

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor and Publisher

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French Fears

The French position on rearmament of Germany (for the protection of Western Europe in the event of Russian aggression) may be indefensible from our point of view but it is understandable. Summer Welles, former under-secretary of state, made this clear in his Armistice Day speech in Portland.

The French, he maintains, have reason to be skeptical of British and American promises to guarantee France's national security. In the years after World War I, England and the U.S. promised France they would see that Germany stayed weak militarily. Instead, Welles recalled, Great Britain sold war materials to Hitler's government and the U.S. loaned Germany huge sums that helped build the Reich. The result was World War II and the French haven't forgotten.

The French have long memories. They go back all the way to 1870 when Bismarck, having outwitted Louis Napoleon and goaded "the man of destiny" into the Franco-Prussian war, took Alsace-Lorraine from France. The French have not forgotten that in 1871 the people in Prussian-besieged Paris ate cats and rats in the restaurants until even those were gone and the city capitulated. That meant the end of the Second Empire; it meant France's national spirit was broken, and it meant the rise of a new and powerful unified Germany under Kaiser Wilhelm I.

Later, while the nations of Europe became industrialized and sought colonial expansion, there was a precarious balance of power, with Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy on one side and France, Russia and Great Britain on the other. But the status quo was upset in the Balkans and in 1914 France was fighting Les Boches again on the old, blood-stained fields of Alsace-Lorraine.

Now, once more, Britain and the United States are willing to let Germany become strong, believing that without German aid Europe cannot be defended. But the French, frankly, are scared—and, to make matters worse, the French communists are exploiting that old fear of a strong Germany.

So the French position as of now is adamant opposition to German rearmament. They want a unified international army, perhaps containing German units no larger than battalions, and including U.S. troops. The Germans say they won't fight as mercenaries but only under their own commanders, in division strength. And U.S. and British military men agree with the Germans rather than with the French.

The whole question of defense of Western Europe, then, seems to hang on whether or not fear of communist domination will replace fear of German power.

Mexican Census

So our census-takers thought they had troubles!

Pity the enumerators in Mexico—where counting noses is really a difficult job. Fear and suspicion of the census south of the border is rooted in the dim past when the Spanish overlords counted the Indians as a basis for seizing lands and imposing tributes. As recently as 1940, some Mexican families hid their sons of military age when the census-taker came around, and the idea of telling the truth to the enumerators about income or anything else just

hadn't taken hold.

So this year the government undertook an extensive educational-propaganda campaign—simply to get the Mexicans to state facts instead of making exaggerated claims or obvious understatements when questioned. Then the unpaid volunteer enumerators had to search out the population, in remote jungles, deserts and mountains as well as in the more accessible valleys and the cities. Transportation was one big problem; another was language difficulties. Mexicans speak more than 50 major Indian dialects and many of them don't speak Spanish at all.

Besides the usual name, age, place of birth, marital status, number of children and so on, the government this year wanted to get such information as: "Do you wear shoes, or huaraches, or go barefoot? Do you eat wheat bread daily? Do you have running water?"

It will be at least 18 months before the answers to the 1950 census are all tabulated, but already one thing is clear: Mexico is growing twice as fast as the United States. The population of our southern neighbor has increased 28.3 per cent since 1940, as compared to our 14.5 per cent increase. Mexico's high birth rate, better health and sanitation facilities, and decreasing mortality rate mean that in 1960 there will be more Mexicans for the census-takers to count—and that Mexico's prominence in inter-American affairs will grow accordingly.

Now that the scores are all in, perhaps a comment on Salem High's disastrous football season may be in order. Or is that word "disastrous" wrongly used? Yes, it is. Certainly some good has been derived, whether or not it shows in the win column. But that is not to condone losses. Salem's is one of the largest high schools in the northwest. Numerically, it has an abundance of material. It should have a better football team. And no one can tell us that Salem boys fundamentally aren't just as good as any boys anywhere. They are, despite criticism of their fighting spirit or their will to win. There have also been suggestions that lack of public and personal support has played a part in their comparatively poor showing score-wise. Our guess is that there is no single circumstance which can be made the goat. Before another grid season rolls around it will be time to give close study as to just what's wrong. But don't tell us it rests entirely within the boys.

John W. Kelly will be missed in newspaper and other circles of Oregon. He was literally a walking encyclopedia on innumerable subjects, so wide had been his experiences and studies. Drama critic, columnist, political reporter, editorial writer and Washington correspondent, Kelly was one of the best-known newspapermen in the northwest when he came to Salem seven years ago to head the Oregon commission on postwar development. An active newspaperman for fully half a century, Kelly covered many of the most important events of an important era. To him can be given the prime accolade of a newsmen—he was a good reporter.

A record low of only 178 range fires this year were man-caused, and the 45,547 acres burned in 1950 also total a record low. That is still a lot of waste, however, and smokers—a major cause of fires—will have to be more careful to "Keep Oregon Green" in 1951.

U. S. Officials Await Reply to \$32 Question 'Does Communist China Want All Out War?'

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13—This thing in Korea is the thirty-two dollar question. In about a week or ten days, we should know whether the sixty-four dollar question is coming up. This is how one important official, who has taken part in the secret, tense debates within the government since the Chinese intervened in Korea, sums up the situation which now confronts this country and its allies.

The "thirty-two dollar question" is this: Are the Chinese communists, with the support of the Kremlin, ready for an all-out war in Korea? It must be said at the outset that no one in official Washington pretends really to know the answer to this question.

It is still considered conceivable that the minimum Chinese objective is a guarantee of unmolested access to the important hydro-electric installations on the Yalu river, and a further guarantee of the Chinese frontiers. If this is so, the Chinese move has been supremely illogical, simply because it has made attacks on Chinese territory and the destruction of the Yalu river plants a great deal more, rather than less, likely.

Yet the timing of the Chinese move was also supremely illogical—this was one reason why General MacArthur assured President Truman at Wake that the danger of intervention had passed. Thus it is at least possible that the Chinese, spurred on

by the Kremlin, intervened at the last moment, in a spasm of dogma-induced fear that an invasion of China itself was planned by the "American imperialists." The fact that the Chinese forces still transparently disguised as "volunteers" were withdrawn, instead of following up the vicious surprise attack which threw the United Nations forces off balance, tends to support this hopeful view.

This is why frantic efforts by every means are now being made to reassure the Chinese. The course of events in the United Nations and elsewhere in the next few days will show whether or not the hopeful view is justified. But there is, unfortunately, plenty of evidence which suggests that in this situation, as so often before, the wish has been father to the thought.

The central fact is that reinforcements for the Chinese forces in Korea continue to pour across the Yalu river, while a huge army, estimated between 300,000 and half a million men, is being mobilized just across the border. There are other indications, like the attacks by the latest Soviet-made jet fighters on American planes, that the objectives of the Chinese and their Soviet allies are by no means limited. Officials here are haunted by the fear that the apparent withdrawal is no more than a regrouping, preparatory to an assault intended to cut through the center of the United Nations lines to the sea of Japan.

If this attack occurs, it will be the signal that the Chinese communists and their allies in the Kremlin are ready to go the whole way in Korea, whatever the consequences. It will mean, in short, that the answer to the "thirty-two dollar question" is an ominous "yes." In this event, certain American officials believe that the immediate military response should be an attempt to establish a firm defensive line across the

narrow neck of the Korean peninsula, north of Pyongyang, in order to gain time and at least postpone an unlimited American commitment. Yet this decision will really rest with the man on the spot, General MacArthur. It is far less likely that MacArthur will favor any such passive course. Indeed, there is reason to believe that he is now readying his forces for a general offensive, designed to throw all Chinese troops out of Korea, and that this offensive is being delayed only to give time for further negotiation in the United Nations. But as MacArthur himself has implied, such an offensive cannot succeed while the Chinese base in Manchuria remains immune from air attack. Therefore an offensive is almost sure to mean the bombing of Chinese installations and supply lines in Manchuria and probably China proper.

Although there are differences elsewhere, there is absolute agreement on one point. If the answer to the "thirty-two dollar question" is indeed "yes," this country will be involved in a more or less open war, against unlimited Chinese manpower. And this is a situation which the United States simply cannot afford to accept permanently.

Nothing would more delight the Kremlin than to see the United States, already desperately short on military manpower, indefinitely involved in endless and strategically pointless ground warfare on the Asiatic continent, while the Kremlin was left free to pursue its ends elsewhere. It goes without saying that no responsible man in the government wants a showdown with the Soviet Union, while Europe is defenseless and the United States unprepared. Yet the fact remains that if the thirty-two dollar question is in the affirmative, events may very soon make it necessary to ask the sixty-four dollar question. This is: "Do the Soviets want a third world war now?" (Copyright 1950, New York Herald Tribune, Inc.)

SALES RESISTANCE IN THE HARDWARE DEPARTMENT



Comes the Dawn

Staying home with the flu these days is a sorry affair for men. First of all your head is throbbing like a leaky suction pump and your stomach feels like hordes of butterflies are holding a camp meeting there. Then the little woman, the light of your life who never fails, the helpmate who is always demanding your help—decides to help you while away the hours—with a little work. She says that now you're home how about turning the rug around, or hauling the junk out back, or cleaning the garage or helping rearrange the furniture.

If you have any courage at all you give her your answer politely but firmly—and then turn the rug, haul out the junk, etc. Finally, by reminding the sergeant that if you pass on right now you won't be eligible for a veterans' bonus, you get out of moving the lawn, patching the roof and painting the bathroom. About the time you begin to relax the kids choose up sides for a bruising football game in the living room. For an intermission stunt they put on a realistic facsimile of the battle of the Little Big Horn—with their little big mouths going full blast.

Then you think hopefully, almost reverently, of the office from which you hid in order to come home and recover from the flu. The good old office. No noise there except the clacking of typewriters, the sound of falling plaster, trucks roaring by outside, Lightner laughing at his own jokes, the soft clicking sound of people thinking and the buzz of conversation as the old hands tell of methods of getting over the flu without going home.

Major businesses will soon be using an electronic brain to select employees for promotion. This means that apple polishing, except in grocery stores, is out; that most secretaries will be promoted ahead of their bosses; and that some corporation presidents will probably be replaced by the janitor. Maybe this selective brain will be used in politics and in the army, too.

Dr. Toyohiko Kagawa, Japanese-Christian and little known author of a number of weighty books, told this story when he appeared here recently. He said he and his party (in autos) were stopped enroute from Portland to Salem by a state policeman. When told who he had halted, the state cop said: "Oh, Dr. Kagawa. Why, I've read several of his books." With men like this on the state police force crime should come to an absolute halt in Oregon.

GRIN AND BEAR IT by Lichty



"A raise? ... do you want to start a spiral of inflation that'll make the pension you demanded last year worthless? ..."

Ways In Washington

By Jane Eads

WASHINGTON (AP)—Page the lexicographers! I want to know where the expression "lame duck" originated. The lame ducks themselves don't know. Nor does anyone seem to. A political lame duck is supposed to be a senator or representative who, failing to be re-elected, serves out his term between election day and January 3 when the new Congress takes over.

There are several lame ducks in both Senate and House already, men defeated in the primaries. Several senators and representatives are not running for re-election. Some are running for other jobs, representatives for Senate seats, for example, and senators for governorships of their states. They will be serving but are not considered lame ducks.

Whence came "lame duck"? Neither parliamentarians, clerks who have been on the "Hill" for years, political historians, nor even the Legislative Reference Section of the Library of Congress could say.

In his book "The American Language," H. L. Mencken traces the phrase lame duck and others, like favorite son, dark horse and land-slide, back to the colorful days of the last century. But he fails to give their origin. Lame duck days used to extend until March 4, but the 20th amendment to the Constitution put an end to that. The original purpose of the delay was to permit newly elected officials to reach the capital with the slow transport of 1789.

A "lame duck" (slang), according to Webster's dictionary, is a "disabled person or thing," in a way this is true of congressional lame ducks for, while they maintain the same prerogatives the remainder of their term in Congress, they're not taken so seriously as the other boys.

They can't do anybody any good and more—neither the voters, the lobbyists nor their colleagues. Colleagues usually consider each other for their trading value, bargaining their votes with each other for favorite legislation. If it's a long-range piece of legislation that will continue through the next Congress—such as the Taft-Hartley Act, health insurance or the Brannan farm plan, there's no use currying favor with a lame duck. He just won't be around anymore.

Anyway, why lame DUCK? Aren't they drakes—or weren't they all when the expression began?

Better English

- 1. That is wrong with this sentence? "As I take it, he is to be nominated for treasurer."
 - 2. What is the correct pronunciation of "viscount"?
 - 3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Advantagously, adulation, admonition, advisibility.
 - 4. What does the word "vacillating" mean?
 - 5. What is a word beginning with exp that means "having no disguised meaning"?
- ANSWERS
1. Say, "As I understand, he is to be nominated for treasurer."
2. Pronounce vi-kount, I as in wine, accent first syllable.
3. Advisability. 4. Wavering.
5. Explicit.

Gall Bladders Gall Henry In New York

By Henry McLemore
NEW YORK, Nov. 13—Twenty-two years ago, almost to the day, I came to New York seeking fame and fortune.

The fact that I have achieved neither does not worry me half so much as the changes that have taken place in me and old friends whose acquaintance I am re-ewing, now that I am back in New York to live. When we meet our conversation is just about as depressing a thing as one can imagine.

Twenty-two years ago we talked of good old days in college, the location of the best speakers, the places where the hottest hands were playing, football and baseball games, and other things that indicated we were young, alive and rearing to go.

We didn't have the name and address of a doctor, dentist or optician among us. The names and addresses we had—well, you can imagine.

Now—and I have noticed with horror that whenever a bunch of us get together—everything is dated from some physical calamity that has overtaken us since we staggered into the forties. "I haven't seen you since I had my gall bladder out, have I?" one old friend said after we had shaken hands and slyly given one another's paunches a good looking over. He then proceeded to tell me about the hospital, the doctor, the nurses, and how for a while it seemed as if he would not pull through. If it hadn't been daylight, and if we hadn't been standing on the corner of Madison and 53rd, I am quite sure he would have taken off his coat, hiked up his shirt, and shown me where the medics whacked him.

He seemed every bit as proud of having his gall bladder removed as he once was of telling of his days as tackle on the Tech varsity and what a holler he was with the Chi Omegas and Tri Deltas.

When I ran across another friend of the early New York days when we barely had a nickel between us, I suggested that just for old times' sake we drop in an all-night cafeteria we used to patronize.

We patronized it because it gave the most generous helping of French fries of all the places we had visited, and five or six extra potatoes were a great help in those days.

"I can't do it," he said, "as much as I'd like to. You see, I have been having a devil of a time with my ulcers and about all I can have is milk and coddled eggs. Fried stuff would come close to killing me."

In calling up another old friend from a telephone pay station I found that the 22 years hadn't let me off without any change, either. You know how they chain down phone books in New York? Well, they don't make those chains long enough for a fellow whose dimming eyesight requires that he hold the book as far as possible. I stretched the chain as far as it would go, but all I could see was what seemed to be pages of crazy hieroglyphics, written by a chicken whose feet had been soaked in ink.

I notice, too, that nearly all of us wear double-breasted suits these days. Back in 1928 and thereabouts we didn't know clothes sold such things. Another chum of yesteryear graciously volunteered to give me a note to his doctor and his dentist. "You'll be needing them," he said after a brief survey of my chassis, "and they're both swell fellows. Never too busy to treat you, night or day."

Maybe I'll have to go back to Florida and the Fountain of Youth. I already feel like Methuselah with rheumatism up here in New York.

I am beginning to believe people have something when they speak of the "good old days."

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IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page one)

for a position elsewhere because he doesn't want to lose that teacher for his own system. Still frowned on, but still common is the practice of "teachers gossiping about and criticizing other teachers."

Undoubtedly school boards in some localities have interfered unduly with the private lives of schoolteachers. Yet inherent in teaching is a responsibility toward youth that goes beyond the mere imparting of instruction. A teacher just can't be a "trouder" out of school hours. At the same time teachers should be privileged to enjoy normal and wholesome freedoms. In that way they may exert a better influence on youth than if they are confined by ultra narrow taboos.

Codes of ethics after all are generally pious expressions of purpose. I recall a meeting of the Washington Educational Association of nearly 40 years ago when a special committee headed by the late S. B. L. Penrose, president of Whitman college, read a report with a code of ethics for teachers. After he had finished President Wilson of old Ellensburg Normal got up and said that sounded just like endorsing the sermon on the mount. That punctured the balloon and the proposed code was laid on the table.

If a teacher has a good moral sense and a respect for her profession she will have little need for a code of ethics.

FREE LECTURE on Christian Science

Christian Science: A Foundation for World Brotherhood and Peace.

By Arthur C. Whitney, C. S. of Chicago, Ill.

Member of the Board of Lectureship of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts.

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