

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us. No Fear Shall Awe"

From First Statesman, March 23, 1851

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor and Publisher

Published every morning. Business office 215 S. Commercial, Salem, Oregon. Telephone 3-2441.

Entered at the postoffice at Salem, Oregon, as second class matter under act of congress March 2, 1879.

Committeemen Support Chairman

Members of the republican national committee from the east and south plus members of the executive committee from other sections gave a rising vote of confidence in the chairman, Guy Gabrielson. The latter had been under attack from republican senators because as president and attorney for Carthage Hydrocol he had negotiated with the RFC respecting a loan to the company.

We hold no brief for Gabrielson but we think the action of the committee was correct. The loan had been negotiated prior to the election of Gabrielson as chairman of the party committee. He draws no salary as party chairman, but does draw a salary as president and attorney for Carthage Hydrocol. There is no sign that his selection for employment by the company had any relation to his party office and no indication in any way that he abused the privilege of his party office. His relations with RFC after he became party chairman were entirely normal and regular, reporting as a borrower usually does to an organization which has extended credit. The company has asked for extension of time for payment of some of the loan principal, but for no diminution of principal or interest. This is by no means uncommon because RFC's loans go to new ventures (like this one) or to companies in some financial distress.

The senators who jumped on Gabrielson and called for his resignation had the jitters. They were hot on the trail of Bill Boyle, democratic chairman, and when they heard that Gabrielson had been calling at RFC they tossed him to the wolves without fair and just appraisal of his case. There was no secret about the RFC loan to Carthage Hydrocol or Gabrielson's connection with the company—that was a matter of public knowledge. It was grossly unfair to Gabrielson to impugn his character when his conduct appears to have been wholly honorable. The party cannot expect a man to take the job of party chairman and serve without salary and at the same time give up the employment which provides him his living.

The continued existence of RFC may be questioned. But so long as it is a legitimate agency citizens of the country should be free to seek its services so long as they do so in honorable ways. The party committeemen, with the benefit of a few days for reflection after the publicity broke, gave a better judgment than the jittery republican senators.

Does Congress Have to Probe So Much?

Congress, as everybody must know, investigates as much as it legislates. But it hasn't investigated as much as it might have. Some 130 investigations have been conducted this year; many more were proposed. Those which were undertaken in the first eight months of 1951 cost a total of \$2,000,000.

That's the price taxpayers paid for the entertainment, diversion, thrills and chills, inspiration, sobering reflection, and incidental facts and pertinent information produced by congressional probes. Congressmen say the facts dug up alone are worth the cost of the big quiz sessions.

We wonder, though, whether all of the studies made had to be made by the congressmen themselves. Some of the investigations we wonder about are:

Study of the sulphur shortage as it affects agriculture; fertilizer shortages; a plane crash; concert booking agencies, organized baseball, the port of Orange in Texas, boxcar shortage, bak-

ery and canning industry, cost to U.S. of UN organizations, rubber shortage, newsprint shortage, color TV, New York price wars, plight of low-income families.

Now all of these are subjects worthy of study, no doubt. But it seems that fair, objective, impartial fact-gathering on these questions could be done by others besides congressional committees. Researchers would have to be paid, but the over-all cost—when you consider that congressmen could then spend more time working on laws—might mean a real economy. Once the facts were in, especially on such non-controversial subjects as the sulphur shortage in agriculture, congressmen could evaluate them and make such recommendations as they deem necessary.

Turning topics for fact-finding over to professional fact-finders would appear to be a wise course of action when we consider the list of probe resolutions not passed. William Langer, republican of North Dakota, alone asked for 15 different investigations, ranging from a study of unclaimed money in the U.S. treasury to the granting of oil rights to U.S. companies by foreign governments. There were over 100 other requests for investigations in the house and senate.

Some of these sound trivial, but others are concerned with important problems, and if congress hasn't the time to look into them, someone else probably should and see that congress gets the facts. Professional fact-finders would be the answer, except that congressmen probably wouldn't trust the experts' findings; they'd want to see for themselves, preferably surrounded by reporters, TV cameras and newsreel klieg lights.

The Trib and Morse

B-Mike's report that the Chi Trib has its agents combing Portland for dirt on Wayne Morse comes as no surprise. For the second time in two weeks Morse and the Colonel have had at it. In its most recent blast at the junior senator from Oregon, the mighty Tribune even quoted an item from the little student daily, the Oregon Emerald, at the U. of O. The item (dated Jan. 31, 1934) reported Morse's election to the American Council of the Institute of Pacific Relations (the IPR now under McCarthy attack). That shows how fine-toothed is the Trib researchers' comb. Or maybe they got word of the Emerald story from Mrs. Louise Gronert, anti-Morse spokesman for GOP right-wing groups in Oregon. She used the same material in a speech in Eugene last spring.

Glamor for Dogfaces

Add to navy blue, marine green, and air force blue, a new color: army greenish-gray. The 50-year-old olive drab army uniform is slated for obsolescence. So is the waist-length Eisenhower jacket. They will be replaced by a natty new greenish-gray outfit with a beltless, form-fitting service blouse (coat) and deep russet shoes with matching visor on the new felt cap. This classier dress is supposed to boost the army morale and be able to compete better with the other branches' more glamorous recruiting-poster pictures. Mebbe so, but this we know: the cost of the change-over from OD to GG will come out of the TAE (tattered-and-empty) pockets of the taxpayer.

ABC Network has signed a contract engaging Walter Winchell's services in radio and television for life. Walter was 54 years old last April. Those who don't like him are referred to an actuary—or an astrologist.

French People Suspicious When U. S. Talks Of Cannons, Not of Higher Living Standards

By Stewart Alsop

PARIS, Oct. 2.—A rather cheerful picture of the fighting potential of the recreated French army has recently been presented in this space. In order to put the shade as well as the light into this picture it is worth describing it in a sharply contrasted incidents.



Stewart Alsop

The first took place in the sergeant's mess of an army barracks. It was a brief and rather embarrassing episode. There were about a dozen French non-coms, tough, genial men, gathered around a table. Rather hesitantly, this reporter began to ask questions about such matters as the danger of war, the threat of Soviet aggression, American foreign policy and French communism.

The French soldiers muttered a few non-committal answers, but I kept on asking questions and then relapsed into self-conscious silence. The reason was clear. They had never really bothered their heads about such matters. At least on the company and battalion level, the French army simply does not concern itself with political matters. This is one of the most reassuring facts about it.

Yet no army lives in a political vacuum. A soldier, however unconsciously, breathes the same political air as a civilian. And this is why it is worth describing the second, very different episode which took place, not in the army, but in a small factory in Paris, where this reporter spent an afternoon talking with the work-

Five out of six were women. They talked volubly, and with that passionate vitality which is the Parisian's special charm. There was no trace of personal hostility in what was said—what has been written about French hatred for Americans, as Americans, is silly nonsense. Yet the fact remains that, although only one was an avowed communist, everything these French workers said was a remarkable tribute to the effectiveness of the Moscow line.

"The Russians," they said, often in identical words, "want nothing but peace." And since this was so, why should poor France be called on again to prepare for a war more terrible than ever? The danger of war, if there was danger, sprang from the desire of the American rich for high profits.

Wars had already ruined France—"We are only a poor, weak country now." (This profound lack of self-confidence is also found in the army, although it is steadily lessening.) As for the Americans, they knew nothing of war. "I speak frankly," said one woman. "If there is war, I hope you will win in the end, because I love liberty. But I hope you also, you others, the Americans, will suffer terribly before the end."

Finally, why must the Americans think and talk only of weapons and of war? One woman (who had been living for 14 years with three children in a single room of a building condemned as uninhabitable in 1937) spoke for the rest. "You Americans talk of cannons. One cannot eat a cannon. One cannot lodge oneself in a cannon."

It is certainly possible to exaggerate the meaning of this sort of thing. Almost each worker, including the communist, also said proudly, "After

all, I am profoundly French." Even the communist would probably violently resist an actual Russian invasion of France if there were means of resistance at hand. Yet surely this apparently almost universal acceptance by French workers of the basic tenets of the Moscow line has its importance, military as well as political.

Given the necessary arms and equipment, France is already visibly capable of producing a good army, made up of good soldiers. Yet an army cannot be more than an expression of the nation which produces it. It is odd to find a professional soldier, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, so deeply aware of this fact. Undoubtedly with the current deep slashes in economic aid in mind, Eisenhower has been telling all visitors that the military potential of France is indivisible, that it cannot be measured in divisions alone.

Military strength is, of course, the essential ingredient of every other kind of strength. The stronger the west becomes, the more the sense of naked vulnerability from which all Frenchmen suffer diminishes, the more surely will the desperate wishful thinking which leads to the eager swallowing of the Moscow peace line diminish also. Yet it remains true that anything which suggests to Europeans that Americans are interested only in cannons and not at all in living standards, only in war and not at all in peace, plays directly into Stalin's hands. This is something which Eisenhower, with his extraordinary political perceptiveness, grasped instantaneously, everything he says, in public or private, demonstrates. It would be well if other Americans grasped it too.

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GRIN AND BEAR IT by Lichty



... The Senator has a slight persecution complex as a result of being the only member of his party not mentioned as a presidential possibility ...

Comes the Dawn by Conrad Franke

Signs of fall ... Walnut trees are beginning to shed leaves now and the citizenry has put away the lawnmower and has taken up the rake ... Some sweep the leaves in neat piles to be burned or hauled to the compost box, others stack them in piles in the street hoping the city crews will pick them up while a few gently ease the leaves into their neighbors' lawns ... Housewives are out picking up walnuts ... School kids are wearing slickers and boots ... World series almost here ... Xmas ads coming out already.



Another sign ... Weather story the other day noted that in Salem for September "the month was about half clear with 11 clear days, 11 cloudy and 11 partly cloudy days." ... Those extra days must have sneaked in with the time change.

There probably will be a wailing and gnashing of teeth (and gears) Sunday, we bet, when the new grid system goes into effect ... Motorists will probably be in high on High street but there won't be much liberty on Liberty street ... And wait until Salem's wrong-way drivers get on those one-way streets—especially those women drivers who even now hardly know which way to go on two-way streets ... We'll miss that stirring free-for-all 5 p.m. fender battle put on daily by state employes on their way home.

Some high state officials believe there's a good chance of the state or some other agency buying those veteran bonus bonds yet. Their line of reasoning goes like this: The federal government has been approving the sale of some bonds, while nixing others, including bonus bonds. Later this year as national election campaigning gets hotter, these state officials think, the government will suddenly decide the country's economy is strong enough to permit the sale of bonus bonds.

Mayor Al Loucks has proclaimed the week of Oct. 14-20 as Salem Oil Progress week. Inasmuch as Al is in the oil business himself this is one proclamation which is natural. Maybe the city council will observe local oil week by spreading the petroleum on its troubled waters.

The Safety Valve

(Contributions to this column should be limited to 300 words. Write only on one side of paper; give name and full address. Poetry is not accepted.)

RESENTS FISHING BAN

To the Editor: Well I see by the paper that the fishing season closed today in Zones One and Two and will close the 14th of October in the other zones, but most of the fishermen in eastern Oregon were under the impression that it closed at midnight Saturday night as that's when the state police ran them off the rivers over there so they had to do like the Arabs. Fold their tents and silently steal away. But most of them still had a problem trying to find a place to steal as all the camp grounds were closed.

It seemed rather strange that they would run the fishermen from the camps where they had been allowed to camp all summer when there was more danger of fire than now. As I see it, it wasn't danger of fire that did it. I think it was more political because the powers that be in the state couldn't notify the big shot sportsmen friends a week in advance when the season would be opened so they could locate camp and stake out their deer for the first day of the season. Some one decided to make it tough for all. Some fishermen were a long ways from home and didn't know till nite that they had to move. So some of them were pretty much up against it for some place to go. Any way I don't see why they penalize the fishermen just because the hunters couldn't go in the woods.

Anyway I am sure I have been in eastern Oregon hunting when it has been drier than this year. It has been so dry and dusty that you couldn't camp anyplace near a road for dust flying all over everything and most of the people in eastern Oregon I talked to feel the same way. They feel that it was pretty much of a political mess.

Earl Sharp
735 D Street

Tribute to Joe Devers
To the Editor: As a visitor from Taneytown, Maryland, to Salem, for the last four summers, I am asking for space in your valuable paper—the Oregon Statesman—for a few words in honor of a man whom I met upon my first visit, and whose sterling qualities impressed me more and more with each

successful visit. Joseph McClellan Devers is physically dead. His early morning appearances on the street and around the State Office Building will no longer be seen, for a great, kindly man has fallen in your midst. However, his memory and influence will continue to live in the minds and hearts of those who knew him best.

Mr. Devers was a tireless worker. Many spoke of his indefatigable energy for a man of 76. He loved Oregon and gave his life in the interest of the State's splendid highway system. He wanted every property owner to receive just pay for every foot of land which the State acquired for its roads. When the age for retirement approached, Joseph M. Devers said, not yet, I have more work to do for my beloved Oregon. He traveled the State extensively as the legal counsel for the highway commission, and probably no other man knows Oregon as well as Mr. Devers did.

Mr. Devers, however, did not confine his interest entirely to state matters. He loved his home. He was a faithful husband and a loving father, a loyal citizen, a firm believer in the church, and a friend to his fellowman.

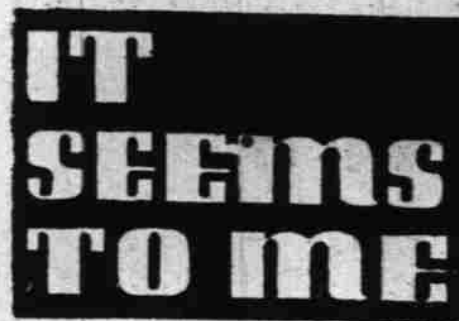
G. H. ENFIELD,
1775 Grant St.

Better English

By D. C. Williams
1. What is wrong with this sentence, "He took his secondhand car to the garage to be repaired." 2. Pronounce im-pl-u-s, both P's as in it, accent first syllable, not the second. 3. Accomplish. 4. Characterized by fantastic exaggeration, especially of human and animal figures. "His Halloween costume will be a grotesque one." 5. Chaotic.

Eric Johnston Described as 'Politician'

PORTLAND, Oct. 2.—(AP)—Wage Stabilization Director Eric Johnston was described here Monday by a labor member of the wage stabilization board as a man with political ambitions. Eimer Walker, Washington, D.C., a member of the wage board and vice president of the AFL International Association of Machinists, said he believed "Johnston is shooting for one of the top spots in the nation." Walker was here to address the



(Continued from Page 1.)

record as set down by Forrestal of vital decisions respecting China. This installment, which appeared yesterday, was headed "The Morass of China." The state-war-navy meetings (Byrnes, Patterson, Forrestal) had the China problem dumped in their laps. Advice was asked from General Wedemeyer who commanded in China. The latter responded on Nov. 20, 1945 "either to withdraw all troops at once or to announce continued military and economic support for Chiang." On the 23rd he advised it would be impossible to support Chiang and at the same time keep out of China's civil war: "such United States support to the national government will definitely involve American forces in fratricidal warfare. There can be no mistake about this." That might involve war with the USSR and would require additional forces "far beyond those presently available in the theatre." Decision as to the U. S. policy Wedemeyer left up to the state department.

The decision came on November 27th when after much discussion Byrnes offered the suggestion that "taking everything into account, perhaps the wise course would be to try to force the Chinese government and the Chinese communists to get together on a communist basis, perhaps telling Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek that we will stop the aid to his government unless he goes along with this."

That became U. S. policy. Note that it was determined not by Dean Acheson or George Marshall or by pro-red underlings in the state department, but by Jimmy Byrnes, as secretary of state. Wedemeyer had laid down the alternative; yet none of the present critics of U. S. policy in China say we should have accepted the alternative and thrown large U. S. forces into China's civil war.

That same day in 1945 Patrick Hurley resigned as ambassador to China and George Marshall was named his successor. The installment ends with the editor's parenthesis: "Thus it fell to Marshall to attempt to carry out the policy which Mr. Byrnes had sketched that morning."

That policy failed, and China was overrun by the communists. But the Forrestal diaries counter the thesis of today's political opposition that our China policy derived from sinister forces. It was determined at high levels by men as loyal as any, who have served their country.

Tomorrow's installment opens an interesting peep-window on another episode in recent history: the exit of Henry Wallace from the Truman cabinet.

Quote for the Day

Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for the boundless mercies by which Thou redeemest those who go astray from Thee. Where sin abounds, there Thy mercy abounds more.
—N. Kachadourian (Syrian)

Now you Know!

The answers to everyday insurance problems
By Sid Boise



QUESTION: How much should I contribute to the Community Chest?

ANSWER: Let your own conscience be your guide. The Community Chest is not a new and untried idea and everyone knows the good it does. How about one day's pay?

* If you'll address your own insurance questions to this office, we'll try to give you the correct answers and there will be no charge or obligation of any kind.

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Northwestern Council of AFL Lumber and Sawmill Workers, which opened a four-day convention here today. More than 200 are registered. He said if Johnston is ever nominated for any office "I shall make a one man campaign to let the people know what kind of a bird he is." Walker said he came here at union expense so his tongue would not be tied by government regulations. Walker commended presentation of a case before the board by AFL lumber workers seeking wage increases and praised the fact that they took cash instead of pension and welfare programs. He added, however, that the board doubtless will give consideration to such programs. Sectional meetings were held this afternoon.

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W. F. DODGE
Certified Sonotone consultant will be in Salem 200A Lively Bldg., Thursday, October 4th, 9 A. M. to 6 P. M.
Please see Mr. Dodge for any Sonotone service, batteries, or a free demonstration of the new Sonotone's.
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ESTATE SALE
The following assets are to be sold to the highest bidder for cash:
1938 Chrysler Sedan
1947 Crosley Coach
Model A Keystone 16 MM Movie Projector
Model E Keystone 16 MM Movie Projector
Daylight Projector Screen
Man's Elk Tooth Emblem
Obtain sale details from
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Right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

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