Capital Journal

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"With or without offense to friends or foes
I sketch your world exactly as it goes."

Fine But Not Enough

There is a reminder in today's ceremony of laying the cornerstone of the new state library and in the many state departments and offices scattered here and there about Salem and Portland in rented quarters that the state building group here, as proposed by the capitol architects, is but started.

Further building must be undertaken immediately if the state is to catch up and keep pace with the unprecedented growth of existing departments and the addition of more occasioned by expansion of the social security program. Two years ago when construction of the new capitol was authorized by the legislature it was calculated that its completion would provide spoce in the state office building for most of the departments housed in rented quarters here.

Less than a year later the legislature, convinced of the inadequacy of the single new structure, ordered the acquisition of four blocks of additional land and the erection of the state library with provision for including a few general offices in it.

Today, with the governor, secretary of state, treasurer, budget department, board of control and a few others making ready to occupy the new capitol it is apparent that the space they vacate in the office building will acocommodate only about a third of the departments now housed in rented quarters in Salem alone. Of the remaining two-thirds, perhaps ten percent will be accommodated by occupation of the library next January.

An office building as large as the present one is urgently needed from the standpoint of both convenience and economy to provide room for the overflow of offices located here even now, without taking into consideration the ever increasing demand for space attendant upon governmental expansion. By the legislative decree under which it functions the capitol commission has authority and part of the money in the balance of the library and property acquisition appropriation with which to start an additional building. The emergency board has power to augment the property purchase fund if necessary.

To this end the possibility of securing a further PWA grant from the new funds at the disposal of the president should be thoroughly investigated by the commission.

Government Owned Newspapers

Heywood Broun, leftist columnist and president of the CIO affiliated American Newspaper Guild at the recent annual convention at Toronto, advocated governmental establishment of newspapers in large cities where at present "existing newspapers are in the hands of single interests" to insure "real freedom of the press."

When government of any kind controls the press, the press becomes mere propaganda for the politicians and party in power and there is neither freedom of the press nor dissemination of uncolored news. The press of Italy, Russia and Germany proves this beyond possibility of dispute.

The result would not be different in this country if its government ran the newspapers. They would reflect the policies of the party in power, whether new deal or old deal or communist. The people would know only what the politicians thought good for them. Would a party that does not hesitate to sanction the use of relief funds to win an election, stop at using a federal press for the same purposes?

We have freedom of the press in democratic countries simply because of private ownership which reflects every possible conflicting view editorially but must print news impartially because readers demand it and every issue is a popular referendum on the newspapers which depend on popular support. The day of the political newspaper organ has passed, but government ownership would restore it.

American newspapers have their faults and abuses but the only alternative is the kind that promote the policies of politicians and individual rulers intent on suppressing freedom, to silence opposition. A government owned press would be suicidal to liberty.

There is no monopoly of press ownership for anyone who desires can start a newspaper and say what he wants. Most of those who condemn the press are like Mr. Broun, interested in some screwy ism to remodel the nation along fascist or communist lines.

Spy Ring Indicted

The indictment in New York by a federal grand jury of 18 Germans and German-Americans, two of them officials in the Reich war ministry, for alleged participation in a plot to steal American defense secrets, designates Germany as the foreign power most actively engaged in seeking military knowledge of the United States.

There is little in the nature of a surprise in the result of this prolonged investigation of spy rings. Germany had such knowledge before the outbreak of the World war and proceeded to use it in the days of American neutrality to destroy munition plants and shipping. Similar tactics could be expected in case of another war involving Germany.

The Nazi government is engaged in wholesale espionage in Russia, South America and in Western and Central Europe, to promote its program of expansion. Probably all the military secrets of all the nations are known to the Reich war ministry as they perhaps have always been. All the great powers have similar systems of espionage though it seems largely wasted effort.

Although these espionage indictments are one of the most potentially grave international developments in our peace time history, and the investigattion is far from complete there will probably be no serious developments. If those who are tried are found guilty they will receive prison sentences, in war time they would be shot. But all but four of those named have fled the country after operating here for four years.

Honor Misses Wright

Jefferson — A family party and buffet supper, honoring Miss Mina Wright of Los Angeles, and Miss Anna Wright of Oakland, Calif., was given Saturday evening at the home of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Wright. Present were Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Wright and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Wright of Albany; Mrs. P. N. Smith of Burton, Wash.; Mr. and Mrs. Irvine Wright and three children, Richard Lane, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Wright and the honor guests, Misses Anna and Mina Wright.

Parental Problems

By Beck

Novelties In the News

(By Associated Press)

The Changing Scene

Buffalo, N. Y.—New York relatives asked police to trace Mario Ventricelli, last heard from here 20 years ago. They gave his Buffalo home address, a favorite restaurant, favorite theatre and the home of friends he frequented.

Police found: his home the site of Buffalo's skyscraper city hall; the restaurant replaced by an office building; a railroad terminal where he visited friends; and a parking lot where the theatre stood.

Dogometer

Oakland, Calif.—Mrs. Lusky Rowland couldn't have been speeding 37 miles an hour, she told Police Judge Oliver Youngs, because Hi Chow, her pet dog, slinks to the floor and whimpers whenever she exceeds 30.

And Hi Chow was not whimpering, she said, when an officer flagged her down.

Mrs. Rowland received a suspended sentence.

Marital Woe Early

Oklahoma City—Patrolman Robert Artman sped from the scene of his marriage to escape the playful attention of brother cops.

Other cops, not at the wedding, gave serious chase. A shot punctured a tire, stopped Artman's car.

Artman paid a $10 fine for speeding.

1938 Comeback

Chicago—The automobile replace the horse?

Listen to Wayne Dismore, secretary of the Horse and Mule association of America:

There are 14 million horses and mules in harness on American farms, with more being raised than ever before; there are more than 8,500 race horses and 7,500 trotting horses and there are 500,000 riding horses.

Good Salesman

Vhicago—Policemen are looking for a boy with a stomach ache.

Giving a fictitious name, he persuaded a West Side dealer to part with 86 ice cream bars on the pretext he would sell them for a commission.

Musical Tea Served By Amity Pupils

Amity—Piano pupils of Mrs. Lynn Lancefield entertained Wednesday afternoon with a musical tea at the Methodist church from 3 to 4 o'clock. Fourteen pupils were presented in recital. Each pupil invited three guests. Mrs. Leon Turner assisted in receiving and Mrs. A. R. Rierson and Mrs. Glen Stevenson poured. A delightful program of solos and quartets was presented.

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Riley to Address Steamboat Men

Dr. P. O. Riley will be the principal speaker at the Veteran Steamboat Men's reunion at Champoeg next Sunday. Dr. Riley is an honorary life member of this large organization and at last year's meeting in Vancouver, Wash., was presented a solid bronze plaque as a token of esteem in which he is held by the men of the rivers.

Other speakers to appear on the program are Attorney W. LeRoy LaFollette of Colfax, Wash., and Capt. John Akins of Lewiston, Ida. Judge Fred V. Nilson of The Dalles will be chairman of the day. The Dalles Junior band will play and Forrest Ginn of Astoria will direct the community singing. The exercises will begin at 1:30 o'clock with memorial services conducted by Chaplain P. M. Blenkinsop.

News Behind The News

By Paul Mallon

Washington, June 21—When Mr. Roosevelt packs to go west he may include a long-handle paddle, in anticipation of some special uses for it during his visit to son Elliott.

Paul Mallon

For, while the news has not gotten around much yet, Elliot has become a radio commentator for a local station in Fort Worth, Texas, and someone has been sending local news clippings of his broadcasts to the White House.

Being a commentator would be bad enough, as Mr. Roosevelt likes commentators just about as much as he likes republicans. The president is an announced devotee of straight news reporting, straight as he gives it, without further comment.

But worse yet, the incoming clippings indicate Commentator Roosevelt is less than enthusiastic about some of the things father has been doing. In fact, the first three unsponsored broadcasts included criticisms of WPA and anti-southern wage policy, the oil prosecutions, government sponsorship of city competition against existing power companies—and praise for Henry Ford.

Elliott Dissents

Commentator Roosevelt's style is not one of carping, but of earnest analysis coupled with a restrained expression of personal opinion. His tone is never facetious or humorous, but is obviously intended to contribute something to public discussion of issues.

For example, he refers only once to an un-named "president of the United States," and makes his challenges impersonally to "the government."

"When the NRA was declared unconstitutional," he told his audience in the third address, (quoted from local press) "the president of the United States addressed the people in a radio broadcast urging all business voluntarily to hold to the plans laid down by the NRA, to insure that the little man might remain in business, and to insure that the wage standards as set forth under the NRA should not be cut back to the old wage standards. Acting on that plea the oil industry continued to operate as it had done in the past under the NRA code which had been written for it. Sometime later, the officials of these companies were indicted on criminal charges of having violated the anti-trust laws of the United States. Those in charge of the prosecution failed to see any advantage in keeping the little man alive, so today, many refineries in the United States are closed . . ."

Business Injured

Again:

"The people of the United States hope and pray for ways and means to be found to aid business and not to defeat it. After all, big men and little men alike throughout the country are only too willing to put their shoulders to the wheel to bring about a reconstruction of our national prosperity, and today is the time to call upon these men and to offer them the co-operation of our national, state, county and city governments to bring this nation to a peak of prosperity such as it deserves."

Telling how Westinghouse and others are cooperating with the pump-priming program, Elliott later said:

Praise for Ford

"The Ford Motor company, headed by Mr. Henry Ford, the most rugged of the rugged individualists in our land, is spending a huge amount of money on a new tire plant x x x All over the U. S., big and little industry is doing its share to make the depression a matter for history books x x x Throughout Texas there is an increasing feeling that if the government will do its share to bring about reform laws which will be fair to all sides, both employer and employe, and if it will solve such knotty problems as the railroad situation and give effective and economical administration to the relief program this nation can not and will not be down."

City Power Plants

Commentator Roosevelt challenged the proposal for a municipal light plant in Fort Worth to compete with the existing privately owned plant. "After all," he said, "if what he hope to get is a lower cost to consumer of electricity through the use of power made available by a federal project on the Colorado river, why not take the institution which now is serving the city and make available to it that power which it could get at a lower cost than the present power plant can turn out the same power for, and make it mandatory upon that company to pass along to the consumer any saving that might be had."

He accused the north of promoting the wage-hour bill against the south and observed: "It is interesting to note the north is still inconsistent as always. They have passed the WPA work pay scale bill which forces a lower rate of pay for WPA employes in the south than in the north.

"So the merry game of politics wends its way, with the entrenched interests still forcing unfair legislation down the throats of that minority which happens to live in the south and southwest."

Note—Commentator Roosevelt is supposed to have informed his father several years ago that he considered himself free, white and 21, and would live his own life and express his own opinions.

Manolis Nominated

Silverton, Ore., June 21—George Manolis last night was nominated commander of Delbert Reeves post, No. 7, American Legion.

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