

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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Graft and Corruption, Then and Now

"Personally honest, he trusted too much in friends who were not, while his own failure as a farmer and businessman gave him an exaggerated respect for those who had accumulated fortunes. He saw no harm in accepting costly gifts from friends who used their positions to lasso the public treasury. With men who loved good whiskey, fine cigars, and blooded horses, the luxuries of the day, he was perfectly at home, but he never understood the milieu in which he found himself or appreciated the fact that he was the innocent tool of the worst elements of the political and business world of his time. An unostentatious and silent man who took his own counsel, (the President), when he took advice at all, generally followed that of second-rate men."

A description of Ulysses S. Grant from "American Political and Social History" by Harold U. Faulkner.

The viewers-with-dismay love to fling generalities around. Right now they are saying that government was never so corrupt as now, that morals, political and otherwise, were never so low as now, that sin was never so rampant, etc. They ought to read their history books more.

The Civil War and World War I were followed by moral debacles, and in both cases political corruption mushroomed in local and national governments. The national administrations then happened to be republican, and republicans pointing their fingers at Washington today tend to forget that no party has a monopoly on virtue.

The Gould-Fisk gold conspiracy which threw the nation into financial panic in 1869 is the classic example of the low business morality and administrative ineptness during Grant's regime. There was also the Credit Mobilizer affair, in which members of the federal government were implicated in current speculation. There was the "Whiskey ring" scandal, and the Tweed Ring. There were the railroad land grabs. There were the carpetbaggers and scoundrels in the South, the rise of the Ku Klux Klan, the whole radical republican reconstruction fiasco, the disputed Hayes-Tilden election.

Things had got to such a pretty pass by the turn of the century that it took a whole era of reform, a legion of muckrakers, a lot of preachers, the press, and Teddy Roosevelt, to pull the country out of the morass.

Then public and private morals sank to the depths again after World War I. Remember Tammany? Investigations showed city governments permeated with carelessness and corruption from top to bottom. New York's Mayor Walker resigned rather than face public hearings. Millions of dollars appropriated by congress for WW I veterans were wasted or stolen while Forbes was director of the Veterans Bureau in the 20s. The Prohibition Enforcement Bureau was the most corrupt organization in Washington. Remember Teapot Dome? And all this under Harding, another well-meaning man with neither the understanding nor the quality of leadership necessary to guide the nation through a critical period.

Now the U. S. appears to be going through another period of lax morality on the part of individuals in and out of government. Dragging out the old dirty linen of past republican administrations does not excuse corruption in the present democratic administration, but it does help keep the present in perspective. And a glance at the record is encouraging in that it shows that periods of less than exemplary behavior have been followed by eras of reform and progress. Judging from the investigations now

going on, the country is going to take the cure again.

Divided Loyalties

With Sunday morning's story on the All-Star Shrine Football game in Portland began the annual fall battle for headline space between football and baseball.

Everyone knows who is going to win in the end, just as everyone knows fall will replace summer, but what a great wad of ammunition baseball has left.

It strides into the fray a muscular giant at the peak of condition. Nationally, the American league race finds Cleveland and New York practically neck and neck as they enter a long 5-week home stretch with the Red Sox plying along not too far behind.

In Salem, our valiant Senators seem destined to climax their first home-owned season with a spot in the league playoffs. With Salem's far-better-than-usual pitching staff, there seems reason to hope the Senators can whip 'em in the extra week's play.

Then comes the mighty world series—and perhaps Bobby Feller's big chance to win a world series game.

Yes, there's no question about it, baseball will be holding the headlines for some time to come.

But, did you hear about that 60-yard run by Eugene's Merritt Barber in the Shrine game last Saturday—and what chance do you think Oregon State has against Michigan State in the opener?

Remember, they play at Lansing.

Wouldn't it be nice this year if there was a slight pause between the time the water bill eases off and the fuel bill starts to rise.

Editorial Comment

A VERY POOR PROTEST

Officials of Willamette university have filed a protest against impending action of the Salem city council which would require permits for solicitors seeking funds for educational, religious or benevolent purposes.

It is a very proper protest, not only on the established merit of some of these solicitations and the purpose for which the money is used, but because it is a municipal invasion of personal liberty and private initiative that should not be countenanced notwithstanding some cities have adopted such ordinances through apathy of their citizens or through an ordinance being slipped over without due publicity in the newspapers.

Dr. G. Herbert Smith, president of Willamette university, is on solid ground in protesting the impending action of the Salem city council. But for these privately raised funds for educational, benevolent and religious purposes, some cities would be sorry places in which to live. City officials do not encompass in their official work the work that is done through these funds in many instances. The institutions these funds support undergird many communities, and to pass a city law that none may do good in that way without a permit is the height of organized government nonsense and should be nipped in the bud.

If some short-sighted city officials should ever get elected, and that is possible, soliciting even for a Community Chest could be put under license.

The right to raise money for good causes is a personal liberty that need not be curbed by ordinance. There may be an occasion now and then, but only now and then, when the cause is a racket, but the public sooner or later is put on notice about rackets if the newspapers in their communities are any good. More power to President Smith in his protest. May he prevail. His institution in protesting is serving a good purpose.

(Oregon City Enterprise-Courier)

Breakdown of Korea Talks May Prove Less Important than Collapse of Iran Negotiations

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26.—The storm signals are out again all the way around the world, from

Kaeson to Tehran. In the long view, moreover, even breakdown of the Korean truce talks is quite likely to prove less grave than breakdown of the oil talks between the British and Iranians.

The British government is reported to hope that W. Averell Harriman may still manage to patch up some sort of solution of the oil problem. The American policy-makers' feelings about Harriman are the feelings of a busted horse-player about an extreme long shot that may just possibly save the day by beating the favorite in the eighth race. But since miracles cannot be relied on to occur with any regularity, the coarse facts of the Iranian situation had better be faced.

First, if the government of Dr. Mohammad Mossadegh cannot be persuaded to accept a sensible oil settlement, the next step will probably be an effort to make a more national government in Tehran. Delay, self-delusion and other follies have caused the position in Tehran to deteriorate so much that this effort must now be made under the worst imaginable auspices. The British can no longer usefully participate. Thus the whole onus of that will necessarily seem a rather crude intervention in Iranian

politics will have to be borne by the Americans. There will be serious disorders, bloodshed. And the effort may well fail.

Second, if it proves impossible to get an oil settlement by replacing Dr. Mossadegh, the British decision to move troops to occupy Abadan island (the site of the vital oil refinery) will come into operation. One of these reporters predicted long since that the British would be forced to this decision, if only as an object lesson to the Egyptians and others who are longing to imitate the Iranian experiments with twisting the lion's tail. In the lull secured by Averell Harriman's efforts, it leaked out in London that the decision to move troops if need be had actually been taken by Prime Minister Attlee and Winston Churchill in bi-partisan consultation.

Third, if the British move their parachute brigade from Cyprus to Abadan, there will certainly be hard fighting, at least for a while, although the fact that Abadan is an island should prevent a recurrence of the Korean pattern.

Fourth, the Soviets are quite likely to take a British troop movement into south Iran as a pretext for sending Russian troops into north Iran under the vague clauses of the 1921 treaty. Or if the Soviets hold their hands, the Iranian nationalists are even more likely to be replaced at Tehran by the communist Tudeh party—for the shaky existing structure of the Iranian government can hardly hold together after the shock of a British landing in the south. Meanwhile, the rest of the middle east will be plunged into sympathetic convulsions.

Fifth, and finally, whether we like it or not, America is going to have to stick its nose in the hideous business in the U.N. and elsewhere. American strategic

political interests in the middle east are quite as important as British economic interests. In short, we are in the mess too, up to our necks.

Under the circumstances, prayers for Averell Harriman's success seem to be in order. So are bouquets for what he has accomplished already, for it must be understood that when the Harriman mission to Iran was first despairingly proposed by Assistant Secretary of State George McGhee, the position seemed even more hopeless than it does today. Most of the American policy makers actually opposed the project at that time, on the ground, so to speak, that there was no use throwing a good Harriman after bad diplomacy.

For years the British had done everything possible to produce an Iranian crisis. Then when the crisis began with the assassination of Gen. Razmara, we on the one hand did everything possible to make the British neurotic and irritable, from indulging in "I told you so" to talking behind their backs. And on the other hand, we also did everything possible to make the Iranians irrational and intractable, from giving the impression that we would prevent the British from sending troops, to beseeching Dr. Mossadegh to accept American economic aid as a great favor to us.

In the resulting circumstances, it was no wonder that Harriman was checked, as he now has been, in his effort to bring the British and Iranians together. The wonder is, rather, that he managed to achieve even a short interlude of reasonable discussion of the oil problem. It was a little short of miraculous for Harriman to accomplish anything at all. Perhaps, therefore, we may hope that he will now accomplish the larger miracle of finding a way to avoid the chain of consequences outlined above.

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IT SEEMS TO ME

(continued from page one)

body was stuffed into a sleeping bag, taken out into Lake Orta and dumped overboard. To give color to their story that he had been killed in a raid from the fascists the party discharged shots which were heard across the lake.

To Italian police and the army's criminal investigation division goes credit for solving the mystery. They first got confessions of the Italian partisans, then found the body, at the bottom of the lake, well preserved, with bullet holes in the head. LoDolce was foaming and Christian practice the case of the world heavyweight champion, Jersey Joe Walcott.

Walcott "prayed before and during his big fight (with Ezard Charles)," the Bishop said. "Where can we find something like this in Germany and Europe today?"

The singular quirk of law is that neither LoDolce or Icardi can be tried in this country, and there is some doubt if they can be extradited for trial in Italy. Our civil courts cannot try them because the crime was not committed in this country. Since the men are out of the army they cannot be court-martialed. The ones who will stand trial are the two Italian partisans.

In mystery stories and in real crimes the "corpus delicti" is prime evidence. Here authorities have the body of Major Holohan. They have confessions (LoDolce is said to have repudiated his confession later). But for once laws intervene to prevent bringing the accused Americans to trial. The issue might be brought before the bar, however, if Icardi would sue "True" for libel.

How many more such cases are locked in the files, in documentary form or merely in the files of human memory? Life is cheap in wartime, passions run high, the spirit of mutiny stirs among fighting men. Hates are not always channeled against the enemy. Sometimes one becomes the victim of others wearing the same uniform as himself. An episode like the one related is exceedingly rare. Vastly outweighing it and others which may be like it are the stories of sacrifices made by service men in behalf of their comrades. We should not let this tale of hatred bury those of heroism which always have distinguished Americans in arms.

Better English

By D. C. Williams

- 1. What is wrong with this sentence? "We shall be happy to accept of your invitation." 2. What is the correct pronunciation of "rougefort" (cheese)? 3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Pastoral, pastime, pasport, pasteurize. 4. What does the word "gradation" mean? 5. What is a word beginning with ret that means "a review of the past"?

Quote for the Day

Only people who do things are criticized. —Wesley News

Germans Told to Look to Example of Walcott Prayer

BIELEFELD, Germany, Aug. 26 (AP)—A German bishop called on his flock tonight to take a Christian lesson from Americans "especially from the colored ones, once considered so inferior."

Speaking before a mass meeting of 60,000 Bishop Otto Dibelius of Berlin, chairman of the council of the German Evangelical church, cited as a prime example of Christian practice the case of the world heavyweight champion, Jersey Joe Walcott.

Walcott "prayed before and during his big fight (with Ezard Charles)," the Bishop said. "Where can we find something like this in Germany and Europe today?"

Police Swing Sabers to End Stockholm Riot

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, Aug. 26 (AP)—Police swung sabers and clubs in the heart of normally calm Stockholm early today to break up park hangers-on apparently rioting just for the fun of it.

Police reported several persons injured in the large-scale fighting and arrested 18 men and three women. One person had ribs splintered from a saber jab.

About 50 policemen charged repeatedly into a crowd of several thousand and finally broke up the battle after several hours. The fights started soon after midnight.

Crowds have rioted on a smaller scale and without any political motivation for the past six weekends.

The weekend battles started when police raided Berzel park, a favorite spot for prostitutes and their men friends. The park lies opposite the Royal Dramatic theater.

Ever since, thousands of people have milled around the park every weekend night to watch the detectives take their "revenge" on the police.

Solon Suggests \$1 Billion Cut in Foreign Aid

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26 (AP)—An across-the-board cut of \$1,000,000,000 in the \$7,535,000 foreign aid authorization bill was proposed today by Senator Ferguson (R-Mich.).

At the same time, Senator George (D-Ga.) told reporters he is not satisfied with the \$964,000,000 the senate foreign relations and armed services committees slashed out of President Truman's \$8,500,000,000 request.

George said he may offer an amendment himself when the bill comes before the senate early this week, but said he hadn't yet determined the amount.

Ferguson told a reporter he thinks the military and economic aid program "won't be hurt" if it is reduced sharply below the figures approved by the committees.

"A great deal of the military expenditures which are projected under this program can't possibly be made this year," the Michigan senator said. "It won't be possible to get all of the equipment made and delivered so that is no reason why the military fund can't be cut some."

Chairman Connally (D-Tex.) of the foreign relations committee already has said he would support a further cut of \$300,000,000 in economic aid, even if the senate refuses to restore that amount to military funds as he proposes.

Don't Worry if Junior Won't Eat

NEW YORK (AP)—A baby usually triples its weight in the first year. If it kept on eating like it did in the first year, it would weigh 70 pounds by two years, and 700 pounds by four years.

Dr. Lyon Steine of Valley Stream, N. Y., gives the estimates in an article in GP, journal of the Academy of General Practitioners.

The point, he says, is that it's normal for the baby's appetite to decline after the first year, and mothers shouldn't worry about it.

GRIN AND BEAR IT by Lichty

