

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
From First Statesman, March 24, 1851

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Caribou Feeling Oats

The ear when Oregon Republicans could afford to be somewhat condescending to Oregon's "caribou in wolf country" Democrats seems to be over now.

The caribou are feeling their oats, what with two Democrats in top state positions and both Oregon U. S. senators for all practical purposes in the Democratic tent.

And Republicans who've had it much their own way feel embattled. Open warfare broke out during the first two weeks of the legislative session, with pot shots ricocheting off the walls in the attorney general's balliwick.

The heady smell of gunpowder will stir up the older war horses on both sides, and give the younger party recruits a whiff of what two-party government can be.

Oregon Democrats apparently are becoming the sort of "worthy opponent" that keeps the party in power from resting too easily on its laurels. The Republicans have done a fine all-around job of governing this state, but—as Republicans have pointed out themselves—any party in office too long is apt to get hidebound.

This upsurge of Democratic representation in the Assembly is not new. Democrats controlled the House in 1935 and again in 1937 and had a considerable representation in the Senate in those years. Harry Boivin, now state senator, was speaker in 1937. The Democrats sent some real wirehairs in 1935, and it is fair to state that the quality of the present Democratic representation in the House is greatly improved over that of 20 years ago.

An opposition party usually is credited with being an effective agent for better government. However, if the parties, majority and minority, get to playing politics with issues as often they are tempted to do, then merits of issues may be clouded by political finagling. Even the horseplay, however, does provide more news.

The furore raised when a Portland judge refused to penalize an 18-year-old girl who falsified her age to buy liquor has ended right where it should—with the liquor commission standing pat on the law which specifies the minimum age for such purchases as 21. The judge held the girl was entitled to buy liquor, regardless of her age, because she was married. Statutes vary in their application as to whether a girl reaches her majority at 18 or 21, that is true. But the liquor law is quite plain and should be enforced.

Burmese Blame U. S. for 'Aggressiveness'
Despite Advances of Chinese Communists

By JOSEPH ALSOP

RANGOON, Burma — Here in Burma, which boasts the ablest and most realistic government of post war Asia, the price we are paying for the fraudulence of our Asian policy is alarmingly evident.

The news from home indicates a great, sudden stir about the Chinese Communist threat to the offshore islands of Formosa. But why is this?

In view of the record of the last two years, why on earth is anyone ruffled by the Communist seizure of Yikiangshan?

There was a first Munich in the form of the Korean truce. There was a second Munich in form of the surrender of Indochina. There was a transparent fake in the form of the toothless Manila treaty. And in the treaty with Chiang Kai-shek, specifically excluding the offshore islands from American protection, there was the equivalent of an engraved invitation to the Communists to seize those islands.

In the face of this record of retreat and appeasement, people at home are surprised by the natural, the downright inevitable results. They are surprised because the retreat has been masked by a loud, hucksterish drum-fire about "unleashing Chiang Kai-shek," "recaptured initiatives," "massive retaliation," "strengthened outposts," and the like.

The bad joke is that the Burmese and the Indians, who desperately desire to avoid an unnecessary war, have been just as much deceived by the loud talk in Washington as the loud talk in Washington has made these Asians think American policy warlike when it has really been the precise reverse. In Burma we are blamed, not for appeasement, which can be justly charged against us, but for aggressiveness, of which we are conspicuously guiltless.

If appeasement was needful, we ought at least to have tried to reap its natural benefits and renege it as best we could. In particular, we ought to have told the Indians and Burmese, "Well, we are going to follow your ideas about the right conduct of affairs in Asia, so let's get together to cope with the resulting situation."

We have not only failed to do anything like that. We have even virtually ceased communication with Rangoon and New Delhi. The mounting concern caused by

the loud talk in Washington was one cause of this development. But there have been other causes. There has been no American ambassador in Delhi for many months. There has been none here since last July.

The junior diplomats who are holding the fort here are good, hard working men, who show all the worst effects of treatment given to the foreign service in the last two years. The American representation in Rangoon today has the approximate dynamic effectiveness of an old wet wash-rag.

And this is true despite a danger and an opportunity that should intensify preoccupation the American policy makers.

The danger can be simply defined. With no one to speak up for our side, Burma has slipped since last year. The big power, China, has begun to convince the little power, Burma, that her sweet words can really be relied on. Men like Premier U Nu, and his two remarkable chief collaborators, U Ba Swe and U Kyaw Nain, are not really deceived; but they are beginning to be immobilized.

The opportunity can be equally simply defined. It is the opportunity to mobilize Burma. The appeasements of the last two years have produced a new situation in Asia. American power is

no longer sufficient to hold the balance true. The political and moral authority of the free Asian nations, and in particular Burma and India, are desperately needed to prevent a general collapse. That is another result of our recent policy which it is high time to face squarely.

The opportunity is in Burma, because here in Burma the leadership seems the position in Asia more clearly than in Delhi. The danger to Burma of a Communist triumph in Thailand can never be forgotten by the government in Rangoon. Therefore it is here, if anywhere, that the needed effort can be organized to hold Cambodia and Laos, the approaches to Thailand, which now have, for the long run, at least as much importance as the Formosa approaches or, indeed, as Formosa itself.

The last two years' policy of retreat may well have been desirable. Yet the wise commander, when he retreats, is careful to organize a new defense line for the new position he has occupied. Our policy makers have instead been too busy protesting that they really were not retreating; so no shadow of a new defense line has been organized, and the task of organizing one is getting harder by the month.

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Literary Guidepost

By W. G. ROGERS

GOOD MORNING, MISS DOVE. By Frances Gray Patton. Dodd, Mead.

When Tommy Baker, Mr. Porter, the Burnhams, and other folks, young and old, look out the windows and spot Miss Dove on her way to Cedar Grove School, the day has begun for them officially.

She still wears the same old hat, the round-toed shoes, and she fixes her hair in a mousey bun. For 35 years she has taught the first six grades. The parents remember grimly, humorously, wryly, what she was like, and the children, about to confront her across their desks, know her, too.

"Good morning, Miss Dove," they must greet her, and she always uses their full names, Samuel not Sam, Virginia and not the informal, relaxing Jinney. They sit up straight, never slum a book; if one is caught saying a swear word, his mouth is washed out with strong, gagging, sudsy soap. She's "the terrible Miss Dove," they say. For her nothing matters beyond rules, deportment, memorizing lessons.

Her girls in pigtails grow up and have babies; her boys, once so messy around the water cooler in the corridor, nearly die of thirst on a raft in the wartime Pacific; or they put on plays on Broadway, join the police, learn to be doctors. And all alike, though they may adopt different standards, remember, thanks to Miss Dove, that standards alone count; in time of danger, even in the face of death, they are wonderfully comforted by the sweet, enduring memory of their teacher and her prim and prissy rules—back a straight, now; no one slams books; class rises; class dismissed.

This is a gem of a book, written with a mastery touch, and Miss Dove is the most genuine, lovable and stirring heroine in fall fiction, or more, in the year's fiction.

W. G. Rogers



Comes the Dawn
by Conrad Franke

This is the time of year when even people who don't smoke find themselves at loose ends. You're tired of looking Old Man Winter in his frost-bitten face; but you can't quite see Miss Spring coming down the trail, yet. You're sort of between the seed catalogue and the hoe. There's no sense in worrying anymore about Christmas bills and Easter is too far off. You're tired of harping about the fuel bill, and still there isn't enough rain to bring up a good argument...

You're tired of coddling your lumbago — yet it's too soon to worry about hayfever. Most of the TV programs are beginning to slip. They don't seem to make 'em that way no more. About the only thing you have to look forward to is Ground Hog Day. Which is Wednesday. If the little fellow comes out, sees his shadow and flashes back inside for the next six weeks — it proves he's as nervous as you are.

The kids are restless. Its too wet to play ball outside — and indoors they drive you crazy. They are between sleds and marbles, snowmen and climbing trees and between spelling and arithmetic. Hobbies and games which lasted all winter begin to go flat around the end of January. And school clothes that fitted okay last fall don't look very Dior now.

Everybody must be bored, these days. Even legislators are fooling around with a ground water bill — and everybody knows that chunky water is no good when you grind it. Washington is monkeying around with Formosa — and we may have some action there, maybe. Even Hollywood is in the doldrums. Down there they are sort of caught between stories about movie stars spending the Yule holidays with their second mates' first children and stories of the children turning those visits on Easter.

Anyway, its nice to ponder that good old February, when valentines are red and noses are blue, is just around the next rainstorm. Soon the little breezes will be whispering that spring, wet feet, little flowers, sneezes, warmer rains, muddy footprints and hay fever are on their way! Then things begin to throb. And husbands who have kept the lawnmower oiled all winter, will try to find places to hide it...

Time Flies:

From The Statesman Files

10 Years Ago
Jan. 30, 1945

Salem residents were startled at 1:10 p.m. when an explosion rocked the downtown section at State and High Streets. Its epicenter was at the public rest rooms under the sidewalk at the corner of the courthouse property.

The official DNB news agency mysteriously signalled the words "Schluss, Schluss (the end, the end)" in the middle of one of its regular broadcasts after a smashing daylight raid by American bombers on Berlin.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Steiwer arrived from Fossil to spend a few days as guests of Senator and Mrs. Dean H. Walker at their Independence home. Mr. Steiwer was president of the Senate two years ago.

40 Years Ago
Jan. 30, 1915

Miss Lillian Slater, daughter of Judge and Mrs. W. T. Slater, entertained members of the Forum Literary society of the Salem High school with a dancing party. A few of the guests were Miss Mamie Victor, Gusie Niles, Birdie Myers, Ivan Shoemaker, Teresa Fowle, Kirk Simpson and Edward Rauch.

The new vault in the City Hall was completed and the records of the city were placed in safekeeping. During the construction of the vault all the records were piled on the floor of the City Recorder's office.

25 Years Ago
Jan. 30, 1930

A debate team from the University of Hawaii making its first tour of the mainland, not only won a decision over Willamette university here, but it won the admiration and friendship of an audience which filled the Waller hall auditorium.

Varum E. Kuhn, owner of considerable property in Salem and proprietor of Kuhn's shoe repair shop, was made the new member of the city council, representing the first ward, elected without opposition.

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Morse Bases Opposition to Formosa Policy on Defense Of Islands Near Mainland

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Statesman Correspondent

WASHINGTON — The theme of the unsuccessful attack by Sen. Wayne Morse on the resolution asked by President Eisenhower to support use of American forces in defense of Formosa and "related territory" was that America must take the calculated risks of peace as well as the calculated risks of war if it is to preserve its integrity as a peaceful nation and its tradition of never attacking unless attacked.

In opening Senate debate on the question after hearing two days of secret testimony in the Foreign Relations Committee, Morse declared he strongly favors defending Formosa and the nearby Pescadores islands 100 miles from the China coast, for two reasons:

1. The U.S. has a right in terms of international law to protect these islands. They had been held by the Japanese from 1895 under the treaty of Shimonoseki with China following the Sino-Japanese war until World War II. Japan renounced title to them under its peace treaty with the U.S. ratified in 1952, and no other country has acquired title to Formosa and the Pescadores meanwhile. So an attack from China would be an act of international aggression by the Reds. Morse advocates a U.N. trusteeship over them.

2. Formosa is regarded by the U.S. as one link in its defense line in the western Pacific which extends from the Aleutians to Australia.

Just as strongly, Morse opposes American intervention in the various close-to-shore islands now occupied by Chinese Nationalist troops, notably Quemoy and the Matsu islands that are within five miles of the China coast, for these reasons:

1. These islands near the mainland have historically been Chinese territory and are so today, though they are still subject to conflict between the Nationalists and the Communists who have fought for control of all China the past 10 years. The U.S., under international law, would be intervening in the Chinese civil war if it supported with American forces Chiang's defense of these islands against the Reds.

2. No military leader has contended that Formosa cannot be defended successfully unless Quemoy and the Matsu islands are also in friendly hands.

3. To include these islands within America's defense perimeter would enhance the opportunity of Chiang Kai-shek getting us involved in a full scale war with the Reds, which Morse believes the Nationalists think is "their only hope of survival in the long run." He said the resolution placed "the fate of the American people in the hands of the Nationalist Chinese, knowing that if they follow a course of action that leads to war, we are in it with them."

4. Adm. Arthur W. Radford, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, would be willing to launch an attack against the mainland to thwart a buildup of Red strength which might be used to attack these islands, yet "he does not guarantee" that we would not have to follow up by landing foot soldiers in China.

Can't Afford War

Morse believes this would certainly lead to an all-out war which America could not afford morally or militarily to wage, for "if we go into such a war we are not going to end it in a day or in a year, or in 10 years." He said atomic and hydrogen bombs would not subjugate the broad expanse of China, but that it would require U.S. soldiers to conquer and occupy the country after years of guerrilla warfare.

5. This country must take the calculated risk of peace that is consistent with America's historic foreign policy of trying to promote peace by not attacking the Reds unless they actually cross the Formosa strait to attack Formosa or any other territory behind that defense line.

"Can we defend Formosa without threatening to bomb any concentration of military force on the mainland of China?" asked Morse. "I have not heard of any high American official, civil or military, say we could not. They do say that we run a greater risk, militarily speaking, if we follow that course of action."

Calculated Risk of Peace

"But that is what I have called the calculated risk of peace," Morse declared, "in contrast with the calculated risk of war, which I think is speeded up and greatly increased by the resolution in its

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from Page 1)

area as well as population lest the legislature be controlled by the cities Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth. Oregon went through all this in 1950-52.

Big news in Montana was the spudding in by Union Oil Co. of a drilling rig on the Blackfeet Indian reservation around Browning. The Indian landowners already have received substantial sums for drilling rights and will receive royalties on oil or gas discovered and marketed. Farther east is the Cutbank oil field, and surveys of the reservation area by oil company geologists show good signs for finding oil there. If natural gas would be discovered there in quantity the Pacific Northwest might find a supply source much closer than New Mexico or Northern Alberta. We will just have to wait and see what the rotary drills tap in the Blackfeet reservation. The Blackfeet, it will be recalled, were "bad Indians" in the opinion of explorers and fur trappers and traders. Their descendants though may really be in the money if big oil pools are found under their lands.

Fellow passenger on the Empire Builder was E. B. McNaughton of Portland who had been to Washington attending a meeting of the board of Resources for the Future. This was the agency which put on the big Resource Conference in Washington in December, 1953. It has been busy mapping out special projects where research will yield knowledge that may prove of benefit to mankind. It has a grant from Ford Foundation with which to finance its work; but spending gift money wisely in a way to produce worthwhile results is by no means easy, as members of such boards usually discover.

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