

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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 The Register-Guard's policy is the complete and impartial publication in its news pages of all news and statements on news. On this page the editors of The Register-Guard offer their opinions on events of the day and matters of importance to the community, endeavoring to be candid but fair and helpful in the development of constructive community policy.

Trail of the Impossible

Unless everybody in the United States turns policeman, OPA, as it is now operated, will go the way of prohibition—a breakdown of enforcement because of the sheer impossibility of policing so many millions of little transactions. This newspaper has been friendly to price control, has urged the retention of basic controls till such time as production and competition will supply their automatic checks on gouging, but we cannot see any hope under the complicated, infinitely detailed regulations now attempted, and especially with authority so centralized that nothing is left to the good sense of local administrators.

OPA proceeds on the apparent assumption that every person in business is essentially a crook. It seeks to cover the country with a host of spotters, spies, tell-tales. It pounces on a grocer who may have charged half a cent too much for a can of beans, forgetting that the surest and swiftest regulator is the store down the street. And for some mysterious reason OPA's snoopers are NOT TOUCHING black markets so flagrant that everybody except OPA seems to know all about them. We talked the other day with a man from Corvallis who runs a very small electrical repair business. He said:

"I have to have at all times a certain type of cheap plug which ordinarily costs 5 cents to the trade. I went to Portland. They told me the plugs were not to be had—except from X in the black market. So I went to X and got 100 plugs at 10 cents apiece. He said he could give me 1000 or 10,000—at 10 cents. What should I do? I'm just trying to hang on and stay in business. I can't afford the time to get involved in OPA lawsuits."

There was a time during prohibition when an army of snoopers pursued every citizen suspected of having possession of even a pint of moonshine, but great powerful gangster syndicates grew and prospered to the point where they dominated entire cities. The black market operators are not yet in the class with Al Capone, but certainly many of them are doing business on a vast scale, and the weakness is the urgency of the buying public. A man in Eugene who has a house half finished tells this story:

"I had to have a certain fixture, couldn't finish the house without it. I lost two days trying to find one. Finally one dealer said: 'Al, I can get it for you in the black market, and it will cost you double. I'll only charge you what the black market charges me, but that's the only thing I can suggest.'"

So the house builder bought and paid—and turned in no complaint.

Mrs. William Grieg sends us a clip from the newspaper at Big Timber, Montana. There the local board under OPA has resigned in protest against "trial at the curb." In their letter they said:

"We were told that in all cases where it was a second offense the files were to be sent to Helena and that any recommendations we might make would be subject to overruling—in other words, that the panel's decisions did not mean anything.

"You are sending out discourteous letters assessing fines without allowing any defense, which seems to us entirely contrary to our American process of law.

"We, the panel, have decided that we cannot act under these conditions and we are submitting our resignations, to take effect at once."

If controls could be directed to holding certain basic commodity costs, and if enforcement could be concentrated on breaking up genuine monopolies and black markets, production and competition would soon stop inflation. Present OPA policy is not only tyrannical but utterly futile, a great waste of taxpayer money. A few minutes ago we bought a handkerchief. The merchant was thumbing a new "directive" from OPA—four printed pages in fine type, and apparently for furniture and hardware dealers, not dry goods merchants. The alleys are cluttered with such waste.

READER EDITORIAL

Let's Get it Straight Vet Says

EUGENE — (To the Editor) — Have you read what Josef Stalin, prime minister of USSR, replied to the questions of AP Correspondent Gilmore in Moscow? The amount of thought you spend may have more to do with world affairs than you give it credit for. This is still a democracy and you're part of it.

Before we examine what the Soviet premier had to say, here is a little item to remember when you scan your Eugene Register-Guard to see how prospects are for world peace; to wit, despite what most people would have us think, Josef Stalin is not a complete dictator but probably has to worry more than Mr. Truman does about his position in his political party. That might be a grain of salt to take along with any news either pro or con about Russia.

Stalin said, "I am convinced that neither nations nor their armies are seeking another war. They desire peace and are endeavoring to secure peace. This means that 'the current of fear of war' is being brought about by actions of certain political groups engaged in the propaganda of a new war and by these means sowing seeds of discord and uncertainty."

Think it over, in that paragraph might be the "behind the scenes factor," the basic reason for many Russian moves. Russia may have more knowledge about what certain political groups are doing than you do. Maybe they feel they have to for their own security, whereas you feel secure so don't pay much attention except to headlines. Do you know, for example, that there is a highly secret mission going on at present in northern Canada being carried out by hand-picked personnel of the Canadian Army and Air Force to make a study of climatic conditions in that part of the

Arctic similar to the part of Russia which is nearest to us, next to Alaska? They are accompanied by five high-ranking army officers from our United States and one British officer as "observers." Did you know that? The undersigned will stake considerable on the authenticity of the above and that you probably didn't know it and that Russia probably does.

Of course you have to use that grain of salt prescribed and say that Stalin may be saying those things to you know that? The more offensive move. But don't be at all hasty to assure yourself that you needn't question the anti-Russian news. When you read about the Russian-espionage in Canada, remember that above paragraph and linger lengthily over the idea that the river may be as deep as it is wide which seems to be carrying us along toward a hatred of all things Russian.

"It is necessary for public opinion and the ruling circle of all states to organize a wide counter-propaganda against these advocates of a new war and to secure the peace so that not a single action on the part of the advocates of new wars passes without rebuff on the part of the public and press; to expose warmongers without loss of time and give them no opportunity of abusing freedom of speech against the interests of peace."

The "so-called" dictator of Russia said that: does it not make sense? Sure, you might say that he has to say that so he can influence world opinion. Himmler, now those advocates of a new war and tactics used by the Führer of Germany, Adolf Hitler, it's a scheme to get us soft for an attack along with an infiltration of our political life, like termite into a structure. Well, if the structure be built upon a rock it hadn't ought to worry about words or termite. Both have their eradicator, but the analogy here loses its fitness—termites are to be killed but words have to be fought with thought and then more words, but note that THOUGHT comes first.

If you are so suspicious of Russia that you concentrate on every move she makes then the "seeds" of discord and uncertainty may have already been sown too deep to be extirpated like the weeds they are. And those weeds are being irrigated by that river of hate already mentioned. Let's don't start into hate before we have really questioned.

Lenin didn't especially approve of Stalin when the latter was a young, active party man because he thought he was too arrogant, frank, and outspoken. From what this writer has heard he still is outspoken and frank. Maybe that's part of the boisterous spirit that seems contiguous with Russia and Russians, and it used to be with America.

But now America's United States as a nation acts like a blind man with no confidence stepping into a lily pool that he is sure is in reality the ocean. Why, most blind men have more confidence than that, anyway!

What about Russian disapproval of bringing up the Iranian problem before the Security Council? It's a cinch we don't know for sure why. It's also too much of a cinch that most of us assume that we do. It would be good to hear the other side of the story. Regrettably the Russian Bear seems to be afraid of getting blinded by an Eagle wing or a Lion paw. (Do lions have "paws"?) so is being overly cautious. Or maybe the news is being suppressed by certain of our seven lords of the press here in America, or didn't you realize that our news is oftentimes screened for us by a few influential, powerful newspaper publishers.

Please, let's think on those things. I'm selfish. I'm a war vet who hates the Army and all that asinine word stands for. I don't want to be in it again. Oh, no, I wouldn't do away with it, but that's because I'm a bit afraid, a bit afraid that we'll scare ourselves into another fight. But it wouldn't take many intelligent moves by the UNO to make me lose that fear.

Greg Holcomb, phone 5022, war vet and a former corporal.

WASHINGTON LETTER

By PETER EDSON

Register-Guard Washington Correspondent

Sharing the World's Oil

WASHINGTON, April 1—(NEA)—Florida Sen. Claude Pepper's speech on foreign relations, in which he sounded off on the need for sharing the world's oil with Soviet Russia, has more to it than meets the ear.

As a matter of record, development of some of the richest oil fields in the Middle East has been an international operation for the last 25 years. It is shared by two U. S. and two British companies with one French oil concern. They operate as the Iraq Petroleum Company, Ltd. and as such control concessions which run to beyond the year 2000.

For a full understanding of the Pepper proposal, this information must be correlated with recent reports from London that the British government may consider international control of Iranian oil.

This, in turn, must be weighed against the U. S.-British petroleum agreement now awaiting ratification by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The agreement is intended to form the basis for an international treaty with any other nations which care to sign. It would set up an international commission to study and recommend action in the sharing, distribution, and supply of oil. It has its origin in the Atlantic Charter's provision for equitable access to the world's raw materials.

International Development Is Nothing New
 Even this agreement is not as revolutionary as it may sound. Actually, Middle Eastern oil has been an international development project right from the beginning.

The beginning was in 1904, when Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany went to Constantinople to visit the Sultan of Turkey. The visit resulted in the acquisition by the German-owned Turkish railways of a concession to develop the Mosul oil fields. The German effort failed, and it was followed by a period in which every nation tried to get Turkish oil.

An American, Rear Adm. Colby N. Chester, heard about this oil while on a diplomatic mission to Constantinople. He resigned his commission and for 12 years tried to get the concession for U. S. interests. He was beaten out, in 1912, by a combination half British, one-fourth German, and one-fourth Royal Dutch Shell.

World War I put an end to that, and in 1920 the British, by the San Remo agreement, assigned the German interest to the French. U. S. interests were frozen out, but this aroused such a storm that the following year Sir John Gadam came to New York to make a deal. Under it, two U. S. companies, Standard of New Jersey and its subsidiary, Socony Vacuum, each got an 11.875 per cent interest. The French kept a 23.75 interest, and the same amount went to each of two British companies, Shell and Anglo-Iranian Oil. The remaining 5 per cent was held by C. I. Gulbenkian, an Armenian who negotiated the original concession.

Exhibit "A"—The Iraq Petroleum Co.
 This combination is today known as the Iraq Petroleum Co. It has four principal subsidiaries, operating concessions in Iraq, Syria, Palestine, Hejaz, and the southern Arabian peninsula coast. This is the kind of international oil operation Senator Pepper is talking about—with a vengeance.

The only all-American concessions in the Middle East are held by the Bahrain Petroleum Co. and the Arabian-American Petroleum Co. Both companies are owned half by Standard of California and half by the Texas Company. Their concessions cover the Bahrain islands in the Persian Gulf and 281 million acres in eastern and southern Saudi Arabia. Whether or not Senator Pepper would be willing to share these with Soviet Russia, he didn't say.

Recently there have been reports from Moscow that the Soviet government has made overtures to the government of Saudi Arabia for oil concessions. The only unleased territory is western Saudi Arabia, with some frontage on the Red Sea—along Britain's lifeline to the East.

How willing the British would be to have Soviet Russia gain this concession is open to some question. The establishment of international control, as in a joint operating company like Iraq Petroleum, might be one way to compromise the question.

SOCIETY, WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

By ANN CONNELL

Naval Lieutenant Takes Bride Here

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Eugene was the scene of the wedding Thursday afternoon, March 21, of Miss Carol Jeanne Pence, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earl M. Pence, of Kennewick, Wash., to Lt. (jg) Oliver A. Johnson, USNR, son of Rev. and Mrs. G. A. Johnson of Cherry Grove. Rev. Mr. Johnson officiated, assisted by Rev. Ingward Olsen. Robert Larsen sang and Mrs. Herman Hansen played the organ.

The bride, given in marriage by her father, wore a princess dress of white brocade satin, with a coronet of flowers holding in place her net veil. She carried a white Bible with a spray of orchids.

Miss Lorraine Pence was maid of honor for her sister. Her dress was of blue net and she carried a colonial nosegay of spring flowers. Miss Wilma Pence, another sister, was bridesmaid, her dress made of pink net. She also carried a colonial nosegay of spring flowers.

David S. Johnson, the bridegroom's brother, was best man. Mrs. Pence, bride's mother, wore a blue dress with corsage of rosebuds. Mrs. Johnson, mother of the bridegroom, wore a gold-colored dress and also wore a corsage of rosebuds.

A reception was held afterwards at the home of the bride's aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph C. Thomson. Miss Katherine Johnson served the wedding cake and Mrs. H. Pence, grandmother of the bride, poured.

The bride is a graduate of Whitman College where she was affiliated with Phi Mu sorority. The bridegroom is a graduate of Linfield College and for the past thirty-three months has been in the Navy, serving twenty months overseas.

They will be at home in San Francisco until he receives his discharge. For traveling the bride wore a black suit with matching accessories and wore her bridal orchids.

CITATION AWARDED TO WAC CAPTAIN

At a joint social meeting of the United Spanish War Veterans and auxiliary last week, a citation was read and a ribbon presented to Capt. Madia G. Moorehead, Wacs, by the camp commander W. S. Watson.

The citation read: "For meritorious service as a recruiting officer at Houston, Texas, with station at Galveston, Texas, and as commanding officer of the Houston Wac Recruiting District for the period of May 8, 1944 to May 12, 1945. By her devotion to duty and ability in executing the campaign for the recruiting of skilled women for the Wac, the utilization of her talent for public speaking and radio broadcasts in the prosecution of the mission of recruiting, Captain Moorehead has contributed in great degree to the war effort."

Captain Moorehead, who talked at the meeting, was discharged in December after thirty-five months in the army.

A program of music was given by the pupils of Mrs. W. R. Hall, as follows:

"Hungarian Melody," duet by Florence and Francis Hein; "O Solo Mio," piano solo by Elaine Fraedrick; "Starlit Waltz," piano solo by Francis Hein; "Maiden Hymn," piano solo by Gary Wilson; "Let It Snow," vocal solo by Lois Hall; Prelude in C Sharp Minor, by Rachmaninoff, piano solo by Barbara White; vocal duet, "Honey," by Gary Wilson and Elaine Fraedrick, accompanied by Lenore Haldorsen; Aragonaise, piano solo by Anita Olson; two piano solos, "Echoes of the Ball" and "Oh Susanna," by Florence Hein; vocal duet, "Don't Fence Me In," by Gary Wilson and Elaine Fraedrick, accompanied by Lenore Haldorsen; duet by Florence and Francis Hein.

Coffee and doughnuts were served after the program.

CIRCLE TO MEET

Alpha Missionary Circle of First Baptist Church will meet Tuesday afternoon at two o'clock at the church parlors. Annual reports of the officers will be held, and new officers will be elected. Mrs. Lou M. Pope will lead the meeting.

GUILD TO SEW

Regular sewing meeting of St. Mary's Episcopal Guild will be held at the parish house Wednesday, with members taking paper-sack luncheon at noon. There will be quilting and sewing to be done, and a comforter to be tied.

REBEKAHS TO INITIATE

Eugene Rebekah Lodge will meet Wednesday evening at eight o'clock at the IOOF Hall for initiation. On the refreshment committee will be Mrs.

Andrew Anderson and Mrs. Lindon Boroughs, assisted by members whose last names begin with A and B.

April 2, the group will attend a party given by the Oddfellows.

PRESBYTERIAN UNION DIVISIONS TO MEET

The Women's Union Divisions of Central Presbyterian Church will meet Tuesday as follows:

North Division will meet at two o'clock with Mrs. Margaret Lemon, 1280 Mill Street.

South Division will meet at 2080 Charnelton Street with Mrs. D. A. Howland and Miss Olive Leslie at two o'clock.

East Division will have a one o'clock dessert luncheon with Mrs. E. M. Forsythe and Mrs. H. N. Rickerm, 1208 Nineteenth Avenue East. Assistant hostesses are Mrs. Howard Akers and Mrs. Ray A. Elliott.

West Division will have a covered dish luncheon at the home of Mrs. R. S. Griswold, 468 Tenth Avenue West—at one o'clock. Assistant hostesses will be Mrs. Milo Marlett, Mrs. T. T. Parker and Mrs. Fred Moore.

Central Division will meet with Mrs. Lawrence Jensen, 1251 Emerald Street for a one o'clock covered dish luncheon.

Evening Division will meet Thursday evening at seven-forty-five o'clock in Fellowship Hall. Hostesses will be Mrs. Roger Bales and Mrs. C. H. Seacy.

COUNCIL HAS PROGRAM

Women's Council of United Lutheran Church will meet for a one o'clock dessert in the church Tuesday. Mrs. O. P. Nordling will tell stories of Easter music, and Mrs. Wallace S. Baldinger will speak on "Peace Demands Pioneers."

Hostesses will be Mrs. C. W. Mitchell, Mrs. June Scoggs, Mrs. Ed Reinsche, and Mrs. H. M. Davenport. A nursery school for children will be open during the meeting.

MEETING POSTPONED

Eleri Missionary Circle of First Baptist Church will meet Tuesday, April 9, instead of this week, with the meeting scheduled for seven-thirty o'clock at the church.

World Wide Guild Girls will give a play, and Mrs. Luther Steinhauer and Mrs. Jay Mercer will be hostesses. Members are invited to bring guests.

MEET TO SEW

Women's Council of First Christian Church will meet all day Wednesday in the white room of the church for sewing, with a potluck luncheon at noon.

SEWING GROUP TO MEET

Dorcas Society of Seventh-day Adventist Church will meet from four o'clock in the Dorcas Room of the church Wednesday, for sewing.

Thursday Reception Planned for Visitor

Mrs. Eric Johnston, North Pacific regional president of American Association of University Women, who will be a distinguished visitor in Eugene, this week, will be honored by a reception Thursday evening at eight o'clock at Gerlinger hall on the university campus. In addition to members of the Eugene branch AAUW and their guests, leaders of other women's groups of the city are being extended an invitation to meet Mrs. Johnston and to hear her address, which will follow the reception.

Mrs. Johnston, whose husband is the president of the United States Chamber of Commerce, will arrive in Eugene by plane Thursday morning. Members of the Eugene branch executive board will entertain her Thursday noon at the Osburn Hotel at a luncheon open to all AAUW members. Reservations may be made by calling Mrs. R. E. Smith at 397-J. Local, state and national association plans will be discussed with the regional president at the luncheon.

Officers Receive
 In the receiving line for Thursday evening's reception will be Mrs. Johnston; Mrs. Frances Newsom, Eugene branch AAUW president; Mrs. Virgil Earl, state historian; and Mrs. V. N. Freeman, state legislative chairman.

Mrs. Walter Thompson will be in charge of refreshments following Mrs. Johnston's address. Assisting her will be Miss Louise Nimmo, Miss Merle Nimmo, Mrs. E. S. Bartlam, Misses Patti Patton, Mrs. E. F. McGraw and Mrs. R. F. Dawe. Members of the executive board will also serve as hostesses.

Plans Completed
 Plans for Mrs. Johnston's visit were completed at an executive board meeting Wednesday evening at the home of Mrs. Leroy Newland. Mrs. Newsom told board members that the Eugene branch is extremely fortunate in receiving a visit from the regional president at this time, as her heavy itinerary makes it possible for her to visit only two branches in Oregon. When she leaves Eugene Friday she will go to Corvallis for one day. Saturday she will be one of the main speakers at the Oregon state AAUW convention at Forest Grove, and the following week she will attend state conventions in both Idaho and

Washington. Those who have already met Mrs. Johnston describe her as extremely charming and vivacious and whose interests and ideas make her a favorite among women's groups.

Each member of the Eugene branch's Council will be given a written invitation, inviting officers of the group to represent to a reception.

DINNER SLATED

Helmetta Temple, President of the Eugene branch, will have a potluck dinner Tuesday evening at eight o'clock at Knight of Pythias Hall. Mrs. James Fumelle will be chairman of the dinner committee. Initiation has been planned for the lodge meeting.

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