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"They Have No Alumni Association"

In Oregon, as in every other state, Mental Health is a very big public problem. We have approximately 5,500 patients in three big institutions — the Oregon State Hospital at Salem, with more than 3,000 average; the Eastern Oregon State Hospital at Pendleton, with approximately 1,000; the Fairview Home at Salem, with 1300 mentally deficient of all ages.

they acknowledge some of the errors but stick to their 12 major recommendations, the most significant of which are:

- Remove mental institutions from the supervision of the Board of Control (Governor, secretary of state and state treasurer) and put them under a State Mental Health Authority. Construct a large facility for the mentally sick in Multnomah county. Modernize the procedures for commitments. A state-wide system of mental health clinics and a co-ordinated program of undergraduate and graduate training at the Medical School and the state hospitals for those who deal with the mentally ill.

Having visited the major institutions at Salem, Mr. Frazier is merely reporting on what he found. He thinks the City Club reports may have been a bit extreme — at least in its implied criticisms, and he thinks the officials may have been "a bit too touchy."

Robert B. Frazier, in his series of articles in the Register-Guard shows that in spite of all that has been accomplished in recent years:

Oregon is still short of mental health clinics, out-patient facilities where much might be done to anticipate and prevent even cure mental disorders in the early stages.

There is a pathetic lack of facilities for the adequate care and treatment of the mental disorders which accompany old age.

In many wards our hospitals are still over-crowded. We are woefully deficient in recreational facilities for patients and in many cases of the therapeutic facilities which aid the cure of mental disease.

In October, a special committee of the Portland City Club made a report which criticized sharply some of the conditions in our mental hospitals and the rather haphazard procedures under which many commitments are made. This report drew fire from Lawson McCall, secretary to Governor McKay, in which he pointed out a few factual inaccuracies in the City Club report — such as their statement that the Oregon State Hospital was not accredited, a condition which was corrected in August. The City Club committee has filed a supplemental report in which

As President Conant Sees It

"academic freedom" does not apply. It was the sole exception, however, that he would make.

That was plain talk, strong talk, the kind of talk that representatives of some of our Pacific coast institutions have needed to hear.

Dr. Conant faced facts just as realistically when he considered the economic problems arising from the war and recognized that those problems will take harder work and a long-drawn period of something akin to the British "austerity" before there could be any possibility of return to what we have come to look upon as normal living. This period could go on for years — for a quarter, perhaps half a century — he warned, one of those things which have now become unavoidable.

Some listeners with whom we talked afterward professed to be somewhat disappointed at what they chose to refer to as the speaker's "lack of profundity." Perhaps they meant by that that he did not parade the batallion of technical terms at his command. No, he did not. He used plain, interesting, forceful English to get over some pretty plain and not especially pleasant facts. But the facts are those of the nation's (yes, the world's) most baffling, most far-reaching question today. He had no panacea, for there can be none; he stayed away from idealism, and properly so. Facts were what were needed, and he gave them.

The elections over the country probably reminded a lot of people not to vote.

An Ohio woman identified a robber who snatched her husband's pay envelope. Now she probably has it.

According to a college professor, a man's laugh reveals his character. Especially if he has heard the joke before.

Officials over the nation have cracked down on football pool tickets—making it quite clear they're not taking any chances.

We suggest solitary confinement for the first person who says, "Only a few more weeks until Christmas."

When you make promises to friends and fail to come through, you are!

Marquis Childs' Weapon Shifting Calculated Risk

WASHINGTON — The risk involved in sending most of the weapons to come off American assembly lines to Europe to equip European divisions of the NATO was very carefully weighed by top officials in the Department of Defense.



The risk, of course, is that these European divisions would be overwhelmed in an all-out assault by Soviet Russia. The mass of guns, tanks and so forth provided by the United States would then be left on European battlefields to be seized by the Russians.

The factor which makes it possible to take this grave risk is the tremendous change occurring in atomic weapons. The latest atomic tests at Las Vegas, Nevada, confirm what had already been pretty evident.

The small atomic bomb is a practical weapon to use against enemy troops in the field. The incidental effects — atomic radiation, etc. — do not endanger the forces employing the weapon.

Most important of all is what this means to America's atomic stockpile. The feasibility of the small atomic bomb means that in effect the stockpile is quadrupled. With an abundance of atomic weapons they need no longer be hoarded for careful, calculated use against top priority targets.

"We can drop them out of every plane we've got and blast the army that any enemy puts in the field."

This knowledge, incidentally, may well be stiffening the determination of American negotiators in Korea to refuse even minor concessions asked by the Communists. Whether these new small atomic weapons will be available in numbers in three months or six months is a top secret.

So, in the view of defense planners, Russia's mass armies can be stopped with the revolutionary new weapon in a show-down. But to prevent such a destructive show-down the creation of a western European army in the shortest possible time is essential.

MONEY APPROPRIATED

Transfer to European divisions of the American weapons requires no specific authorization from Congress. The money for the rearmament program was appropriated under the broad interpretation that it is spent to provide security for the United States.

Responsibility for that security rests with the joint chiefs of staff and the National Security Council. The decision to make the transfer could be taken in the interests of America's own security. That security could best be served by building a western European bulwark as quickly as possible through a radical shift in the allocation of weapons.

While this authority clearly exists, President Truman has nevertheless been advised to consult with top Democrats and Republicans of key congressional committees on the new program. What is likely to happen is that ranking members of the Senate Armed Services and Foreign Relations committees will be called to Washington in mid-December for consultations on decisions that, as now believed, will be confirmed at the meeting of NATO council in Rome next week.

Since this drastic revision of the western defense program was initiated by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, it is bound to affect his personal fortunes and especially since those fortunes are so closely linked to politics here at home. Eisenhower was undoubtedly motivated in part by a desire to show greater accomplishment in a shorter time. If he could return by mid-1952 with that more tangible accomplishment well launched, his own position would be strengthened.

His enemies will therefore impugn Eisenhower's motives and in all probability attack the plan itself. There were many reasons, of course, why the revised program seemed of vital importance. One was the increasing strain being put on the economies of Western Europe in the effort to build armament facilities with the cost of raw materials mounting in the inflationary spiral.

To one reporter it has seemed that even in this early stage of the change-over the American public could be given far more information about what is being undertaken. As so often in the past, everything is being officially held back, presumably on the theory that it must be unveiled for public view as a completed whole.

The basic decisions are being taken in Europe, where American cabinet members and their staffs, together with top military men, are working to get the broadest possible agreement on the new approach to the defenses of the west. When this appears in print, this reporter will be in Europe seeking to learn what those decisions mean.

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The Shepherd THANKSGIVING EVE "Give thanks to the Lord." Luke 2:38 We link Thanksgiving with Plymouth Rock . . . But Paul thanked God at Antioch . . . While David sang his thankful chard . . . And Anna "gave thanks unto the Lord" . . . We find the chief thanks-giver of all . . . Was Job, who under affliction's pall . . . Could find much to be thankful for . . . So why can't we, in spite of war . . . Uncertain future and world privation . . . for all we have be a grateful nation? JULIEN C. HYER



In The Editor's Mailbag

TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE! LOS GATOS, Cal.—(To the Editor)—A friend sent me news clippings of Peter Horn's tragic death and the accompanying editorial you wrote regarding traffic fatalities.

Although our family presumably is on sabbatical leave from academic and civic duties there in Eugene, I find I cannot refrain from writing in regard to this matter. I will add, however, that I am not writing this letter for newspaper publication necessarily, but trust that through your contacts and influence, some suggestions I am about to make may strike a responsive chord with you or some civic-minded group in Eugene.

This was the third Eugene traffic death that has meant more to me than just a statistical item in the paper. The tragic death of young Michael McKenzie received very little newspaper publicity or police action, I believe, although eye-witnesses verified that the 12 year-old lad was obeying traffic rules and the 16 year-old auto driver who killed him was not.

The death of Mrs. Armstrong on East 15th Avenue bears down on my conscience, for perhaps the neighborhood could have prevented that unfortunate accident. Two years ago, while I was acting as president of the Condon School P-TA, our Executive Committee tried, through the earnest efforts of the Safety Chairman, to get the traffic section of the Eugene Police Department to place STOP signs on 15th Avenue to insure safety for our school

children as well as the neighborhood itself. The efforts were met with apparent indifference. Too late, I can see now, that we should not have accepted defeat but should have circulated another of the famous Condon School petitions for action. Is the barn door locked now; that is to say, does 15th Avenue now display STOP signs at the dangerous intersections?

Any penalties that might be placed on the guilty persons who have caused traffic accidents are of little avail after the damage is done. Prevention of the accidents is the answer. In response to the questions put forth in your editorial, I would like to make some suggestions for the betterment of the situation as I see it, striving toward prevention through education and community action.

1) The value of auto-driving classes in producing careful, sound-thinking and courteous drivers has been proven beyond a doubt. Unfortunately, learning to drive by this means is prohibitive in cost to many persons.

Could not this important and life-saving service, therefore, be provided through other and less costly channels, such as the city or the state traffic departments?

2) At the time of issuance of new driving permits, each driver should be required to view the films showing the results of accidents when traffic rules have been violated.

3) Eye-catching markers should be placed at every spot where an accident has occurred. (What a

long list of statistics would be revealed at each intersection on East 15th Avenue, for example!) Where death has occurred, a cross should be placed. (The state of Ohio uses this means of cautioning drivers to take heed.)

4) Newspapers should not shield its readers by a failure to print revealing pictures of bad auto accidents.

5) Speed limits should be studied. Allow drivers to proceed at a fair speed where traffic conditions permit, but give plenty of warning signals when speed limits change.

6) Lastly, why cannot some service club, the Chamber of Commerce or the Motor Vehicle department undertake to put on an intensive campaign to eradicate the "speed bug" and poor driver from the road? Just as the state of California stops its soil from becoming infested from blighted fruit or plants, why cannot the State of Oregon or even the City of Eugene stop all motorists to acquaint them of the need of driving safely to protect its citizens, and when the information has been given, to provide the car with a windshield sticker proclaiming same?

Very truly yours, MRS. KARL J. BELSER

Editor's Mailbag

FLUORINE EUGENE — (To the Editor) Just WHY are Eugene and vicinity residents to be shamed by a hoax that will cost them money and misery . . . the hoax that is being perpetuated by referring to fluoridating drinking water. Chemists long ago discovered that fluorine, a catalytic agent, makes calcium and phosphorus in the bloodstream combine to form the enamel of teeth. BUT

the fluorine that acts as a catalytic agent in the body and hardens the enamel of the teeth is not an inorganic fluorine . . . the kind you tend to use on our water. The fluorine that hardens teeth is altered in character by bacteria in the soil and changed to organic fluorine so it may be utilized by plants. That is the organic fluorine you get in quantities from food sources. It is the only kind of fluorine that has a good effect on teeth.

When the inorganic fluorine comes in contact with the teeth it makes brown spots on them and actually DESTROYS THE ENAMEL. Scientists know that fact! INORGANIC FLUORINE IS POISON. It is deadly. If you in doubt about it, read some of the medical, or scientific, books on the subject. Read what had to say about it before certain business interests made worthwhile for a few leaders in chemical and scientific groups to forget the facts already known.

How strong a hold do the minimum manufacturing gentiles have on the American public? Why are so many officials, newspapers and magazines so ignorant of the facts, or afraid to publish anything that may hurt their interests? We accept chlorine in our drinking water without thorough consideration of its mate effect on the human eye. Will Eugene and vicinity residents do the same with INORGANIC fluorine . . . a POISON and useless by-product in aluminum manufacture? Why not make an IMPARTIAL STUDY FIRST, to decide whether we are to be shackled with this menace and useless expense? R. H. CRANE

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