

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
From First Statesman, March 28, 1881

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

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Member of the Associated Press

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Lumber Profits High Enough

The facts on the ground do not support the representation made by lumber manufacturing interests that the margin between stumpage cost and selling prices on lumber is so narrow that they may be forced out of business. The disproof may be found in the number of sawmills that are operating and the ones that are starting. Up in the hills and on the edge of the valley you run into a new sawmill very frequently at a turn of the road. Every mill that can run is doing so, though at present there is a shortage of logs due to the long strike and the bad weather. Come spring and production will soar.

The profits in lumber manufacturing are matters of common knowledge. Operators who a few years ago were hanging on by their financial eyebrows are now big-butter-and-egg men in relative opulence. The huge increase in proceeds of state income taxes reflects the very prosperous condition of lumbering, the state's principal industry. It may be that prices fixed by OPA do not yield fair profit on every item, but all the visible evidence indicates prosperity in lumbering from bucker and whistler to lumber broker and manufacturer and retailer.

Business has very definite obligation to hold down prices. Deflation following an orgy of inflation will wreck the lumbering industry just as it did in the '30s. Meantime the damage from high prices affects the capital investment of thousands of homebuilders. Business is not justified in seeking price rises just because wages have been increased, but only if profits run unreasonably low. They do not promise to do that in the lumber business in view of the huge demand. The savings on excess profits taxes alone will amount to a huge sum for all incorporated business.

The Statesman has been critical of workers who seek to freeze for themselves high wartime earnings. It is equally critical of industry which has enjoyed huge wartime profits and can't be reconciled to any decline. Less greed, greater consideration for the interest of the consumer will mean a more stable economy and more durable earnings and profits. The most important task in the country now is to fend off the pressures for excessive wage and price increases which will surely bring the country to grief.

Joe Kahut, the battling sailor from Woodburn, lasted only two minutes and 45 seconds in his bout with Gus Leanevich in Portland Friday night. Some 3000 persons paid \$29.160 to see the fight. About the prelims this measured at over \$10,000 a minute; or \$9.72 per customer. Pretty expensive entertainment.

The agriculture department at Washington says that butter is short. There is just about as much new news in that as in a lot of other government handouts which have contributed to the paper shortage.

Friends of Eva Emory Dye, author of books on Oregon history, will regret to learn that she fractured her hip in a fall at the convalescent home in Gladstone where she has lived for several years. She is in her 90th year.

The city of Marshfield changed its name to Coos Bay, and in due course the postoffice was changed to the new city name. But the high school remains Marshfield High. We'll bite; what's the reason?

Street car employees in Tokyo get a 300 per cent wage increase. Thus do the benefits of democracy spread. We anticipate no emigration from the USA to take jobs in Tokyo however. The new wage is 33 1/2 cents a day.

Judging from some of our recent weather, that Arctic blue fog which was shot near Hubbard wasn't so far out of his climes after all.

"Vets urged to study medicine" says a headline. Would they become veterinaries?

Editorial Comment

APOCRYPHAL

No one need be surprised by the statement of Admiral Nimitz that Admiral Yamamoto did not say he would dictate peace in the Capitol at Washington. This is only one more in a long list of celebrated sayings by historic personages which they never said.

Everyone knows now that George Washington did not say: "Father, I cannot tell a lie." Parson Weems invented that one, hatchet, cherry tree and all. "War is hell," cannot be found in anything General Sherman ever wrote, and he did not remember saying it. The best present guess is that the aphorism is synthetic, put together by some one from fragments of things Sherman did say.

Cambronne did not say on the field of Waterloo: "The Guard dies but never surrenders." His actual reply to the English call for surrender was an unprintable monosyllable; the magnificent defiance was put into his mouth by an imaginative correspondent for a Paris paper. Cambronne himself denied it.

And so it goes. It is quite certain that Confucius never said: "People who live in glass houses should not throw stones." We have only the word of Plutarch, who lived in the next century, for Julius Caesar's: "Veni, vidi, vici." It would not be remarkable if Alexander's sigh because there were no more worlds to conquer was invented by a press agent.

Yet people will go on believing. Herbert Hoover will never get rid of "the noble experiment," which he did not say. The heroic words Cambronne explicitly denied are chiseled on his monument at Nantes—San Francisco Chronicle.

And Pershing did not say "Lafayette we are here."

Exercise in Hindsight

The Pearl Harbor inquiry has become a battle over hindsight. Admiral Stark who was chief of navy operations in Washington in 1941, says that messages sent to Admiral Kimmel at Pearl Harbor were sufficient notice for him to be on guard. Kimmel in his testimony says if he had had the late intercepted messages of Japan he would have been ready to meet the attack. Both admirals—and everyone else connected with military operations at the time—are drawing liberally on hindsight, and naturally interpreting the "ifs" in the case to their own advantage.

It is entirely proper to have Kimmel and General Short get their full statements before the congressional committee and before the people of the country, and before the scholars who will be delving into this affair for years to come. The net result to date seems to be that responsibility was by no means concentrated on just one or two men. The Japs succeeded in destroying the fleet at Pearl Harbor because they got all the "breaks." If all the circumstances had not worked to their advantage they would have had a hot reception at Pearl Harbor. The lesson for all military men is the oldest one in the history of military science: guard against surprise; always be vigilant.

Pearl Harbor was not without its compensations. It put the navy particularly on its mettle and it went out with blood in its eye to smash the Japanese navy off the seas. It unified the country which had been riven with dissension over how to treat the axis powers. It released the productive energies of American industry to turn out in record time the greatest navy and airforce ever assembled.

Stan Church, ex-KOIN radio announcer, later on PR with the state department and then with the recruiting service of the navy has gone to KAST at Astoria. Stan's assignment will work on program improvement for the radio station and will handle civic affairs and special events. He's a "natural" for the job.

Ho, ho, Argentina comes up with a new strike idea—business went on strike in protest against a government decree ordering business to increase wages and pay year-end bonuses. You see, an election is coming up in Argentina, and the "ins" are looking for votes.

Kaiser-Frazer stock, offered at \$10, has zoomed to as high as \$24 a share before a single car has reached the consumer. Shows what capitalization of a famous name and the motor car vacuum can do, particularly when there are oodles of cheap money lying round.

The price of steel is to be allowed to go up by the government. President Truman says so. Since steel is basic in modern industry that means price tilts in most everything from tin cans to locomotives. Steel will prove to be a good conductor—of inflation.

The girls who edit the U. of O. Emerald have it figured out that now there is 1/10 of a man apiece for the women students. They don't want the missing eighth to be the man's arms.

This question may come up: What rights does a dog discharged from the K-9 corps have under the GI bill of rights?

Interpreting The Day's News

By James D. White
Associated Press Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 16. (AP)—President Truman again made it plain yesterday that the United States expects to hang on to strategic Pacific islands captured from the Japanese as long as it thinks it needs them.

It will do so through the machinery of the United Nations organization, he made clear, but the trusteeship this country wants in such cases is an individual one.

The geographic score probably implied in this policy is matched only by the arguments for and against it.

President Truman didn't go into geography, but last September the navy submitted proposals to maintain bases at such places as Okinawa, Iwo Jima, and at Saipan and Tinian, all of which were won from Japan in World War II.

The navy also recommended retention of other Pacific islands, solely to prevent it by any other power, naming as examples such islands as Wake, Midway, Eniwetok, Kwajalein and the Truk group.

Word has got around in London, where the United Nations assembly is meeting, that the British are willing to turn over to the UNO trusteeship system the African mandates they acquired after World War I. There's also a report that they will seek to have this trusteeship awarded to Britain individually by UNO, in which case any actual change in the status of the now mandated territories would appear to rest upon how the trusteeship system itself differs from the mandate system.

Way Open for Trusteeship

The UNO charter written here at San Francisco leaves the way open for such individual trusteeships, subject to approval by the UNO assembly. One vital question that remains to be answered is how far the individual nations will go in asking for individual control over trusteeship areas.

With both Britain and America already interested it is logical to expect that at least the other powers of the "big five"—France, China, and Soviet Russia—may ask to be dealt in and receive exclusive trusteeship of some area for themselves.



The Missing Link

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—Maybe you will say I am crazy, but it's a fact—when congress left here for Christmas,

President Truman's proposal for fact-finding and cooling off on strikes was being scuttled by the CIO-new dealing congressmen. Their Murray of Montana as chairman of the senate labor committee did not take up the plan for the holidays as Mr. Truman had urged. CIO quoted it "slavery."

Fact-Finding Okeed

Now the condition and the words are running exactly opposite. Murray, strangely, let leak from his office certain letters from his constituents showing overwhelming support for fact-finding, and has opened his committee hearings on it, while some others in the CIO-new deal clique are saying fact-finding would not be too bad.

The silent, perplexed bulk of congress, conversely, is showing unmistakable signs that the Truman solution has lost ground outside the labor groups during the recess.

Behind this Christmas double-miracle of politics lay a plain, unanswerable disclosure of the fact-roots of the labor-management issue. Since Christmas CIO has reversed itself in the General Motors case, and accepted the 17.5 per cent price rise which the fact-finding proposed, but the company turned against the plan when Mr. Truman's fact-finders wanted to let the union in on their private business profits secrets (whatever these may be, beyond the filed public records).

Position Unexplained

This new opposition to fact-finding has not been vociferous in announcing or explaining its position, at least in congress. My information on this turn is based on two points particularly:

(a) The president, amenable to political influences, of which the unions are most potent, can appoint anyone he chooses in particular cases and thus assure just about the results he wants, and (b) such a system will work the union way inevitably by disclosing company financial secrets to the union but no union financial secrets to the company.

Thus when you arrive at these root-facts of the matter, you can plainly see the difficulties of establishing a fair or effective solution of a national crisis. The same solution, which was "slavery" to labor three weeks ago, has become "meatballs" to some extent today. Labor has not lost a fact-finding case, a congressman who went into the matter tells me.

Looking Judicially

The judicial basis of fact-finding (the railroad brothers' experience of 13 years of just, amicable, settlements with only one strike), therefore, is losing ground.

What then? Well, it appears if anything at all is done a fact-finding program will be enacted, but amendments are threat-

ened, the nature of which are not acceptable to labor. Thus labor is still stalling the Truman plan.

Still threatening are the amendments predicted in this column published December 20, for preventing political domination by unions, preventing the breaking of contracts at will and steps to establish union responsibility otherwise commensurate with its power.

These steps may go much further when the debate starts. Certainly the fight for them will be harder than three weeks ago.

Before November

On the other hand settlement of these major strikes before the voting day would ease the existing pressure for action to some extent and might encourage congress to duck the whole labor issue again.

This is more reason for stalling in the meantime.

What has become apparent to most citizens as well as congressmen in the strike news since Christmas is that fact-finding as it stands has not solved the strike problem. The Truman advocates may say it would if they had legislation behind them, but the unwillingness of General Motors to do what the legislation proposes hardly justifies this expectation.

As a matter of fact the evidence shows quite clearly fact-finding will not settle any strikes unless both sides agree.

When you get down to fundamentals, it would not change labor's position in any respect, or management's. The only proposal which would seem to do this fairly (without impairing the just rights of unions) is the Byrd proposal to put the unions

on the same legal level as corporations by making them corporations.

Add to Responsibilities

Senator Byrd would require them to incorporate, file their figures with the securities and exchange commission as businesses must do and thus assume the same legal responsibilities for damages, contracts, etc.

The Bailey amendment would kill the closed shop, kill political activities and otherwise go deeper into union curbs; while the Luce plan for profit sharing is only a proposal for a congressional investigation of same, as the government can do nothing effective about it.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued From Page 1)

by the senate committee which are not shown by either of the journals to have been incorporated in the bill passed by either house. The supreme court in December held that this bill as Chapter 411, Laws of 1945 is valid. Mr. Justice Bailey wrote the opinions in both cases. In the latter case Justices Kelly and Brand dissent.

Now here indeed is an exercise in mental gymnastics. The distinction in Justice Bailey's mind is that in the first case the legislative journal shows that the house REFUSED to concur in the senate amendments, while in the second case the legislative journal does NOT show that either or both houses REFUSED to accept the amendments which were included. Thus the basis of interpretation seems to be the rule of silence.

The fact that the legislative journal does show affirmatively that other amendments were concurred in by both houses is ignored to the point where as Justice Kelly says "the basis of upholding the validity of the purported law in suit is not a presumption, but a falsehood." And Judge Brand in his dissent notes that the journal is not silent but speaks affirmatively of what did pass and of what was excluded from the bill. Justice Lusk concurs in the decision of the court though he confesses he finds it difficult "to perceive that this distinction is a satisfactory basis for difference in results."

It is possible by the narrow squinting of the eyes to catch the fine distinction which the court makes between the two cases; but the result is to confuse rather than clarify the validity of statutes and the virtue of the legislative journal in determining that validity. If the legislative journal is to receive weight at all, logic would seem to compel the conclusion that what the journal shows affirmatively should be decisive. The alternate rule is of course much simpler and is the course followed by the supreme court of the United States on acts of congress, namely to consider only the enrolled bill signed by the proper

officers and to ignore the congressional journal.

Since the court has adopted a modified rule, relying neither on the enrolled bill or on the record of the legislative journal it becomes the more necessary to have accuracy in the handling of bills and amendments; for the public can't depend on the court to save it from the journal-proven errors of clerks and typists.

Dr. W.E. Buren At Graduate Medical School

Dr. Wolcott E. Buren, formerly a practicing physician in Salem, is attending graduate school of medicine, University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Upon completion of his courses in x-ray, radiology and radio therapy he expects to take further work at Temple university hospital under Dr. W. Edward Chamberlain.

Dr. Buren, a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. army medical corps reserve, is on terminal leave. He entered active service previous to the Pearl Harbor attack and was stationed at a good portion of the time since in the Hawaiian Islands.

Mrs. Buren and their two children will join Dr. Buren in Philadelphia later in the year.

Recovery Move Bests Early Stock Decline

NEW YORK, Jan. 16. (AP)—Ralls, specialties, most aircrafts and some of the utilities staged a recovery in today's stock market after early declines.

Gains ranged from fractions to around 2 points but a good number of minus signs persisted for the list as a whole. Some of the "thin" shares tacked on around 6 points. Square D ended at 73 1/2, up 6 1/4, after a proposed three-for-one splitup was announced.

Profit cashing retired quite a few of the pivots into losing territory in initial operations. Another factor was the belief that a sizeable technical correction of the recent upswing to 13-year highs was overdue.

But renewed demand soon developed, partly on the idea that inflationary tendencies might increase with the government allowing price rises for several industries to compensate for higher wages as one means of curbing current labor-management strife.

Of 1018 issues dealt in, 445 advanced, 365 declined and 208 were unchanged. The gains were enough to lift the Associated Press 60-stock composite to a new 13-year summit of 79.7, up 3 of a point. Volume totaled 2,100,000 shares against 2,700,000 yesterday.

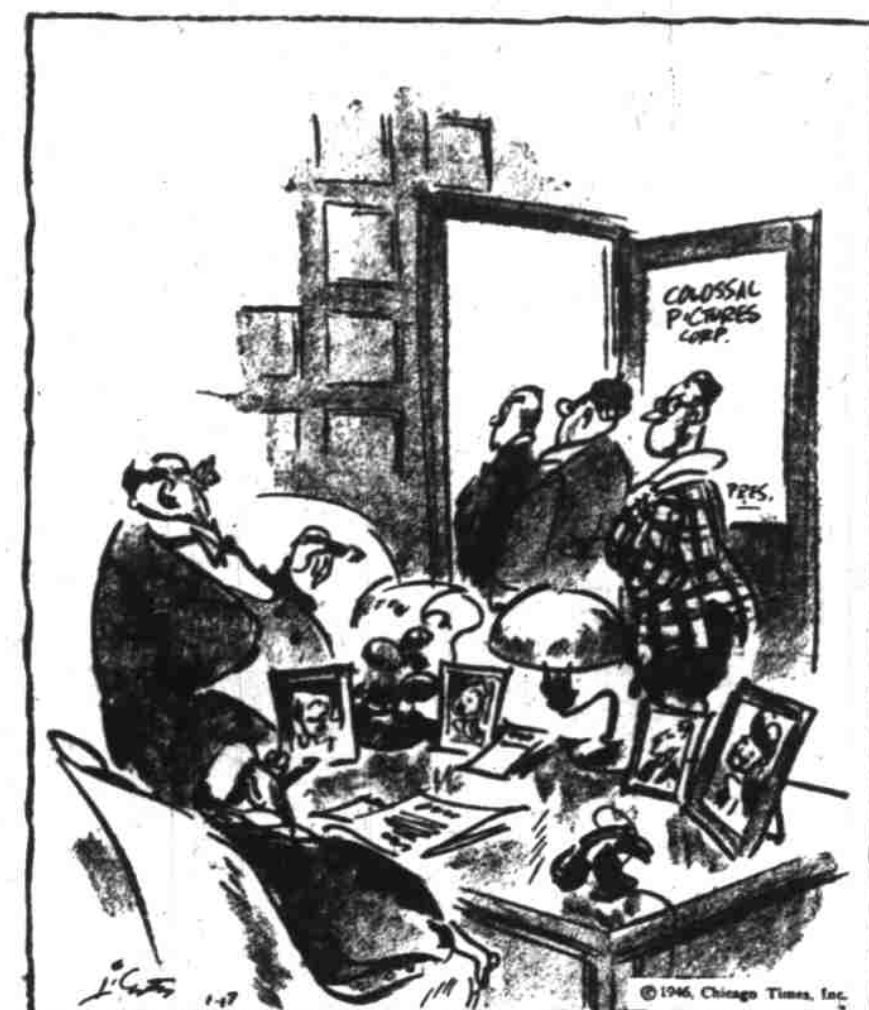
WU Fraternity Pledges 4 Men

Kappa Gamma Rho fraternity on the Willamette campus has pledged four men this term, Jack Hedgcock, president, announced Wednesday.

Blaine Hanks, Salem, Marion Van Leeuwen, Halsey, and Bob Fletcher, Howard Dewey, both of Portland, comprise the pledge list. The members and pledges of the fraternity are planning several activities in the near future. The first will be a bowling party with Clarence Edwards, Albany, pledge president, in charge.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"A fine mess this country's in—when even our 'yes' men say no to our wage offers!"

4 Cents Added To Rye Prices

CHICAGO, Jan. 16. (AP)—Brokers added another 4 cents to the price of May rye in today's futures trading as they bid the grain steadily upward despite flurries of profit taking and other liquidation.

A reported reassertion by Senator Elmer Thomas (D-Okla.) that higher wages and higher prices are the only way to cope with the public debt stirred inflation talk anew.

Although there was uncertainty over whether exporters will be permitted to ship recent sizeable purchases of rye, there was a report that the same interests were back in the market for other large round lots. It was understood, however, the grain was not available in the quantities sought.

Wheat closed unchanged to 1/4 cent higher than yesterday's final quotations, May \$1.80 1/4; corn unchanged at \$1.18 1/4; ceilings: oats 1/4 to 1/2 up, May 77 1/4; rye unchanged to 1/4 up, May \$1.91 1/4; barley unchanged, May \$1.22 1/2.

The manufacture of dyestuffs from coal tar originated in England.

Not just another ring—but an entirely new design, skillfully fashioned in 14kt. gold. A worthy setting for a Stevens flawless diamond.

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