

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"

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## The "Peace Petition" Again

The Statesman was quick to warn Salem residents to be wary of signing the so-called "Stockholm resolution" or "world peace appeal" petitions against use of the atomic bomb which are being circulated here and elsewhere around the world. Later the house un-American affairs committee issued its warning that signers of the petition may find themselves liable to black-mail.

It now appears that the "peace petition" has official Washington genuinely worried. In fact, "extremely disturbed," according to Joseph Harsch, Washington bureau chief of the Christian Science Monitor. The petition has shaken the basic estimate of Russian intentions harder than any one other thing, he says. It indicates to our military planners that Moscow is thinking in terms of a general war. Harsch continues:

"The purpose of the resolution is to attempt to obtain mass public disapproval of the use of atomic weapons, in which the U. S. still has a considerable advantage. If the Moscow propaganda maneuver should succeed, the balance of military power in the world would be tilted sharply in favor of the Soviet Union (because) the Russian army would (then) dominate the power pattern of the world."

The United States has no army to match the Red army, no tanks to match the 1000 tanks per month the Russians are producing, no fleet of submarines equal to the communist U-boats. All we have to counterbalance the military might Russia has been building up for the past five years is our stockpile of atomic bombs. The communist-sponsored petition to outlaw the atomic bombs—a petition already signed by some 100 individuals in this area—tries to disarm the U.S. of our only military advantage over our enemies.

According to the communist argument, it is perfectly all right for Russian satellites like the North Koreans to attack a peace-loving neighbor, but it would be horrible for the U.S. to consider using atomic weapons to halt aggression. Concludes Harsch: "If this specious argument were to become current in world public opinion, there, literally would be no security for any western country."

## A "Must" for Ice Harbor?

President Truman interjected himself into the northwest power dam picture with a recommendation as a "must" an appropriation for starting work on Ice Harbor dam on Snake river above Pasco. He also recommended an appropriation for Albeni Falls dam in Idaho near the Washington line at Newport. There is no protest against the latter, but there is against the Ice Harbor dam. Commercial fishing interests have a strong case against pressing its construction.

The series of four dams on the lower Snake were originally part of a scheme to improve the river for navigation to Lewiston, Idaho. But the benefits from navigation will never justify this cost. Now the project is urged for power development in spite of the fact that Detroit and McNary dams are building and Chief Joseph dam "on the line" for early construction. These should provide a power surplus for the northwest for a number of years.

Inland interests now try to justify the dam by tying in 250,000 acres of land for irrigation. This is a late discovery. In view of farm surpluses it would seem wiser to wait until the million acres in the Columbia basin project are in profitable production before crowding the market with land and with farm products.

The Oregonian queries if the "must" of the president isn't a lateral pass to Sen. Magnuson who faces reelection this fall and has been sponsoring Ice Harbor. That may be, but from this stance so far it hasn't appeared that Magnuson was in such a desperate fix.

Congress should keep Ice Harbor on ice indefinitely.

## Wallace Breaks with Party

Over the weekend came the statement from Henry Wallace declaring his support for the action of the United States and the United Nations with regard to Korea. At the same time it was reported that leaders of the progressive party disagreed with him and were preparing a statement of their position. None has been forthcoming yet.

Surely if the heads of the party do not concur in the Wallace statement and instead either condone Korea or are weasel-worded that will be proof positive that they are fellow-travelers or party-line puppets.

As for Wallace the opposite is true. His statement proves that he is not a creature of the com-

munist party—and if he ever was a prisoner of the party he broke out of jail.

## Proof, Please

The Albany Democrat-Herald starts an editorial with this paragraph:

It is almost inconceivable that the state department of a nation so great as the United States could have been so greatly in error and ignorance as were Secretary of State Dean Acheson and his staff, who reported not more than a few days before the Korean outbreak that all was well with us in Asia.

We must ask the generally factual D-H to document this statement, for we have no recollection that either State or Defense reported that "all was well" in Asia. Surprised both were at the North Korean invasion, but no such appraisal of the Asian situation was made by the state department.

Secretary Acheson's policy has been one of "total diplomacy" building up resistance to Russian communism rather than appeasement. At no time has he indulged in any Pollyanna assurances that "all was well" with the world.

We invite the Democrat-Herald to bring in the evidence to back up its statement—if it can.

His Imperial Highness Prince Otto Wilhelm von Hohenzollern picked a lock with a can-opener and took off into the night in a white nightshirt early this week. Mendocino (California) state hospital attendants are still looking for His Highness. They don't really think he is the heir to the German throne, and immigration authorities irreverently describe the dashing young man as a commoner who entered the country illegally. San Francisco police know him as one who takes lightly the laws against larceny of automobiles. But Prince Otto insists that if the U.S. doesn't treat him with the respect to which he wants to become accustomed, he'll accept a Russian invitation to set up his kingdom in East Germany!

The free play pinball machines are so easily just a blind that the district attorney, E. O. Stadler, does the practical thing in ordering them out of the county. You can't station a policeman over every pinball machine and when an officer isn't looking (and sometimes when he is) the proprietor can reward the lucky player. The DA was merely catching up with reality.

Except in the vicinity of Willamette slough mosquitoes haven't thrived very well around here. We have a few of course but they aren't as numerous or quite as bloodthirsty as those which swarm in less fortunate regions. Nevertheless we're glad to have control efforts carried out to kill them off and spare residents of the mosquito nuisance.

All horseplayers die broke, they say. In London, one John Rowan, known to all the book-makers as Britain's "gambler of the century," phoned a hotel valet to ask, "Will you come along to my room in 20 minutes? I want you to untie something for me." They found Rowan—a man who had won and lost thousands on the ponies—hanging from a hook. He had bet his last 70 cents on a horse. It lost.

The northwest is fast getting into petroleum processing. Standard of California has an asphalt plant at Portland and Union Oil has announced plans to establish a similar plant at Edmonds, Wash., just north of Seattle. General Petroleum a few weeks ago said it would locate a refinery around Portland. But still there is no commercial producing oil well in Oregon, Washington or Idaho. The crude or the heavy oils will have to be imported.

Marguerite Higgins, Herald-Tribune correspondent ordered back from Korea under escort, protests her ejection, asserting it is because she is a woman. She surely has a case, for doesn't the UN charter denounce discrimination on the ground of sex as well as race and color? And isn't this a UN police action?

News of interest for those who may need to get back into uniform: the old K ration is gone. In its place the army has a new "and tastier" assault food packet. Improvement does come to rations. Who would fight today on the hard-tack and bacon of civil war days?

The figure coming down the road looks rather familiar—his gait, the way he swings his arms,—could that be the profiteer coming back FOR the wars?

## Tough Korean Problem Not Being Permitted To Obscure Country's Global Responsibility

By J. M. Roberts, Jr.

Advance reports on the increased defenses for which President Truman will ask congress today indicate that the government is not letting the situation in Korea obscure the country's newly acquired global responsibilities.

One of the worst things that could happen would be to let emphasis on Korea, pressing as it may be, create a vacuum in either the physical defenses of or the mental attitude toward western Europe and other potential danger spots.

The United States is hoping that, by her show of determination in Korea, Russia will be deterred from other expansionist adventures which might lead to a general war. It is expected to

work because Russia is not believed to be ready for war.

But history is replete with cases where rising international resistance has caused aggressors to cast the die ahead of their intended schedules. Failure to be alert to this alternative would be disastrous.

There is no indication that Russia plans any direct move herself at this time. If I were forced to bet now as to where the next outbreak will be, if any, I would pick Indochina, where Russia could act once more through satellites (the Chinese communists).

There is no indication that Germany is ready for the "civil war" type of thing by which Stalinist Leninism traditionally expects to accomplish its world conquest. There is some nervousness in allied circles, however, because of a blackout has fallen recently over their sources of information behind the iron curtain. Fears have developed which were not present when it was

possible to see that Russia was not organizing anything like the striking force which would be needed for an attack on western Europe.

It is also recognized that the trouble the United States is having in "getting set" in Korea might encourage a nervous aggressor to believe in the possibility of quick coup elsewhere. Or that something might happen if the U. S. becomes over-committed in the Pacific. It is considered quite possible that Russia is planning to cause just that. That is why Mr. Truman may seem to be asking for more than anyone would normally expect to be needed for Korea alone.

The mask has been torn from communist intentions, and naked aggression has become an open weapon of their policy. It would be foolish to expect anything except additional trouble. General war may not be inevitable, and quite possibly it is not imminent. But to me history shows as few signs as ever of changing its long, warlike course.

## WILL HE RELEASE IT?



## Henry Better Learn More About Money

By Henry McElmore  
LUXEMBOURG — When I got off the train at Luxembourg today I was so hungry that I was of a mind to tear out to Madam Minister Perle Mesta's, yell, "I'm an American citizen!" and demand a plate or two of the left-overs from her last party.

The fact that I staggered off the train near a famished stem-med from a misunderstanding of my part of international currency, and not because there wasn't any food on the train in which I travelled from Brussels. Indeed, it was loaded with food of all sorts, and it was the sight of other passengers tearing into the viands that drove me half crazy.

We left Brussels early in the morning and decided to have breakfast on the train, figuring it would help pass the time. We were in a combination sleeper-diner and Jean was just about to order a whopping breakfast when my eye roamed over the choice of foods and the price list opposite them.

"Whoa, gal!" I shouted. "We aren't having any breakfast on this train. This must be the American Suckers Special." I showed her the price list.

For a smidgen of orange juice, one scrambled egg, two strips of bacon, bread, butter, jam and tea, the tariff was 500 francs.

"That can't possibly be right," Jean said. "A Belgian franc is worth two cents American and that would make that breakfast cost ten dollars."

We figured there wasn't another train in the world which had nerve enough to charge ten bucks for a skimpy breakfast.

So we tightened our belts and watched with growing hunger and amazement as people throughout the car ate breakfast. When one man ordered a double orange juice and an omelette I figured I had better interview him. He was undoubtedly the Aga Khan travelling in disguise.

When, a few hours later, these same people started ordering

## Comes the Dawn

Local merchants say there are definite instances of hoarding of food and merchandise in Salem... they point out that over-buying of items now is foolish because no shortages are in sight... because of a recent heavy run on items which were scarce in the last war, grocery and store shelves have been depleted... but soon as factory deliveries catch up with demand stocks will be up again.

One local food merchant said he was certain some people were carting off excessive amounts of sugar, coffee and shortening... one farmer, for instance, wanted to buy a ton of sugar (that's right, 2,000 pounds)... four in the family plus a few harvest hands... merchant sat down with farmer and they figured out that ton of the sweet stuff would last the family five years—if it didn't spoil...

Food men report "tremendous surpluses" of all basic food commodities in nation... say can't possibly be a shortage in anything unless we're in for a long all-out war... and if shortage does come in distant future blame for it can be dumped squarely in lap of hoarders.

Same thing with other merchants... items which were as scarce as rentals during the last war, are moving fast these days... one store reported sales on sheets were nearly four times above normal... nylon stockings and slips were next in line... and one gent walked in and bought 12 pairs of bib overalls... and some women were buying stockings 10 pairs at a clip.

Store manager who said he had a long talk with New York suppliers Monday noted that there is no threat of any kind of shortages in any item... "excessive buying and hoarding," say the stores, "by the public only leads to controls, shortages and higher prices."

luncheon it was all we could do to keep from snatching things off their plates.

But we didn't give in. We talked it over and decided that no matter how famished we became we would rather have the money to spend on something to take back home for the house.

Just before we pulled into Luxembourg I couldn't resist calling the highwayman of a steward and asking him just how a train dared to charge that much for food.

"You'll never get by with it," I said. "Americans are big suckers, but not such big ones as that. You won't have my countrymen riding this sucker trap for long."

All in all I gave him quite a good lecture. So sure of myself, I might have seen the look of amazement on his face.

Finally, he managed to get a word or two in edgewise and told me that he didn't think the prices were out of line at all.

"Breakfast is no more than a dollar and a half in your money, and luncheon is about two dollars. Isn't that about what your trains charge?"

"Five hundred Belgian francs is ten dollars American," I said, pointing at the price on the menu. "Ah," he answered, "but M'sieu is mistaken. The price is in French francs, not Belgian. Understand?"

To my great sorrow I did understand. But it was too late to do anything about it—we were pulling into Luxembourg.

Without checking into a hotel we hailed a cab and made for the Restaurant Stuff, which we had read about in Fielding's guide book.

The Restaurant Stuff is beautifully named. You really can. And we did.

We went through such Luxembourg specialties as smoked Argennes ham, jellyed sucking pig, mashed potatoes with horse radish, black pudding and sausages, and haven knows what else.

From now on, I am going to try to remember that a franc is a franc is a franc, but there's a whole of a difference between francs.

## GRIN AND BEAR IT

by Lichty

