the opportunity to make it so and keep it that way.

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