

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us. No Fear Shall Awe"
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Truman and the Press

The president called off his Thursday press conference this week. That is not unusual, for often it is cancelled. But it does point up the fact that the president has shown marked irritation with the press of late.

At Key West he lectured the newspapers—the AP in particular—over the story of the halt to firing on the Korean battlefield, denying that it had occurred or been ordered, least of all from the White house. The reporters however came back with the stories that officers at the front had interpreted orders to mean to leave off shooting except in defense.

But at a recent press conference in Washington the president really showed his irritation. He asked Doris Fleeson, a very competent reporter, why she was "looking at him like that," and if she was going to write a "sob-sister piece" about him, which is not her wont.

When Brandt of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, an independent paper which has exposed much of the corruption in the internal revenue bureau, raised a question over Finnegan, the St. Louis collector, Truman said he knew what the P-D would do to any democrat—"they would cut his head off any time they had a chance."

When Andrews, the very able reporter for the N. Y. Herald-Tribune started a query with: "Mr. President, there is one thing that puzzles me," the president cut in to say the reporter was easily puzzled, "always speculating about something he did not know anything about."

All of which shows how touchy the president has become particularly over the recent developments respecting wrongdoing of persons in his administration. Officials are prone to abuse the press when it becomes too inquisitive or when it turns the light of publicity on rotten conditions. It is true the press makes mistakes, that its writers are often over-zealous and apt to jump to conclusions. But without a free and vigilant press how would evil conditions be exposed to public view? Even the president must recognize the importance and the power of the "Fourth Estate."

Critical Days in Truce Talks

The days of the truce negotiations in Korea slip by with little accomplished. The 30-day limit will expire the last of this month, and scant progress has been made recently. Remaining roadblocks are how to supervise the truce and the exchange of prisoners. The reds did come through with lists of some 11,000 U.N. and Korean prisoners of war, but the allies feel sure there should be many more unless captives were done to death, as has been reported. Even as it is the U.N. negotiators are unwilling to accept the communist provision regarding the exchange, that it take place near the south border, for they fear that would be another "death march" for several thousand who are held prisoner at remote distance. They want delivery made at one of the ports on the east coast.

As for supervision of the armistice there has been considerable bickering over who would do it and what their powers would be. However the two sides are not so far apart but that they could arrive at an agreement on this point if there really is a will to settle.

The negotiations are strictly a bargaining process in which neither side wants to make con-

cessions. The allied officers have accused the reds of wanting to gain at the conference table what they lost in the fighting; and that is no doubt true. In being willing to settle short of clearing the reds out of Korea and establishing a free, unified government is a real concession on the part of U.N. Our side does it rather than expend the life and materials that would be required to achieve such a victory. It is rather a new experience for the United States to settle short of a full victory (though we did to close the War of 1812); but the gains do not appear worth the sacrifice.

While the U.N. is willing to end the war along the line now agreed on, it wants the agreement to put a real end to the fighting and not serve as a breathing spell for a communist build up for fresh aggression. We have the feeling however that the reds themselves will be ready to quit and not renew the fight if they can do so without too great loss of face.

What, No Expert?

Ed Stone, managing editor of The Seattle P-I, gets right down to earth in his story of a recent junket to Europe.

What does Ed think of things? Well, he found four terrific hazards—the traffic in Rome, the drinking water in Ankara, the money exchange situation in general, and boiled potatoes and Brussels sprouts in England in particular—"I'd have starved to death if I'd stayed another week."

Ed says his wife, at the start of the trip, "was unhappily convinced that my mangled body would be found on some Alp. She never gave a thought to the real dangers."

It's somewhat of a relief to find someone who can spend a whole 10 days in Europe without coming back to pose as an expert in foreign affairs.

Sometimes a refreshing whiff of candor puffs out from the cracks in the Iron Curtain. This time it is a Pravda report berating a bevy of researchers for "beating the air" in unsuccessful attempts, costing \$70,000, to invent a fruit juice dispenser and a machine to boil eight eggs at once. We can assume they will ultimately be successful, however. After all, didn't Soviet scientists invent the radio, telephone, electric light, the auto, airplane, motion pictures and television?

Keizer and Sunnyside school districts voted to stand on their own. This is still a free country (in most respects) and the will of the majority in the districts will prevail. We can commend their ambition to retain their independence and hope they will meet and solve their school problems successfully. Seven other districts voted to join the enlarged Salem system, and we in Salem hope they will not be disappointed with the way the change works out.

Every once in a while some brief news stories catch us up short. One recent item said Mrs. Dorothy Pick of Liberty was flying this week, with her children, to join her navy husband in Africa for Christmas. Not unusual, no. But what would grandpa of the 1890s have said on reading it in a futuristic story of 50 or 60 years ago!

Truce Negotiators Face Tougher Problems Now That Prisoner of War Point Nearing Solution

By Sigrid Arne
Associated Press News Analyst

Now that the exchange of prisoners has at least a start in Korea, the truce negotiators face cracking a much tougher nut.

They must work out some sort of supervision of the armistice. If they succeed they will have forced the communist world to back down on one of its cardinal principles—secrecy. Foreigners would be permitted not only to travel over red territory, but inspect red communications centers.

Far that reason the talks ahead may be more difficult than the ones which resulted in an exchange of prisoner-of-war lists.

And as usual, in dealing with communists, U.S. negotiators are wary of delays and traps.

So far the U.N. has been represented in these armistice supervision talks by Maj. Gen. Howard M. Turner. He has had to do some straight talking. Nothing seems jelled, except that both sides appear to agree there must be supervision.

Here are the major points which Gen. Turner is asking:
1. Unlimited rotation of U.N. troops. At first the reds objected, and then conceded the U.N. could rotate 5,000 troops a month. Turner rejects any limit.

2. The U.N. wants the right of air reconnaissance for the supervision authority. It is a natural hedge since several times in the past year U.N. planes have spotted long, new, red supply convoys coming down through North Korea.

3. The U.N. wants free supervision of all ports of entry whether by land, sea or air, and supervision of all important communications centers.

4. The U.N. wants agreement that both sides will stop all new airport construction. The reds are building three new air strips in North Korea for the new jets that are showing up in their air force. This program, Turner's team

thinks, would prevent the reds from building up any surprise attack in North Korea.

Of course these agreements would have to be a two-way street, if they are ever made. If observers can inspect a red communications center, they can also look over a U.N. center.

The reds have made practically no commitments on this program except that there should be supervision.

From that they moved to jockeying for the type of team that would do the inspecting. The communists have suggested that people from "neutral"

nations sit on the supervision authority. They named Poland and Czechoslovakia, two communist satellite nations, as "Neutral."

Washington has asked that the nations be picked from "non-belligerents," and they defined them as nations which have no troops in Korea. As a first step Washington has asked the governments of Sweden, Norway, and Switzerland, if they would be willing to appoint people to a Korean supervision board.

Obviously if the communist could "stack" the supervision committee, the rules would mean little or nothing.

Your Health

By Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.

According to a recent report, the black-widow spider is thought to be moving into the colder cities by invading buildings and living in them through the winter. One black-widow was discovered recently on the fifteenth floor of an office building.

This should make us more cautious if we have thought that dangerous spiders live only in the warm climates. Many black-widow bites have been reported from southern states and rural areas, especially in connection with outdoor parties, where the spider lives. However, numerous spider bites have been reported from every state, and spiders appear to have caused ills that were thought due to other causes.

Of course, most spiders are not dangerous at all, but we should be able to recognize those that are. The most dangerous in this country is the black-widow. An occasional adult has died from its venom, and many have become seriously ill.

The venom is even more perilous to young children than adults. It is said to be at least 15 per cent stronger than the venom of a rattlesnake. The dangerous black-widow is the female, a rather large spider

than can be recognized by its round, black abdomen, which looks like a shiny bead. Its back is bright red. It spins an irregular web of coarse threads.

This spider's bite is a single puncture, which can be found if you look carefully. The first sting is quickly followed by a burning which may turn to a dull ache. This spreads rapidly and becomes worse as the venom is carried through the body.

The victim soon develops severe muscle cramps, usually of the abdomen, which may become as rigid as a board. His blood pressure usually drops and his pulse speeds up. He becomes restless and weak, and perhaps hysterical.

One method of relieving these symptoms has been to inject calcium into a vein. Sometimes this can also be used to help in making a diagnosis of a black-widow bite. An anti-venom, developed to fight the venom, has also been used with success.

Questions and Answers
M. C.: Would having a polyp removed from my nose cause me to have a headache for two years?

Answer: It is not likely that having the polyp removed has caused you to have headaches.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from Page 1)

he is ready to be drafted. He'll have to toss his coat in the ring along with his hat if he enters the presidential contest.

Already this delay is working against him. The politicians are reluctant to wait for a second bus, now that the Taft wagon is rolling. With each new sag in Truman's fortunes the orthodox republicans grow more confident—and less willing to settle just for a probable "win-nah." Dewey is having trouble holding New York in line for Ike. Pennsylvania can't be counted as all for Ike in spite of Senator Duff's leadership. In Wisconsin the leader of the old Stassen group, Tom Coleman, is out for Taft. The odds-makers tote up about 400 delegates for Taft. That is still 200 short of the majority needed; but it is far and away ahead of all other contenders' delegates.

Moreover the moment that Ike declares himself a candidate he'll have to start talking like one; and that exposes him to all the traps of politics. What about the Taft-Hartley law? What about price stabilization? What about sending an ambassador to the Vatican? What about inflation? Taxes? Farm price supports? Tariff on tuna? Publicly owned power plants? CVA?

Of one thing he may be certain: Whatever he says will be used as evidence against him. And the bogging down of NATO will be used to his discredit.

It seems safe to accept the summary of U. S. News and World Report. What remains to be seen is Ike's timing, and whether he actively seeks the nomination or not. His highest hurdle is to win the GOP nomination.

Quote for the Day

Human knowledge is always only partial knowledge.
—Anonymous

GRIN AND BEAR IT

by Lichty



BIG GAME HUNTER



Ways in Washington

By Jane Eads
WASHINGTON (AP)—Back in 1816, the name, birthplace and pay check of everybody who worked for Uncle Sam — from chamber maids on up to the president — were published in one official record.

Prepared at the Department of State in compliance with a resolution of congress, this was a record of all officers and agents, civil and military, in the service of the United States.

The register also carried the "names and condition of all ships and vessels belonging to the United States, and when and where built, together with a correct list of the presidents, cabinet members and directors of the U. S. Bank and its branches."

These registers and those succeeding them are now housed in the library of the Civil Service Commission. The first register, a slim little volume of 176 pages, contained only 6,327 names.

It was in going over these old registers that the commission's librarian, Mrs. Mary V. Wenzel, brought to light a register of 1835 containing what she believes may be the first formal record of Abraham Lincoln as an official of the United States government.

Mrs. Wenzel opened the register to page 265 to show these words: "Post Office Department— Illinois
"New Salem... Postmaster — A. Lincoln... Compensation \$55.70 per annum."

In 1816, Secretary of War William H. Crawford got \$4,500; John Marshall, chief justice, \$4,000, and Postmaster General Return J. Meigs \$3,000.

Governors of the territories of Mississippi, Missouri, Illinois and Michigan got \$2,000, and John Quincy Adams, minister to England, \$9,000. Our only other ministers— to France, Russia, Sweden, Spain and the Court of Portugal in Brazil, where the court had fled because of the Napoleonic wars— received the same. Thomas Munroe, superintendent of the city of Washington, earned \$1,200.

In 1879, the register had grown so large it had to be brought out in two volumes, and in 1907, all employees making under \$2,000 were left out. Now the only persons listed are those occupying top advisory and supervisory positions.

The state department prepared the register until it was turned over to the Census Bureau. In 1933 the commission began compiling it. "If we have the names of everybody who worked for the government today," Mrs. Wenzel said, "we'd have to build another Pentagon to house the volumes."

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Lumber Firm Safe Stolen

The Capitol Lumber and Fuel company, 2850 Cherry ave., was missing its office safe Thursday morning after thieves apparently carted it through a rear door sometime during the night. George Barza, owner, reported the loss to city police. He said one panel of a four-panel door was cut away and the door unlocked from the inside. The safe contained ledgers, contracts, deeds, business papers, two checks totaling \$58, and a cash box containing \$75.

Field Audits Of Inventories In State Set

Actual field auditing of merchandise inventories appearing on personal property returns as a part of the state's property equalization program was promised Thursday by Robert D. MacLean, state tax commissioner in charge of the assessment and taxation division.

Appraisal Engineer Frank Bass has been assigned to the statewide inspection of inventories. MacLean said his announcement stems from many complaints by county assessors of difficulties in securing returns reflecting the full value of taxpayer inventories.

Recent changes in Oregon's omitted property statute, according to MacLean, permits additional assessments for merchandise omitted or undervalued on personal property returns. Assessors are also permitted to include a property omitted in the past five years in their rolls.

While no reliable estimate of the amount of property value that will be added to the county rolls can be made at this time state tax commissioners and most county assessors predicted the program would find sufficient additional value to more than offset its cost.

The audit is another phase of the tax commission's program of equalizing all classes of taxable property, MacLean said. The audit will be conducted in the industrial appraisal section under supervision of Arthur R. Von Lehe, veteran commission appraisal engineer. Working under his direction, Bass, former chief deputy assessor of Multnomah county and a member of the staff there for 10 years, will visit every county in Oregon and make "spot checks" of taxpayers' inventories assessable for personal property taxes after examining their personal property returns.

In each community, officials said, business firms and professional offices would be selected at random for Bass' inspection.

And additional value disclosed by his inspection will be added to the rolls of the county in which the property is located.

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Parrish Students Honor Oldsters At Cottage Home

Annual Christmas party for patients at Cottage convalescent home was given Wednesday night by the Junior Red Cross of Parrish junior high school.

Specially honored were Mrs. Kate Rogers, who was 98 in October and has been at every party given by the group over about 10 years, and Ed Brown, for whom a ninth grade home room knitted an afghan.

All 29 residents were given gifts such as sweaters, candy, palamas and stationery, from the home rooms. About 35 school pupils attended and sang carols. Faculty sponsor of the Junior Red Cross is Mrs. Harold Ransom.

The Battle of the Herrings is the name given to action in 1429 between the French and English when the latter were bearing Lenton provisions—mostly herrings—to the besieging troops at Orleans during the Hundred Years' War.

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