

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"

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Liars, Personal and Political

"When it comes to utterances by government people about government policies and purposes, nobody believes anybody any more. We don't regard these people as personal liars. We just shrug our shoulders and say to ourselves that they are feeding us some more of the old razmatatz. . . . We have come to accept such things as part of the techniques of modern politics. In these days, men aren't expected to be sincere in their purely political utterances. I think that is bad business."—Frank Jenkins, editor of Klamath Falls Herald and News.

Indeed, it is bad business—bad intrinsically, bad on the part of the perpetrators of lies, bad on the part of the public which shrugs its shoulders and accepts rather than resents "the old razmatatz."

What brought on Jenkins' comment was Presidential Press Secretary Charles G. Ross' denial that John Foster Dulles had been appointed to the state department. The first Associated Press reports of the appointment (published in The Statesman) were accurate, but they were denied. Later, the truth came out.

This sort of thing has happened so often that little weight can be given to official statements. Two years ago, for instance, there were newspaper reports that Stalin had made secret overtures for a meeting with Truman. This was strongly denied by Washington. So Stalin made his play public and made U.S. officials look like the liars they were.

Just recently there were press reports that U.S. military secrets are going to be kept from onetime communist apologist, British War Minister John Strachey. Our military denies the reports, but what are we to believe? Authoritative sources say that the U.S. navy is building a secret weapon which looks somewhat like the flying saucers people have been seeing. All officialdom, from Truman on down, issues categorical denials? What are we to think?

We can be sure of one thing: The vicious philosophy of pragmatism is weakening the old traditional American concepts of government and politics. The idea of truth as a handy utility is not a new technique of modern politics, of course. That's why pharisaism, Machiavellism and jesuitism are all synonyms for falsehood. Authoritarian governments and dictatorships like Hitler's, Mussolini's, Peron's, Franco's and Stalin's have always practiced expediency, have always subordinated moral principle for the sake of facilitating an end.

But in the United States the idea that truth is not absolute and independent, that truth is relative, did not have much support until William James and John Dewey drew attention to their pragmatic theories during the past 50 years. Now, it seems that the pragmatic definition of truth is accepted by our government! Most anything is true so long as it is practical, so long as it accomplishes the desired results; most anything is good so long as it is suitable to the end in view.

Thus deception, perjury, distortion of facts, duplicity, casuistry, any kind of flim-flam and humbug and "the old razmatatz" come to be tolerated as useful and effective political techniques. The presumption is that the government can fool most of the people most of the time.

Vienna, Spy Center of Europe, Also Top Market Place for Soviet Purchases of Western Goods

By Joseph Alsop
VIENNA, Austria—Beneath the exquisite baroque surface of this old city, there are some strange goings on. Vienna is the great spy center of post-war Europe. The rival intelligence services even conduct private wars with one another. Bad feeling between the Yugoslavs and satellite powers, for instance, is said to be the cause of the somewhat startling recent appearance of a whole crop of mine bodies in the Danube.

What is considerably more important, Vienna is also the main entrepot for trade between the Soviet empire and western Europe. A good deal of this trade is of course carried on directly, especially when there are advantages in this method. An order of 100,000 tons of steel rails for red China has recently been used, for example, to turn the great German industrialists in the Duesseidorf against the western allies, and to woo their support for Soviet-connected German rightist parties.

Yet here in Vienna is Intrac, the vast new trading agency just set up to represent the Soviet Union and all its European satellites, with a view to gaining a stranglehold on the half-secret commerce between east and west. Here in Vienna is where Soviet or satellite agents chiefly come to obtain whatever is forbidden to export to Russia through chains of third and fourth and fifth parties from Switzerland or Belgium or France or elsewhere. Here in Vienna, in short, is the best place to get a line on the progress of Soviet rearmament.

The data available here, it must be added, are far from reassuring. On the one hand, there is nothing about the Soviet trading activities in Vienna to suggest the existence of the desperate shortages of special equipment and mechanisms that have always been expected to slow the completion of the Soviet war machine. On the other hand, there is everything to suggest that the level and intensity of production

of weapons beyond the iron curtain even surpasses what was seen during the last war. The positive evidence is particularly disconcerting. As every one knows who is familiar with the pattern of European armaments production, the two great Soviet prizes in the satellite states were the Skoda works in Czechoslovakia and the Manfred Weiss works in Hungary. At the end of the war, production at both Skoda and Manfred Weiss had collapsed. Skoda suffered the additional blow of the expulsion from Czechoslovakia of a large part of its Sudeten-German skilled labor force.

Now, on the contrary, production at Skoda has reached war-time levels. At the Manfred Weiss works, where the pre-war labor force was 16,000 men, nearly three times that number, or 45,000 men, are now working around the clock. Many kinds of weapons from bazookas to cannons, are being produced. These two great plants are now being operated by the Kremlin as hard as Hitler ever worked them. Meanwhile expansion continues. Skoda recently purchased in Austria the steel frames for six huge new factory buildings.

This information, which is what the intelligence services would classify as IA, fits perfectly, moreover, with the more fragmentary data available in Germany. There, on the one hand, the Duesseidorf leaders, who still go regularly to the Soviet zone, will tell you that the East German industries received over 500,000 tons of steel—and steel of high quality too—from the Soviet Union in the past year.

These same German business leaders also forecast that the westward shipment of steel from Russia should reach 1,000,000 tons next year, thus indirectly supporting reports from other sources of important Soviet successes in expanding home steel output. In the same line are other German reports of large production of improved V-2's and other guided missiles in East German factories.

To this positive evidence of a powerful and effective Soviet war production effort, must also be added the negative evidence.

The sharp eyes in Vienna—and these eyes are very sharp indeed, able to watch almost every eastward shipment of all kinds of goods—have caught no sign that the Soviet re-armament effort is afflicted by more than the normal bottlenecks.

There is great demand for, and heavy purchasing of certain bulk commodities—scrap iron, rubber, cotton yarn and wool, for instance. In the past year, no major instance has been observed, however, of any Soviet attempt to buy any of the special equipment standing at the very top of the European Cooperation Administration's list of forbidden exports.

Vienna is the first place the Soviet agents would come for ball bearings, radar equipment, servo mechanisms and other such vital contraptions, if the lack of these was a serious problem in Russia. By devious methods, these supposed scarcity items can actually be secured here. But there is no effort to secure them. The implication is that the Soviets are now perfectly able to copy even the most difficult items from purchased patent drawings or stolen designs, or have achieved production of their own designs, perhaps with the help of satellite engineers.

This is a dark picture. No one in his senses can suppose that the Kremlin can be conducting a war production effort going beyond Hitler's, and at the same time cherishing perfectly peaceful intentions. The worst of it is, we have not so very much time left, to face and act upon these hard facts which our leaders, in their Baldwin-like way, are trying to bamboozle us about.

Smart for Her Age
My three-year-old daughter takes very great pride in putting on shoes without help on the side.
She loosens the laces and puts her foot in.
And pulls the heel kneecap in touching her chin.
She struggles and finally with happy sob
She gets her left foot put into her right shoe.
—J.W.S.

BETTER! LET HIM, FOR THERE ARE THOSE WHO WILL



Amid the general mild confusion resulting when daylight saving time goes into effect April 30, Marion county courthouse will once again stand out as a rock of solid turmoil. Firstly, while other clocks in city run on DST ancient instrument atop courthouse will show standard time. Elevator and county court will run on ST. This means that County Judge Grant Murphy will be going out for mid-morning coffee about time that other office workers are thinking of lunch.



Because time clocks which stamp date and time on filed legal instruments move on ST, county clerk's office will remain open extra hour with skelton crew to accommodate jurors and attorneys, will probably switch to fast time. Sheriff's staff will have to be careful not to arrest anyone before he officially commits crime.

No plans approved yet for proposed new Marion county health center . . . voters are asked to authorize \$50,000 for new unit . . . if keked construction set to start January, 1951 . . . Officials estimate 6,000 square feet needed . . . County has priority on site near Salem General hospital.

George Moorhead, local paper mill superintendent, had right comeback at Toastmaster's club function when he was complimented on both his speaking and his recent marriage. "Well," quipped George, "there comes a time when any good Toastmaster needs an audience."

Information to file with that old parka, whale harpoon and piece of blubber gum . . . among useful items army taught St. Gordon Kirsch of Stayton, while on duty in Alaska, was method of catching seals . . . Kirsch, recently home on leave, says seal-smatchers work in two-man teams . . . one breaks hole in ice and watches . . . partner starts beating on ice nearby . . . when curious seal (thinking it is census taker) pops head out of hole . . . bang! . . . alert hole-watcher grabs him faster than you can say—"seven slippery seals sneaked slyly seaward."

Not all landlords are men who evict tenants in sub-zero weather, burn down orphanages or bite their renters' apostrophe children. One local proprietor not long ago lowered his already-low rents, gave tenants Christmas trees and, upon return from a Canadian trip, a few extra snorts of good rye.

State officials hurrying to get into new office building before possible telephone tie-up this month . . . If Secy. State Earl Newbry returns this week, board of control may take session Friday . . . if so, offices will be moving into new building over the week end.

GRIN AND BEAR IT by Lichty



Oh, the usual things that happen to every child . . . shadowed by secret police when I was 5 . . . sent to Siberia at 7 . . . took part in the counter-revolution when I was . . .

Bosox, Bums Get Henry's Nod in Majors

By Henry McLemore
One of the unwritten rules of the Baseball Writers' Association of America is that to hold their candid members must make public their selections in both the American and National leagues not later than a week after the season opens.

The word "public" is the joker in the deck. Judging by the scarcity of experts who came up with the winners each year, it might not be a bad idea to change the unwritten rule and make it okay for members to announce their selections in the privacy of their boudoirs, or send them in in ketchup bottles, or include them in their wills.

Truth is, there isn't any way to select accurately the major league winners, the runners-up, and so on down the line until one pulls up at Washington and the Cubs. A fellow can tear himself away from New York in the winter, make the miserable trip to Florida, California and Arizona with the ball clubs, and still come up empty-handed. Insofar as knowing how the teams will behave when they get out of the citrus circuit and start playing for keeps.

During my years as a baseball writer I must have worn out half the shady spots in Florida quizzing everyone from managers to batboy, yet I don't recall having picked the major league winners but one year—and that was the year I refused to tear myself away from the enchanting slush and cold of New York to undergo the rigors of a tropic climate with the ball players.

And I didn't pick the winners that year, if I must be honest. It was done for me by one of the loveliest ladies in the United States, and one of the great authorities on baseball.

The lady is Miss Ethel Barrymore, and if you don't think she knows her baseball just talk about it with her sometime. I am quite sure she could manage a club better than some of the managers I have known.

I tried to reach Miss Barrymore by telephone yesterday, but couldn't locate her. For some reason or other I have found that collect calls to California go through much slower than the other kind. Maybe it's my imagination, but it seems that way, anyhow.

Not being able to reach Miss Barrymore, I suppose I'll have to make my own selection. It's a shame to do this to a bunch of nice family newspapers, but I don't see any way out. In the American league I like Boston. I like Boston because it seems to me that it is about time Manager Joe McCarthy had a good year. His team has been having good years right along, but not Marse Joe. I figure his number will come due in 1950. You can't keep a good Irishman down forever.

In the National league, or loop, I lean toward Brooklyn. Lean all the way against them, in fact. My preference here is based on the fact that Brooklyn has the best baseball team in the loop, or league, and about as far away from the pennant, or gonfalon, or bunting. I would like to be able to choose St. Louis over the Brooks, if only because Mr. Rickey heads the Brooks, and too many of the Cards have reached the age where they are just around the corner from being fitted for hearing aids and con-

People often ask me if the body actually forms real stones. In other words, are gallstones and kidney stones similar to stones found in nature? The answer is "yes." Kidney stones, for instance, are hard masses made up of such chemicals as calcium or lime, magnesium, phosphates, and urates.

It is interesting to note that persons in certain areas of the United States seem to be more likely to have kidney stones than those in others. For example, in Florida, Southern California, and the Great Lakes area, kidney stones are more frequently reported.

Men seem to have the trouble more often than women. The condition does not seem to run in families.

The exact cause of the forming of kidney stones is not known. However, there are some things which contribute to their formation. An upset in the way in which the body uses certain substances, called purines, which are found particularly in such foods as sweetbreads and liver, may lead to the development of uric acid salts. This seems to be the same kind of upset which is responsible for the development of gout.

A tumor of the parathyroid glands, located in the neck behind the thyroid glands, may also be a factor in the stone formation.

The lack of certain elements

press matters to make them a good risk.

As for who finishes second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth in the leagues, who cares.

You say you do? Okay, go ahead and pick the other finishers then. (McNaught Syndicate, Inc.)

Ways In Washington

By Jane Eads
WASHINGTON—(AP)—Dr. Hugh Hammond Bennett, internationally-famed conservationist, says the United States "undoubtedly holds the world's record for waste." Chief of the Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service, he says we have allowed erosion to ruin around 100,000,000 acres of former-

land for any immediate practical cultivation. We have followed this up with moderate to serious damage on a second 100,000,000 acres, he adds.

But what plagues him personally is that most of us have gotten into the habit of burning or throwing away everything for which we find no immediate use. Many odd items of wood so commonly find their way to the scrap heap can be used, he says. He showed how recently in a small display of his collection of wood products. Here such common and plentiful woods as sumac, boxelder, willow and even the detested mesquite of Texas had been used for distinctive pieces of furniture and other articles.

One is an exquisite, small table that W. H. Lathrop, of the Soil Conservation Service, made for him in his spare time. The top is made from a burl taken from boxelder, a wood that usually is considered worthless—not even good enough for firewood. This table has the luster and mottling of fine marble. Dr. Bennett also has some goblets and casks made from farm waste pieces; a willow table with wild cherry center, the top bordered with lilac; stools of ginkgo, sumac, paw paw, buckeye; a coffee table from river birch; items from black locust from Thomas Jefferson's farm in Albemarle County, Va., and chestnut from Jefferson's father's farm; bowls and boxes of Texas mesquite.

Dr. Bennett got interested in making things out of woods that are thrown away about three years ago. He got some of his boys to pick up the various kinds of woods and send them in to him. Some with workshops made the pieces he now has. He hopes the idea will catch on, but he says "we are probably going to have to do a lot of educating in order to get anywhere with the development of any national habits of thrift" in the sense he means.

Dr. Bennett first came to the Department of Agriculture in 1903, in what was then known as the Bureau of Soils. Sixty-nine this month (April), he says he was born "down on Tobacco Road, never saw a republican" until he was 14, and he still "can't pronounce the letter r."

Better English

By D. C. Williams
1. Wat is wrong with this sentence? "We find it to be a positive fact that he lives in the western portion of the county."

2. What is the correct pronunciation of "connoisseur"?

3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Pareorgic, gymnastic, Antarctic, Pyrrhic.

4. What does the word "sycophant" mean?

5. What is a word beginning with ar that means "disposition; adjustment"?

ANSWERS
1. Say, "We find it to be a (omit positive) fact that he lives in the western part of the county." Pronounce kon-i-sur, e as in on, i as in it, u as in fur, principal accent on last syllable.
2. Antarctic. 4. A servile flatterer; parasite. (Pronounce first syllable sick). "Gentleness" which belongs to virtue, is to be carefully distinguished from the fawning assent of sycophants.—Blair, 8. Arrangement

AZALEA GROWER

DAPHNE, Ala. (INS)—John W. Moreland, Jr., is helping the American flower fancier by putting on the market an azalea plant that costs less than the average pack of cigarettes. Moreland, owner of the Spanish Fort Nursery, near Daphne, got the idea to raise azalea plants while in the army during the last war. He not only sells his plants through his retail shop and by mail order, but often tours Alabama selling the plants to home owners who appreciate the beauty of the azalea blossom.

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