

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor and Publisher

Member of the Associated Press

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The Safford Accusations

Captain Safford of the navy department has been remarkably diffident in giving his testimony before the Pearl Harbor investigating committee. So diffident, in fact, and so clearly committed to the Kimmel "cause," that his attitude creates doubt as to the truth of what he is telling.

It is still too early to say whether Safford is right and all the others wrong, or whether his admittedly diametrically opposed testimony is, like the Japanese messages which figure in it, largely east wind.

Safford asserts that the now-famous "winds messages" of the Japanese were received by the navy three days before Pearl Harbor, but were never intelligently acted upon if at all, and were afterwards removed from the navy files by senior officers wishing to conceal their own failure. In this part of his testimony he is dealing with specific radio messages received by Japanese, as well as American, stations; and it ought to be possible to find some good evidence apart from Safford that they ever existed if indeed they did. Likewise, if they did exist, it still has to be shown that their meaning was as clear as Safford says it was.

As to the alleged cover-up, Safford has prejudiced his own case by first accusing Admiral Stark and General Marshall of conspiracy, and by then withdrawing his accusation. At the last reports, he has "suspicion" that documents were removed from navy files, but is unwilling to mention who might be responsible except for the "general staff." This vagueness and unwillingness to be definite, coupled with his admission that the Kimmel case was with him a "cause," suggests that the facts are not quite as clear as he would like them to seem.

Even so, there is some mystery, for no motive has appeared for Safford to jeopardize his career and make himself foolish in public on Kimmel's account unless he actually believed a raw deal had occurred.

Even Safford's testimony, however, assuming there is some truth in it, does not alter the conclusion which now seems clear from the earlier testimony before the committee; that the disaster at Pearl Harbor was not caused by the failings of two or three individual officers, but through a series of mistakes and omissions for which broad responsibility must be shared in both the war and navy departments.

The "Yukon" Breaks Up

The Alaska Steamship line's "Yukon" was well known to the many thousands of people from the Northwest and other parts of the country who first made the acquaintance of the Seattle waterfront and of Alaska during the war. For many years one of the chief ships of her line, she was almost as much a fixture in such towns as Ketchikan, Juneau, Anchorage and Seward as the town hall, despite the fact that her visits were necessarily brief. During the war she rendered long and faithful service, notwithstanding her advanced years. In carrying thousands of civilian passengers to the great military projects in the Territory, and thousands of troops and naval personnel going north to man the Aleutian and Alaskan outposts.

The details of her loss have not yet been published, but since she had been in the Alaska service for many years, and since during the war her officers and crew were men of long experience in those waters, it seems likely that she was wrecked in spite of the superior seamanship of men of long experience and considerable talent. This fact merely emphasizes again the limits soon passed of men's powers in the face of implacable natural forces; and, perhaps more specifically, that even after years of sailing into and among them, the fogs and hidden rocks of the Gulf of Alaska are treacherous and unknowable.

Esquire magazine can go through the mails, rules the U. S. supreme court, sustaining the decision of Judge Arnold who overruled a decision of Postmaster General Walker. Its art is art, even if it is also something else; and those who prefer to get their Varga girl in monthly installments instead of on an annual calendar can be assured of continued mail deliveries. It may not be first-class art but it rates the second-class mailing privilege which is what the publisher wanted.

Editorial Comment

OPPENHEIM

Death of E. Phillips Oppenheim closed a career which had traveled the pendulum's full swing. To the generation to which he was born, Oppenheim's first spy novels were probably shocking and certainly unbelievable, Victorian-Edwardian ladies and gentlemen not holding with the idea of beautiful, delectable young women strutting poison about Riviera hotels and Orient expresses.

With the First World War and subsequent revelations of espionage, Oppenheim became credible, and his formula of death and intrigue done in high style was a pattern for nearly two decades. But real life overtook Oppenheim in the 1930's, in the persons of Heinrich Himmler et al., and the realities developed a new school of spy writers, whose villains wore Schwartzkopf uniforms instead of Inverness capes and who dealt in vulgar torture as well as stylish murder.

By the time of Oppenheim's death, "Rogue Male," "Escape," "A Coffin for Demetrius" and "This Gun for Hire" had come to make the shocker of the '30's seem a little quaint. —San Francisco Chronicle.

Withdraw Pauley's Nomination

Edwin W. Pauley stands in so poor a light before the country that he should ask President Truman to withdraw his name as nominee for under secretary of the navy. If he fails to do that the president should pull the name back to spare himself the humiliation of having his nominee rejected by the senate. We do not see how Pauley can be confirmed after the adverse testimony presented by Secretary Ickes.

Ickes backs up his oral testimony with dated memoranda confirming his statement that Pauley endeavored to have him withhold his suit to determine ownership of offshore oil lands. Pauley's denials seem rather hollow. He was out, as treasurer of the democratic national committee, to raise money for the party. As an oil man himself he knew where to go to solicit funds, and knew also how to lubricate the checkbook of high finance.

The Pauley case has a parallel with the Teapot Dome exposure of the 1920's. There the evidence indicated that bonds from the lessees of the oil fields went to meet the deficit of the republican committee. Here Pauley had to meet the democratic deficit, and hoped through political favor to oil interests to wipe out the deficit. In view of the scandal of the Fall administration of the interior department Ickes had ample reason to call the Pauley proposal the rawest one he had met up with.

The Pauley nomination was a bad blunder by Mr. Truman, one he will have difficulty recovering from. He was paying a political obligation without a proper sense of public responsibility. If Pauley has any sense of loyalty he should relieve Truman of his embarrassment by bowing out of the picture, as Edward Flynn did when the fire got hot over his nomination to an ambassadorship.

"Full Employment"

The house passed and sent to the senate a greatly modified form of the bill labeled "full employment." The new version deletes any promise of full employment. It acknowledges a government responsibility in this field; but no one can wave the bill in his hand and get his name on the government payroll.

Government does have a responsibility to its citizens in the field of employment, chiefly to provide political conditions under which employment will thrive. It also has responsibility to extend direct help in times of stress to prevent human suffering. But unless it becomes a socialist state it cannot well guarantee jobs for all.

The watered version of the bill is described as meaningless by those who favored the original Murray draft. But at least it is not hypocritical, does not make false promises and does not involve the country in a program of huge expense without offsetting revenues.

Interpreting The Day's News

By James D. White
Associated Press Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 6.—(AP)—Americans wanting to do business in China will welcome the Chungking announcement that the new Chinese company law is being modified.

Details aren't yet known, but P. H. Chang, the cabinet spokesman, says that by the simple expedient of having a holding office abroad foreign firms can remain foreign under Chinese law. Under proposed legislation, unless a foreign company operating in China had a "parent" in its home country, it would have been classed as Chinese.

A prime example is the Shanghai Power company, operating the largest steam-powered plant in the world, which was built by Americans in China but which had no "parent" firm in this country—as has, for instance, a big American oil company.

The proposed regulations appeared to Americans and other foreigners to differ enough from their own company laws to discourage a good many from going into new or old firms there.

Unstipulated, but very likely inherent in the altered law, is the probability that regulations for foreign firms will differ somewhat on the generous side from those controlling purely Chinese concerns.

This wouldn't mean that American companies, for instance, wouldn't be subject to Chinese law. They will. The system of extra territoriality which allowed foreign companies to operate in China under their home laws is ended. But is likely to mean that more favorable conditions can now be created to attract the foreign capital and enterprise which China needs so badly.

The legal uncertainties faced by foreign companies were only one of the handicaps which they said held them back. Another and very big one is the exchange situation. Practically speaking for purposes of big business, there is little or no foreign exchange in China today. Available to the foreigner is a limited official exchange which gives him roughly half what he may be able to get for his foreign currency on the wildly fluctuating black market.

There has been talk recently that a new and more practical rate will be established and that it will be backed up by an official stabilization board. When that is done, and when China negotiates the desired trade treaties with her major foreign market powers, then both the legal and financial atmosphere will have been cleared for the entry of foreign capital—particularly big capital—and it can see where it's going.

China doesn't have the capital to recover economically without outside help. It has just taken time for this fact to prevail in all necessary sections of Chinese opinion.



The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. Rogers

THE FOXES OF HARROW, by Frank Yerby (Dial, \$3).

Since the popular ingredients of the average successful historical novel have been used again in this tale of New Orleans a century ago, this book ought in theory to be a success, too. Historical novels seem to be much like history in one respect: they repeat themselves.

A dastard cheats his bosom friend. A man marries the haughty, beautiful maid who had cut him over the face with her riding crop when he first kissed her. A hot-blooded son takes his father's mistress. Girls and boys are always brushing their lips together and going on from there.

Stephen Fox, caught with an extra card up his sleeve, is dumped unceremoniously from a Mississippi steamboat onto a mud bar. But being a resourceful fellow and clearly no stick-in-the-mud bar, he learns to paddle his own canoe, figuratively, down to the wicked old river port and on rapidly to a vast fortune.

He marries two sisters, successively, and his children pick up and carry on in much the same way, the way that's so convenient for novelists. Like father like son is a sound observation, but in this case it is no principle on which to stretch a story out to nearly 550 pages, or from 1825 to 1865.

JOHN DRYDEN: A STUDY OF HIS POETRY, by Mark Van Doren (Holt, \$3).

First published 25 years ago, this distinguished, scholarly study has been out of print in this country for some time, and Holt does students and lovers of poetry a great service in making it available again.

PATTON: FIGHTING MAN, by William Bancroft Meller (Putnam, \$3).

With the help of photographs, Meller writes this life of the dashing tank commander, showing how the general got that way and what that way was. The story opens with a supposedly typical Patton speech that would burn the ears of ladies and most gentlemen; and it does not neglect that side of him which Hersey is said to have had in mind in his behind-the-scenes villain in "A Bell for Adano."

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"I'll have nothing to do with a prefabricated house—how will we stop your mother visiting us?—She'll bring her room with her!"

Salem's Army Recruit Office Signs 26 Men

During the last two weeks of January, 26 men enlisted in the regular army through the Salem recruiting office.

Two of the men are former prisoners of war who were captured in the Philippines in May, 1942, and were liberated by American forces last summer. They are Gail C. Craig, 130 Abrams ave., and Lyle E. Lee, 1985 Maple ave., both enlisted for three years' duty in the United States.

Seven Salem men enlisting for three years' service in Europe are: Frances O. Boaz, 18, route 1; George E. Robertson, 20, route 5; Eldon E. Hunt, 17, 633 Ferry st.; Rodney E. Warren, 18, 774 N. Winter st.; Conrad E. Felt, 17, 660 N. Commercial st.; Russell G. Watts, 25, 280 Pine st.; Raymond L. Eyerly, jr., 19, route 3.

Kenneth E. Reed, 17, 1140 S. Liberty st., enlisted in the regular army unassigned for 18 months. Three men from Dayton enlisted in the engineers corps for duty in Europe are: Charles M. Hubbard, 18, Douglas T. Jepson, 18, and Lyle G. Abdlil, 18.

David P. Bruitt, 18, Dayton, enlisted for 18 months. William N. Loe, 18, Newport, enlisted in the air corps for European service. Dean G. Keffer, 18, and Roy B. Roberts, 18, both of Toledo, enlisted for 18 months.

From Silverton, Leonard J. Hattberg, 18, enlisted for 18 months and Lewis R. Hays, 18, enlisted in the quartermaster corps for three years' European service.

Karl Schweingarth, 18, Jefferson, Melvin C. Pettie, 18, Grand Ronde, Clifford E. Robertson, 18, Independence, Leland M. Kroeger, 18, Dallas, Emil R. Faulkner, 18, Falls City, Arnold R. Handley, 18, Corvallis, and Willard E. Hamilton, 18, Willamina, enlisted in the regular army unassigned for 18 months.

31 Vessels to Unload Vets at Ports Today

By the Associated Press
Approximately 28,478 veterans were expected to debark at six U.S. ports from 31 vessels today.

On the west coast four ports await 15,459 personnel aboard 18 vessels while two east coast ports are ready to receive 13,019 veterans on 13 ships.

Ships and units arriving include:

At San Francisco — Miscellaneous on following: Bland from Samar, 1990 navy; Gen. W. G. Haan from Manila, 3510 army; Horace A. Bass from Pearl Harbor, 159 army; Klaskanine from Pearl Harbor, 11 navy; Rigler from Manila, 58 navy; Robert H. Smith from Pearl Harbor, two navy; Winosky from Yokosuka, 10 navy and marines; Gen. H. W. Butner from Nagoya, 5303 navy and army.

At Seattle — Miscellaneous on following vessels: Cape Clear from Okinawa, 1828, two LCTs and two LCVs, 49 navy.

At San Diego — Submarine Boardfish, 91 miscellaneous navy personnel.

At Los Angeles—Miscellaneous on following: Banner from Saipan, 1131; Fergus from Maui, 872; Geneva from Maui, 399; Facility from Pearl Harbor, 46.

Capt. Loren Hicks On Terminal Leave

Capt. Loren D. Hicks has returned to Salem on terminal leave and is now at the home of his mother, Mrs. T. M. Hicks. Captain Hicks, who has been at Fort Lewis receiving his promotion from lieutenant to captain at the time of his discharge. He served for 43 months and spent 20 months of that time in the European theatre of operations.

James K. Anderson Promoted to Major

James K. Anderson, son of James Wilbur Anderson of Jefferson and husband of Margaret Taylor Anderson, Castle Rock, Wash., was promoted recently to major, it has been announced by Brig. Gen. Charles W. Lawrence, commanding general of the India China division, air transport command at Calcutta, India.

Major Anderson has served in the division since Jan. 17, 1944, and is assistant chief of staff for priorities and traffic. He has been in the army since July 15, 1942. In civilian life he was employed by Reed Murdoch & Co., Salem.

Abe Steinbock Home On Terminal Leave

Lt. Abe Steinbock, son of Mrs. Dora Steinbock, 148 Union st., is now home on terminal leave after discharge from the army's chemical warfare service. A former Willamette university student and athlete as well as one of the city's topnotch softball players, Steinbock served four years with the army. He was stationed at Edgewood Arsenal, Md.

Speaker



Maj. Allan Carson

Allan Carson Lincoln Day Toastmaster

Maj. Allan Carson, who recently returned to Salem while on terminal leave from the army in the service of the intelligence unit in Burma and India, will be toastmaster at the Lincoln day dinner at the Marion hotel in Salem on Tuesday, February 12, at 6:30 p.m.

Carson, a Salem attorney and Marion county state senator, has been in the Asiatic area for the past two years. Marion county republican organizations, with Joseph B. Felton as general chairman, are sponsoring the event.

Frederick E. Baker, Seattle, republican national committeeman for Washington, will be the principal speaker and his topic will be "Have We the Courage of Lincoln?"

Baldock Back From Highway Officials Meet

State Highway Engineer R. H. Baldock returned to Salem Wednesday after attending meetings in Oklahoma City of the American Association of State Highway Officials and of the highway research board of the National Academy of Sciences.

He was appointed chairman of two committees of the research board, those on economics and finance and on administration. The committees are charged with relating the costs of highways to the benefits obtained, a plan which has been in operation in Oregon for many years.

Emphasis at both meetings, Baldock said, fell on the need for constructing arterial express highways into and through cities in order to prevent accidents.

Henry Black Enters Race For Governor

Henry Black, Portland painter and unsuccessful candidate for president of the United States and three other offices at the 1944 republican primary election, Wednesday filed in the state department here for governor. He is the first candidate to file for a statewide office at this year's republican primary election.

State department records show that Black received 77 votes for president in a write-in campaign in 1944 and 297 write-in votes for vice president. In his contest for United States senator he received 6106 votes against 68,666 for Senator Guy Cordon.

Black also was a candidate for delegate to the republican national convention at the same election and received 26,802 votes. He ran 16th among the 17 candidates, with seven elected.

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