

The Oregon Statesman
No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe
From First Statesman, March 23, 1851
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Published every morning Business office 280 North Church St., Salem, Ore., Telephone 2-2441
Entered at the postoffice at Salem, Ore. as second class matter under act of Congress March 3, 1879.
Member Associated Press
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Northwest Work Program

The Pacific Northwest faces a reduction of \$21 million in funds for federal works projects in the region under the 1955 budget proposed by President Eisenhower. The total of over \$300 million remains a very substantial sum compared with most previous years. All uncompleted projects receive good-sized sums for continuance of work. While completion of the dam at The Dalles will be delayed some months, McNary dam will be finished on schedule. Principal disappointment arises from failure to recommend money for fresh starts in Northwest power and reclamation development. A token appropriation would have proven the administration intends to fulfill the responsibility it has assumed in Northwest river and land undertakings.

Of special interest is the increase in money for access roads for the Bureau of Land Management from the "million this year to \$3 for next." This is important for opening up O&C timber for marketing.

Columbia Basin spokesmen express regret that the allowance for extending irrigation works in Central Washington is cut by \$10 million to a mere \$8.6 million. However, in view of the farm surplus there is reason for slowing down opening fresh lands for intensive cultivation. We recall one farmer at the Oregon Farm Bureau meeting here a few weeks ago who reported that the new farmers on the Basin project were in dire straits unless they had a sugar beet contract. Those growing potatoes and alfalfa were not breaking even.

The Northwest has no particular claims for preference over the rest of the country. It must make some sacrifice in its desires in the common interest of restricting expenditures. And as the President lays out a program for the Northwest it provides lots of work and promises future benefits.

New Episode in Accordion War

The French recaptured Thakhek, the city on the Mekong river in Indochina which the Vietminh had seized in a dash across Laos in late 1953. This was just another episode in the accordion war which has continued for half a dozen years in Indochina. The Statesman remarked at the time that the Communist victory was largely one of prestige, that whenever the French and Vietnam forces brought up some reinforcements they could erase it. That has been done, at least to the rescue of the terminal city on the Mekong opposite Thailand. The Reds had abandoned the city, just as the French did when Reds were in sight.

This type of undulating warfare is marked by crests and troughs, with no permanent levelling off of success or defeat. Apparently the war will go on indefinitely. The trouble is, there are more natives than Frenchmen.

The star witness in the shooting of Walter Reuther, CIO labor leader, who ran off to Canada, now says he knows nothing about the case. So far, though, he hasn't sent back the \$5000 the CIO gratefully presented to him for breaking the case.

Eisenhower's 54-55 Budget Said Based Precariously on Important Assumptions

By J. M. ROBERTS Jr.

Associated Press News Analyst
President Eisenhower's 1954-55 budget is based, somewhat precariously, on several important assumptions.

Among them:

1 - The estimate that defense expenditures can be based on a long-range view of Russian intentions, with substitution of weapons of massive retaliation, and of tactical atomic weapons, for manpower.

2 - A belief that business will maintain approximately its present level and so pay present taxes.

3 - A confidence that Congress will accept the budget estimates as bedrock, and not insist on greater tax reductions than proposed, or include expenditures which have been omitted.

The President reached out for a broad layer of popular support with his proposals to give smaller taxpayers a break with their returns, and to increase social security benefits.

But Congress wanted far broader action as the November elections drew closer, and there were immediate threats that the administration would not be able to hold cuts, some of them already scheduled for April.

Not only in Congress, but among the people, there is considerable nervousness over the defense picture. The tendency to rely on the President in this field where he is particularly fitted to weigh the estimates of his advisers is at least partially offset by the ingrained belief, drilled in by the President as much as anyone else, that this is a grave period in which to live.

People to whom I have talked want no chance-taking. Mostly, they want the military to have everything they could possibly need. Out of the other side of their mouths, they talk tax reduction.

But the one universal question into which I have run, in recent

visits to six states and Washington itself, is whether there will be a depression.

You can't make any sense out of these people. They quarrel about high prices, and shudder when prices stop climbing or drop just a tiny bit.

One small business woman did better in 1953 than in her record year of 1952, but usually good months were bad and usually bad months were good, and she was upset because she couldn't figure things out. She was pretty sure things were going to pot.

Literary Guidepost

By W. G. ROGERS
PERSIAN ADVENTURE, by Anne Sinclair Mehdevi (Knopf; \$3.50).

In two ceremonies, in New York and in Meshed, Anne Sinclair, newswoman from Wichita wed Mohammed and became Anne Sinclair Mehdevi to us westerners and Khanoum Mohamed Aga to her Iranian husband's countrymen.

In between the ceremonies, the usual thing in New York and a touching ritual in Meshed's home, come all the experiences which add up to this "adventure." They began prosaically in a Greenwich Village basement, the young couple's first lodging. They continued matter of fact on their trip to the Near East by ship to Beirut, plane to Tehran, and by Ford to the mother-in-law's where she occupied a room still western: Linoleum, grapejuice bottle holding drinking water, pot-bellied stove stamped U. S. Army.

From then on life turned strange and unfamiliar, sometimes as romantic and glamorous as it had promised to be. About the only usual event was

a view of the shimmering Peacock Throne. For the rest, there were the great congeries of unpredictable relatives, from the father-in-law with his numerous wives to aunts who might be infants and nephews who were bearded men. There were the patients carried piggy-back to the dispensary; the custom of korsi, a sort of big family bed; the mysteries of the chador; the sunbath in a Buick; the bride's curious task of arguing for her dowry.

However, there were the autoists, who must have made the author think she was right back in New York: "It would be unthinkable for a driver to show courtesy toward a pedestrian."

This is a most refreshing book, while Miss Sinclair provides glimpses of people as newsworthy as Mossadegh, she probes deeper and more revealingly in less public places. Despite her own romance and the romance of ancient Persia, she remains very practical and unstarry-eyed. This is the Midwest looking sensibly at the Near East; it's the facts about a fabled land.

Time Flies:

From The Statesman Files

10 Years Ago
Jan. 23, 1944
Wendell Wilkie announced he would not enter the California presidential preference primary, but would enter the Wisconsin, Nebraska and Oregon primaries.

40 Years Ago
Jan. 23, 1914
Editorially—William Reid is being paid \$350,000 by the Portland dock commission for two blocks on the east side of the river, for a city dock site. Might have been bought for 30 cents, half a lifetime ago.

25 Years Ago
Jan. 23, 1929
Leon Trotsky and his exiled companions made a formal protest and appeal to the communists international for reinstatement in the party. The appeal was not printed in Russia.

Better English
By D. C. WILLIAMS
1. What is wrong with this sentence? He was excused on account of his youth.
2. What is the correct pronunciation of "placable"?
3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Hierarchy, hilarious, hinderance, hickory.
4. What does the word "inadmissible" mean?
5. What is a word beginning with inc that means "beginning, commencement"?

ANSWERS
1. Say, "because of his youth."
2. Pronounce first syllable as play, not as in black.
3. Hindrance.
4. Not worthy to be admitted. "The discussion of this subject is inadmissible."
5. Incipience.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"A nickel change out of a ten-dollar bill... and they call THIS a free parking lot...."

Inside TV . . .

Yale Theater Man In TV Come-down

By EVE STARR

HOLLYWOOD — Strange how things happen—especially in show business. In a recent "Lucy" show, the bit part of a waiter was played by Larry Dobkin. Time was when this boy wowed audiences at the Yale Theater with his portrayal of "the melancholy Dane" in a full-length version of "Hamlet." Yale's plays are for invited guests and critics only, but Larry was so good the public demanded admission—and got it. Later he toured in "Watch On The Rhine." TV viewers might like to see such talent in bigger parts.

Wonder if the great Blanche Yurka caught Tallulah Bankhead in Ibsen's "Hedda Gabler" last week. Yurka, once a protégée of fabulous David Belasco, was famous for her Ibsen repertoire. Although she's done a few bits on TV, she ought to be at the head of producers' lists. La Yurka probably liked TVenus Bankhead's performance—as did nearly everyone who saw it. It was a first for Tallulah, and we hope there'll be more soon.

If not overdone, feuds are fun. No present-day TV feud can compare to the old radio urangle between Jack Benny and Fred Allen. Now that the latter has hit video—maybe they'll pick up again where they left off. If so, don't keep it up too long, boys!

Richard Carlson, the man who leads "Three Lives," takes his part seriously. He believes that many shows aimed at Communism do not present facts as they really are. Carlson says Communies are not stupid thugs, and viewers are misled when Iron Curtains are so depicted. Viewers like Carlson's show—for its realism and entertainment value.

CRITIC'S CORNER: One of the most consistently good weekly shows is TV's only musical on ice. "Frosty Frolics" has earned its high rating through hard work and constant improvement—setting an example that many other shows should follow. With a fresh new theme each week, music and skating numbers are developed to match.

Last week, we skimmed across the gleaming ice into the year 2034, with visitors from outer space (on ice skates) and predictions of feminine finery of the future.

Mae Edwards can always be counted upon to do the extreme and unusual, and we might add, in the least amount of hampering coverage. Tops for speed is Jerry Rayfield, whose spinning, jumping gyrations are a marvel of grace and control.

But the highlight of the hour is the perfectly matched team—Joan and Buff McCusker. This pair seems to enjoy every moment of their effortless skating dance. It must be no easy task for this man of muscle to toss his curvaceous partner around with the greatest of ease—but you'd never know it. Training and split-second cooperation does it, and they have plenty of both.

There's something fresh and wholesome about the whole show. The musical arrangements are generally good, thanks to Manny Strand, but it's best when a series of known songs and melodies are woven into the action. Roberta Lynn's vocals enhance almost every number, but unfortunately she's never seen. While backgrounds are sometimes a bit sketchy, we'll forgive that department because more often than not, it bows us over with an effect that makes the number.

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The Safety Valve

Can Omit "Rest of World" To the Editor:

Surely Mrs. Lord was entirely right when she said quote: "OREGON" and the rest of the world.

I agree with her 100 per cent. For my part Oregon will be my home for the rest of my life. I have been happier here than anywhere else I have ever lived.

That goes with any angle concerned, viz., the people, the scenery unsurpassed, anywhere, the climate and last, but not least, the health breathing ozone which is purer than California air ever could hope to be. Chet Snyder 1647 Waller St.

Too Many Republican Editors! To the Editor:

"Republicans . . . seem to be tongue-tied, rarely writing even a letter to the editor."

They don't need to write letters to editors because there are so many Republican editors to do their writing for them. Of course Republican editors are above using "Agitprop" or anything similar. They use only facts in their editorials and are preserving the American way of life for us befuddled Democrats.

Robert W. Mitchell 633 Ferry St.



(Continued from Page 1.)

lines:

"Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul, As the swift seasons roll. Leave thy low-vaulted past, Leave each new temple, nobler than the last, Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast, Till thou at length art free, Leaving thy shell by time's unresting sea."

Perhaps the muster of so many weapons with such great power of destruction may serve as such a warning against warfare that no nation will start a war lest it be destroyed in the process. Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill with the presence with which his mind has been gifted, foresaw such a possibility in one of his recent speeches on world affairs.

That indeed were a consummation devoutly to be wished. Now we see the Nautilus, "low-vaulted," sealed against the deep waters. What a glorious day it will be when humanity can break the bonds of hate and fear, and leave the empty shells of now-useless submarines and bombers and battle-ships "by time's unresting sea."

Clocks came into use in Europe about the 13th Century although there is evidence they were invented some centuries earlier.

How News Media Suppressed Story Of S.F. Kidnaping

(From San Francisco Chronicle)

It can now be disclosed that the well-kept secret of Leonard Moskowitz kidnaping came perilously close to being spilled on several occasions during the three day voluntary news blackout.

The first near-slip occurred on Saturday evening, and it was The Chronicle that almost made it.

An alert Chronicle reporter received a "tip" on the fact that the Moskowitz family had received a ransom note demanding \$500,000. He flashed that news to The Chronicle office, half an hour before the first, inadvertent, police radio broadcast at 6:32 p.m.

There had been no request to keep the matter secret at that time, and The Chronicle's city editor was deploying reporters and photographers before the police had time to think about blacking out the news.

An extra edition of The Chronicle was in preparation when Chief of Inspectors James English telephoned to ask that Chronicle staff men be called away from the Moskowitz home at 2900 Lake street.

When it became evident that the co-operation of all news media would be given, the Chronicle extra was dismantled, and no copy of it ever reached the public.

However, with extra policemen being called to duty, and with newspaper, radio, television and wire service men calling their wives to explain why they would not be home on time, there were bound to be leaks.

Out-of-Town Media
Out-of-town newspapers and radio stations, who were not informed of the agreement among San Francisco Bay media, were of course, not bound by the blackout agreement, nor even informed of it.

A friend of the publisher of the Salt Lake Tribune heard the story in a local club and telephoned Salt Lake. The publisher immediately sent queries to the Associated Press in San Francisco and to newspapers in Los Angeles, San Diego and Chicago with which he has news-exchange agreements.

The Los Angeles, San Diego and Chicago newspapers also sent urgent inquiries to San Francisco. They were informed by telephone of the blackout agreement and asked to cooperate.

Of the three principal radio networks, two informed their New York offices of the blackout agreement, and one did not.

A Demand
One network received a tip in New York from an FBI informant and immediately telephoned San Francisco, demanding the facts be broadcast. It was a touchy few minutes, but the New York officials were pur-

sued to respect the agreement. An alert teletype operator in the San Francisco office of the United Press made a goal-line save on Monday night.

On the press association's California wire, which serves 69 newspapers in the State, a note started to appear on the machines in the San Francisco office. It began:

"SX (code for San Francisco) CLIENT ASKS STORY SX REAL ESTATE OPERATOR KIDNAPED AND HELD . . ."

Frank Caunt, a veteran news operator, immediately punched his finger on the "break" button, interrupting the message.

"Who's sending," Caunt messaged.

"Los Angeles," was the answer.

"Lay off that," Caunt ordered. The Los Angeles answer was, " ? ? ? ? ?"

Hurried Key
Holding his finger on the "break" key, Caunt called over a wire editor, who put through a hurried call to the United Press Los Angeles office, explaining the situation.

On Sunday night, Walter Winchell had what was perhaps the biggest audience of Bay Area newsmen. The word had gone out that Winchell had got wind of the news, and had telephoned out here, threatening to "break" it. He didn't though.

Since news is a perishable commodity that diminishes in value most rapidly when someone else has it ahead of you, every one of the hundreds of round-the-clock news men in the secret was alert to the danger of a leak.

Naturally, from copy boy to editor, there was a lot of debate about whether a voluntary news blackout was a good thing.

Some urged that it was a dangerous precedent to suppress news, and that doing so protected kidnapers as well as their victims.

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