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

Secrecy Breeds Abuse

The state house of representatives took a progressive step toward curbing some of the evils attendant upon bureaucracy when, for the purpose of further investigation, it sent back to committee six public welfare bills containing provisions that lists of persons receiving public assistance shall be kept secret.

The question involved is the old one of whether the public's business shall be publicly conducted. But in this instance it runs still deeper.

There is also involved the problem of how best to insure equitable distribution of relief funds on the basis of actual need, and how fraud and deception can most readily be detected and stopped. Experience in other states has demonstrated that not all relief officials and agencies are above playing politics with the funds at their disposal—that benefits can and have been apportioned on a basis of partisan regularity and faithfulness.

The explanation of Chairman Angus Gibson of the ways and means committee that the secrecy clause was written into the bills at the suggestion of the federal social security board "to make it easier for people to get aid," sums up the whole argument for the defense of such secrecy. The real need is to make it easier for those actually deserving to secure assistance, and make it harder for those seeking to sponge off the relief agencies.

There is nothing so effective as proper publicity to defeat fraud and deception, or to prevent the use of public funds for political purposes.

In the present laws there are no barriers set up to public access to the relief rolls. And there has been no wholesale branding of these unfortunates. But the very threat of possible exposure of irregularities in the administration of relief has kept the scandal slate comparatively clean in Oregon. Let's not destroy the sponge that keeps it clean.

Willkie Grows in Stature

Commenting on Wendell Willkie's testimony before the senate committee on foreign relations on the aid to Britain bill, Raymond Clapper, the columnist, says: "Not many people could have heard Willkie without sensing that here was a very big man, one of the authentic leaders in this country. . . . Willkie is the only other man in public who approaches Roosevelt with natural gifts that give him popular leadership."

Willkie has grown in stature since his defeat—his every utterance and action proves it. His placing of principle above partisanship in the national emergency, his behavior in England where his leadership was popularly acclaimed, his championship of the lend-lease bill with proper safeguards, his Lincoln day banquet speech challenging the republican party to seize "a golden opportunity" and take the lead in furnishing American equipment to "the fighting men of Britain" all attest the dramatic qualities of his leadership.

In Willkie the republican party has a "natural," a leader it has not had since the first Roosevelt, yet there is determined effort among the reactionary politicians to ditch Willkie and continue the futility of cheap politics to maintain themselves in party power. They are not big enough and too stupid to forget partisanship or personalities, which is the best possible politics.

The administration is showing itself willing to accept most of the proposals to limit the presidential powers in the lend-lease bill and sincerely striving for national unity. In fact the president has already returned many of the powers granted him to congress, which once again rules affairs.

Willkie asserted that the republican party was born as the champion of freedom and warned that if it had no higher destiny "than the destiny of compromise and negation and failure and death" it could not survive. Which is true enough—but will the opportunity be seized?

There's a Difference

Part of the opposition that has developed to the Jones bill to promote the manufacture and sale of naturally fermented wines made from Oregon fruits and berries, finds expression in the argument that legalization of the sale of unfortified wines by the glass over the bar or counter is but another step in the direction of bringing back the saloon; that it violates the spirit of the Knox liquor control law.

The next step, opponents of that section of the bill assert, will be a proposal to legalize bar sales by the glass of cocktails and other mixed drinks containing not to exceed 14 per cent alcohol, the legal maximum for light wines.

There is, they declare, no more reason for legalizing bar sales of 14 per cent wines than 14 per cent cocktails—but that to limit mixed drinks to any certain alcoholic content would be almost impossible except by testing every separate drink or batch of drinks mixed. An extra portion of gin, whiskey or rum in a drink would be easy to arrange, hard to detect and decidedly popular with the trade.

There is, however, as good an economic argument for permitting the sale of light wine in Oregon by the glass as there is for allowing the almost unrestricted sale of beer. Both are manufactured from important Oregon products, and legislative stimulation of any market for these products is to be expected.

A four-ounce glass of naturally fermented wine contains no more alcohol than a 10-ounce glass of beer.

There is also objection among the members to extension of the permit system to the sale of fortified wines by licensed dealers, instead of confining their sale to state stores where the permit system can be enforced effectively. On the whole, it would seem that the bill would be greeted with greater enthusiasm if it evidenced more concern for the berry growers and less for the retail dispensers.

Ex-Commander of Legion Fatally Hurt

Grangeville, Idaho, Feb. 12 (AP)—Carlton Holt, 47, owner of the Grangeville-New Meadows Auto Freight line and a past district commander of the American Legion, died Tuesday of injuries received when his truck went off a curve on the Whitebird hill and crashed 300 feet down a mountain-side.

He was found by a highway maintenance crew. He suffered a skull fracture, lung puncture and other injuries.

Husbands

By Beck



Sips for Supper

By Don Upjohn

In the past few days we've noticed half a dozen drivers making left turns in the downtown district in face of the "no left turn" signs. There are but two ways to figure this. Either that the driver can't read or that he is observing the old Biblical injunction to not let the left hand know what the right hand is doing. However, it is often quite annoying to find oneself faced by the nose of a car suddenly swooping around one of the no left turn signs. It may even have something to do with the increase in number of heart attacks being noted in these parts.

Quite a debate is being waged as to whether the Russian exile, Krivitsky, committed suicide or was wiped out at the behest of some outside influences. Anybody who reads his articles in the SaEvPost a while back will remember that some of the words in the same sounded like what would be shooting words in some countries. So chances as to what happened seem to be about fifty-fifty.

Novelties In the News

(By the Associated Press)

Hot Seat

Lansdowne, Pa.—Fire Chief Cornelius McCullough knows a fire when he feels one.

Driving a pumper truck back to the station from one blaze he discovered he was sitting on another. The fire under the driver's seat was extinguished by chemicals from another pumper.

Slight Oversight

Sacramento — The highway patrol's radio station broadcast to Deputy Sheriffs Jess Leach and Charles Ogbe:

"Return to Polson with handcuff keys."

The officers, delivering two convicts to the state prison, had forgot to unlock the "bracelets" that linked them.

Prepared

Colorado Springs—The doctor told Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Barnes, Jr., to expect twins.

Triplets arrived—all boys. "But we were prepared," said Barnes. "Got names for all of 'em—Kurt, Kent and Keith."

Rugged Individualist

Waynesville, Ill.—Mrs. Jennie Hill is no slazy.

She walks to the grocery for her supplies.

She shovels the snow off her sidewalk and does most of her own housework.

Mrs. Jennie Hill is 97.

Hubbard Edged Out by Scotts

Hubbard — In a heart-breaking game of see-saw basketball the Hubbard Rockets lost to Scotts Mills at Hubbard Tuesday night by one point, the final score being 30-29.

This is the fourth one point game between these teams recently. Playing at Scotts Mills the Hubbard varsity team won by one point and the second team lost by one point; Tuesday night at Hubbard, the varsity team lost by one point and the second team won by one point.

Lemen, Hubbard guard, was high point man with 14 markers and G. Wellman, center, was high for Scotts Mills with 13. The Hubbard team was handicapped with Lemen being sent out on personal fouls. They held a three point lead at the half and a six point lead in the third quarter but lost it in the fourth.

Hubbard (29) (30) Scotts Mills
Hershberger F 5 H. Wellman
Lutz F 6 Duff
Moon 5 C 13 C. Wellman
Lemen 14 G 4 L. Heinz
Poppinga 5 G Brost
Pratt 2 S Miles
Bredenburg S

Friday night Hubbard will play Sacred Heart at Salem and next Tuesday night will meet Mt. Angel on the Hubbard floor.

Tuesday afternoon the Hubbard grade school defeated Mt. Angel grade team at Hubbard, 19-11. They lost to Rainier at Hubbard Saturday.

Scotts Mills—Mr. and Mrs. George Moyer visited over the weekend with Mrs. Moyer's father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Owens. Mrs. Moyer is from Portland and her husband is in the service at Camp Lewis.

Kelly Says:

Electric Utilities Get Tyrannous Order
Check-up on Ores Holman Proposal
Oregonian Wants Bar To Japanese Fishermen

—By John W. Kelly

Washington, Feb. 13—Five electric utilities in Washington and Oregon have been ordered by the federal power commission to file an estimate, under oath not later than February 19, of the amount to be expended incident to political activities for the current year. This is an aftermath of the hearings held in the northwest and in San Francisco just prior to the presidential election. The investigation, at that time, was brought on by a petition signed by members of the Washington, Oregon (Walter M. Pierce) and California delegations, these representatives alleging that the private companies had "expended vast sums of money" to defeat them.

There is a public ownership group in the federal government which is planning to force private companies out of business. The hearings showed that some of the private companies had expended PUD elections and other activities which would be detrimental to the companies. Under the present order of FPC the companies must provide a special and separate account for each "political, legislative, public power, municipal ownership or other such activity to which expenditures" are made. In addition, FPC orders the companies to file an estimate of proposed expenditures for donations (Red Cross and community chest excepted), to tax association, citizens committees, civic organization, radio, advertising, printing to influence public opinion.

Bonneville Exempt
So far as is known, no such order has been issued to the Bonneville administration to file an estimate of the amount that government project will spend in 1941 to influence public opinion in elections and promote PUDs. Activities of Bonneville in this field have received severe censure in congress already but have been passed over by the FPC.

Companies which have received the order are Northwestern Electric, Pacific Power & Light, Puget Sound Power & Light, Portland General Electric, and Washington Water Power company.

Authorizing \$500,000 to establish an electrochemical laboratory in the Columbia area, with \$150,000 a year for maintenance, Senator Holman has introduced the bill in congress. The laboratory would be under the federal auspices of the bureau of mines. Principal objective of the bill is to have an investigation of minerals in the Pacific northwest. The desire is to determine what ores are found in Oregon, Washington and Idaho and then to experiment to determine how they can be made commercially profitable. For several years this subject has been discussed but the bureau of mines was busy elsewhere.

Subsidy Claim Submitted
Kerr, Gifford & Co., Inc., grain exporters of Portland, have had a measure presented to congress containing a claim for \$28,208 for additional subsidy on 201,800 bushels of wheat they shipped to China.

The wheat came from the inland empire and was exported under the bounty program established by Henry A. Wallace, then secretary of agriculture.

An Oregon citizen has written to various members of the delegation that a line be drawn from Alaska to Wake Island and that no Japanese fishing boats be permitted to cross it and enter territorial waters. The line suggested is farther westward than the line of defense established by the navy. No member has yet offered a bill as suggested, but two members are considering it and have taken up the matter with the department of state. Japanese fishing operations along the Alaska coast have been a matter of controversy between the United States and Japan for the past four years. Washington's Senator Bone and former Senator Schwellenbach both attempted to exclude the Japanese.

Many Civilians Working
Not all on the payroll of the army and navy are soldiers or sailors. The two departments are hiring civilians at the rate of more than 1000 a week and in the past seven months 245,000 have been engaged. About 30,000 have been added to the departments in the national capital and more are to follow. Each one employed in Washington, D.C., must wear his or her picture displayed while in the buildings. . . . The average age of a government worker is 40 years and the average pay is \$1,817. . . . The railroad retirement board, with a new building, has 1,400 workers in this city and 898 in the 48 states. . . . The commerce division of the union of federal employees has adopted resolutions against the lend-lease bill as it was originally, and are not too enthusiastic as it passed the house. It is estimated that the bill will be voted on in the senate next month, about the 15th.

Ace Parker to Manage Portsmouth
Pittsburgh, Feb. 13 (AP)—Ace Parker, star halfback of the Brooklyn Dodgers professional football team, will be player-manager of the Portsmouth baseball club of the Piedmont league this season, the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball club said today.

Noted the most valuable player in the National Pro football league last year, Parker recently signed a new two-year contract with Brooklyn which stipulated he is to report for gridiron practice August 15.

"With the 249th CAC"

by Bob Prime

Fort Stevens, Ore.—The regiment has completely moved from Camp Clatsop to Fort Stevens now, just seven miles due north of the camp site. We left Clatsop at 9:15 a. m., with haversacks on backs, and marched to the fort, arriving here at 11:45 a. m. There were no casualties and very few complaints; however, all had tired feet and backs. The batteries have all moved into their new barracks and are getting settled comfortably. They will resume regular routine within a few days.

The new barracks consist of two-story buildings, housing 63 men in the two floors. The new kitchens are located very near their respective batteries, which is another modern convenience of the new site. After the policing and painting of the barracks is finished, the assumption is that the harbor defense batteries will continue their work with the large guns, plotting and practice firing, while the anti-aircraft battalion will practice battalion maneuvers.

Since moving to the fort the same privileges are extended the regiment that are enjoyed by the regular army soldiers, such as passes. Men on liberty are relieved from the post from retreat in the evening until reveille in the morning.

Medical Detachment
Sergeant Bill DePew, Corporal Otto Bahlburg and the correspondent are the only ones with complaints. Sergeant DePew and myself are temporarily confined in the Fort Stevens hospital with light attacks of (spots before your eyes) measles. Corporal Bahlburg, with a few larger red spots, at first was suspected of chicken pox, but after closer observation was released from the hospital on his own recognition and put back on duty.

William (West Point-Bound) Cray is still spending his leisure time preparing for his final national guard examination for West Point. George Corwin Alexander and Grover Betzer have been confined to their quarters, due to light touches of naso-pharyngeal catarrh. Some fellows think the two boys are just resting up from the march over here from the camp.

Virgil Hagen has his "painfully new" car all fixed up now and plans to spend the coming week-end in Salem with his parents. Sergeant Mark Neary and Corporal Harold Forrest haven't much leisure time now, working like little Trojans catching up with clinical records that were slightly neglected due to moving them here from the camp.

Battery G
While formerly the mess shack was a 200-yard dash, the mess hall now is only two hops and a skip. Everyone is well satisfied and should sleep well in their new quarters after the hike to the fort. Incidentally, since G Battery led the hike, it was the first to enter the new quarters.

Private Harry Wilson and Private George Weber had a narrow squeak, but it was the squeak that saved them. On their way home in Harry's car, George heard a squeak that made them curious enough to find the source. Tracing the sound to a rear wheel, they found the wheel-base cracked through and ready to fall off.

Corporal Scott Wilson was hanging by a rope on the outside of a second story barrack washing windows when Private Ralph Budlong pushed the rope accidentally. Fortunately the rope caught on the window and Scott quickly grasped the ledge. Even the most distinguished Sergeants Pat Buckout and Quentin Ruecker were hanging out on a ledge washing windows this morning.

Some bank should get a new customer soon. Corporal Charles Cunningham thought his money was well concealed in his comforter. To his dismay after returning from a short leave, he found not only his money, but also his comforter gone. Poor Chuck was in misery until several of the boys returning from the basketball game solved the mystery. They had borrowed the comforter to keep themselves warm at the game.

Corporal Aiden Addie lay down for a catnap after supper and was greatly amazed when he awoke at 8 a.m. the next day with all his clothes on and only his comforter covering him.

Headquarters Battery
Headquarters Battery, first battalion, and Headquarters Battery second battalion, are so busy getting settled this week that they ask the readers to bear with them this week and they will have plenty of news in detail for next week.

Army Hostess Appalled by Job

Portland, Feb. 13 (AP)—Mrs. Isabella Childs Mahan, named principal hostess for Fort Lewis, Wash., said she is a "little appalled" at the task of chaperoning some 40,000 soldiers and their girls.

Mrs. Mahan, who now is dining room hostess and manager of the catering department at Hotel Portland, said she thinks she will probably have a rank somewhere between a first lieutenant and a captain. She will leave for her post in two or three days.

She said she understands her main job will be to arrange and chaperon dances and entertainment and arrange for housing for soldiers' wives and girls who visit the camp.

Convention Visitors

Falls City—Those attending the Rebekah convention of district No. 9 of Polk county at Ballston were: Mrs. Lucille Wheeler, Mrs. Violet Mack, Mrs. Nellie Mack, Mrs. Eva Burbank, Mrs. Ethel Outbridge, Mrs. Bessie Lounour, Mrs. Myrtle McCustirn, Mrs. Jessie Moyer, Mrs. Buck, Mrs. Shirley Dickenson, Mrs. Neva Pollard, Mrs. Lyzie Treat, Mrs. Fay Fruk, Mrs. Fay Wilson, Mrs. Margaretta Howell, Mrs. Rheta Strauss, Mrs. Pete Murphy.

Grim Emergency Gets Axis Attention

By DeWitt MacKenzie

Mussolini's conference with Spanish Generalissimo Franco has been shrouded with secrecy but it represents an effort on the part of Il Duce to obtain aid of some sort, and may portend further axis action against Britain in the Mediterranean.

It seems clear, too, that this move is the outgrowth of Italy's perilous position as the result of her disastrous defeats and her serious economic situation due to the British blockade. The Italian debacle has necessitated a quick reconstruction of axis strategy.

Since Spain—wounded and hungry from her own terrible civil war—has nothing to give excepting friendship and use of some of her territories as bases by the axis, this presumably represents the specific object of Mussolini's appeal. Such help would be repayment for the aid Italy gave Franco in his successful revolt against the Madrid government.

All of this fits in with the subsequent conference today between Franco and French Chief of State Petain. France's vital interest in the developing situation is obvious, but the significant point to my mind is that old Marshal Petain's firm stand against the axis, plus his navy and African forces, has brought his country to the fore again as a figure of importance.

Naturally the first thought that ran through the minds of many people the world over was that the Riviera conferences represented an attempt by Mussolini to secure peace. Franco would be intermediary with England, and Petain's presence would be a necessity.

Peace Idea Scoffed at
Some observers abroad stuck to that view today, though it generally was pook-pooed in the capitals. Still, it wouldn't be surprising if peace were mentioned between the two dictators. We are entitled to say that this idea may represent intelligent anticipation if things don't pick up with Italy soon.

There are several possible moves which the axis might attempt, and one is a squeeze maneuver executed by offensive at both ends of the Mediterranean in an effort to gain control of the Suez Canal and the Strait of Gibraltar.

This would involve a German drive to the Dardanelles through the Balkans, and presumably would mean an assault on Britain's "unpregnable" rock of Gibraltar and the important naval base which it mothers. Use of Spanish soil as a base would be necessary for an attack on Gibraltar.

It would be surprising if Hitler made any major attack in the Balkans before the weather improved with the coming of spring. Military operations in that area during winter present fierce obstacles, especially for an army on the offensive.

Present indications are that if the Germans threaten the Dardanelles Turkey will fight, unless Moscow intervenes. The Turks have a fairly well-equipped standing army of 2,000,000 and in the past they have been magnificent fighters. What they lack in mechanized equipment and air power would in some degree be made up by British aerial and naval assistance, and perhaps mechanized land divisions.

Indian officials in Shanghai said, however, that there had been no material developments for the worse in the situation recently.

India is trying to raise the standards of Indian music.

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