

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Stays Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Changing of the Guard, in Moscow

The AP describes the replacement of V. M. Molotov as foreign minister of the USSR by Andrei Y. Vishinsky as a "stunning shakeup of Russia's high command." That may or may not be correct.

Molotov has held the job since 1939. Consider what has happened in our own state department in that period: Hull, Stettinius, Byrnes, Marshall all served and resigned and now Dean Acheson is secretary of state. These were changes but no "stunning shakeup." We must await the unfolding of events to determine the significance of the change in Russia.

The reporters speculate on the possibility that Molotov is being readied to succeed Stalin as premier. It may be that he has grown weary of the strain of public life, this cold icicle whose nerves seemed to be of steel. Vishinsky himself was quite ill recently in Czechoslovakia, with a rumored breakdown. We do not know what the health factor really is in either case.

The change may have meaning, though Stalin, Molotov and Vishinsky have seemed to be of one mind, growing progressively tougher down the scale with the trio. If Russian policy is to be altered it may be for the worse as far as east-west relations are concerned. The dictatorship in Moscow doesn't hesitate to lop off heads when it shifts its thinking. Molotov came in when Litvinoff, who negotiated U. S. recognition of the USSR, was kicked out.

That Russia may be stiffening its attitude in the cold war might be a conclusion from the concurrent utterances of their communist spokesmen in France, Italy, Britain, Germany and the United States. The common report is that Russia has been losing out in western Europe, which seems to be confirmed by the willingness of Norway and Denmark to affiliate with the west over the protest of Russia.

The retirement of Molotov and advancement of Vishinsky may have meaning of profound importance to the west; or it may be as little significant as the recent change in our own secretary of state.

Would Alter Program for Blind

Wearry of recurrent controversies over operation of the Oregon Blind trade school at Portland the last legislature named a committee to make a study and report on the care and education of blind persons. The committee, composed of Sens. Allen Carson and Tom Parkinson, Reps. O. H. Bengston and Manley J. Wilson, the Rev. Dudley Strain and Carlton Greider of Salem, has presented its brief but pointed report.

It commends the work of the state school for the blind at Salem, but is critical of the trade school, asserting that it absorbs too much of the state funds for the work it does. The committee recommends a reorganization of the state commission for the blind, doing away with appointments by the governor and making those in state service having responsibilities for serving the blind to constitute the commission, ex officio. It recommends also that the board of control be authorized to sell or lease the buildings and facilities of the trade school to a public or private non-profit agency for the establishment and operation of a vocational training and rehabilitation center for all types of physically handicapped.

Russians Junk Former Czech Puppet

WASHINGTON, March 5—According to intelligence reports considered entirely reliable, a short man, with a sharp face and shiny eye, is now in jail in Prague. He is awaiting trial before a people's court for treasonable acts against the state. His name is Dr. Zdenek Fierlinger, and since the coup of February, 1948, he has been the "Socialist" vice-premier of Czechoslovakia.



Stewart Alsop

The arrest of Dr. Fierlinger has real political significance. Yet its purely human aspects give it a peculiar fascination. Fierlinger's fate is like the climax of a rather sordid play — part Eugene O'Neill, with just a trace of Greek tragedy and a heavy strain of, say, "The Little Foxes." For Dr. Fierlinger has been Czechoslovakia's leading little fox.

His recent history is revealing. He was Czech ambassador at Moscow before the war, and at the insistence of the obscure Joachim von Ribbentrop, he was expelled at the time of the Nazi-Soviet pact. Nothing daunted, he returned as the emissary of the Czech government — in — exile. During the war he decided, apparently, on which side his bread was buttered.

In 1944, the Czech military mission in Moscow warned the aging president Benes that Fierlinger was selling out to the Kremlin. Benes ordered him to London. Fierlinger, with the backing of the Kremlin, was already strong enough to defy Benes, replying that he was ill, and "too busy" to leave Moscow. The first postwar Czech government was formed in the Soviet union at a conference he-

two Czech communists and non-communists. Fierlinger tentatively represented the socialists. His hand strengthened by the Kremlin's backing, he was able to browbeat the non-communists into yielding key posts to the communists. That was the beginning of the end of Czech freedom.

Yet Fierlinger still had important services to render his Soviet masters. With Russian support, he became head of the socialist party, and prime minister. As premier, he turned over Czech Carpathia and the Czech uranium mines to the Russians. He was replaced as premier by the communist Gottwald in 1948, but he remained obedient. After the pitiful Czech attempt to participate in the Marshall plan was stepped on by the Kremlin, further proofs of Fierlinger's subservience were demanded.

Word was passed from Moscow that Fierlinger's socialists must merge with the communists. Fierlinger promptly issued a proclamation of solidarity between the socialists and their communist comrades. This was too much for President Benes, who told Fierlinger in a painting interview that he could not be regarded as a loyal Czech. It was also too much for most of the socialists.

A revolt was organized against Fierlinger's leadership. In November, 1948, Fierlinger was replaced as leader of the socialist democrats. This in turn endangered the communists' control of parliament, which had been safe as long as the socialists were led by Fierlinger, to the communists' chagrin. This new independence of the socialists could not be tolerated. In February, Fierlinger presented to the socialists the communists' demands for complete subservience. The socialists refused to go along. Then Fierlinger made a crucial telephone call to his communist friends. The communists acted on a pre-arranged plan. Socialist headquarters were taken

over by force, and freedom in Czechoslovakia died. For his services, Fierlinger was made vice-premier in the new government. He was given no power, to be sure, and in June last year his party was dissolved and its newspaper suppressed. Yet no doubt he felt secure, with his official title and his record of unblemished obedience to his masters in the Kremlin.

Now he is in jail. No doubt, he will soon experience certain delicate techniques of persuasion, and subsequently explain, before a people's court, how he served as a spy in the service of the Anglo-American imperialists.

The political significance of Fierlinger's fate is obvious. The terror in eastern Europe will now reach out for even the most willing and subservient of the Kremlin's stooges. Men like Romania's premier, Petru Groza, are no doubt next on the list. The terror is itself a measure of the Kremlin's fear of the deep hatred of the Soviet union in the vast new Soviet empire. That this fear can extend even to so servile a lackey as Fierlinger has real political importance.

Yet there is a larger meaning in Fierlinger's fate. As he reflects on his past services to the Kremlin, and the strange coin in which he is now being paid, Fierlinger is no doubt learning a lesson which others have learned before him. The men who run the world communist movement are exceedingly unscrupulous people, and their ingratitude toward those who "work with" them, which means to surrender to them, is a good deal sharper than a serpent's tooth. No doubt there is a certain rough justice in Fierlinger's arrest for treason. But in view of the way of the Kremlin, and the strange coin has no further use, it is almost tempting to hope that the report from Prague is not as accurate as it is confidently believed to be. (Copyright, 1949, New York Herald Tribune, Inc.)

The Safety Valve

MORE ABOUT TRAFFIC PLAN To the Editor:

Why disrupt the Hollywood business district with one way streets or four lane streets just within North Capitol street and Highland to North of the underpass, then down Highland to the Oregon Electric by widening the Highland avenue, then turn down east side of the R.R. track and let traffic go down North Commercial street to down-town. This would also make better access for crossing bridges over the river. Then traffic could go on out South Commercial street to get on Highway 99 south. I understand Mr. Franzen likes this route. Mr. Baldoon has a good route for through traffic by way of Lancaster drive and south along the S.P. tracks to Highway 99 south.

The Highland avenue route will hit less high priced homes and good business property, it will also keep heavy traffic off the residential district streets. It is also as short a distance as any route, why not keep this in mind when further thinking is done about the traffic situation. C. L. Allison 2108 N. Church St.

FORGING PROSPERITY

To the Editor:

In your paper recently appeared an article written by O. H. Spilloke and replied to by U. H. in which you held the narrow view of those who do not study economics, beyond their own personal problems, of the bank's theory that all profit should be controlled by them. First, you say it transfers money from one group to a favored group. Does society owe an obligation to the people whose nature of its operation casts workers out of employment when they reach the age of 50 years? Even cursory observation will

show the worker, who commences to slow up at 50 years, will be out of employment within the year and when he is 60 years, he is dreading by a thin thread, by he has exhausted all his life savings and the doors of any work are slammed in his face. If we collect as suggested by Dr. Townsend and practiced by Indiana and other states in other forms, a tax collected from your gross income, and paid to any circulating medium, whether that be payroll, new building, food or any other purchase, or old age pensions,—it would quite naturally give a stimulus to the delinquent spots, by forcing feeding them, to restore their purchase power, so that the balance can be maintained at the lowest possible cost. Thus with 25 per cent of our population living on sub-standard, yet starvation and slum basis, they have thrown our economy out of balance just that much, but if we force the funds through their hands, they live and eat and our economy prospers. Yes, we all are our brother's keeper, because we pay dearly if we don't.

Maudie Lewis Morlan 2244 Hyde St., Salem.

GIVES HIS IDEAS

To the Editor:

A people's product should be owned by the people so the food supply and tourist traffic will not be ruined. We refer to the Rogue river commercial fishing that should be owned by Curry county. The old-time fishermen say not over 10% of the hatchery fish get back into the river. And this: The old-age pensioner's design, mortgage on their little properties. I'll uphold the idea of \$1200 for legislators. Frank Van Camp Rt. 1, Stayton.

With Watson at the Legislature

Greyhounds, Horses Compete In 'Race' for Legislative Favor

By Ralph Watson

Last Monday the state racing for the first time in its history to and to tell what it thought should be greyhound and horse racing in the commission came down to Salem meet with a legislative committee to do about the control both of the house committee on state and animal upon the controversy which has been waging, with growing bitterness, between the sponsors of Greyhound racing on the one hand, and of horse racing on the other.

It went away, after it had told its story to the committee with the promise that it would draft the recommendations it made in written form and return them within the week. Monday, next, March 7, the house committee will meet, with these recommendations before it, as well as the briefs filed by the supporters of the greyhound and the horses, take house bill 221, by representative Lisleulien of Pendleton, to pieces and put it back together in the attempt, as Chairman Wilhelm phrases it, to write a law that is fair to all, including the dogs, the horses, the sport and the public.



Ralph Watson

The racing commission recommended some very material amendments to the existing law. Gives Governor Free Hand. It recommended that the governor should be given free hand in appointing the members of the commission and that there should be no horse breeders on the commission. The law now requires that two members be horse breeders. Neither should there be any greyhound breeders appointed. There never have been in the past.

It recommended that the racing commission select, hire and pay the veterinarians and other key men at all race meets charged with the duty of seeing that all competing animals are put on the track in proper condition and that racing is done strictly according to the rules of the commission. The commission now names these employes but the operators pay them.

It recommended that all racing in the state be under license issued by the commission. All racing which has been under the license and control of the commission has been conducted without objection or complaint. In the past it has not had control over the state fair or county fair meets. Would Limit Jockeys. It recommended that all pari mutual betting be limited to meets under its control and that all meets be held under the jurisdiction of the commission. This recommendation, or provision, would make it impossible for jockeys, or horses, barred from tracks outside of Oregon to compete in Oregon.

In the opinion of the commission "there are too many days of racing" under the existing schedule. It wants the power returned to it to control the number of days which either the greyhounds or the horses, barred from tracks outside of Oregon to compete in Oregon, to overlap the time in which both the greyhounds and the horses will be allowed to race.

Controversy Smolders. These are the main amendments, or provisions, recommended by the commission and are expected to smother the controversy which has been smoldering about the racing control bill; in which the greyhound backers point to their \$3,368,838 contribution to state, county and local fairs and rodeos for the support of 4-H and Future Farmer activities, or bet-

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

together centuries ago. At one time charmers to support cities required them to send so many herrings to the king so he could have herring pie in Lent. The fisherfolk got so zealous for business that they depleted the fisheries to fill orders in Lent.

Lent is observed most faithfully by the older communions, Roman Catholic, Anglican and Lutheran. The English Puritans, rebelling against formalism in religion and feast days and saints, paid no attention to Lent. In fact history records that "ostentatious avoidance of a fish diet became one of the outward symbols of a militant Protestantism." The independents have become more moderate however; and Evangelicals, while they do little or no fasting, do emphasize the offices of religion during the Lenten period and plan their church programs to reach an apex at Easter. Holy week, spanning the week from Palm Sunday to Easter, is filled with services of worship and the events of the Lord's passion are related in detail.

Thus what originated as a pagan festival honoring the gods and goddesses for the return of spring and beseeching their favor on the new-sown seed has become a season of revival of personal religion and a celebration of the triumph of Christ over death which finds its counterpart in the quickened life of flowers and trees after the dormancy of winter.

DA Salary Boost Proposed in Bill

A bill to increase the salaries of all district attorneys and their deputies except in Multnomah county was introduced in the senate Saturday by the judiciary committee.

The Marion county district attorney would be boosted from \$3,800 to \$4,000 a year and his deputies from \$3,000 to \$3,600. Other proposed increases would raise the district attorney of Polk county from \$2,760 to \$3,600; Yamhill from \$3,000 to \$3,600; and Clackamas from \$3,600 to \$4,250. The Linn county prosecutor would receive \$3,000.

Income Tax Returns Federal and State 462 1/2 State St. Ph. 2-5563

Linn Defers Road Repair Tax Election

ALBANY, March 5 — A proposed special tax election to raise \$400,000 with which to repair Linn county winter-shattered roads will not be set until after the state legislature adjourns, it was reported Saturday.

A committee met with the Linn county court Friday afternoon and decided to delay setting the date until all legislative laws had been studied.

The committee, however, decided to hold the election "as soon as possible" after the legislature stopped. The proposed levy would be a 10-mill tax for three years, to be used to repair and reconstruct the damaged roads.

If the measure is approved, the Linn county court has advised, road work would start not later than July 1. Some work on a limited scale could be gotten underway even before that, it was said.

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Attebury Named Assistant Manager Of Miller's Store

Arrival of Edmund A. Attebury from Klamath Falls as assistant manager of Miller's department store was announced Saturday by Manager John W. Adlon.

Attebury has been with Miller's store at Klamath Falls for the past 1 1/2 years, serving as assistant manager. Raised at Pendleton, he served with the army during World War II. He is a member of the Lions club and the American Legion.

Mrs. Attebury and their two children, 9 and 6 years old, will come here when living quarters have been obtained.

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