

The Oregon Statesman

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

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Bell System "Monopolistic"

The American Telephone & Telegraph company would have to dispose of its holdings of Western Electric, its manufacturing subsidiary, if the government prevails in an anti-trust action filed Friday by the justice department. The government accuses the two concerns of "conspiracy to monopolize" the telephone business. It seeks a court order to break Western Electric up into three separate manufacturing concerns, and to require both companies to let their patents be used on a royalty basis, and show other concerns how to use them.

It is true that the Bell system holds virtually a monopoly in the telephone business of the country, through there are many thriving independent companies. But Western Union, by special act of congress, is the sole company engaged in commercial communication by telegraph land lines. The business is one properly called a "natural monopoly."

If we look at results instead of the law we find that the United States has the best telephone service in the world, that it has steadily been improved, that the research of the Bell system has led to countless mechanical inventions which helped to bring about this improvement. We find too that the charges for telephone service have shown slight increase even in these times of inflation, though petitions are pending in numerous states for additional increases.

Whether the ownership of Western Electric is monopolistic in the meaning of the law is up to the courts to decide. But it can readily be foreseen if the organization is broken up improvements may be retarded. It is by no means certain that competing concerns can produce goods required for telephone service as cheaply as Western Electric now furnishes them. In the end we may find we have cut off our noses to spite our ears.

Committee Approves Acheson

The senate foreign affairs committee has given its approval of the appointment of Dean Acheson as secretary of state. His confirmation by the senate next week is anticipated. Acheson in his appearance before the committee swept away a lot of the gossip which was circulating about his being an appeaser. He tagged that as malevolent, without foundation in fact. He said he was a business associate of Alger Hiss' brother and friend of both the Hiss brothers; but so have been many prominent men. And Hiss has not yet been convicted of a crime.

Republicans evidently have abandoned the idea of fighting the Acheson appointment. They do not have adequate grounds for opposition. The president is entitled to name his cabinet members and they should be confirmed unless there is definite and positive evidence against them to prove them unfit for the positions.

The talk about Truman's violating the bipartisan foreign policy because he didn't consult with republicans like Vandenberg is silly. In the first place it is Truman's own cabinet; and

in the second place bipartisanship carries no veto power. It is time foreign policy was made subject to debate and not given an automatic rubberstamp.

Give Acheson a chance; and don't hedge him with too many commitments to carry out the foreign policy of his predecessors. They didn't succeed either, merely running into a stone wall. Maybe Acheson can find a hole in the wall, or be able to get over it or under it or around it. Let's see what he can do.

Local Subdivisions Restrictive

Race restrictions appear in the covenants for the plating of numerous subdivisions adjacent to Salem, a check of county records discloses. One such restriction is worded thus:

"No person of any race other than Caucasian or white race shall use or occupy any building or lot, except that this covenant shall not prevent occupancy of domestic servants of a different race domiciled with an owner or tenant."

Another text is this:

"No one but members of the Caucasian race shall be owners or reside on any of these lots."

Some 17 subdivisions platted within the decade contain such a restriction in the covenant. It applies against negroes, Indians, Koreans, Chinese, Japanese, Filipinos.

Courts have ruled in California that these covenants are not enforceable; but they have effect in discouraging sales and purchases contrary to their purpose. At any rate we see that race discrimination isn't confined to Georgia and Mississippi. Considerable of the kuklux spirit remains in these parts.

Red Tape in Selective Service

The Grants Pass Courier jibes at the requirement of Selective Service that men who pass 26 years of age still must keep their home draft boards informed of their changes of address. The ruling is based on a presidential order that registrants must inform boards of address changes. But why apply the rule to men who pass 26? They are no longer subject to service under the present law. As the Courier says one would think that SS would want to put folders on such men in dead storage.

Slavish adherence to the rule is a nuisance to the registrants no longer subject to call, and time-consuming to SS boards.

Over in Italy a man went home one night intoxicated; only instead of going in his own house he entered the house of his next door neighbor and crawled into bed with his neighbor's wife. When she found out it was not her husband who was sleeping with her she had the man arrested. The judge sent him to jail for nine months, remarking, "Such a mistake is inadmissible. It would constitute a dangerous precedent." Quite so, quite so.

A doctor on the radio says that the average American woman faces eight years of widowhood. It will take more than that though to stop spinsters from hunting husbands.

ERP Aid Plays Role in French Politics

By Joseph Alsop

PARIS, Jan. 14 — For any American in his sense, it is brusquely sobering to discover the powerful influence of Washington on the internal politics—we at home would consider the private affairs—of the nations of western Europe. A year and a half ago only American aid saved most western European nations from succumbing to dictatorship. It was the aid of the left or of the right. But this phenomenon has now developed into something much more complex and in some ways alarming.

Here in France, for instance, the basic law of the European recovery program has the effect of pushing the Paris ERP Administrator, David Bruce, into the center of the whirling maelstrom of French politics. It is worth examining the problem in some detail to see why this is so.

Very crudely speaking, the grand political contest in France is now between the men of the center—the members of the Socialist, Radical and MRP parties—and General Charles de Gaulle and his followers. The communists were the menace that first caused Frenchmen to rally to De Gaulle.

most wiseacre even give the center at least a chance to survive in the future.

Survival of the center is difficult. The center is certain issues, such as the Radicals' deep disagreement with the Socialists about state planning, deeply divide the center parties. And with a few such eminent exceptions as Foreign Minister Robert Schuman and the president of the republic, Vincent Auriol, the center lacks big men. Survival has been possible only because Marshall aid has eased the situation here, and because the old socialist, Auriol, is a political master hand.

Auriol's part, in effect, has been that of the wise old leader of a herd of cattle on the range. Whenever the wolves of the right and left come dangerously close, as they do in every governmental crisis, Auriol gives the warning call. Then the whole herd forms up in a circle with their horns outward; the crisis is somehow surmounted, and a new centrist government is formed. The center strategy is to continue to resist this maneuver indefinitely, if possible, until better times weaken the extremist groupings of left and right.

The American role in this process arises inevitably from the conditions congress attached to the European recovery program. For every dollar of Marshall aid, the French government is first required to sterilize an equivalent sum in francs in what is known as the counterpart fund. Second, the French government is forbidden to draw upon this fund, which will amount next year to more than 250 billion francs, unless the government is following "non-inflationary" fiscal policies.

The traditions of French government finance have never been especially puritanical. The tendency therefore has always been to put off all such unpleasant actions as imposing new taxes and dismissing surplus bureaucrats, until disaster actually threatened. Now, however, when disaster begins to loom, the first step is to go to

David Bruce and ask for a few billions from the counterpart to ease the situation. Being strictly restrained by congressional injunction, Bruce must then reply that he cannot release the billions until the causes of the threatened disaster have been removed.

This drama was played before Prime Minister Queuille offered his vitally important fiscal and budgetary reform program to the French chamber last month. Further more, Queuille actually sought the votes of certain leading deputies by informing them that unless the French budget were thus balanced, further release of counterpart funds would not be approved by Bruce. The argument was powerful, since the French government now relies entirely upon the counterpart fund to finance its program of internal investment and economic improvement. But the inevitable effect is to place Bruce in the position of a sort of Dutch uncle, sitting on the cash box and insisting that nothing would move him except a balanced French budget. What was done in the days of Poincare with no thought in mind except to give the interest of France is now done with a misleading implication of American pressure.

Thus "American interference" is grumbled against in many circles, while the Gaullists even make the extraordinary demand that all releases of counterpart funds should be stopped, in order to precipitate a final crisis and force a French election. It is remarkable that, having been placed in this extraordinary delicate position, David Bruce has managed to retain the respect and win the liking of all groups except the communist diehards. But the fact that Bruce is doing a difficult job with superlative tact does not diminish the American responsibility. Nor does it simplify the problem posed by this new role which the United States cannot for a time escape from playing in European politics.

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Literary Guidepost

By W. G. Rogers

THEODORE DREISER: APOSTLE OF NATURE, by Robert H. Elias (Knopf, \$4)

Do you remember the man who dashed a cup of coffee in the face of his publisher, Horace Liveright? Who slapped Sinclair Lewis for accusing him of plagiarizing from Dorothy Thompson? He was also the man who interviewed theosophist Annie Besant, who investigated mediums with what might be called insufficient scepticism, who toyed with ouija, who wound up his life a mystic. But primarily, of course, he was one of the most distinguished novelists, a pathfinder, author of "Sister Carrie," "Jennie Gerhardt," "The Genius."

Dreiser, who died three years ago last month, was born in 1871 in Terre Haute, son of a German immigrant who was by then poverty-stricken. He was a disciplinarian and a bit of a bigot, and some of his daughters profited by his lessons to become models for Carrie and Jennie. The effects, for Theodore, were more mixed but no less profound, alienating him from the church, indirectly starting him off badly in education, fostering a preference for a dream world.

When the family broke up, Theodore began a hunt for work which led him eventually to the Chicago Daily Globe. A variety of newspaper experience, usually successful and offering also the chance to meet Arthur Henry of the Toledo Blade, in whose home he wrote his first novel, ended in New York. He edited "Every Month" and the "Delinquent" and greatly increased their circulation.

Of radically unstable opinions, he was greatest as a novelist, it seems to me, in the early years when he still held the beliefs beaten into him in childhood: That man, in sum, is plaything of immutable fate. But his early and late conflicts with publishers, censors, and Hollywood helped memorably to liberalize American letters.

His strange combination of first-rate creative ability with a sort of second-rate intelligence provided him with a public which ran hot and cold. It is peculiarly to the credit of this objective biography that it lets us draw our own conclusions; and in a general way it reminds us that we cannot expect a perfect

ELEPHANT BOY



Literary Guidepost

Public Records

CIRCUIT COURT

State vs. Harold Johns and William Harvey Haskins: Order dismisses indictments against each and both cases ordered to be resubmitted to the next grand jury.

Abrams & Skinner, Inc., vs. Guy Smith: Suit seeks order requiring defendant to account for alleged insurance premiums allegedly due plaintiffs.

Ella M. Dickinson and Maurice D. Dickinson vs. Mrs. Charles Duval, Charles Duval, and Mary A. Cunningham and Irvin J. Cutsforth: Plaintiffs, in separate suits, filed amended complaints seeking damages from alleged auto accident.

Ruth Foster vs. Harold Foster: Order enters default of defendant.

Marie L. Bertram vs. Otto Bertram: Suit for divorce charging cruel and inhuman treatment, seeks custody of a minor child.

Earl Ross vs. Fred Schwab: Commission Co.; Jury finds for

defendant in suit seeking to collect \$315 for hops allegedly unaccounted for.

Muriel Diane Erickson guardianship estate: Order confirms sale of real property and directs conveyance of deed.

Albert Titze estate: Final order settles estate.

Henry J. Miller estate: Objections to final account filed by Security Investment Company which alleges a claim of \$10,114 against Albertina Gribble, one of the heirs to the estate.

MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS
Neil C. Boehmer, 20, student, route 8, box 830 and Mary A. Bean, 22, secretary, 330 S. 14th st., both of Salem.

Harvey G. Gray, 31, bank teller, 507 Oregon st., and Helen Benz, 18, bookkeeper, 3885 Market st., both of Salem.

Marie Leon Hanchett, 34, sawmill employe, Aumsville, and Louise Jernigan, 26, bookkeeper, Los Angeles, Calif.

Edward A. Schiedler, 22, farmer, and Regina B. Traeger, 19, stenographer, both of Mt. Angel.

Limitations on Social Activities At Willamette U. Win Approval

Limitations on social activities at Willamette university were approved by a joint meeting of the faculty student affairs committee and the student council this week.

The meeting, presided over by Raymond Withey, dean of students, set up and passed an 11-point system designed primarily to allow more time for academic work.

Steps taken to limit activities include: No special dinners or fire-sides after the first two months of school; no activities on the first four days of the school week except on traditional occasions; no excursions for extra-curricular activities except for athletic, music or forensics activities.

The system also calls for only one special weekend retreat a semester for any social group; no more than one joint function for fraternity and sorority pledges a year; no more than one dance each year for Panhellenic, Interfraternity or Inter-dorm functions; only two major functions a year for living organizations and one dance a year for other organizations; designation of January as a non-social function month; and the clearance of all proposed functions with the student social chairman.

Sgt. Wimer Recruiter Here

T-Sgt. Philip Wimer, a nine-year air force veteran with three years' service in Europe, has returned to Salem as a recruiter in the local U. S. army and air force recruiting office.

Sgt. Wimer, a former Salem high school student is now living at 467 1/2 N. 18th st. with his wife, Helen, following duty at March Field, Calif. He is the son of Mrs. Effie Wimer Ostrin, 1535 State st.

character to accompany a perfect novelist, that in short we can't have everything in one horse.

Mushy Ice Floating on Willamette River



Mushy masses of ice floated down the Willamette river this week almost unnoticed. The ice floes evidently were from ice covered sloughs, quiet pools and small streams along the Willamette. Breaking pieces of ice were caught in the current and soon were the same color as the river waters. Nowhere in the Salem vicinity did the ice jam or form any barriers. (Statesman photo).

Bill Odom Sets Record



OAKLAND, Calif., Jan. 13—Bill Odom has just stepped from his light plane here tonight after being forced to end a proposed non-stop flight from Honolulu to New York because of a gasoline shortage. He nevertheless set a new non-stop record for light planes. (AP Wirephoto to The Statesman).

Dairymen to Start Meet at OSC Monday

By Lillie L. Madsen
Farm Editor, The Statesman

The 55th annual meeting of the Oregon Dairymen's association will open Monday morning at the Memorial Union building at Oregon State college, Corvallis. W. A. Johnson, Grants Pass, president, will preside.

The first day will be given over to breed club meetings as well as various committee meetings. At 10 o'clock the Oregon Guernsey Cattle club of which Fred Rudat, Jr., is president, will hold its annual meeting at Benton hotel, while the Oregon Holstein-Friesian association will meet at 105 Memorial Union building. A. W. Lindow of Portland is president of the latter. To Meet in Salem

The Oregon Jersey Cattle club of which Floyd Bates, Salem, is president, will meet at the Memorial Union building at 1 o'clock, although this, unlike the other breed associations, will not hold its annual meeting at that time. This has been slated for Salem, January 29.

The dairy products promotion, the herd improvement, disease control and resolutions committees will meet at 3 p.m.

The Dairymen's association will swing into its convention at 10 a.m. Tuesday morning. Morning speakers will be H. F. Ewalt, F. B. Wolberg and Dr. J. R. Haag, all from the college. The Oregon Dairy Council will sponsor the noon luncheon.

Veterinarian to Speak
Dr. C. F. Haynes, state veterinarian, Salem, will speak on Oregon's Bang's Disease Program at 2:30 p.m. Other afternoon speakers will include G. H. Fullenwider, Carlton; Arthur Ireland, Forest Grove; Ray Hobson, Armit; Lyle Hammack, and Ben Simonson, Portland; John Pugh, Shedd; Henry Hagg, Reedville; George Kruse, Mt. Angel; and Aubrey Tangen, Newberg. The convention banquet will be held Tuesday night at Benton hotel.

E. L. Peterson, state department of agriculture director, Salem, will talk on "Policies and Problems Affecting Oregon's Dairy Industry" at 11 o'clock Wednesday morning, following the 10:45 brief business meeting. Other morning speakers are Dr. J. R. Schnautz on "Mastitis," and LeRoy E. Warner on "New Developments in Fertilizing Forage Crops."

The final session will start Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. with Dr. D. C.

New Stamps On Sale Here

While Salem post office has exhausted its supply of 5-cent airmail stamps and is selling the new 6-cent issue, a collector's item in the form of coils of the 5-centers is available.

Postmaster Albert C. Gragg said the 24 coils, each with 500 stamps, cannot be sold directly as postage because the post office department ordered the airmail slots on stamp vending machines plugged until the higher-priced issue can be handled. Each coil must be sold as a unit.

The postmaster said also that the supply of 13-cent special delivery stamps has been sold out and that the new 15-cent issue is available here.

Lyons — Mr. and Mrs. Hershel Culwell are the parents of a daughter born at the Salem Memorial hospital Monday, January 10.

Mumford speaking on "The Cost of Producing Grade A Milk" and Dr. I. R. Jones on "New Developments in Dairy Cattle Feeding." The 2-45 business session will close the convention with reports of the committees and election of officers.

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Diary of A Sidewalk Superintendent



January 15
Got to talking with a fellow almost as smart as me down at the new Stevens and Son Jewelry Emporium. Told me all about prima vera (that's the wood they're building all the cabinets and shelving out of)—how it comes from South America, how they laminate it, and why it's a mighty fine finisher's wood. Then he thanked me for my help. Can't help feeling that Sid Stevens and I made a good choice there.

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