

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Defense of Alaska

Authorities simply do not agree on the strength of our Alaska defenses. Governor Gruening has been saying that Alaska is bare of defense. He testified before a house subcommittee saying that one or two parachute divisions coming over from Siberia could capture Alaska "tomorrow" and from captured bases there launch attacks on any part of the 48 states. The present defense establishment he described as "next to nothing."

On his recent visit to Salem General Wedemeyer of the sixth army command, was asked the direct question as to the adequacy of our Alaskan defenses. He reported that he had visited Alaska early last year, had flown all over the district and gave as his judgment that the defense provisions there were fairly adequate. They were minimal he admitted because of limits of money (and limits of ability of the country to pour out money for military purposes), and he stated further that bitter cold weather in Alaska made military operations and training very difficult.

Alaska is in an exposed position, the narrows of Bering strait being only a few miles wide. In enemy hands Alaska could be used as a base for bomber planes or for guided missiles, the targets being cities and industries from New York to San Francisco. After the experience of the army and navy in the last war when the Japs did gain a foothold in the Aleutians which was regained at heavy cost it seems inconceivable that plans for defense of Alaska have been neglected. We know that considerable expenditure has been made there during and since the war, that soldiers and airforce have had extensive training in high northern latitudes and that radar screens are in process of erection. It is a safe guess that even though troops in small numbers are kept stationed in Alaska the plan embraces air transport of whole divisions in event of trouble.

While Governor Gruening may feel that his district is unprotected, it might be well to examine enemy resources. The anticipated foe of course would be Russia, but that portion of Asian Russia opposite Alaska is quite as mountainous, bleak and forbidding as Alaska, with even less development. Not until one reaches Yakutsk in the Lena river valley is there any considerable development. No railroads penetrate the region. The Trans-Siberian railroad runs south of Lake Baikal. In short it is improbable that Russia has any base in Siberia adequate for staging an attack on Alaska which could be sustained against the forces which the United States could pour in.

The Japanese attack was water-borne, but Russia in Asia has no adequate navy to convoy a landing force and a supply line. The only suitable base would be Vladivostok which could quickly be blockaded by our own navy and airforce.

We want Alaska defended but are not ready to accept Governor Gruening's description of its impotence or assertion that a few airborne troops could capture and hold Alaska.

It may easily be that if war with Russia should come it would be fought over but not on Alaska. Fleets of aircraft cruising over the top of the world might come in combat. Long range bombers traveling the great circle route would overpass the Arctic seeking to drop their lethal cargo on richer targets. The importance of Alaska in this kind of war would be as base for radar screen and for interceptors. Our attack bombers would probably operate from bases in western Europe or North Africa or the Philippines.

'Special Interests' Menace to American Society

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 — If you are a bit bemused by all the bellowing about the "welfare state," it is a good idea to look into the present status of national farm policy. Here is where you can see how state economic planning may really work in America, simply because state planning has advanced further in this particular economic sector than in any other.

Because of federal farm support prices, a very high proportion of all the major crops of this country now pass through the hands of a government agency, the commodity credit corporation. The C. C. C. makes loans on, or purchases, or guarantees, or otherwise handles, everything from cotton and wheat to blue lupine seeds. It controls vast storage facilities, deals actively on the commodity exchanges, and offers farm products for export. Secretary of Agriculture Brannan has just asked that the C. C. C.'s capital be increased by \$2,000,000,000.

Nor does the government stop at subsidizing the farmers under the cover of the C. C. C.'s highly philanthropic banking and trading operation. The government is also empowered to exercise a considerable measure of control over the acreages of each crop that the farmers may plant.

The first thing you discover when you venture into this state area of national policy, is that this is the happy hunting ground

of special interests. Last year, for example, Secretary Brannan very nearly succeeded in getting an administration-approved farm bill through the senate. At the last minute, however, he was defeated by his great enemies, the American Farm Bureau federation, and the previous secretary of agriculture, now the strongest man on the senate agriculture committee, Sen. Clinton Anderson, of New Mexico.

How was this great defeat administered to Brannan? The answer is simple. The Brannan-approved bill did not offer support prices to tung nuts, honey and pulled wool. The senators from the honey, tung nuts and pulled wool states were easily made to see how vital it was for these commodities to be subsidized by the taxpayer. Honey, tung nuts and pulled wool went into Senator Anderson's bill. And Senator Anderson's bill passed instead of Secretary Brannan's.

Behind all the present clamor for and against the Brannan farm plan, the same sort of process operates on a much larger scale. The principles of the Brannan plan are very simple.

Instead of the present disguised subsidies, farmers are to be paid open subsidies in the form of "production payments," whenever crop prices fall too low. Instead of being stored, or even destroyed the subsidized farm products are to be sold on the open market for what they will bring, and eaten by the taxpayers. And because profits will thus be guaranteed to farmers, much more effective government controls are to be imposed on acreages planted.

It is not the purpose here to say whether the Brannan plan is or is not a good plan. What needs to be pointed out, rather, is the extreme hypocrisy that pervades the whole debate about this great issue.

The American Farm bureau,

for instance, bitterly denounces the plan as socialistic. But the farm bureau is led by Allan B. Kline, who was spotted for secretary of agriculture in the Dewey administration. The farm bureau is also controlled by large farmers. And one of the original Brannan plan's best features was a clause aimed at the present shocking situation, in which large farmers are given enormous annual presents by the American treasury.

When the potato support-price mess was at its worst, for instance, more than one "farmer" in Aroostook county, Maine, was getting above \$500,000 annually from the government for his factory-farmed crop. Such "farmers" made profits of \$250,000 a year or more. To end this nonsense, Brannan proposed to put a ceiling value of \$25,000 on the crops that would be eligible for subsidy from any one farm. This was socialism, and aroused natural indignation.

The other really impelling objection to the Brannan plan is the increase of government controls over farmers. But even the most conservative republicans in congress now accept the rule that are farmers must be guaranteed profits. If the farmers are to be guaranteed profits, but not controlled, the temptation will be irresistible to increase output until there is a hopeless glut of every crop, and the whole system collapses in chaos. In short, the Brannan plan is the essential price of guaranteed farm profits. And if controls are to be honestly attacked, subsidies must be attacked, too.

From all this a conclusion perhaps arises. The real danger of state planning in the American society lies less in the fallibility of the planners than in the power of special interests in the congress, and in the widespread belief that you can have your cake and eat it, too.

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Lace Panties Doesn't Make Girl Gorgeous

By Henry McLemore
DAYTONA BEACH, Fla., Jan. 30 — I am as romantic as the next fellow, and go for glamor like a hawk for a field mouse, but for the life of me I can't see what is so all-fired romantic or glamorous about the love affair between "Gorgeous Gussie" Moran, the tennis player, and Anthony Davenport, who is in trade in California.

The love affair of Rita and Aly packed romance and glamor, yes, as did that of Bobo and Winthrop. International figures were involved (especially in the case of Miss Hayworth), and enough money, palaces, yachts and jewels to bedazzle mere mortals.

But this cannot be said of the heart-throb business of Miss Moran and Mr. Davenport. True, their love blossomed in far away India, but one look at the population statistics of India and one realizes right away that love has been flourishing there for many, many centuries. Indeed, with the exception of China, India is the stronghold of love.

Mr. Davenport apparently is not a billionaire or even a millionaire. I have read of no reports that if and when he and Miss Moran are married they will sail to cinnamon-scented ports in a yacht as long as 100 lengths of garden hose, or that he will give her a platinum, ruby and diamond tennis racket for a wedding present. From published reports I gather that Mr. Davenport is a nice young Englishman making a living for himself in a foreign country, just as tens of thousands of young Englishmen are doing all over the world.

The chances are that when and if they are married the Davenports will live in a moderate house in the English section of California, suffer terribly from the heat in the summer save for a fortnight's respite in a hill station, and dance and swim and play cards at the English club. And if it is as hot in California as it was when I was there last they won't even do these things — they'll just sit around and fan one another.

As for Miss Moran being tagged "Gorgeous," I won't be so ungallant as to say she isn't but I will say that if she is, then the world is loaded down with gorgeous girls. She earned her sobriquet, if memory serves me, by wearing lace on her panties. Again, if that little item makes a gal gorgeous, then I'll bet you there are gorgeous girls right in your own block, right in your own house.

If lace on panties is sufficient cause to make a girl gorgeous, the lace counters of the world would do more business than United States Steel. They'd sell millions of yards of the flimsy stuff every day. I might even buy a yard or two myself. I would just as lief be called gorgeous as what I am.

It all boils down to this — if we insist on making every young girl engaged to a quiet, young girl who plays tennis and has lace on her panties gorgeous, and business man romantic, soon the highways and the byways, the streets and the avenues, and everywhere else, will be filled with girls swinging tennis rackets and wearing panties trimmed with lace. And such a situation, while it would be fine for the makers of tennis rackets and panties, would not be good for the nation.

(Distributed by McNaught Syndicate, Inc.)

The Safety Valve

To Hallic Hinges
To the Editor:
The Oregon Nightingale sings no more! With the world wrap-

GRIN AND BEAR IT



"Regardless of what the p.e.s has been saying, Senator . . . my tests prove that you CAN see farther than the end of your nose."

THE MAGIC CIRCLE



Hollywood on Parade

HOLLYWOOD—Olivia de Havilland won't talk about that second Oscar she'll receive this spring. (I make the prediction confidently on the basis of her work in "The Heiress." What other feminine starrng performance approaches it?) Instead, she talks about her baby.

He's Benjamin Briggs Goodrich, born September 27. He's chubby, affable, strong-willed and blue-eyed. Olivia thinks he'll be a justice of the United States Supreme Court. What! Not a picture-player like his mother—or a writer like his father?

"Let's pray that his career has nothing to do with art!" exclaimed Olivia's husband, Marcus Goodrich. "I don't want him to be a writer, actor, or painter. It's too hard a life if you're going to be a good one. If he's a hack painter, say, he might as well be a businessman."

The Goodriches live in a Spanish ranch house high up a winding road in fashionable Brentwood. Olivia was pretty in a short-sleeved, dusty-pink sweater and green quilted skirt. She poured tea from a silver pot swung on pivots.

"Just two questions," I said. "Where do you keep the old Oscar and where are you going to put the new one?" That pleased Olivia. She said her first Academy statuette, for "To Each His Own," was on the top shelf of a bookcase in an upstairs sitting room. The second one she'll surely receive? Olivia smiled. "Let's not talk about that."

She said, instead, that though Ben was born by Caesarean section, she started taking care of him when he was five days old. A "rooming-in" method at the hospital put mother and baby together as early as possible. Olivia could lean out of bed at the hospital, change Ben's diapers, and warm his bottle on an electric stove.

I asked Olivia's gray-templed husband whether winning one

golden in a winding sheet of snow—the Golden Voice is stilled! But that voice will burst forth in glory on the morning of the Resurrection — when the mists have rolled away!

Florence Matthes
Lake Labish

Oscar had made her easier or harder to live with. "Easier," he said. "She's a woman with an enormous number of frustrations. Also great determination. As she achieves her goals, she relaxes. She's no longer excited about the Academy award, though I'm sure she'd like to win another." He calls Olivia "Mrs. Goodrich" or "Mrs. G." Olivia said she has no more frustrations. Having a baby was one goal achieved. She wanted a boy. She wants one more boy and a girl.

Your Health

By Dr. Herman N. Bundensen

TROUBLESOME as it may seem now, it may well be that from here on out our greatest dividends from the atomic bomb will be medical. Already the knowledge gained in its discovery has enabled us to make many ordinary substances radio-active, a fact which has opened a whole new world to medicine. It is still a field which is largely unexplored. Some of these new substances have given remarkable results in the treatment of disease, but what other effects they may have on the body is still a matter of conjecture.

Valuable results have been obtained in the treatment of toxic goiter with radio-active iodine. This condition, which results from over activity of the thyroid gland, causes a general speeding up of all body processes, with increased sweating, rapid heart-beat, loss of strength, trembling, and nervousness. The gland itself is often enlarged and protrusion of the eyeballs may occur.

Of 26 patients without complications, who were treated with radio-active iodine, all but one were found to be well after a year. One patient had a recurrence of the condition but was cured after a second course of treatment with the radio-active iodine was given. The patients gained weight. The pulse rate returned to normal, trembling disappeared, and the thyroid gland decreased in size, usually with complete disappearance of the enlargement.

It was found that a period of three or four months was required to bring the patients' condition back to normal. One patient developed the symptoms of thyroid deficiency and, in three, the metabolism, or the rate at which the chemical activities go on in the body, was abnormal. However, within a period of two to four months, these untoward conditions disappeared.

This type of treatment for toxic goiter seems especially valuable. It is not dangerous when properly employed, and can be given while the patient is up and about. The cost is much less than that of surgery, and there have been no complications from the treatment.

However, the treatment does have certain disadvantages since the correct dosage is not definitely known; nor do we know what the ultimate effects of this new type of radiation will be. Furthermore, it requires some technical skill and specialized apparatus to administer the radio-active iodine properly.

This type of treatment should not be employed in patients who have what are known as nodular goiters.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
P. J.: What causes the hair to stop growing? My hair is brittle.
Answer: The cause of this condition is not known. It is possible that it may be due to a dietary deficiency or to some glandular disturbance.

Careful study by a skin specialist would seem advisable.
(Copyright, 1950, King Features)

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from Page One)

year at harvest time, unless bad weather should cut down the crops. Clearly we can't go on building granaries to house mounting surpluses. Henry Wallace's ever-normal granary would soon become abnormal.

The burden on the government may soon become oppressive — at an export price of \$1.80 a bushel the government takes a loss of 40 cents a bushel now. We just have to do a rethinking job on our farm program.

On any national policy we shall have to give more play to economic law and less to artificial support by drawing on the public treasury. The 1948 farm support law with its sliding scale of price support did that. By lowering price guarantees as farmers produced more and more wheat or other crops it discouraged over-production.

The Brannan plan continues the price support system for storable crops and so offers no solution to this wheat dilemma. Eventually the Brannan plan and the present price support law must lead to rigid controls which are offensive to our ideas of economic freedom.

The way to solve the problem of the wheat surplus is either to turn loose the law of supply and demand, or else to lower tariffs and import goods to balance our exports. Either solution is painful to large segments of the economy; probably neither will be adopted.

Literary Guidepost

By W. G. Rogers
I, MY ANCESTOR, by Nancy Wilson Ross (Random House; \$3.50)

Tom Stewart, in his mid-seventies, has retired to a small, man-size island on the Pacific Northwest coast, exchanging his family, his expertise as a radical, and his life of hard work for solitude, the companionship of the birds, and friendship with a neighboring backwoods couple, neighbor Lawrence and Clare. Tom fishes, cooks his meals, recites poetry, plays his violin, admires the Indians, and is in general a good stock philosopher, part cracker-barrel, part academic-grove, part yogi-swami.

His son Philip, eastern trip editor for Supreme Films, lives on New York's East 72nd Street in the style to which he has become accustomed by the Aunt Hetty who brought him up after father Tom had let him down. Philip has a wife, Ellen, and a daughter, Pamela. Ellen, deciding that he devotes too much time to the cocktail and late-party duties which, he claims, are part of his job, proposes a separation. Before they agree on this, he is injured by a burglar; in the hospital he has nightmares, flies off the handle, and finally learns from a psychiatrist that he is "soul-sick."

The cure for that, if anything, is the Pacific Northwest and a little rest with father. So we all go on an instructive trip, including stops at museums and vistas of reliable old mountains, lakes, Rainier and Hood, and get together on the island. Here Philip, the sophisticate, is back to nature, and he's expected to learn, from the inspiring examples of his father and Lawrence and with a little of the sort of help to be expected (in a novel) from Clare, how to recover his strength and pose so that he can return to

Acheson Tells Solons of Need For Korea Aid

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 — (AP)—Secretary of State Acheson told congress today it would be "most unfortunate" if the United States halted economic aid to the American-sponsored Republic of Korea.

The effect, he said, would be felt throughout southeast Asia. Testifying before the house foreign affairs committee, Acheson appealed for a reversal of the house's action in defeating a \$60,000,000 Korean aid bill. The measure was rebuffed in the house by a one-vote margin, 192 to 191, on January 19.

Committee Chairman Kee (D-W.Va.) said today that to expedite matters, Acheson approved a proposal to wrap up in one bill the \$60,000,000 Korean aid program and extension of the 1948 China aid act through fiscal 1950. Both programs expire Feb. 15.

Funds Remain
Approximately \$103,000,000 remains in unexpended funds from China aid grants.

Of that sum, Acheson said only a relatively small amount could be spent by June 30 — presumably for economic aid for Formosa, last-ditch island stronghold of Gen. Chiang Kai-shek's Chinese nationalist government.

Acheson testified only briefly in open session. Then Chairman Kee excluded press and public to question the cabinet member on controversial aspects of the administration's Far East policy.

Attack Formosa Policy
Republican critics have hotly attacked President Truman's refusal to grant military aid to the Chinese nationalists on Formosa.

In his public testimony, Acheson told the committee it is "a safe bet" that the young postwar Republic of Korea could hold out against anything except a "major attack" from the Russian-dominated northern half of the Korean peninsula.

He said Korea will need U. S. help for the next two years, but declared:

"After 1952, we hope Korea will be a self-supporting nation."

Chairman Kee said the closed-door discussion with Acheson was limited to "the present situation in China." He did not elaborate.

Kee said nobody mentioned the Alger Hiss case. Acheson's firm friendship for Hiss, after Hiss was convicted of lying about slipping state department secrets to ex-communist Whittaker Chambers, has prompted republicans demands for Acheson's resignation or ouster.

JERSEY CITY, N.J., (INS)—Here's a point of information for the impatient from Westinghouse elevator engineers: that second push on the call button doesn't do a thing to hasten the arrival of an elevator car. The first push-button signal will remain registered until a car reaches the floor.

Better English

By D. C. Williams

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "The woman with her three children were there."
2. What is the correct pronunciation of "finesse"?
3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Persevere, persuade, peruse, predatory?
4. What does the word "gullibility" mean?
5. What is a word beginning with M that means "splendor of surroundings?"

ANSWERS
1. Say, "was there." Woman is the singular subject. Children is the object of the preposition with. 2. Pronounce fi-ness, i as in it, e as in less, accent second syllable. 3. Persuade. 4. Readiness to believe on slight evidence. "Quackery has no friend like gullibility."—Proverb. 5. Magnificence.

Suprema and Ellen.
Even a healthy man would be troubled to decide who was teaching him what in this environment where Clara was weeping jags, and Lawrence can't stand on his own feet, and old Tom's widow seems Henry Georgian, and is summed up thus: "We must somehow find a way for all men to share the goods of the earth, and we must find a universal religion."

"Maybe I've learned something here," says Philip, but it seemed to me they were way off the track when I thankfully left them.

I, my ancestor, my eye, says I; Miss Ross flubbed this one badly.

Tonight 9:30
Favorite Story
with RONALD COLMAN

Hear Dana Andrews' Favorite Story—"Francesca Da Rimini"

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