

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Shows Us, No Fear Shall Awe"

From First Statesman, March 23, 1851

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

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

An American "International"?

What next in Asia? What should American policy for the Far East include? Time magazine in its current issue answers these high-timely questions with a list of "the most plausible suggestions heard last week." Significantly, the reporter doesn't reveal the sources of this proposed policy, and so we presume it is Time's own. Here it is:

1. Send really strong military missions—and possibly U.S. troops—to Asian danger spots. Purpose: to help local governments lick communist rebellion, to train, supply and lead local armies.
2. Form an Asian high command for these forces, headed by General Douglas MacArthur, and including Asians from each country involved.
3. Prepare a peace with Japan, enabling that country to resume trade with Southeast Asia and to maintain an army.
4. Recruit from the vast reservoir of American brains and guts a force of men willing to serve their country abroad, under rigorous conditions, put them through tough, practical training, and send them as political and economic advisers not only to governments but to individual communities in Asia. Put at their disposal an ECA-like fund for practical, short-to-medium range aid and construction.

Time then warns that "a lot of careful people, including Dean Acheson, would object to such measures because, among other reasons, they might 'provoke' communist China."

This page can be counted among the "careful" ones who would object to such measures because, not only would they most certainly provoke communist China, they would provoke all Asiatics, communist and non-communist alike.

Time's Asia policy is a perfect example of what India's Prime Minister Nehru meant when he protested recently that the Western powers "continue to make decisions affecting vast areas of Asia without understanding the real needs and mind of the people."

Time's Asia policy is a plan that uncomfortably resembles the kind of aggression by infiltration that the free nations of the world are fighting against. It calls, in effect, for an American "international" complete with U.S. military "advisers" in every national army and U. S. political-economic "advisers" in every native government and village. These Yankee commissars would see to it—using American money for persuasion—that things in Asia went our way. The communists call that "dollar imperialism," in this case an accurate epithet.

In addition, Time would have MacArthur head a military high command for all Asia. The American general, we suppose, would plan and direct strategy for our side just as Russia's Molotov is reported to be directing strategy for the communists in Asia. MacArthur presumably would be given power to deploy American troops and war material wherever deemed needed, just as Moscow's chiefs are said to be able to deploy Russian and satellite forces to further the Kremlin's foreign policy.

Perhaps these methods would "work." That is, the proposed plan might possibly hinder the spread of communism in Asia, and therefore be considered expedient.

But it could not bring victory for the cause of freedom and self-determination in Asia—which is the American cause and the only moral reason we are today at war in Korea. Asia does not want to be run by America any more than it wanted to be colonized by Britain or France or made into satellites by Russia.

Friendly Hearing

The highway commission gave attentive hearing to the delegation urging the widening of Highway 99E between New Era and Salem.

Chairman Ben Chandler responded by expressing the concern of the commission over congestion on this highway as well as for the other deficiencies of the state highway system. He gave assurance that the problem would be studied and indicated that the real question was where to get money for the work.

The commission however will surely have to act shortly because of the growing urgency of this improvement. The increasing burden on this inter-regional highway will force action. The work may be done easily by stages, as The Statesman has previously pointed out. A few "patches" of four-lane highway could be laid initially and then the gaps closed as funds are available.

The appeal has been made. The commission will look over its revenues and its previous commitments. It seems reasonable to anticipate that before many months pass a start will be made on widening 99E or providing other relief for this route.

Another suspect in the Klaus Fuchs spy ring has been arrested. He makes eight who are charged with violating the laws in carrying secrets to a foreign power. For all the talk about Reds in the state department here we find they were boring into the most closely guarded enterprise the government conducted during the war: the Manhattan project for developing the atom bomb. In spite of screening and vigilance by FBI and the army itself the secrets got out.

Thank goodness Secretary of Defense Johnson didn't scuttle the whole U.S. navy when he was about getting rid of that "anachronism." Thus far in the Korean war, what's left of the U.S. navy has carried 40,000 men, 500,000 tons of military cargo and 2,000,000 barrels of petroleum through the long sea lanes from stateside to the war theater. This feat has been possible because the Pacific has been our puddle, with no enemy subs or planes menacing our ships . . . yet.

Congressman Harris Ellsworth, apparently stung to action by complaints of his constituents on lack of freight cars, has introduced a bill to have the government build cars and hold them in a pool for assignment to any railroad when it needs more cars. This looks like "creeping socialism" to which Ellsworth is strongly opposed, but it illustrates the tendency of the times: when a pinch comes, load the job on Uncle Sam.

Wool growers are in clover. Production this year will provide only about 30 per cent of the country's needs in wool, the remainder will come from imports. There are signs though that the tide is turning. High wool prices are an incentive to many to raise sheep. The old law of demand and supply will have its effect in time.

Token strikes on two short lines and three railroad terminal companies are real even if they are set for short duration. The railroad brotherhood called them to underscore its demand for a shorter work week at no cut in pay. The country can survive this spasm, but wants to be spared a general and non-stop strike on its railroads.

Don't be deceived by an August rain. The winter isn't on us yet. There will be more days of sunshine this fall; and maybe more days heavy with fire hazard for forests. But the rain has given a welcome relief from the—long—lengthy hot spell.

If congress has its way, the postman will always ring twice.

of re-arming our allies would have to be increased.

It was Johnson, appearing before the same senate committee, who remarked coyly that he had been "having a little more closely" with the military situation than Acheson, and promised the senators that his best guess was that the cost could be reduced in future—about as bad a guess as any public figure in recent history has made. It was Johnson who falsely promised the country that we were obtaining greater combat capabilities at less expense.

Now all Acheson's warnings have been tragically vindicated. Now all the falseness and emptiness of Johnson's boasts have been tragically revealed. Yet it is Acheson, not Johnson, who is to be the republican target. Why?

For one thing, of course, like any secretary of state, Acheson has made mistakes. It is true that by the time Acheson became secretary of state, nothing short of the intervention of American troops could have saved the Nationalist regime in China. Yet it is certainly also true that by authorizing the release of the white paper on China, Acheson accelerated the Nationalist collapse, which cost the west invaluable time in Asia.

This was his worst mistake, but Acheson has made others—although the famous National Security Council paper warning Korea off as indefensible originated in the defense department rather than the state department. But the fact is that the republican strategy has very little to do with Acheson's policies. It springs from other sources.

One of these, of course, is what has been interpreted as Acheson's defense of Alger Hiss—and however laudable Acheson's motives may have been, this certainly left him wide open to attack. Another source is Acheson's personality. It is not only that Acheson's obviously super-

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