

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

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The Corporation (et al.) Wife

When Joan married Bill back in Sigourney, she didn't know she would be tied to a corporation. When Bill took a job with a big company, however, she learned she was. Besides learning to make a good impression on and get along with her "in-laws," she found she had to do the same with company people. So there has evolved the "corporation wife." Life magazine, condensing the results of studies made by its sister publication Fortune, tells about her in its current issue.

It relates how heads of corporate enterprises look over the wives and home life of junior execs as they shuffle their manpower around. The wife who doesn't "fit," who is too demanding, who is uninterested in her husband's career, who is tacky in her clothes or loud in her speech or rude in her manner or takes one too many—she may be the reason that Joe at the next desk got the promotion or why her Bill was sent back to Sigourney to manage the branch office.

There is a subtle but definite protocol in the corporation family. For instance: Keep the make of automobile you drive one grade lower than that of your boss; and don't move higher on Nob Hill than the senior vice president. The wife should be gracious but not too chummy with others in her husband's rating—there may be a painful wrench if they are called to higher echelons. She should read enough to be a good conversationalist but not so much to take on argument. The real test is whether she can put people at ease, in short, be gracious. And of course she must be able to put up with the company's demands on her husband, for travel, for concentration of effort. She, too, must learn to think sympathetically of nuts and bolts, cornflakes, outdoor furniture, Portland cement, stocks and bonds, or whatever it is which gives her husband employment.

So the corporation wife is conforming to a pattern as though cast in a mold and polished on the buffer or turned on a lathe. According to the poll taken by Fortune, the wives of the junior executives are meeting the tests quite successfully. They prove themselves smart enough to shift from low to middle to high social gear to keep pace with their husbands. Some, of course, can't. Some Janes from Oskaloosa stop "growing" when the wedding is over and fail to take on polish. They are the kind who draw commiseration for their husbands from wives of others on the make. Some wives may develop snarls which interfere with their husbands' absorption in his job. The scoring goes on steadily. It may never be recorded in the personnel file, but the guy on top whose recommendation is what counts has it down in his memory. What this competition for promotion within a corporate organization may mean in a family life is pretty well pictured in John P. Marquand's novel, "Point of No Return."

But why stop with the corporation wife? Aren't there books for the army wife and the navy wife to help her fill her role? And when the university president invites a prof and his wife to dinner who knows but what he is rating her as he considers her husband for a prospective deanship? There is protocol and conformity in a university community, too.

To say nothing of wives of doctors and dentists, who can't advertise but who find their wives good (or poor) in cultivating the acquaintance which leads to patients. (How does a bachelor dentist build up a practice in a strange city?)

Not only do corporation presidents look over

the wives of subordinate officials—the voters like to take a gander at the wives of candidates for public office. (Right here, orchids to Mabel McKay for passing all the tests.)

Yes, wives do count. All the modern mores force them to conform to the pattern set by their husbands' positions. The old rule of status applies though the grades are more numerous and more subtle than the classes of old time. It isn't easy on friend wife either. She is still pretty much domesticated: she must keep the house and rear the children; and then make a good appearance at the company dinner. She must act as a cushion for the bumps her husband gets and renew his zeal to get out and sell lamp bulbs or pottery or coats and suits. Then the chance is, she'll be left a widow.

In spite of all the inhibitions and the requirements of the corporation wife, the college wife, the army wife, the preacher's wife, the doctor's wife, women seem eager to endure them all, for marital bliss still seems to be preferred over single blessedness.

Don't Wake Up to This

A quote from Western Banker, via Oregon Voter:

"Wouldn't it be wonderful to wake up some morning and find that the dollar was worth a dollar?"

Of course the writer didn't really mean that. If overnight the dollar recovered the purchasing power of the 1939 dollar stores would go broke in windrows, banks would find security back of their loans worth only half, sawmills would have to cut the price of lumber about two-thirds.

Inflation is bad, but deflation as we experienced in the early 1930s can be worse. What we should aim for is greater stability in the purchasing power of the dollar. It is the shift in value, either way, which causes trouble; and the faster the shift the greater the trouble.

One Way to Save \$20

Ed Boehnke, the Eugene printer who doubles (or dabbles) in politics, showed how goofy the new law is on sale of postcards in quantity. (The cards are 2c each but in quantities of over 49 there is a ten per cent upcharge). Ed went up to the PO window and ordered 10,000 postcards in quantities of 49 each. The clerk counted out 49, then Ed had to go to the end of the line and place his next order when his turn came. The whole transaction took 45 minutes, but Boehnke saved \$20. The silliness of the law is shown in the fact that the clerk had to break the band and count each stack of 49. On a sale of 10,000 straight, he would merely have delivered the whole lot at once in a carton. Blame this mess-up on the 82nd Congress, one of whose members thought it up.

Municipal Bail Schedule

Municipal judges in Oregon have prepared a uniform schedule for minimum bail which they recommend for use in municipal courts. The Bureau of Municipal Research at the State University has just published it. Here are some samples: speeding, bail to range from \$10 to \$75 depending on excess in the zone; cutting corners \$5 but cutting in or breaking through a procession \$10; disturbing the peace \$15 but resisting an officer comes higher at \$50. There is virtue in having such a scale because it will help to standardize bail extractions and fit the punishment more closely to the crime.

Formal Warning Against Invasion of Southeast Asia Is Expected to Be Drawn Up for China

BY JOSEPH AND STEWART AISO

WASHINGTON—The French government has formally warned Washington that an invasion of Indo-China by the Chinese Communists is being planned, as previously reported in this space. The French have also informally proposed direct American military aid, including ground, air and naval intervention, in the event of such an invasion. This is the measure of the full gravity of the situation developing in Indo-China.

This situation has in turn confronted President Truman and the National Security Council with an absolutely crucial and desperately difficult decision. In short, the N. S. C. must decide the answer to two questions: First, what can be done to deter and prevent a Chinese invasion of Indo-China before it starts? And second, if the invasion does take place, what must we do then?

Already, at a meeting last Friday, the N. S. C. has wrestled with these nightmarish questions. No final decisions have been taken and such decisions are only likely to be taken after further discussions both with the French and with Winston Churchill and his entourage. But it is possible to report the general shape of American official thinking on the problem.

First, the Joint Chiefs of Staff

are for the present unanimously opposed to any commitment to send American forces to Indo-China under any circumstances. Air and naval aid may be conditionally considered, but the Joint Chiefs are convinced that there are simply not enough American ground forces to spare on any more piece-meal commitments on the Korean pattern. Their view may change, in the face of actual rather than potential aggression in Indo-China, as happened when South Korea was invaded. But for the present it appears unalterable.

Thus, since the French cannot hold alone, and since the British have no troops to spare either, no way appears to stem a Chinese invasion of Indo-China on the ground. Yet there is no inclination, in the State Department, the Pentagon, or elsewhere, to "write off Indo-China," simply because this would in effect mean writing off, at the least, most of South East Asia. This sums up the cruel dilemma facing the N. S. C.—American troops are not to be committed, the French cannot hold alone, yet Indo-China and South East Asia cannot be written off.

On the face of it, the only way out of this dilemma is to persuade the Chinese Communists that an attack on Indo-China will not be a paying proposition. Hence very serious consideration is currently being given to pressing some sort of statement, presumably in the name of the President, warning the Peking government that any aggression in Indo-China (or, indeed, further aggression in Korea, Burma, or elsewhere) will make certain the most severe retaliation against the Chinese mainland.

Yet all the attempts to draft such a warning—and these attempts have numbered in the dozens—have run into the same difficulty. A weak statement will be worse than useless. The alternative is a flat warning that any invasion across international frontiers will be punished by all

the means within our power. Yet this will precommit the United States to war. This raises obvious constitutional questions, since only the Congress can declare war.

It will also, at least to some degree, commit our allies to war, and as one official put it, "Would Denmark want to go to war about Indo-China?" Even the British, our most important allies, already have pressed in Malaya, with their Hong Kong nakedly indefensible, are naturally far from eager to take such a step.

There are some who believe, indeed, that the Chinese Communists can be made to regret an attack in Indo-China—can be forced, even, to call off such a venture without a general war. These men would dust off the old MacArthur program—strict blockade of the China coast; bombing of the industries and lines of communication in China; and assisted landings on the China coast by Chinese Nationalist forces from Formosa. But the majority opinion is that the MacArthur program is either too weak to get results, or if sufficiently strongly executed, must inevitably lead to an unlimited war.

This is really the central problem—that there is no effective answer to aggression except counter-aggression, and no effective deterrent to aggression except the threat of counter-aggression in full force. It is a problem which cannot, in the end, be dodged. Either you bow to the aggression and take the consequences, which in the Indo-China case would probably amount to final defeat in the cold war. Or you prepare to fight in order to avoid those consequences.

For these reasons, some sort of warning to Peking is pretty sure to be issued in the end. And for these reasons also, one must pray that the British are correct in saying the French over-estimate the current danger.

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IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from Page One)

flourished and the galleons of Venice brought in wealth to distribute over Europe; when artistic genius flourished and commoners joined princes to rear lofty and magnificent cathedrals to the glory of God.

Or take the robust Elizabethan age when the spirit of adventure filled the air, when gold from the new world filled the coffers of Spain and opportunity dawned for migration to new continents. And some may consider that the coming of the industrial age with its great increase in goods for the comfort and convenience of humanity ushered in an era of happiness.

But where is the yardstick of comparison? None has lived through the ten centuries and each one who reads their history weighs the past in his own mental balance to compare with his own experience in living.

As for Mr. Hoover, one understands, after reading his Memoirs, how he rates the 25 years at the turn of the century so high. For that was the time when he was active as a mining engineer, with assignments in nearly all corners of the globe, with the thrill of tackling and solving heavy problems of engineering and administration and opening up vast riches for man's use: Gold mines in Australia, silver in Burma, coal in China, copper in Russia, lead-zinc in Siberia. Then came the war and his engrossment in relief work, his involvement in political affairs when as president he was caught in the delayed backwash of war and revolution. How often he and Mrs. Hoover must have longed for the freedom of private life and relief from the strains and stresses of public responsibility.

Yet even Mr. Hoover must have found the post WW I period clear to the present exciting and interesting. Tennyson wrote:

"Better fifty years of Europe than a cycle of Cathay."

And Hoover is such a man as Browning described who "Never turned his back but marched breast forward. Never doubted clouds would break; Held we fall to rise, are baffled to fight better, Sleep to wake."

We look back to the halcyon days of youth or ahead to the calmness of retirement. Yet each must face his day's task and find his happiness in it; and each generation must buck up to its challenge for its default brings disaster to generations following.

Sometimes we feel that those entering maturity today have had a tough break: Childhood in years of depression, youth in a period of war. Yet these have supplied a discipline which should sustain them through life. And when their hair is grey they may look back on their youth as a period of happiness. We do not believe wars and depressions and revolutions for the "discipline" of mankind; but we should not let them destroy our zest for living which is the secret of happiness.

Quote for the Day

Whenever religion passes over from being a second-hand tradition to being a first-hand experience, something really good happens to man.

Harry E. Fosdick

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT



Comes the Dawn

Monthly news letter No. 2. Clip this and send it to a serviceman (or woman).

December blew in on a strong 67 m.p.h. wind, and lots of rain which toppled trees, swelled rivers and caused citizens all sorts of trouble... V.F.W. started a search for the most worthy farm vet to win a farm... Dec. 2 papers had big spreads on 10th anniversary of Pearl Harbor... And Oregon State waxed Willamette 64-51 in the big hoop thriller here... George H. Riches, 73, retired banker died Dec. 2... Tree seeding from plane starts in area scorched by big Santiam fire last summer.

George Flagg, resigns as Public Utilities Commissioner—replaced by Charles H. Heitzel, 37, Salem attorney... Two barracks burn at Kerr Hop ranch at Clear Lake... MacMinville downs Salem Hi, 53-46; Pacific U. beats WU, 85-69; OCE nails Pacific Badgers, 53-38, and Sheridan stops Jefferson Hi, 47-31... Rep. Walter Norblad, home from the political wars... Hal B. Henderson, 70, retires after 25 years with Secy. of State's office... Christmas decorations go up...

Willie Carver, Salem oldest newsboy, gives his 24th pint of blood to Red Cross... Gov. McKay says state will honor covered wagon pioneers of 100 years ago with a celebration early in 1952... Thieves steal a Jap rifle from the Santiam Sporting Goods Store at Lyons... Robert S. Farrell Sr., 81, father of late Bob Farrell, seely, of state, died in Portland... State Liquor Control Commission meets for first time in Salem in 18-year history... New doctors' clinic construction starts near Memorial Hospital... Radio stations file for television in Willamette Valley... Santiam town of Niagara, once boasted smallest postoffice in the U.S., now deserted and soon to be wiped off the map...

Pope & Talbot Log Co. in Dallas shuts down—between 110-118 men out of work... State Supreme Court dismisses Oregon Grange suit seeking to prevent Gov. from declaring daylight saving time... Marine Lt. Col. Leonard Hicks discharged and home... Courthouse Christmas tree lighted again... Paul Robert Tharalson, 17, Sacred Heart student killed in auto crash... School districts Rosedale, Roberts, Zena, Spring Valley, Lincoln, Prospect and Ankeny consolidate with Salem district and Keizer and Sunnyside decided not to. POW lists create lots of interest but no Valley men listed...

Mrs. Leona Morris, 34, mother of 7, dies in home fire at McMinnville... Plans announced for new State Dept. of Ag. Building... Cons donate 228 pints of blood... Ezzard Charles KO's Woodburn Joe Kahut in 8th round... Christmas and New Year's celebration quiet with returning servicemen and woman main theme... Col. Eugene Foster, 63, war-time comdr. of Camp Adair dies in Calif... Mal Rudd, Penney's mgr., transferred to Phoenix, Ariz... Mrs. Ella M. Stoltz, sister of late Sen. McNary, dies... Emmet T. Rogers, Polk county farmer, files for GOP nomination for Polk county state rep... Old year out and new year in...

The Safety Valve

Townsend Birthday To Be Celebrated To the Editor:

Upwards of five million loyal adherents of the Townsend National Insurance Plan, will on January 13th, 1952 hold thousands of anniversary meetings to honor their founder, Dr. Francis E. Townsend's eighty-fifth birthday. During the past eighteen years he has had no purpose but to serve his country, and promote the welfare of all the people. For his lofty patriotism he is admired; for his faithful service to humanity we all love him, and at the close of another wonderful year of service, we take his spotless record of the great emancipator, wrap it in the silver foil of affection, and entwine them with the golden threads of gratitude.

F. K. HASKELL, Wecoma Beach, Ore.

TIME PASSES DENVER (INS)—The passing of another era was noted recently at the Colorado capitol. The brass cuspidor, time-honored vessel of the marbled interior of the state-house has been replaced in the executive chambers by sand urns.

4 Dead Aboard Wrecked C-46

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (AP)—A Tenth Rescue Squadron helicopter landed on Chena Dome Saturday and radioed that all four men aboard a wrecked C-46 transport plane were dead.

The Transocean Air Lines transport crashed 30 miles east of here last Sunday night on a flight from Point Barrow but the wreckage was not sighted until two days ago.

The men aboard were Pilot Rob-

ert Warren, of Fairbanks, formerly of Oil City, Pa.; Co-Pilot Richard Erwin, Oakland, Calif.; and Joe Weiler, Nyasa, Ore., and Dick Cross, Fairbanks, fliers for another air line who were passengers.

The bodies will be evacuated by helicopter, Capt. Joseph R. Cooper, helicopter pilot, radioed an escorting C-47 plane which was flying overhead.

TEST AVAILABLE

URBANA, Ill. (INS)—A new test for vibriosis disease of cattle is now available to veterinarians who send blood samples to the Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine diagnostic laboratory.

A New Year's Resolution

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