

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor and Publisher

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Intelligence Authority

The announcement from Washington that the president has formally established a National Intelligence authority should be generally welcomed.

In the nature of things, military and political intelligence as gathered and used by the government is something the public knows very little about. Spy novels give a hint of the techniques used, but they rarely give any real insight into what has been done, or what can be done, in the field of espionage and counter-espionage as it is actually practiced by this or any other government.

Notwithstanding this fact there has been recurrent evidence that not all was well with the American intelligence agencies during the war. The Pearl Harbor committee, of course, has shown the poor coordination in both the war and navy departments, and the general slackness existing at high levels, where responsible officers even in Washington frequently did not know all it was possible to know, which admitted the Japanese surprise in the Pacific. There have been other, more veiled, indications of rivalry between the services and the State department in the matter of intelligence; and between the services, the F.B.I. and O.S.S. The public could only have the disquieting sense that all was not well, without being able to suggest positive remedies, or know where deficiencies existed.

Now, with the establishment of the central intelligence agency, and with the clear delegation to it of responsibility and authority in the field of intelligence—which means much more than mere espionage alone—there is reason for more confidence. The new authority is probably not proof against future Pearl Harbors—the best intelligence agency can't know everything—but having specific responsibility and broad powers to prevent such occurrences, it can do much more than the indifferently organized and mutually exclusive intelligence organizations of the pre-war period.

As to the international ethics of conducting espionage abroad, one can only suggest that there is no positive evidence that other nations are not conducting it here, and indeed every indication that they are. Turn about will probably not be particularly fair play, but it will be safer than not playing at all.

Another thing: the chief of the intelligence authority is—believe it or not—another Missourian. In the intelligence business, however, there is some virtue in having "Show Me" as slogan.

\$2 Rye

Rye copied the cow in Mother Goose and jumped over the moon in the Chicago grain market this week, up to over \$2 a bushel. Wheat lagged behind at \$1.80. Export demand, a limited supply and speculative fever account for the skyrocketing of rye prices in recent months. All grains, however, have been creeping upward. Farmers have been so laggard in selling wheat that millers are worried over supplies for manufacturing flour. Farmers are convinced that price ceilings on wheat must yield, and if they have taken a CCC loan on their crop they can easily afford to sit the dance out for some time.

In the corn belt another worry arises, and that is whether there will be enough corn to go around this year. With livestock backing up on farms because of the meat strike, and eating its head off, corn will disappear rapidly. In fact the Wall Street Journal quotes one county agent as saying:

"Next fall you can reach for a drink instead of a pork chop. The distillers are trucking off the hard corn, and the fat hogs are staying home eating the soft corn, and long before the new crop comes in there won't be any corn."

This country has been producing enormous crops of grain, but the consumption has been tremendous, too. The bread grains, wheat and rye, have had to supplement the feed grains, corn, oats and barley, to turn out the animal products that were demanded. Destitute peoples overseas are clamoring for food, and grain (or flour) is the cheapest, most abundant and most easily transported foodstuff. Hence, we have been exporting grains to Europe, which reduces our surplus.

High prices for grains have reverse effects in agriculture, however, because they narrow the margin of profits for dairymen, livestock feeders, and poultry-producers, since with them feed is an important item of cost of production. Excessive prices for grains spreads injury throughout the economy, increasing the cost of living and threatening production of essential animal products. Rye at \$2 a bushel may help a very few producers and a still smaller number of speculators; but it can do a lot of damage all across the country.

An autopsy on Mussolini showed him a remarkably healthy man. Chest-thumping must be a very beneficial exercise—if not overdone.

Worries over the future atomic war have given place to worries over present industrial war.

Editorial Comment

In bygone years it was the custom of prominent British folk to go to European resorts for their vacations. But now we find former Prime Minister Churchill coming to our own Miami, Fla., in order to enjoy a well-earned rest. Mr. Churchill may thus have initiated a trend which will bring other British and European leaders across the Atlantic for their relaxation. It will be years, certainly, before war-torn Europe can offer much to the vacationer. Perhaps peaceful America is to become the future world's playground.—Pendleton East Oregonian.

Rebates of Profits Taxes

The labor unions have a pertinent complaint in their charge that the federal tax laws enable big corporations to finance their end of shut-downs at the expense of the federal treasury. It works out this way: Under the excess profits tax law, corporations were assured of rebates in postwar years if their profits fell below certain levels. The argument in support of this provision was that if the government extracted excess profits taxes of 90 or 95 per cent the companies would not have sufficient reserves to carry them through the period of reconversion.

What happens now is this: If a corporation's earnings are cut down or wiped out because of a strike it still can go back to the government and claim a drawdown on the excess profits taxes it has paid. In this respect the union complaint is correct, that the corporation cost of fighting a strike is met all or in part out of public funds.

The rule works the other way with strikers. Those who are unemployed because of a strike at a plant where they are normally employed are not entitled to draw unemployment compensation. There is this difference, to be sure;—that in the latter case all or part of the funds came from the employer originally.

Fairness would seem to support the union position. If the workers are denied unemployment benefits when they go on strike, corporations ought not to be entitled to rebate of excess profits if losses are created by resort to industrial warfare.

Ray Conway, state liquor administrator, is quoted as "appealing for public opinion on the whisky shortage." Well, he asked for it. But we hope the eggs are fresh.

Mac Epley in the Klamath Falls Herald-News says that if the "Shasta Daylights" are as pretty as promised they can be nicknamed "Shasta Daisy."

Tire factories will shut down when the steel strike cuts off their supply of wire for tire beads. For want of a nail . . . the kingdom was lost.

Interpreting The Day's News

By James D. White
Associated Press Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 24.—(P)—The ghost of a Japanese puppet walks in India. The name of this ghost is Subhas Chandra Bose, who led a Japanese sponsored "Indian national army" during the war, and whom the Japanese reported killed in an airplane accident in Formosa just after Japan surrendered.

If he is dead, his memory is not. Eleven Indians have been killed and more than 400 wounded during the past two days in Bombay, where riots broke out during a celebration by Indians on this man's 50th birthday anniversary. And there is some doubt that he is dead. Mohandas Gandhi, the aged non-violence leader of India's independence movement, recently was reported to have declared:

"I believe Subhas Bose is still alive and is biding his time somewhere. I admire his courage and patriotism, but I have no belief in the method he adopted. The people of India cannot attain freedom by the sword."

Moved in After Pearl Harbor Bose's method included working with Japan, although long a revolutionary against British rule in India, his big chance came after Pearl Harbor when he arrived mysteriously in Japanese-occupied territory.

The Japanese set him up in Singapore, where he organized his "Indian national army" largely from Indian soldiers captured from the British by the Japanese. He moved into Burma, but his army saw little action.

At the time Japan surrendered he was on his way by air with high Japanese military officials to Tokyo. The Japanese said all aboard the plane died when it crashed in Formosa.

The Chinese, who now control Formosa, have been asked to investigate and verify Bose's death, but no reply has been reported.

Bose's army meanwhile was retaken by the British, and trouble began at home in India when they announced last fall that some of Bose's men would be tried as war criminals.

Advised Clemency Last November the British announced that seven members of this army, captured in battle, had been convicted and executed, but that others would be treated with clemency unless there were "evidence of murder or gross brutality against Indian prisoners of war."

Nevertheless, this touched off demonstrations in Calcutta in which 37 people were killed, including one American soldier, and scores injured.

At about the same time the British freed Bose's brother, Sarat Chandra Bose, who had been a political prisoner for four years. He promptly called for "an Asiatic federation" of colonial peoples—and, like other Indian leaders, for Indian independence.

In the meantime the stature of Subhas Chandra Bose, although he worked under the Japanese, seems to have grown. The demonstrations in Bombay during the past few days involved huge crowds, described as mostly Hindu but marching from the Moslem section of town. They burned the office of the communist party. They threw rocks at policemen. After police fired on them and killed some of the demonstrators, the crowds grew larger the next day and 175,000 textile and other workers went on strike, as did students.

And Saturday is the 18th anniversary of the declaration of independence of the Indian national congress party.



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The Little Lambs Still Gambol

The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. Rogers

ARCH OF TRIUMPH, by Erich Maria Remarque, translated from the German by Walter Dorell and Denver Lindley (Appleton-Century, \$3).

A German refugee surgeon in Paris, where he can't get a license to practice but where his unquestioned skill makes him a useful stand-in for French doctors who are not his professional equals, is the central figure in this dramatic and exciting novel about the decay and collapse of western European civilization in 1938 and 1939.

Ravic is his assumed name. He is physician in a bordello. He tends to the men and women without a country and, worse still, without the proper papers, who inhabit his obscure hotel. He befriends Joan Madou, minor singer but major personality; he pursues with implacable hatred the Gestapo official Haake, as Haake pursues him in the fearful nightmares in which he relives the torture he had suffered in Berlin. Joan, Haake and Sept. 1, 1939, tie together for a smashing climax.

Ravic's surgical operations are described in considerable gruesome detail. Blood red is the dominating color in this book; red flows the knife across an abdomen in a thin line, is picked up in a chance thread, in a bouquet.

But even while it shocks you, you realize shudderingly that it is the symbol of the social disintegration which is the author's fundamental theme. Society needed the knife even more than the poor girls who sneaked desperately to Mme. Boucher's to evade the consequences of their errors, than the government official with diseased tissues, than the unhappy Kate Hegstrom. Symbolism and action merge excitingly in climactic pages devoted to Haake.

Grim and forbidding, repulsive in certain aspects, written in gall, this is a gripping as well as significant story. Remarque has ideas, and embodies them in real people. Furthermore, he can turn a phrase to make you catch your breath.

This novel will not be to World War II what Remarque's "All Quiet on the Western Front" was to World War I, but comes closer to it than the works of numerous other novelists who have tried their hand at it.

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—The confounding results of Mr. Truman's submission of his domestic economic program to congress are plainly evident no deeper than the newspaper headlines. His plans to thwart inflation were greeted with an immediate

rising of the stock market in expectation of inflation. News headlines on his message generally said: "Truman calls for action to prevent inflation." The New York Times account of stock price increases of the following day was headed: "Inflation outlook advances stocks."

The mart men simply did not believe the program would stop rising prices—and neither do I. How could anyone? If auto wages are to be hiked 18.5 per cent and the cost of steel increased by \$4 a ton as originally proposed, or more, how can the selling price of cars be kept from increasing? Steel is the basic ingredient of autos and labor the main cost factor of their manufacture.

Ways to Boost Price Found. Knowing souls in congress, therefore, wink their eye and say prices will sneak up as a result of the Truman measures now on the fire, regardless of OPA or high water. If wages and basic materials in general go up, can prices be far behind? War experience developed many ways in which price increases could be accomplished indirectly if not directly—reduction of quality, creation of new products which cannot be price-catalogued, and many others.

Yet it seems no one objects to what Truman says, only to what Truman does. His recitation of his purposes drew no criticism from congress and little elsewhere. The country evidently wants the basic idea of a high wage-price economy with full employment, will pay high taxes and is opposed to further inflation. So does congress. No one wants deflation.

But the things Mr. Truman proposes to do are simply not generally in accord with his

purpose. To think that costs can be increased without a price increase is not the only strain upon average intelligence. Mr. Truman wants congress to pass immediately the CIO full employment bill, pledging the government to great expenditures, and is already increasing practically every appropriation for peace activities of the government, even planning a new big wing on the white house, and proposing increases of salaries of congress—at a time when we are threatened with inflation. Normal reasoning would call for the opposite tactics of government in a battle against inflation.

Again, a main problem of the fight against inflation is to get our men back to work, but his budget calls for \$16,000,000,000 for national defense (a new kind of spending, the economic effects of which are not clear, as much of the money may wind up in foreign lands.) Although he says veterans are lounging before going to work (war workers also?), he demands that congress increase the unemployment compensation allowance, and extend the number of weeks men may get it, thus counteracting his quick re-employment purpose.

He wants congress to increase the minimum wage (for unskilled labor largely), but this labor is generally getting a higher wage than the proposed figure. Yet, by whatever degree it increases minimum wages in some industries, it will serve the cause of inflation.

Actions Oppose Theory. His recommendation for continuation of OPA controls is about the only one which jibes with his anti-inflationary purposes, but he is simultaneously digging a hole in that ceiling for steel, and is proposing to pay bigger government subsidies on food in an effort to conceal a price increase by having the government pay for it. He is paying subsidies to packers to hold down meat prices but the workers are striking for his wage increases which must increase prices on subsidies. Thus his actions run counter to his theory in basic fundamentals. He has the right program, but is defeating it himself in many ways.

The above reasoning represents not only what I think, but what congress believes, as well as the stock market. This explains the incongruities of the white house-congress stalemate which was not broken by the president's earnest message.

Verdict in Favor Of Harvesters

A Marion county circuit court jury found for Herman Plants and Arthur Mills on Thursday in the case brought against them by Joe Stenger, but failed to award the defendants anything on their cross complaint.

Stenger had charged the two, doing business as Plants and Mills in the Aurora area, with having cost him a crop through failure to combine his oats as per contract. The defendants, in turn, sued Stenger for money allegedly owed them. Stenger will be required to pay the costs.

Firms Protest Rumored Portland Building Sale

PORTLAND, Jan. 24.—(P)—A report that the veterans' administration may buy the board of trade building today caused about 90 firms in the building to prepare protests to the government. At a meeting this afternoon the tenants declared that many of the firms might be forced out of business by lack of downtown office space.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued From Page 1)

taking affirmative action the board tried appeasement, retaining both men without providing for performance of the important duties previously handled by one. It is easy to foresee that the problem will be waiting on the doorstep the next time the board meets.

This is the board's own administrative failure. That it should occur is not surprising because of the deterioration in the board's membership. It is now probably the weakest board in the history of the consolidation. While it has some members of splendid qualifications it has others who make no affirmative contribution to the board's deliberations. The result is the floundering observed in the non-action in the Byrne case.

The Safety Valve

LETTERS FROM STATESMAN READERS

FIREMAN WRITES PIECE

Dear Editor,

Us boyz 'ere t'he East Salem fire house wuz readin a letter printid in yer paper yest'day which we wudn't a dun if'n we wuz addictid t'that there tin flutid litrchur menshund in sed letter.

'Twant rely much after sortin out the sixty sent words. Jest sum het up sasily female givin us whut fer fur disregardin sity laws n'ordinasus like some feller named "Thoreau" she'd red 'bout. Seem't me t'be a pore eksampl t'be putin afore us ignerunt firemin tho, whut with him bustin laws an gettin his self thoreau'd in stir 'cause he didn't have too dolers t'pay sum pole talks. She sorta seem't think meby readin esaze wood help usn's t'be better fermin.

Thay's all'y's pepul that got more time t'mind other pepls biznuz th'n they have there one. Which same brings t'mind sump'n my ole granny usta tell us kids. Wuz a yarn sum ole fable by name of "Esoppos" usta tell t'th ignerunt n 'Misgided soles which come t'him for help. Seem'zuz I remember't that wuz'n ole man, a boy n'a mule meanderin along'n all th Pepl that met 'em kep havin difrent ideers 'bout hoo shoold walk'n whoo shoold ride. Seem't the ole man'n boy wuz both sorta wishey washey kerikerts. Eny way thay follered ever sugschun till thay wuz both cary'n the mule over a bri'n drop't him in the krik. Which same ole gossel sho yu they's miney sides't mos kweschus as they is t' these ere optic Eyelushins yer al'ays see'in.

As my ole granny usta sa "The chikin kaklin loudst over the bak fens, ain't no 'sage hen'." R. P. MOBLEY, East Salem Fire Dept.

Rally to Give Religious Film

A color motion picture on a religious theme, produced in Portland, will be shown locally for the first time during a youth rally in Salem senior high school at 7:30 p. m. Saturday.

DeVern Fromke of the Salem youth center has announced that the film's producer, L. J. Smith, and several of the cast members from Portland will attend the rally. Smith will introduce the visitors and the movie, which is entitled "The Missing Christians."

Leading role is played by Muriel Rose Strellman who recently won the Youth for Christ oratorical contest in Portland.

County Health Officer To Speak at Stayton

Dr. W. J. Stone, Marion county health officer will speak on "Health Needs of Your Community" at the Stayton Woman's club Wednesday afternoon. Mrs. Ruby Bergavik will show a film on "How You Can Fight Infantile Paralysis," and Mrs. Harris Lietz, of the women's division for the March of Dimes will be introduced.



A. N. Bush, Salem's pioneer banker and business man, is observing his 88th birthday today. A native of this city (Jan. 25, 1858) and for many years president of the Ladd and Bush bank, he remains active now as president of the Pioneer Trust company.

WU Freshman Wins Oregon Speech Contest

Ben Mosher of Portland, Willamette university freshman, won first place in the Oregon after dinner speech contest held Thursday at Pacific college, Newberg. "College Dabblers" was Mosher's subject, and the general subject for all speakers was "American Dabblers." Mosher will be remembered as the Englishman in the recent dramatic society play "The Man Who Came to Dinner."

Other colleges taking part in the contest were Pacific college, Pacific university, Linfield college, Oregon State college and the University of Oregon. Herbert Rahe, speech instructor, coached Mosher, assisted by Wes McWain, senior speech scholar. This was Willamette's third participation in a state contest this year, all of which were made possible by a gift from a Salem alumnus.

Dairymen Give War Memorial Scholarships

Two "living war memorial" scholarships in dairying were announced this week by the Oregon Milk Distributors' association for outstanding students attending Oregon State college. The scholarships are open to any boys majoring in the division of animal industries and are awarded on recommendation of the faculty.

Co-winners of the 1946 scholarships are K. Beals and Junius Covington, navy veterans who are now majoring in dairy manufacturing at O.S.C. Both are residents of Corvallis.

Through this scholarship the distributors' association hopes to interest outstanding young men in the milk industry. "Production and distribution of milk is of prime importance to the economy of Oregon," S. J. Kremers, Portland, president of the Oregon Milk Distributors' association said. "Dairying returns more cash dollars to the farmer than any other crop in the state. We are interested in higher quality milk and we believe this scholarship will pay out."

Most Oregon Roads Normal

Scattered icy spots on mountain and eastern Oregon roads are all that hinder otherwise normal traffic conditions in the state, it was reported yesterday by the Oregon highway commission. Highlights of the report:

Sandwich Junction.—Temperature 30 degrees. Three inches new snow, total snow at summit 95 inches, at junction 48 inches.

Odell Lake.—Snowing and raining intermittently. One-way traffic between Oakridge and summit.

Klamath Falls.—Raining on Sun mountain, Green Springs, and Quartz mountain, with temperatures about 35 degrees.

Astoria.—Columbia highway closed at east city limits of Astoria, detouring through Tongue Point naval base. One-way traffic on coast highway near Mandanita.

STEVENS

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