

Town Meeting Debates Practices Of America's Newspaper Editors

The Lane County Town Meeting Tuesday night alternately attacked and defended the American press for the manner in which it meets its responsibilities.

Dr. Howard R. Taylor of the University of Oregon Psychology Department and Ted Goodwin, Journalism student at the University, did most of the criticism while Dean George Turnbull of the University school of Journalism and Paul Deutchmann, city editor of the Register-Guard, furnished most of the defense.

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Fascism and the like." Dean Turnbull, following Dr. Taylor to the rostrum, admitted that the American press has some bad newspapers which purposely pervert or censor certain stories.

Deutchmann spoke next, restricting his comment to international news coverage in the press. "No single correspondent can know all the facts," he declared, "no paper can print all the facts. The only solution is to print the best coverage we can get from the most authoritative sources available, and that is being done in most cases."

Tex Goodwin spoke last and reaffirmed Dr. Taylor's objections, adding: "There seems to be a tendency to stress or slant unduly certain types of stories and to sacrifice some facts in trying to boll down everything into the headlines and lead paragraphs."

Following Goodwin's speech the meeting was thrown open to questions from the audience. This town meeting, the tenth in the weekly series broadcast over KUGN, was sponsored by Sigma Delta Chi, journalism fraternity at the University of Oregon. Steve Worth served as moderator.

Toothache Ruse Nearly Success

BAKER—(AP)—Wesley Davis, 19, had a toothache in his third-floor jail cell in the courthouse here.

Nobody would listen. So he set fire to newspapers and brought all city fire equipment plus the volunteer brigade and most of the citizenry racing to the courthouse.

"I want a dentist, or at least some sympathy," Davis, held for car theft, demanded of the paying firemen.

Sheriff Fred Spence took Davis, handcuffed, to a dentist, where the tooth was extracted.

On the way back to jail, Davis appealed to the sheriff. "Lemme see just once more before we go in, sheriff."

Davis leaned around a courthouse pillar. "Just once more, sheriff," the prisoner appealed.

The sheriff nodded, knowing it. Two more tears—and when the sheriff turned around, Davis was gone.

A few hours later, State Patrolman Lloyd McEwen and Lieutenant McKinnon, through intricate, modern police methods which consisted of following Davis' tracks through the snow—found the fugitive hiding in a coffee barrel behind an apartment house, with the handcuffs in his pocket.

Davis refused to disclose any secrets of the magic profession.

PAPER BAG BANKER CURED HERRIN, Ill.—(AP)—A skeptic who didn't believe in banks "because I lost money in the crash," reconsidered after he had left \$1765 in a paper bag in a Herrin bar. The bartender promptly returned the money, but the man decided the next day that a bank was a safer depository than a paper bag.

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DRAWS WHISKEY DIVIDEND BOSTON—(AP)—Douglas W. Brymer is still wondering whether his car was visited by thieves or Santa Claus. Awakened by a noise in his yard, he saw two men beside his parked car. He yelled and they fled. Next day he found three cases of whisky in the back seat.

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GERDA BROWN, who saved the VLT production of "Blithe Spirit" by stepping in on 24-hour notice to play the part of Ruth, the living wife, one of the leading characters.

Gerda Brown Plays Major Part In Play—With 24 Hours Notice

Newer members of the cast and crew of the VLT show, "Blithe Spirit," playing all the rest of the week at the VLT playhouse at the fairgrounds, are amazed at the work of Gerda Brown, who stepped in to fill the leading lady's place on the night before the show opened.

Laura Nisewer, who was to have played Ruth, the living wife, became ill and could not go on in the part. Opening night, after intense study, Mrs. Brown played the character of Ruth smoothly, although she was forced to carry the "book" through all but the heaviest scenes.

However, so skillfully did she use it that few persons realized that she was reading the part at times.

But to older members, it is a delight, not an amazement. "It's not the first time that Gerda has stepped into the breach in an emergency," say the old timers of the VLT. "She's done it before—that's how we dared to ask her this time. We knew she could!"

Mrs. Brown is one of the most active members of the VLT, herself one of the "old guard" of long-term membership. She is a past president and has served on the board, in addition to active participation in the plays.

She has played in such favorites as "First Lady," "The Drunkard," "L. A. G. Frederick," "Damask Cheek," "The Little Foxes," and "Dark Eyes." Her most recent part was the wife of the country judge in "Town Hall."

She also has directed several plays, notable "The Guardsman" and "Philadelphia Story."

In the present production, which is directed by Grace Sikes, she was assisting with costumes; in fact, she designed and made the costumes of the "spirits" when rented ones failed to meet with approval. She declares she had no foreknowledge that it was to be her own "angel-robe" which she designed for Ruth!

Chinese Politics At Boiling Point

By JAMES D. WHITE Associated Press Staff Writer SAN FRANCISCO—(AP)—Behind the silk curtain of official silence, Chinese politics are boiling.

This in itself is not unusual, but high temperatures are indicated by the way a small minority third party—the Democratic league—with the Communists, is refusing to take part in the national assembly which the central government wanted to convene on Nov. 1.

Without Communist participation, the government might well have gone ahead and convened the assembly anyway. But without Democratic league delegates as well it has postponed it.

Internal tension behind this situation is two-fold. First, there is the fear that the Kuomintang right wing, if allowed to add political victory to its recent military triumphs over the Communists, would find some excuse to go on running the country on a one-party basis. Democratic league members are not pro-Communist. But they don't want things to go on as they are.

The other fear is based on the growing resentment among private Chinese business interests over the way the present administration has reached out to control business and industry on a monopolistic basis. The blame for this many Chinese lay to the present premier, Dr. T. V. Soong. Chinese businessmen who have supported the Kuomintang are yell-

ing now for free enterprise. American Influence Felt Influences in this general direction may not be entirely Chinese. Today John Carter Vincent, the State Department's director of far eastern affairs, told the foreign trade convention in New York that neither public nor private American capital should be invested in countries "with widespread corruption in business and official circles," or where "a government is wasting its substance on excessive armament," or "where the threat or fact of civil war exists, where tendencies toward government monopolization where undemocratic government are controlling."

Inasmuch as the Chinese government has been spending more than 80 per cent of its budget on its armed forces, has been waging a civil war with the Communists, and still has its own conclusion that Mr. Vincent is a China expert) was the and about China is difficult to and cooperation—which investment—China's future bargain, especially for Chi-

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