The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us. No Fear Shall Awe"
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Japan, Britain, China, the U. S. A.

The letter from Premier Yoshida to John Foster Dulles assuring him that the new Japan would treat with Chiang Kai-shek's government in Formosa produced repercussions in Yoshida's homeland. Industrialists in particular were critical because they are eager to renew imports of raw materials from Manchuria and eager too to restore an export market in China.

Britain also is concerned, for has this special reason: desire to avert Japanese competition in Southeast Asia and other areas where Britain now enjoys good business. How alert the British are to what happens overseas is revealed in this comment from the Manchester, Eng. Guardian:

Mr. Eden has apparently told the State Department that he cannot join with America in advising Japan to sign a treaty with Chiang Kai-shek. This is what was expected: this country was disquieted when it heard that Mr. Dulles had been pressing Japan to negotiate with Formosa; it was asked how this fitted in with the agreement reached with Mr. Dulles last summer. Japan should be left to decide in its own policy towards China. If reports are true, the American proposal is a curious one. It is that Tokio should sign a treaty with Chiang Kai-shek which would recognise him as the Government of the territory which he holds. Would Chiang Kai-shek himself accept this? It is extremely doubtful. If he did so, Chiang would be renouncing his claim to be recognised as the lawful ruler of mainland China. The alleged American proposal makes the worst of all worlds. It would make it more difficult for Japan to open trade with mainland China—urgently needed for Japan's economic health—and would also injure the Kuomintang. It is said that the proposal is directed mainly to conciliate the American Senate and to smooth the way for the ratification of the San Francisco Treaty. But this sort of appeasement would cause more commotion than it would prevent.

What it all adds up to is a showing of the imbalance which prevails in the Orient, where a nation of 400,000,000 has cut itself off and in turn has been cut off from normal relations with most of the rest of the world. In this "Chinese puzzle" Chiang and Formosa are links hard to extract from the maze. We do not want to throw them to the lions but they serve as one roadblock to a settlement of the politics of the Far East.

Cost of Living Statistics

The Bureau of Labor plans to adopt in 1953 a new consumers' price index. This is the one frequently referred to as the index for cost-of-living. The new one will weigh the factors differently, and substitute a new base period for the old 1935-39. Report was given some time ago that the new index would include some of the new comforts or conveniences of living as part of the new factoring. Presumably this would embrace gasoline as one of the items on the theory that the automobile is now a standard possession for the American family.

There is always a risk in making changes in any comparative index. Yet changes in conditions make such changes necessary. Years ago a farmer would have to figure on cost of harness or of harness repairs as part of his expense budget. Continuing the item in an index on the cost-of-farming would be silly.

The Labor Bureau's statistics have often come under criticism. Sometimes organized labor has been critical, saying the figures were not realistic. At other times employer groups may find faults with the BLS index. For instance now it is asserted that the index accepts as standard the fair-trade price on numerous articles, when in many markets the items are on sale at lower prices.

Cost-of-living of course figures importantly in wage negotiations. Increases in living costs are used to back up demands for higher wages; and conversely employers may call for lower wage rates if the cost of living declines.

It is a mistake however to hitch wages to a cost-of-living formula. That would freeze labor to a "parity" in living, holding its living standard to a fixed level—so many beans, so much bacon, so much for rent or gasoline. While workers need a decent living standard for their own efficiency and welfare, beyond that their wage should rise as labor productivity rises, both within the industry in which they are employed and for industry as a whole. Wage increases where there is no higher productivity do not raise the general living standard for there are no more goods to divide than before.

The reason that the list in the BLS index can be revised to include these erstwhile luxuries is because of the great productivity of the American industrial system which produces motor cars, radios and washing machines in quantity large enough to supply all families. It is important to the successful functioning of the system that wages of the masses of Americans be high enough to enable them to "consume" the gadgets as well as the necessities of life.

Statistical studies usually come out in the form of averages or norms, but the extremes may be very wide. One person's taste in recreation may run to poolhalls and taverns, another's to recordings of classical music. There is no Mr. Average Man. Hence we cannot rely slavishly on BLS cost-of-living statistics, no matter what the factors are or the weighs accorded them. They are just one of the elements to the equation of business; and each family determines pretty much what its standard- and cost-of-living is to be.

The last round in the game of musical chairs in France turned up a new name and face in the premiership—Edgar Faure. The French national assembly is a hexagon: six-sided, with that many fairly large parties. There is no indication that the coalition which gave Faure a vote of confidence will hold very long. French government is a parade of notables, but somehow governmental processes seem able to function.

The Stayton Mail is one of the brightest and best of the country weeklies of Oregon. It has recently completed a program of enlarging its building and improving its plant and now Editor Lawrence Spraker announces further improvements: enlarging to a seven-column page size, revamping the headline dress and adding a darkroom for developing film. The Mail serves a fine community and serves it well.

President Truman has the country and his party guessing over his political plans. It doesn't look as though he would imitate the groundhog even if Feb. 2nd is sunny.

Stiff-legged lambs are learning to frisk in the valley meadows. Time for some one to come in with an armful of pussy-willow brush in the purring stage.

The state elections division warning that March 9 is the deadline for filing candidacies sounds a little like the merchants plea to "Do Your Christmas Shopping Early."

Californians, who last summer were eyeing plans for bringing Columbia River water into the state via an intricate canal and pumping system, must be wondering if Jupe Pluvius has figured out a more direct method.

England Blames United States Unjustly for Japanese Decision to Recognize Chiang

By Joseph an dStewart Alsop

WASHINGTON — The row which has been kicked up in Britain over Japanese recognition of Chiang Kai-shek is a peculiar parable of international misunderstanding. It is being charged publicly in the British official circles that Japanese Prime Minister Yoshida has been forced to recognize the Chinese Nationalists by the Americans, and specifically by State Department consultant John Foster Dulles.

Joseph Alsop

It is being further charged that this pressure has been brought to bear despite a prior American promise that the Japanese would be left free to choose between the Natinalists and the Chinese Communists. By implication, Dulles is thus being accused of having acted in bad faith. In fact, this is simply untrue. And because the tensest area of disagreement between Great Britain and this country is still, despite the Churchill visit, in the Far East, the true story is worth telling.

The fact is that before Dulles left for Britain last June, to try to negotiate a Japanese treaty with the British, the Japanese government had already made up its mind. Premier Yoshida had already signified that Japan would extend at least limited recognition to Chiang Kai-shek in Formosa. This fact was perfectly well known to the British Foreign Office, of course including then British Foreign Minister Herbert Morrison.

Morrison was nevertheless still determined if possible to prevent Japanese recognition of the Chinese Nationalists. When Dulles saw him in June, therefore, Morrison proposed that Japanese foreign relations become the responsibility of a commission in a Pacific pact, which was to include Australa and New Zealand as well as Japan. By this device, the Japanese government's hands were to be tied, as far as recognizing Chiang was concerned.

Dulles unhesitatingly rejected this proposal. He said that there was no reason why the Pacific Commonwealth countries should assume the responsibilities of the United States, which had after all played by far the greatest part in winning the Pacific War. And he said also that the Japanese had every right to choose to recognize the Chinese Nationalists, if they wished to do so.

Dulles left London without an agreement, and then Morrison in effect gave in. He accepted the Japanese pact. He persuaded the British cabinet to agree to it on the basis that the Japanese would be free to choose between the two Chinese governments. But he omitted to point out the essential fact — that the Japanese had in effect already chosen.

Thereafter, Dulles made a further effort to reach a clear understanding with the British. He sent State Department Far Eastern expert Livingston Merchant to London in order to try for a common front on limited Japanese recognition of the Formosa regime. Merchant's negotiations with the Foreign Office officials came to nothing. Thereafter, last December, Dulles went to Japan, and tried again to reach agreement on the issue with Sir Esler Denning, chief British representative in Japan, and a principal architect of British policy in Asia.

These efforts also came to nothing. Meanwhile, Senators John Sparkman and H. Alexander Smith, who had accompanied Dulles, were taking a strong line with Premier Yoshida. They told him that, in order to get the Japanese pact through Congress, there would have to be some assurance that the Japanese government would recognize the Nationlists rather than the Communists.

Accordingly, after Dulles had already left Japan, Yoshida wrote him a letter, promising that the Japanese would extend limited recognition to Chiang Kai-shek's government, as the effective government of Formosa. This letter arrived during the Churchill visit, and it was shown to British Foreign Minister Anthony Eden. By bad timing, the letter was published in Japan, on Yoshida's initiative, on the day Eden arrived back in London.

This gave rise to a roar of displeasure in London, and to the implied charge that Eden had been tricked and that Dulles had acted in bad faith. The point is, of course, that the Japanese choice had actually been made before Dulles went to London in the summer, and that Morrison and informed British officials of course knew that this was so.

The basic reason for the continuing Anglo-American tension over Asiatic policy is not, of course, any love on the part of the British government for the Chinese Communists. Rather it is the fear that the Japanese, excluded from China, will enter into disastrous commercial competition with the British in India and South-East Asia. In view of the desperate British economic situation, this fear is not altogether unreasonable. But the above parable of misunderstanding is enough to suggest that it is impossible to reach any sensible Anglo-American agreement on Asiatic policy, on the basis of beady-eyed suspicion.

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LATEST EGYPTIAN SITUATION

The Safety Valve

Farm Bureau Urged Economy For Agriculture

To The Editor:

Your Editorial, "Devil Take the Hind Most", in your January 23rd issue is most unfair and by omission illinformed. We are sure you did not have all the facts at hand.

The American Farm Bureau Federation, with a million and a half family members in forty-seven states, fought for economy in its own Department of Agriculture.

The Oregon Farm Bureau was in the middle of that fight last year. I refer to our strong appeal for a cut in ACP payments along with many other economies.

I have correspondence from Senator Ellender and, yes, our own Senator Morse saying that I did not represent my own membership is asking for these economies.

Senator Cordon voted for these economies. These matters are on the record.

We have fought aggressively against subsidies, against guaranteeing any one, farmers or not, a profit.

We tried for four years to get support on potatoes stopped.

These are valiant efforts of farmers through their voluntary democratic organizations.

These efforts were rejected, minimized and critcized by the administration and many administration supporters in both political parties.

Statesmanship is needed in these trying times. We recognize that we cannot expect statesmanship from our Congressmen unless we recognize what statesmanship is and act accordingly, individually and as a group.

We do resist, resent, and deplore being unjustly accused, condemned and vilified by government employees and in some cases our own legislators when we show, shall we say, a spark of statesmanship ourselves.

I will be happy to show you our whole file of letters and wires on this issue. Incidentally, we lost that fight for economy within our own Department of Africulture, our fight against these direct payments by one vote in the Senate.

Marshall Swearingen,
President
Oregon Farm Bureau

(Editor's Note: It is true that the Farm Bureau has sought to reduce or eliminate farm subsidies but as the correspondent admits, lost its fight in the last Congress.)

To the Editor:

This is my suggestion: Sometime before May, let us have a First Citizens' Day and at least clean the weeds out of our old cemetery. Surely everyone in Salem would like to do something about that neglected place. We could collect some money, get out there and do what we can. Three things are needed.

1st A business firm, centrally located, to accept contributions from one cent up. 2nd. A capable man to superintendent the work. 3rd. some free publicity.

I'd gladly pay a man for 6 or 8 hours work and, if we all put in a little, some man could be hired; also trucks to haul the rubbish. Others could do some work or donate the use of some equipment.

Old cemeteries are interesting. There would be many visitors to that one if poison oak and weeds were not waist high. The view from there is beautiful. A reporter could write some interesting real life stories from some of the gravestones and The Statesman files. Good camera shots are numerous.

One lot there is enclosed by heavy iron posts and chain. The chain is deeply imbedded in the trunk of a good sized tree. Am deeply grateful to all who have done what they could there, but I didn't live in Oregon for a lot of years; now I'm ready to help.

Ernestine Halley McNearrey
Rt. 4, Box 458.

(I worked for The Statesman in 1905-6. Did you know that Isaac Manning's father, single handed, started the planting east of the Postoffice. He was well along in years. People gave him shrubs and trees and he planted and cared for them.)

A Modern Fable—Once upon a time there was an Amateur Politician who Decided to Run for Precinct Committeeman. He did not Want to Set the World on Fire — he only Wanted to Warm up his Patriotism. He was a Clean-Cut Chap who did not Pick his Teeth in Public. Before he Filed his Candidacy for Precinct Committeeman, however, he Went to See an Old Pal, who was also an Old Politician. When OP heard that the Young Politician was going to Run for Office his Ears stood up Like a Republican's who has Just spotted Mink.

Well, after Several Delightful Hours of Running Down the Opposition Party the Amateur Politician was all for going Right to the County Clerk's Office and Putting his John Henry on the Line. But Old Pal said, "Take it easy, Boy. Things Political are Not done that Way." Then He sounded a Major Political Axiom: "Don't Jump the Gun!" And Old Politician also said This: "You can't just Come right Out and say you are going to Run. First of all You have Got to Make a speech Someplace and drop a Hint that you are vaguely interested. The next Morning the Papers (especially the Columnists) will proclaim that it is Rumored you are a Strong Dark Horse Contender for Precinct Committeeman."

Then Old Friend asked the Amateur to Run Through his Qualifications for Office. Amateur Politician proudly noted that he had graduated from Four Colleges and Two Universities, had Masters Degrees in Literature, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Journalism, Government Planning, Atomic Science and Oriental Languages, was a member of 25 Service Clubs, 32 Professional Organizations and 44 Lodges, owned and operated Four Businesses, was Married and had 10 Children, attended Three Churches, and was given a Congressional Citation for Outstanding Citizenship. "I was Afraid of This," groaned the Old Politician. "No voter Appeal."

"We got to do Better than That," said Old Pal. "How about your War Record?" The Amateur said that He had Been a Naval Hospital Corpsman. "Dandy," conceded Old Friend. "Now You can Qualify as an Expert on Veterans Affairs and It Gives you and In with the Medical Profession." Young Fellow was Warming Up. "I was on a Scout Troop Committee once . . ." "Great!" cheered Old Pal, "One who is deeply interested in Youth Problems." Then Old Companion asked the Other if He had ever Been Connected with a Farm. "Well," said Young Man, "I picked Strawberries one Summer when I was Nine Years Old." "Peachy!" gurgled Old Pal. "You've had the Interest of The Farmer at Heart since a Mere Lad."

"Now for Your Campaign Slogan," said Old One. The Poor Amateur said it Went like This: "If I am Elected I will Try to Reform the . . ." Old Pal immediately had a Heart Attack. When he recovered he said faintly: "Da Gummit, Boy, we Politicians never 'Try.' Even 'Pledge' is a Pretty weak Word these Days. The Voters won't Go for a 'Tryer.' They want a 'Will Doer'." So Amateur Politician Tr - - er . . . Began again: "If I am Elected I will Move Heaven and Washington to Cast Out . . ." Old Politician nodded happily . . . Moral—There Is More Than One Way To Skin A Mink.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued From Page One)

proseltying. Rather like the true university it sought to enlighten. But when one comes to the field of religion enlightenment is often shrouded in mysteries, in the "faith" that supersedes scientific demonstration. More than mere information is needed to influence faith.

Religion has its roots in primitive man; and modern faith reveal accretions of belief through the centuries. Vestiges of superstition have had a way of surviving if not in the formal creed then in the practices of its followers. Our Christian religion has come to us through the filter of Greek philosophy on one hand and Greco-Roman paganism on the other. What it does have which is unique are the personality and teaching of Jesus.

Sabatier wrote that man is "incurably religious." Certain it is he still seeks and finds in religion an answer to the great mystery of life and the universe and a basis of faith and hope which make life meaningful. Lewis Browne wrote in "This Believing World":

"Strange potency, this thing we call Religion. It has made men do barbarities quite beyond the reaches of credence . . . Yet for it men have done benevolences such as trascend the benevolences of angels. If men have killed and died for religion, men have also lived for it. Not merely lived for it, but by it."

For all our lip service to tolerance and our constitutional guarantee of religious freedom most folk consciously or unconsciously cling to old prejudices. The Parliament of World Religions at Eugene can be called a success if through the spread of information it helped to soften some of these projudices.

Mounted Posse Elects Stangeby

Ralph Stangeby was elected captain Saturday of the Oregon Mounted Posse, a local group of horsemen also known as the Governor's Guard.

The election took place at the Posse's annual dinner meeting in the Marion Hotel. Approximately 30 were present. Other officers elected were J. E. (Jack) Lindeman, first lieutenant, and O. D. (Buzz) Youngquist and Glenn Conklin, both second lieutenants.

Coming activities for the year also were discussed.

SILENT BLISS

BIRMINGHAM, England (INS)—James Ebenezer Fennell, married 9 years, asked for a divorce from his wife Evelyn. He told the judge they had meals together, that his wife did his washing and made his bed and even on the morning of the divorce case they shared a cup of tea. But Fennell said, it was always in silence. Divorce was granted.

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