

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Elstrom to Liquor Board

It has been no secret that Governor McKay has been trying to persuade Robert L. Elstrom, Salem's former mayor, to accept the position on the state liquor commission which Carl Hogg months ago asked to be relieved of. That would be a good appointment. Elstrom is a man with business experience and political experience as well, including that of law enforcement which a mayor always has to deal with. He is a man of high principle who would not compromise on high standards of administration.

Teamsters Union Stresses Safety

Boss truckers are not the only ones instructing their truck drivers in good manners as over-the-road drivers. The teamsters' union works at the same job steadily. It is insistent that its members handle their trucks safely and with due regard to other users of the highway. They realize as do employers that this is good business, protecting them in their jobs against the fury of vengeful motorists rebelling against a possible truck road-hog. The Oregon Teamster, organ of the union endorses four basic rules for good conduct in truck driving, editorializing as follows:

1. Maintain sufficient distance between your vehicle and the one ahead.
 2. Drop back to a safe following distance whenever you attempted to pass and find the way not clear.
 3. Make every effort to permit following traffic to pass on long grades by pulling over on the shoulder, if possible.
 4. Permit delayed traffic to pass after you reach the top of any long grade.
- Observance of these four conditions will go a long way toward removing the cause of public complaint against the trucking industry.
- But trucks would be better able to abide by rules No. 3 and 4 if Oregon highways provided more "turn-out" shoulders on grades.
- It's our observation that truck drivers are both skilled and courteous and ready to lend a hand to a motorist in distress.

Restoration in Spain?

News that Spain is heading toward a monarchy must be taken with reservations. Nominally the country is a monarchy now. But dictators have been allergic to kings and though Don Juan has been waiting in the wings for years, Generalissimo Franco has never given him the cue to come on stage. The hint now is dropped that Don Juan, son of Alfonso XIII, Spain's last king, will renounce his rights in favor of his

Korean Episode Can Be Counted Real Victory If Defense Efforts Are Continued, Alsops Say

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop

WASHINGTON, July 20—There is a fairly simple explanation of the strange ritual at Kaesong—the talks about a cease-fire, as a prelude to an armistice, as a prelude to peace negotiations, which are carried on while the Korean fighting also continues. The cease-fire and armistice are in fact expected to be the last serious acts of the Korean drama.

No doubt, when and if the generals and statesmen successfully complete their labors at Kaesong, the diplomats and statesmen will go to work in their turn, under somewhat less primitive conditions. No doubt there will be peace negotiations, with all the familiar trappings of agendas, proposals and counter-proposals, and loud haggings about the meaning of such terms as "free elections." But almost no one hopes that these negotiations will accomplish anything.

Gen. Nam Il and Gen. Tung Hua clearly hold this view. Hence, the North Korean and Chinese representatives are trying to crowd into the Kaesong agreement clauses that belong in the final settlement, such as provision for withdrawal of all foreign troops from Korea. Equally, the same view is held by the leading personalities in Washington and Tokyo. And that is why Vice Admiral Joy and his delegation are proceeding with such meticulous deliberation,

even although this means that the somewhat desultory fighting is thereby prolonged.

The reasons for this view are also plain enough. After a cease-fire and armistice, each side will hold roughly half of Korea. Each will demand a final settlement on its own terms—the United Nations calling for a settlement responsive to the wishes of the Korean people; the communists demanding a "democratic" settlement which will ensure communist control of the country. This sort of negotiation is doomed to deadlock before it begins.

What then will be the consequences, if the bitter, bloody war in Korea simply tails out into a cease-fire and armistice, without the formal peace agreement that customarily concludes wars? Where will it leave us? Not too badly off, appears to be the answer.

It is possible, in the first place, that defense of the post-armistice status quo can eventually be left to a greatly strengthened South Korean army provided the Chinese also wish to recall their "volunteers" on reasonable terms and at a reasonable time. If not, some United Nations troops will have to be retained in Korea, as a safeguard against renewed aggression. But even if the American forces are thus prevented from saying a final farewell to a country they do not love, there will still be substantial consolations, both positive and negative.

First, since Japan is so near, the Korean garrison can be relatively small. Most of the American divisions can be pulled back to Japan or brought home.

Second, even a small U. N. garrison will be a better guarantee against renewal of Korean hostilities than any peace treaty. No doubt its retention will be denounced by the same senators who have attacked the administration for being overly hasty in recalling American troops from

son Juan Carlos who would become king under a regency. This might be window-dressing for a continuation of fascist rule with Franco the dictator.

Truth is that Spain is sick, seriously sick. Its economy has deteriorated progressively until strikes have been called with blessings both of priests and industrialists. These general strikes, as the one at Barcelona, were not leftist, or communist. They were popular reactions against intolerable living conditions. What Spain needs is not a restored royal house but some form of government which will restore economic health to the now impoverished country.

President Truman admitted that the attitude of the United States toward Spain was being changed for military reasons. In other words we stomach our qualms over the Franco government to get concessions of military bases in Spain. The bargain is questionable. Our money payments may be enough to keep Franco in power, but without a thorough reconstruction of Spain's government and reorganization of its economy the people still will suffer. Politically the alliance with Franco is a liability, and is scorned by Britain and France.

We realize that in the game of world politics a country makes use of both right and left hands. In this case however the deal for aid to Spain appears to be forced on the administration by zeal of the military for bases and pressures of men like Sen. McCarran of Nevada. In our opinion the best aid to Spain would be through establishment of a new government there rather than through propping up Franco. A limited monarchy would be tolerable (though expensive) if it was accompanied by an enlightened administration which the Spanish people want and ought to have.

Gas Companies Escape Regulation

A year ago President Truman showed his nerve when he vetoed a bill sponsored by Sen. Robert Kerr of Oklahoma, a staunch democrat. This bill would have exempted certain producers of natural gas from regulation by the federal power commission. That veto was hailed as a victory for consumers because otherwise certain big producers of natural gas escaped regulation as to the rates they might charge.

But now the federal power commission (of which Mon Wallgren the president's crony is chairman) has ruled that Phillips Petroleum company is not subject to regulation in the sale of its natural gas. This cuts the ground from under the feet of those cities seeking to get regulation of the price of gas at wholesale. Phillips Petroleum's reserves of natural gas are among the very largest in the United States, running into the trillions of cubic feet. Other companies whose primary business is oil refining are in the same category and presumably now will escape regulation in fixing prices for their natural gas.

Mon Wallgren says he is going to resign from the FPC. From the standpoint of the public interest it would appear that there should be more resignations from that body.

The \$25,000,000 appropriation to provide relief to victims of the Kansas-Missouri floods is but a drop in the bucket of the estimated three-quarters of a billion in damages. But it will provide immediate care—food and medicines and shelter. Flood waters are remorseless—Ol' Man River, he just keeps rollin' along.

GRIN AND BEAR IT by Lichty

Abdullah's first son and heir recently suffered a nervous breakdown, and unconfirmed but repeated reports said he wounded Gubb Pasha, British head of Abdullah's army, before being shipped out of the country.

Now Abdullah's second son has been made regent. Nobody knows much about what that will mean for Abdullah's old plan of eventually uniting Jordan and Iraq under Abdullah's nephew, now Iraq's king. The Hashemite family of which they are all members

Korea three years ago. Yet Gen. MacArthur himself planned to leave U. N. forces in Korea for several years, at the time when he expected to conquer the whole country.

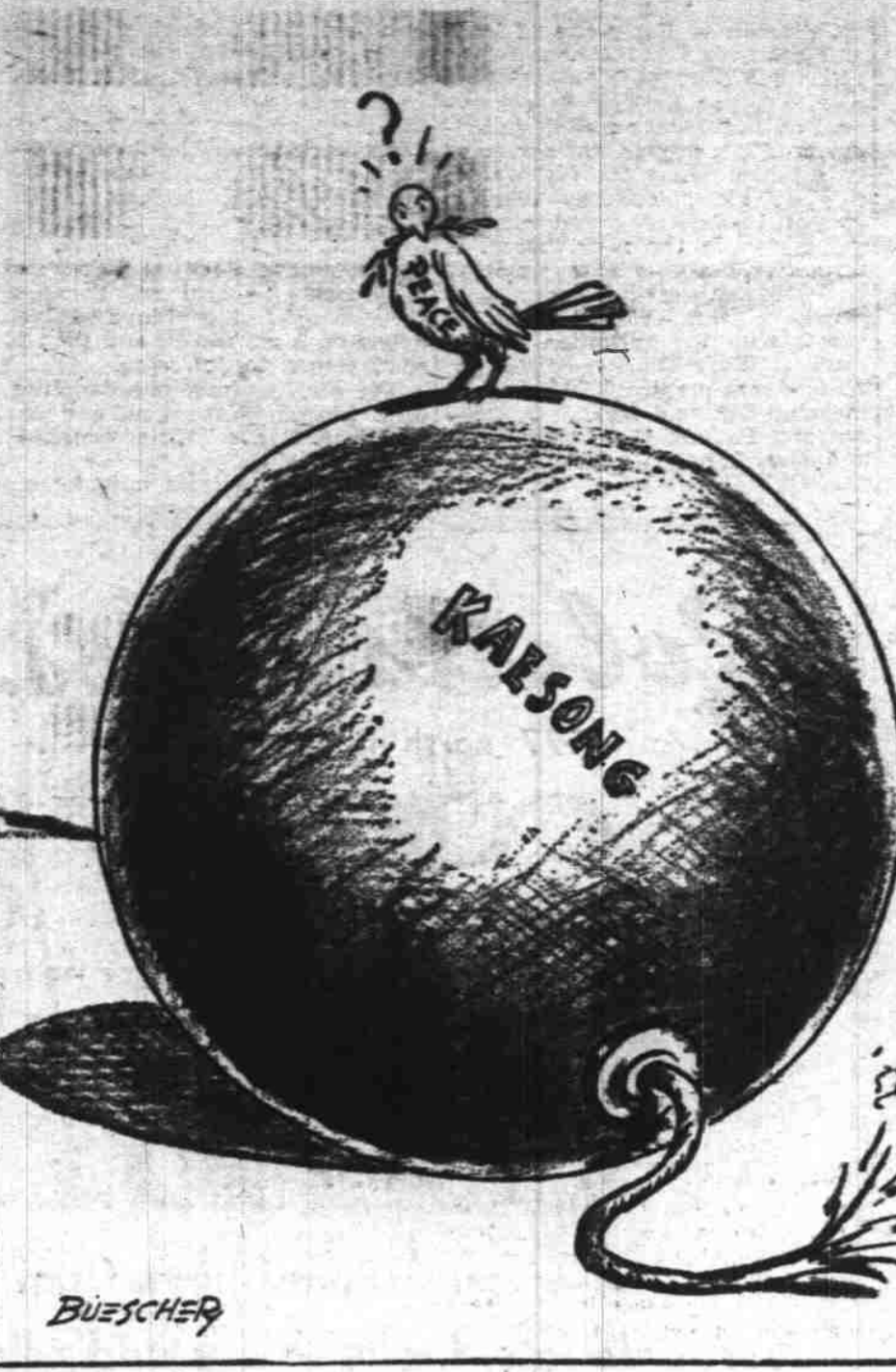
Third, on the larger question of peace treaty vs. no peace treaty, there is one advantage in having no peace treaty that almost no one seems to have thought of. In brief, the announced American policy is to neutralize Formosa for the duration of the Korean war; and this has been somewhat grudgingly accepted by the world at large. But if the Korean war is formally terminated, and we still seek to continue the neutralization of Formosa, we shall run into the worst trouble with our allies and in the United Nations that we have seen yet. In blunt language, we will not have a leg to stand on, and the resulting ruckus will risk splitting the Western alliance.

On the other hand, if the Korean fighting just tails out into a cease-fire, armistice, and deadlocked peace negotiation, the whole status quo will be perpetuated, including the neutralization of Formosa. It can and will be continued, under these conditions, without too much difficulty. And so we shall be borrowing a useful leg from the book of the other side.

The plain truth is that this wind-up of the Korean fighting is a rather special test of American political sophistication. Shall we, because there is no formal peace, feel cheated? Shall we, because there is no more war, relax our whole defense effort? In that case, we shall be proven fools. Or shall we soberly take the result in Korea for what it is—a handsome though not decisive victory—and go on with our defense effort, because we realize that no local victory will remove the danger hanging over us? In that case, we shall be proven wise indeed.

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NOT VERY INVITING



Middle East Safety Valves Eliminated

By J. M. Roberts, Jr. Associated Press News Analyst

One by one the safety valves in the middle east are being tied down by the ancient practice of assassination, and the rumblings within the boiler threaten to erupt in a ten-pipe explosion.

Bernadotte, citizen of the world who was trying to mediate; Razmara, who as premier of Iran sought to control the fires of nationalism which now threaten both the destruction of his country and a serious weakening of anti-Russian positions in the whole area; Riad El Solh, Lebanese who opposed the king of Jordan's plan for extending his rule to Lebanon and Syria in a "Greater Syria"; and now that king himself, Abdullah, "front man" for Britain's tottering power in the middle east. All assassinated.

In the shimmering anti-British, anti-Jewish, nationalist heat waves rising from the Moslem world, no clear picture is immediately available of the possible effects of Abdullah's violent death. He had been a subsidized ally of Britain since he helped Lawrence of Arabia oust the Turks in world war I. He fought for Arabian Palestine against Israel, and annexed what territory he could salvage from the armistice. Yet he had been one of the staid Arab figures in troubled post-armistice relations. His assassin is reported to have been an associate of the Mufti of Jerusalem, who sided with the Nazis against the British in the last war.

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Now Abdullah's second son has been made regent. Nobody knows much about what that will mean for Abdullah's old plan of eventually uniting Jordan and Iraq under Abdullah's nephew, now Iraq's king. The Hashemite family of which they are all members

claims direct descent from Mohammed, and Abdullah was a native of Mecca.

The British, however, channeled his efforts in the northern part of the Arab world, and relations between Jordan and Abdullah's native Arabia have not been too close.

Iran and Egypt are in open revolt against British influence. Syria and Lebanon have been resisting Jordan. Iraq is not far behind in its anti-British feeling. Arabia is not too unhappy with American oil development, but is tied to the other Arab states in everything else.

In the middle sits Palestine, dynamic, cohesive as the Arab states are not, with modern cities and rapidly modernizing hinterland, her population being swelled by the thousands almost daily by Jewish immigration from the rest of the world. Her rise strikes deadly fear into the heart of the Arab world.

For the world it means a terribly unsettled situation in a dangerous time. British statesmen have true cause to reflect on the ancient adage that a man should not take too many possessions, lest they eventually take possession of him.

