

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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What Peace for China?

In the story of the surrender of Peiping one can find a grain of comfort for China's future. As Spencer Moose, AP correspondent, reports it, Peiping did not "fall." It merely slumped into communist hands.

There was no bombardment — a few shells were lobbed into the place, in a sort of token bombardment. (The reds may want it for their capital).

In the siege the communists got control of the power plants—but kept them going to supply the city with electricity and energy for pumping water.

General Fu Tso-yl, the nationalist commander, gave passes to communist delegates to enter Peiping, and his deputy commander made trips to communist headquarters. In the deal for peace, "surrender" was never mentioned. Not only was General Fu's name not kept on the list of war criminals—it was arranged so that he would not lose face, and he is a member of the committee to rule Peiping in the transition period.

That similar friendly compromise will prevail in the winding up of China's long civil war may be a hope too optimistic. That is not in character with Russian communism which tightens its grip through purges and compulsion. But China is still China. Long parley and conversation and saving of face are part of the Chinese way of living. If old habits prevail the shift in power will not be accompanied by full-scale red revolution. It might even give a better break for the masses of underprivileged in China.

Meantime, the beaten nationalist government has shifted headquarters to Canton; Nanking waits for the communists to take over the city; Chiang Kai-shek has gone into retirement in Fenghuai; and nothing is heard about proposals for a general peace.

China will still be China, but how red will a Red China be? That is the unanswered question.

Dr. David Bennett Hill

Surprise and shock attend news of the death of Dr. David Bennett Hill, of a sudden heart attack. Prominent as a citizen and in his profession, it seemed he had years ahead for life and service. His passing emphasizes anew the uncertainties of life.

Particularly in his profession was Dr. Hill regarded as progressive. An early missionary of good dental health he used his great talent in photography to prepare and to show motion pictures teaching the proper care of teeth. He was a supporter of worthy civic causes, and one whom a multitude could hail as friend. Our sympathies go to the bereaved relatives.

Welfare and Hospitals

The Oregon Hospital association is critical of the allowance made by the public welfare commission in its payment for hospitalization. It says that the commission pays \$3.50 per day less than private patients. Because the commission doesn't pay the actual cost of care, the charge to other patients must be increased.

The commission, however, has limited funds and tries to spread them to give all who need

it proper care. To grant increases asked by the hospitals would result in exhausting funds of the commission. Probably the next appropriations will be more liberal.

However, the hospital accounting was questioned. This "load" from public welfare has enabled them to operate at capacity (or better) and that is about the only way hospitals can break even. Also, they get their money from the commission. Previously, the hospitals had heavy losses from charity cases. They still have losses but without the check from the commission they might all be bankrupt.

Please, Mr. Weatherman

We hate to come to it, but as this is written the frigid circumstances just won't brook further delay. We here and now must demand, unqualifiedly, that the weatherman get the temperature above the freezing mark at least long enough to get our faucets unplumbed.

We have appreciated the sunshine, the invigorating air, the chance for the kiddies to get a rare go at the snow and ice. We have not complained thus far, other than politely, that our fuel bill resembles the war debt. We have taken the icy roads in stride, kept the lanterns going in the pump house, carried pails of water by the hundreds for the chickens, kicked in frozen-shut doors and wrapped the outdoor pipes until there isn't an old shirt or pair of pants left.

Our dog got arthritis, the hens won't lay, the cat won't hunt gophers. It is too cold to chop wood. The only way to dig in the yard is to blast. The car won't start short of a tow rope and we're getting tired of hot soup for lunch. There's too much moisture in the high lands and if things keep up we'll be forced to build an ark against the forthcoming flood.

Please, Mr. Weatherman, we've had enough of this and we don't see any sense in saving up further the rain which you'll probably soon douse us with anyway. We hate to complain to your boss, the Great White Father in Washington, particularly since we realize that good weather thus far has not been made a part of his platform. But, honestly, we've got to do something. Have you got a spare muffler?

Gieseking Gets Bum's Rush

Sunday The Statesman discussed the cases of musical artists under fire for alleged nazi affiliations. One of them was Walter Gieseking, German pianist. He had a concert booked for Carnegie hall, New York, Monday night; but immigration official picked him up and the hall was picketed, so the concert was called off. Gieseking left the country in a huff Tuesday, saying he had been treated "too roughly."

Hard to see why immigration officials were after him, once he had been admitted. It would seem fair to let people decide for themselves whether to attend his concerts or not.

When the justice of the peace takes away a man's fish or ducks or deer meat because he has violated the game laws he adds injury to insult.

A demand is growing up for a 7 1/2 cent piece; also a demand for something one can buy with 7 1/2 cents.

Italy Ready to Support Atlantic Pact

By Joseph Alsop
ROME, Jan. 26 — When one sees an old friend after a long separation, the plumper or more haggard cheek, the receding or more auburn hair, fly to the eye. In the same way: when one returns to this enchanting city after 14 months of absence, the change in atmosphere seems downright astonishing.

In November, 1947, before this country could be sure of American aid, the members of the Italian government were talking about as cheerfully (and with good reason) as the Roman senate must have talked when Alaric was at the gates. But now, the threatened communist triumph in Italy is no longer possible and problems of foreign relations are the main preoccupation.

The problem of Italy's adherence to the projected Atlantic pact is of course pre-eminent. And although this problem is being discussed in an entirely new atmosphere, the effect on the American observer is none the less to emphasize again the vastness of the new world responsibility of the United States. Last year only American aid could forestall internal catastrophe here. And this year admission of Italy into the Atlantic pact will add another element to a new Mediterranean pattern in which the United States now has the role of a major power.

of the Vatican have changed. Nothing, of course, will change the puppet socialist party of Nenni which is totally controlled by the communists. But even the Independent Socialists of the Saragat faction still have doubts about the Atlantic pact which must be resolved at their forthcoming party conference.

The conference's outcome is important because Premier de Gasperi is exceedingly anxious to retain the Saragat socialists in his government. If their vote is adverse, Italian adherence to the Atlantic pact may be somewhat delayed. It can also be disclosed, however, that the Italian government has already informed the state department voluntarily and on its own initiative, of its disposition to join the pact if invited to do so.

At the conference of the Western Union powers in Paris, the British opposed such an invitation to Italy, on the ground that Italy's best contribution to a western defense would be to remain neutral. French and American strategists argue, on the contrary, that the concept of Italian neutrality is imaginary. Western Union's planned defense of the line of the Rhine will be useless if the back door to France in the north is not secure. And if Italy is left undefended, any aggressor can simply advance down the Po valley corridor and batter in the French back door.

If this view prevails in the present Washington talks about the Atlantic pact, it may be expected that the 15 divisions allowed Italy under the peace treaty will receive American arms and that in case of war, the great air base at Foggia will become available for use by our B-29's. This will be only one element, however, in the larger Mediterranean pattern already mentioned. Issues of strategy involved in this new pattern were the real cause of the foolish recent bedevilment over the Ital-

ian colonies. . . . Very briefly, the desire for a powerful British base in the Eastern Mediterranean caused the British to obstruct the return of Cyrenaica and Tripolitania to Italy, while sheer anti-Italian prejudice seems to have been the source of the project for giving Eritrea to Abyssinia. A far more sensible plan is now in the wind. Britain will retain Cyrenaica and the British will build up their main base there, with ports at Benghazi and Tobruk, supply depots, air fields, etc. The Italians will at least be restored to a major share in control of Tripolitania and Eritrea, but joint basing arrangements may also be made in these colonies under the Atlantic pact. And this scheme will be somewhat reluctantly accepted by the Italian government.

With these arrangements, and peace in Israel, the post-war balance of power in the Mediterranean will be at last established. In this balance the United States, never before a Mediterranean power in any sense, will play the following part. We shall be allies, though the Atlantic pact, with the other major Mediterranean powers, Britain, France and Italy. We shall be responsible for the independence of Greece and Turkey. We shall have our own air base at Wheelless Field in Tripoli, where the runway has already been lengthened for B-29's. We shall have peacetime use of the British base in Cyrenaica. And we shall have the use, in case of war, of Italian and French bases. In short, the Mediterranean influence once exerted by the British alone will now be the influence of an Anglo-American partnership.

Our policy, in short, may be altering the course of history in other nations, as it has done here in Italy. But in the process, we are also being changed ourselves. (Copyright, 1948, New York Herald Tribune, Inc.)

OMAHA BLUES



With Watson at the Legislature Alternative Plan of Registration Would Aid Demo Vote Round-Up

Four members of the senate, all democrats, and four members of the house, all democrats, are going to take all the physical exertion out of the duty of people registering and getting themselves qualified to vote.

They have introduced an "alternative method of registration or re-registration." They are not going to perform his duty as a citizen and cast his ballot on election day must evidence his interest by the exertion of visiting the county clerk's office once in his natural life, as long as he stays put at the same address, and furnishing the registrar with the necessary information to qualify him. They are going to let that stand as is, but they are going to fix it so—by virtue of senate bill 81—that all the voter has to do is to have the clerk send him a blank which he can fill out and return, and the job is all done with a flip of the pen and a 3-cent stamp and no bother or trouble at all.



Ralph Watson

be done all over again. "Jimmy" Gleason, the republican registrar of elections, has labored diligently to help the democratic headman herd the wandering brethren back into camp. During the war he set up registration booths in the shipyards and warwork plants right at the elbows of the workmen. Since the war he has maintained travelling booths before both the primary and the general elections bringing the registration as close as possible to the voters, though they still had to step across the street to get listed on the roll.

This was a step in the right direction, but it did not step far enough to meet the advancing tempo of the new way of getting out the vote. Senate bill 81 is geared to do just what registrar Gleason refused to allow to be done, that is to give democratic or republican precinct workers registration cards in blank, and in bulk, to be filled out by unregistered residents of Portland and returned to his office for filing. Gleason insisted that no one was qualified to accept a registration except a qualified deputy of his office.

Simply Mail Form
Senate bill 81 will take care of that objection. It provides merely that "any person qualified to make application to be registered or re-registered" can do so "by mailing or delivering an application to the county clerk of the county in which he may be a resident." That way the precinct workers could load up with a batch of blanks, hunt

the reluctant and recalcitrant voted to his latest and more or less transient lair and get him signed up and in the mail to the county clerk's office. Or the applications could be delivered in bulk by the earnest worker.

But, there is just one thing which sounds a little bit, shall we say, funny about this "alternate" business. Senate bill 81 says, all the way through, that the alternate way of registering is to be done by and with the county clerk of the county. Now down in Multnomah the county clerk doesn't have a thing to do with the registration of voters. That is what the registrar of voters, Mr. James Gleason appointed by the county board is for. That was what all the row was raised about in 1947 when the law was passed moving the registration out of the county clerk's office.

So, just who is to fall heir to these alternative registrations once they are collected? Will it be Al Brown, the democratic county clerk of Multnomah, or will it be Jimmy Gleason, the registrar of elections?

3 Instructed In Economic Mobilization

Three Salem army reservists have completed a 10-day course in economic mobilization, conducted by army officers at Seaside, according to word from McCord air force base.

Salem officers listed were Col. Seward P. Reese, Willamette law school dean; Lt. Col. Robert C. Irwin, accountant in the state department here, and Lt. Col. Chester Fritz, motor fuels tax division manager.

The McCord press release said the purpose of the course is "to teach these reserve officers the relation of economic factors to political, military and psychological factors."

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IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

complaining over how his taxes had increased, reaching now to about \$7 an acre, which is pretty heavy for land given to general farming in this valley. Virtually all the increase was going to schools. He wasn't proposing a sales tax, but he was holding a red flag against higher property taxes and wondering how the load could be lightened. I told him he had come to the right people, his representatives in the legislature, and went on.

However, legislators are not miracle-workers. They can't (in Oregon) smite the rock of finance so that streams of revenue gush forth. What they do will require approval of the people, because of the referendum gauntlet. So the people need to do some heavy thinking about problems of public finance.

I can see a way for the state to get through the next biennium by capturing corporate excise taxes for the general fund and perhaps using surplus receipts from income taxes. The present surplus in income tax revenues could be used to complete building programs for institutions and higher education, with a chunk for school district buildings.

Beyond 1951 the outlook is dark. If receipts from income taxes would decline, as would result from a recession in business, and if expenditures of government keep on climbing the state might roll a heavy tax onto property. Farmers then might feel they are being chastised with scorpions instead of whips. It will only be the prospect (or the reality) of a breakdown in public finance that will induce Oregonians to vote a sales tax—if then.

We have two years of grace, so probably we'll do like Micawber—go to bed trusting that "something will turn up"

Hummingbirds, known to feed on flower nectar, also have a diet consisting of tiny flies, bees, beetles and other insects.

The Safety Valve

Economy the Answer
To the Editor:
On page one of last Friday's Statesman, Rep. J. F. Short of Redmond is quoted as stating at Thursday evening's tax discussion: "We must have a sales tax or a strict economy."
If such is the case, then there can be no question as to the choice, and our difficulties are over. By all means, give the State of Oregon a strict economy. The words have a most refreshing sound when compared with the wild government spending now in vogue in our national capital.
Rep. David Baum of La-Grande held the answer in his prediction of a general fund deficit in 1951 if all requested appropriations are approved by the legislature. Obviously, all requests can not be approved, and the budget still be balanced. Undoubtedly, cuts could be made in many of the amounts requested. Such is usually the case with demands on a public treasury, and it should be the legislators' job to find the opportunities for economy.

If the legislators remember the wishes of the people whom they are here to represent, they will talk no more of the sales tax, which the voters have refused time after time and would probably refuse again. Instead, let them employ measures of strict economy in order to balance the budget and run the state efficiently—not luxuriously—on the revenues now available.

Eileen Johnson
562 N. 14th St.

Salem Reserve Unit Rates High

Salem's organized naval reserve division was one of the top five among the northwest's 28 divisions last summer, according to word received Wednesday by Lt. Comdr. David Morey, unit inspector-instructor.

The 13th naval district survey was concerned principally with training efficiency. At that time the local division was less than a year old and was the newest in the state.

Now in temporary quarters at Salem airport, the reserve expects to occupy the new armory on Airport road about March 1.



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