

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"

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Private Utilities and Dams

The effect of the entry of the federal government into the business of building mammoth power-generating dams has been to end as a general rule the effort of private companies to increase their generating facilities. True, the Portland General Electric and Pacific Power and Light proposed to build a power dam on the Deschutes which was blocked by protests of the fish interests. In general though the private companies have stepped aside to let the government build the dams.

The reason is that the federal government can offer them electricity at a lower rate than they could produce it for themselves (government gets its money at a lower rate, its property is tax-free).

What has happened however is that a chronic shortage has prevailed over the northwest which has been of greater duration than elsewhere in areas served by private companies. The great hydro-electric projects take so much time that years elapse before the blue print becomes reality and kilowatts are dancing out of running water. Private companies building smaller units either hydro or steam can put them up faster.

Really private companies across the country have done a better job of supplying electric energy than has the BPA-dominated area of the northwest. Our expansion in demand has been great here but so has that in other sections such as California and Texas. The northwest does need additional steam-generating plants to take care of peak loads. The government has shown no interest in this for the area though TVA is building such plants in its region. Private companies avoid this construction because the higher unit cost would perhaps force them to increase rates.

Some private companies on the fringes of BPA territory are building or offering to build new hydro plants. California-Oregon Power company is completing its Toektee plant on the upper Umpqua. Idaho Power plans a new dam on the Snake in southern Idaho. Washington Water Power wants to build a dam on Clark Fork river in northern Idaho. They have faith in the future, both economically and politically. PGE and PP&L both seem to have a reasonably safe future so it would seem they could go ahead with building dams, if they can keep out of the way of fish, or steam plants to augment hydro supplies. If worst came to worst and the people voted for public ownership they would be compensated on any takeover. Puget Sound Power & Light, which is now in process of being broken up and parcelled among cities and PUD's seems to be realizing full values on its sales. These major Oregon distributors might very well manifest a little more confidence and do some building on their own.

Myrtle Beach Gives Answer

An interesting sidelight to the tragedy of Myrtle Beach, S.C., where injury and death grew out of a Klan-inspired night of terror in the negro quarter, comes from Larry Boulter, formerly of Salem and now a resident of the South Carolina city.

Boulter writes that James Lee Pratt, fiery editor of the Myrtle Beach News who battles the Klan at every turn, received this note from France:

"I don't want to appear disrespectful. Rather, I and my friends are sincerely confused with this American trouble, as we are caught between two great nations which are smouldering for trouble and as usual we expect to be the brunt of it all. We are pulling for America because of what it stands for when we read stories of how your own Amer-

icans are treated in the United States... it makes us wonder."

Pratt replied as follows: "It is not the purpose of this report to present a burdensome record of soothing phrases in order to assuage your thinking, M. Cardeau. Rather, we would be pleased if you would read the papers we have sent on to you (or any other free American newspaper which you might happen upon) and make up your own mind as to the trend of Southern intention relative to the members of the 'Southern minority.' Strong indications at this time point to the last dying gasps of the KKK. The hooded order will go, M. Cardeau, as surely as certain pro-fascist, strong-armed organizations (i.e. The Cross of Fire) died in your beloved France before the past major unpleasantness."

Pratt's answer is a good one. Its theme has been echoed in many a southern newspaper since the Myrtle Beach incident. South Carolina authorities acted swiftly in the case at issue. It is far past time when there can be any tolerance of the KKK, its platform or its ugly tactics.

High in the Colorado Rockies a Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer company is enacting a screen version of Bernard DeVoto's "Across the Wide Missouri." This colorful yet authentic story of the fur trade and fur traders thus will be put on celluloid where it will reach a far greater audience than the book, illustrated though that book was with prints of original paintings of Indians and traders and scenes of the west when trappers and traders penetrated its fastnesses. Clark Gable who is carrying the lead will be far more of a drawing card than the contentious author who delights in jousting in print on matters literary and historical.

A tent city has been erected in the mountains north of Durango but the habitants suffer none of the pangs of the old trappers. They get the best of food and service, have all the modern conveniences, and shouldn't even get lonesome. A hundred Sioux Indians are in the party, but they are well tamed. A reporter for the New York Times says that while Gable and most of the whites wear no make-up, just let beards grow and noses peel, the Indians are stripped of their ordinary levis, fitted with wigs and braids and dressed like their ancestors of the 1830's. They are so delighted they take pictures of themselves in their new get-up and say "Look! I'm an Indian."

DeVoto will be a crank on historical accuracy, and the book will require no deletions as would be true of some of the episodes in Butch's novel, "The Big Sky" which dealt with the same period. "Across the Wide Missouri" surely will be a film worth waiting for.

Artifice still plays a part in warfare, the same as it did when Troy opened its gates and dragged in the Trojan horse the departing (?) Greeks had left on the Trojan plain. The trick played in the invasion of North Korea was smart and fully successful. Six destroyers sailed bravely up the channel leading to Inchon. The purpose was to draw fire from enemy batteries—and they responded. They responded so well that big ships offshore and planes got their range and silenced them so the marines could land on Wolmi island without facing enemy artillery. A very simple stratagem to be sure—but teams still work the old "dead-man" play in football. It is what works that counts.

Gracie DeMoss has brought international fame to Corvallis for her skill at golf. She lost in the semi-finals of the national women's amateur tournament at Atlanta but she has made a great record in the season's golfing.

U. S. Situation in World Remains Intolerable As Long as West Europe Minus Defenses

By Stewart Alsop

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18 — The news from Korea is good. But the news from New York is bad.

On-the-spot reports from Korea will soon appear in this space, but it is believed in Washington that the successful landings in the north may bring victory sooner than it had seemed possible to hope. Yet good news from Korea should not be allowed to obscure the central fact.

This is that the strategic situation of the United States and its allies is nothing short of intolerable. Moreover, it will remain intolerable just so long as there is no real defense of Western Europe—and this is the problem with which the Foreign Ministers of the Atlantic pact powers have been grappling in New York, with what appears to be marked lack of success.

There is one way to understand just how intolerable our situation is, while the defense of Western Europe remains a paper defense. This is to ask the best informed of the strategic planners for their best estimates of the course of a general war breaking out in the near future. There is, perhaps, nothing particularly surprising about their answers. But just as a reminder of where we really stand, it may be worth repeating these answers in capsule form.

First, of course, just about everything the United States has, except the strategic air force, the inadequate continental air command, and odds and ends of divisions, is now committed in Korea. Thus it is "difficult to see

how a stand could be made anywhere in Europe, even behind the Pyrenees."

Second, the planners accept the view of Winston Churchill of the position of the British Isles, if the continent is over-run. Even in the bad days of 1940, Churchill said recently, he had "good hopes" that England would win through, even alone. "But now," he continued, "I cannot feel the same sense of concrete assurance." While the continent is defenseless, the planners believe, it must be assumed that Britain might be neutralized, even without an invasion.

Third, there is virtually nothing available for the defense of the Middle East. Thus, "we would do very well to secure a major base in North Africa."

Fourth, southeast Asia, already so threatened, would go the way of China. And with the mainland of Asia gone, the defense of the American bases in Japan, Okinawa, and the Philippines is rated "very difficult and probably impossible."

It is time to face up to what this means. It means a United States, for the first time in its history, fighting almost alone, retaining as effective allies only such British Commonwealth countries as Canada, New Zealand, and Australia, plus whatever allies could be found among the Latin American countries.

Moreover, the United States would have many secret allies in the vast areas occupied by the Red army. It is not impossible that under such circumstances the whole structure of Soviet power might quite suddenly collapse. But it is also not impossible, the planners warn, that "such a war might last for thirty years."

The key to everything is the defense of Western Europe. Only when there is real military power in Western Europe will the growing stockpiles of Soviet atom bombs be balanced by equality in conventional military strength in the West. Until the vacuum in Western Europe is filled, every one, in this country as well as in Europe, must learn to live on his nerves. Therefore another question needs answering. How long must this period last? Given an absolutely all-out effort, both here and in Europe, how soon could the vacuum be filled?

The planners answer this question by saying that thirty divisions, with the necessary air support, could be created in Western Europe within 18 months. This would provide "a very useful deterrent." After this hard core had been created, expansion could be very rapid—to sixty divisions in thirty months. This would provide a real and solid defense of the Continent.

In the above answer, the planners put all possible emphasis on what could be done, rather on what will be done. But in view of the somber realities of our strategic situation, as outlined above, it is surely obvious that whatever can be done must be done. It is against this background that the results of the meetings in New York, which Secretary of State Dean Acheson has correctly described as the most important since the war ended, must be judged.

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Comes the Dawn

The war in Korea must be official alright—Al Jolson has arrived on the scene to entertain the GI's in world war days tradition... (wonder if Al is substituting for the daily bear ration). Probably now will come the regular "entertainment" fare for the battling forces—traveling musical shows, 20-year-old movies (usually played on an outdoor screen in a warm, sticky rain), makeshift battalion bands and very amateur nights. Anyway, unless the war is long or Hollywood is untimely swift, Korean GI's may not have to see that greatest of all war-time wonders—the war movie.



If you think citizens don't just disappear from the surface of society in this day and age talk with the local draft board. It is seeking 21 men, whom, it seems, have completely lost themselves to friends, relatives and the selective service. The draft officials don't think these men have deliberately dodged the call to arms, because nearly all of them were missing long before Korea and some would even be exempt from service.

Mother of one lad sought by the draft said her son was called to the door one night and she has "never seen him since." Other young men have quit the family hearth because of family trouble, alimony anguish or wandering feet. One man worked in a logging camp near Gates. Finally got the word through his boss' wife. He told draft board he never read the papers and just didn't have time to answer summons for a physical.

A man goes into a local eatery the other day and orders a big steak, asks waitress for some Worcestershire sauce... waitress sez: "I'm sorry, sir, we don't handle Chinese food"... Statesman valley correspondent reported a club had a "guess speaker." Puzzle is—did or didn't she know what she meant... in face of their recent publicly-aired squabble over foul balls on the Senator club Mgr. Emigh and Sports-writer Al Lightner worked Woodburn-Hood River football game together last week... what's more they rode to the game and back together... Note to those who don't like to go far to jail after getting pickled—there's a cucumber vine growing at the foot of city hall steps.

Jim McGilchrist, state Capitol guide, says at least several thousand more visitors this year than last at the Capitol. Grips from visitors, he notes, are over lack of guide-maps to Salem and vicinity, scarcity of overnight camping in our state parks and small percentage of Salem industries which permit visitors.

GRIN AND BEAR IT



"Takes courage to bring a child into the world these days!... unsettled conditions... Atomic bombs... stitters hard to get..."

Customs Men Sniff at Mac's Dirty Clothes

By Henry McLemore
LONDON, England, Sept. 18 — With the prospect of going through U. S. customs shortly, today we unwrapped and unpacked everything we have bought since we started this trip in May.

Customs men everywhere like you to put all your purchases in one suitcase or trunk so that they can check the contents against your declaration, and hasten you along.

That's what you are told to do, but for the life of me I don't see what difference it makes how you pack for customs. Before they're done, and put that chalk mark on your bags, they root through everything with the thoroughness of a truffle hound.

It is usually my luck to get hold of an examiner who, I am sure, once worked in a laundry as a dirty clothes sorter. Nothing clean interests him at all. He always ignores the few spotless garments I have placed on top to impress the travellers being inspected alongside me, and makes a bee-line for the sub-strata of dirty socks, shirts, shorts and handkerchiefs.

These he spreads all over the counter, making it difficult for me to keep my plumb before the plane passengers I wore myself out trying to impress on the trip over the night before. I suppose that I just have the manner and bearing of a man who smuggles diamonds and narcotics in dirty socks and soiled, wrinkled undershirts, because they lay eyes on me.

Actually, the pounds and pounds of uncut stones and opium I have brought into this country I have always concealed in the rim of my bifocal monocle, or in the pouch of the kangaroo that I always keep on a leash by my side when going through customs.

The very nicest men I have ever encountered are those at Idlewild Airport, New York. The fact that I will soon be in their hands, and hope that all of them will read this before I make my appearance, has nothing to do with my making this statement. Well, not much, anyway.

Next to the tall, handsome, efficient, kind and courteous Idlewild customs officials, my favorites are those rollicking

elves who operate at the airport in Bangkok. The Siamese may have changed by now, but when I was there a couple of years ago they gave the impression of not caring what you brought in as long as you let them look at it and handle it. I got the impression that I could have brought in a loaded and cocked .50 calibre machine gun if I had suggested to the inspectors that they fire a burst or two on it for fun.

A friend met us in Bangkok and suggested we have a cup of coffee while the customs officers were examining our luggage. But he said to be sure to watch the procedure because it would be real amusing.

It was. People on the moon examining the belongings of the first rocket ship couldn't have been more curious. They took everything out of every bag. They held up Jean's dresses in front of them and whirled around so all of them could get a look at American styles. They snapped and unbuttoned compact cases, mimicked pictures with my camera, poked a piece of paper in my typewriter and pecked out what I suppose was the Siamese equivalent of "Now is the time for all good men, etc.," and one of them tried on several of my neckties for size. And they examined Jean's lacy underthings as if Miss Gussie Moran were inside of them.

Then with a courtesy matched only by those sweet, dear men of Idlewild, they repacked everything and bade us a happy stay in their country. Speaking of customs, it has always been mine to stop this column about this time. So I will, and go out and buy myself a bowler hat, the 100th anniversary of which is being celebrated with much ado in England.

Distributed by McNaught Syndicate, Inc.

Accountants' Office Opens

A branch of the Jacobson, Jentsch, Rector and Jones firm of certified public accountants, St. Paul, Minn., has been opened in Salem by E. William Rector, who arrived recently from St. Paul. The office is in the Farm Bureau building on Marion street.

Rector said the firm has offices in St. Paul, Seattle and Walla Walla and has had previous business in this area. He aimed for Salem after a visit here a year ago at an iris growers' conference.

Mr. and Mrs. Rector and their three boys, aged 10, 7 and 3, have just moved to 3615 Lilligard ln., a home purchased from Burton Selberg.

The National Geographic Society says that if all the ice on Greenland were to melt at once the oceans would overflow.

Better English

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "After resting a bit, she ascended up the hill."
2. What is the correct pronunciation of "drollery"?
3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Militant, mineralize, milage, millennium.
4. What does the word "vibrant" mean?
5. What is a word beginning with L that means "week"?

ANSWERS

1. After resting awhile, she ascended (omit up) the hill.
2. Pronounce the e as in rolls, not as in doll.
3. Mileage. 4. Vibrating; pulsing. "The city was vibrant with life and energy."
5. Languid.

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