

The Oregon Statesman

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

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

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Published every morning, business office 215 S. 4th class matter under act of congress March 3, 1879. Entered at the postoffice at Salem, Oregon, as second class, Salem, Oregon, Telephone 2-2441.

The Post's Commission

Recently the Washington Post, one of the country's enlightened newspapers, ran a lengthy editorial reviewing the national situation and arriving at the recommendation of a commission to study and report on the state of our national security: The alleged communist infiltration, civilian defense, military budgets, new weapons.

President Truman in his Thursday press conference rejected the idea (which some members of congress had rushed to endorse). He said he was trying to run the government under the constitution and didn't think a super-government was needed.

This time President Truman is correct. The constitution is still alive and the government is functioning. For him to name a commission as recommended would imply a confession of his own failure and incapacity to handle the situation. It would imply his own lack of confidence in the state department which has been under primary attack, and would be a direct slap at the senate committee which is conducting the current inquiry into the McCarthy charges.

There is no real national crisis over our internal security. What there is is chiefly a manufactured confusion, created for personal political purposes. The Alger Hiss case has unsettled the public mind. Building on this, Senator McCarthy has with violent, exaggerated and repetitious charges further confused the public. In considerable degree this doubt and confusion are welcome. Folk are inclined to believe what they want to believe. The professional red-baiters and anti-administration people feed greedily on the McCarthy accusations. It is just the stuff they want.

Such folk would not be satisfied with the finding of a commission that communistic influence in our government is minimal. They would turn to lap up the next bucket of prejudice offered them.

In this current agitation we need to maintain a frame of reference on time and place. The Alger Hiss case relates to a period of a dozen years ago, at a time when the new deal was still yeasty and young radicals wanted to make over America. Other instances of alleged "pro-Russian sympathies" relate to the war period when Russia was rated as a strongly ally, when all of us worried over the fate of Stalingrad. Then communism had been degraded into a popular front program and the west was eager to have Russia join in the war against Japan.

Since then the climate has changed. Communist yeast has soured. Russia is rated an implacable foe. We even fumble around for fresh alliance with late enemies to foil Russian aggression. Loyalty boards screen all employees to keep out any communists.

This confusion will pass. McCarthy's failure to prove any of his charges is helping to clear the air. He has injured the state department in its vital work both by diverting its energies from tasks of great moment and in impairing public confidence in it. In the end truth will prevail; and on the showing thus far McCarthy and truth are far apart.

During the civil war there were many who questioned the way the war was being run. There were proposals then about commissions and such. President Lincoln tactfully but firmly turned them down. He was wise as the event showed. In the present cold war we have a commander and he has a staff. They are loyal. Though Truman may not be a great leader he is thoroughly American. As he faces grave world problems he deserves for himself and for his

staff loyal support of the people, qualified as always in a democratic society by retention of the right of criticism of public policies, based on facts and logic.

Fontana Ships Steel Pipe East

While the Kaiser-Frazer corporation gets most of the publicity and is having a tough struggle in the highly competitive automotive field, other Kaiser enterprises are burgeoning and operating at fancy profits. Permanent Cement, Kaiser aluminum plants, and Fontana Steel are all very prosperous industries. Henry Kaiser's original stake was made in construction contracting and his construction organization is handling big contracts, including the Detroit dam.

Fontana Steel breaks into the news again with its sale of 255,000 tons of steel pipe to an eastern gas transmission company. The pipe will be laid to carry natural gas from Texas to Illinois. The contract runs to \$35,000,000. The plate will be rolled at the Fontana works east of Los Angeles and shipped to Napa for fabrication.

This is a reversal of the normal flow of steel. From the beginning of settlement on this coast, steel has moved west from the eastern or mid-western mills. Colorado was for a long time the nearest place where steel was made on any large scale. Came the war and Kaiser built Fontana, and the government built the big steel works at Geneva, Utah, now owned by U. S. Steel. Kaiser financed his enterprise with an RFC loan. Lately he bought the Utah Fuel company to insure his supply of coal.

Geneva and Fontana have greatly reduced western dependence on eastern steel. Other companies to compete have to meet the local prices. In the present strong market prices are high, and that doubtless enables Fontana to sell pipe for midwestern delivery. The presence of these two big mills in the west greatly strengthens western economy, insuring a nearby source of steel and giving some relief from the burden of high transportation charges from the great steel manufacturing centers. Henry Kaiser deserves a great deal of credit for his adventurous spirit. The recent difficulties of his automobile undertaking should not obscure his conspicuous success in other fields.

Award of a contract for piers on the new bridge to West Salem means a definite start on a great needed additional crossing of the Willamette. Let us hope that it will not take as long to complete this bridge as it has the one at Independence.

The Berlin youth putsch will fizzle as far as making any real threat to west Berlin is concerned. Russia isn't disposed to start any real trouble. If it had been it would have done so two years ago when the airlift got started. Their bark is still a lot worse than their bite.

We are getting into the second anniversary of the Vanport flood of Memorial day, 1950. Conditions are quite similar on the Columbia save that dikes have been strengthened, the people are alerted; and nature seems to be a bit kinder in regulating the flow of water she is sending down this drain.

Judith Coplon, convicted of doing spy work for Russia, is marrying her attorney. Anyway, she won when she lost.

Next Few Months Expected to Show Just What Strength Lies Behind the President's Smile

By Stewart Alsop

WASHINGTON, May 27.—He smiles all the time. If you attend one of the President's weekly press conferences, that is likely to be the first thing you notice about this natty, sharp-faced, ruddy-complexioned man, who carries such an appalling load of responsibility. With some people it requires a conscious effort to smile. With President Truman it apparently requires a conscious effort not to smile.

Most of the questions are pretty trivial, and when they are being asked or answered, the president's grin never for a moment leaves his face. Then there is a serious question—about defense, perhaps, or Trygve Life's peace mission—and one can almost sense Truman saying to himself, "This is serious. I must look solemn," as the grin is slowly erased.

The smile is perhaps in part a nervous reaction. Even while he is smiling, you notice if you are near enough, the president is apt to open and shut his left hand in a tense, repeated motion. Yet the constant smile does certainly express something real in the man, whether it is mere cockiness, or an irrational euphoria, or a healthy confidence, of native optimism.

As you look at him, it is hard to believe that this smiling man, with his neat, four-pointed silk handkerchief in his breast pocket and his cheerful face, so astonishingly like the faces of so many

Americans, is what he is. For here is a man who carries as heavy a load of responsibility as any president has ever carried. During no other presidency, after all, has an aggressive and ruthless potential enemy been capable of inflicting mortal wounds on the United States itself.

Yet Harry Truman smiles on. What lies behind the smile? A man of courage and stature, or an amiable politician, catapulted by a series of incredible accidents into the presidency? By the end of this year, it should be possible to answer this question with some assurance. The reason is simple. President Truman is now confronted with a hard, clear-cut choice. The National Security council is even now wrestling with this choice, but it is Truman who must take the final responsibility for any decision. The choice is between a real effort to place the Atlantic community as a whole in a posture of defense, or half-measures and business-as-usual.

Here are some of the uncheerful facts of which the smiling president must be aware. The best estimates are that some time between 1952 and 1954 the Soviet Union should be capable of a surprise atomic strike which would kill between 25 and 40 per cent of the American war potential. Moreover, unless the present effort of the Atlantic pact defense effort is decisively augmented, the Red army will at the same time be capable of overrunning Western Europe and neutralizing Great Britain.

The Soviet Union is far less vulnerable to atomic bombing than the United States. The men in the Kremlin believe that war is sooner or later inevitable. Under the circumstances outlined above, the Soviets could hope to gain their ends by the mere

threat of war, or failing that, to win a war if war came.

The jaunty president must be aware of these facts. He must further be aware that his best experts do not believe that this situation need ever arise. For these experts believe that a determined effort will make it possible to deny Western Europe to the Red army by the time the Soviets have a decisive atomic stockpile. Moreover, the experts believe that in this case the Soviet leaders could not risk war, simply because they would know they could not win it. If Soviet communications could be cut while the Red army was still fighting, the offensive capabilities of the Red army could be quite quickly undermined.

Yet President Truman has also undoubtedly been studying the estimates of the experts on the scope of the effort required to make the defense of Western Europe a real thing instead of the sham it now is. The cost of this country alone—and this assumes a major effort by the Europeans—would probably run to between \$2,500,000,000 and \$3,000,000,000 over a period of several years. At the same time, the military strength of the United States would have to be decisively increased.

This would mean continued high taxes, continued deficits, battles with Congressional isolationists, the abandonment of costly domestic projects, even possible repudiation by the congress or at the polls. It is an old, familiar choice, which must be often in the mind of the president as he smiles so cheerfully. Others can advise. But only he can make the choice. So we should soon know what lies behind the smile.

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CELESTIAL MANIFESTATIONS



IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

the stuff to the dump. Day after day, week after week, month after month; and at 45 nothing ahead for 20 years but emptying garbage buckets in his truck and driving out to the dump. Who wouldn't rebel at the chore and the obscurity?

Perhaps Sidney was something of a cutup, something of a card when the men gathered at the pub for a pot of ale, come night-fall. Perhaps he was the town jester who saw a chance to break into brief if perilous fame. Perhaps his cronies in the taproom put him up to it. "What a laugh, you'll make, Sid, when you trail the queen and mock her postures."

It was the old Nick in him, that's sure, the very devil himself finding escape, whether done by premeditation or on the spur of the moment. In Debington everyone knew him, of course, knew it was Sidney Cooper, the garbage hauler, who lived with a parcel of children in the alley off Cheshire street. And what a laugh he did create from the groundlings and the youngsters; and what a scolding did he get from the ladies and gentlemen who lived on the hill! Such impertinence, such audacity, such a disgrace to Debington. Why, Her Majesty will never come this way again.

Now Sidney cries in his ale at the pub; no unemployment benefits. And what a scolding he gets from the old lady at home, "You with your smartalecky tricks, you with your cheap ridicule of the queen. Now what are we going to do? How will we pay the rent, come first of the week? How will we pay for a bucket of coal or food for our eight children?"

Scorn, after all, is shortlived. Pity has greater endurance. No sooner had the town council confirmed the discharge of the luckless garbage truck driver and satisfied the wounded pride of the villagers than the springs of charity started to flow. "Poor Sidney, he meant no 'arm. And there's his poor family; what will they do? Get 'im his job back or they'll all be on the town. Let's ask the queen to forgive, then the town council may forget."

And the right of petition, sacred to all Englishmen, was again invoked in behalf of the discharged Sidney. As for Sidney, he now awaits the favor and the mercy of the queen. He and his wife may rejoice, however, that he lives in the 20th and not in the 16th century when another Queen Elizabeth reigned. In that day his punishment would have been more severe. When the queen's one-time favorite, the Earl of Essex, overstepped himself, the queen signed his death warrant. Sidney, at least, is sure of his head, if not of his job.

Deceptive Reception

An adult's hearing varies with the distance the sound carries. But with children such a process isn't true.

Their hearing apparatus always varies with the status of what it is they're being asked to do.

—J.W.S.

The Safety Valve

Favors Reduction In Amusement Tax

To the Editor:

Lately when my family and I attend the Salem theatres we see an announcement on the screen that we are paying 20 per cent federal excise tax on our theatre admission.

Also, in the theatre lobbies are small petitions for patrons of the theatre to sign, and which are to be sent on to Congressman Norblad in Washington, D.C. Now it appears to me that the only way this country is ever going to get back in good, sound financial shape is to stop over-spending and over-taxing. A 20 per cent tax on a working man for an evening's amusement in a theatre is simply going too far.

And I, for one, am certainly going to write Congressman Norblad to express my views on this vicious and unfair tax.

I would like to know if the Statesman has received any statement from Congressman Norblad in which he sets forth his views on this subject. Is he for the repeal of this tax, or is he going to support it?

Ben E. Wengler
Rt. 3, Box 223
Salem

Editors Note—The Statesman has no information on Congressman Norblad's views on the excise tax.

Comes the Dawn

A trip now to the Detroit dam site is worth anyone's time ... located just 49 miles from Salem up the North Santiam river ... in what is fast becoming the resort area of the Willamette valley ... even the kids will enjoy the outing ... lots of places along the road to eat, to picnic and take little Mike or Margie in to wash their hands.



The road now is good ... close to elevation where the 1,580-foot mass of concrete and steel will soon go up the highway rises in easy sweeping curves ... here the road of watered macadam (and a little dusty on dry days), broad and as smooth as pavement ... lots of view points where the road hangs onto a cliff-side hundreds of feet above the canyon river.

At the exact site of the main dam you can get out of your car, stretch your muscles, and view the most breath-taking panorama in the state (or on the west coast—or, if you're patriotic, in the nation) ... you can see where crews have denuded the mountain sides of their tree-covering where the huge reservoir will be ... the canyon basin winds back away from your sight ... straight and far below the diversion tunnel is routing the river around the work area ... to you the workmen down there look like ants.

Straight across the canyon, higher than you, even on a mountain top they are preparing a rock quarry ... you can see where the rocks will come down the mountain side ... carried across a smaller canyon on an endless conveyor belt and then dumped into huge bins ... then to the crushers.

Pouring of concrete for the 463-foot high, 335-foot wide dam is expected to begin in the latter part of June ... already workers and their families are flocking in seeking work ... only a small portion of them will be hired—even when the work is in full swing ... this will be partially averted by circulating cold water through cooling coils in basal section of dam.

Now you can pile back into the car and keep going up the road ... on top of the world, you can look out far over the mountain ranges ... some still snow covered (residents there say the weather is "a month late this year") ... at Tumble creek you see off to right Mt. Jefferson rising from surrounding hills like a mound of ice cream ... pretty soon you are at Detroit and back on the old highway.

From there, after a big pow-wow with family, you can turn around and head back ... or you can continue on up the "pride of Oregon" highway past Marion Forks and Big Meadow to junction with South Santiam highway ... then on back down through more rugged Oregon scenery through Cascadia, Sweet Home, Lebanon to Albany ... and then home to Salem or other points ... in plenty of time to mow the lawn before dark.

Atomic Plant Strike Laid to Union Politics

OAK RIDGE, Tenn., May 27.—(P)—Informed sources in the AFL laborers union said tonight that intra-union politics had spurred the wildcat walkout that halted government construction here. And the banning of the scheduled June 1 election in the laborers' local by the union's international president may pave the way to

complete settlement, these sources said. The union leaders withheld use of their names.

With work on \$250,000,000 in projects halted by AFL worker groups, union officials at all levels have ordered and pleaded with members to return to their jobs.

The walkout was touched off last Wednesday by some 700 members of laborers' local 818, at that time reportedly disgruntled by failure of an arbitration hearing the previous day to hand down an immediate decision in a wage controversy. The arbitration was arranged by the atomic energy labor relations panel, headed by William H. Davis of New York.

Pave the Way for Golden Memories

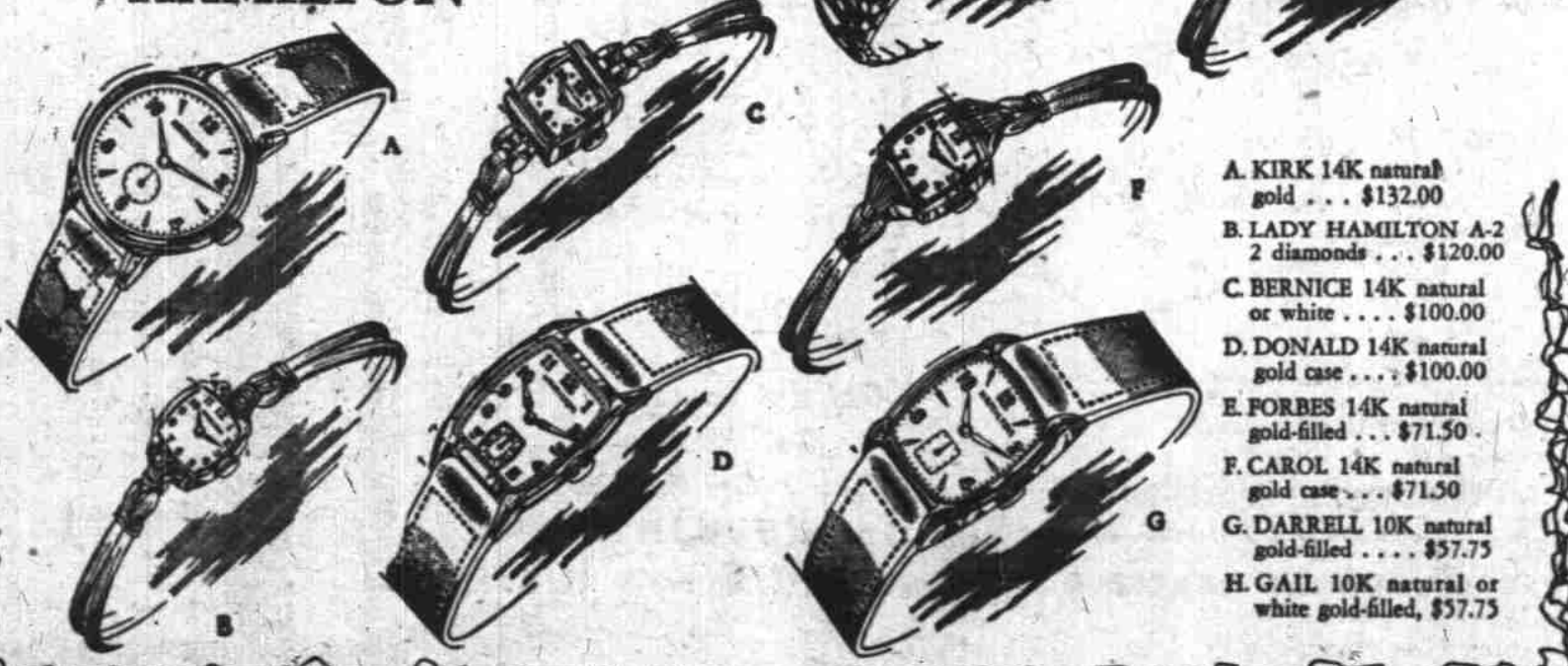
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