

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Rumors . . . and the Price of Gold

Wall street is worse than a ladies' aid meeting for gossip. Rumors there are a dime a dozen. They sprout in air and flower in a matter of moments, and as quickly die unless there is some substance to support them. At that the rumor factories are not as numerous or quite as vicious as in former years. The bucketshops which manufactured tips on a wholesale basis are pretty much out of business. Reliable financial services send out a constant flow of information, including all that is authentic that they can get their hands on. They shorten the life of air-borne gossip.

Still rumors persist, and one of the hardest is that relating to the price of gold. Gold has always been a prime favorite to excite the greed of man; and whispers about gold strikes or an increase in the gold price are quickly amplified in speculative circles. Recently Wall street reported increased trading in gold stocks, at rising prices, based largely on rumors that the fixed price of \$35 an ounce would be raised.

In some free markets gold has gone to as high as \$70 an ounce, but that was where conditions were unstable, as in Chinese ports, and those with property or sales of currency get panicky in their desire to convert to gold. South Africa, a leading gold producer, recently stirred up commotion in financial circles with announcement of sales of gold in London at prices well over \$35 an ounce for use in trades. Banking authorities did not interfere but needless to say they do not want such sales repeated.

There seems no foundation for rumors of an increase in the official price of gold. Such a step would be inflationary, and governments now want to pour water, not oil, on the fires of inflation. As we turn into a deflationary period the mining of gold will become more profitable because the price is fixed and costs will be declining. This in itself should make gold shares more attractive.

The United States isn't going to raise its standing offer for gold, and no other government can afford to do so. We'll continue to get more gold than we need, and to store it back in the earth at Fort Knox. Due to the rumors however the traders meantime get a run for the money of the gullible.

New Administration Farm Program

The review of the administration's farm program excites our interest. It will be unveiled by Secretary Brannan before the house and senate agriculture committees today, but the advance word is that it will seek to divert production of crops presently "surplus" to use of land for greater production of animal products. This would mean growing less wheat, cotton and peanuts and more grass, hay and stock feed. Farms would yield more pork, beef, mutton, dairy products, wool. Prices for the latter would not be supported but would be allowed to drop to low levels to stimulate consumption. The government would supply incentive by subsidy payments.

Under this program farm production would be brought into better balance, and consumers would benefit by getting more meat, poultry, dairy products, at lower prices. The program

would bring benefits in the way of soil conservation too.

We await full disclosure of the details of the program. Judging by the preliminary revelation the plan may be a great improvement over the parity program which has prevailed for many years. That put artificial props under crops and except where acreage control was imposed encouraged growing of crops already in surplus. The parity formula has been unrealistic, and indefensible from the standpoint of economics.

The people of the country do not want agriculture to go into a tailspin; but they are anxious to get away from politically inspired programs which are unbalanced and fundamentally false as far as the country's welfare is concerned.

Build for Permanence

The county court has done some experimenting with road rebuilding. The extensive damage due to the winter's freeze prompts the trial before the whole job is tackled. On one mile a thousand yards of rock were used to provide what is regarded as a proper base for the surfacing. The court has concluded it is wise to strengthen the base because traffic now is heavier—more vehicles, with heavier loads.

The decision seems prudent. The eagerness to stretch the money to give more districts surfaced roads has turned out to be "pound foolish" when the winter is severe. Now we must build more for permanence. That will mean less mileage built in a year, but what is built will be more durable. County road revenues however will be greatly increased under the prospective taxes and fees, so maybe the court can extend its mileage as well as deepen the base of its roads.

The bill putting definite limits to participation of fairs and shows in proceeds of the pari mutuel take is all right as far as it goes, but it doesn't go far enough. All the proceeds of the state share from this source should go into the general fund (as liquor revenues are designed now to go), and then specific appropriations made to the fairs to be subsidized, payable out of the general fund. This will divorce these shows from a tie-in with pari mutuel betting. As it is pari mutuel has become a gravy train, with more and more local events clamoring for a free ride.

Frozen orange juice has developed into a sizable industry in Florida where an estimated nine million gallons of juice will be converted into frozen concentrate this year. This processing of oranges is expanding in California too. Maybe that is one reason why Californians want to tap the Columbia river.

Australia has a deserved reputation as a stockgrowing country. It is fitting that the parliament of New South Wales includes Messrs. Lamb, Brain, Fowles and Mutton. No Beef there, however.

Harvard students doing graduate research in New Mexico found corn cobs more than 4000 years old. Missourians will want them for corn cob pipes.

Churchill Hints at 'Preventive War'

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop
WASHINGTON, April 6.—It is not often that Winston Churchill talks in riddles. He did not do so at Fulton, where his plain words about plain facts sent the woolly minded into agonies of wishful revulsion. But at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology last week, he chose to wrap up the hard, terrible kernel of his meaning in such a way that it has actually escaped attention.

Perhaps he chose to do this because what he was really saying was so terrible, so unpalatable, that even he did not believe the time had come to use plain words again. But Mr. Churchill being Mr. Churchill, it is not the less important to extract this kernel of his meaning from its rich philosophical wrappings.

The significant passages of the great MIT speech came at the close. In a relentlessly marshaled series of judgments, Mr. Churchill broke down the world problem as follows:

"First: The Soviet Union now confronts us with 'something quite as wicked but in some ways more formidable than Hitler.' The Soviet government is 'pursuing imperialist expansion as no czar or kaiser' ever did. 'Second: only 'the deterrent of the atomic bomb' is held by the Soviet Union in check at present. If it had not been for

this deterrent, 'Europe would have been communized and London under bombardment some time ago.'

Third: 'We have certainly not an unlimited period of time before a settlement should be achieved. The utmost vigilance should be practiced. But I do not think myself that violent or precipitate action should be taken now.'

Fourth: It is worth watching and waiting for a while, because something may yet occur to change the course of history, as the death of Genghis Khan caused the sudden retreat of the Mongol hordes, at the very instant when all Europe lay open to their conquest.

What is notable about this series of judgments is how much Mr. Churchill preferred merely to imply. What did he mean by denying that we had "an unlimited period of time before a settlement should be achieved"? To what was he referring when he said he did not "think violent or precipitate action should be taken now," with sharp emphasis on the "now"? At what was he hinting, in his brilliant historical reminiscence of the death of Genghis Khan? Here is the knot of the riddle, which can be unraveled in only one way.

Paraphrasing Mr. Churchill is a bold enterprise. Yet his meaning becomes obvious at once, if simple positive statements are substituted for his surcharged double negatives. Do this, beginning with the second of the four judgments above, and the following emerges:

"Because of the deterrent of the atomic bomb in the hands of the United States, we are safe for the present, if we practice the utmost vigilance. But there is a limit to this period of safety. Thereafter a settlement should be achieved. This may require violent and precipitate action. And it is worth putting off this action, because

the death of Stalin or some other unforeseen event may shortly unleash an inner convulsion in the Soviet Union, which will suspend Russian imperialism and cause the Soviet power to contract within Russia's former borders."

There is here no straining of Mr. Churchill's actual words, except by crudely mentioning the death of Stalin, so clearly pointed to by the Genghis Khan parallel. There is here, also, a bleak statement of two simple alternatives.

In Mr. Churchill's opinion, it is apparent that we have only two ways to survival. Either Russia will change radically and soon. Or, when the "not unlimited period" of our safety begins to run out, we must force a preventive crisis, leading if need be to preventive war, in order to secure a settlement with the Kremlin. When this will be necessary is suggested by his emphasis on the temporary American monopoly on atomic energy. In short, there must be a showdown before the Kremlin possesses a people's democratic atomic bomb.

Here is the first serious, public suggestion—dim and roundabout to be sure — that preventive action may ultimately be necessary to counter the Soviet menace. Coming from anyone but the greatest living figure of the west, so startling a suggestion might be ignored. But tens of millions of men have perished, the very foundations of civilization have been shaken, because Mr. Churchill's warnings were too blithely dismissed on a previous occasion. This speech, so generally regarded as no more than the peaceful rich expression of an old leader's philosophy, may later seem as definite a turning point as the all too prophetic speech at Fulton.

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NEW APPROACH



The Safety Valve

Health Insurance

To the Editor:

Since Miss Fairham, Mr. Akenson and others are expressing their views on this timely and important subject of health and how to promote it, I wish to advance another viewpoint.

There are various good ideas and methods of arriving at a still more perfect form of society, and to say socialized medicine or any other form of socialism is necessarily dictatorial is utter nonsense! More and more people are believing in democratizing medicine, the same as we

should democratize finance and industry, and such a course is the extreme opposite of dictatorship. To illustrate the point: The Oregon Farmers' Union is sponsoring a cooperative hospital medical clinic and health insurance plan at cost for every family in this Willamette district regardless of their occupation, race, religion or political beliefs. And each and every family has the same voice and vote in the policy operation and benefits of this health association as we farmers.

We do not believe the state or

any other organization can or should give us something for nothing. But we do believe the greater our membership becomes the greater our facilities will be for reliable expert service at less and less cost. And these things we shall continually strive for.

And we gladly extend the hand of fellowship to all of like purpose.

T. J. Shipley.

Literary Guidepost

By W. G. Rogers

PUBLIC OPINION AND FOREIGN POLICY, by Lester Markel and others (Council on Foreign Relations-Harper; \$3.50) Newsman, radio man and scholars, under the chairmanship of Markel, who is Sunday editor of The New York Times, have for two years been discussing ways of making friends and influencing people in this country and abroad.

With Markel furnishing introduction and conclusion, eight of them have written for this book articles on what they call "opinion operation." It's a wartime term for a peacetime activity for which, as they demonstrate, America has shown insufficient aptitude. We have bungled the job officially in various governmental areas, they say, and privately in press, radio, film and other fields.

The assembled authors begin with the familiar statement that the majority of Americans is not informed about U. S. foreign policies. They go on to say that, even if the government itself makes up its own mind on some international problem, its various agencies issue incomplete, conflicting or badly timed explanations, when indeed they

bother to issue explanations at all. The extent and nature of the president's influence are studied, as are the deeds and misdeeds of congress, the department of defense and state, and their relationships.

But the ignorance of Americans, the authors assert, is at least equalled by the ignorance of Europeans who think we're insufferably rich, we're uncultured, ERP is a predatory device, and so on. Communists are said to take shrewd advantage of these views and U. S. agencies, press, radio and films, perhaps because they misjudge the magnitude of the task, have not always put America's best foot forward. The concluding recommendations for a broad, correlated educational program usually make by best of sense. One question which the authors raise, however, about whether western news should be delivered beyond the Iron Curtain, seems puzzling. They've been asking for the spread of news, and suddenly complain because it's being spread.

Though the book is as dull as a high school text, it's by authors who ought to know and on a subject we all ought to know about.

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IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

a forum for debate; but alas, too, a sounding board for prejudices that prevent rather than foster peace.

The real curtain that divides east and west is not of iron. It is fear. The west fears Russian nationalism and Russian communism as poison, and with good grounds. It has seen this poison at work in Russia and in the satellite countries, destroying human liberties. Russia has fears too, which are made just as real to Russians as are the fears on this side of the division line across Europe. The west, particularly America, is pictured as an imperialist power, a nation of wicked capitalists, where workers are "enslaved."

So on both sides of the line there are spy hunts, the harrying out of "heretics," the tightening of "security," and feverish efforts to develop or perfect the atom bomb.

Yet it is universally admitted that the Russian people do not want war nor do the American people. The leaders of Russia profess not to want war and their reasons appear perfectly plausible. President Truman and all the heads of western states voice positively their preference for peace. No one wants war; yet the world stays locked in war attitudes because of Fear.

What can we do to dissipate Fear? What can we do to convince Russia for example that we have no hostile intention toward the USSR or any of the countries now in communist grasp? Russia could make our fears vanish quickly by just a few gestures toward peace: permitting resumption of rail and motor traffic to Berlin, coming to an agreement on the Austrian treaty. That would pave the way toward a settlement of the German question which is the real key to ending the cold war.

Now that the western countries have taken obligations for self-defense can they do something positive as peacemakers, something that will compose Russia's fears? The U. N. assembly is a good place in which to start. Unless something is

Rites Today



Funeral services for Fred E. Bates (above), who died Tuesday, will be conducted by the Rev. Dudley Strain at 2 p. m. Thursday at First Christian church. Interment will follow at Belcrest Memorial park. Mr. Bates was congregational chairman of the First Christian church.

Capt. Massey To Return as Top Recruiter

Capt. Thomas Massey, former Salem army and air force recruiter, has returned to Salem to head the local recruiting office starting next week.

Capt. Massey, who has commanded the recruiting office at Medford since last November, will assume command of the Salem office when Lt. Col. Raymond Hay leaves Monday. Col. Hay will go to Portland to take over the Oregon recruiting district.

Massey completed his 27th year of army service Wednesday. Prior to going to Medford he was on the staff of the Salem recruiting office for several years.

done the two divisions of the world will continue victims of Fear, developing a psychopathic state which may erupt in violence.

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