

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"  
From First Statesman, March 23, 1851

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## China in Collapse

We are witnessing the Chinese dragon in death throes. Tientsin has fallen to the communists. Nanking is threatened. Chiang's situation seems hopeless. The conditions laid down by the communists for peace foretell a ruthless purge of "war criminals" and "reactionaries."

What has happened has been not so much a victory-at-arms for the communists as utter collapse and demoralization among the nationalists. The attempt at stabilization by introduction of the gold yuan crucified the Chinese with any wealth at all. Chiang, long revered as a symbol of Chinese unity, lost his hold on the people who now forsake him and his faithless Kuomintang associates.

The picture is not pleasing to Americans. As the San Francisco Chronicle says:

If China falls, the core of Asia will be the Soviet fold; American-occupied Japan and Okinawa and the American-oriental Philippines will be isolated bases. India and the Malay States will be flanked and overshadowed by the Soviet empire. The great and useful bases and harbors of China itself will be available to Soviet troops, Soviet submarines, Soviet aircraft.

There seems nothing we can do in the present debacle, nothing but wait some order to emerge. But we should not of our own motion sever our ties with China. Our connections have been too many and too close and maintained for too long a time for us to cut them summarily. There remains the possibility that even a red China will want to continue to do business with the United States. Chinese communism may become indigenous, adulterated with a Chinese nationalism which will give it a measure of independence even from Moscow.

The United States has suffered a major defeat in its policy in China. In diplomacy as in war a defeat requires a readjustment of policy and resources and strategy. That we must be prepared to make in the orient for protection of American interests under changed conditions.

## Does Rule Change Make Speaker a Czar?

What was hailed as a great reform—the curbing of the power of the house rules committee—may not prove to be the boon to good legislation as was indicated at first. While final power now shifts to the house majority, due to the mechanics of conducting house business the result may be the enhancing of the power of the speaker.

The change adopted when the congress assembled this month gives the chairman of any committee, after the rules committee has sat on a bill for 21 days, the right to move on the floor that the bill be brought out for house action. If on the vote a majority support him, then the bill comes before the house.

That looks simple. The rules committee can no longer bottle up a bill if the house really wants to have it come up for passage. The procedure looks simple too; and no one can quarrel with majority rule of the body.

Where the theory may fall short in practice is that the chairman may be prevented from making the motion to take a bill from the rule committee. That is a summary action, inviting reprisals from the powerful rules committee,

and no chairman will make the motion unless he is under powerful pressure or feels very strongly on a measure. Then it is the custom for a member, if he is to make a motion of any significance, to advise the speaker of it in advance. That gives the speaker warning. He can invoke pressures to keep the rebellious chairman from making his motion. And as a last resort he can simply fail to recognize the chairman when he rises. He will be looking the other way, and he will be completely deaf when the shouting chairman cries "Mr. Speaker."

Thus the benefit of the rule change may be lost.

It may not be that such high-handed tactics will be employed; but when the lines are drawn the speaker can be quite arbitrary. As a matter of fact he has to be now just to keep the machinery of the house running so it will accomplish anything. Discussing this matter Williams S. White writes, in the New York Times:

The wheel, in all reality, has turned very nearly full circle toward the old days of "czarism"—in the hands of the speaker.

## Pedestrian Rights

An increasing carelessness in regard to cross-street traffic lanes in Salem already has led to accident and injuries, and warrants a sharp check-up by city police.

Particularly on Court street in the statehouse area has the hazard become painfully apparent. Hundreds of persons have augmented the pedestrian traffic during legislature, and even the normal peak-hour traffic has brought more than one narrow escape.

Pedestrians have the right-of-way particularly in marked lanes, no matter the time of day or night. Too many times lately it has happened that one motorist will stop at the lane only to have another swerve and pass him while the pedestrian leaps to avoid being struck.

If common courtesy does not suffice to bring a more orderly recognition of pedestrian rights, it should be kept in mind that the motorist is liable for whatever damage accrues to his negligence.

Mac Epley, our newspaper country cousin, says in his column in the Klamath Falls Herald and News that it's colder in Salem at 15 above than at KF at 15 below. And Mac sat through the inauguration at the statehouse Monday too, when it was so hot the politicians almost started to run. That's just home town loyalty gone to seed.

The Oregon City Enterprise front pages an editorial on Sen. Dick Neuberger's bill to establish a junior college in Multnomah county. The OCE wants the bill stretched 10 to 15 miles, well, as far as Oregon City at least. But not as far as Salem. To borrow Sam Goldwyn's phrase, "include us out."

The town of Colma, Calif. levies no property tax. It collects \$1 per funeral. That income with collections from business licenses, meets the town's expenses. That's one place where the old adage has double force, that a person can't escape death AND taxes.

## Defense Budget Poses Hard Problem

By Stewart Alsop

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17—The president's budget poses a simple but fateful question which the congress is now called upon to answer. The question is this: Is it wise for the United States now to reduce decisively its offensive strength, in the one area in which this country is clearly capable of real superiority over its potential enemy?

Obviously, the answer is yes. It is about as important a question as any which confronts the congress.

There has been much sound fury about the defense budget, and there will be much more. But the essential facts are simple enough, and they should be fully understood.

Whether with 10 divisions or 12, the American army cannot in peacetime approach anything like numerical equality with the vast Red army. Moreover, the Soviet union and its satellites are even now virtually isolated economically from the rest of the world and no one supposes that a naval blockade would have any decisive effect in case of war.

Thus, as Winston Churchill has pointed out, the real balance of power between the Soviet union and the non-Soviet world rests on the fact that the American long-range strategic air force is believed capable of delivering atomic bombs to the industrial heart of the Soviet union. That is the one element which balances Russian superiority on the ground and Russian invulnerability from the sea.

This is, basically, the reasoning which led the congress last spring to authorize the organization of a seventy-group air force. This reasoning, of course, based on one assumption—that in case of war the American

long-range bombers could in fact reach their targets.

Since this capability has often been questioned, certain facts should be emphasized. First, the new, immensely long-range B-36, destined to become the basic weapon of the strategic air force, has been criticized for slowness and vulnerability. In fact, according to air force experts, the B-36 has fully 25 per cent better in range, bomb load and speed than was originally anticipated.

Second, as regards range, it is obviously highly unlikely that potential American air bases in England, the Middle East and the Far East would all fall simultaneously to the Red army in case of war. But even if this were to happen, the B-36, according to undoubted authority, could now take off from Maine or Alaska, could reach the main industrial targets in the Soviet union and return. Finally, the most exacting experiments, including maneuvers over heavily defended England, have convinced the men who would have to do the job that the necessary targets could be reached with no more than a 10 per cent combat loss, and probably with considerably less.

A further fact should be understood. The air force does not and cannot consist exclusively of long-range strategic bombers. There must be sufficient fighter strength to defend the continental United States. There must be fighter defense for bases abroad. And there must be fighter and short-range bomber support for the army.

Thus the seventy-group program allowed for only 20 long-range bomber groups. Of the 48 groups to which the air force is reduced in the budget, only a slightly higher proportion, perhaps fifteen groups, can be considered strategic bombers. Since the strategic air force and the American power to take the offensive immediately in case of

war are virtually synonymous, this means a reduction of 26 per cent in American offensive power.

This reduction in American power will save the taxpayers something over a billion dollars. To maintain present air strength, and achieve the seventy-group target in 1952 would require an air force appropriation this year of about \$2 billion, as against the proposed appropriation of \$4.6 billion. But is the saving worth the price?

A strategic air force is, of course, no substitute for an army and navy. To be sure, the fact that the three services have sliced the budget pie into almost equal slices gives rise to an obvious suspicion. That is that the slicing was done, not by means of an objective assessment of strategic needs, but by the simple method described in Kenneth Graham's "The Wind in the Willows": "A pistol for the rat, a pistol for the mole, a pistol for the toad and a pistol for the badger."

This suspicion suggests an area of useful congressional inquiry.

Yet even if the suspicion is justified the fact remains that the army plans an essential role in the developing strategic concept which calls for holding a rearward Western Europe in case of attack by the Red army. Moreover, if this whole concept is not to fall to the ground, the navy must be enabled to make the great effort to surround the Schnorkel submarines. But above all else, the congress must seriously inquire whether a reduction of American strategic bombing capacity does not imperil the whole precarious balance of power between the Soviet union and the Western world. On that balance, more than on anything else, the peace of the world depends. Peace in these times is not cheap, but it is a great deal cheaper than war.

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## UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT



## IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

also a politician of great talents when the needs of his beloved division demanded political leverage."

Reference is made to the 1937 maneuvers when Brig. Gen. Thomas E. Rilea, commanding the 82nd brigade of the division, succeeded in crossing the Nisqually river, defended by an army commanded by Brig. Gen. George C. Marshall, then commanding the 5th regiment at Vancouver Barracks.

But the main story, the great story, is that of the 41st division in the war in the Pacific. This division fought the American army's way up the ladder of the South Pacific from Australia to the Philippines; and was preparing for the invasion of Japan when the war ended. The division went through perhaps the longest and hardest fighting of any army division. One of its campaigns, that of New Guinea, was 76 days in duration.

Victory was won the hard way from the time the 163rd regiment was flown into action in the winter of 1942-43 to the time of mopping up on Mindanao. For example, McCartney writes: "Everything went wrong during the landing at Nassau bay." And the capture of Blak island—"Bloody Blak," the author calls it—was a tough assignment. Cliffs perforated with caves in which the Japs hid overlooked the narrow beach. The airfield which were the objectives lay on the plateau behind the cliffs. Only after hard fighting and the arrival of reinforcements was victory assured. The delay cost Maj. Gen. Horace H. Fuller, who had succeeded White, command of the operation and of the division.

After Blak came Palawan, Zamboanga and Mindanao in the southern Philippines. At the time of Japan's surrender the division was preparing for its ninth invasion and "would have hit at the very heart of the enemy homeland." Spared this fighting, it was transported to Japan in the fall of 1945 and served as part of the army of occupation until the end of the year when it was deactivated and the division troops were returned to the homeland.

It is fortunate that this history has been prepared, for it supplies in text and in pictures and maps and drawings an authentic record of the service of a great outfit. As one who observed the expansion of our national guard in 1939-1940, and the training of this division at Fort Lewis in 1940-1942 the history has had special interest to me.

The sacrifices of the men who won the war have been somewhat obscured in the contentions and disillusionment of the post-war period. This history calls sharply to mind the exertions our soldiers made, the sufferings from disease, the physical hardships in the heat and the jungles. It lists too the names of the men who gave their lives in their country's service. As one puts down the book the sobering thought comes that we should all work harder to preserve the peace and security these men labored to obtain.

The sword-bearer hummingbird has a bill almost five inches long—longer than the rest of its body.

## At Salem Schools...

By James Cooke  
Statesman School Correspondent

LESLIE JUNIOR HIGH

Wallace Carson and Dorothy Swigart will be nominees for the office of student body president at final elections Friday. They were named Monday during primary elections which eliminated Helen Booth and Jim Humphrey from the candidacy.

Other candidates elected to run on the final ballot are vice president, David Rhoten and Caroline Seay; secretary, Michael Deeney and Barbara Khunder; treasurer, Nadine Gilman and Marjorie Little; sergeant-at-arms, Ray Cook and Don Davis; yell king, Jerry Agnew and Harold Grimm; song queen, Othelene Lee and Dolly O'Neil.

All candidates will speak at an assembly Friday morning before the final election.

Ann Gibbons, Salem high school junior who made the recent "Week End with Music" trip to New York City, will speak at a Leslie Girl's league assembly Wednesday.

ENGLEWOOD SCHOOL

"Any Morning in Room 6," a story about good books, was presented at an Englewood assembly by students in Mrs. Pearl Cleaver's third grade class.

A quiz contest named "Cut It Short" was given by sixth grade students on an Englewood radio program. Successful contestants received certificates.

PARRISH JUNIOR HIGH

Eight candidates are currently leading the Parrish Sweetheart in the preliminary round. Latest results as announced by the Parrish Periscope staff are Gordon Domogala, Ted Henry, Jim Knapp and Carol Thompson of the ninth grade; Derald Knittel and Jackie Jones, eighth grade; Bob Nopp and

Beverly Young, seventh grade candidates.

Two students are chosen by each class as their candidate for the final balloting, with the winner to be announced in the Valentine issue of the Periscope.

## Literary Guidepost

THE WAR OF 1812, by Francis F. Beirne (Dutton; \$5)

Just at the time when, according to the old doggerel, Napoleon marched his men up the hill and then marched them down again, Britain and America got into a war which amounted to about the same futile maneuver repeated and repeated during a couple of years.

Beginning at the moment when it might have been avoided, and closing in confusion as "Old Hickory" won the battles of New Orleans, it was a war in which Americans made fools as well as heroes of themselves.

We once had two generals in the same command. Our militia rarely so spoiling for a fight that it neglected to quit in the very heat of battle if its short enlistments ended then. A lieutenant colonel was bluffed into surrendering to a British lieutenant with only half as big a force. An officer destroyed \$500,000 worth of naval supplies that would not after all have been captured. When the British advanced on Washington, President Madison packed two pistols and rode out dauntlessly to battle, and Secretary of State Monroe served as scout. A U. S. ship was captured after its crew, guzzling wine seized aboard a prize, went on an all-night binge.

Yet at sea we made our finest showing. Though the Constitution, becalmed, had to be towed out of enemy reach by its men put out in long boats, she survived to whip the Guerriere; the Wasp took the measure of the Frolic, and the United States of

## Road Building Aid Proposed

A rough draft of a legislative bill to finance the cost of improving dedicated or public roads is being prepared by Marion County Judge Grant Murphy this week.

A long-standing need for revenue for the county's "orphan" roads has existed. Dedicated roads are those which have been laid out when new residential areas are platted. Because of their number they cannot all be accepted and placed on the county's regular road program. As a result they go without improvement.

These roads usually occur in areas immediately adjacent to cities, such as in the Cherry avenue area just north of Salem. Judge Murphy's proposal is to assess properties abutting roads to be improved. His suggestion, he said, will be presented to the legislative interim committee on highways.

## Naval Reservists Begin Sea Cruise

Three members of the Salem naval reserve unit are aboard the USS Tucson, which left Seattle, Wash., last Saturday for a two-week cruise to San Francisco, Calif., and return.

The men are BM Henry J. Schimerek, Salem route 8, box 80; CMDCA Fredrick C. Sheffe, 249 N. 15th st., and SA Philip M. Winters, 560 N. Winter st.

The next cruise, which also will include members of the local unit, will be from February 12 to 25 aboard the USS Oakland.

Beverly Young, seventh grade candidates.

Two students are chosen by each class as their candidate for the final balloting, with the winner to be announced in the Valentine issue of the Periscope.

## The Safety Valve

WRITES ON MONOPOLY

To the Editor: Last Saturday's editorial pertaining to "monopoly" of Western Electric, subsidiary of American Telephone and Telegraph, left many puzzles in the readers' mind. One might partially condemn public monopoly but to be even doubtful as to the undesirability of private monopoly that is another matter entirely. For the company involved has its economic roots spread so far and wide that its influence is certainly in the realm of being called "powerful." Dissolution will not result in price change apart, that is only one facet of the whole issue of any monopolistic practice. Rather it will bring about drastic and yet quite healthy changes in many related and unrelated industries that you failed to mention, industries which are mere cogs in gigantic economic forces. For inherent in monopoly of any description is that concern's desire to selfishly maintain, protect and jealously guard its vested interests in such a manner that is quite apart from the basic tenets of democracy in business. It will always be assumed that industry exists for and serves the public good and to reconcile public good and welfare with any monopolistic practice is a blatant falsehood. Unfortunately the government has a hard case on its hands.

M. AKESON

1106 3rd St.,  
West Salem, Ore.

## Merchants Get Credit For Low Fire Losses

To the Editor:

During the past year there has been much favorable comment on Salem's fine record as to fire losses. Of course it is pleasant to us to hear the usual comment that "we now have a better fire department," and we hope they merit that conclusion. But there are several factors involved in a low fire waste for any city, and of these the most important is cooperation by citizens, since it is they who pay the expense and do the job. Without such cooperation undesirable fire conditions would increase and result in heavy losses, especially in the industrial and mercantile districts. Property owners and occupants in these districts have given their full cooperation in preventing fires by spending large sums of money in changing their equipment, and in many cases the interior construction of buildings, with much added sprinkler protection, resulting in comparatively few fires in these districts during 1948.

A satisfactory fire loss ratio cannot be attained over night. The merchants of Salem have been spending their efforts and money for over three years to bring about this favorable condition, and continued efforts will be required to maintain it. The building department has efficiently performed its duties, and has seen to it that repairs and new construction have been done with fire resisting materials which definitely prevent the rapid spread of fire, thus making it more possible for the fire department to do their part in maintaining the present gratifying status of fire losses.

We deeply appreciate the freedom of opportunity that Mr. Franzen has given us to deal honestly with the public in this program.

Capt. Ben Faught  
Chief of the Bureau of Fire Prevention.

Waste Sawdust at River

To the Editor:

Recently a considerable quantity of really excellent sawdust has been dumped behind the REID MURDOCH CANNING CO., near the river. With the first rains the will of course will wash away down the Willamette. Officer Bowman of the Salem city police department has advised, however, and perhaps wisely, that before any reclamation hauling is begun, a "clearance" first should be obtained. Were the clearance obtained immediately (before a rise in the river) any number of Salem families could be attended insofar as fuel goes. If you find it inexpedient to check upon this yourself, perhaps someone else could be persuaded to do so. (Mr. Batty Cooper would be a fine man for the job, inasmuch as he is often at the river checking anyway.)

Now to moralize for a moment: Certain known facts and knowledge are rather hard to correlate on occasion. For instance, why should Americans be so inordinately wasteful of such a commodity as fuel, particularly at a time like this. Surely it is not concomitant with smart living and smart thinking.

Julian Wallace Graham  
PO Box 764

The tiniest hummingbird is known as Helena's hummingbird of Cuba and is between two and one-quarter and two and one-half inches in length.

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## Diary of A Sidewalk Superintendent



January 18

Note that shiny new department where billing is done is almost completed down at the new Stevens & Son Jewelry Store. Can't say it ever struck me this way before, but it looks like it will be almost a pleasure to walk up to that counter. (Each thing I do seems better than the last—is everybody that good?)

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