

Capital Journal

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The Bikini Bomb Test

It will be some time before the full effect of the spectacular test of the fourth atomic bomb which exploded above a 73-ship guinea pig fleet in Bikini lagoon Sunday are known. Based on a cursory preliminary inspection, three ships were sunk, a fourth damaged so severely it is expected to sink, and many others were burning among the 32 others damaged. Not a capital ship was sunk, even though directly under the explosion and there was no loss of life. One drone plane that flew through the gigantic radioactive cloud that arose from the lagoon went out of control and was lost.

Heavy damage was done however to capital ships, among them Japanese battleship Nagato and Cruiser Sakawa, U. S. battleship Arkansas, carrier Independence and carrier Pensacola. Lightly damaged were the battleships Pennsylvania, New York and Nevada, carrier Saratoga and cruiser Salt Lake City. The Lamson was the only armored fighting ship sent to the bottom. Goats aboard the Pennsylvania placed to determine the effect of atomic energy on animals, survived.

Vice Admiral Blandy, in charge of the task force declines to draw any conclusions from the test, leaving them to the scientists, the joint chiefs of staff and the evaluation commission of the president. Scientists in the admirals flagship said they thought the bomb about equal in nuclear efficiency to the one used at Nagasaki. An under water bomb test will be held in the next few weeks, dependent on how soon the fleet can be gotten into position.

These atomic bomb tests are necessary to renew in the world's consciousness what a terrible weapon has been devised and the necessity for its control for beneficial instead of destructive purposes lest use of it annihilates civilization. There is no censorship imposed, all correspondents and observers, even the Russian, are permitted to write as they please and the scientists to draw their conclusions unhindered. The information gained should aid in working out a formula for its control, and dispel the illusion fostered by Moscow, that the atomic bomb is "just another bomb."

All Price Controls Killed

President Truman's veto of the bill extending the OPA and his request for Congress to sustain the veto, which has temporarily at least banished all price control in the country, threatens to have an atomic bomb effect on the economy of the nation, as there is enough opposition in Congress to block for the time being any emergency stop gap legislation. The vetoed bill would have provided at least a partial control to prevent inflation. Now the flood gates have been opened.

Most opponents of the OPA have admitted some measure of price control was necessary for some months to "hold the line" but others upheld the theory that only the law of supply and demand would speed up production and so regulate prices by competition because of OPA bungling.

Opponents of the OPA now have a chance to prove their theories that rigid control by bureaucrats was unnecessary, by holding down prices voluntarily. Any splurge of profiteering will defeat itself, bring on a buyers strike and a renewal of federal price fixing that may become a permanent feature in the drift toward state socialism.

Any great increase in prices will bring on another wave of national industrial strikes with its economic confusion, and in the long run inflation and depression thus confirming the theories of the crack-pots that the people are incapable of self-government and must be ruled by bureaucracy.

So industrialists, merchants and business men must seize the opportunity to prove that inflation can be avoided without price control and that the cost of living can be held down without coercion, subsidies and bonuses. Prices are about as high as the traffic will bear now.

We don't know where we're going—but we are on our way, largely through lack of competent leadership, by time serving politicians and ideologists. At any rate the era of "gimme" is nearing its twilight.

Food Prices Fail to Bolt; Here and There Costs Drop

The first few hours of OPA-less shopping produced few surprises for the American buying public, a nationwide survey showed today. The price of milk rose two cents a quart in Connecticut and some sections of Massachusetts. Little fluctuation was reported in other food prices, even meat, for which a 10 percent price boost had been forecast by some experts.

The nation's largest food stores and department stores with few exceptions operated under OPA ceilings and in a few instances independent merchants announced price reductions.

Stocks Go Up
In the stock markets, prices on the nation's commodities list bolted upward.

Steels, motors, coppers, rubbers and mail orders rose \$1 to more than \$3 a share in early dealings in industrial shares.

Cotton futures at New York jumped better than \$3 a bale and went up the \$5 a bale limit at New Orleans.

A firm hold-the-line attitude was evident, however, in New York City, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Newark, Boston and elsewhere—at least until congress has a chance to restore some system of price control.

Slash Advertisers
One Baltimore shoe store advertised a five percent slash in all prices on the belief that "under free conditions more leather will be available for shoe manufacturers."

A New York delicatessen owner advertised "since there is no more OPA our prices will be greatly reduced to meet competition."

A Milwaukee men's store proprietor announced he was revising all prices—five percent lower.

The vast A. & P. chain said its 6,000 stores in 37 states will not increase prices today and the company said it will "take

Vacation Hazards

By Beck



Sips for Supper

By Don Upjohn

What few local merchants we happened to meet today and casually asked how the OPA termination would affect them seemed a quite confused and muddled bunch of boys who were mostly wondering what the rest of the boys would do. We can say this for 'em, however, that all of those we talked to seemed to have no intentions, at least not so expressed, to let their merchandise prices run wild

or try to make a fortune overnight. We well remember talk of a road leading to a certain place, said road being paved with good intentions, and there is reason to believe if these good intentions now are merely good intentions the road will lead directly to said place for said merchants and everybody else.

We already heard of rumbles of 10-cent coffee in one place of business.

After all it is the consumer who has the answer to the whole problem in his hands if he'll only exercise some self control—but will he as long as he has a four-bit piece in his pocket? But, after all, how long will a four-bit piece be considered as money?

Novelties In the News

(By the Associated Press)

Watch Out

Memphis, July 1 (AP)—A 60-year-old youngster, Mrs. Matie Driver, bought a motor scooter, and invited Mrs. Ida L. Frisby, 82, for a ride.

But the scooter—with Mrs. Driver at the helm—got out of control. The ladies landed in the hospital, Mrs. Frisby with a possible fracture of the shoulder and Mrs. Driver with a head cut.

Piped Mrs. Frisby: "I have no regrets. I was doing something I'd always wanted to do."

Bragged Mrs. Driver: "This won't stop me—I intend to ride my scooter to Chattanooga just as soon as I get up."

Inflammable Streets

Corvallis, July 1 (AP)—Since board sidewalks disappeared years ago, the fire department was very surprised to receive a report that a street was on fire.

A half block burned before they could put it out. It seems a subdivision owner had spread sawdust over newly graded dirt streets.

OPA Prices To Be Restored

Washington, July 1 (AP)—Price Chief Paul A. Porter said today the OPA would do its best to push any soaring rent and price ceilings back to the June 30 level as soon as congress restores controls which expired last midnight.

Porter told a news conference he did not believe that a two or three week delay in re-instituting controls would "jeopardize" price levels.

He emphasized that OPA's future actions would depend on the type of extension bill finally approved by congress. But he pledged every effort to roll back prices and rents to the levels existing under old OPA regulations.

The OPA chief said regional offices were checking the price and rent situations in their areas and that a nation-wide report would be issued as soon as possible.

Porter said the OPA had no authority to prosecute anyone for violating price or rent regulations after the expiration of the old price control law last midnight. However, he added, the agency can continue to press all court action started before that time.

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The Odious Comparison

(50 Yrs. Ago in Pendleton East Oregonian)

Salem, a city of 10,000 people, has succeeded after several weeks of hard rustling, in raising \$839 for a Fourth of July celebration. Pendleton, with 4,000 people, raised \$1,000 in a very short time.

But we expect 50 years ago Salem folk could raise more hell on \$839 than they could in Pendleton on a grand.

Bound to Have His Meat

Boston (AP)—Dissatisfied with the way his food was cooked, a diner in a West End restaurant leaned over the counter and bit Walter Frank Trapani twice on the chest.

The Harry Levys and the Brazier Smalls were among the great horde taking advantage of the record low tides over the week-end to recuperate the shortage of clams in their larders and also have some fun and exercise digging same. The best evidence of the horde that went over was brought back by these visitors who stated they got to the ferry at Ilwaco to go over to Astoria at 1 p.m., Sunday and taking their place in a line of cars succeeded in getting onto the ferry at just 7:45 p.m., or a wait of six hours and 45 minutes. While they were waiting a car could have been driven from Salem to Seattle by fairly easy stages. That's getting clams the hard way.

Anti-Saloon League Founder Succumbs

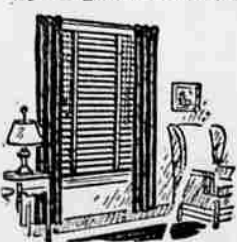
Columbus, O., July 1 (AP)—Rev. Howard Hyde Russell, a 91-year-old founder of the anti-saloon league, died yesterday at his home in nearby Westerville.

Corn and barley futures stayed at the ceiling price and remained inactive.

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MACKENZIE'S Column

By J. M. Roberts, Jr.

(Subbing for MacKenzie)

Regardless of later revelations which may show that any personnel aboard the ships at Bikini would have died and that the instruments which make fighting ships of steel hulks were destroyed, first impressions of the atom bomb test will remain strong, and the worldwide feeling that something supernatural has been added to war is likely to be diminished.

Don Whitehead, who as an AP correspondent had previously witnessed every other manifestation of war from the beaches of Africa and Italy to the Normandy hedgerows and the bomb terror over Berlin, found Operation Crossroads to be the labor of the mountain which brought forth a mouse. He was comparing the results of course, with what had been expected.

What of Extremists?

As for the extremists who have foreseen the destruction of civilization in a few minutes in event of another war, they seem to be about as far ahead of their time as were those who, prior to World War II, had similar visions regarding airpower that turned out to be something terrific, all right, but still not decisive except in conjunction with other weapons.

The failure of the fourth bomb explosion to destroy ships wholesale, to "blow Bikini out of the water," to vaporize the ocean or cause earthquakes and tidal waves is no more than was expected by a great many experts who already knew some of the bomb's limitations. But their pre-text statements seemed to have little effect against the great mass of "end-of-the-world" propaganda which had been showered on people since last August.

May Be Helpful

The political results may be unfortunate. Those who have been working desperately for peace may be deprived of an important weapon, although it is not necessarily a corollary that anything done under the sway of the atomic hysteria which has been sweeping the world would have been the best thing, or even effective at all. A sane realization that weapons of destruction have been developing with ever-increasing speed for many years, that war has become totally unprofitable for winner or loser, that atomic power carried by long range guided missiles is a climax beyond which man dare not venture, may be just as helpful in the long run.

The phantom fleet at Bikini, swept by a force which would have denuded a real fleet of personnel, could, if it turns out that way, prove as much or more than would the complete wreckage of a group of ships which, admittedly, were not arranged in any sort of practical battle formation.

USGA May Place NW Tournament

Tacoma, Wash., July 1 (AP)—Pacific Northwest Golf association officials hope to bring the United States amateur golf tournament to the Pacific northwest "within the next two or three years."

Ralph Whaley of Seattle was designated by PNGA officials at a president's dinner after the recent tourney to formulate plans for bringing the big amateur links meet to the northwest. Whaley will contact clubs in the northwest to find a course suitable for the tournament.

Paul Fahrns of Portland, former regional representative to the United States Golf association, assured PNGA officials that the USGA would look favorably upon an application from the northwest for the tourney in the next few years.

Dakota is a Sioux Indian word meaning alliance of friends.

Willie Francis Says Sitting In Chair 'Plumb Mizzuble'

By Elliott Chaze

New Iberia, La., July 1 (AP)—Willie Francis says it's "plumb mizzuble" to sit in an electric chair. He says you feel "like you got a mouth full of cold peanut butter, and you see little blue

"Willie, you're going out 'a this world.' Everything Hazy
"They begun to strap me against the chair and everything begun to look hazy in the room. It was like the white folks watching was in a big swing and they'd swing away and back and then right up close to me where I could hear them breathing."

"I didn't think about my whole life like at the picture show."
"Just, 'Willie you're going outa this world in this bad chair.'"

"Sometimes I thought it so loud it hurt my head and when they put the black bag over my head I was all locked up inside the bag with the loud thinking."

"I reckon dying is black. Some folks say it's gold. Some say it's white as hominy-grits. I been mighty close. I reckon it's black."

The white light rays of the sun are composed of many colored light rays, and also contain ultra-violet rays.

Veteran Rivermen Picnic at Champoeq

Portland, July 1 (AP)—A thousand rivermen and friends thronged to the 21st annual reunion of veteran steamboat men of the west at Champoeq state park yesterday.

Some 160 made the trip up the Willamette aboard the stern-wheeler Claire—a trip cancelled during war years.

Capt. W. M. Bartlett, Salem, state planning engineer, outlined steamboating history before the group and predicted transportation of ore from eastern Oregon and Idaho to Portland and Salem via water.

New York enacted price-fixing laws in 1780.

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