

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY
CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor and Publisher

Entered at the postoffice at Salem, Oregon, as second class matter under act of congress March 3, 1879.
Published every morning. Business office 215 S. Commercial, Salem, Oregon. Telephone 2-2441.

Washington—America's Rathole

When they talk about "cleaning up Washington" they—whether they are congressmen or constituents—usually mean the government. But an article in the February Woman's Home Companion that labels Washington a "disgrace to the nation" means the nation's capital.

Often cited as the most beautiful city in America, Washington, D. C. evokes postcard pictures and newsreel views of stately white buildings, clean, wide avenues and expanses of green lawn around monuments that dot the nation's shrine. Underneath the marble carpet, however, Washington is a hellhole.

The gleaming dome of the capitol presides over the worst slums in the country. A few blocks from the Hill, filthy shanties lean crazily against each other along muddy alleys. They are the rotten cores of city blocks which look clean and respectable from the streets. Here families sleep 12 to a room because body heat is the only heat they have. Outdoor privies substitute for plumbing and a single outdoor faucet provides water for many families. Rats are so abundant that mothers have to guard their sleeping babies with sticks to beat off the invaders; of course, once in a while the rats get to the children, anyway, and gnaw at their fingers and toes. Half the capital's dwellings are substandard.

Lincoln—the man who freed the slaves—in his marble monument sits brooding over Washington, the Jim Crow city where negroes like Ralph Bunch are not allowed in the classier restaurants. The colored population in this citadel of democracy is forced into separate schools, cafes, theatres—and into the squalid slums.

Washington's only city hospital, Gallinger, is so horribly overcrowded, understaffed and unequipped that the AMA won't approve it and medical students go there because nowhere else will they find such unheard-of cases.

Why don't they do something? "They?" The people in Washington? Well, they can't write their congressmen because they have none. They can't protest to the mayor because there isn't any. Washington is run by commissioners and congress acts as a sort of board of aldermen. Every sewer ordinance, garbage disposal plan and license for junk dealers in Washington has to be passed on by congress—a congress too busy worrying about Yugoslavia, Formosa and the folks in the home district to take much interest in a building or sanitary code for a city of disenfranchised Americans. Washingtonians can't vote, so, like aliens or convicts or the insane, their opinions don't count for much.

Since whatever is done to end the Washington disgrace is up to congress, it's up to the American people who want to be proud of their capital to start needing for action. Congress should give responsibility for the District of Columbia over to the residents.

What's Up in Berlin?

Headlines saying that the U. S. has "backed down in Berlin" make American ears prick up. With charges that the United States-backed out of Asia still ringing in the air, people are apt to be sensitive about reports of any concessions to Russia—especially in Berlin where the airlift became a symbol of America's "get tough" or "stand up to the Russians" policy.

The current incident seems to be minor in itself but it has ominous undertones. What happened, evidently, is this:

Last year the Russians vacated most of a large office building in the U. S. zone. It used to be headquarters for the Reichsbahn which is still operated by the Russians and runs from west

Germany through the Soviet zone into Berlin. The building still contains the railway's main telephone switchboard, operated by the Russians. It also contained 600 unused offices.

The Berlin city government needed office space and it could see no reason why it should not use those 600 offices. So, with American permission, the police simply took over the vacant parts of the building on behalf of the Berlin government. This immediately became a Russian excuse for slowing down the trains. Railway operation was cut to one-eighth the normal capacity.

This was necessary, the Russians said, due to "technical difficulties." It was "technical difficulties" in 1948 which started the blockade, grew into a crisis and ended with the successful airlift. Are these new "technical difficulties" the beginning of more Soviet muscle-flexing? Are they the starting bell to another round over who's to control Berlin?

Just last week General Maxwell Taylor told some visiting American newspaper editors that the Berlin blockade never has ended. He said the west zones have been kept isolated and their industry hobbled by economic conditions for which the Russians are directly responsible. Taylor probably interpreted the railroad slowdown as an attempt to tighten the screws again under the flimsy pretext that German occupation of the office building interfered with the RR signal system.

Now he has ordered the Germans out of the building and turned it back to the railway operators. Maybe that's "backing down." Maybe it is a strategic retreat. It means the next move is up to the Soviet; it forces them to show what they are up to. Without that excuse they have no reason to continue the transportation slowdown. The question is whether they'll come up with another excuse. If they do, look out for more trouble in Berlin.

The army has announced that it is ending race segregation. Henceforth all white units will be open to qualified negro soldiers, all army service schools will admit negroes, and the 10 per cent racial quota system will be dropped. Evidently colored troops will also mess and bunk with their white comrades-in-arms. The navy and air force have for some time permitted integration of negroes in those branches, but the change-over was gradual. In the army, it will have to be gradual, too, although it is high time discrimination in the services was ended. Negro troops served with distinction in World War II and the enemy's bullets and bombs were no respecters of color.

A news report from Richland says that over 5600 jobless workers have poured into the tri-city area there looking for work on the Hanford atomic energy works, but the major hirings will not start until April. These are not just casual laborers but include many in various skilled and semi-skilled trades. They present a serious problem in housing and subsistence. That they have gone in such numbers shows lack of employment elsewhere. Pray for an early spring so job opportunities will open up.

To support the price of raisins the government bought up a lot of raisins, and to keep them off the market arranged to have them fed to hogs. Now it has to buy pork to keep up the price of hogs. And what will it feed the pork to?

The postoffice department rules that the Hollywood "falsies" bathmat is obscene. Maybe the PO can win this case on points.

Chinese 'Fiasco' Blamed on Evasions

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—The current ruckus about past events in China is a fine illustration of the old saw, "Oh what a tangled tale we weave, when once we practice to deceive."

Those who prepared the state department white paper on China were too fearful of congress to tell the China story with forthright frankness. Some, like the writers, have therefore tried to fill the gap in history by bringing out the suppressed facts. But the state department has also been left open to all sorts of nonsensical and irrelevant charges.

A good example of this process is the recent, thunderous claim by the learned Sen. Homer Ferguson of Michigan that all our China policy from 1944 onward was based on a secret, pro-communist memorandum from Vice President Henry A. Wallace.

In the first place, a brief inspection of the Wallace memorandum shows that it does not substantiate Ferguson's charge. What the former vice president was talking about, in his woolly way, was simply the need for thorough modernization and reconstruction of the Chinese National government. This was advocated, as indispensable, by every sensible supporter of aid to Chiang Kai-shek.

know about the other recommendation sent to President Roosevelt from China by the itinerant Wallace. This was a recommendation that the president recall Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell from his China command, and replace Stilwell with Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer.

In short Wallace wanted Roosevelt to get rid of Generalissimo Chiang's bitter enemy, in favor of the man who later became Chiang's friend.

This recommendation of Wallace's was of course not acted upon, any more than his memorandum was.

It clearly proves, however, that Wallace had not become the captive of the communists in 1944. It also shows that Senator Ferguson has been talking through his hat.

The same strictures apply to the attempt, now going on in congress and on the radio, to prove that there was some sort of pro-communist plot in the state department. There was no such plot. There were simply two competing and opposed views of China policy, both of them supported by very strong arguments.

One view was that of John Davies, jr., in wartime the chief political advisor of General Stilwell, and now a member of the state department planning staff. Mainly because of the envenomed relations between Stilwell and Chiang Kai-shek, Davies early became convinced that the Chinese national government could never be reformed and strengthened.

paratus and their armies. They had been treated with contempt by the Kremlin. Davies astutely foresaw the possibility of Titoism when no Russian expert believed it possible.

Davies' policy was simply to promote Titoism in China, by offering American aid to the Chinese communists, and thus rendering them still more independent of the Kremlin. It was a policy that involved heavy risks. But it was also a perfectly respectable policy. It looks far shrewder today than it did when Davies proposed it. It would certainly have been infinitely better to try Davies' policy, than to have no policy at all.

The real history of the loss of China can be briefly summed up. General Stilwell grossly mismanaged affairs there. One way to overcome the effects of this mismanagement was to adopt the Davies policy. But when General Stilwell was dismissed, the Davies policy ceased to be feasible. This left only the alternative policy, which was always the safer policy in the opinion of the writers. This was to attempt in China, on an even larger scale, the same sort of operation we have now successfully completed in Greece.

Unfortunately, this alternative policy was also rejected. There were many reasons for its rejection, ranging from the anti-Chiang prejudices still surviving in the state department, all the way to the effects on Gen. George C. Marshall of his friend Stilwell's China experiences. To General Marshall in fact belongs the ultimate responsibility for our falling between two stools in China. That we did so was tragic but not sinister, mistaken but not mysterious. The state department would have done better, in short, to tell the truth and shame the devil.

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Henry Knows Butterfly From Moth

By Henry McLemore

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla., Jan. 23.—When a man gets as little mail as I do he opens everything.

Bills, even, with those little Cellophane peepholes in the front door of the envelopes.

So, this bright January morning, I tore at a letter as if it were a jewelry store and I a licensed looter, and I found:

It was a letter from the G and C. Merriam Co., Springfield, 2, Mass., in which G. and C. attempted to tempt me to buy a Webster's New International Dictionary, Second Edition. It's published by them, I guess. Either that or they are going out of the way to do a friend a favor.

Heaven knows I need a dictionary. I have been planning to buy one for close on to 30 years. I am tired of going through life putting two "ts" in "cat" and only one "h" in "the." How I envy people who can spell such words as "national," "debt," "people," "being" and "kidded" without having to wrack their brains.

But the start of the letter from the Merriam folks made me mad. It started this way:

"Dear Reader: Let's suppose that tomorrow afternoon after school, a ten-year-old boy or girl comes to you and asks: 'What's the difference between a butterfly and a moth?' How would you answer?"

That's an insinuation that I don't know the difference between a butterfly and a moth. The Merriams can solicit my business, but they don't have the right to hint that after 43 years I don't know the difference between a butterfly and a moth.

If anyone on earth knows about moths, I am the man. Our home is generally recognized by moths lovers as the true home of

the moth. There are more moths in our house than in any other home in the world. Open a closet and six full divisions of moths will move on to the attack. And six more will start a flanking movement.

All of my suits look like badly-cut, marked down sieves. I spent just short of \$73,000 last year on mothballs and flakes alone.

Here's a definition, Merriam: Butterflies stay out of doors, are pretty, are collected, are pressed, are mounted, and like to flap around flowers.

Moths are monsters that eat like mad in my house. And if the young boy or girl who comes tearing over here after school doesn't like my answer, just tell him that I didn't ask him.

After the moth and butterfly question the letter from Merriam posed this one: "... your favorite radio commentator says something about 'Inflationary Gap.' Would you know just exactly what he is talking about?"

That made me madder. It is entirely possible that I don't have a favorite radio commentator. There was a time when I did, but then Mr. Paley of CBS heard me and that was that.

As for "Inflationary Gap," certainly I know what it is. When I was a kid Mama and Papa always took us to Inflationary Gap for the summer. One of the sweetest places in the mountains of North Carolina. Not far from Chimney Rock. Mountains. Warm days. Cool nights that make a fellow want two blankets. Nice hotels that put placards on your front bumper reading "Visit Inflationary Gap." I have a pennant I got in Inflationary Gap hanging over my bed right today.

You can see why I am mad at G. and C. Merriam.

(Distributed by McNaught Syndicate, Inc.)

LOVE TEST
LONDON.—(INS)—A doctor or psychologist is not needed to diagnose whether two people are in love. This the opinion of Judge Fraser Harrison, who during a recent divorce hearing added: "People who are in love show signs as clearly as those who are drunk."

GRIN AND BEAR IT



"Furthermore, I resent the attitude of you reporters... always trying to attach some meaning to my speeches..."

By Lichty

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1.)

15 per cent on passenger tickets, 20 per cent on furs, etc., and 25 per cent on long distance telephone and telegraph bills. These are burdensome on business. It seems to be pretty generally agreed they should be reduced, and there is ground for belief that with reduction the actual loss to the treasury will not be very great because of resulting stimulus in business.

The principal argument will be over raising any tax rates, even on corporations or on estates. Stockholders in corporations are sharply critical of double taxation now. The company pays a stiff rate on its earnings, and then stockholders pay individual taxes on the dividends they receive. This double burden is recognized as unjust because individuals, partnerships and co-operations escape the corporation tax; but the government has been in such need of money that it has not been willing to end or lighten the extra load.

The president suggests smoothing out the high rate that obtains on corporate incomes between \$25,000 and \$50,000, putting it at 38 per cent instead of the present 53 per cent. The former rate prevails on earnings over \$50,000. But if this is done rates will have to be raised somewhere else to compensate for the loss.

Actually our tax laws do need considerable overhauling; but election year is a poor time to start. The president's is a minimum program that certainly ought to be considered by congress even if this is an election year.

It is the duty of congress to give most diligent attention to the country's fiscal problems. In simple language this means to reduce expenses to a level that can be financed without any burdensome increase in taxes; but to make such corrections in tax levies as seem warranted (such as reducing excise taxes) and to impose such taxes as will wipe out any budgetary deficit.

Better English

By D. C. Williams

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "Page fifty is all the farther that I have read."
2. What is the correct pronunciation of "condolence"?
3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Bananna, hosanna, madonna, dilemma.
4. What does the word "sinew" mean?
5. What is a word beginning with ar that means "resembling a tree"?

ANSWERS

1. Say, "Page fifty is as far as I have read."
2. Pronounce with accent on second syllable, not the first. 3. Bananna. 4. That which supplies strength or power. (Pronounce sin-u, as in sin, u as in cube). "The bodies of men, munitions, and money may justly be called the sinews of war."—Sir W. Raleigh. 5. Arbor.

GIFT PAPERS

ITHACA, N. Y.—(INS)—The Collection of Regional History at Cornell has received a gift of papers and scrapbooks of the late William T. Doty, former editor of the Port Jervis Daily Union and Orange County Assemblyman beginning in 1913.

Your Health

Written by
Dr. Herman N.
Bundesen, M.D.

THERE are a number of diseases associated with this or that occupation. One of these is silicosis, which develops in people, such as miners and sandblasters, whose work forces them to remain for long periods of time in a dusty or sandy environment. The habitual breathing of air which is saturated with fine particles of sand or coal brings about changes in the lungs and eventually results in the formation of scar tissue.

Nevertheless, such people can live comfortably to old age and engage in vigorous activities if only they take the care needed to avoid infections, as detailed below.

As a rule, people with silicosis do not feel any bad effects from the condition until they reach 45 or 50 years of age. Then they may notice some shortness of breath. Their endurance becomes less, and they are unable to work as hard as previously.

It is unfortunate that, in this disorder, symptoms are not noticed by the patient until the lung disorder is quite far advanced.

Those with silicosis must take special care to get rid of any infection in the body, such as may be located in the teeth, sinuses, tonsils, or elsewhere in the body. Decayed teeth should be repaired or removed, sinuses treated, and, when colds occur, special care must be given. These patients must guard also against

overeating and should be encouraged to exercise.

When the symptoms become more pronounced, these workers should avoid exhaustion of any type. Chronic bronchitis or inflammation of the tubes in the lungs is often the cause of disability in these persons. The inflammation results in swelling of the tissues and the formation of a thick mucous discharge. A severe and persistent cough develops, which is uncomfortable and harassing.

Pneumonia seems to develop easily in these workers and, unless they are promptly treated with penicillin and similar preparations and the giving of oxygen, the pneumonia may be fatal or permanently disabling.

It would also appear that tuberculosis develops frequently in persons with silicosis, and it is curable only if detected early.

Of course, every possible effort should be made to prevent the development of silicosis, but should it occur, those affected should be given continuous medical care.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

N. N.: Is it all right to inhale salt water to treat a common cold?

Answer: I am not aware of any scientific experimentation to prove that such treatment is effective, though at times irritating or douching the nasal cavities by this means is good treatment for a cold in which there is an accumulation of secretion. (Copyright, 1950, King Features)

Hollywood On Parade

By Gene Handsaker

HOLLYWOOD—It took a conk on the head for Jane Cowl to get over her 32-year apathy to movie-acting and Hollywood. In 1917, she starred in a movie at Fort Lee, N.J. Elephants in the cast swished their tails through her powder boxes. A chained ape snarled and snapped at her. She was rescued just in time from a burning-theatre scene. The picture was "dreadful" (says Miss Cowl) and she was "awful."

"The experience was enough to sour a saint," this famous lady of the stage adds, "and I'm no saint." And as for Hollywood, she says: "I was here many times in plays, and I used to feel I couldn't get out of this place fast enough. I imagined I felt a kind of poisonous rivalry among its people."

Last year Miss Cowl was at the La Jolla Playhouse south of here, directing and acting in a play for Gregory Peck. A station-wagon door flew open one afternoon, throwing Miss Cowl to the pavement and giving her a concussion. She managed to get through with the play but recuperated later at the home of Jane Murn, near Hollywood. Miss Murn is Miss Cowl's collaborator in writing "Smilin' Through" and other plays.

Resting here, Miss Cowl dis-

covered "a warmth, peace, dignity, and delightful surroundings which I hadn't realized were here." She told me she was returning temporarily to New York to prepare her hotel apartment for subletting, and: "I'm going to miss Hollywood. I'll get a yen to see those brown mountains."

Robert Montgomery persuaded Miss Cowl to try movie-acting again early this year while she was appearing at the Pasadena Community Playhouse. As his lawyer mother in "Once More, My Darling," wearing a white wig, she was "horrified at the way I looked." She liked better her part with Barbara Stanwyck in "The Lie." She has just finished playing Claudette Colbert's aunt in "Blind Spot."

Miss Cowl, who has regal features, brown eyes, and a gracious manner, is a widow, the only child of only children. She has no relatives. "I get dreadfully lonely, particularly out here," she says. "Friends are much more get-at-able in New York."

As for moving acting versus stage acting: "Oh, golly, I just like to act, I don't care which. Of course, there's a little more satisfaction from an audience." How does she like Jane Cowl on the screen? "I still say I'm awful!"

The Safety Valve

Likes "Surprise" Holiday

To the Editor:

Speaking as a school attendant, it is evident Mrs. Evans hasn't been to school for some years, and doesn't remember the joy of a surprise holiday. What's a few days of school missed anyway? We will probably have to make it up by some extra days of school before summer vacation.

Mrs. Evans should realize the lack of snow equipment in Salem. If she was to live in the country and have to wait for a stalled bus in the snow and cold, she would better understand Mr. Bennett's decision.

Gary Weber
960 Salem Heights ave.

32 Perish in Plane Crash

LA PAZ, Bolivia, Jan. 23.—(AP)—Searchers arriving at the scene of Friday's plane crash near Pocomo confirmed today that all 32 persons aboard the craft had perished. Twenty-eight soldiers and four crewmen were aboard the military transport which crashed against a Sierra mountain peak.

UNIT MEETS

CLEAR LAKE — Clear Lake extension unit met last week at the home of Mrs. A. A. Eichelberger with 14 members present. Mrs. Carl Johnson was a visitor. The project was giving home sewing a professional look. Next meeting will be an all-day affair at the Clear Lake church February 17.

FALSE FRONTS

PHOENIX, Ariz.—(INS)—Folks in the desert resort of Scottsdale have gone on record in favor of "falsies." The kind of false fronts wanted are to be on stores and buildings to preserve the town's western style of architecture.

Insecticides that will kill rat fleas are a valuable weapon against plague.

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