

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Morse Too Critical

In the senate a few days ago Senator Wayne Morse offered "a comment on observation with regard to the degree to which we seem to have forgotten the rights of servicemen." He said he had received many telegrams telling how port facilities of the west coast were jammed with boats loaded with soldiers who could not be sent ashore "because of the breakdown, apparently, in the transportation facilities of the country and the failure to give these soldiers travel priority." He condemned "the gross inefficiency that still characterizes the demobilization program of the army and navy and of the administration."

The Statesman believes the criticism is extremely intemperate. It is easy to get complaints about how the army and navy do things; but the facts with reference to transportation congestion on this coast are very well known. There simply has not been enough passenger car equipment on the railroads to move the men out as fast as they were brought home. One cause is that some 1200 new sleeping cars await delivery because of a strike in a mattress factory. That surely can't be blamed on the "brass hats."

The railroads have pressed into service cars of such ancient vintage that they really are hopelessly uncomfortable and inconvenient. They do so not from choice but in the effort to get the men home as quickly as possible. As far as travel priorities go, a recent check on transcontinental traffic showed that 70 per cent of it was service men and women. It must be conceded that some civilian travel is essential.

Perhaps the army and navy should be blamed for moving men back home faster than the rails and stages could take care of them. Yet we have all been hearing the complaint from men overseas against being forced to sit out the war at island bases with nothing to do. We venture the vast majority of the men prefer to have spent Christmas day on their transport in a home harbor to having to spend it in Hollandia or Manila or Japan. And west coast cities did a marvelous job of providing real Christmas hospitality for the stranded service men and women. They were disappointed to be sure at missing out on Christmas dinner at the home fireside, but they had dinner, an American dinner, on American soil—and that was better than GI turkey on Samar or on a transport.

These present troubles are mere irritations. They do not reflect any denial of "rights of servicemen." Men are being discharged from the army and navy at a rate so fast as to amount nearly to demoralization. Pretty soon we may hear from Morse or some other senator denouncing the army and the navy and the administration for too rapid a demobilization.

The folk at home have this supreme satisfaction: their boys are homeward bound, not outward bound to root shooting Japs out of caves and pillboxes. And some of the telegram-senders need a spanking over their own impatience.

Better Liaison Needed

Recent reports regarding the possible further transfer of some state offices from Salem to Portland emphasize sharply a long-standing need—a better liaison arrangement between the city and its major industry, state business.

The talked-of move, so far as is apparent, has its basis in the lack of housing to take care of additional personnel or to create satisfactory conditions for those already here.

There is no doubt that housing is and will be one of the most critical problems of this new year. But if sufficient civic support is assured to attract new industries, such as already are building, such support also should be made available to keep intact the still-greater industry we already have.

It will gain the city nothing to concentrate on obtaining new payrolls only to have whittled away the largest and most stable one in the valley.

Editorial Comment

"PICCOLO PETE" AGAIN

J. Caesar Petrillo, the boss of the union musicians, during the war graciously permitted radio stations to broadcast musical programs originating abroad in order "to promote good will and good relationship with other countries." Now, following his explanation of this burst of generosity, in a communication to all broadcasters, this ruler of men's destinies announces:

However, now that the war is over, we believe that we should get back to normal as rapidly as possible. Therefore, you will kindly discontinue the broadcasting of any musical programs emanating from foreign countries, effective Dec. 31, 1945.

Obviously Mr. Petrillo believes it not normal to "promote good will and good relationship with other countries."

It is hardly likely that American radio listeners will suffer irreparable loss if they are deprived of European musical programs. But an international exchange of cultural programs is now being promoted, and these are certain to include music. Mr. Petrillo's unfortunate ukase may not only result in other nations banning American broadcasts, but in actually damaging the American State Department's efforts to establish better foreign relations.

It is up to Congress to do something immediately that will curb the Petrillo type of labor boss without injuring in legitimate labor organization. The Wagner Act needs amending in order to put unions on an equal basis with management in the eyes of the law. The Hobbs anti-racketeering bill should be passed by the Senate in order to halt plain extortion. The Nation should not be further annoyed by these gentry, and the unions will be healthier without them.—Christian Science Monitor.

Return of Airport

The return of McNary field, Salem's airport, is set for Jan. 15th. The army is through with it; has not used it in fact for months. It is now declared "surplus" as are so many military establishments.

The airport was used only briefly by the army. In the first frenzy of fright after Pearl Harbor the government spent many thousands of dollars constructing bunkers as shelters for aircraft. None was ever used. The Japs never came over; the planes didn't arrive.

It was used for a short time as a base for training one fighter squadron and the famous Mustang group which distinguished itself in action in Europe later. Later, and briefly, it became headquarters for one air wing. The signal corps kept a carrier pigeon unit there for a number of months.

The public should understand the theory the government acted on in developing the airport. It and many others were improved to serve as satellite fields around Camp Adair and around Portland. The purpose was for defense, not for training. The emergency never came when it was needed for local defense—a fact for which we are glad, not sorry.

The city will face many problems when it takes the airport back, to maintain it as a first-class field for modern flying.

An estimated million and a quarter persons saw the rose festival parade at Pasadena on New Year's day. And it was only four years ago the western defense command forced cancellation of the parade and the accompanying football game, due to fear of Jap airplane raids. How times have changed!

Fiorello LaGuardia is out as mayor of New York, but moves right into big-paying jobs: radio broadcaster for ABC and columnist for PM. He says he is to operate free from any censorship. Something tells us he is going to get into people's hair, and enjoy doing so.

Interpreting The Day's News

By James D. White
Associated Press Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 1.—(AP)—Hirohito had abdicated as a God, but apparently hopes to stay on as emperor.

Or perhaps king would be a better term, as Japan hardly qualifies now as an empire.

Whatever he is, Japan's ruler has pulled the Tatami out from under any future militarists who might hope to exhumate the divinity gag to work the Japanese people again into the frenzy of war.

This goes for the divinity of the Japanese race as well. For Hirohito went all the way in his historic rescript and told the Japanese the idea was phoney that they were better than others and therefore destined to rule the world. At least it reads that way in translation.

Hirohito's rescript is historic because it is probably the first time any ruler has stripped off so much of the imperial trappings which made him a power, either in his own right or as a tool wielded by others.

Mikado Less Godlike

Yet this step is not surprising if you think back to what has been happening to the son of heaven. Here's an outline:

His subjects first heard his voice over the radio when he read the surrender rescript in August.

In September he called on General MacArthur, the conqueror. Pictures were printed in Tokyo newspapers, and in them Hirohito looked like a small man, not a big God.

He was interviewed by foreign correspondents. The home ministry tried to suppress the story in Japanese papers, got slapped down by allied headquarters.

One of the keys to the emperor system, the post of lord privy seal, was abolished. Something like taking the cover off a baseball.

It was decided that beginning today pictures of the emperor in uniform would be replaced showing him in civies. Imperial rescripts were to be written in simpler language but still be serious.

Foreign correspondents were taken duck-hunting in the imperial preserve near Tokyo.

There was open debate, first in the Tokyo press and later in the imperial diet, as to whether the emperor was guilty of helping to start the war.

Premier Shidehara stood up for him, said he didn't think so.

Divinity Questioned

Hirohito's divinity itself was openly questioned in the diet.

When his cousin, Prince Konoye, was named on an American war criminal suspect list the prince committed suicide.

The military aspects of shintoism, the chief vehicle for spreading emperor worship, were abolished.

After taking all this, it may be questioned just how much there was left in Japan anyway of what Hirohito himself calls "myth and legend."

Japanese politicians have indicated many times they hope to salvage something out of the emperor system which would approximate the constitutional monarchy of Great Britain. No one thinks the British king-emperor is divine, but he means a lot to his people.

Hirohito's rescript, re-affirming the five-point charter of rights to the Japanese people granted by his grandfather Meiji, points clearly toward such a goal.

"We stand by our people," said the emperor, leaving the inference open that he or his advisors hope the people will stand by him.

General MacArthur's pleasure over the way the emperor resigned as a God may not be the last word as to whether he remains as emperor.

But at least it defers the time, if such should come, when Hirohito would have to sell auto-graphed poems to make a living, as happened once to one of his ancestors.



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Stilling the Airwaves

The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. Rogers

MY AMERICAN ADVENTURE, by Ernst Barschak (New York: Knopf, \$2.75).

"This country has been very good to me," says this author, who has been with us for five years after dismissal by the Nazis from her Berlin university post of child psychologist.

As a new year draws closer, as a world at peace seems about as unfriendly even if not so violent as a world at war, we pay a lot of attention to the mote in our brother's eye and very little to the beam in his own.

Dr. Barschak specializes in the beam. To be sure, she winds up her provocative and entertaining account with generous praise for us. Our buses, some of our gadgets, our schools, our family atmosphere, our frank girls and other characteristics meet with her enthusiastic approval.

Other things, though, set her to wondering. She is no ill-mannered Mrs. Trollope, but she puts some shrewd questions under which I squirm.

Her first encounter with us came when she tried to get a job. She applied to committees and agencies, filled out more and longer forms than any bureaucracy ever forced on its citizens, and learned that a doctor's degree, and such intangibles as familiarity with three languages, were not so important as stylish clothes. You can't be a scholar to your finger tips if the nails are not emameled.

She wonders how an American woman can spend enough time on a profession when she spends so much time on her looks. She very rightly asks why our homes seem so standardized and impersonal; why our bookshelves have new popular volumes but few old and cherished ones; why our walls have undistinguished paintings.

Some of our habits are strange to her. She doesn't like picnics; we don't air bedclothes over the window sill. And when a hostess tells her that if she wants to wash her hands, the bathroom is two doors away, she is afraid her hostess is accusing her of having dirty hands.

I disagree with only one of her observations, that "nearly

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued From Page 1)

Mayor of Seattle, got credit for breaking the strike; but such credit was undeserved. The governor's office had taken a hand with the counsel of able men like President Suzzalo of the University of Washington and W. V. Tanner, state attorney general. What happened was that a truckload of troops from Fort Lewis armed with rifles and machine guns cruised the streets of Seattle. The incipient "revolution" immediately collapsed. International heads of AFOI repudiated the general strike. It quickly folded. The shipyards were "through" anyway so the strike fizzled out.

There is no such threat abroad in the land today. The CIO radicals might like to head toward socialism, but definitely not of the Russian variety. They will settle for wage increases. In Seattle itself the printers' strike has been disagreeably stubborn; with the union members themselves rejecting settlement proposals. But there is no whisper about a new general strike in Seattle. The temper of the times is really more conservative than it was after World War II, which should comfort everyone except the professional raisers of communist bogies.

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The Uptown, at Lawrence and Broadway on the north side, is one of Chicago's largest theatres.

3 Soldiers Die From Drinking Cleaning Fluid

DUGWAY, Utah, Jan. 1.—(AP)—A public relations officer at the army proving grounds said three soldiers were found dead of denatured alcohol poisoning today in their barracks.

Lt. Theodore D. Pimper, base public relations officer, said the dead are Pvt. James P. Folan, Morse Bluff, Neb.; Tech. Fifth Grade George H. Jonas, Booneville, Ark.; and Tech. Fifth Grade John J. Smulck, Bairdford, Pa.

Pimper said the three men and three others, now in the hospital, apparently obtained the alcohol from cleaning stocks at the base and decided to stage a New Year's party.

Discovery of the three dead men was made at 8 a.m. when the barracks officer attempted to rouse them for breakfast, said Pimper.

Of the three in the hospital, one is in serious condition.

The officer added that an investigating committee had been appointed to learn how the men obtained the alcohol, which is usually kept under lock and key.

1946 Making Frosty Debut Over Most U.S.

By the Associated Press

The traditionally-clad little New Year shivered today as he made his 1946 debut.

New Year's day was chilly for most of the nation, with temperatures over the middle western and eastern states expected to fall gradually to -20 in Minnesota, 5 to 10 above in northern Illinois, 10 to 15 above in northern Indiana, and -10 in the northern section of New England.

The Chicago weather bureau predicted skies would be fair except in the northeast and far northwest. Snow was on the weatherman's map for New England. The section from western and northern New York state southwestward along the Appalachians and through Ohio and Kentucky had cloudy weather with snow flurries, and rain was forecast for western Washington, Oregon and Montana and northern Idaho. The remainder of the west and middle west had generally clear weather.

5 Cracksmen Methodically Rob Theatre

CHICAGO, Jan. 1.—(AP)—Five cracksmen held eight janitors captive in the Uptown theatre early today while they blasted a safe and fled with \$100 in silver.

The robbers sed nitroglycerine to blow the strongbox. The money taken was coin wrapped in rolls for change-making at the box office.

The safeblowers entered the theatre at about the time the janitors were reporting for work. As each janitor arrived, the robbers took him captive and finally marched all eight to the front row center of the auditorium, where they were seated and guarded.

Detective Florus Krewer said the gang entered by using a bent wire coat hanger to force the lock on an exit door. All were in their early 20's and were carrying firearms, the janitors told police.

The Uptown, at Lawrence and Broadway on the north side, is one of Chicago's largest theatres.

Portland Baby Born as New Year 2 Seconds Old

PORTLAND, Jan. 1.—(AP)—This city's "New Year's babe" was an 8 pounds 5 ounce son born to Mr. and Mrs. Howard W. Hand only two seconds after midnight at Wilcox Memorial hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. George Humphreys claimed the runner-up at 12:03 a. m. with a husky 9 pound 12½ ounce boy.

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GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"Opening our books to the Unions would let down the bars, gentlemen!—next thing our wives would be screaming for joint checking accounts!"



NAMED CARDINAL—A new portrait of the Most Rev. Francis J. Spellman, archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York, soon to be created a cardinal.

Flashes of Life Portlanders Fill Broadway Despite Rain

KANSAS CITY.—(AP)—Railroad men here have heard everything now. A man complained because his train was on time.

The passenger, a daily commuter to Atchison, Kas., complained to Jake Smith, gateman, that for weeks he has been at the station on time, only to wait an hour or two for the late train. Today, he said, he arrived a few minutes late, and the train was gone—left on time.

MASON CITY, Ia.—(AP)—When Robert R. Snyder of Mason City awoke early one morning he still was in his automobile, and it was completely inside a drug store.

Snyder told police he fell asleep while driving, that the car jumped a curb, and went through the brick and plate glass window front. The front wall collapsed. He was charged with reckless driving and released on \$100 bond.

NEW ORLEANS.—(AP)—A Los Angeles detective asked local police to help him recover his lost wallet, prisoner and the evidence in the case.

Detective C. W. Barder said that while he was changing trains a year-old prisoner he was escorting from Miami to Los Angeles on a robbery count snatched his wallet containing \$150 and made a get-away.

The prisoner, Barber added, also grabbed a satchel containing the loot from the robbery—six pistols, four diamond rings, an iron and a razor.

Throngs Watch Mummer Fete

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 1.—(AP)—At least 1,000,000 shivering spectators lined downtown streets today as Mummers capered in the annual New Year's carnival.

The size of the parade—it was three miles long and took five hours to snake past the reviewing stand—and the brilliance of the costumes stamped the festival as the brightest in the 45 years of the show.

Many a pair of gilded "slippers" had once been G.I. brogans. Blue and olive drab uniforms peeped from beneath the exquisite silk and satin robes. It was a homecoming celebration for many an ex-serviceman who spent the past three years in foxholes, and they enjoyed it.



PRESIDENT—Felix Gouin, (above) French Socialist deputy, was chosen president of France's constituent assembly, charged with writing a new constitution for the nation.

5 Bodies Found In Plane Crash

SAN DIEGO, Calif., Jan. 1.—(AP)—Five bodies, all burned beyond recognition, were found in the wreckage of a twin-engine Cessna private transport on a hillside near Lake Hodges, 27 miles north of here, by a ground search party which reached the site today.

The plane, piloted by Robert D. Baer, 29, La Jolla, Calif., disappeared on a flight from El Paso to San Diego, and as last reported attempting to land at Lindbergh field here in a storm the night of Dec. 21.

In addition to Baer, three others had been tentatively identified as Vincent P. Dunn, San Francisco, regional chairman of the AFL commercial telegraphers' union; Army Lt. William H. Hall, 22, Vista, Calif.; and Ensign Joseph Mayo, 24, Stockton, Calif.

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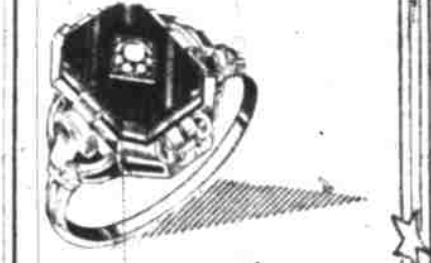
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