

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Rebecca West's Reporting

Political morality has been very high in Great Britain. Standards of integrity are strict. Thus some months ago when Hugh Dalton made some premature comment about the budget he was about to present to commons he soon tendered his resignation as chancellor of the exchequer when he realized he had broken the tradition of inviolability of the budget. Hence it was considerable of a novelty to have charges of corruption brought against men prominent in the Labor government.

Evidence revealed more of improprieties than of graft, but the inquiry by a special committee of three attracted general attention in Britain. It drew among others Rebecca West, distinguished British writer who has done a "reporter's job" on the trial for Harper's magazine. It was she who "covered" the trials of the major Nazi criminals at Nuremberg and did remarkable etchings of the criminals as they sat in the dock of the courtroom. In her first article on the recent proceedings in Britain, just published in the June number of the magazine she does another brilliant job of reporting. Here for example is her pen-sketch of one Sidney Stanley, a man of numerous aliases, who seems to have been at once the charmer and the manipulator of certain government worthies:

"This was Sidney Stanley: a man in his middle forties, of singular appearance. He was very short and looked like a piece of modern sculpture. He had round polished surfaces of a Brancusi, and the akimbo elbows and turned-in, fin-like hands which Henry Moore gives many of his figures. From the front he looked entirely bald. Out of his face there stared light eyes, which were deeply set in quite circular sockets and were shaded by heavy, illicited lids. He seemed imaginative, but his nostrils, which were also circular, often fluttered. From the back it could be seen that he had abundant hair, red-brown like beech-leaves in autumn, which began at the back of his head and grew low on his neck, so that it rested on his nape like a skull-cap which had slipped. It was carefully cut and brushed. In all ways he pushed cleanliness and neatness to a bag-ridden dandyism."

That reads more like a description from a leisurely 19th century novel than a character-study from life. Reporting for daily papers has to be done against deadlines, and so has become a barren literary exercise—too barren, in our own opinion. Literary style is driven out of run-of-mill reporting. But when it is employed, generally in special features, it draws readers as honey does bees. Few can write with the brilliance of Mrs. West but our newspapers would be far more readable if reporting took on color and got out of its conventional humdrum style.

College Is Not for All

The speaker at the Salem high school commencement was right in stressing the importance of a college education . . . if he directed that advice to the young graduates who intend to enter business or the professions.

But there has been a trend lately to some pretty sweeping generalizations as regards higher education. People have been saying that "everyone ought to go to college" and, in order to make education attractive—not for its own sake, either—hard-pressed public relations men have invested the diploma with non-existent magical qualities and spent millions to raise the entertainment value of colleges. As a result, a degree is often regarded as a mark of social distinction and a guarantee of success rather than a certificate of, presumably, learning and of possible qualification for some types of work. As a result, too, colleges are too often rated by the prospective students with football teams, fraternity houses and coed ratio as the criteria.

Some sincere educators have encouraged uni-

versal higher education with the hope that all the brilliant minds who might otherwise be neglected would be enrolled. It is like fishing with a net—they get a lot of small fry but might also catch a few giants.

For the small fry—the mentally and temperamentally unsuited—it is a waste of time and money. These students are, furthermore, a waste of the professor's time and of the state's money, if the school is tax-supported. The suggestion that "everyone is entitled to a college education" is pure demagoguery that needles the unqualified, breeds discontent, and helps lower the scholastic standards of tax-supported institutions which have to "educate" the knucklehead alongside the genius.

Individuals who do not go to college ought not to be made to feel inferior or underprivileged. The community still needs skilled craftsmen and honest artisans.

Builder of Financial Empire Dies

How A. P. Giannini, dead now at age 79, started life as a peddler of produce on the streets of San Francisco, turned to banking, organized and directed what became the largest banking organization in the world is a story of which there are numerous counterparts in this America of democracy and opportunity. He was not of the old school in banking, starched, blueblooded, conservative. He was an iconoclast who toppled idols, put commercial drive into banking, and aimed at the masses rather than the classes. Those who disliked his methods had to reckon with his growing power. Ambitious and aggressive as he was, Giannini's institutions did much to finance industrial expansion, in the west. Though his top creation, Transamerica corporation, is under fire now before the federal reserve board his vast banking empire is strong and dynamic.

It remains to be seen however how the passing of Giannini with his organizing and directing genius will effect the institutions he established. Once before he relinquished control to younger hands, returning in spectacular fashion to resume command in a time of crisis. It will take men of great capacity to manage wisely the banks and business corporations that make up the broad network of Giannini enterprises.

Cons Still Missing

The two convicts who escaped from the state prison last week are still on the loose. Police have scoured the country and jumped at every clue, so far without finding the men they are looking for. But they'll be found. The arm of the law is long, and patient. Very few get out of OSP on their own motion without being picked up and brought back eventually. Wherever the two escapees are they know they are hunted men.

Those on the outside should not be too critical of the prison administration because these men got hold of hacksaw and wrench. Guarding is a matter of unceasing vigilance; but we must remember that desperate men, bent on escape, are likewise vigilant to seize the slightest opportunity to provide means of escape. Their drives are more insistent than those of the guards. So far no prison cells or walls have been devised that have proven absolutely escape-proof.

ECA has set aside \$500,000 to pay expenses of a visit by officials of countries in western Europe to the United States. They will study government administration here. We hope they do not look at our budget deficits. There it would be a case of the blind leading the blind—into the ditch.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

capacity and a readiness to liquidate on slight squeezing. The great desideratum is the proper employment of knowledge. That facility we call Wisdom. And you will quickly find out, if you haven't already, the truth of Ten-nison's line in "Locksley Hall": "Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers."

The pursuit of knowledge is inviting. The lament of Newton over the vast and unexplored ocean of truth is universal. No matter how much we know there is still so much more to be known. The historian accumulates paper about the past past over which he pores; the chemist is fascinated over the mysteries of matter as he peels them off like layers of an onion to find the truth. Browning has glorified this pursuit of knowledge in what many might regard as an arid field, in "A Grammarian's Funeral." You remember the lines:

"So, with the throttling hands of death at strife,
Ground he at grammar;
Still, thro' the rattle, parts of speech were rife:
While he could stammer
He settled Hot's business—let it be!
Properly based Oun—
Gave us the doctrine of the en-clitic De,
Dead from the waist down."

And where did the bury him?
Right on the top-peak:

"Lofty designs must close in like effects:
Loftily lying,
Leave him—still loftier than the world suspects,
Living and dying."

With due respect for learning I think we realize that primarily it is a means to an end, that knowledge is desired as a basis for wisdom. To underscore this point I am going to quote from Mao Tse-tung, leader of the Chinese communists, as reported in Anna Louise Strong's late book, "Tomorrow's China." (I hope that this reference will not prove contaminating.)

Mao told a school of his party this:

"Books have no legs; they can be opened and shut at will. To read books is the easiest job in the world. It is much easier than cooking a meal or slaughtering a pig. For when you want to catch hold of the pig, he will run; when you slaughter him, he will squeal, while the book, the table next to it, runs no squeals but lets you handle it as you like. So I wish those who have only book knowledge and no practical experience would be more humble."

Ancient literature is filled with the glorification of wisdom. Sages spoke and people harkened to their sayings. The Hebrew Bible is rich in wisdom literature; Confucius and Lao Tse have been venerated for centuries for their ripe wisdom.

The Greek mind was freer and more penetrating and its philosophers, chiefly Plato and Aristotle, compressed their wisdom into systems of thought which have been rich legacies for succeeding generations. Unfortunately progress concealed around the Aristotelean method and it was not until the beginning of the modern age with experimental science and Francis Bacon's offering of inductive reasoning that the shackles of the past were broken. Slowly men learned that wisdom based on a system of logic which ignored physical fact was false. Now the great eagerness is for data, for fact, which assembled in table or displays in graphs will prove a theory by sheer bulk alone.

This concentration of the scientific method has lately revealed its weakness. Called in to fashion new weapons for carrying on warfare, scientists broke the atom and found a way to harness for destructive purposes its vast powers. Ever since then the physicists and chemists have been alarmed over the force they have set loose in the world.

Almost frantically they cry to those of other callings "Save us or we perish."

I do not pose as a prophet, but I am going to quote a pertinent passage from a brief address I made at the dedication of the new chemistry building at Oregon State College in 1939. That was before any of us had heard of work on the atomic bomb. I said:

"Today it almost seems as if government leers over the shoulder of the patient chemist and urges him to compound some deadlier substance for the destruction of his fellowmen. In this respect Dr. Faustus remains the symbol of chemistry; with all its aspiration to conquer matter in the service of mankind, its soul remains in pawn to the devil. For organized society persists in devoting the discoveries of science to diabolical designs; or ignores the evil consequences which attend the application of such discoveries."

The central problem of our time becomes therefore not so much scientific as ethical and philosophic. How can we employ the products of science for beneficial ends? Science itself is amoral. It is the use made of science which determines its moral coloring. The potion that Friar Lawrence gave to Juliet was only a soporific, from which after two and forty hours she would awake as from a pleasant sleep. The dram which Romeo forced the hungry apothecary to sell him was so potent a poison that if you had the strength of twenty men it would

THE IMPENDING PLUNGE



dispatch you straight." But in the complexities of modern life the line of demarcation between the good and evil uses of scientific discoveries is not so clear as between the harmless sleeping potion of Juliet and the deadly poison of Romeo. A new machine or a new compound creates social as well as economic reactions. Therefore as the scientist reveals more secrets of nature and points the way to their utilization, the philosopher, the economist, the moralist, the statesman must labor alongside of him lest man becomes the victim of his own intelligence."

How familiar that line of thinking has become as we wrestle with the problem of the control of atomic energy! Knowledge has come; but wisdom—how we can employ that knowledge safely—lingers.

(Continued Monday)

The Safety Bible School Added to List

VIVID MEMORIES

To the Editor:

Regarding the sentimental moan by the Statesman and Eugene Register-Guard about the passing of steam locomotives, I want to say that the change in locomotives is not nearly as important as the changes in the rest of the train. Passenger trains no longer have a "blind baggage," and freight cars no longer have "rods" underneath. Removal of these facilities is a fiendish blow to the pursuit of happiness by hobo printers, and the only thing that prevents it from being a national calamity and precipitating a social crisis is that hobo printers are likewise extinct. They've

Announcement of an additional daily vacation Bible school for Salem, starting Monday, was made Saturday by First United Brethren church on Mission street.

The two-weeks session, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday, will be in charge of Mrs. Lloyd L. Rice. Teachers will include Mrs. Laura Tanner and the Rev. Lloyd Rice, pastor.

The surface of the Atlantic ocean is far more salty than the surfaces of the other great oceans.

been streamlined, too; but a few of us oldtimers still have vivid memories.

A. M. Church

Directors of Credit Group Due at Spokane

Five directors of Willamette Production Credit association will leave today to attend a district-wide conference of association officers and directors in Spokane Monday and Tuesday. P. M. Brantley Jr., secretary-treasurer of the local association, also will attend.

Directors making the trip will be John Ramsay of Woodburn, G. H. Fullenwider of Carlton, F. W. McMinis of Astoria, Claude Buchanan of Corvallis and E. A. McCormack of Eugene.

This is the first district-wide conference of production credit associations since 1934, according to Brantley. The meeting will include 20 associations in Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington with a membership of 18,000 and a loan volume of approximately \$35,000,000.

Discussions will be on the agricultural credit situation in the Pacific northwest and on financial planning for the associations.

Featured speakers will be Sherman Johnson, assistant chief, bureau of agricultural economics, and C. R. Arnold, production credit commissioner, farm credit administration, both of Washington, D.C., and William L. Teufel, assistant director of extension, Oregon State college, who will discuss the proposed farm program of Secretary of Agriculture Brannan.

This year's meeting, according to Brantley, will observe the 15th anniversary of the associations' cooperative credit program in the four northwest states. Six of the 30 associations already have attained full member-ownership and others are rapidly reaching that goal.

Youth Admits Blasting House

EUGENE, June 4.—(AP)—The dynamite blast that demolished a Creswell house last month was laid to a 15-year-old boy today.

A charge of malicious destruction of property was filed against Clifford Floyd Smith.

Sgt. Vern Hill said the youth confessed setting the blast because he "wanted to see what would happen." Hill said 16 to 18 sticks of dynamite were stolen, placed under the foundation of the house, and touched off by a long fuse.

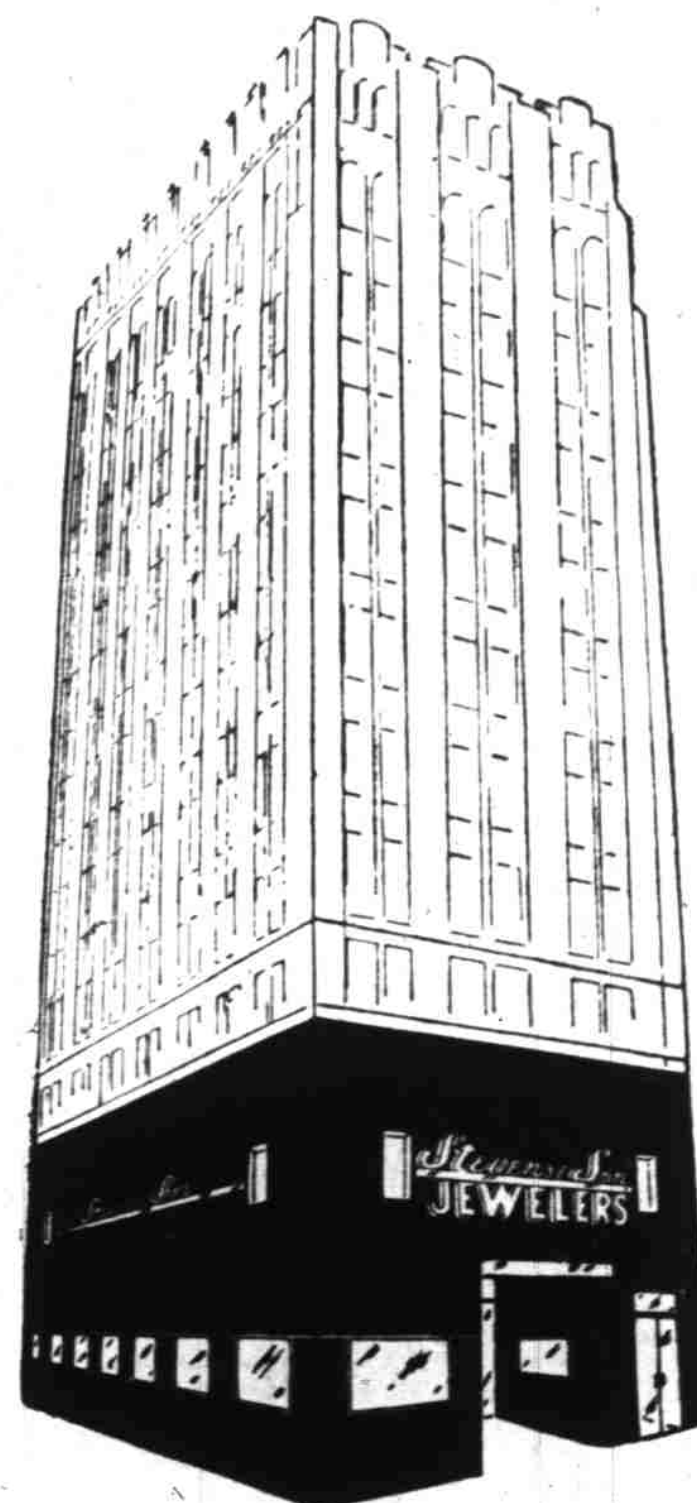
The youth was home eating breakfast by the time the fuse burned down. Hill added.

The house still was under construction at the time. It was owned by Marion de Vault. Neighbors have been raising a fund to help him get started in building another.

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Air Force Bigwigs All Agree on B-36

By Joseph Alsop

WASHINGTON, June 4.—Until the investigation that Secretary of the Air Force Stuart Symington has forthrightly demanded, no one should pass final judgment on the B-36 mess. Nevertheless, there are several facts that deserve to be reported, if only because hard facts tend to bring everyone's temperature down.

In the first place, Generals Vandenberg, Norstad and McNamara and Under Secretary of the Air Force Arthur Barrows all concurred in the air force's choice of the B-36 as its main strategic bomber. It is very difficult indeed to imagine all four of these men being jointly influenced by Secretary of Air Symington's acknowledged friendship with Floyd Odium, or by Odium's campaign contributions, or by Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson's close connection with Odium's Consolidated Aircraft corporation, which makes the B-36. In short, the judgment of these men creates a presumption in favor of the plane they chose. There is, however, one proviso. The B-36 may be the aircraft that best meets the specifications they set up for a strategic bomber. But did they set up the correct specifications?

Range—inter-continental range—is, after all, the primary characteristic of the B-36. And no matter how superior its other characteristics may be, some sacrifices must have been made in order to build into the B-36 the capability of flying such great distances. The B-36 may be said, in one sense, to be the only strategic bomber in the world today, because it is the only bomber with inter-continental range.

On the other hand, present

American strategy, as officially agreed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is very definitely not keyed to the war between the continents. One of its basic assumptions is that if war comes, we shall have allies, and therefore bases, overseas. To insure this, the purpose of the Atlantic pact. Even the air force admits that an inter-continental war would be a hopeless war.

Therefore the question arises whether it would not have been wiser to make the specifications for our strategic bombers less ambitious, and to order a smaller bomber than the B-36 which could do a better job from overseas bases. The air force has, in a sense, acknowledged this problem by retaining its contract for one such plane. This is the promising Boeing Turbojet B-47, which is faster than the B-36 and can go where it needs to go from almost any base across the Atlantic.

The second question is whether the B-36 is correctly related to our whole weapons system. And this question covers much more ground than the question argued to date, whether the big bomber can or cannot be successfully attacked by the Navy's new fighter. There is, for instance, the question whether guided missiles will or will not be available in the near future to intercept attacking bombers. If available and efficient, they will certainly affect the usefulness of bombers like the B-36.

Then too, there is the question whether air force planning is not becoming too bomber-minded, all over again. Before the last war, the incredible Major General Clayton L. Bissell taught at the Air Corps Tactical school that the old B-17 was invulnerable to attack, unless a fighter flew above it and dropped a ball and chain arrangement into its propeller. There is no such silly nonsense today, but fighter officers are beginning to mutter that the old bias in the air force high command is beginning to assert itself once more.

Every service has these problems. There is only one solution for them—sound, unsensational, non-partisan weapons evaluation. As previous experience has shown, there is little value in over-dramatized "tests" conducted by the services themselves, since they are always parties at interest. The Joint Chiefs of Staff were wise to reject such a "test" of the B-36. But a completely non-partisan group, with the precise function of finding out the truth about this sort of problem, has now been added to the defense establishment. This is the joint research and development board.

Furthermore, one of the late James Forrestal's most important acts as defense secretary was to set up, within the JRBW, a weapons system evaluation group. The authority of the weapons system evaluation group is indicated by the presence at its head of General John E. Hull, the war time planner who conducted the Eniwetok test of the atomic bomb.

There is no reason why this group could not plan and direct a wholly impartial, absolutely scientific, finally decisive test of the B-36, or indeed of any other weapon. Indeed, there is every reason why each major American weapon, land, sea and air, should be put through its paces by this impartial authority before large contracts are let. Then we should know where we stand, with no room for the kind of controversy which the Navy has started, for purely partisan reasons, about the B-36.

One other reform is also indicated. No contracts should be appointed, however worthy they may be, can be wholly free from suspicion as long as there is political money in the background. The pernicious system of collecting political contributions in return for place or favor should be abandoned forthwith.

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