

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Rebuilding in Europe

While most of the news from Europe deals with the tug-of-war between Russia and the west, between communism and the free society occasional reports come through of the progress that is being made in reconstruction from the war's devastation. Russia itself is making strides in recovery; and among the satellite states Poland, which suffered the most severely, has done heroic work in restoring its structures and factories. It has been benefited by acquisition of mines in Silesia from Germany. But the people themselves have bent to their task with a will, and even ruined Warsaw is becoming habitable again.

West Germany also has been diligent in reviving its economy as much as it is permitted to do under allied directives. Statistics show steady expansion of production from its factories. The limiting factor is coal, and the odd thing has been reported of the export of German coal to France and the importation of coal from America. Exports of manufactured goods has increased, but seem to have reached a limit because of shortages of coal. This same lack is a limiting factor for British industry.

While Germany has been aided greatly by supplies furnished by the United States the Germans themselves have furnished the will and the energy to forge their reconstruction. Recently this editor was privileged to read the report of two men from the northwest who were on a world trip to make business and banking contacts for their organization. They told the story of a German exporter who called his banker to obtain a letter of credit that had been made available to him. The banker said his work load for the day was heavy but he would meet him at 11 that night at a cafe. Now quoting:

"When the importer went to the cafe at 11 he met the German banker, learned that he had worked straight through without dinner, and when he remonstrated and pointed out that it was not possible for a man to work every day from 7:30 or 8 in the morning until 10 or 11 at night, the German banker looked him straight in the eye and said that was the smallest service he could give for the rebuilding of his country."

Such stories of long hours and hard work are in sharp contrast with the program of the socialist governments to relieve the people of their burdens. It gives a prospect too of a revived German competition for world markets which was of growing concern to Britain and the United States even before the first world war.

As the countries renew their economic activities internal tensions will relax; and this in turn should moderate external strains. If only the diplomats will talk long enough and the people work hard enough, Europe may grow out of the present cold war status. The very fact that they are working shows a measure of faith that their new brick houses and factories will not soon be reduced to rubble. If those who are in the path of possible fighting and bombing have such faith we for our part should exert ourselves to the utmost not to destroy it, and their works, and them.

Government Contracts

Chester Starrett of the Portland chamber of commerce who has been in Washington seeking to line up government business for Oregon industry told those who attended the governor's conference Friday that Oregon manufacturers would have to cut their costs if they expect

to get contracts for war goods. He said he knew of three concerns which had lost out because their bids were too high, and commented, "Some of the people in Oregon think they can get contracts and retire for life. But they can't."

The trouble is Oregon hasn't gotten over its shipbuilding jag from the last war. That resulted in boosting of wages and living costs and postwar bulges kept on from that high plateau. No wonder we can't get business. Wages here are the highest in the country, and profit tastes call for high margins (induction from the lumber business perhaps). When both are put together the result to date is "no contracts."

Contracts aren't going out on a "come and get it" basis this time. When our bids are competitive then Oregon will share in government business.

Coast Tourist Crop

The coastal province of Oregon gets the spotlight in the quarterly bulletin of the state department of agriculture. Dairying (Tillamook and Copos cheese), forestry, salmon fishing, sheep raising, bulb growing and cranberries all get attention. The tourist crop rates an article by Verne H. Tinnerstet, manager of the Oregon coast association. He reports that crop was the heaviest in history along highway 101 last year, and makes this very important point:

"Of all the Oregon coast's crops taking care of tourists gives the highest percentage of profit per dollar. Why? In the first place, the market comes to the goods, instead of the goods going to the distant market."

"It is the only industry that the consumer comes to the market, enjoys the product (scenery and beaches) and leaves that product for others to enjoy. We have no shipping problems."

What he might have added by way of caution was a warning against mutilating the scenery by building atrocities, garish signs, destruction of the vegetative covering of the old sand dunes. True the visitor can't package and crate away the scenery, though he can copy it on film, but the ruthless developers can spoil its charm through ignorance, indifference or greed. Conservation is in order for this true natural resource if that tourist crop is to continue to come to the Oregon market.

Didn't Swallow Swallow Story

Quote from Editor Ruhl's correspondence from Coronado to the Medford Mail-Tribune:

We hate to spoil the story but we spent the luncheon hour in San Juan de Capistrano yesterday en route here from Ventura. Couldn't find a swallow and were unable to find anyone else who had. In fact the service station boy—who as a native of the village should know—declared stoutly there had been no swallow migration to or from in several years. It was all a gag, he maintained, to get tourists to spend the day—buy coke and popcorn, Mexican knick knacks and picture postcards, also a few gallons of gas—and he didn't care who knew it! Neither did we.

The Portland Journal calls archaic the provision of the state constitution which requires an affirmative vote of the people before state institutions may be located outside Marion county. It is, but that hasn't prevented the location of many in other counties. What Marion county doesn't like to see is locating so many important state offices outside the state capital.

MacArthur reports the U.N. forces are back on the "38 yard line." He has had no signal yet that it is "goal to go" (Yalu river).

Bloody Purges, Such as Hounding of Clementis, Reveal Terrible Weakness in Communist Net

By Stewart Alsop

WASHINGTON, March 24—The story of the last day of Vlado Clementis, former foreign minister of Czechoslovakia, before he was arrested as a traitor can now be told. It is a revealing story, for it demonstrates dramatically the extent to which hidden terror and the fear of suspicion pervade the whole Soviet empire.

Clementis has been a fanatical communist all his life. Yet in the course of his communist career he made one mistake which has now proved his undoing. For a few months he was a "premature anti-fascist," making anti-Nazi broadcasts from London to his own country, while Hitler and Stalin were still formally allied. This was deviationism, and the Kremlin never forgives.

Late in 1949, while Clementis was in this country representing his government at the United Nations, reliable reports that the Kremlin had demanded the liquidation of Clementis were published in this space. Clementis denounced these reports as lies, and was photographed arm in arm with a smiling Andrei Vishinsky. Clementis was in fact wholly aware that he was in danger. Both Czech President Klement Gottwald, a close personal friend of long standing, had sent his wife to New York with assurances that if Clementis returned he would be spared. Trusting his friend's word, Clementis made the fateful decision to go back.

He was soon dismissed as foreign minister, which he must have expected. But he was not arrested. He was installed in-

stead in a minor job as economic adviser in the state bank. Yet—as the Kremlin, acting through such trusted agents as party secretary Rudolf Slansky, tightened its grip on Czechoslovakia, the protection of Gottwald became increasingly worthless. The Kremlin is never satisfied with half measures, and early this year word came to Clementis that he had been marked for the slaughter. He could save himself only by escaping.

He and his brother-in-law, Dr. Daniel Okali, Slovak minister of the Interior and also a lifelong communist, hatched a plan. Ostensibly to discuss the export of wood pulp with Okali, Clementis would fly to Bratislava, the Slovak capital. Okali had a government plane at his disposal, and in this the two men would escape to Western Germany, with Tito's Belgrade their ultimate objective.

At the last moment, Clementis became aware that he was being watched. He changed his plan, evading the secret police and taking a slow train for Bratislava, instead of the plane. The train stopped over for some hours at Brno, near the Czech border, and at Brno Clementis must have felt the noose tightening around his neck. For while waiting to continue his journey, Clementis got word that Okali had been arrested as a traitor in Bratislava.

When he heard this, Clementis must have known that he had become the object of a man-hunt. At first, he tried to cross the border on his own, with the intention of making his way through the Bohemian forest into Soviet Austria, and thence into Vienna. But the net was drawn too tight, and to cross the border without help proved impossible. Evidently, Clementis decided to play a last desperate card. The local communist leader in the smaller town of Znam, near the

border, was an old comrade in arms from the pre-war days. Perhaps he might help.

He reached Znam undetected, and saw his friend in his office in the morning. His friend stood by him, and told him to return at 5:00 o'clock that afternoon, when arrangements for his escape into East Austria would be complete. Clementis passed the intervening hours at a motion picture, and returned promptly at 5:00 o'clock.

This was the beginning of the trail. His communist friend had been watched and had already been arrested. In his office, Clementis found the secret police waiting for him. President Gottwald, all real power now stripped from him, promptly denounced Clementis, to whom he had been closer than any other man, as a traitor and a spy, in order to save his own skin. Thus the end came for Vlado Clementis, who is dead now or as good as dead.

This story, which is certainly accurate in outline, of the last days of the former Czech foreign minister, is worth pondering, especially now when it so often seems that moral decay has overtaken the American republic. The American system may produce its Costellos, but at least it produces no spectacle comparable to that of a man who had been foreign minister only a few months before zigzagging frantically, like a rabbit pursued by hounds, in a desperate effort to escape his country.

Surely the endless bloody fermenting of old communist after old communist which has been going on for so many years now argues a terrible weakness in the power structure of the communist world. Surely the fear which Clementis must have felt as his pursuers closed in on him must be felt also, and always, by his pursuers, whose turn is so likely to come next. (Copyright 1951, New York Herald-Tribune)

BLOOD DONOR OF THE WEEK



Comes the Dawn

Although Easter actually tells the powerful story of the resurrection, the holiday is all wrapped up in lots of pagan symbols such as the Easter parade, Easter egg, and the Easter rabbit. The day also has been commercialized with greeting cards, flowers and Easter bunnets. In fact the very name of Easter is pagan—an old Anglo-Saxon word derived from Eostre, a Teutonic goddess of the rising light of day and spring.



And when the Teutonic goddess in your household arises in the early light today and dons her Easter finery she is perpetuating one of the oldest traditions of Christendom—the donning of white robes by the newly baptized. The kids will wake up early this morning to surprise and shock you (an ancient custom), and they'll hunt for eggs (primitive symbol of spring) laid by the Easter rabbit (a pagan emblem of fertility). And of course all this finery, flowers and accessories is paid for by Father, (another ancient custom dating from the sack-cloth and ashes days).

If the youngsters are noisy today you should know that noise and frolic has always been associated with Easter. In eastern Europe churchbells used to ring all day on Easter. And the Catholic Encyclopedia tells how in Bavaria in the 15th century funny stories used to be woven into Easter sermons—keeping the congregation in stitches. This, and other customs, have long been dropped.

In at least one case, though, that of the Easter fire, a compromise with pagan practices was made. In the early days the fire was lighted on top of a mountain, and according to pagan practice, had to be kindled from new fire. The blaze signified the victory of spring over winter. At first the bishops issued severe edicts against these "sacrilegious Easter fires." But all over Europe people insisted on starting them. So, the CE observes, "the church adopted the observance in the Easter ceremonies."

Another custom (which we do not think will become very popular) is the ancient one which permits women to strike their husbands on Easter Monday—while on Tuesday the men may strike their wives. The way some of these Teutonic goddesses are built these days this custom is hardly a fair one to the husbands, that is.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page one.)

had to come out in the open to oppose the verdict of his fellow-councillors, and he exposed himself even more to their ostracism by claiming the body of the crucified one and giving it decent burial. Maybe Joseph was prompted to this young preacher-teacher from Galilee. Perhaps he was prompted simply by charity and by what we call now tolerance. He had seen the bigotry of Christ's accusers, the falsehood of the accusations laid against him. And he was moved to lay aside all prejudice and give honorable interment to one who had been deserted even by his disciples.

Most of us are prisoners of our class, our creed, our associations. We tend to conform, adapting ourselves to whatever level we move in. Joseph of Arimathea was one of those rare souls who refused to be such a prisoner. The instinct of human charity broke through the restraints of narrow sectarianism. We might almost say that this Joseph was the first Christian; and in a Christendom riven by multitudinous and often contentious sects he has left too few descendants.

Russ Soldiers Stationed on Aleutian Isle

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, March 24—(AP)—The weekly newspaper Forty Ninth Star quoted an eskimo today as saying at least nine Soviet soldiers are stationed on Big Diomed Island—closest Russian land to Alaska.

The newspaper said information from James Iyapana, a resident of Little Diomed Island, dispels the unsubstantiated report of last year that Big Diomed had been completely evacuated.

The two islands are only three miles apart in the Bering Strait. Iyapana arrives here aboard the first plane to leave Little Diomed this year. He came to Anchorage for medical treatment.

The Forty Ninth Star said Iyapana told how hunters from Little Diomed, equipped with powerful binoculars, spotted a patrol of nine Russian soldiers skiing on Big Diomed.

BABY SUFFOCATES

ROSEBURG, March 24—(AP)—Daniel Brandt, five-month-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Brandt, died last night from apparent suffocation in his bed.



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GOP Hopes to Get Dawson on Witness Stand

By G. Mill Kelly
WASHINGTON, March 24—(AP)—Republicans had a campaign under way today to get White House Aide Donald Dawson on a witness stand before the Fulbright subcommittee.

The subcommittee has named Dawson as a key member of an influence clique with ability to sway the Reconstruction Finance Corporation's vast program of government loans.

Dawson has left the charges unanswered. President Truman termed them asinine—a word that stung the subcommittee into calling public hearings at which it aired evidence on which it based the charge.

Senator Fulbright (D-Ark.), the subcommittee chairman, wrote Dawson inviting him to reply under oath at his convenience. The senator later made the letter public with a statement that Dawson had not even acknowledged it.

Fulbright has declined to attempt to compel Dawson's appearance. He contends there is serious constitutional question of the subcommittee's authority to order the appearance of any top White House aide, and that there is no point starting a losing fight.

Republicans have set out on a program to needle Dawson publicly, evidently to get him to appear.

Numerous republican senators say they intend to miss no chances in political speeches to drag in Dawson's name, in an apparent hope of snowballing enough public sentiment to force his voluntary appearance.

Portland, March 24—(AP)—The Oregon Education association closed its annual three-day meeting here today after a morning session devoted to discussions on ethics, economic welfare, legislation and retirement.

Joann Sefer, student at Mt. Angel College, was elected president of the future teachers organization.

Angel college, was elected president of the future teachers organization.

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