

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Needed: Uniform Divorce Laws

When this page first commented several weeks ago on a series of Statepost article on divorce we said that publication of the grim and sordid facts of life after divorce (especially life for the ex-wife and the children involved) is a more effective deterrent from divorce than deploring the statistics or moralizing about the wickedness in mankind.

The Post report on divorce, based on interviews with hundreds of divorcees, presented ample evidence that divorce is not what it is sometimes supposed to be—an easy way to start life over. The articles dramatically portrayed the unhappiness, frustration, social and financial insecurity experienced by many divorced women. As for the youngsters whose lives are warped by divorce—who can gauge the price they pay for their parents' mistakes?

But the human interest angle doesn't tell the whole story. Publication of the grim and sordid facts about the legal tangle is just as vital. And in the concluding installment David G. Wittels explains why, as the American Bar association proclaimed, "Our divorce laws are a mess; they are rotten."

Present divorce laws derive from the false premise of guilt and punishment. The courts are supposed to decide who is guilty and the divorce is supposed to punish the guilty party. More often than not, the innocents suffer the most.

How can guilt be determined when 85 to 90 per cent of the cases are based on perjury—on the cover-all grounds of "cruelty" or "neglect" or on faked charges of adultery? Collusion—when a husband and wife agree to divorce—is illegal but it is present in a high percentage of the cases, according to estimates by judges.

Judges, lawyers and their clients ignore the spirit and often the letter of divorce laws, so why not chuck the whole batch and start over? This does not mean tightening divorce procedures; there's no point forcing two people who should never have married to continue making each other miserable. But new laws should provide every possible chance for reconciliation.

Today reconciliations are rare when one judge has to dispose of as many as 41 divorce suits in one day, or when couples can get mail order divorces without appearing in court or presenting evidence, or when divorce laws vary so widely from state to state that an individual's marital status remains uncertain.

To remedy this disgraceful situation, the ABA advocates a model code, uniform, to be adopted by each state separately. It is based on diagnosis and therapy for ailing marriages, and calls for integrated domestic relations courts whose aim would be reconciliation. Some judges believe all cases involving children should be contested, by the state, if necessary; that children should be represented as active parties at interest in the suit; that in infidelity cases children should have clear-cut statutory power to sue the correspondent who deprived them of father or mother. They suggest "cooling off" periods. And many believe a federal law is the best answer.

Whether by action of congress or the state legislatures, America's divorce laws should be overhauled. So should marriage laws. They are cause and effect, in many cases. Model codes have been set up but sometimes lawyers' lobbies have defeated bills to revise existing statutes. Often apathy is the real culprit preventing remedial action.

We can't afford to be apathetic about marriage and divorce problems because—trite but true—the family is still the basic unit of our society and the public has as much at stake in

London Embassy Eyed as Political Payoff Job

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop
WASHINGTON, Feb. 22 — James Bruce, a shrewd New York promoter, contributed handsomely to the Truman campaign fund before Nov. 2, 1948. He thus in effect bought Truman administration common stock when it was being quoted at close to zero.

Truman common has now appreciated so heavily that Mr. Bruce expects to exchange his block of shares for no less a commodity than the London embassy.

It is reported that this valuable property has already been knocked down to Mr. Bruce by the White House. Whether or not this is so, Mr. Bruce is certainly confident that the rich prize is within his grasp. Any number of people have been assured that he is to replace the present Ambassador, Lewis Douglas, within the next two or three months.

At the same time, Douglas was persuaded by the state department to remain in London at least throughout this year. Douglas himself would prefer to leave his post, for reasons of health and personal finances. But at this crucial turning-point in Anglo-American relations, the state department rightly considers the able Douglas's services indispensable. Douglas has therefore reluctantly agreed to stay on.

replaced by Bruce, it will be an event of the utmost significance in a whole series of ways. For one thing, the relations between this country and its most important ally have never been more strained. Douglas had made a brilliant success in London. Aside from campaign contributions, Bruce's only visible qualification for the post is his record as ambassador to Argentina, where he became cozily intimate with the tin-pot dictator Juan Peron and his flashy wife Evita.

To appoint Bruce to London could mean only that the administration did not take the Anglo-American alliance seriously. It would certainly weaken and might well dissolve, that alliance. Moreover, if Bruce is sent to London it will be only the beginning of a larger process. If campaign contributions are to be the major criterion for key appointments, men like James Bruce's able brother, David Bruce, ambassador in Paris, and James Dunn in Rome, are sure to be replaced by generous contributors of the stamp of Laurence Steinhardt and Stanton Griffis. Mrs. Perle Mesta makes something of a joke of the United States, as minister in Luxembourg, but otherwise she does no great harm. But a general Mestization of American representation abroad would be anything but a joke.

Yet the most important issue in the Bruce matter can be very simply defined. It is whether or not Secretary of State Dean Acheson is to be master in his own house.

There is no mystery about the identity of Bruce's chief administration sponsor. At the very beginning of his tenure of office, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson bluntly informed high state department officials that he and the president had agreed that "my man Jim Bruce" was to go to London. Acheson has never-

theless more than once succeeded happy homes as in honest municipal governments. Neither can be legislated because both are human institutions and subject to human frailties. Sensible and uniform marriage and divorce laws won't change human nature but they will help individuals make the best of it.

Patton is "Idea Man"

However one may disagree with President Jim Patton of the national farmers' union as to methods, his basic principle of full production and full employment are sound. That the way to an expanding economy. Restrictions by "plowing under," by enforcing quotas, however they may benefit a particular group, weaken the economy as a whole by the amount of goods and services that are curtailed.

Farmers, however, didn't start the cutback system. Business through monopolistic practices, labor organizations through restrictions and "feather-bedding," manufacturers through high tariffs were real pioneers in this field.

Patton calls for relaxing the barriers, going all out for production and encouraging world trade. Narrow nationalist policies, he feels, are wrong in this age of technological revolution. Colonialism as a means to find markets is outmoded. The United States and western Europe must accommodate themselves to the changes in conditions. By export of capital and of technical skills we can improve the living standards of backward peoples and help ourselves as we help them. He sees economic uplift as a real prevention of war.

His analysis of the world situation is quite accurate. The hitch comes in applying the cures. Capital export is not easy in an age of exchange freezing, expropriation and cries of imperialism. Tractors will not immediately lift production where peasants do not know how to use them and are unwilling to learn, or where tracts are too small for a machine to turn round in.

Patton has done a job in his visit in Salem in pointing directions. He is a real idea-man, stimulating thought; but he has drive, too, which impels to action.

End of the Run

Labor should commence to realize that the wage-increase express which has operated at high speed since the end of the war has come to the end of the run. The strikes aren't paying off well. Coal and Chrysler are in stalemate. The phoneworkers will have a hard time winning if they should strike.

With the cost of living starting to decline, labor gets an increase in real wages with every cut. That is what counts, not the number of dollars in the pay envelope.

Maybe the old engine will get up steam for fresh wage increases later on; but it's due for an overhaul now. Holding jobs now is more desirable than squeezing out a few cents more an hour.

Handicap

Reporting the announcement of Walter J. Pearson's candidacy for governor the Oregonian refers to Pearson as "an intimate friend" of the former governor, John H. Hall, and adds that Sen. Tom Mahoney has been active in promoting Pearson's candidacy for governor.

So that's the load that Walter has to carry in his campaign.

Harry Bridges calls Dave Beck, boss teamster a gangster. Both leaders are plenty tough and have made out with goon tactics, but neither one is a corruptionist.

in having the Bruce appointment deferred. If Johnson now has his way, the most important American diplomatic official abroad will in fact be responsive to Johnson rather than Acheson. Johnson will thus be on the way to becoming master in Acheson's foreign policy house.

The nature of the Johnson foreign policy is already clear. It consists essentially of gaseous bluster about "licking Joe Stalin," overlaid on a business-as-usual "economy" program which is sapping the sinews of American strength. This kind of policy can have only one ultimate result—the shattering of the western federation against Soviet expansion.

There is a striking historical parallel for the situation in which Acheson now finds himself. In April, 1937, when it was already clear that Nazi military power was rapidly surpassing the strength of the Western allies, Sir Neville Henderson was sent to Berlin by Neville Chamberlain and Sir Horace Wilson. Over the ineffective protests of British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, Henderson was given the mission of appeasing Hitler, in the hope that Chamberlain might be allowed to continue his business-as-usual policy.

For almost a year Eden remained at foreign secretary, in elegant impotence, no longer really master in his own house, lending a surface air of respectability to an already intolerable situation. Then came Munich, and in March, 1948, when disaster had already irreparably occurred, Eden resigned.

Fortunately, it is unlikely that Acheson will make Eden's choice. For Acheson clearly means to be secretary of state in fact as well as in name. Moreover, whenever Acheson has stood firm against Johnson in the past, President Truman has supported him in the end.

THE FACTS OF LIFE ACCORDING TO ACHESON



Army Genius Will Crop Out in the Pinches

By Henry McLemore
DAYTONA BEACH, Fla., Feb. 22 — You could have knocked me over with a second lieutenant's dignity when I read the statement by Maj. Gen. Clovis E. Byers that the army is worried because it is running out of geniuses.

I wonder if General Byers was referring to the United States Army. I wonder because when I was in the army not so many years ago every enlisted man I knew was a genius in one line or another.

I was even a genius myself. I hadn't been in the army more than two weeks before I discovered that if I didn't want to spend so much time on KP that I would begin to look like a potato I would have to figure out a way to keep from having to make up my cot every morning. I simply could not do it quickly enough and efficiently enough to suit the sergeant.

So, I had to become a genius at getting into a properly made up cot, sleeping in it all night, and getting out of it without disturbing its symmetry. A buddy would help me slue in under the tent covers, and I would sleep all night, rigid as a mummy. The same friend would ease me out in the morning by pulling on my head and neck. I got to be such a genius at this that I had to make up my bed but once a week, for a change of sheets and mattress cover.

Then there was the khaki acquaintance of mine who was a genius at stealing books of passes from the company orderly room and signing the captain's name to it. He got so good at signing the captain's real signature began to look like a forgery. It was a bad

night for him when he couldn't get at least 30 of us in to Macon from Camp Wheeler.

There was also that truly great genius on Bougainville who could make a superb brandy, a brandy that could hold up its head with the great ones of France, out of nothing but oatmeal, a few raisins, water from Empress Augusta Bay, and privacy from the pecking eyes of officers. This man had been an interior decorator in private life, but once his country became endangered and summoned him to become a brandy maker his latent genius rose to the surface like a salmon after a fly.

I mustn't overlook another genius—a full private, who borrowed an old camera and in his spare time tramped all over Leyte taking pictures of supply officers after telling them that he was with the Signal Corps and the pictures were for nationwide distribution back home. He never mentioned the fact that he didn't have a bit of film, and thus was able to work the vain officers for enough clothing and food to open a store.

There was genius shown, too, by the officers when the enlisted Wacs came to Manila. Bars, leaves, eagles, and stars, even, were yanked off as the officers posed as enlisted men to get dates.

Don't worry, General Byers. If another war comes, genius will pop out where you least expect it. (McNaught Syndicate, Inc.)

GRIN AND BEAR IT



IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page one.) station, that might be pretty but it still would be a commercial use which the state authorities frown on. Either we are going to keep faith with the state or we are not.

At the press conference in Eugene last week Oregon editors adopted a resolution giving general approval of the capitol commission's plan. Previously they had shown their interest in the way they protested erection of the Coates apartment house in the area marked for capitol extension. This shows the concern of the people in the rest of the state over protection of the state capitol area, for the papers are the mouthpieces of the people in the several communities. The people feel that this is their state capitol. They want it to be one of rare beauty, realizing the opportunity which the state has for developing an attractive and dignified capitol group. Salem cannot afford to offend the rest of the state by breaking the zone restrictions established for the capitol fringe in the manner proposed.

When Willie Comes Marching Home" is a solidly delightful comedy about a small-town war hero. First to enlist, he's heaped with civic praise at a big blow-out. Then he's assigned to his home-town base. As the war years drag on, he can't get overseas to prove his heroism. His

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TAX TIPS

THE TABLE tells you your tax on short Form 1040-A if you are permitted to use it. Business and work travel expenses can cut the amount of your tax.



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GRIN AND BEAR IT



Your Health

Written by Dr. Herman N. Sundesen

More than one factor is responsible for the ulcers or large sores which so frequently develop on the legs of middle-aged or elderly people. Often, there are several. Basically, all work in pretty much the same way. By causing persistent edema or a collection of fluid in the tissues of the legs, they set the stage for the development of an ulcer.

Thus, swelling of the leg is a danger signal. If the edema can be reduced and the swelling checked, the formation of ulcers can be prevented in most cases. Conditions which promote the development of ulcers include the formation of a blood clot, together with inflammation of the vein, varicose or dilated veins, overweight, injuries, or infections of either a local or general nature.

Leg ulcers most often develop in the area around the ankle because the tissues here have less vitality than those in other parts of the leg.

Cuts and bruises heal more slowly and swelling remains for a longer period of time in overweight persons who have an injury or infection. In these patients, rest in bed, with the leg elevated, may be important in preventing further difficulties. Thrombophlebitis, in which a blood clot is formed inside an inflamed vein, may develop after operations or after the delivery of a baby. After childbirth it is frequently called milk-leg. Often, it may be prevented by giving substances, such as dicoumarin, which slows down the coagulation of the blood, by having the person exercise while in bed, and by getting him out of bed as soon as possible.

If an ulcer occurs, the pain may be relieved or healing prompted by applying a paste made of dried red blood cells, or by using gentian violet, penicillin, or similar substances.

An ulcer which persists for a long period of time may require surgical treatment followed by a skin graft. Varicose veins, if present, must be properly treated, either by injection or surgery. If a person with this condition is overweight, he must be put on a carefully-planned reducing diet, and his weight brought to normal.

There are various disorders which may interfere with the circulation in the legs, such as liver disease, toxic goiter, tumors, diabetes, hardening of the arteries, anemia, and syphilis. Hence it is important in patients with ulcer of the leg that a thorough study be made to determine whether or not any of these disorders are present so that they may be promptly treated.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
M. W.: My husband and I both have poor vision. What chances would our children have of having normal vision?
Answer: I know of no evidence that poor eyesight is hereditary. It is impossible to state just what chances your children would have of not requiring glasses.

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Hollywood on Parade

HOLLYWOOD—Shelley Winters has been acclaimed in some quarters as the new Jean Harlow. It pains me to dissent, for I like to see young people get ahead. But in "South Sea Sinner," I'm afraid, Shelley is hardly sexier than a Sunday school teacher telling the story of Adam and Eve. She's just louder and hip-swingier.

Harlow gave subtlety to sex. So does Betty Grable, another whom the professional praisers like to mention in the same breath with Shelley. Miss Winters is about as subtle as a folies burlesque queen. She does have a naughty-little-girl cuteness about her at times. Especially when whipping over lines like this one, speaking of herself: "She's been on more laps than a napkin."

From the title you can guess most of the fixtures in "South Sea Sinner": palms, hot sunlight, cool moonlight, screeching birds, thatched roofs, and curtains of strung beads. There's the thickly accented villain (Luther Adler) in a white suit. There's the shaggyhaired dilettante pianist dreaming of his past glories in Carnegie hall. Playing this part in a night-club piano whiz who goes by the single name of Libera and looks too young to be living down much of a past. His limp recital of dialogue is as hard to hear as his ivory-thumping is pleasing.

He accompanies Shelley, who sings and dances in slit skirts, bare midriffs, and skimpy blouses. The pouty-lipped floozie lives a drifter (Macdonald Carey), who's mixed up in an obscure plot about wartime rubber dealings with the Japanese.

"When Willie Comes Marching Home" is a solidly delightful comedy about a small-town war hero. First to enlist, he's heaped with civic praise at a big blow-out. Then he's assigned to his home-town base. As the war years drag on, he can't get overseas to prove his heroism. His

parents, the neighbors, and even a dog begin to sneer at him. When his chance does come, it's a few swift, incredible, drunken hours with the French underground, nobody at home believes his hair-raising story.

Dan Dailey as the hero, Colleen Townsend as his sweetheart, William Demarest as his dad, and Corinne Calvet as an underground leader all make this one a treat.

Better English

By D. C. Williams
1. What is wrong with this sentence? "At length they returned."
2. What is the correct pronunciation of "respite"?
3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Diameter, diaphragm, diagnose, detrimental.
4. What does the word "bilingual" mean?
5. What is a word beginning with tu that means "great unrest, or disturbance"?

ANSWERS
1. Say, "at last they returned."
2. Pronounce res-pit, e as in rest, i as in pit, accent first syllable.
3. Diaphragm.
4. Recorded or expressed in two languages; speaking two languages. "It is a bilingual dictionary."
5. Turbulence.

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