

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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How Not to Win Friends

The formal disclosure that Russia did not enter the Pacific war until exacting concessions from her allies—without whose help there is little doubt she already would have been prone and helpless—comes a long way from allaying the current suspicion, justified or otherwise, that the Soviets have traveled but a very little way on the road to international cooperation.

It is not too important now that criticism may attach itself to former President Roosevelt and one-time Prime Minister Winston Churchill, in regard to the secret pact. What is important is Russia's all-too-apparent nationalistic selfishness which she has used in climbing to the sphere of world powers.

The concession demand proved one of two things:—that Russia was confident the allies would win the Pacific war anyway but sought to get all possible benefits from it, or that she felt she could deal with Japan alone in her own good time in event the Nipponese forced a peace.

One thing Russia has done—she has convinced the world, by bluff or otherwise, that she is not afraid of anyone. It is about time the rest of the world let Russia know that the UNO wasn't formed just because of a fear of Russia. Concessions came easy, too, for Hitler when Britain and France first put up with his encroachments.

We don't think Russia currently is looking for trouble with any major power, but the fact that she demanded concessions to fight for the friends who literally helped her off the floor isn't going to make it any easier for her to win friends or influence people.

An Ordeal Not A Field Day

Warden George Alexander is on the right track in making executions at the state prison less of a field day. The lethal gas chamber now has been in use sufficiently long to have permitted full investigation of its operation by anyone with a right to know about it. Those who must go to their deaths in it no longer need be treated as a guinea pig or as the center attraction in a one-ring circus.

It is a queer form of doing penance for anyone to subject himself as a witness to one of the unfortunate if necessary calamities of civilization. No one is the loser by staying away. And neither should such ordeals be made vehicles to satiate the sadistic tendencies of a few of the curious.

The warden by law is charged with admitting legitimate witnesses in the proper number. He is not compelled to invite or admit those who have no good reason for being there.

2,700,000 Housing Units

Accustomed to the dimensions of global war the American people perked up when President Truman endorsed a plan to provide 2,700,000 housing units in the next two years. It had something of the old FDR breadth of gesture, like 50,000 airplanes and double or triple navies.

It is of course pitiful for thousands to go virtually roofless after the demonstration of construction work on a vast scale given during the war: acres of camp buildings; vast warehouses; airstrips bulldozed out of coral rock; harbors dredged for fleets of warships and transports. The present situation calls for similar width of vision and degree of courage that carried the war through. True, the major handicaps are lack of materials which await expansion of production; but the government can't just flutter its wings futilely when the housing situation is critical as it is. It must plan, expedite and if necessary execute.

Salem shouldn't think it's the only town with a housing shortage. Here's Aumsville—the house occupied by Mexicans working as railroad section hands was sold, no other was available so the workers returned to Mexico leaving the section boss without a crew. It would be bad if the SP has to stop operating because of no section crew at Aumsville, but at any rate the stoppage couldn't be blamed on a strike.

Darkening bread by using more of the bran will release more wheat for Europe in two ways: the bushel of wheat will yield more loaves of bread, and the people will not eat as much. Americans are white bread addicts. Conversely, the less bran the less milled for cows and hogs—hence less milk and meat.

Our new congressman, Walter Norblad, in a speech at Bedford, Pa., said the disposal of surplus property has been "as badly managed as is humanly possible." Walter should be careful lest he fall into the habit of shooting from the mouth.

The Chicago Sun says that President Truman declares he doesn't want the presidency after 1948. Already many people are feeling the same way about him.

In Chungking a meeting to celebrate national unity broke up in a riot which arose when the crowd started to elect a chairman. As Father Divine used to say, "Peace, it's wonderful."

Not a very great rush to file for public office in this year's elections. At prevailing official salaries some may figure unemployment comp. is a better deal.

The great question in Washington is whether to put a ceiling on old houses. A new roof on the older ones would be better.

International Aviation

When the international aeronautics conference was held in Chicago last year there was sharp disagreement between the United States and Great Britain on the terms to prescribe for international aviation. In fact the conference broke up with some major questions still in dispute, particularly the ones over freedom of planes to pick up passengers in foreign countries and how much competition should be allowed. Britain favored a restrictive policy; the United States a liberal policy.

The issues were taken up again in a recent conference at Bermuda, and an agreement worked out which if ratified by the governments concerned will provide the rules of the game for commercial aviation between the United States and countries in the British commonwealth.

Briefly the agreement permits the airlines of both countries to pick up passengers destined for a third country (the so-called "fifth freedom" which makes it possible to keep aircraft loaded to a profitable level along the entire route); establishes a rate determination policy with intergovernmental action to avoid rate wars and profiteering; outlines a world pattern of routes which each country will fly over the other's territory; provides a system of regular consultation on all civil air problems between the United States and the United Kingdom, a step described by both sides as the "chief feature" emerging from the conference, and finally arranges that the provisional international civil aviation organization at Montreal be asked to give advisory opinion when a dispute cannot be settled through bilateral consultations.

The agreement also opens up, subject to approval of local governments, military air bases for civilian use, and the United States is permitted to retain control of leased base areas.

It is not clear just how this agreement will settle the rate wars which have already been launched for transatlantic flights. Pan American, losing its fight for monopoly, slashed rates heavily, which met with objection not only from its American competitors but from foreign countries. Just how the new rate control will work is not clear from the brief announcement.

It is of great importance to resolve these differences so international and intercontinental flying may get off to a good start in the post-war period. Bermuda has been more fruitful of good result than was Chicago.

Interpreting The Day's News

By James D. White
Associated Press Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 12.—(AP)—The story of the yearling Yalta agreement which gives Russia the Kurile islands still isn't complete.

Here's the record, compiled from Associated Press files:

The agreement was reached Feb. 11, 1945, during the last day of the Yalta talks involving the late President Roosevelt, Marshal Stalin and former Prime Minister Churchill.

Under it, Russia agreed conditionally to enter the war against Japan.

Russia entered the war, presumably on schedule, on August 8. The red army conquered the Kuriles, southern Sakhalin, northern Korea and Manchuria.

Marshal Stalin, in a V-J day broadcast, told the Russian people that the Soviet Union would regain southern Sakhalin and the Kuriles, lost to Japan in the war of 1904.

On Sept. 4, Secretary of State Byrnes told his press conference that the United States was not opposed to the position of Russia on the Kurile islands and southern Sakhalin—although, he said, the matter would have to be settled definitely sometime at the Potsdam conference in July, and Byrnes replied that it had not, but indicated that the discussion had taken place at Yalta the previous February.

Silence Followed

Followed then a silence which lasted until early 1946, when Japanese reports trickled down from the Kuriles and Sakhalin that Russian occupation troops there had brought in their families and otherwise seemed to contemplate permanent occupation. Washington officials said the same thing.

Jan. 22 Undersecretary of State Dean Acheson said he understood the Russian occupation was temporary. Whereupon Tass, the official Soviet news agency, announced on Jan. 26 it had been authorized to disclose that the Yalta agreement "clearly set out" that after victory over Japan the Kuriles would be handed over to Russia, and that southern Sakhalin and its adjacent islands would be returned.

On Jan. 29, Secretary Byrnes, answering press conference questions disclosed that he hadn't known about the agreement until a few days after the Japanese surrender, although he said the military chiefs of staff had full knowledge of it at the time it was entered into.

He pointed out the impossibility of announcing it before Russia entered the war, and said he saw no reason why the agreement shouldn't be published now.

But the state department said that Britain and Russia would have to be consulted, and on Jan. 31 President Truman said Russia and Britain were being asked about it and that if they had no objection it would be published.

This was done yesterday, revealing that the agreement promised Russia not only the Kuriles and Sakhalin, but the rights in Manchuria which in the meantime have been formalized through a treaty with China.

Two questions remain unanswered about the whole business:

1. What part American and/or British diplomacy had in making the necessary arrangements with China.
2. Why the negotiations with Britain and Russia on publication were not made sooner.



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Trying Out the Remedies



(Continued From Page 1)

the past, suspicious of other nations, plans to build so it may stand alone. Heavy industry, as the United States has just proven, provides the real sinews of war.

Russia's problem is not wholly external; it is internal as well. Peter F. Drucker in the February Harper's discusses this internal difficulty very competently under the subject "Russia in a Tight Spot Too." In pre-war years the Russian people were supported by promises of future abundance when the plan of industrialization had been completed. "Now that this war has been won the Russian people are, apparently, to be asked for new economic sacrifices to make their country strong enough economically for the role as a great power." But the Russian army got a taste of "luxury" when it entered Poland and Hungary and Bulgaria and Austria. Even the poverty and squalor of these countries (in comparison with western Europe) seemed like "luxury and abundance" to the Russians who had gone without consumer goods for a score of years. Many are the stories told of Russian looting of red soldiers' clothing for watches, utensils, clothing. The question which worries the Kremlin now is whether the Russian people will submit to continued deprivation while heavy industry is restored.

Drucker notes the great lack is manpower. The early plans were carried out only by farm collectivization whose purpose was not agrarian socialism but corporate efficiency which would release farm workers for city industries. They pulled into the factories about ten million peasants. But where now can Russia turn to fill the gap of war losses of eight to ten million industrial workers? Not from the farms which need more not fewer workers to restore agricultural production. Drucker offers this answer:

"While not conclusive, the

evidence certainly suggests that Russia cannot put the new five-year plan into effect with her own resources alone. She lacks the manpower to produce both the capital goods (including armaments) that she is resolved to produce in rising quantities, and the consumer goods which her people will demand. She can put the plan into effect only if she obtains from abroad considerable amounts of consumer goods or, at least, of raw material and equipment to produce consumer goods; or if she can import workers to meet her shortage of labor."

Neither of the alternatives mentioned appeals to soviet leaders. Foreign loans have always been resisted, and foreign immigration prohibited. The only source of a large loan is the United States and here the figure talked has already dropped from six billions to one, and that with demand for opening of trade with Russia's new satellite nations. Mutual antagonisms and objectionable conditions will probably kill a U.S. loan to Russia.

Voluntary migration from Romania, Bulgaria, Jugo-Slavia, Hungary, Germany, Austria into Russia is quite improbable unless special considerations are given for freedom of worship, schools and property rights. Such immigration would introduce an alien leaven into the communist lump and will be resisted strenuously by governors of the USSR.

There remains one other labor source: compulsory or forced labor. Russia has already impressed thousands of Germans into her labor army for reconstruction. The Japanese Manchurian army some half a million strong when captured by the Russians may likewise be working now for Russia. The outside world doesn't know what has become of it. Under the use of liquidating political dissenters Russia may transport from border countries additional workers for labor camps, just as she evacuated a million and a half Poles and scattered them all over the soviet union after invading eastern Poland in 1939.

For machinery the Russians have been claiming and seizing machinery from German factories and now demand \$100,000,000 worth of equipment from factories in north Italy. This would be largely machinery for

light industry producing the badly needed consumer goods.

Prophecy regarding Russia has been false so generally from the time of predictions of the early downfall of the bolshevik government (wishful thinking) to the freely voiced estimates of experts that Hitler would lick Russia in three months that one hardly dares to phrase a forecast. My own guess is that Russia will get no substantial foreign loan, but will use her considerable gold production to finance essential foreign purchases and will use captured machinery and forced labor to increase domestic production. The Russian people will be required to put up with what can be produced under this general plan.

There are two uncertainties which may upset this forecast. One would be the early retirement of Stalin with the inevitable clash over the succession. The other is the army which has seen other lands and is the only organization able to match the ruling communist party.

Stalin has proclaimed a new five-year plan and set the stakes far ahead of past production records. But before it is completed the homely verse of Bobbie Burns may find fresh application: "The best laid plans o' mice and men Gang aft agley."

The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. Rogers

WILDWOOD, by Josephine W. Johnson (Harper, \$2).

Matthew Pierre, an aging ornithologist, and his wife Valerie adopt an orphaned relative, Edith, who when they first see her has outgrown the attractiveness of childhood and not acquired the bloom of youth.

The girl hasn't even a suspicion that she is entitled to affection, nor do Matthew and Valerie suppose it is expected of them, but she wants it desperately. She misses it later at the school to which she carries the awkward, painful self-consciousness developed with the Pierres. She misses it still later when Lawrence Cawdry, a smooth, knowing youngster, courts her. Most importantly she misses it when Dr. Michael Young decides that she will be less harmed by losing his love than he by loving her.

Wildwood, where Matthew, Valerie and Edith live, is not so much a home as a sanctuary, a bird sanctuary, a refuge out of this world, a repository for habits and beliefs suitable only for recluses, a round hole for square-peg Edith.

Matthew's birds thrive and Valerie's flowers are strong and healthy, but Edith withers. God and Matthew watch out for the sparrow, no one for her. The foster father, who can't understand what she wants, understands clearly what Dr. Young wants and fiercely keeps the two apart.

Though the Pierres promised to treat Edith as their own child, they don't treat her as well even as they do the birds, which they allow to mate and nest; in a passage of devastating satire, Miss Johnson contrasts the loved and unloved, the birds as our feathered friends with the birds imagined as clawed, noisome and abortive creatures.

The themes of this unusual story are inane frustration, needless misery, blind gratitude. With unparadiseable arrogance, persons long since finished with life steal life from those too young to know what it is; the Pierres abandon it while it's still in their grasp, but Edith is forced to give it up before it is begun.

This novel about a pathetic misfit, about a girl deprived of

VFW to Stress Employment Of Veterans

A movement to stress the hiring of unemployed veterans was voted into being at the regular monthly meeting of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Marion Post 661 Monday night.

By means of publicity and advertising the post will endeavor to stir the local public into giving jobs to veterans. Commander Harlan M. Bones declared that the publicity given to patriotic propaganda during the war should now be used to prod the public conscience as regards unemployed veterans.

A committee has been appointed to launch the plan into operation. Election of a new junior vice-commander also took place with Doran Huston named to complete the term formerly held by Victor Wolf.

The VFW obligation was given to a large group of new members by past-commander of Post 661, Frank Millet. William Baillie, manager of the local U.S. employment service, spoke to the membership on the number of construction jobs coming up in this area within 90 days.

Rejuvenation Of Fair Started

Work of rejuvenating the state fairgrounds plant here, under army lease during the war, for the 1946 state fair which opens Labor day is now under way, Leo Spitzbart, state fair manager, announced Tuesday. He said a financial settlement with the federal government had been approved.

Spitzbart estimated that the cost of repairing and improving the plant would exceed \$100,000, while only approximately \$48,000 was received from the government. Premiums for this year's fair will aggregate about \$50,000.

Contracts covering the various ground shows are now being negotiated.

State 'Pinball' Tax Totalled

Payments of the so-called state amusement tax for the current fiscal year, starting July 1, 1945, now aggregate approximately \$106,000, the state tax commission reported here Tuesday. By the end of the fiscal year these payments will increase to about \$250,000, officials estimated.

The amusement tax law, passed by the 1943 legislature, pro-

Holland Assets Released by U. S.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—(AP)—The treasury today released \$1,800,000,000 in Netherlands assets which were frozen in the United States when Germany overran Holland in June, 1941.

In return, Secretary of the Treasury Vinson announced, the Netherlands has lifted a freeze imposed on property of United States nationals during the German occupation and established procedure to reinstate the absent owners in their rights.

Scouts Observe Birthday Fete At Deaf School

Boy Scout troop 14 of the state school for the deaf observed the founding of the Boy Scouts of America with a dinner party and court of honor for scouts and guests at the deaf school Saturday evening, February 9.

School Superintendent Marvin B. Clatterbuck, chairman of the troop committee, was in charge of the program and was toastmaster. He introduced Roy Harland, principal speaker of the evening, who reported that of the 106 eagle scouts in the Cascade council area, troop 14 had 24 or almost 25 per cent.

Guests at the banquet were 18 former students who are eagle scouts.

A troop court of honor was held following the banquet with Superintendent Clatterbuck officiating. William Fore acted as court clerk. Charles Cooper was advanced to second class scout and 18 merit badges were awarded. Richard Colley received the bronze palm to the eagle badge for having 26 merit badges and meeting requirements of service and leadership.

Following the court of honor and the scoutmaster's benediction led by Scoutmaster Thomas Ulmer, the scouts and guests went to the school chapel for games and dancing.

Sunday morning troop 14 were guests of troop 8 at Sunday service in the Presbyterian church.

vides a tax of \$10 on jukeboxes and \$50 on pinball machines. Funds derived from the tax are turned over to the state treasurer and credited to the old age assistance fund administered by the state public welfare commission.



Lt. Donald H. Nagel

Lt. Nagel Visits Wife's Parents

First Lt. Donald H. Nagel, on terminal leave since his separation from the army air forces at McClellan Field, Calif., February 4, is visiting in Salem at the home of his wife's parents, Mr. and Mrs. David H. Cameron.

He entered the army from Portland four years ago and obtained his commission at the Yale university technical school in May, 1943. He has served as armament and gunnery officer at Walla Walla, Wash., Avon Park, Fla., Lorena, Tex., Tampa, Fla., and Ft. Myers, Fla.

Lieutenant Nagel plans eventually to enter Oregon State college and establish a home in Corvallis for his wife, Jane, and 16-months-old son, Lawrence David.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"I knew this would happen if the Government took over the meat industry—now everybody writes their Congressman about tough steaks!"

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