

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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North-South Exchange Students

One of the most universally acclaimed postwar programs to acquaint the world with the American way of life—with democracy in action day after ordinary day on Main-street, U.S.A.—has been the exchange of students and teachers between the U. S. and foreign countries. It has enabled young people and those who influence future leaders of each nation to broaden their viewpoints, gain perspective and understanding, and perhaps to modify somewhat the provincial attitude that "our way is the only way."

This writer proposes that a similarly well-planned and purposeful exchange program between Northern U. S. high schools and colleges, where children of many races and national backgrounds attend school together without undue friction, and schools of the South where integration is feared and fought so desperately.

Both sections of the country would gain by a better recognition of each other's attitude. Enlightened Southerners agree that change must come to the South, that eventual granting of equal civil rights to negroes is inevitable, but they urge a very gradual process of re-education on grounds that the South is not yet ready for any drastic change. They warn that attempts to hasten progress or enforce race tolerance will only make matters worse and will be fought vigorously by such terrorist tactics as the revival of the Klan-like White Citizens Councils.

Since the South's feeling about negroes seems to be a sort of regional malaria that infects those born and brought up there, one way to dissipate the disease might be to bring into the South more individuals who have become immune to extreme racist emotions through exposure to non-Caucasians in a healthier atmosphere of tolerance, and bringing to the North a realization that the problem can't all be settled overnight. The student exchange would be a low-pressure method as contrasted to the high-pressure promotions of the NAACP, for instance, and it is hard to see how the South could object.

Most of the South's own proposals for a solution to their problem are either projected so far into the future as to be delusive or are clearly impractical, such as the Alabama senate's resolution calling for federal funds to resettle Southern negroes in the North and West "where they are wanted and can be assimilated."

Such schemes miss the crux of the problem; it is not the negro, it is the white man's attitude. It is the now-dominant white man who is deciding the fate of the negro in the U. S.; it is the Southern whites whose minds must be won over to democratic concepts; and it is the Northern whites who largely live and work peacefully with colored neighbors on an equal basis who can best show—with humility, not self-righteousness—that "it can be done." That is why the exchange students, of course, would all have to be white.

The unfortunate thing about this proposal is that it wasn't implemented long ago.

(M.W.W.)

News accounts say Justice Warren was 65 years old Monday, but "took no note of his birthday." So we'll take note of it for him. And that'll leave us in the clear so that we can take at least mild note of The Statesman's 105th birthday come a week from today.

Nehru's Criticism of Kashmir Plea Bound To Create Hostility Toward Him in America

By J. M. ROBERTS
AP News Analyst

Foreign diplomats frequently accuse the United States of meddling things up by taking steps on matters of interest to them without first advising them of what's coming.

It has its effect on the success of America's own policies.

It might not have done any good in this case. Prime Minister Nehru of India seems to take a certain pride in not doing what anyone from the Western powers wants. But in this case his own country's interests are importantly involved, too.

Just when the Washington administration was beginning its explanations to Congress of why it wants more money and more latitude in making commitments for foreign aid, Nehru let off a blast at American policies.

Foreign Aid Director John Hollister told Congress the new program included aid for India's new five-year plan, adding that it was important to help "a great nation devoted to freedom make the economic advances essential to its welfare."

Nehru said almost simultaneously that the recent SEATO expression of hope for a U. N. plebiscite in Kashmir meant the intervention of a military alliance in the dispute. He also criticized formation, with American support, of the Middle East Baghdad Pact.

The Nehru statements are bound to reinforce one of the chief arguments made against the foreign aid program—that friendship cannot be bought, that there is no guarantee of either political or economic returns.

His statements also came at the same time as the announcement that he would come to Washington in July, when President Eisenhower would attempt to lay some of India's fears about American policy.

Thus an already touchy situation

is made to look even more unfriendly.

Whether Nehru would have considered his timing more carefully if he had known more about the Washington activities is by no means certain. He was reporting to Parliament on recent conferences with Secretary Dulles and other diplomatic visitors.

Whether Washington could have

prevented such a head-on collision of statements is uncertain. But one thing is sure. The United States is dealing these days with countries like India, which have the touchy pride of youth, and countries like France, extremely careful of the dignities acquired by age. Greater consideration for them, even to the point of being extreme, might pay some handsome profits.

Time Flies:

From The Statesman Files

10 Years Ago
Mar. 21, 1946

Lt. Comdr. John A. Lindbeck left Salem to report for duty in the complement of the new heavy cruiser Topeka, under construction at Camden, N. J. He has been visiting his parents Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Lindbeck.

There is approximately one motor vehicle for every three persons in Oregon, Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell, Jr., reported. At the end of December, 1945, there were 422,370 motor vehicles registered in the State.

Lee (Frisco) Edwards, for many years a baseball man and umpire named manager of the Salem Senators of the Western International League, replacing Tony Patch of San Francisco.

25 Years Ago
Mar. 21, 1921

Ralph Watson, political writer for the Oregon Journal, paid his respects to members of the State House press. Since John W. Kelly of the Oregonian went to Washington, Ralph is the lone old-timer member of the legislative newspaper group in the state.

Blatant Diplomacy

Leave it to Western diplomacy, if it can be called such, to put us in about as ludicrous a light as possible. Or, in this case, leave it to Britain.

While three American reporters cooled their heels outside, due to "security" regulations, former Soviet Premier Georgi Malenkov was escorted into Britain's top atomic energy research plant.

Even a Tass (Russian) News Agency man was incredulous—"You amaze me," he told a British guard; "you let all these Russian scientists in. Do you really think they understand less about atomic energy secrets than American correspondents." Fifteen British newsmen and photographers also were barred while Malenkov and his Soviet coterie went through the plant's inner recesses.

"We are sorry but security rules are security rules," a British official told the newsmen.

Outside of its completely farcical aspects, the incident points up two things—either the British and American public is being denied information that it wouldn't hurt anyone to know, or Malenkov and his aides are getting inside information on developments which the Western allies should very well keep to themselves.

Whichever is the case, it isn't healthy. It is self-evident that newsmen are no more than the eyes and ears for the public they serve. And it is apparent in the instance at hand that Malenkov comprises the eyes and ears of the Kremlin. If there has ever been any more blatant disregard of the British and American public's right to know what's going on, than is inherent herein, it has never come to our attention.

Governments at all levels make themselves suspect when they close their doors to the taxpayers by whose efforts they exist—particularly when they open their doors to those whose avowed purpose is their destruction.

We Still Need the Buses

We doubt very much whether the city's plan to query Salem's thousands of citizens on the bus situation would have been of much help, and it is well the idea was abandoned.

In the first place, there apparently wasn't time—night service, the bus line has indicated, probably will be taken off very soon. In the second place, it is up to the city administration, after a study and survey which no individual alone can conduct, to present a tangible plan or plans which might sound feasible.

Mass transportation is important to Salem, as it is to every city. And in Salem, as in many cities, it is having serious trouble. But the cure does not lie in assembling a helter-skelter of opinion which would come largely, if at all, from persons directly affected by the service itself.

Let's marshal a program based on facts, not opinions based on emotion. But let's not forget that our bus riders, while in the minority, are deserving of every consideration we can show in attempting to make available the best facilities possible.

That portion of the world called the "Middle" East is where the United States and Britain are both caught in the middle.

Editorial Comment

DESERVED HONOR
Congratulations are in order for Mrs. Georgia Patterson and for the 12,600 members of the Oregon Education Assn. who named her Oregon's "education citizen of the year." Mrs. Patterson, widow of Oregon's late governor, was a distinguished first lady of Oregon. But also, and in her own right, she has been a loyal friend and servant of Oregon education.

For more than 20 years she has worked closely with the state PTA organization, first directing a survey of schools in Washington County where she lived when her husband practiced law and where her children were in school. She headed a high school survey committee for the American Association of University Women. And for 10 years she has served on the state board of education, of which she is now chairman.

—Eugene Register-Guard.

GRIN AND BEAR IT By Lichty

