

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Alderman Armstrong's Proposal

We do not think much of two moves by Alderman Tom Armstrong at the city council Monday night. One was to legalize pinball machines in Salem, which have been under ban here for over a decade. Ostensibly run "for amusement only," they readily lend themselves to become gambling devices. That is why promoters want them in: They tempt people to play them, so the take is large.

The people here have quite consistently opposed pinball machines; but, of course, the element financially interested in their operation has persisted in trying to get them in, legally if possible, but to get them in. We hope the council will retain the present ordinance and reject Armstrong's proposal.

However, we do believe Armstrong has a point in objecting to the \$60 fee for jukeboxes. That seems exorbitant. While many people feel like taking an axe to them, they are entirely legitimate and should not be unduly penalized. Armstrong also recommended appointment of another advisory committee on the airport. The last one the city had, named by Mayor Doughton, came up with the plan which is now being carried out. Armstrong, it is recalled, wanted to keep the air terminal on the present east side. United Airlines preferred the west side. The committee after careful investigation recommended the west side, where there is more room. That plan was adopted and is now being carried out. The city shouldn't back up on it.

Armstrong was elected by the people of his ward and has full freedom to express his views and propose legislation. When his ideas seem good we'll be glad to support them. On pinballs and on a proposal which would gum up airport development, we can't go along with him.

State Claim on Property

Governor John Hall made a good suggestion in his message when he said, relating to those getting old age assistance:

Under the present law a beneficiary may own and be living in a home that is free and clear of all encumbrances and which has a value of several thousand dollars. By virtue of the fact that that person has no income, he or she is entitled to a monthly payment from the state for old age assistance. When that person dies the state of Oregon should have a lien on the assets of the state and the moneys so advanced should be reimbursed to the state before the assets of the estate are distributed to the children of the deceased.

The last legislature passed a bill to impose such a lien, but it was vetoed by Governor Snell, mistakenly in our judgment. The law puts a burden on children to support their parents if needy; but many children are unable (or unwilling) to do this. If the state contributes this support it should be reimbursed when the recipient dies, if he leaves property. One cannot see why the children or other relatives who have been spared or escaped the

burden of support should bet the property. The amounts that might be recovered could go into the welfare fund and thus help others who may be in need.

Warren's Medical Care Program

The California legislature will have another round in a fight over Governor Warren's program for prepaid medical care. For the third time the governor is seeking to get a system like industrial accident compensation adopted, to be financed by a two per cent tax on payrolls.

The program is expected to provide for free choice of doctors and hospitals; hospitalization to a maximum number of days, so far undetermined, for every illness annually, with medical services incident to such hospitalization; payment of laboratory charges; a fee basis for payment of doctors; maintenance of the present relationship between doctor and patient, and recognition of voluntary hospitalization programs that meet state standards.

The California Medical association opposes the program. In previous sessions it succeeded in defeating Warren's bills. The doctors are willing to support voluntary plans for medical care, and themselves maintain a Physicians' Service—much like the one in Oregon which the government is trying to break up.

The plan that President Truman endorses is similar to the California proposal in giving patients choice of doctor, paying the doctor on a fee basis rather than salary, and raising the money by payroll taxes.

What they both would do is to socialize medical costs.

Spend and Spend; Tax and Tax

Any doubts that the new deal was rolling again are removed by a look at the federal budget for the coming year. For the sixth year after the war it rises to nearly \$42 billion, the largest in peacetime. Burden of the national debt, support of the military establishment and care for war veterans, aid to Europe are the major items, but other expenses are augmented on the president's recommendation. To make good on his campaign promises will cost over \$6 billion.

The tax increase far exceeds the \$4 billion previously mentioned and runs to nearly \$6 billion. If that is to come from corporations and persons of large incomes the squeeze is going to be hard, for already they are heavy taxpayers.

One might expect congress to cut the spending; but past experience indicates it may be increased as congressmen and senators boost the ante for favorite causes.

At least no newspaper man makes enough money to scheme how he can transmute himself into a capital gain.

French Still Cringe at Soviet Menace

By Joseph Alop

PARIS, Jan. 12 — If France means anything — and France in fact sums up the inner tragedy of our times — the keystone is still missing in the arch of the future that America is seeking to build. For any French recovery, if French recovery occurs at all, will always be temporary and feeble, until the Frenchman in the street again enjoys some sense of security. And as long as Frenchmen believe that Soviet armies can march at will "as far as Brest," as one hears it put over and over again, no sense of security can exist in France.

The foregoing rather obvious statements have genuinely vital meaning for the United States. They mean, first, that the European recovery program will be likely to resemble the Berlin air lift until a sense of security has been recreated here. Like the air lift, the ERP keeps things ticking. But people who think total disaster may occur the next morning are hardly likely to resume long-term investment and the other habits of the normal economic life that ERP is seeking to restore.

Again, this desperate need for a sense of security here means that President Truman is blindly torpedoing his own program, by so sharply reducing the tempo of American rearmament. There are likely to be grave repercussions, when Europeans realize that the president's budget ceiling allows for only 48 air groups, instead of the much-advertised 70, and less than 700,000 men instead of more than 900,000 in the ground forces.

President Truman's action is all the more incomprehensible because it comes at a moment when the whole outlook is beginning to improve. Given the absence of any sense of security, the European recovery program, here brilliantly administered by Averill Harriman and David Bruce, has thus far accomplished all that could be reasonably hoped.

More important still, sound steps have already been taken by President Truman himself among others, to recreate that sense of security which is so urgently needed. The president's personal contribution was an order, courageously given in October at the crisis of the political campaign, to release American supplies to place the three French divisions in Germany on a better footing. The job was done in the usual unheroic, unglamorous manner. But the fact that these French divisions are using important quantities of maintenance and other equipment from us and have been promised further installments of tanks and the like has already significantly altered the thinking of the leaders of the French government and armed services.

The president's decision (taken on the urgent advice of General Lucius D. Clay) is of course only a single incident in a much broader pattern. This is the pattern of western European union and the Atlantic pact. The nations of Western Union, Britain, France and the Benelux countries, have already agreed upon practical, extremely conservative plans for restoring western Europe's powers of self-defense.

The plans go by stages. Very roughly speaking, the first stage is the creation of strength enough to defend the line of the Rhine. In terms of ground forces, the plan calls for approximately 35 European divisions (10 less than the original estimate) to hold the Rhine. For these divisions, light equipment will be mainly provided here while heavy equipment comes from the United States. Rather more than half of these divisions will be French, the other powers making larger contributions to other arms. And if American peacetime lend-lease operates rapidly, all the divisions can be ready in about two years or a little more.

In the case of the French, for instance, their army now consists of 20 divisions, or enough in theory to provide the French contingent of Western Union's ground forces and meet other French needs. By the bold decision of Western Union's ground commander, General de

Latre de Tassigny, this new French army has been trained in the old routine way in squalid urban barracks. It has been trained hard, chiefly in the country, and as nearly as possible under combat conditions. American observers think these French forces excellent except for one defect — they must still be armed.

Because of this want of arms, no more can be done until the projected Atlantic pact has bound together Western Europe and the western hemisphere, and peace-time lend-lease has been voted. Preparations for these great events have already been made, however.

By quiet agreement, for instance, the planned response to any military emergency by the American forces in Germany has already been fitted into the combined staff plans of Western Union. Again, it seems to have been a condition of French acceptance of Field Marshal Montgomery's appointment to Western Union's present top command that in case of emergency an American will once more be named to lead the allied forces, as General Eisenhower was last time. And intimations have already come from Washington that when congress has acted, the first annual installment of peace-time lend-lease will be one billion dollars' worth of new materiel and an equal amount of American stocks. This may not be enough to assure most rapid European rearmament, but it is at least a substantial contribution.

In short, every essential element is already present in the situation for the restoration of the non-Soviet world to strength and therefore health. The tragedy of our times, of course, is that these simple measures of military security should still be so necessary, after two world wars. But this fact must be faced. The fact also must be faced, moreover, that no ERP or Atlantic pact or peace-time lend-lease or Western Union can ever make Western Europe secure without a strong America. This is the first of all essentials. We have started to build the arch of the future. We must provide the keystone at whatever cost.

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SWEARING OFF, WITH ASSISTANCE



The Safety Valve

Against Lien on Property of Pensioners

To the Editor: After reading the recommendations to the new legislature, by ex-Governor Hall, it's my opinion the state of Oregon is lucky that it can say "ex-Governor" instead of "incoming Governor Hall."

There isn't room in this space to discuss the merit—if any—of all his recommendations, but one of them, the old age assistance, does call for some comment.

Mr. Hall's suggestion to place a lien on the old folks' property is not only unfair to all concerned, but would soon put the state of Oregon in the real estate business trying to dispose of accumulated property.

Forcing the care of old people on relatives is quite often an imposition that relations can't handle. The average private home is not designed, or built, so as to be turned into a nursing home or hospital for the aged. In many cases the beds, bath and toilet are all on the upper floor where old and infirm people can't get to them; also some are in wheel chair, or bedfast, and the \$50 per month is not sufficient for their care when help has to be hired.

As a rule the care of aged parents falls on to the burdened housewife who, with the extra work and worry, is soon made an old woman before her time.

The care of old folks is institutional and the money paid out for pensions and assistance should be used to build institutions designed for that purpose and maintained in an efficient and sanitary condition.

Not many children can afford to pay the hundred, to a hundred and fifty dollars that it now takes to keep aged parents in a private nursing home every month.

Our legislature consists of well-selected men, and with a sympathetic governor I feel that will be cared for in a fair and honest way.

Wilson Miller.
(See Editorial Comment on Hall proposal).

Ashamed of USA account China To the Editor: I cannot understand how you can take such an attitude toward China, either morally or practically, as per "Bullitt reports on China."

You say, let the Chinese settle their own affairs. What chance for that with Russia just the same as occupying the communist territory? "And do business with whatever government they set up." Do you actually try to suggest that, you don't know what government would take over China?

I see that you do admit there are communists in China for you say our supplies trickle through to them. What supplies? We withheld all for 10 or 11 months while trying to force Chiang to accept communists into his government. And what a spectacle that was. We had only all of Europe to prove to us that that was a fatal mistake.

We have betrayed, short-changed, double crossed Chiang Kai-Shek in every possible way, since we didn't need him to fight Japan, as well as before. We expect him to produce a miracle of democracy while fighting two wars though we go into a dictatorship (almost) to fight one, and when he fails of that we throw him to the wolves, no, we kick him down and leave him for the wolves to swallow. I am so

Exchange Club Hears Seminary Professor

All persons have untapped mental and physical reserves which are summoned up in cases of emergency and are always potentially available, Dr. J. Hudson Ballard, professor at San Francisco theological seminary, told Salem Exchange club members Wednesday.

Dr. Ballard called inspiration, through contacts with such things as art, music and religion, the key to releasing the reserves.

Electric Devices For Measurement On Display Tonight

Electrical measurement devices will be displayed and exhibited in Salem Chamber of Commerce rooms tonight at 7 o'clock for industrial and utility engineers and executives.

Some 150 devices for measuring electrical quantities or electrical devices for measuring quantities will be shown by J. L. Wright, General Electric Co. engineer for the Salem area.

Devices will include switchboard and aircraft instruments, photometric devices, portable testing machines and remote position indicators. The display moves to Corvallis Friday.

Diary of A Sidewalk Superintendent

January 13th

Must check the new Stevens and Son Jewelry Store . . . find out about the marble floor. When the bank was there, the marble just went up as far as the teller's cages and stopped. Suggested they might use a strip of red carpet to fill in the space. Probably grabbed my idea, because I saw them measuring today. But wonder why they brought in that special linoleum to measure with? Better send Sid Stevens a note before they do something I don't like. Keeps me on the go, keeping him on the go!



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IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

content. Farmers are taking CCC loans on their wheat. They take their tickets to the bank which loans them the parity set by the CCC. If the price should rise the farmer has the option up to May to sell and redeem and pocket the difference. The general feeling is that the price will stay at parity so the CCC will take over the wheat, pay off the bank loan. Banks net only one and a half per cent on the deal, but of course they have no risk since the paper is government secured.

Favorable weather permitted general seeding of wheat last fall which may give the Inland Empire another big crop on which the 90 per cent parity price is guaranteed.

Hotels and restaurants are moving to establish cocktail bars legalized in the last election in Washington. Famed old Davenport's restaurant is doing remodeling for that purpose.

General satisfaction over return of Governor Langlie to office at Olympia. There seems to have been widespread distrust or dislike of Mon Wallgren. Washington state faces a tough financial problem, too, complicated by enactment of a liberalized pension law.

Washington's 40-mill property tax provision is not copper-tinted. People can vote extra levies. I heard of total levies of over 60 mills. The state has a sales tax but no income tax.

Coming up in the taxi from

the station at Portland were two women who were complaining of Portland's cold. I asked them where they were from. Minneapolis, of all places! They said Minneapolis had had a very mild winter so far. Well, so has Fairbanks, Alaska; but not western United States, including California.

Dr. Sears Heads Medical Society

Dr. James L. Sears of Salem is president of the Marion-Polk County Medical society following an annual election this week. Other new officers are Dr. Howard Kurtz, vice president; Dr. William Crothers, secretary-treasurer; Dr. H. A. Gueffroy, counsellor.

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