

The Oregon Statesman

"No Fear Sweeps Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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The Atom—How Does it Today? (Part I)

Are Americans like the numb tribe in the Annie Rooney comic strip, outwardly calm under the bright blue skies painted on the ceiling but inwardly terrified of the unknown dangers of approaching dark clouds...?

Two years ago this month David Lilienthal warned:

"There is the danger that the shock and excitement of the Hiroshima blast may induce a continuing atomic neurosis, a constrictive fear and hysteria that could blind us to the scope of the atomic development. Or we may get momentarily so excited about sensations—the myths, for example, of automobiles running on atomic energy pills—that we could exhaust our interest. Atomic energy development might then become dull, routine, flat."

For a long time it seemed that his prediction might prove true. But now it looks as though the fantasy and fears built up during four years of secrecy are being dispelled by widespread publication of the truth about the atomic bomb and atomic energy.

People reacted to the news of the discovery of atomic fission in various ways. Some hailed the Hiroshima blast as the beginning of a golden age when man's greatest problem would be what to do in his leisure time. Others listened to the speculations on the blessings of living in a land of atomic milk and honey with a sour taste in the mouth.

For there was a big fly in the honey-pot. The bug was the threat of an atomic war which would mean all the rosy blueprints of utopia would be shot to hell.

One response to this sense of foreboding was to belittle the Bomb. A British physicist, P. M. S. Blackett, caused an international sensation with his book "Fear, War and the Bomb." In it he declared that the atom bomb is not in itself a decisive weapon; that the U.S. dropped the bomb on Hiroshima so that Russia wouldn't get any credit for fighting the Japs in Manchuria; and that the Acheson-Lilienthal-Baruch plan for atomic energy control is unfair to Russia.

U.S. physicist I. I. Rabi described Blackett's thesis as an "emotional, almost hysterical personal reaction to the mounting tensions in world affairs." Rabi pointed out there seemed to be a "general playing down of the importance and effectiveness of atomic warfare."

Dr. David Bradley, another atomic scientist, also worried over public complacency about the atom bomb in his book "No Place to Hide."

The greatest failure of all in these (atomic bomb) tests has been in apprehending their sociological implications. Evidently the bomb has failed to impress more than a few congenial pessimists with the full scope of its lethal potential. This error in publicity—an error of omission—might be justifiable on the basis of strict military secrecy. In the long run, how-

ever, the one thing more dangerous than informed governments abroad will be an uninformed American opinion."

Well, Former Ambassador to Moscow Walter Bedell Smith is sure that the Russians know all the scientific facts about the atom bomb anyway. So, apparently, the U.S. government is going to let the American people in on the true facts, too.

First of the authoritative rumor-dispersers is a new book, "Must We Hide?" by R. E. Lapp. In it he concurs that the atom bomb is not an "absolute" weapon but it is grim and deadly enough—one 30-pound bomb the size of a softball exploded over New York city could liquidate 200,000 people. The best targets are large cities where people and industry are concentrated and air bursts, like the one at Hiroshima, would be most effective there. However, people needn't worry too much about underwater harbor explosions sending radioactive spray over cities, bombs smuggled into cities or plants and exploded under buildings, or radioactive dust because these methods are comparatively inefficient, i.e. their ability to cause damage is not enough to warrant the cost (\$1,000,000 per bomb).

In case of war, an adequate warning system plus lead, concrete or earth shelters would be handy. The better defense against the bomb is dispersion—spreading out cities so that air bursts would do minimum harm. Another obvious defense is to blow up the enemy's bomb pile and planes in his home territory.

But the best defense, of course, is to prevent war. (Part two of this series on atomic energy as it stands today will appear tomorrow.)

Columnist Tom Stokes finds in the Brannan farm plan more than just relief for farmers. He finds it a device to provide markets for products of industry and intimates the administration hopes that will sweeten the plan for labor, especially since labor is getting no Taft-Hartley repeal. The trouble with the theory is that labor looking at price tags may think the sweetening comes high.

Arthur H. Moore who succumbed last week was one of the veterans in business in Salem, his bicycle store dating back to 1912. He took an interest in public affairs too, and found time for public work with the city as councilman and member of the civil service commission. A good citizen has passed on.

The Russians have agreed to resumption of rail traffic at Berlin. It took over a year to repair the "technical difficulties" that forced the closure. An American section crew could have done the job in a day—especially since there was nothing wrong with the railroads.

Plan to Vacate Germany Tempts U.S.



Joseph Alsop

WASHINGTON, May 1—Now that the Berlin blockade is to be lifted, the policy-makers are rather in a state of confusion. Children with a quarter to spend at the candy store. (The pink ones are wonderful—pretty, but do not taste as good as they look. The sour balls are rather dull but cheap, and last forever in the mouth. The chocolate ones are the best, but you get so few for the money. The decision is agony.)

The decision that is now agonizing the policy-makers is simply the decision on the best way of dealing with the Russians at the council of foreign ministers meetings that will be held when the blockade ends. Rightly or wrongly, the Soviets are expected to propose that everyone get out of Germany and leave the Germans to their own devices. To be sure, the same Russian move was expected at the 15th council meeting and was never made. But this time it seems more probable.

Such are the temptations. The contrary factors are also strong. General evacuation of Germany would mean the departure of American forces. Yet the presence of American forces in Germany are one of the guarantees of Europe. And the western Europeans actually want those forces increased.

Leaving the Germans to their own devices would also mean scrapping the plans for the West German government. Yet those plans have just been elaborated and carried through to completion with infinite pains. They represent the farthest concessions the French will make. Acceptance of the Soviet proposal would cause French reactions of the utmost violence. It would involve abandonment of our commitments to the French. Then too, it would raise all the issues of the Ruhr, reparations, disarmament, and the rest, that the Kremlin has never intended to insist upon, even in the Warsaw agreement that was designed to appeal to the Germans.



The Safety Valve

Opposes Name for Dam To the Editor: I note in this morning's issue that a move is being started to name the "Detroit" dam for "McKay."

Why! When he has expressed himself against the principle by which the dam is made possible. The government financing of this project is just as essential from the point of power as flood control or irrigation. His name should not (cannot) sponsor one and condemn the other. L. G. Hathaway Mill City, Ore.

Public Records

PROBATE COURT James E. Smith estate: Order appoints Claude F. Smith as executor. Fred W. Lindsey estate: Order authorizes administrator to convey real property. Harry H. Lindsey estate: Order authorizes administrator to convey real property.

DISTRICT COURT C. M. Myers, Salem route 2, charged with non-support, continued for plea to May 9; held in lieu of \$500 bail. Charles Lee Wigle, 1374 Franklin st., West Salem, larceny, continued for sentencing to May 9 following plea of guilty; posted \$150 bail.

CIRCUIT COURT Charles E. Schmidt vs state industrial accident commission: Defendant files answer admitting and denying. MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS Jack Harold Skelton, 21, contractor, Jefferson, and Betty, Jo Herrington, 20, typist, Aumsville. Dewey Lee Tribble, 19, supply man, Milwaukie, and Louise R. Campbell, 19, stenographer, 460 Academy st., Salem.

MUNICIPAL COURT Arthur Douglas Parkes, 493 S. Winter st., reckless driving with liquor involved, fined \$200. Delbert Wade Smith, Salem route 1, void operator's license, failure to heed order of a police officer and reckless driving, fined total of \$45.

Joseph Prange Succumbs to Heart Attack

Joseph L. Prange, 63, Salem resident for 33 years and active in church, labor and veterans groups, died of a heart attack about noon Saturday while on a fishing trip near Stayton.

In the fishing party on Drift creek were Prange's son, Clarence, and John Highberger of Stayton. Prange had followed the printing trade most of his life and for the past seven years had directed the printing division of the state industrial accident commission. He was a member of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic church, the Knights of Columbus' Salem council, Capital post 9 of the American Legion. He was long active in the labor movement and served on the executive board of the Central Labor council several years. He was president of the local group of State, County and Municipal Employees union. He was also head of Willamette Toastmasters club.

Born Apr. 7, 1885, at Fort Yates, N.D. Prange came to Oregon with his parents at the age of 8 years. They resided in Eugene, Corvallis and Sublimity. Prange graduated from Mt. Angel college. He was married in 1912 to Bertha Gier at Mt. Angel, where he edited the Mt. Angel News. They lived in Eugene and Portland before moving to Salem in 1928.

Survivors are the widow; four sons, Clarence, Robert and Conrad Prange, all of Salem, and Leo Prange of San Francisco; brothers, the Rev. Francis Prange of Tacoma, the Rev. John Prange of Spokane and George Prange of Portland; sisters, Sister M. Boniface Prange of Roy, Ore., and Mrs. Mary Schott of Spokane; six grandchildren.

Knights of Columbus will hold a memorial service Monday, 8 p.m. at Howell-Edwards chapel. Funeral arrangements are in charge of Howell-Edwards company.

Four Salem Boys To Attend State Marble Tourney

Four boys from Highland grade school will represent Salem in the Oregon marble tournament Saturday at Portland as a result of yesterday's city tournament at the high school grounds, sponsored by Marion post 681, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The boys were the winners among a small turnout of players. Winners included Darrell Oleman, 995 Highland ave., at first in the junior division. Oleman, 10, was fourth in the state contest in 1948. Runner-up in the juniors was Adrian Clifton, 11, of 837 South st., who defeated his brother Jim. In the senior division were Charles Welsh, 42 Evergreen ave., followed by Beauford Ambeugey, 670 South st., both 13 years old.

In charge of the tourney were of the state division of vocational Walter Atkinson and Ken Dory.

Estonians on Way to Salem; Brought by Y

Believed enroute this week from Germany to Salem are Mr. and Mrs. Ardo Tarem and their three daughters, Estonians who have been among the displaced persons in Germany since the war. They are being brought here by Salem YMCA, which Tarem will serve part-time in the physical department.

FLIGHT TO FINLAND SEATTLE, May 1—(AP)—Eighteen persons of Finnish ancestry from the Pacific Northwest will fly Monday night to New York.

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