

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"

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New Light on War and Peace

Sometimes the light by which we see more clearly comes from unexpected sources.

The great and powerful nations are not the source of all wisdom nor the exclusive producers of great statesmen. In a superbly logical statement made before UN, Dr. Charles Malik, delegate from Lebanon, sheds much illumination on the paramount question of war and peace.

Here is a man from a little republic under the shadow of the hammer and sickle, speaking courageously and objectively to both East and West, pointing out the virtues and vices of each and pointing a way to peace. (One of the important services of United Nations is that it provides a forum where the thoughts of great minds from small nations can shine before all the world, not even hidden under the bushels of propaganda from some of the louder delegates.)

Dr. Malik seeks to dispel the confusion generated by that propaganda by considering the question of war and peace in the light of the original well-springs of communism; the writings of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin. These show that the lip-service to peace paid by latter-day party-liners is, in reality, "a tragic joke . . . a tactical war-device determined by circumstances."

The century-old communist ideology determines the course of communist action, and its fundamental thesis is that war, class-struggle and revolution, are inevitable and must be hastened by every communist. Forcible overthrow of the existing order and violent seizure of power are the orthodox means to the communist end—a materialistic, atheistic, classless society in which the individual exists to serve the state and has value only as a unit for the production of material goods. Malik credits the communists with a genuine passion for social and economic justice and for positive enduring achievements in Russia, but these do not balance their disbelief in objective truth, in freedom of inquiry, in individual worth and freedom.

These latter values are the tradition of the West but in the West, also, they are being overwhelmed by excessive materialism, a general weakening of the moral fiber, emphasis on quantity instead of quality, a tragic dearth of great leaders and a bankruptcy of fundamental ideas.

We must hope and pray the communists will abandon their doctrine of revolution, will allow intercourse between East and West, will have a real change of heart, Dr. Malik continues. But to ask communism to change its nature, without satisfying the need to which it is a response, is to offer the world not bread but a stone, he warns.

"Politically the West will not serve the cause of peace by allying itself with dark regimes just because it is more expedient not to disturb them," he says. Nor is it sufficient in this crucial century to be happy and self-sufficient. Nor does it do merely to reject communism. East and West, are engaged in war right now, and to achieve peace, Malik exhorts the West:

"You must step forth and lead . . . Man thirsts after ideas. If the habits and institutions of the West are not adapted for the production of a ringing message, full of content and truth, satisfying the mind, appealing to the heart, firing the will, a message on which one can stake his whole life, then in the present world in which there is, perhaps as never before, a universal hunger for truth and justice and in which the West cannot lead . . . If the western world can show a way to eradicate the shame and scandal of poverty, of exploitation, of oppression, of greed, without resort to social revolution and class struggle and dictatorship; if it can place these material values in their proper

subordinate place within the context of a mighty spiritual movement, then the necessity for communism will vanish and the spectre which now walks the earth will be laid forever."

This powerful appeal by Dr. Malik was made last November. In the five months since then the thoughts expressed in his statement and held and spread by other men of his stature must have been heard. For it seems to us that the recent speeches by such as Secretary of State Acheson and some of the recent actions by the U.S. congress and government reflect those thoughts. At first faltering and now with more confidence, the West, led by the United States, is undertaking the leadership thrust upon it by the threat of communist-inspired war; and peace, therefore, is still possible.

School Election Friday

On Friday a school election will be held on the question of exceeding the six per cent limitation for the operation of our schools in the next fiscal year. We have been voting an extra levy for a number of years now and the need increases rather than diminishes.

The budget committee has labored to keep the extra request within limits so that the millage levy will not be increased. The Statesman urges voters to cast their ballots in favor of the proposal. They should note that more voting places have been set up and go to the one in which their precinct is grouped. (See map in last Monday's paper).

This election is not to be confused with one set for June 19th when a director is to be elected and two proposals submitted for funds for capital outlay (new buildings), a special tax levy and a bond issue.

Don't overlook the Friday election to authorize funds to take care of the current budget.

To our reference to Ashland as a "staid old town," Robert Edwards of the Ashland Tidings comes back with a punch that shows there's life in the old berg yet! Why Ashland, he says, estimates (where have we heard that word before?) that its population has grown 75 per cent in the last decade (to 39.3 per cent for Salem). Besides straightening out its city political mess, citizens voted a half million dollar bond issue to improve the water system and another half million for better schools. Sawmills humming, pear trees thriving, peaches and tomatoes more than locally famed, and Southern Oregon College of Education booming along—why, Ashland is top of the heap, says the Tidings man. That's fine! We bet, though, Ashland doesn't have a marble service station.

Judging by Tuesday's experience patriotic holidays should be held in the middle of the week and not on week ends as is advocated by those who want long (and perhaps "lost") week ends. For the observance of Memorial Day Tuesday drew more for the parade and more for spectators and listeners to the program than in many a year. It is altogether too easy for citizens to skip the holidays especially if they come at week ends and leave the ceremonials to a few committees. But these days are for all the people and the public exercises merit general attendance. Those who took part Tuesday should be complimented for the fine program they presented, one which well befitted the capital of the state.

One of the recent films in which Elizabeth Taylor was a star is "Father of the Bride." Her newest release is "The Big Hangover." . . . Wonder if that is the result of all that champagne at the wedding?

Civil Defense of America Declared in Need of Public Airing; Fear of Hysteria Held Nonsense

By Stewart Alsop
Behind Locked Doors: II
WASHINGTON, May 31—No one paid much attention to an announcement which emanated recently from Moscow, to the effect that the five-year plan for the dispersion of Soviet industry is four-fifths completed. Russian five-year plans are very old stuff by now. But this particular announcement was not without interest. For the Soviet dispersion plan is primarily intended sharply to reduce Soviet vulnerability to atomic attack.

Put this fact together with another fact—that whether or not war is probable, war is certainly possible. A rather obvious question then springs to mind. What is the United States doing to reduce American vulnerability to atomic attack?

After all, the Soviets do have the atom bomb, and the means of delivering nuclear weapons to American targets. Therefore, the answer to the question above should be of interest, perhaps especially to the inhabitants of the eleven "unstable" cities, considered prime targets for atomic attack—Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Chicago, St. Louis and Los Angeles.

The answer to the question appears to be very simple—"Nothing."

An important civil defense plan was, to be sure, filed with the atomic energy commission about a year ago, but the A.E.C. has refused to release it. Rather lethargic hearings have been held before the joint committee on atomic energy. The national

security resources board, which is being brought back from the dead by its new chief, Stuart Symington, has promised plans in the future. Yet the word "nothing" accurately describes what has actually been done to reduce American vulnerability to an atomic strike.

All the experts who have really studied the problem of civil defense in an atomic war have reached the same conclusion (with which the Soviet experts apparently agree). This is that dispersion of population and industries, so that no one bomb can have decisively crippling effect, is the only real answer to atomic bombardment.

It is true that very deep shelters might be useful. It is interesting, for example, that a number of Japanese were in an ordinary concrete shelter almost directly below the explosion point of the Hiroshima bomb. These Japanese survived, while others, unprotected, died a mile or more from the center of the blast.

Yet all estimates of the cost of any serious dispersion program are astronomical. To transform every American city into the civil defense expert's ideal—the dispersed "strip city"—would mean changing the whole face of America, and this is of course silly. A less ambitious program, designed to subsidize and encourage the already existing tendency towards decentralization of industry, has been put forward by some of the experts.

This would gradually but effectively decrease American vulnerability over a period of years.

Yet one reason why no such program is now being seriously considered can be found in a single sentence in a recent article by Dr. Ralph Lapp, nuclear physicist and civil defense expert: "Any real civil defense program will require an organization comparable in authority and in annual budget appropriations to the national military establishment." In other words, a real program would cost around \$14,000,000,000 a year. Another reason may be found in this question: "Is Senator Brien McMahon of Connecticut going to sponsor a program to encourage the aircraft industry to leave Hartford?"

It is for such reasons that the authorities concerned have apparently abandoned the idea of any serious civil defense program, as economically and politically impractical. But such decisions, which may most intimately affect the lives of a great many people, simply cannot be taken behind locked doors. The whole question of civil defense should be debated as a great national issue, rather than shrouded in secrecy and shoved under the rug.

Some officials are certainly worried about public hysteria if the real facts are brought out. But this is nonsense. European civilian populations have lived for years under the shadow of sudden enemy attack. Although it is a new experience for them, Americans are presumably capable of living under the same shadow. The shadow will only really begin to hang heavy, moreover, if the Western world is allowed to grow so weak that the Soviets will conclude that they can win a war if they start one. And it is darkness, not light (however harsh the light) which leads to unreasoning fear.



IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

running as a republican; and this year had the support of the regular republican organization in North Dakota. The Non-Partisan league flourished for a number of years, though it never spread far from its native North Dakota. Organizers did enter the northwest, but farmers out here hesitated to punge up the \$18 a year levied as membership dues. It still functions in North Dakota but now exists largely as a political grouping within the republican party. The North Dakota experiments had pretty hard going, especially on their money lending. The state bank and state flour mill are still running, but the adventure in state ownership of industries has been halted. The regular republican organization pretty well dominates state politics, and the league has lost control of most of its state and local offices and their patronage. It gave a scare to private business for a good many years, but is no longer a threat to the economic order, even in North Dakota which is now both prosperous and conservative, though the seed of radicalism is no doubt still in the soil there. Lemke was one of the last of the old leaders of the Non-Partisan league, though I believe ex-Senator Frazier is still living in retirement in North Dakota. Townley, the founder, died a number of years ago. Lemke's passing revives memories of one of the bitterest political conflicts in the history of any western state.

Better English

By D. C. Williams

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "We made fifty dollars over and above expenses."
2. What is the correct pronunciation of "venal"?
3. Which one of these words

GRIN AND BEAR IT

by Lichty



Literary Guidepost

By W. G. Rogers
A SUMMER IN ITALY, by Sean O'Faolain (Devip-Adair; \$3.50).

The trip on which this Irish author reports, was made less than two years ago, so we may assume that the Italy he visited, and loved, and questioned, was much the same country, inhabited by the same people, that American tourists will see this season. O'Faolain's interests, as we might expect of a writer, were not so much political and economic as cultural and humane, and also, for he's a Catholic, religious. He talked with the people rather than their leaders; in Rome, for instance, he ponders on the whereabouts of Peter's remains, and he is gratified to meet an aged guide who "took his Catholicism as mildly and naturally as breathing," but one distant look at the Quirinal is enough. He does not travel, he wanders, to Turin, in and out of Genoa and down the Ligurian shore a way, cuts inland at Lucca, goes on to Florence, Siena and, after Rome, to Venice, where a first visit "unseats the reason," and to Verona. He goes to the fairs, watches a horse race, looks at churches and paintings, admires the sky, deplores the heat, talks to other foreigners and natives. "I am merely a man traveling for pleasure. Pay no heed to me whenever I seem to forget." Yet he does forget, and for all his conviction that a man should feast his eyes and park his mind at home, he cannot help reflecting on the failure of the present to live up to the magnificent past, and he does not satisfy his own doubts about whether it is one nation, and too proud, too rich in tradition, too wasteful of its finest qualities. When he goes again, he vows he will not think at all.

is misspelled? Engrosser, oppressor, carouser, conspirator.
4. What does the word "vesture" mean?
In what is a word beginning with "in" that means "to make afraid?"
1. Say, "We earned fifty dollars more than expenses." 2. Pronounce venal, as in we a un-stressed. 3. Oppressor. 4. Dress; apparel. "Nature's vesture is something always to appreciate." 5. Intimidate.

"I shall demand an investigation of hawking in my district . . . I understand they're betting two-to-one I won't be re-elected . . ."

To My Aunt On National Doughnut Day

By Henry McLemore
DAYTONA BEACH, Fla., May 31— I have not always told the truth. There have been times when I haven't been as honest as the rules and regulations governing human conduct call for.

Truth is, if I had been George Washington and my poppa had asked me who cut down the cherry tree, I undoubtedly would have said, "I don't know," or placed the blame on the little scamp who lived next door in Mt. Vernon.

But today I'm going to tell you something that I saw a short time ago with my own eyes, despite the fact that you are certain to say I am making it up. Here is what I saw:

A greeting card which read: "To My Sister-in-law on Mother's Day." Read that just once more, and tell me what this country is coming to when a card like that can sell. And it must sell, or otherwise greeting card publishers wouldn't print such cards.

I have been a collector of greeting cards for years because to me they represent one of the most laughable phases of American life. They also represent unbelievable ingenuity, gall, and an understanding of American gullibility by the publishers of these cards. My greeting card collection numbers in the thousands and I am quite sure that no more than half a dozen of them, with the exception of Christmas cards, make much more sense than a vest with sleeves.

My collection includes cards which say this: "To Grandmother on Arbor Day," "To My Aunt on National Doughnut Day," "To the One I Love on the Fourth of July," "Best Wishes for a Speedy Recovery During Dark Glasses Week."

Speaking of "Dark Glasses Week," there is really such a thing coming up. It is some time late in June, and I was tempted to cancel my trip abroad

in order to be here and help celebrate. It didn't seem right to leave this country during what is sure to prove seven of the silliest days of all time. I imagine I'm right when I assume that "Dark Glasses Week" was originated by manufacturers of dark glasses, and that the aim of it is to get every man, woman, child, dog, cat, muskrat and all other two- and four-footed creatures to wear dark glasses. I also imagine that the sponsors of this amazing week would jump with joy if everyone wore dark glasses not only during the day, but at night, also. I am not a particularly easy man to amuse, but I do believe I'd get a great laugh, after I had brushed my teeth, put on my pajamas, and said my prayers, to slip on my dark glasses and hit the sack. And the thought of millions of other people, stretched out in their beds, all wearing dark glasses to guard against the glare of midnight, would increase my merriment to the point where I might possibly violate the sacred "Dark Glasses Week" by shaking them off my face.

Greeting cards that are ridiculous, and weeks that are hand-running companions in silliness, do not annoy me or make me doubt the sanity of this country. As a matter of fact, such nonsense heightens my faith in what I like to call The Republic.

The world is head-over-heels in gloom, and if any country has the right to be gloomy it's this one. But is it gloomy? No. The man who writes those greeting cards which read, "To My Sister-in-law on Mother's Day" undoubtedly has enough problems to gray his hair. But what does he do—he carries on and writes greeting cards like that.

This is the time when any other country except this one would put on a "Rose-Colored Glasses Week," if it were going to put on any eyeglass week. The last choice would be "Dark Glasses Week." But not the U. S. A. This is a happy and confident country, largely populated by happy, confident people, aged who can fuss at that state of affairs.

No. 1. (Distributed by McNaught Syndicate, Inc.)

Construction workers on the steel framework of a skyscraper wear metal helmets similar to those of the first World War to protect themselves from a possible misthrown hot rivet or other injury.

the new
KUPPENHEIMER GABARDOE
is a 3-season suit

This superlative doeskin gabardine tailors with beautiful smoothness and suppleness, draping in figure-flattering lines that owe much to Kuppenheimer's longer, lower, looser, loungier styling. This distinguished fabric is particularly effective in the new Clay Colors. You'll endorse the "Easter Parade" look a Kuppenheimer Gabardoe gives you—yet you'll always find it a completely practical suit for all-purpose wear.

to make it a Kuppenheimer Convertible:
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