

The Oregon Statesman

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

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Washington and Dr. Oppenheimer

The eminent scientists invited to the conference at the University of Washington have declined, one by one, because of the University's ban on the appearance of Dr. J. Ralph Oppenheimer.

Nor is there need to continue to harp on the Oppenheimer case. Surely all who had positive views on it have spoken their piece, and unless there are new disclosures no good is served by prolonging the argument.

We do not wish to indulge in breast-beating in pointing anew to the Oregon experience. Here Chancellor Byrne of the state system of higher education welcomed the coming of Dr. Oppenheimer for a series of lectures at state institutions.

The Senate committee on taxation is considering a plan to give voters their choice between a hopped-up income tax and a sales tax.

Oregon has the makings of the most beautiful capitol mall (outside Washington, D. C.) in the entire nation.

The Oregon Journal concludes an editorial headed: "Let's Save Capitol Mall" thus:

Communists Moving Into Political Vacuum In Free Indochina, Eventual Loss Feared

By JOSEPH ALSOP SAIGON, Indochina—The real key to the situation in this unhappy country is a political equation a sixth grader could solve.

On one side of this equation are three relatively knowable factors: the condition of the countryside, the condition of the Vietnamese national army, and the condition of Viet Minh power in the North.

Work out the three knowable factors. Unless all the experts are wrong about these factors, the result equals eventual Viet Minh victory here in Southern Indochina, which in turn will equal a general catastrophe in Southern Asia.

The trouble in the countryside is simple. President Ngo Dinh Diem is a notably bad administrator. He has also been continuously and perhaps inescapably preoccupied with the struggle for personal power in Saigon.

The ruthless and well organized Communist apparatus has been quick to send its cadres into this vacuum. In the region of the great rubber estates over towards the Cambodian border, for instance, military measures prevented Viet Minh infiltration until Geneva ended the fighting.

Again, the important province of Nha Trang has always been predominantly Nationalist rather than Communist. But in recent months great numbers of Viet Minh cadres—one unhappy local official guesses as many as 2,000—have quietly moved into Nha Trang from the neighboring Communist stronghold of Quang Hai.

In the feudal domains of the military religious sects, to be sure, infiltrating Viet Minh cadres still get short shrift. But when the heat is really on, the sect leaders who are now fighting President Diem, will surely find it hard to make the same person-

al deals with the Viet Minh that the comparable Chinese warlords made with the Chinese Communists.

In the much larger area of Southern Indochina not under sect control, meanwhile, between 60 and 70 per cent of the villages are already subject to strong Viet Minh influence, according to estimates from American official sources.

Today, to be sure, the simple people of Viet Nam are desperately war weary. If a strong government could be created in Saigon by some unforeseen miracle, war weariness would help it take the villages away from the Viet Minh.

In other words, Ho Chi Minh will be able to recreate in the South the same conditions that defeated the strong French army in Tonkin. In that night-mare war, the French forces held only the towns and strong points and even used the roads at their peril.

Such is the first factor of our equation which in turn confers a rather lurid importance on the second factor, the Vietnamese national army. This army is now disorganized, demoralized and suffering a hemorrhage of desertions.

Retraining and reorganization have just been started by Lt. Gen. John W. O'Daniel's Franco-American "Trim" group. But of the six planned Vietnamese divisions, only three will have received serious retraining by next year.

What Kind of Strategy?

Rep. Harris Ellsworth has been visiting Oregon in the recess of Congress. He is quoted as saying in Eugene:

"There's not the slightest doubt that the President, the secretary of state and the military know exactly what they'll do—and there's no doubt that they don't want to tell the Chinese Reds. The question is not based on legalistic criterion; it is purely one of strategy."

He is two-thirds right: The secretary of state and the military know just what they will do respecting Formosa and the offshore islands of China. They'll do just what the President says.

All this may be purely a matter of strategy as Ellsworth declares. But what kind of strategy: military or political? The failure to sharply define our intentions is defended as wise political strategy, a play for a cease-fire agreement.

Editorial Comment

THOSE SNOW BANNERS

On the Willamette National forest, across the Cascades from Central Oregon, methods of integrating logging and water conservation are being studied.

When moisture falls from clouds and settles in thick timber, those in charge of the study point out, there is a considerable loss through evaporation.

It has been suggested that through careful regulation of checkerboard logging in critical water shortage areas, the moisture be permitted to reach the earth, and eventually find its way into streams and reservoirs.

Presumably, clear logging would be advocated in higher fir areas where the full sweep of the westerly winds would drift snow into mountain valleys.

Nature has already used this system of "drift storage," in the higher country, and has robbed western Oregon of some of its stream flow, just as the Cascades have robbed easterly-drifting clouds of much of their rain.

In high areas above the timberline, high winds seasonally catch fluffy snow and move it miles into the east, over the Cascade divide and into the Deschutes watershed.

Snow plumes and snow banners frequently visible from the Deschutes sides of the Cascades are part of the snow drift from the Willamette slope to the Deschutes country.

These snow-banners, occasionally visible even in April following new falls of snow in the Cascades, are spectacular—as well as beneficial to Deschutes irrigators.

The banners reach easterly from the high Cascades, especially the tall Three Sisters, as snowy pennants, some of them more than a mile long.

Eventually this airborne snow, churned from exposed western slopes by high winds, falls in sheltered coves of the eastern Cascades, to revive glaciers and add to the winter pack that later in the year feeds tributaries of the Deschutes river.

Thus some of the moisture originally intended for that part of the state on the Pacific side of the Cascades finds its way to the sunshine side of the mountains, to fill lakes, increase stream flows and irrigate fields.

This is nature's way of compensating for some of the loss suffered through the dehydration of clouds by the high Cascades.—(Bend Bulletin).



Fables for adults... No. 384... Once upon a time there was a rabbit, who was up to his big, twitchy ears in worry. He was a peculiar-type rabbit. He was an introvert. Sort of an ingrown hare. He had worried himself to the point where he was having daymares in his sleep.

"What's up Mac?" asked the Fox, taking up pad, pencil and acorn. "I'm having troubles," said the rabbit. "I worry all the time. And its getting worse of late. If this keeps up I'm afraid I'll worry myself into an awful stew."

"I get the strange feeling," said the rabbit quietly, "that all the Easter eggs I see are really midget-A bombs." "Pete," said Mr. Fox admiringly, "You really ARE on the brink of a large, blue mental crackup."

"Go on," said Mr. Fox, taking notes, "the boys at the Phrenologists, Skullshrinkers, Telepathists and Palmreaders Union, Local No. 4652, will never believe this."

"I'm not real sure," said the rabbit. "All I know is that one day they were eggs and the next day they all seemed like bombs. I knew then I was cracking up."

IT SEEMS TO ME

achieved respectability. Underneath the veneer may be the hard shell of prejudice. Is there any greater depth by way of Faith? How many stand up and say, "This, I believe?" Theology itself seems rather out of style.

Safety Valve

(Editor's Note: Letters for The Statesman's Safety Valve column are given prior consideration if they are informative and are not more than 300 words in length.)

Lowering Voting Age

Believing you may be interested in a poll I conducted of more than 5000 students and more than 600 teachers throughout Oregon concerning the matter of lowering the voting age to 18, I call to your attention the following results:

3330 total of students reporting: 61 1/2% were in favor; 38 1/2% were opposed.

610 faculty members reporting: 53% were in favor; 47% were opposed.

24 schools sent percentages only: Students averaged 80% for; 20% against. Faculty averaged 51% for; 49% against.

16 schools were represented by Juniors and Seniors only and sending percentages: Juniors, 62% for, 38% against; Seniors, 65% for, 35% against.

This points up, I think, the evenness with which the population of Oregon is divided on the matter. There is division among those who would be affected.

It is for this reason that I urge passage of Senate Joint Resolution No. 1 so that the people might decide this question rather than periodically having it debated on the floor of the legislature.

MARK HATFIELD State Senator

Linoleum was invented in England in 1836, but its use was widely extended by development of a new process in 1860.

10 Years Ago

April 10, 1945 Early in the war Reichsmarshal Hermann Goering told the German people that "if ever a single bomber is able to fly over Berlin my name will be Meyer."

25 Years Ago

April 10, 1930 A new American fighting ship, the cruiser Chicago, took the water at Mare Island, Calif., amid the shrieks of whistles of scores of ships in the Mare Island channel.

40 Years Ago

April 10, 1915 H. H. Vandevort returned from southern Oregon where he purchased a thousand sheep. At his place in Polk county shearing was on and in fine weather the men clipped the wool of a thousand sheep in three days.

19 MISSIONARIES FREE

HONG KONG (AP)—The Roman Catholic center here reports 19 Catholic missionaries crossed the Hong Kong border from Red China in March. That left 54, including four bishops, behind the Bamboo Curtain.

Advertisement for Stevens & Son Jewelers - Silversmiths. Includes images of various jewelry items like rings, necklaces, and watches. Text says 'Like Magic' and 'We can transform your old diamond pieces into rings of beauty.'

Advertisement for Virgil T. Golden Co. Funeral Service. Includes a photo of the funeral home building and text: 'Serving Salem and Vicinity as Funeral Directors for 25 Years'.

Advertisement for Virgil T. Golden Co. Funeral Service. Includes a photo of Virgil T. Golden and text: 'Convenient location—S. Commercial Street—on a bus line—direct route to cemeteries—no cross traffic to hinder services. Salem's most modern funeral home with seating capacity for 300. Services within your means, always.'

Advertisement for Oregon Statesman newspaper. Includes subscription rates: 'By carrier in cities: Daily and Sunday \$ 1.45 per mo. Daily only 1.25 per mo. Sunday only .10 week'.