

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
From First Statesman, March 23, 1851

Statesman Publishing Company
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Published every morning, Business Office 200
North Church St., Salem, Ore., Telephone 4-6811

Entered at the postoffice at Salem, Ore., as second
class matter under act of Congress March 3, 1879.

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Macabre Substitute for Freedom

There is something approaching sadism in China's suggestion that citizens of the United States in effect become supplicants for admission to see their relatives imprisoned on trumped-up charges in the Red stronghold of Asia.

It can be with nothing but mixed and almost overwhelming emotions that parents and wives of such men will receive invitations of that kind. Reactions even at this early date show a wide variance. Some want to leave at once. Others see it as futile and perhaps a deliberate delaying action on the part of the Reds who stand at the altar of world opinion. Still others would go if they were not fearful of their own safety in a country with which the United States has no diplomatic relations. All, it appears, will make their choice without financial worry, however. Preliminary word has it that the Red Cross would foot the bills of those unable to pay their own way. And the Red Cross Society of China "would make all arrangements necessary" at that end.

Whichever course is chosen, there will be heartbreaks — on the part of those who elect to stay home and on the part of those who may see their sons and husbands and then be forced to leave them thousands of miles from the home where by all rights they belong.

From the Chinese Reds' standpoint, perhaps they will find a sadistic pleasure in watching American fathers and mothers and wives come into their country to see the prisoners for whose rescue not many decades ago the entire resources of American military might would have blasted a road clear across Asia. We're not advocating that step now, of course. This is a different world than it was a few decades ago. But if the Reds think we will feel any more kindly toward them for this macabre substitute for the men's freedom, they're just as mistaken about the Western mind as we are baffled by theirs.

Bond Savings Increase

Another encouraging index in the Oregon economic picture is the newly-released report on U.S. Savings Bond sales for 1954 — up nearly \$8 million from the previous year. Total was \$36,034,406, highest in any 12-month period since 1949. It is noteworthy that all but seven of Oregon's 36 counties reported an increase in the backlog of bond savings. All counties west of the Cascades shared in the gain.

Bank savings, too, are reported at record highs, and the policy of saving something each month seems to be spreading. The trend is one toward stability and strength in every community.

Marion County's increase was just about the national average — 12 per cent; Polk County's nearly 45 per cent; Yamhill's nearly 30 per cent; Linn's nearly 28 per cent — a nice showing.

It looks like the end is in sight. When the barber shop quartet contest at Forest Grove allows a petticoat foursome to enter competition there're not many male sanctuaries left in the world.

U. S. Now Given Even Chance to Win Guided-Missile Race With Russians

By STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON — By those who should know, this country is now given about an even chance of beating the Soviet Union in the race to be first to get an intercontinental ballistic missile into the air.

Although this whole subject may seem impossibly remote to most people, this should rate as about the best news the country has had for a long time. For until rather recently, intelligence studies of the Soviet effort in the field of long range guided missiles strongly suggested that we would almost certainly lose the race for the intercontinental ballistic missile — the ICBM. And this is a race which the United States simply cannot afford to lose.

The ICBM, married to a hydrogen warhead, is the true ultimate weapon. It can be fired from one continent to another to destroy a great city, in much the way that a murderer fires a bullet through his victim's head. The difference is that a man can hide, and a city cannot.

As of today, at least, there is hardly even a theoretical defense against the true intercontinental guided missile, except to get the weapon first, to make it better, and to make it in greater numbers. Until recently, the effort to win the ICBM race was strangled in red tape and hobbled for funds. Today, a greater effort could, and undoubtedly should, be made. But at least the effort is now a serious one. And it is already beginning to pay off.

If we beat the Russians to the ICBM — and thereby avert what would surely be world catastrophe —

pho — a good share of the credit, according to those who know, should go to a young California engineer-businessman, called Trevor Gardner. Gardner was brought into the Air Force by Secretary Harold E. Talbot to get the long range missiles into the air.

In the process, Gardner has stepped on a great many toes — so many that his appointment as assistant secretary of the air force has been held up in the Senate. But Talbot and Air Force Chief of Staff Nathan F. Twining have backed him up, for which they also deserve credit.

By dint of toe-stepping, much has been accomplished. Pentagon red tape has been slashed. An able Air Force man, Brig. Gen. Bernard Schriever, has gone to the West Coast to ride herd on the big companies, like Northrop, North American, Convair, and Lockheed, which are doing the actual work on the missiles.

Totally unrealistic requirements — like the requirement limiting the margin of permissible error in an intercontinental missile to 1,500 yards — have been rescinded. And funds for the missile efforts have been fairly sharply increased. The amount of increase is hidden in the over-all Air Force budget, but it is said to be substantial.

As a result of all this effort, the timetable for our entry into the age of the long range guided missile has been revised downward all along the line. Most significantly, the State Department and the British Foreign Office are now negotiating for a 5,000-mile missile firing range, extending into the Atlantic from Florida to the Ascension Islands.

The immediate reason for this negotiation is the SNARK, the jet-propelled, pilotless aircraft guided by the stars, and which

Vacations a Problem

The Pendleton East Oregonian, commending a suggestion that public school plants be operated 12 months a year with staggered three-months' vacation for students, says "we like Sen. Hatfield's proposal but don't think he goes far enough — it has long been our thought that children should attend school 11 months a year."

Hatfield, of course, bases his reasoning on economics — more use of schools, thus relieving congestion at any one time and necessitating fewer of them. The East Oregonian has still another reason:

"Until a child is 16 there is very little the labor laws permit him to do as a vacation time wage earner . . . They would gain far more by going to school than doing part-time odd jobs through three months every year. . ."

There are valid arguments in the reasoning, although with crops to harvest and process in this area we are somewhat better off along the keep-busy line than many communities. But if children's vacation periods were limited to one month a year, business almost might as well close up at the same time. Parents understandably prefer to take vacations when their children can accompany them. If every parent was to go on vacation within 1/12 of the year there wouldn't be many persons around to do any work. Trying to arrange parent-employees' vacations even within three months poses a real chore.

An Expanded Portland State

One can hardly blame the two Eugene senators for voting against making Portland State College an independent institution authorized to grant degrees, and it is somewhat surprising there wasn't more opposition than that.

Not that Portland State isn't a worthy project, or that Portland youth shouldn't have all the opportunity possible for an education at prices they can afford to pay. But there have been fears voiced in many places that the growth of Portland State might lead to eventual demands that it become a full-fledged campused university with investments comparable to what the state already has at Eugene and Corvallis. That step would seem to be something we should avoid.

After all, Oregon isn't the only state which has its major seats of learning outside of its metropolitan area, by any means. And so far as Portland is concerned, it has other institutions of higher learning available to anyone. Their tuition cost is higher, however, as it must be for privately-endowed schools, so Portland State provides the medium for those who prefer it at lesser cost. But it need not become competitive with the two well established campuses of Oregon and OSC.

Editorial Comment

TOUGH TO BE A LAW

For the second time in three weeks, rangers on Mt. Hood have been called out to make cold and dangerous searches of the mountainside, only to learn that the call was a "false alarm." No ranger dares refuse what sounds like a genuine report of a lost climber or skier. And no ranger would want to. Yet it is not reasonable that these men risk their own lives looking for little men who aren't there, or for little men who have no business being on the mountain in the first place.

In the national parks a prospective climber must "sign in" and "sign out" of a mountain climb, so that rangers know at all times who is on the mountain and how long he's been there. At the time of signing in, the climber is inspected for proper equipment. A ranger can refuse permission to climb if, in his expert opinion, the climber is ill-equipped or untrained, if the weather is bad, or for any other good reason. Failure to do as the ranger says results in a fine. This system, of course, does not apply at Mt. Hood, which is not a part of a national park, but which is climbed more often than any other mountain in Oregon. It would seem reasonable that the national park system be extended to all government-protected areas. A broader law in this respect might save some lives. It would certainly save a lot of wear and tear on search parties.—Eugene Register-Guard.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"Pop said NO to me five times... Now it's your turn again to ask him to take us to the movies..."

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1.)

office, every ancient palace and temple . . . The propaganda campaign never ceases."

I think this is well described as a propaganda campaign. The Reds are not going to brave our Seventh Fleet very soon. But the effect is to inflame the Chinese people against the United States. Thus, with speeches like Knowland's in this country denouncing the Chinese Communists (and for very good cause) and propaganda in China against the United States (and as far as Formosa is concerned not without cause) resentments are built up whose outlet may be warfare. I persist in the opinion that our course should be to reduce the points of friction through negotiation of the several items in dispute. The first requirement for us is to give up the notion — if there are any Americans left who entertain it — that we can overthrow the Red government now