

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 315 S. Commercial, Salem, Oregon. Telephone 2-2441. Entered at the postoffice at Salem, Oregon, as second class matter under act of congress March 3, 1879.

Douglas Would Save Economy

The senator who is doing what seems to be the best job in this second session of the 81st congress is Senator Paul H. Douglas of Illinois. He has lost most of his battles but he keeps on fighting. And what is he fighting for? He is an economist and is fighting for economy in government and against inflation-breeding deficits. Douglas is a democrat and on social issues a genuine new dealer; but he has fought the pork-barrel vigorously albeit unsuccessfully.

His latest tilt was with the well entrenched reclamation forces. He offered an amendment to reduce the appropriation for construction projects from \$295,000,000 to \$204,000,000. He urged that work be slowed down to the extent of 25 per cent, except on the Colorado-Big Thompson where it would be 40 per cent, and that no starts be made on big projects. He couldn't even get someone to join him in a call for years and nays on his amendment, which was of course defeated.

So in this period of high construction costs and with farm produce so abundant the government has to roll out billions to buy up surpluses congress gives the money for the go-ahead on projects to grow more crops to call for more subsidies. It just doesn't make sense.

Incidentally the reason for singling out the Big Thompson-Colorado project for the heavier cut was that as Douglas said, the original estimate of cost was \$44,000,000 with water users to pay one-half the cost, not to exceed \$25,000,000. Now the estimated cost is reported at over \$150,000,000 with the charge to water users remaining at \$25,000,000. (This is the project where a tunnel was bored through the continental divide to divert headwaters of the Colorado to the eastern slope.) The excessive cost to the taxpayer was the reason Douglas wanted a slowdown there.

Our reclamation bureau and corps of engineers are empire-builders with a passion for constructing vast public works and little regard for such factors as timing and cost. Urgently needed is a board of impartial analysis to pass on proposed projects before they are authorized. Then there ought to be some competent body to check up and see what the performance is, and give some report on relation of costs to estimates. As it is, the federal agency lines up with a community on some project, the congressional delegation is forced to spearhead the drive in congress to get it authorized, and then by familiar methods of "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours" the project gets authorization in some package deal.

It is not treason to reclamation and federal power projects to condemn this method and to demand a better system for the proper appraisal of benefits and for setting up schedules for construction. The position the west should take is for orderly development, not porkbarrel promotion.

Out of Mothballs

Our navy has been but a skeleton of the one we kept afloat in the second world war; but we have a great number of ships done up in mothballs. Now navy is pulling them out and readying them for service. It is recommissioning 32 destroyers, five submarines, two cruisers and

six light carriers. And there are more where these come from. At Bremerton for instance there is quite a lineup of the great supercarriers that served in the closing stages of the war.

Control of the seas is definitely ours. Russia has submarines and they could do serious damage. But it has no real fleet in the Pacific and its Baltic fleet would be no match for the British navy.

Sea control is important even in a possible clash with Russia, primarily a land power. It insures movement of men and materials for us and our allies and denies use of the sea to any enemy states. Ships could not invest Moscow but they could supply armies and air fleets that might be attacking. And the navy can provide portable bases (carriers) for planes.

The navy still has a job to do even though types of vessels most useful have changed. We are fortunate to be able to recreate on short notice a great navy.

Rehearsal for Invasion

The performance of the North Korean army is a surprise to the rest of the world. The troops appear to have excellent leadership, plenty of skill in execution of orders and individual courage. How was this competent fighting force hammered out of what we might regard as poor combat material?

Probably a good many are veterans from the Chinese army, men who served earlier in fighting against Japan. Later they probably continued with the Chinese communist forces. The well coordinated drive seems to show that it was a well rehearsed exercise. Either somewhere in North Korea or in Manchuria remote from eyes of spies this Korean army was drilled in battle tactics, in tank maneuver, in methods of infiltration. When the signal came to cross the 38th parallel they proceeded "according to plan" and unfortunately for our side have been able with painful regularity to wire back, "mission accomplished."

How much help they have had from Russian generals of course is unknown to us. Surely a great deal. And they have been supplied with tanks and weapons from the Russian arsenal. Their air force has been small; they have relied on ground troops with armor. They can only be stopped by superior weight of metal. As the perimeter of the defense circle around Pusan contracts MacArthur's elements should be able to hold long enough to permit the building up of offensive power.

Our surprise was not only in the fact and timing of the invasion but in the way the North Koreans have waged the battle. Just as after the last war the movements of the Japanese fleet that staged the air raid on Pearl Harbor were carefully documented, so after this war is over surely investigation will be made to see where the rehearsal for the South Korean invasion was staged and how long the training period was.

The Rev. Francis P. Leipzig of Eugene, who was named bishop of eastern Oregon, has long been a prominent Catholic priest in the Willamette valley. He has many friends including many outside of his church fold who are pleased at the recognition given him and who are confident that he will serve his diocese and the people of eastern Oregon with great fidelity.

President Truman Given Credit for Acting With Courage and Decision Since Outbreak in Korea

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop

WASHINGTON, July 27—It is time to give credit where credit is due. In the month that has passed since June 25, when the Southern Korea was attacked, President Harry S. Truman has consistently acted with courage and decision.

The fact is that Truman's mood has now undergone a complete change, according to those who have worked closely with him during this long, anxious month. The grin in which his face was formerly permanently wreathed has disappeared. So, at last, has the euphoric presidential conviction that "everything's going to be all right."

The Korean aggression, and the military weakness of the United States revealed in Korea, are both said to have come as a profound shock to Truman. Thus the cockiness which characterized the president since his victory in 1948 has suddenly been replaced by a certain, unaccustomed grimness. And at any rate for the time being, all Truman's energies are concentrated on dealing with the great danger which now confronts this country.

Out of this change of mood have come Truman's two great decisions, to meet the challenge in Korea head-on, and to start a really serious program for the rearmament of the United States and the western world. Another outcome of the change of presidential mood has been an increasingly visible shift in the anatomy of power within the Truman administration.

It is significant that the elaborate plans, which were being

laid before the Korea attack, for another Truman political junket to "sell" the Fair Deal program and Fair Deal candidates, have now been shelved. The politicians and political advisors who were gleefully preparing those plans and other domestic political stratagems no longer have easy access to the Secretary of the Treasury John Snyder and Commerce Secretary Charles Sawyer have seen their White House influence reduced close to the zero mark.

While such men have been moving into the wings, others have moved front and center—most notably, perhaps, General Omar Bradley and special presidential assistant Averell Harriman. Bradley, now doubles in brass as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and as the official presidential chief of staff. He sees the president alone every morning at 9:30, and briefs him at length both on the specific tactical situation in Korea, and on the general strategic situation.

Bradley also attends all the one-weekly meetings of the National Security Council, and the weekly meetings of the cabinet. The cabinet meetings are now largely given over to military briefings, conducted by Bradley, and to discussion of the economic impact of rearmament. Such formerly live issues as the Brannan farm plan and the Ewing health plan are now exceedingly moribund if not entirely dead.

Harriman also attends both the security council and cabinet meetings. Moreover, he spends much of his time in the west wing of the White House, seeing the president often several times a day. Secretary of State Dean Acheson usually sees the president only twice a week, on Tuesday and Thursday. Ordinarily, this situation could be expected to give rise to conflict between Acheson and Harriman. Actually, the two men have entire confidence in each other, and work very closely together. Indeed, Harriman's new role has in fact strengthened Acheson's position.

National Security Resources Board Chairman Stuart Symington has also been especially close to Truman since Korea, and he has been given the central responsibility for guiding the Truman re-armament program through congress. Among the lesser-known figures in the post-Korea inner circle at the White House have been special consultants Sidney Souers, executive secretary of the National Security Council, and naval aide Robert L. Denison, who briefs the president throughout the day, on important dispatches from Korea or elsewhere. Health permitting, General Bedell Smith is expected soon to become chief of the Central Intelligence Agency, and he will undoubtedly join this inner circle.

Truman also frequently confers individually with the three service secretaries, Army Secretary Frank Pace, Air Force Secretary Thomas Finletter, and Navy Secretary Francis Matthews, now welded into an effective team as the joint secretaries. As for Truman's secretary of defense, Louis A. Johnson, he goes to the White House about once a week, usually for an hour, in the late afternoon. But the exact status of the Truman-Johnson relationship remains something of a mystery.

The two men have never been personally close. And it is surely clear to Truman by now that the advice he has accepted from Johnson has been little short of catastrophic. It must be said that Truman himself was only too ready to accept Johnson's assurances that the country was getting "greater combat capabilities at less expense." Yet it must also be said in all fairness that since June 25 Truman has shown real leadership in repudiating totally and rapidly the disastrous policies of his secretary of defense. As to whether Truman can sustain the leadership he has shown, and whether the man who has now been so publicly repudiated will retain his post, these questions remain to be settled. There is an obvious, direct connection between the two questions.

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GRIN AND BEAR IT by Lichty



Is high time, Comrade Dope, you stop being such efficient worker... is no more room for all these rewards you are getting from Comrade Boss...

Hank Fancies Huge Holland Flower Mart

By Henry McLemore

AMSTERDAM, Holland, July 26—For every 100,000 people who know where the automobile, steel, shipbuilding and coal mining centers of the world are, I doubt if there is more than one who knows where the flower center of the world is located.

It is 11 miles from here, in the little village of Aalsmeer, where all save a few of the 13,000 inhabitants work from sunup to sundown, winter and summer, tending millions and millions of almost all the varieties known to man.

Most of the flowers are grown in greenhouses, the roofs of which form a sea of glass which stretches as far as the eye can see, broken only by towering red brick chimneys standing like lighthouses. All of the earth not covered by the greenhouses is alive with blooms, making the landscape appear as if a giant had scattered the palettes of all the artists of time, and they had sprung to life.

Nowhere you look do you fail to see flowers. The banks of the canals which criss-cross Aalsmeer are heavy with them, and in the larger canals earthen gardens have been built. The yards of the immaculate little houses are like open florists' windows, and window boxes are riotous with blooms.

The best time to visit Aalsmeer is early in the morning, not long after sun-up. It is then that the flowers start pouring in to be sold in the two giant auction halls. The canals are filled with chugging barges, so laden with flowers that they resemble sea-going gardens. Hundreds of bicyclists, their baskets bursting with blooms, choke the narrow roads. Men, women, and children walk along the paths, holding giant bouquets in their arms. Rowboats so filled with flowers that there is scarcely room for a single oarsman glide along the canals.

But the most overpowering sight of all comes when you walk into one of the auction halls when all the flowers have been assembled on great flat carts. These halls are hundreds of yards long. There is nothing to greet the eye but flowers, which are grouped according to variety and color.

Banks of yellow carnations, five feet high and 12 feet long. Walls of red, yellow, and pink roses, all perfect blooms. Cartload after cartload of orchids, and next to them untold thousands of calla lilies, dahlias of all sizes and shades, African daisies, sweet peas, mountains of baby's breath, snapdragons, gladioluses, early chrysanthemums, and literally fields of all types of ferns. One giant room of one of the

auction halls is reserved for potted plants, which are auctioned three times a week. Most of the cut flowers and potted plants are unloaded from the barges right in the buildings themselves, where covered harbors have been built. These harbors are necessary in winter to protect the flowers from the bitter cold.

The sales take place by means of an electric dial operated by an auctioneer. The buyers are seated in banks amphitheatrically arranged in front of the dial. A card, loaded with flowers, is wheeled in and the auctioneer describes the quality of the lot, the grower's name, etc., and then starts the hand of the dial, which moves from 100 to 1. As soon as the hand points at the price a buyer is willing to pay he presses a button on his desk, the hand stops, and an illuminated number corresponding with the number of the buyer's seat burns on the board.

A few minutes later the buyer can gain possession of the flowers he has purchased. Time is important because a great portion of the flowers sold are shipped by air to all parts of the world. Flowers sold in mid-morning are on sale in London and Paris in the afternoon. Many go to New York and other American cities.

The auction ends at noon, and then comes a sad time. For their own protection, the growers have to destroy all the unsold flowers. The magnificent blooms are loaded on barges, piled up any old way, and taken far down the canals and dumped overboard. If they were sold at cut rates the price of flowers would fall, and if they were given to charitable institutions and hospitals the market for flowers would suffer, and Aalsmeer would cease to be. There is a surplus of flowers only for a couple of months during the summer. In winter, not a bloom goes to waste.

When I looked at all the flowers my thoughts turned sadly to my geranium, struggling all by its lonesome in a coffee can at home. You'll never catch me taking that faithful plant down the river in a barge and dumping it. (Distributed by McNaught Syndicate, Inc.)

Better English

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "This basket is fuller than that one."
2. What is the correct pronunciation of "intrusive"?
3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Furtherance, in-temperance, hinderance, permanence.
4. What does the word "flagrant" mean?
5. What is a word beginning with inu that means "to over-flow"?

ANSWERS
1. Say, "This basket contains more than that one," or: "This basket is more nearly full than that one." 2. Pronounce the s as in sit, not as z. 3. Hindrance. 4. Flaming into notice; conspicuously bad. (Pronounce first a as in flay). "Such flagrant evils are not to be countenanced." 5. Inundate.

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IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

in Europe. There east and west front each other along an uneasy boundary. The Alsop column on Tuesday spotted the friction points where fresh sparks might fly and put a finger on Berlin as a prime danger point. And Wednesday Berlin reported how East German communists are propagandizing for the unification of Germany and the "liberation" of West Germany to prevent its being used as a "base for western aggression." This is precisely the advance propaganda that would be employed to build up support for an armed invasion of West Berlin and West Germany. Whether that will happen we do not know. But the possibility is so strong that western Europe literally should sleep on its arms. Even the United States dare not commit its military strength too completely in Korea lest it not be available for more critical areas.

It should be recalled too that the French have committed about 150,000 troops to support of its recognized government in Viet Nam (Indo-China) against the communist rebels; and Britain has troops engaged in combating the communist guerrillas in the Malay states.

Australia and New Zealand are in position to give aid and Australia already is doing so. Turkey we note is offering 4,500 soldiers to UN. Other small nations may do likewise. However we must realize that parcels of troops of different languages cannot be welded into an effective fighting force overnight. There must be unity and understanding in command, practice in tactical operations, integration of supply and standardization of arms. It takes time to work out any such program. And time is what we have little of. Korea remains primarily a

Comes the Dawn

In addition to hot-rods, kids on bicycles and mosquitoes, summertime also seems to bring on a rash of careless signaling among the motoring fraternity... an arm stuck or hung from the car just ahead of you doesn't always mean what you think it should mean... if the charioteer up front is a woman driver that wigd gesture she makes with her signaling arm could mean that she is drying her nail polish, waving at a friend, pointing out a landmark, testing the humidity or shooting an approaching vehicle from her path... (it could also mean she is getting ready to turn right or left or stop—but this is unlikely).

When a male motorist flings his wing to the breeze usually he is figuring on turning, flicking ashes from his cigaret, throwing away a match or is dangling his digits in the wind just for the heck of it.

At recent wedding in Los Angeles (where else?) bride tripped down the aisle on arm of father singing "I Love You Truly"... wonder what happened to all those simple and humdrum hitchhikes which used to take place on speedboats, underwater, on surfboards, in airplanes and from platforms dangling in mid-air... can't help but wondering at L.A. wedding if groom sang "Will You Love Me When I'm A PFC As You Do While I'm One-A."

Local police still puzzled about drunk they hauled in other night who repeated over and over: I've only killed seven men; tell them in the local jail"... state office heads are checking worker rosters to calculate what draft or calling to arms of reserves, etc., will do to ranks of employees... large photo taken by Mrs. Wanda Gifford of Salem (widow of late noted state highway photog) appears in July issue of Highway magazine... shot of underneath the arches at Coos Bay bridge near Marshfield.

Jack Hayes, deputy state civil defense director, claims Oregon is best prepared of any state in the union for atomic bomb attack... says our transportation plan was recommended as a model to other states by National Defense Transportation committee... Oregon fire service defense set-up, although not completed, is tops compared with other states... Jack should know—since 1941 he's been running around the country visiting disaster scenes (Texas City, Vanport) and attending civil defense conferences in Washington, D.C., and elsewhere.

USA show. Our nation will have to do the major part of the policing. The job is a trying and discouraging one; but eventually the weight of American military might will prevail and a decision made, without, let us hope, any further involvement.

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