

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Strasbourg and United Europe

Today statesmen will assemble in Strasbourg to discuss the subject of a federation of western Europe. Since the war the formation of a United States of Europe has received thoughtful consideration by leaders from Britain to Italy. Now it is passing from the stage of conversation to that of action.

Not that the Strasbourg meeting will frame a constitution for a USE. It will begin more modestly. For instance it will propose an international passport for Europe. The matter of patent rights in different countries will be discussed, and other topics of common interest.

European unification has not proceeded as fast as was hoped when the Marshall plan was adopted. Little progress has been made toward economic coordination, largely because of Britain's currency overvaluation. Even American pressure applied by Paul Hoffman and W. Averell Harriman has not accomplished much more than encouragement of interchange of goods. But the idea is there and the need for unity is growing more apparent.

Strasbourg, itself a symbol of the need of unity, is a fitting place for this gathering. Principal city of Alsace-Lorraine it has seen flags and laws and loyalties change five times within memory of living man. France, then Germany in 1870, then France in 1918, then Germany in 1940, then France again in 1944 exercised sovereignty in Strasbourg. Tired of being the shuttle of a loom that weaves no final pattern, Strasbourg surely would welcome an organization of Europe that might give it freedom and security. Those who assemble there today surely will breathe an atmosphere favorable to their design.

Trading Stock?

The administration has assented to revision of the arms aid bill by pulling out the "blank check" power given the president to distribute aid at will and send military forces abroad to the world on his own decision. Secretaries Acheson and Johnson presented the draft of the new bill to the senate foreign relations committee last week, whereupon Senator Connally, chairman, beamed and said the new bill had won "a very favorable reaction" from members of the committee. Senators Vandenberg and Dulles were not so buoyant.

Why was the first bill written and offered as it was? Did the administration think that congress would pass it without reading its text? Didn't they know that congress wouldn't, in peacetime vest so much power in the hands of the president? Surely they did. Then why that draft?

Was the objectionable matter included simply as trading stock? Knowing that congress is jealous of its prerogatives and maintains a studied attitude of suspicion toward the executive department, the White House or the state department may have figured it was wise to include this matter as bait for congressional wrath, and then when it was excited to make the gesture of concession and agree to its deletion. In this way, they may have figured, congress could claim a great victory. Meantime attention would be distracted from the core of the bill, the authorization of arms aid to the amount of \$1,450,000,000 as initial installment for rearmament of western Europe. That would sail through with little objection.

All this comment is pure speculation. But it is difficult to see why the administration would even ask for such a broad grant of power as the first draft of this bill contained. So suspicion arises that it may be included for trading purposes. They know how to play politics in Washington the same as at state legislatures.

Rent Decontrol

Governor McKay has approved rent decontrol for Ashland, Eugene and Salem. The federal authorities have approved decontrol for the first and presumably will follow through on the later recommendations on the other two cities. The federal law runs out in less than a year, unless it is extended, which seems doubtful; so the effect of decontrol is merely to anticipate by several months the winding up of such wartime exercise of authority.

There are the usual two sides to the question, but with controls lifted on virtually every other item it is getting time to wind up restrictions on rentals. Rent control has developed many absurdities, although without doubt it did restrain landlords from profiteering in times of

Europe Standard of Living Still Low

By Clarke Beach
AP Foreign Affairs Analyst

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7—(AP)—Many Americans who have made quick tours of Europe this summer say they don't see why there is any further need for Marshall plan aid.

The cities look prosperous and normal, they said. And they are right. This reporter also just returned from a hurried spin through London, Paris, Rome, Nice and Athens. Business is brisk everywhere. The shops are full of goods. The restaurants have plenty of good food except in London. You see few beggars on the streets. An American with a reasonable amount of spending money gets a general impression of gaiety and economic normalcy.

"How about industrial production?" one asks officials of the economic cooperation administration (ECA).

The answer is that the nations

being aided by the European recovery program (ERP), taken together, have not only brought their industrial production up to prewar levels—in the first quarter of 1949 they exceeded the 1938 annual rate by 15 per cent.

"Then why do they still need gifts of billions of American dollars?" one inquires.

The answer is best given in ECA headquarters in Washington, where statistics from the ERP nations are accumulated and analyzed.

The first thing you learn is that the average European's level of living is still far below the prewar level. The annual per capita consumption in the ERP countries—the goods and services each person can pay for, expressed in terms of 1949 dollars—was \$325 in 1948. In 1938 it was \$394.

It has risen a little since 1947, when it was \$302. ECA hopes to get it up to \$393 by 1952. Then it will still be only a fraction

of what Americans spend. The annual consumption expenditures per person in this country this year is about \$1,300. In 1939 it was about \$900.

These figures remind you of what you learned about wages in Paris. A skilled mechanic there gets \$55 to \$60 a month. Some professional workers get even less. You can hire all the servants you want for less than 25 cents an hour.

Yet prices are high. Relatively prosperous Parisians have never in their lives been able to afford a seat at the Folies Bergere (\$3.50). They can't eat in the good restaurants, where the check seldom amounts to less than \$3 to \$4 a person.

As for industrial production, the 15th per cent rise is still far below the level at which they must produce if they are to restore prewar economic conditions. (The rate of industrial production in the U. S. has risen about 65 per cent since 1939.)

Bull Elephant Hiding Near Johannesburg

By Henry McLemore
JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, Aug. 7—Honestly, there seems to be no limit to what I will do for my readers.

Here I am, sitting in a hotel room, writing a column when, all around me for miles and miles

and miles, is land that is loaded with gold. Loaded with more gold than there is anywhere else in the world. If I weren't such a conscientious cuss you know where I would be, don't you?

Somewhere out in the suburbs of Johannesburg, whacking away at the ground with a pickaxe in search of a few nuggets to take care of me when my hair is gray, my back is bent, and my fingers are no longer able to peck away at a Remington portable.

I got in here only a few hours ago, the Pan American Clipper "Wayfarer" having put me down after a 17-hour flight from Dakar. You don't have to be in Johannesburg but a few minutes before you are conscious of gold and more gold.

As you drive in from the airport you see rising on both sides of the road the mammoth gold mine dumps, bleak monuments to the gleaming metal that lies beneath this city. These dumps, writes James Lodge in his admirable guide to Johannesburg, are considered unsightly by some South Africans, but to most of the citizens they are as much a part of Johannesburg as the Pyramids are of Cairo, the Arc de Triomphe of Paris and the Statue of Liberty of New York.

Crossing and re-crossing the airport road are the railway lines of the mines, with diminutive engines pulling cars heaped with the gold-laden ore. It doesn't glisten. In fact, it is very homely ore, being of a dull gray color, something on the order of granite paving blocks. But tucked away in it is the stuff for which men have slaved and fought for centuries.

Johannesburg has to be seen to be believed. Sixty years ago there was nothing here but a brush, and the only traffic was that of wild animals and primitive bushmen.

Today it is a city of skyscrapers, shops and hotels as modern as any to be found in any city in the world. Millionaires are a dime a dozen, and their magnificent homes are a match for any you care to name. Sixty years ago there wasn't a railroad within 300 miles. Now Johannesburg has a \$3,000,000 railroad station, from which super-modern trains come and go by the score each day.

Thousands of residents remember when land along Eloff Street, the Fifth Avenue of Johannesburg, was considered so worthless that it was given away. Now—well, you better have a gold mine of your own to buy Eloff Street property.

This is the biggest, newest, cleanest city in the world. It is winter here now, and the climate is just about perfect. It is scarcely cool enough for a light topcoat in the mornings and evenings, and midday is strictly good enough for any chamber of commerce secretary.

Modern as Johannesburg is, there was a notice in the morning paper advising picnickers to stay away from a favorite picnic ground as a bull elephant had been seen there and was known to be hiding in the woods nearby.

Better English

By D. C. Williams

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "We saw them in New York some weeks since."

2. What is the correct pronunciation of "permit" (noun and verb)?

3. Which one of these words

is misspelled? Hilarity, hygiene, hieroglyphic.

4. What does the word "despicable" mean?

5. What is a word beginning with "ex" that means "to examine closely"?

ANSWERS

1. Say, "some weeks ago."

2. Accent noun on first syllable, verb on last syllable. 3. Hygiene.

4. Fit or deserving to be despised; contemptible. "He was a man of despicable character."

5. Scrutinize.

Wild Dogs Spread Fear In Northern Greenland

COPENHAGEN—(AP)—The Greenland commission of the Danish parliament, which will visit Greenland this summer, has been warned not to go there unarmed.

An official announcement called on the members to take big wooden clubs with them. The authorities are not afraid of hostile Greenlanders, but of wild dogs in the northernmost settlements.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty

"Don't know why Congress is so fussed about subversive school books... I have yet to see one of our kids look at school books..."

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"WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT, WATSON?"



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Knowland Asks Mac Return to Testify on Bill

By Oliver W. deWolf
WASHINGTON, Aug. 7—(AP)—Senator Knowland (R-Calif.) today called for the "immediate" return from Japan of General Douglas MacArthur to testify on the foreign arms aid program.

Knowland and 12 other senators are trying to get \$175,000,000 of the proposed \$1,450,000,000 fund earmarked for military aid to noncommunist China.

Knowland also requested that Vice Admiral Oscar C. Badger, commander of the U.S. naval forces in the China area, be returned with the Far Eastern army chief to testify before the senate's foreign relations and armed services committees.

To Open Hearings

The committees open their joint hearings tomorrow with Secretary of State Acheson as the first witness on the bill intended to cool off any Russian aggressive ideas.

The house foreign affairs committee has some 13 witnesses lined up on the same bill including Brig. Gen. Bonner Fellers, a former MacArthur aide.

The controversial measure now contains \$1,160,000,000 for North Atlantic pact nations; \$261,000,000 for Greece and Turkey, and \$27,000,000 for Iran, Korea and the Philippines.

Amount Said Too Large

Many lawmakers argue the overall amount is too large.

Knowland is a member of the armed services group and author of the plan to set aside \$175,000,000 of the arms bill for China.

Knowland, writing to Acheson and Defense Secretary Johnson, observed that the joint U.S. chiefs of staff will not have time to make the same kind of a survey in the Far East that they have been making in Europe.

In view of this, he "strongly urged" the two secretaries to order back MacArthur and Badger to testify "on the Far Eastern phases of a problem which is global in character."

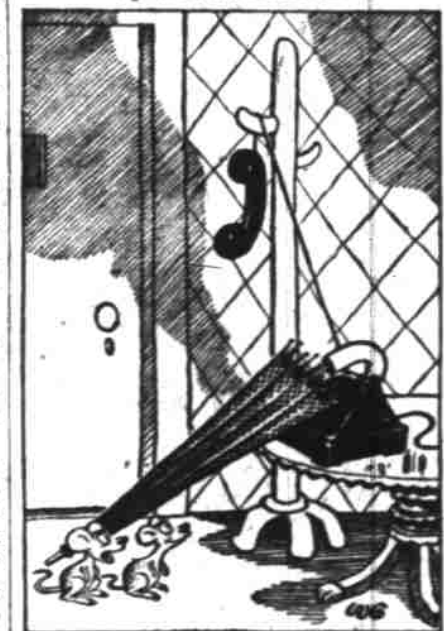
The joint chiefs—General Omar Bradley, Admiral Louis Denfeld and General Hoyt Vandenberg—are due to report on their European trip to the combined committees Wednesday.

P-40 PILOT KILLED

RENTON, Wash., Aug. 7—(AP)—An unlicensed army surplus P-40 fighter plane carried its pilot to a fiery death today when it faltered during a takeoff, struck a utility pole and crashed in flames near the high school football field. The victim was Harvey B. Gerlach, 28, Seattle, a Boeing airplane company employee who recently purchased the single-engine craft in Canada.

Tele-fun

by Warren Goodrich



"That professor! No wonder he never gets any calls... You may miss important calls if the telephone is left off the hook... Pacific Phone."

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