

Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Salute to Ground Observers

One of the most thankless jobs in Civilian Defense, and yet one which Air Force Chief Gen. Twining declares is a vital and indispensable part of national security, is that of the Ground Observer Corps.

The corps, which now has 400,000 persons on 24-hour "Operation Skywatch," will have its third anniversary July 14. Major factor in the observance of that event is the announcement that the corps is becoming truly national-wide. Twelve southern and Rocky Mountain states are assuming responsibilities which the other 36 states have been carrying out for some time. National goal is 1,000,000 persons to operate 24,000 posts and 73 filter centers.

The Ground Observer shares in none of the glamor of ostensible patriotism. He (or she) is merely the silent, patient, watchful complement to the radar which is becoming more and more an intrinsic part of defense but which has its weaknesses (low-flying planes can come in under it undetected) and which is far too costly to install at the thousands of vantage points where "Operation Skywatch" is maintained.

To many folk, the Ground Observer Corps seems a futile and time-wasting project. Military men to date regard it differently, and, after all, it is on them we must depend. On the forthcoming anniversary of a program to which hundreds of thousands of loyal Americans have given many hours and much effort, we feel a special salute is well warranted.

It is true, too, that the Ground Observer Corps is not merely watchfully waiting. Already it is credited with spotting fires which could have flared into disaster; reporting aerial plane mishaps in time to effect rescues at sea; thrown its efforts into averting panic in hurricane-stricken areas.

Its member include persons in all walks of life, some of them doubling in their daily duties as bridge tenders, prison guards, dam caretakers. Others who donate time outside of their regular work include a California mother of 11 who is a restaurant dishwasher; the great-granddaughter of Abraham Lincoln; Willie Hoppe, world billiard champion; a legless World War I veteran; prison convicts. The list is endless.

They won't get much thanks unless there is a climactic event which we all hope never will happen. But in the meantime we assuredly can recognize the spirit which prompts their efforts.

Timber and Petroleum

Up here we think we get pretty good prices for timber, and we do, but both the states and the federal government are realizing fancy sums on leases for offshore oil lands. In May, Louisiana received over six million dollars for drilling rights on 4,075 acres off its coast, or \$1,539 per acre. Another tract brought \$1,468 per acre. Then it will get a royalty on any oil that may be produced. The federal government is obtaining hundreds of millions from oil companies for leases on lands it claims beyond those held by the states. Then it receives a rental of \$3 per acre per year plus a sixth of the oil produced under the leaseholds. There is this difference, however: once the petroleum is pumped the supply is permanently exhausted. Our timber lands will keep on growing trees for periodic harvesting indefinitely.

Flag Waving 'Out of Date'; Independence Day Good Time for 'Taking Stock' of Past

By JOSEPH ALSOP

WASHINGTON, D. C. — In the simpler past, July 4 used to be a time for flag-waving, patriotic oratory and glorious orgies of fireworks.

Nowadays, however, flag-waving is out of place. Instead, this Independence Day is a good time for taking stock.

In the opinion of this reporter, anyone who now takes stock of the national situation must first of all write down 1955 as the year when the Eisenhower administration found itself, and the American political process got back on the rails.

It was like discovering a new country, to return to America a month or so ago, as this reporter did, after an absence of six months on the other side of the world. The venom, the suspicion, the hatred that has so long been poisoning American political life, were purged and gone. The severs of our politics were no longer running in the streets.

The Congress, after all but abandoning legislation in favor of investigation, had once again become a legislative body. Public debate, after remaining for years at the level of a mud-slinging exchange of personal accusations, had once again become reasoned and sober and factual. The whole tone was different. And this vast change like coming from darkness into light, had happened in only six months.

Partly, this immensely healthy change in the tone of American politics has to be attributed to Democratic Congressional leaders bent on proving their responsibility. Yet the key figure is still President Eisenhower. For the

Democrats would never be so much on their good behavior if they did not feel a respect almost approaching awe for the President's standing before the country. And the President himself was the first to set the new tone in which the other parties to our political dialogue are at last responding to him.

Eisenhower, then, has got what he wanted from the first. He now presides over a new and desperately needed era of good feelings. To this great gain, moreover, another has been added.

As late as last election time, the American economy seemed to be faltering. But now the record is clear. For two years, prices have been held almost perfectly stable. In the same two years, with a minor check or two, productivity has steadily increased. This combination of inflation well controlled with prosperity in full bloom is an example to the world. You may think what you please about such matters as the Dixon-Yates contract, but the over-all economic achievement of the first two Eisenhower years has been as important as the restoration of reason and sanity to our political life.

These two achievements, in turn have produced or perhaps one ought to say they are producing — another result that may have the most far-reaching importance. When government was all but incapable of either thought or action. Ideas were rigid. Attitudes were rigid. The facts of life in our time could hardly be discussed with honesty, much less responded to with courage and decision.

With the political and economic confidence restored, freedom of thought and freedom of action have been restored too. The Administration is no longer debarred, by fear of the political

Multnomah County Out of Step

The county assessor of Multnomah County manages to keep out of step with the state tax commission most of the time. It isn't new with the incumbent, Wiley Smith, but goes back a long way in county history. Some 15 years ago Commissioner Charles Galloway got into quite a battle with Multnomah County to get it to bring its assessments on residential property up to parity with business property. Years before, the practice had been established to let residence valuations sag, putting more of the load on commercial property. Then even the Oregonian sobbed over the tax commission's orders which were based both on law and equity.

In recent years there have been controversies over appraisals of merchandise inventories; and now the State Tax Commission has ordered county officials to reduce the assessments made by the county assessor against the Reynolds Aluminum plant at Troutdale.

It is quite safe to assume that the state body intervenes only when the facts make it necessary. Local assessing officials are granted wide discretion in determining values; but appeals may be taken to the State Tax Commission and then this body has to act on the basis of the evidence presented. It is time Multnomah County "got back in the Union" and based its assessments on conformity with state law.

The Westward Trek

Oregon's smaller cities also are on the march population-wise. Thirteen of them will get more state highway and liquor revenues as a result of a 1955 census showing marked growth in the previous five-year period.

Newport with 36 per cent gain, Stayton with 35 per cent and Canby with 22 per cent are among those in which a new county was conducted recently. In all 13 instances, the growth is a healthy continuance of a previous trend, in some places at an accelerated rate.

In 1950, the nation's center of population was in Richland County, Ill. (A hundred years before it was in West Virginia). By 1960, at the present rate, it appears the center may be moved west of the Mississippi River for the first time.

Editorial Comment

RIISING REAL WAGES

There is impressive evidence of the continued good health of our economy in the latest data on cost of living and manufacturing workers' earnings published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Last month the Consumer Price Index was unchanged from the previous month and almost 1 per cent below the corresponding figure a month ago. Take-home pay for the average worker in manufacturing, on the other hand, reached a new high.

Taken together, these two facts indicate a continuing and appreciable rise in real wages for manufacturing workers, an increase in the amount of goods and services they can buy. In May, 1954, a manufacturing worker with no dependents had an average take-home pay of \$58.97 a week. The corresponding figure last month was \$62.83, or almost four dollars more. The increase in real wages, of course, has been slightly greater because of the decline in the over-all cost of living. This combination of an essentially steady cost of living and rising wages, which has now ruled for the last several years, suggests an economy riding the economic waves smoothly and making good progress forward.

Increased productivity of labor in manufacturing is, of course, one of the key phenomena which has made this rise in real wages possible. The tremendous investment in new equipment of all kinds, the trend to automation of production processes, and the continued high level of output have all played a part in developing this increased productivity from which all of us benefit. As we look forward to the period ahead, with its likely increases in wages and in supplemental benefits such as have been won by the automobile workers, productivity will again be the key to our economic fortunes. Without higher productivity, increased labor costs must force prices up, a phenomenon that can lead to inflationary pressure or, at the other extreme, lead to substantial unemployment by reducing effective demand for the products of our great factories. —New York Times.

GRIN AND BEAR IT By Lichty



"The Senator's old teacher just remembers him as the class idiot... she don't realize he's functioning on a national basis now..."

Russ Comment On Ike's Talk 'No Surprise'

By WILLIAM L. RYAN
AP Foreign News Analyst

The news that the Moscow press published without comment about 1,200 words of President Eisenhower's news conference seems to have occasioned a large measure of surprise in the West. Perhaps Western observers are giving the Soviet rulers a little too much credit for open-mindedness.

Aside from the obvious fact that the publication of the President's views was all part of preparation for the summit Big Four meeting in Geneva this month, there was little to be lost and something to be gained by the gambit.

The President was quoted as saying nobody really knows who is the dominating influence in the Soviet government today. This is not news to the Soviet public and nothing new to the Soviet press. It fits in neatly with the boast of the Kremlin that it is ruled by "collective leadership."

The Moscow account quoted the President's remark that until the Communist satellite nations had the right to determine of their own free will their own forms of government, there could be no real peace in the world.

This, also, has been the subject of Soviet press comment, and later, undoubtedly, will be quoted again to the Soviet public as evidence that the United States is determined to interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign nations.

Moscow has contended all along, of course, that the satellite nations of their own free will did choose the Communist course, that they "threw off the yoke of the exploiters," and in imitation of the Soviet Union, are now engaged in "building socialism."

The President's words, therefore probably will be held up to Moscow's audience later as an indication of aggressive American intentions.

The Moscow press also quoted the President as noting there had been a change in the Soviet position and this ultimately might react favorably in the interests of world peace.

This does not in any way contradict Soviet propaganda, which contends that the U.S.S.R. has been making all the concessions up to now in the interests of world peace, including concessions on disarmament and the control of atomic weapons.

Thus, there was little or nothing to lose in the decision to quote the President liberally. The Soviet press has quoted the President, former Prime Minister Churchill and other Western statesmen at length or in full when it suited the Kremlin's peace offensives.

In this instance, at slight cost, the Soviet leaders give one more demonstration that they are in a mood to be reasonable. That makes it easier to shift the blame to the other side in future deadlocks.

The Moscow press is preparing its readers for events to come. It seems to be building up a case in advance for the Soviet diplomats, intended to show the people at home that the Kremlin is the party singled against and the Western diplomats the sinners.

In the great meteoric shower of Nov. 13, 1933, observed in eastern North America, it was estimated that 200,000 shooting stars were observed from one place between midnight and dawn.

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South Korea Again Carries Main Burden of Its Defense

(Editor's Note: When the Communists smashed into South Korea five years ago, there wasn't much to stop them — at first. Here, in an anniversary report on our most powerful military ally in Asia, is a look at what South Korea has ready on its own in case the Reds decide to try it again.)

By MURRAY FROMSON

SEOUL (AP) — The thin line of South Korea's constabulary was shattered when war exploded on this unhappy Asian peninsula five years ago Sunday.

Soldiers with rifles, light artillery and obsolete anti-tank guns were sent to fight North Koreans armed with heavy tanks and artillery supplied by Russia. Only Allied help saved South Korea.

Today — five years later — South Korea once more carries the main burden of its defense. Most of the U.S. divisions and the U.N. contingents manning the front at the time of the armistice are gone.

There is no poorly trained constabulary now. There is a South Korean army of 20 divisions, trained and armed by the United States. Ten reserve divisions are in the organizing stage.

Fourth Largest
Little South Korea now has the world's fourth largest army — behind only those of the United States, Russia and Red China. U. S. advisers call South Korea's army the best in Asia.

It is estimated at between 500,000 and 600,000 men. Still to come are some naval craft and 75 American Sabrejets for the South Korean air force.

These are results of minimum demands set down by President

Syngman Rhee to protect South Korea from another attack from the north — a threat neither he nor American officials have discounted.

Seek More Aid
South Korea's army chief of staff, Gen. Chung Il Kwon, is seeking increased U.S. military aid. He says Communist North Korea has 400,000 of its own troops in addition to Chinese Red forces and "will attack us again at any time they choose."

The Red Chinese "volunteers" reportedly have withdrawn upwards of 110,000 men but have left behind a well-trained cadre for a rebuilt North Korean army.

The South Korean high command continually reports Communist introduction of combat materials and equipment, charges that have been the basis of official protests by the U.N. Command at Panmunjom.

MIGs Brought In
In February, the Allies accused the Communists of illegally bringing in at least 155 MIG jet aircraft to previously empty North Korean airfields.

To bolster the South Korean army, which now holds almost the entire 155-mile frontline, the depleted 8th Army maintains two under-strength infantry divisions in the field. They are the 24th and 7th Divisions which have been in Korea periodically since the peninsula was liberated from the Japanese 10 years ago. Both were part of the U.S. military government force which was stationed in Korea before the republic was founded in 1948.

At the time of the North Korean attack, the U.S. military repre-

sentation consisted of an advisory group of about 500 men.

16-Nation Army
The Korean War resulted in the birth of a 16-nation army, including seven U.S. divisions, a full British Commonwealth division and units of varying sizes from Turkey, Greece, France, Belgium, Thailand, the Philippines, Luxembourg, Colombia, Ethiopia and The Netherlands.

Now only a handful of the U.N. forces remain. Today, the U.S. military advisory group is being dwarfed by the formation of a huge, overall organization which aims to make the South Korean forces "completely self-sufficient for defensive purposes."

One of its functions will be to recommend the amount of military aid the South Koreans will receive each year.

Whether the unstable Korean economy, which must support 20 million people, can maintain its new army over the long haul is something of major concern to American and U.N. officials.

Currency Dispute

Rhee and his government leaders have not always given what American authorities call whole-hearted cooperation in the aid program. They delayed a 700 million dollar aid program for more than six months last year over a currency dispute. Then, in effect, they accepted the aid funds under conditions originally laid down by U. S. representatives.

Rhee and the South Koreans do not talk as boisterously today about unification with the north or as bitterly about last year's U.S. troop withdrawal. The government, however, remains dedicated to the goal of unification.

But now there is that old, old dragon — Japan. Rhee is making the most of it, even to the extent of not honoring a part of last November's aid agreement with the United States which called for more trading with Japan. As an excuse Rhee and other officials contend Japan is leaning closer and closer to the Communist world.

Trade Small

American officials say Japanese-South Korean trade has been "negligible." Yet this is the very area where the United States hoped to reduce the cost of rehabilitating the Korean economy.

Nearly 1 1/2 billion dollars have been diverted to South Korea since the armistice to help rebuild its war-shattered homes and industry.

During the Korean War, more than 2 1/2 million persons were either killed or wounded. U.S. casualties approximated 136,000. That war has been at end for nearly two years now but Americans will not be able to forget Korea for a long time.

The bitter conflict — an unorthodox one which began without a declaration and ended without a peace — has created one of the most expensive orphans in America's family of allies.

Time Flies:

10 Years Ago

July 4, 1945

Friendly young Americans serving in far-flung lands celebrated America's independence day with a gusto sparked in many cases by these nations' own newly-won freedom. There were fireworks, dances and parades — from Berlin to Canberra.

Justice Owen J. Roberts for years the supreme court's leading dissenter and next to the last member of the tribunal not appointed by Pres. Roosevelt, retired. Since he served more than 15 years and recently became 70 years of age, he would receive full pay of \$20,000 a year for life.

Some relief from the sweltering temperatures of the week was predicted by the U.S. Weather Bureau at McNary Field. It was recorded as 103 degrees.

25 Years Ago

July 4, 1930

Helen Wills Moody won her fourth successive Wimbledon tennis championship by beating

Better English

By D. C. WILLIAMS

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "I had rather be safe than sorry."
2. What is the correct pronunciation of "cliche" (a trite phrase)?
3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Dispair, dispare, dispatch, dissideance.
4. What does the word "sinuous" mean?
5. What is a word beginning with la that means "to rend, or tear"?

ANSWERS

1. It is better to say, "I would rather be safe than sorry."
2. Pronounce klee-shay, with accent on second syllable.
3. Dispair.
4. Bending in and out; of a serpentine or wavy form. "The slender woman walked along the street with a sinuous grace."
5. Lacerate.

From The Statesman Files

Elizabeth Ryan in the womens finals.

Motorcycle and horse races provided thrills at the state fairgrounds and a band concert and fireworks in evening for thousands of people who celebrated the Fourth of July in Salem.

At Hillsboroan airplane piloted by John Harris, Salem, dived into a crowd of picnickers as it attempted to land and overturned without injuring the pilot, passengers or picnic participants.

40 Years Ago

July 4, 1915

More than ten thousand persons marched or rode in the peace pageant at Toledo, Ohio, the first of its kind ever employed in the United States as a means of celebrating Independence Day. Civil War veterans had a place in the parade.

Nels Downing, of Oklahoma City, rated as one of the best informed men on community building in the United States and a speaker of rare ability delivered an address on "Our Town" at the chautauqua here.

A native daughter of Oregon, Mrs. T. J. Wilkerson of Pittsburgh, Penn., sister of assistant postmaster John Farrar, arrived in Salem from the east. Mrs. Wilkerson spent her girlhood in Salem, moving east at the time of her marriage.

The first large suspension bridge built in the United States spanned the Ohio River at Covington, Ky., and was finished in 1831.

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