

Senate Delay on Formosa Resolution Made Our Nation Appear Indecisive

The United States Senate late Friday over-rode the objections of a small band of senators and overwhelmingly backed President Eisenhower's resolution to defend Formosa and its outposts. It took too long in the Senate, and what bothers us is that these few senators made our government appear indecisive in the tense Far East situation. Among these senators are Wayne Morse of Oregon, Ralph Flanders of Vermont, William Langer of North Dakota and Herbert Lehman of New York. They talk of "preventive war" and by so doing play directly into the hands of those who listen to Communist propaganda that we are trying to foment World War III.

The situation in the Formosa Straits is extremely dangerous and this action on the resolution supporting the President does not necessarily lessen the danger to this country. But while away precious time in debate by this small group when united determination is needed for its psychological impact on the rest of the world is more dangerous when you are dealing with a crafty foe.

The President asked for full war powers to defend Formosa and its outposts. He also said that any decision in this respect would be his alone and not that of any line officer or Chiang Kai-shek.

All you have to do is look at a map to see why Formosa must be our line of defense in the Pacific. It lies only 220 miles north of the Philippines. If we should allow the Chinese Reds to grab Formosa, obviously the next plum would be the Philippines, under the leadership of Ramon Magsaysay, which are peopled by our staunchest friends in the Far East.

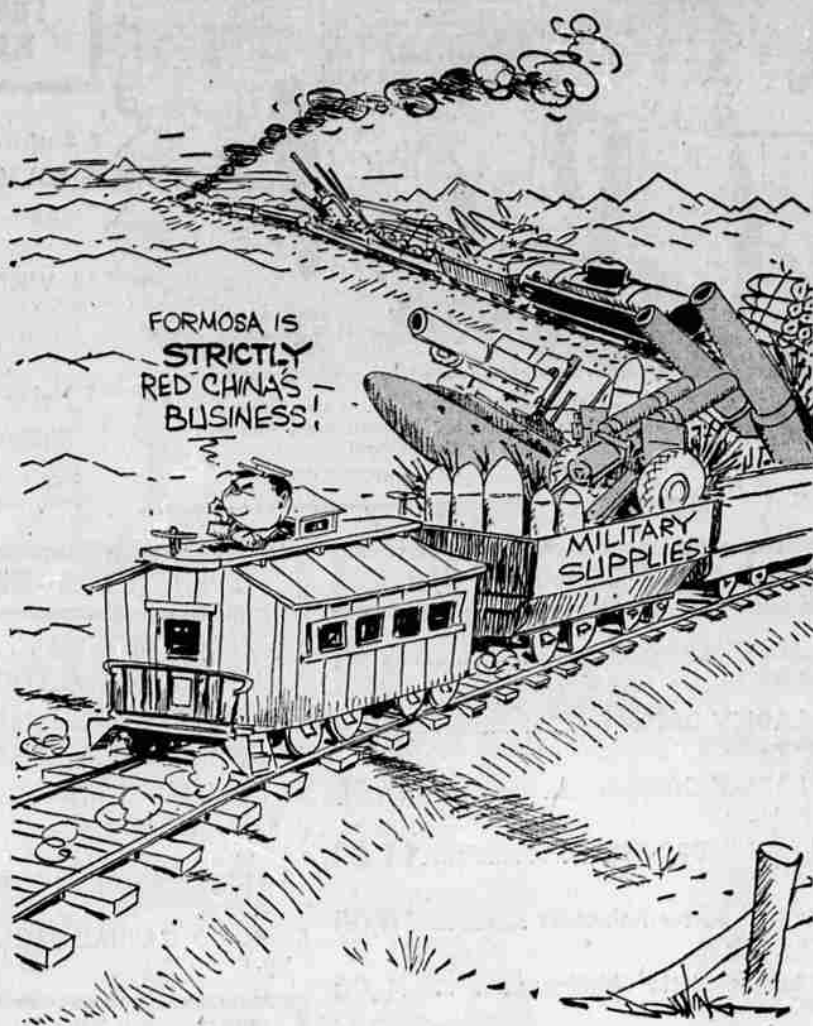
Senators Morse, Langer, and Lehman

see danger of a strike at the Chinese mainland BEFORE any Red move on Formosa. Senator Humphrey of Minnesota wanted to limit action strictly to the defense of Formosa and the Pescadores. So we ask, what would these gentlemen propose this nation do? Let the Seventh Fleet and our other forces be sitting ducks for Red bombardment? Would they have us draw another imaginary line (shades of the Yalu) in the narrow channel between Formosa and the mainland which is a matter of a few minutes by air?

Certainly the President by action, deed and word does not want or intend to engulf us in war. He has asked that we unitedly define our policy for the world to know and says if the Chinese Reds attack Formosa and its outposts we will act. If that should happen, we could expect that the Seventh Fleet and our air forces would shell and bomb airfields and other military installations on the coast of the Chinese mainland where Red invasion efforts were being launched. If this were not possible, it would make the defense of Formosa almost untenable because of its proximity to the Chinese mainland.

This is not a case of launching preventive war as some of our senators would have us believe. It is a matter of taking united action to show Chou En-lai and his cohorts that we mean business. It will provide a climate in which a cease-fire between the Reds and Nationalists may be possible — and on more equal terms. The President was right in taking this issue to the Congress, and the legislative branch has accepted the challenge to show a united front on this issue which may go far toward promoting peace in the Far East.

Opinion From Moscow



IN THE EDITOR'S MAILBAG

Reply on Power

EUGENE (To the Editor)—In reply to Mrs. C. H. Phetteplace on private versus public power, I am in agreement with her desire to talk sense on this subject. However, talking sense on the Idaho Power Co. entails a different set of details than she presents. In citing the tax revenues which she feels are lost when a private company fails to have control of the power production in an area she then assumes that the lost taxes must be made up out of the taxpayer's pocket.

I wonder if the proponents of this absurd argument which Mrs. Phetteplace has sponsored have ever faced the fact that it is the citizen who buys from the private power company and who pays the private power company's taxes for them. Private power companies do not get their income, including tax money, from trees. They get it from the public. The taxes which private power companies pay are included in their rates. To argue that such a procedure saves the taxpayer money is not talking sense. In fact, the higher rates attached to the operation of a private power company often not only cost the average citizen more money for his power but frequently the higher rates discourage the development of new industry which means more income for a community on a factual basis.

In particular in regard to the Idaho Power Co., Mrs. Phetteplace should give consideration to the location of the Idaho Power Co.'s main headquarters. She will find that the ownership and center of this concern is in the New England states. She will also find that there has been no government power project in this area and that the rates are twice the national average. Along with this she should speculate on the number of stockholders of this concern who do not reside in Idaho or western states at all. It is most obvious that Idaho Power Co. profits are not all being spent in Idaho.

Proponents of private power as opposed to public power also frequently resort to the argument that private power means free enterprise and the use of their own funds in the construction of privately-owned dams. First, it should be recognized that the control of electric power production in a community does not involve competition. Whether power production is public or private it is a natural monopoly and certainly doesn't involve the popular concept of competitive free enterprise. The citizen does not have a choice among several different companies in obtaining electricity for his home. Secondly, the construction of new dams under private jurisdiction involves the use of a certain portion of the income which the private company obtains from the purchaser of electricity and in this respect the purchaser pays for the construction of new dams in the rates he is charged. In either private or public power development, then, the average citizen foots the bill.

It should be noted also that in the last two years private power companies have not been faced with nearly the taxation problem that they maintain, which makes the claim to superiority based on paying taxes even more shaky. The national total in tax exemption grants to private power companies in the last two years now stands at 2.8 billion dollars, based on the idea that this tax exemption will help them to expand. If private power companies are so against government interven-

tion in business why don't they assert their vaunted individualism and stop seeking and obtaining assistance from the government. If this issue is to be discussed constructively it will have to be dealt with on a different basis than suggested by private power proponents. I agree, let's talk sense on this issue.

Sincerely yours,
JAMES R. STEELE JR.
1411 Onyx St.

Go on Record

BETHEL (To the Editor)—Does the Eugene City Council actually want the Bethel-Danebo area to annex to the city of Eugene? If they do, why don't they go on official record to the effect that if these areas annex to Eugene they will apply and immediately set up for the re-districting of the council wards for the entire area so Bethel-Danebo and the near fringe areas of Eugene could have their own council representative. There has been a lot of talk concerning this but no action.

I don't know but it looks to me like the Eugene council really means business and if they really want the Danebo-Bethel area to consider annexation to Eugene they should first show their interest to the extent that they would officially go on record allowing this area a representative on the City Council. This would show the people of Bethel and Danebo that their intent of purpose is a fair businesslike representation of the entire area affected. Bethel-Danebo area would be entitled to a representative because there is an excess of 5,000 people in the area.

Wouldn't it be good business to take concrete action instead of talking about the problems?

GEO. M. PETERSEN
3011 Elmira Rd.

Distressed

EUGENE (To the Editor)—Because I have a fundamental admiration for your newspaper on many issues, I was hoping that the resignation of William Tugman would bring about some change in your treatment of state and local politics. I am distressed that this is obviously not true, and that the hand of your former editor still lays heavy upon your press.

Your editorial on organization of the house and senate in Oregon, for instance, shed crocodile tears for certain Democrats. Many of us are not appreciative of this type of sympathy; the Democratic Party is growing up and we can win or lose our own committee posts without being "kept" by the Republican majority. Secondly, your editorial is a device; it is mere sound and fury, and as you will realize, will have no effect whatsoever upon the electorate, or anything else except to give your newspaper the appearance of being independent (which it disputes!).

This is shown up in your editorial on Senate Bill No. 6. In 1954 the people of this county voted for redistricting. Now, YOU and the Republican legislature would deny the people of Lane County their clear choice which is the enabling act found in Senate Bill No. 6. Redistricting would guarantee Democratic representation from Lane County and would break the back of the

Republican monopoly. Your argument against Senate Bill No. 6 is that it would break up the "team." Where have I heard that word before? Certainly, not in the independent party.

In the Saturday Review for January 1st, there is an article entitled "Newspapers Shouldn't Play God" by Herbert Brucker. I earnestly recommend this to you.

Very truly yours,
KEITH D. SKELTON
119 E. Broadway

(Editor's Note: We read that article. If Mr. Skelton read it, which appears doubtful, he missed the point.)

Feels Impelled

EUGENE (To the Editor)—You know, Mr. Editor, having been a deskman myself for many years, I have a "little inkling" of some of your problems and I don't like to pile too much paper stuff before your weary and unbespeckled eyes, but I got a "crack pot" idea that keeps hammering at my "conscience" or whatever it is that impels a person to do what he decides should be done.

A few days ago I got an invitation by the Mrs. in charge of the Welfare Bureau to write a letter to the Governor — so I'm just "killing off" two letters at once by sending it to the "old reliable Guard." If you see the Governor you can hand him a copy if you print my penned remarks.

When a man finds his efforts to earn a living balked, and his former employer has been deducting Uncle Sam's and Oregon State's tax and all the man sees is a check for "take home pay," his pocket is empty and he goes into the Relief or Welfare. "Sorry, we can't do a thing for you. Too many people on the rolls. Go down to the Salvation Army or Faith Chapel and get your bowl of soup!" Now, don't get me wrong, Mr. Editor, I've been awfully close to the Salvation Army's work and I'm friendly toward its purpose and its achievements, but when a man has to dig up cold cash (single men especially—look at the tax rate on single men)—he would like to be able to get some little benefit from his tax expenditures without having to get down on his knees and "pray" for it!

But my purpose in "penning" this account is to draw the public's attention to an acute problem in economics—that minority groups are not represented in our halls of Legislation—no one to take up matters that vitally concern many people unable to cope with the "meaning of the law." We are pouring millions into new schools, yet the problem of welfare is getting more acute, and anxiety among unfortunate folks is a daily problem.

A few years back I checked on the amount contributed to welfare by liquor interests—\$10 million in this State of Oregon. That sounds like a pile of money, yet it wasn't enough to meet welfare needs.

A good idea is for everyone to go to church on Sunday and turn all collections over to local welfare instead of sending them to Tang-a-Yika! Just one Sunday—no more!

Yeh, Editor and Governor, it's tough, but when I get that acre of ground and grow my own spuds, I'll see that welfare gets at least one sack!

EDGAR ZEHRUNG
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MARQUIS CHILDS

President's Asia Resolution Leaves 'Undefined Areas'

WASHINGTON — Once President Eisenhower had put before Congress the resolution asking authority for American air and sea forces to defend Formosa, its swift and virtually unanimous acceptance was inevitable. Any public difference would have been fatal to the effort to demonstrate American unity behind the resolve to hold not alone Formosa but those offshore islands essential to the defense of Formosa.

But while they may or may not register their doubts publicly at this point, some Senators, both Republicans and Democrats, are distinctly unhappy over the abruptness with which the problem was dumped in the lap of Congress. This sudden action came when, as these same Senators point out, it should have been apparent for months that American responsibility had to be more closely defined.

Nothing was done until Red China's attack on the Tachen Islands made a decision urgent. The Nationalists could not hold those islands without American support. Once the Communists launched their attack, the military commanders on the spot had to know how far their authority extended.

GRAVE DOUBTS

There also are grave doubts both in the Foreign Relations and the Armed Services Committees of the consequences of this step. While the President insisted it was a move for peace, some Senators feel it can lead to war of indefinite duration and of unforeseeable magnitude. These fears arise partly from the extent of the authority put in the hands of military men on the spot.

The attitude of top air and naval commanders is well known. They have talked in the recent past of the inevitability of a showdown and they want that showdown to come as quickly as possible.

Only a few days before the President asked Congress to act, Radford returned from a swing around the Far East, which included a visit with Chiang Kai-shek on Formosa, and advocated publicly a blockade of China if

all other measures for freeing the 11 American fliers should fail. Radford is believed to have been one of the most influential in determining the language of the message to Congress, with its broad scope and the inspired interpretation that it covers the islands of Quemoy and Matsu immediately off the China coast.

FEAR OF WAR

But it can be stated with authority that when the joint chiefs testified before the Senators in closed session, Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway, chief of staff of the Army, did not modify the view he has held from the beginning of the controversy over Chinese intervention. Ridgway reaffirmed his opinion that to permit American bombers to attack airports and points of concentration on the China mainland is to invite a full-scale Asian war in which American ground forces certainly will be involved sooner rather than later.

This was Ridgway's viewpoint last September when Radford and Gen. Nathan Twining, chief of the staff of the Air Force, were urging attacks by American bombers on mainland airbases. At that time the President sided with Ridgway, holding in the National Security Council that the risk of war involved was too great.

The Senators who heard the joint chiefs on the President's resolution felt that Radford had finally had his way. In Radford's interpretation the military commanders in the Formosa straits will have authority to determine what islands are vital to the defense of Formosa. Before the committee Ridgway was a lonely figure. Adm. Robert B. Carney, chief of naval operations, sided with Twining and Radford.

UNDEFINED AREAS

Those Senators who fear an incident, or a series of incidents, that will mean an all-out war in Asia have a sense of helplessness before the present situation. They are asking questions for which there seem to be no definite answers.

That, in the view of the doubters, is one of the weaknesses of the President's message. It leaves so many undefined areas. And determined men, who know what they want in relation to China policy, can move into those areas and take over.

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ON THE NEWS-STAND

'Main Street' Revisited; It's Not the Same Old Town

"The Little Towns" by Dorothy Thompson in the February Ladies' Home Journal.

Dorothy Thompson, who was once married to Sinclair Lewis, takes a retrospective look at Gopher Prairie, the little Minnesota town in which her former husband set his first major novel, "Main Street." If Gopher Prairie ever was the town that Sinclair Lewis described a generation ago, it isn't that way now.

In a glowing defense of the "sticks," Miss Thompson, a columnist of international reputation, argues that it is here, in towns of under 50,000 population, that the American dream has come nearest to reality. She laments that foreigners too often

"see America" only in its great cities.

America, she says, "is worst represented in its great cities, and these are what the foreigner usually sees . . . But for comfort, cleanliness, comeliness, coziness, few, if any, countries can match the American small town . . ."

She says she wishes she could escort an important Russian—"incognito, in a false mustache—along with me, to show him what community, as contrasted with communism, can be; to show him the wonderful friendliness of small-town America where nobody is an anonymous cipher."

She is impressed both by the local civic consciousness of the small town, and by the awareness and lack of provincialism of its people. "In the great cities," she contends, "people vote for reforms. In the little towns they undertake them."

And she says, "If there are any small towns without proportionately as many civilized, informed, public-spirited, and wide-awake people as there are in the great cities, I haven't been in them."

"The brand has taken over," the business sections, the "Main Streets" until the merchandise offered — and therefore eaten, worn and used—can hardly be distinguished from one town to another. The woman in Ardmore, Okla., may be wearing a cheap dress from a chain store, but it is approximately the same dress that is being worn on Park Ave. or Hollywood Blvd.

Take a feed dealer from Manhattan, Kan., and plop him down in New York's fanciest restaurant, and he'll know how to act. He'll know because he's seen Gregory Peck act that way in the movies.

In small-town America, she observed, "It's in style to care about others. People who are rich are not a social elite only because they are rich. They have to show they are interested in community problems before they reach the elite stage. In fact, she notices a trend which makes it not "in style" to appear to be rich.

The five Americans who have won the Nobel prize for literature all came from small towns, she points out. And so did most of the other writers of major reputation. Many of them (Faulkner, for example) remain in their small towns and see the big cities only when they visit to pick up their checks and distinguished prizes.

She suggests that if Carol Kennicott, the put-upon heroine of "Main Street," were to go back to Gopher Prairie today, she would not recognize it. Miss Thompson doubts if Carol would have left in the first place, because "there is too much going on."

Who's 'Of Age'?

When does a person grow up? That's a question that seems to be taking up a lot of time in legislative bodies and even in the White House, not to mention the time it takes up in family dwellings where junior wants the car. President Eisenhower says he thinks a person of 18 should vote. That's what they think in Georgia, where an 18-year-old can vote. The armed forces feel that a person of 18 is old enough to fight. Various states feel various ways about how old a person must be to get married, drive a car, or pay full price for a fishing license.

In Portland recently the question came up in connection with the case of an 18-year-old girl who bought liquor. She was married, so a judge ruled that a girl old enough to get married is old enough to buy a drink. This brought an immediate howl from the prohibitionists who accused the judge of perpetrating a non sequitur. The Liquor Commission backed up the prohibitionists and said the age limit was 21, by gum.

Over in Idaho the Legislature is toying with the idea of lowering the voting age—not to 18 as the President suggested, but to 19. Why 19 is anybody's guess. And in the Oregon Legislature Sen. Stewart Hardie of Condon says you might as well repeal laws saying minors can't smoke cigarettes. They all do, he says. However Sen. Hardie would leave in effect the law prohibiting the sale of cigarettes to minors. What he never thought of, of course, is that a legal situation which prohibits minors from buying their cigarettes, but permits them to smoke, does nothing except create a whole new generation of cigarette moochers. And we have enough people like that already.

Golden Book

The Oregon Blue Book has arrived. Only it isn't blue anymore; it's golden, with blue letters and a blue picture of "Golden Boy" on the cover. "Golden Boy," you know, is that statue atop the Capitol dome in Salem. But whatever color the Blue Book is, we welcome it. Contained therein is a wealth of information on Oregon—pages of statistics, an up-to-date copy of the State Constitution, and all sorts of things that are "useless information" until you need them.

Oregon is one of the few states that has such a volume. Appearing as it does every two years, it is invaluable in keep-

ing Oregon residents abreast of state problems. It is likely that the half dozen Blue Books in use in this office will be blue worn out by the time the next Blue Book appears in 1957.

We're especially pleased to see the book at this time of year. In other years it has appeared after the Legislature has gone home. That way it has the new laws in it. But this way it has information of the Legislature now in session, and it has statistics on last November's election. We also miss the fancy spiral binding that was on most of the books issued last time. But we can't have everything.

Happy, Happy Land

Ever since Christmas when the Klamath Falls Herald and News decided to try printing nothing but good news on Page 1 for a whole week, there has been discussion up and down the state of this thing known as "good news." Steve Loy at the LaGrande Observer thumbed through the Kiplinger magazine, Changing Times, and lifted this happy picture of the land of the free and the home of the brave:

There are 162,922,000 Americans who are not members of the Communist party. Some 37,011,460 couples will stay more or less happily married during the year.

On the average, there are 63,868,000 people working to bring home the bacon. Last year, the scheduled airlines safely carried passengers 18,902,134,841 miles in the U. S. and possessions; railroads safely carried passengers 31,674,931,200 miles.

Some 162,717,890 persons will not die of cancer in 1955.

And 162,380,580 persons will be safe from fatal heart attacks.

About 629,000,000 acres of forest land will not be set on fire by careless smokers and picnic-goers this year.

Most of the time, 15,720,000 organized workers are not on strike. Of the 18,977,472 little boys in the country who are under the age of 10, only six or possibly seven will have to go through the terrible ordeal of being President of the United States.

At least 162,944,424 people have not been frightened by seeing flying saucers hurtle through the air.

The Internal Revenue service will find that 43,846,154 income tax returns are filed correctly in 1955.

Finally, there are 83 countries in the world that have not discovered the secret of the hydrogen bomb.

Eric Allen, down at the Medford Mail Tribune, lifted the LaGrande item and observed that it was only eight and a half weeks till spring. We've got Medford beat. Here it's only seven weeks till spring, and the "first robin" has been hopping around the backyard all winter.