

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us No Fear Shall Awe"
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Psychological Warfare

What we are getting in Korea is not bacteriological warfare, as the Reds loudly proclaim, but psychological warfare. At this the Communists are far more adept than Americans. They have been at it far longer, and falsehood offers them not the slightest embarrassment. When infectious disease played havoc among Red troops in Korea several months ago the Communists manufactured the story that U.N. forces were spreading disease germs in contravention of an international convention (one to which, however, the USA was not a party). Their purpose either was to cover up the deficiencies of their own health service or as preliminary to their own resort to germ warfare; or it may have been just propaganda. In any event they have spread germs of ill will toward the United States all round the world, waging a major offensive in the continuing psychological warfare.

To a few selected neutrals like the delegation from India the Chinese Reds showed an exhibit to prove their Big Lie. They had collected some metal canisters dropped from allied airplanes for the scattering of propaganda leaflets, and other material and put them on display. In addition a radio brayed the "confession" of American army officers as to their part in conducting germ warfare. The Indians were by no means convinced—that they did observe was the bitter hatred which the Red Chinese are fomenting toward everything American, which is just part of their psychological warfare.

When the United States challenged the Chinese to let the International Red Cross send competent scientists to investigate the charges the Reds of course refused to accept the proposal. That in itself is convincing evidence that their germ warfare tale is a monumental lie. Add to that the unqualified denial by responsible military and civil officials including President Truman, and, a few days ago, General Ridgway, lately supreme commander in the Far East.

Now the Soviet delegate to the U.N. security council who is chairman this month, raises the issue. The United States again expressed its desire to have the charges investigated on the ground by neutral observers. Malik insists that the Reds be allowed to come to New York; but the United States retorts that the place for the investigation is in China and Korea, not New York City.

The flare-up in prison camps on Koje Island may have been inspired by the Communist big command. At any rate the latter seized on the incidents and exploited them in its hate campaigns by radio and printing press. The only trouble with American administration at Koje was that it was too lenient. The fanatics among the Red prisoners took control of some compounds and threatened to drive off their captors. In restoring control some lives were lost but that was the consequence of Red insurrection. Now that General Boatner has established firm discipline on the island, isolated some of the radical leaders and broken the compounds into smaller segments we shall hear little more about U.N. "maltreatment" of Red prisoners. As long as it lasted, however, the story was good for the usual Communist amplification and harangue.

Treatment of prisoners is subject to the Gen-

eva Convention of which the United States and sixty other nations are signers (including Russia but not Red China and North Korea). It sets standards for decent housing, proper food and privileges such as communicating with families, exercises, sports, reading, freedom of worship. The convention also requires captors to exchange lists of captives held. The Communists didn't do that in Korea until the truce talks were called and then their listing appeared quite incomplete.

Historically, of course, the lot of captives has not been a pleasant one. In ancient times the captive, if he was not promptly executed, was condemned to slavery. Exchange of individual prisoners sometimes was arranged and in course of time general exchange was made at the conclusion of hostilities. Even as late as our own Civil War, prison conditions were deplorable. Federals severely condemned conditions at Libby Prison, Richmond. Due to pressures of humanitarians the first international prisoner convention was adopted at The Hague in 1899. It was revised at Geneva in 1929 and again in 1949. We may be quite sure that the United States is living up to the requirements of the Geneva Convention.

Our recent experiences with reports of germ warfare and maltreatment of prisoners teach us again the significance of psychological warfare. We'll have to learn how to employ Truth to offset malicious falsehood, for that is one of the "fronts" in the present cold war.

Reporters Get Fellowships

Robert Frazier, reporter on the Eugene Register-Guard, has been appointed to a Nieman fellowship at Harvard University for next year. The fellowship is financed under the Nieman foundation set up by one-time owners of the Milwaukee Journal. Its purpose is to improve the profession of journalism by giving opportunity to promising journalists for advanced study. Twelve persons are chosen annually for a year's work at Harvard. They are permitted to select their own courses, do their own reading and research. Frequent meetings of the fellows are held with eminent authorities in various fields, giving the young journalists the opportunity for personal contact as well as information from the best sources. The Foundation has been running only a comparatively few years but it is scattering over the country talented men whose understanding has been broadened and aptitudes sharpened by the year's experience at Harvard. Malcolm Bauer, now associate editor of the Oregonian, is a recent Nieman Fellow.

Frazier has earned the recognition, which has come to him by very able reporting. During the last winter he did a series on state institutions which were good examples of objective journalism, factual and fair.

Another Fellowship announced over the week end was to Harold Hughes of the Astorian Budget. This is the Eric Allen Fellowship awarded by the Guard Publishing Co. of Eugene. It provides a grant for the newspaperman selected, to spend a year in graduate work at the University of Oregon.

These fellowships help to equip working journalists to do a better job in their chosen profession, and so are a move toward providing the country with a better press.

THE NEW DRIVER



Reasons why some of those bonus checks got snafued are involved and make dry reading. But most of the blame falls on the mailing machine, according to an explanation from the Vets Affairs Dept. Sometimes the machine picked up two checks and fed them into one envelope and sometimes picked up two nameplates instead. Most of these errors were corrected by the machine operators. Then there were the human errors, when addresses were not matched with checks, etc. Most of these were due to last minute changes in addresses.

Requiring extra work for bonus workers are the checks going overseas to civilians and servicemen. One check has been sent to the U.S. consulate general in Hong Kong, China, and another to the vice-consulate in Greece. Others have been airmailed to New Zealand, French Morocco, England and several South American countries.

At the YWCA cake-baking contest auction Tinkham Gilbert bought his wife's own prize winning cake—and friends made the affair a costly one for Tinkham by bidding him up. A. C. Haag bought the prize-winning culinary creation of his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Rollin Haag, who in turn bought a winning number made by her aunt, Mrs. Myrtle Ross. Two men entries, District Judge Val Sloper and Joey Tompkins, who turned in peachy dreamy efforts, got nothing but snide looks as the women walked off with the prizes.

A city jail prisoner makes an unsuccessful dash for freedom Tuesday (he's nailed by city cops before he gets far) and in no time at all the rumor is all over town that the track man is Albert Karnes, the state prison inmate facing a murder charge. Dandy traffic snarl-up on Front Street just north of Center Street Tuesday noon. A big truck was planted right across the RR tracks. The switch train can't get by and starts dinging its bell. The other trucks, loaded with fruit, get caught and they in turn cleverly halt all other auto traffic for several minutes.

Two years ago today headlines in America said: "Red troops, Tanks Invade South Korea." Headlines in Moscow said: "Peoples Army Repulse South Korean Invaders." And it's pretty much like that ever since. The day before K-Day then Secy of Def. Louis Johnson said in a press interview that everything was in pretty good shape and he favored statehood for Alaska. Hardly anyone knew exactly where Korea was and one outline under a map of Korea referred to it as an island. Pundits said the Korean conflict was a Soviet test of American strength. The United Nations asked Russia to please lay off Korea. That was two years ago.

GRIN AND BEAR IT by Lichty



"Check HIS books carefully... I've seen that look on my wife's face when someone unexpectedly dropped in when the house was a mess."

The Safety Valve

Do Clothes Make the Man?

To the Editor:
If I appraise a man at his face value, clothes tend to make the man. If my appraisal is based on the book value of a man, what he wears is an insignificant factor.

Glamor and personal magnificence edged in gold leaf make an impressive figure in the column of face value. The actual capacity and deeds of a man determine his book value, and this can be a far greater worth than the face value would indicate.

It is easy to point out a king in all his regal raiments, but you must know his virtues to identify him short of these outward pompous identifications.

I know many men in overalls who merit a high on the job book value. Seeing them on Sunday in a blue serge suit, you would never guess it.

My most severe shock in face value appraisals is to have been associated with a man in uniform and later meeting him in civilian clothes.

General Eisenhower has been placed at a tremendous handicap by being garbed in civilian attire. This fact does not alter the capabilities of the General, but his face value is subject to a severe slump. The same would hold true for Senator Taft if he were to campaign in uniform. It would take a lot of braid to

glamorize the Senator when we are accustomed to seeing him in a business suit. Perhaps the best lesson to be learned from this Taft-Eisenhower struggle is to select the man first; what he wears second. If we do this America will have better leadership.

Dean McWain
986 N. 5th St.

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Two Years Ago Today Communism Tried Aggression as Tactic in World Struggle

By J. M. ROBERTS JR.
AP News Analyst

Two years ago today Wednesday Soviet Russia violated her most fundamental obligation to the United Nations by sending her puppet North Korean army tramping into South Korea, a republic sponsored by the U.N. itself.

To the Kremlin, South Korea was an outpost of the free world, a barrier on the road to Japan. The North Koreans, faced unexpectedly by United Nations troops, failed to do the job. Their Russian-made tanks were wiped out. The Kremlin called on its Chinese puppets. They failed to do the job.

Russia was faced with the prospect of having to do it herself or get out of it some way. When the war had been going for one year, she asked for a truce. But it soon became obvious that, instead of wanting an actual armistice, she wanted to talk while the Communist forces pinned down in Korea an important part of Allied fighting strength. She wanted to keep the Korean war burning, just as she tries to promote the festering of every spot she cannot conquer.

The Allies thought it was a good time to cut their commitments in Korea, then demonstrated their sincerity by practically calling off the ground fighting. It seemed reasonable at the time, but proved to be just what the Communists wanted. They escaped "Operation Kill," which was decimating them, but made sure to avoid peace.

As the second anniversary arrived, new factors again entered into the situation. But this time the trend is not toward peace, but toward more war.

The Allies are convinced now that the Reds, brought to the conference watering trough by "Operation Kill," can be made to drink only by use of more force. Twice before, when the truce talks showed little promise, UN air forces had prepared to destroy

the great Yalu River hydro-electric complex which feeds power into North China, Manchuria and North Korea. Twice they had held off to give the negotiators another chance, and to avoid starting a big aerial battle which might lead across the border into China and so extend the war.

But now the wheels turned by the Yalu River power are stilled, and a new spirit of Allied toughness pervades the truce negotiations. As yet, the Reds don't seem sufficiently frightened.

The political aspects of the Yalu bombing are immediately clear, and have been quickly admitted by some American officials.

Less clear, but plainly suggested by Korean dispatches, is the other aspect of the bombing—the attempt to interfere with a possible new Communist offensive.

Communist forces have been probing up and down the more or less static battle line for several weeks, feeling out Allied defenses. U.N. troops have been watching for changes in Red deployment which might indicate a new blow. The Yalu power installations are prime military targets in any resumption of all-out war.

War correspondents are cautiously warning America to be prepared for just that.

Literary Guidepost

By W. G. ROGERS

SCALPEL, by Horace McCoy (Appleton-Century-Crofts \$3.50)
Tom Owen came from four generations of coalmine miners. Each father, each grandfather warned the boys in later generations to dig the grime out from under their nails and keep it out, but each new Owen went down into the mines. Even Tom began there. But somehow, fastening a grip on his own bootstraps, he hoisted himself up to a medical education, and an Army career, and he's a doctor-colonel as this fast-moving novel gets under way.

He has flown back from Berlin. His older brother Louis, whom he hated, whom his mother adored, who had piled up unaccountable wealth, has been killed in an unexplained accident. Louis has left a son, and no money at all; all Owens are suddenly mysteriously hated in the town where they have always been revered and liked; and there's a strike.

The Coalville mines are owned by the Reasonovers. It's the three-wed thrice-dyed red daughter of the family, Helen Curtis, who meets the colonel in Pittsburgh and shows him the sights for an evening. Tom scores a social hit for he's handsome,

a good talker, an experienced drinker, and, it develops, a man with a distinguished record as a surgeon at the front. A suggestion, if not indeed a proposition, made to him by Helen, is that he quit the Army and acquire a fine rich practice right there in the Smoky City. He remembers the pre-war days when he couldn't earn the price of a shingle as a doctor, he remembers the Army that gave him his chance, he remembers his brother Louis who was spoiled by too much money... so he decides to get rich, too. There is, at bottom, the story of a man who looks sure and confident, yet he must have his ability tested dangerously before he himself becomes convinced.

Considering the run of rather commonplace, piddling heroes in current fiction, McCoy's man is glamorous and colorful... wonderful lover, bravest of the brave, miracle worker with the scalpel. And he's tough... McCoy, who wrote "They Shoot Horses, Don't They?" believes in shooting, or bashing the nose of, or kicking in the groin of, anything that walks. Social relationships are stretched a bit incongruously, and the plot is not always completely convincing, but the lively pace rarely falters right up to the last word.