

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Cabinet Crisis of 1862

If the republican senators and congressmen had reviewed their history before they resolved they wouldn't have "demanded" the discharge of Dean Acheson as secretary of state. That gave President Truman a chance to give them a history lesson when he stated plainly he would not accede to the demand. He simply referred to the episode of the Seward resignation in December, 1862, which had been forced through a caucus of republican senators and was rejected by Mr. Lincoln.

Fortunes of the Union cause were at a low ebb that December. General Burnside, who had succeeded (against his own will) to command of the Army of the Potomac, ordered an attack on Lee's army at Fredericksburg and suffered a costly and humiliating defeat. Congress and the country were depressed and demands were made that heads should roll. Harper's Weekly ran a cartoon calling on Lincoln to drop Secretary of War Stanton and General Halleck, chief of staff, over the side of the ship of state into "merited oblivion." Stimulated by gossip set afoot by ambitious Salmon P. Chase, secretary of the treasury, who was envious or distrustful of William H. Seward, secretary of state, republican senators caucused for two days and finally came up with a resolution calling on Lincoln to reorganize his cabinet—which everyone knew meant to fire Seward. The latter got wind of the caucus and sent his resignation to the president. Lincoln received the committee of the senate, discussed the conduct of the war with them. Next morning he discussed the caucus resolution with his cabinet, minus Seward; and that night had the senate committee meet with the cabinet, again minus Seward. At this meeting Chase in effect reneged on his previous stories, which left the senators somewhat nonplussed. When Chase with some reluctance tendered his resignation Lincoln turned down both resignations and asked Seward and Chase to remain in the cabinet.

Then, as now, there was a lot of backstairs dickering. Perhaps the best account of the dilemma facing Lincoln is that given by Senator Browning, his friend from Illinois, who visited the White House the evening after Lincoln got the Seward resignation:

"He asked me if I was at the caucus yesterday. I told him I was and the day before also. Said he 'What do these men want?' I answered 'I hardly know Mr. President, but they are exceedingly violent towards the administration, and what we did yesterday was the gentlest thing that could be done. We had to do that or worse.' Said he 'They wish to get rid of me, and I am sometimes half disposed to gratify them.' I replied, 'Some of them do wish to get rid of you, but the fortunes of the country are bound up with your fortunes, and you stand firmly at your post and hold the helm with a steady hand—To relinquish it now would bring upon us certain and inevitable ruin.' Said he 'We are now on the brink of destruction. It appears to me the Almighty is against us, and I can hardly see a ray of hope.' I answered 'Be firm and we will save the country. Do not be driven from your post. You ought to have crushed the ultra, impracticable men last summer. You could then have done it, and escaped these troubles. But we will not talk of the past. Let us be hopeful and take care of the future. Mr. Seward appears now to be the special object of their hostility. Still I believe he has managed our foreign affairs as well as any one could have done. Yet they are very bitter upon him, and some of them very bitter upon you.' He then said 'Why will men believe a lie, an

absurd lie, that could not impose upon a child, and cling to it and repeat it in defiance of all evidence to the contrary.' I understood this to refer to the charges against Mr. Seward."

After this cabinet crisis was over Browning again called on the president to suggest a cabinet reorganization, but Mr. Lincoln said he would rather try to get along with his present cabinet than try a new one. Browning reports that when a rumor was mentioned that Chase partisans planned to force Chase on the president as "Premier": "He said with a good deal of emphasis that he was master, and they should not do that."

The historical parallel is never a secure foundation for present decision. Mr. Truman is not Abraham Lincoln and Dean Acheson is not Seward (Acheson is an able man but less affable). Neither are the senate republicans today the same as those of 1862. And the situation is different. But President Truman could no more accede to the republican demand in December, 1950 than Lincoln could in December, 1862. The president still must be the master.

The fundamental premise of the republican attack on Acheson is false as was that of their predecessors in 1862 against Seward. The "lie" today is as "absurd" as that which Lincoln so denominated. Instead of contributing to confusion and disunity the republicans in congress would do much better to join ranks with democrats in promoting the common interest of the country.

Legislative Reforms

The prospective heads of the two houses of the legislative assembly, Sen. Paul Patterson for the senate and Rep. John Steelhammer for the house, have been making plans to expedite work of the next session. Among other proposals are one to consolidate certain committees such as judiciary and assessment and taxation and another to reduce the number of committees. The former method is followed on ways and means and might prove helpful for other committees. For that matter the state might well give attention to the matter of a unicameral legislature, such as Nebraska has, with only one house.

The committee system now in vogue in our legislature is too cumbersome. Each member gets on at least one committee and usually on several. Store is set on chairmanships, so the number of committees is increased to spread the titles around. The result is that committee work is retarded for lack of a quorum or conflict with other committees. Members flit in and out of committee sessions, trying to spread themselves to cover their assignments.

Sen. Tom Mahoney promptly objected to the scale-down in committees because it might deprive the minority party of some chairmanships. Other democrats, like Neuberger and Bob Holmes of Astoria favor reducing the number of committees or the representation of members on committees.

Under real reorganization with a limited number of committees staffed with competent help the legislature should be able to do a better job and to do it in less time. Experience indicates however that legislative bodies are slowest to achieve any reform within themselves though they are forever scolding the executive branch for its inefficiency. Maybe Patterson and Steelhammer can really accomplish something this time, however. More strength to their hands.

Some Experts Believe Russians Millions Of Barrels of Oil Away from World War III

By Sigrid Arne
Some Washington experts on Russia think the Kremlin is several million barrels of oil away from touching off World War III.

The Russian position on oil appears to them not to differ from Hitler's when he gambled on World War II, hoping that he either had, or would win, enough supplies to carry him through.

Tanks get two miles to the gallon of gas.

On a trip to Europe a B-36 uses more than a tank car of gasoline and 10,000 pounds of lubricating oil.

rica where there are air fields which are not described by the military.

There is a second Russian oil supply in Romania, in the Ploesti oil fields, but that oil is so low grade that it takes a good deal of fancy refining.

The Russians might prolong a war by grabbing the middle east fields, but they are even more

vulnerable to western bombing than their Baku fields.

The west would like to keep the middle east fields for its own use, but there would be little tenderness in Washington for the area if held by the Russians.

So it is felt that the middle east fields would be cancelled out if both the east and the west fought for them.

Ways in Washington

For that kind of warfare the west is set up to carry on indefinitely. Russia according to these men's belief, is only supplied for a lightning war. But that lightning war could be prolonged if the Russians could grab the middle east oil fields and supply enough air protection to keep them in production.

Right now here is how the east-west production of oil stacks up:

The U. S. is turning out 2,311,000,000 barrels of oil a year. The western hemisphere turns out 3,075,000,000.

The west uses production from the middle east, 660,000,000 barrels a year. The richest fields lie in Iran; these turn out 251,000,000 barrels a year.

Moscow is turning out only 324,000,000 barrels of oil a year. Moscow gives out no such trade information, but this is the best guess of men who work for American oil companies and the U. S. government.

By Jane Eads
WASHINGTON (AP)—American GIs the world over will sit down to a traditional Christmas dinner with a pound of turkey per man and all the trimmings. The menu will be much the same as that they had on Thanksgiving day and will vary only slightly in different areas. Army cooks will prepare the dinner from the master menu set up by the quartermaster corps. Here's what they'll be eating Christmas day in "Z1"—that is, Zone of the Interior, or the United States proper:

Breakfast: Chilled grapefruit, oatmeal, fresh milk, fried eggs, toast, doughnuts, butter, coffee.

Dinner (mid-day): Ripe olives, celery sticks, sweet pickles, spiced tomato juice cocktail, roast turkey, sage dressing, giblet gravy, cranberry sauce, whipped potatoes, glazed sweets, French-style green beans, lettuce wedge with Thousand-Island dressing, Parker House rolls, jam, butter, hot mince pie, coffee, apples, tangerines, grapes, salted nuts, hard candy.

Supper: Turkey rice soup, crackers, cold sliced turkey sand-

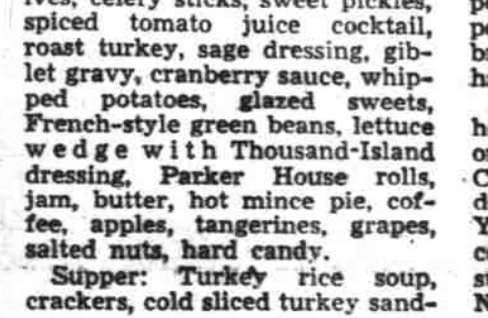
wiches, lettuce, salad dressing, potatoes, vegetables, relish tray, bread, butter, ice cream, cocoa.

In the Eastern Command, including Japan and Korea, they'll get about the same, except they'll have fried ham and jelly for breakfast but no doughnuts. The dinner, also at mid-day, will feature shrimp cocktail, fresh buttered corn, ice cream and fruit cake in addition to the mince pie, and a fruit punch. There is no mention of turkey soup or cold turkey sandwiches on the buffet supper menu.

About the only differences in the European Command's menu for the day are in vegetables. The boys and girls in Germany, for instance, will have buttered succotash and cauliflower with parsley butter for dinner. Their mince meat pie will be ala mode.

Here's the recipe for the sage dressing, the portions calculated on the basis of every 100 men: five pounds of celery, two and a half pounds of dry onions, two pounds of fat drippings, one-half pound parsley, 24 pounds of bread crumbs and one and one-half ounce of sage.

Unlike most of the folks back home, the GIs get turkey not only on Thanksgiving and Christmas, but also on five other days in the year, including New Year's day. The quartermaster corps bought the turkey last summer, 15,000,000 pounds of it, New York-dressed.



IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from Page One)

average after the plan is working, so a greater stability of income would be assured. Counties through their O & C association want a minimum of 50 per cent of gross receipts.

The whole subject will have to be explored and discussed by the principal parties at interest: the federal government through congress and the interior department and the counties whose interest has been recognized by law.

What should be kept in mind is that in these two and a quarter million acres the people have a great asset. Under proper management it will be permanent asset, as the 1937 law contemplates in its requirement of operation of the lands on a sustained yield basis. The "landlords' income" shared by federal and county governments is only part of the benefit. The remainder comes in the way of the timber, what it provides in the way of employment and materials for local industry and to consumers in the way of useful commodities: lumber, plywood, pulp, paper, etc. Counties should look to this feature too; and they don't want to get caught like the boy who had his hand in the cookie jar, and tried to hold so many cookies in his hand he couldn't get it out.

Safety Valve

Aims and Objects Given For Historical Society To the Editor:

The Marion County Historical Society wishes to correct an article which appeared in your paper November 23, stating that the purpose of this society was saving the present court house and listed the officers and board members as soliciting and receiving donations for that purpose. No one whose name was given was in anyway responsible for the article.

To quote from the constitution of the Marion County Historical Society "The object of the Marion County Historical Society shall be education, namely, to stimulate an interest in, and a knowledge of, the past in Marion County, Oregon.

Section 1. To discover and gather objects and material illustrative of the history of the county, its life, conditions, events and activities.

Section 2. To provide for the preservation and use of such objects.

Section 3. To sponsor research in archaeological and historical problems.

Section 4. To foster the preservation of historical buildings, sites and monuments, and to encourage intelligent use of them, for modern purposes.

Section 5. To conduct educational programs in the field of history through publications, meetings, the observation of historical anniversaries and the use of aids of learning."

Memberships — Any person interested in the history of Marion County may be enrolled as a regular member upon the payment of the annual dues.

This above taken from the Constitution of the society should clarify any misconceptions as to the objects of the society.

Thanking you Sincerely,
(MISS) MERL E. DIMICK,
Pres. Marion Co. Historical Society,
909 Market St.

Better English

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "Jones wanted the position of manager badly."
2. What is the correct pronunciation of "passer?"
3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Contemporary, contentuous, contemptuous, contingency.
4. What does the word "posterity" mean?
5. What is a word beginning with q that means "evenness of mind"?

ANSWERS
1. Say, "Jones wanted very much the position of manager."

2. Pronounce pa-sa, first a as in ah, second a as in say, accent second syllable. 3. Contentious. 4. Descendants; all succeeding generations; future time. "He attempted to build up an estate for posterity." 5. Equanimity.

Hollywood On Parade

HOLLYWOOD—Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., whose postwar Hollywood movies were fairly dull, has gone abroad and starred in a dandy, "State Secret" is a first-rate chase melodrama with Doug pursued by state police bent on killing him.

The state is a modern but mythical "Vosnia," recklessly bossed by a dictator and his gang. A distinguished American surgeon (Fairbanks) visits the country and performs an operation. In surgery, he learns that the patient is the dictator.

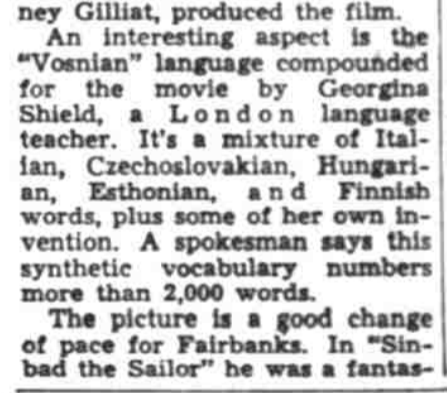
The dictator's illness hasn't been disclosed to the people because he is a solo candidate up for re-election. Even if he died, his gang would try to bluff through the election, with a double making his appearances. When he does die, in Fairbanks' presence, the surgeon is in on the secret. Therefore, in the view of the dictator's lieutenant (British actor Jack Hawkins), the visiting doctor must die, too.

Fairbanks' flight takes him through streets and into a music hall. He fast-talks the star (England's Glynis Johns) into helping him. A money-smuggler, well played by Herbert Lom, aids their flight by river boat and mountain cable car. Even in the exciting mountain-climbing scenes, Doug doesn't emulate his late father with heroic gymnastics, as he did so persistently here.

The tightly knit, well acted story was filmed partly in Trento and the Dolomite Alps of northern Italy. Interiors were shot in London. Two British movie-makers, Frank Launder and Sidney Gilliat, produced the film.

An interesting aspect is the "Vosnian" language compounded for the movie by Georgina Shield, a London language teacher. It's a mixture of Italian, Czechoslovakian, Hungarian, Estonian, and Finnish words, plus some of her own invention. A spokesman says this synthetic vocabulary numbers more than 2,000 words.

The picture is a good change of pace for Fairbanks. In "Sinbad the Sailor" he was a fantas-



Stamps In The News

AP Newsfeatures
Brazil commemorates its general census this year by issuing two new stamps, reports the New York Stamp Co. The 60 cruzeiros red shows a map of Brazil and profile views of a man, woman and child. The 1.20 cruzeiros brown is for airmail use. It also pictures a map of Brazil. In the lower left are silhouettes of individuals representing the counting of the population.

Italy has issued two new stamps honoring the 1950 International conference of High Frequency Radio, reports Leon Monosson. At this conference the participants met to iron out problems of wave lengths within the various countries. The 20 lire is violet and the 561 is blue. The same set was overprinted for use in the Free Territory of Trieste.

The profile of the Goddess Bodhisattva will be turned about on India's one anna stamp. The Communications Ministry says the goddess' face is depicted on the stamps as turned to her right. It should look to her left. New stamps, with Bodhisattva in the correct position, will replace the present issue.

A set of 10 beautifully illustrated stamps has been issued by Niue, reports the New York Stamp Co. Niue is a small island (also known as Savage Island in

tic adventurer. "The Exile" and "The Fighting O'Flynn" put him through other athletic and hard-to-believe exploits. "That Lady in Ermine," with Betty Grable, was a costume spectacle. More subdued and less Supermanly in "State Secret," Doug is a hero who really gets our sympathy.

South Pacific. It is a dependency of New Zealand. Pictured on the stamps are various native scenes. The 1/2 pence shows a map of the island.

DAV Christmas Party Tonight

Salem chapter 6 Disabled American Veterans, will hold its annual Christmas party tonight at 8 o'clock at Salem Woman's club house.

A program has been arranged for the children, with Santa Claus to assist in distributing gifts, candy and nuts. Disabled veterans and their families of Marion-Polk counties are invited to bring their children. All members attending are requested to bring some suitable gift for veterans of the Veterans hospital at Portland.

Benefit Bazaar Slated For Enlisted Men's Club

A bazaar to benefit the enlisted men's fund of Salem Company B, Oregon national guard, is slated for Friday from 7:30 to 11:30 p. m. in the armory.

Games and free refreshments are planned, with prizes donated by Salem merchants.

Electrifying Gifts!

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1236 State St. Salem

There Are Only 3 Days Remaining To Do Your Christmas Shopping

If you still have shopping to do we will be happy in the endeavor to be of service.

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