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'The Dog Returns to His Vomit'

For the first time since they were banned last February 7, when Portland's mayor, Dorothy Lee, set a state-wide pattern for a vice clean-up, slot machines, which the supreme court labelled "one-arm bandits," are whirling again in some areas, though Portland remains off limits for all machines except some of pinball type.

The tingling of the coins in Clatsop and Umatilla counties were resumed last week-end simultaneously without explanation, other than now the legislature was adjourned, the heat was off, though they are as illegal as ever in Oregon, but no effort by law enforcing officials of the two counties is reported to stop them.

In Pendleton private clubs requiring membership cards are the only places where the machines reappeared. Club owners were threatened with arrest and loss of their machins when the ban against gambling devices went into effect last winter.

District Attorney C. C. Proebstel of Umatilla county is quoted as saying that the return of the slot machines "was news to me." He added, however, that his office would take any action required "if a signed complaint is filed." Sheriff R. E. Goad is reported saying that he was "prepared to make any arrests if a complaint were given him to serve."

Slot machines are illegal under state law, but neither Umatilla county nor Pendleton has laws against them. District Attorney Proebstel indicated that "it's up to state officers to take any definite action that might be taken without someone filing a signed complaint."

This alibi is typical of the attitude of many officials who have taken an oath to enforce the laws whether state or local. They profess willingness to do the enforcing providing some one signs a complaint to compel them to, otherwise they are blissfully ignorant of the law's violation. The same logic would require a citizen's formal complaint to arrest and prosecute a burglar or speed maniac—or let the state police do it. That is why crooked gambling and rackets flourish. As Kipling put it:

As it will be in the future, it was at the birth of Man—
There are only four things certain since Social Progress began:—
The Dog returns to his Vomit and the Sow returns to her Mire.
And the burned Fool's bandaged finger goes wobbling back to the Fire.

Pearson on Old-Age Pensions

When does politics end and duty begin?

State Treasurer Pearson came out last week with an appeal to Governor McKay to veto the old-age pension bill passed by the legislature. Pearson objected to the bill as being "in direct defiance" of the voters.

The bill does give the state public welfare commission a prior claim on estates of pensioners. This particular provision is designed to permit the state to get back the amount of money it has given the pensioner. The provision would be considered a prior claim on the estate following the death of the recipient.

A $50 minimum monthly pension was approved by the voters last November. The bill does not establish such an amount. It does call for a $50 pension if there is enough money available to pay it.

Was State Treasurer Pearson out of order in asking the governor to veto this bill?

Last fall when Pearson ran for state treasurer on the democratic ticket, he had one plank of his platform devoted to old-age pensions. He said he believed "in a $50 minimum old-age pension at 60 with only sufficient residence as a qualification and no lien law." And he was elected.

So the Portlander was doing what he said he would stand for when he got in office. Oftentimes, a candidate's promises mean little when, and if, he is elected. In this case, Pearson's promise apparently meant something. So what he said on the veto appeal wasn't surprising.

Also last week, however, another democrat, Senator Flegel of Multnomah county, came out in support of the old-age pension bill. He had served on the Ways and Means committee and he stated he took full responsibility for his part in drafting the bill.

Under those circumstances, Pearson's position is indicative of the leanings of the man himself, not all democrats. Even though he is in charge of the state's finances, so closely tied in with the pension bill, he can hardly be condemned for speaking as he said he would.

Russia's New 'Peace Feelers'

Russia's "peace feelers" about ending the Berlin blockade, judging from past experience, are merely a change in tactics of the "cold war" Stalin has been waging since the end of World War II to communize the world. Having deluded America and the allies so many times and broken every pledge, Stalin evidently thinks he can do it again in an interlude of aggression. Congress should not let the latest Red maneuver interfere with ratification of the North Atlantic pact.

Chairman Millard E. Tydings of the senate armed services committee hit the nail on the head when he said this country "should carry a sword in the right hand and an olive branch in the other" in dealing with Russia. He pointed out that the North Atlantic treaty was not prompted by the Berlin blockade alone. "Even with the blockade eliminated," Tydings said, "the pact would still be necessary until we can have a meeting of minds between the east and west."

Secretary of State Dean Acheson has told congress that Soviet Russia's aggressive action makes the North Atlantic pact and the arms-for-Europe program essential to maintain world peace.

"The sense of insecurity prevalent in western Europe," he told the senate foreign relations committee, "has come about through the conduct of the Soviet Union" and that Russia's conduct in eastern Europe had "cynically violated" the United Nations charter.

Acheson's words made it unmistakably clear the administration wants the North Atlantic pact and the arms-for-Europe program despite any Soviet conciliatory moves for the rights to self determination by the peoples of eastern Europe have been "extinguished by force or threats of force" by Russia.

BY BECK

Difficult Decisions

Life Is Confusing Enough

SEATTLE (AP)—Are you tired, troubled or confused by the worlds' problems?

Then ponder this one:

Jane Sniffen, civilian employe of the army in Nome, Alaska, arrived here to raise $3,000 for an ice skating rink in the far north community.

It'll be used for a tennis court in the summer, she said.

SIPS FOR SUPPER

Hopeless

By DON UPJOHN

All we know about the identity of YCF is that she's a mother and wrote us a postcard but what she says probably has the approval of several thousand other mothers around here, so we print it in case it may do any good. Writes YCF: "Seems to me, Sips, you could start a pretty darn good crusade of your own if you'd take a look at the speeders on our city streets. You know the city painted great, wide yellow lines to guide pedestrians across the street, but the motorists ignore the fact that pedestrians have some rights on the streets. Just try crossing Center street at 17th. There they are, the big yellow lines. But the cars come rolling by 30 to 45 miles an hour. Ninety per cent of them don't slow down a bit. You never see a policeman or motor cop at this corner, patrolling that is. They must be too busy putting on charge slips on overparked cars downtown. Seems the city could put some slow signs approaching 17th or some day there may be a bad accident. Lives will be lost that could be saved. And this mother surely knows. YCF"

Don Upjohn

Mother YCF's plea could be made to apply to scores of intersections around town. But, we presume, if every motorist in a radius of 50 miles, happened to read her letter, they'd no doubt assent to all she says. And then most of them would proceed to approach such intersections as usual at from 35 to 60 miles an hour. We love to crusade, but this one looks pretty futile.

Voices of the Night

Vancouver, Wash. (AP)—Three police cars and a sheriff's car roared out to a suburban park before dawn today. A woman was reported screaming there. They traced the cries to a nearby house. They stormed up the steps, and brought Frank Moore down in his nightclothes. "What's goin on here? Who's screaming for help?" "Oh," said Moore, "It's spring. That's my peacock calling for a mate."

Cecil Doty in his bright new spring garb today sighted on his way to get the finishing touches on his new outfit—a final fitting for his clackers which he hopes will be in use mighty soon now all bright and gleaming to flash as a full fledged new member of our FT & BA. Cliff had hoped to have them for Easter but he had to forego that pleasure. Now he hopes to make up for it to have them to wear when he goes out hanging May baskets.

MacKENZIE'S COLUMN

Perhaps a Surprise

By DeWITT MacKENZIE

(AP Foreign Affairs Analyst)

The steam-roller offensive of the powerful Red armies in China has created a fresh major crisis in the now-not-so-cold-war of the isms.

The western powers had scarcely finished signing the Atlantic pact, to halt the communist drive across Europe, when Chinese chieftain Mao Tze-Tung forced the line of the mighty Yangtze. Thus almost overnight the west was confronted with another threat.

DeWitt MacKenzie

The weight of the attack had been shifted from the front defenses to those in the rear.

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True, the new thrust in the Orient is much further away than was the drive across Europe. The present danger is less imminent, and in that sense the situation is perhaps not so critical.

Time now is with the west, just as it suddenly has turned against the nationalist forces of China.

It's idle to speculate on how much time may be involved in the Chinese conflict. We know that the communist resources, both military and economic, are great, while the nationalist government's resources are terribly weak.

The nationalists' most powerful defense against the Red forces from the north—the Yangtze—has been smashed. Their capital of Nanking has been occupied by the enemy—a shocking blow to the morale of the nation. A million and a half Red troops are ready for the drive southward through China.

What other estimate can be made than that the nationalist situation is desperate?

However, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek is said to have planned a defense by zones as the Reds advance. Many of those zones with their troops are in the hands of war lords and, if they remain loyal to Chiang, the nationalist defense might give the communists a surprise.

Speculation at this time is idle. We shall have to await developments.

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What we can see clearly enough is that a sovietizing of China, world's most populous nation, would give communism a powerful base from which to work on all Asia.

Neighboring India would be the next great nation to come under pressure, and it might be that she would provide a barrier which communism couldn't surmount. The Hindus and Moslems of the Indian peninsula are intensely religious—and communism and religion can't be mixed.

In any event, should communism have a sweeping success in the Orient, the western nations would be in a Red vise.

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Bridges and Vandenberg Tangle on Foreign Policy

By DREW PEARSON

Washington—It wasnt officially recorded, but New Hampshire's Senator Styles Bridges recently struck a sharp blow at the bipartisan foreign policy by demanding that the GOP take its own stand on foreign affairs—particularly in China.

He shot the challenge squarely at Michigan's Senator Arthur Vandenberg, the Mr. Big of the bipartisan foreign policy, during a secret meeting of the republican policy committee.

Drew Pearson

The debate got so heated that at one point Vandenberg snorted: "Now, this is within these four walls. There aren't many here, and if this appears in Drew Pearson's column, I won't have too many to check with."

However, here is the story of what happened at the secret meeting.

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Bridges called upon the republicans to stop echoing "me, too" to everything the administration does and to focus a "little sunlight on the mistakes and questionable policies" of the democrats.

He charged that China was being forfeited to the communists and he urged Vandenberg to take a stand on this and demand a review of our China policy. When America realizes its mistake, Bridges argued, then the republicans could pin the blame upon the democrats.

Vandenberg retorted sharply that it was easier for Bridges to snipe against our foreign policy because he didn't have the responsibility as GOP foreign-policy spokesman.

Vandenberg admitted that the picture is dark for the Chinese anti-communists, but argued that it was too late to interfere without jeopardizing the chances of salvaging what is left. By intervening now, the United States wouldn't save China but might endanger future relations, Vandenberg argued. He also pointed out that the corrupt governing clique that runs the central government soaks up most U.S. aid intended for the Chinese people.

Bridges snapped back that members of the state department were sabotaging our foreign policy and demanded that the pro-communists be flushed out of the service.

At this, Massachusetts' lean Leverett Saltonstall raised a cautioning hand, suggested it was unfair to question the motives of diplomatic personnel.

"If you had a general who commanded an army and lost a battle through incompetence, you would remove him," crackled Bridges. "If he lost by conspiring with the enemy, you would court-martial and probably shoot him. But the state department loses country after country and all you do is promote them."

Vandenberg said he didn't know of any pro-communists in the state department. Ohio's Senator Robert Taft suggested, however, that the people underneath are often biased and don't give the people on top a true picture.

Tempers flared up at the height of the debate, but cooled off by the time the meeting adjourned.

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BRICKER CHAMPIONS NEGRO?

Ohio's statuesque Senator John Bricker has been posing as the great champion of the Negro by demanding that segregation be outlawed in all public housing projects.

But what the public didn't realize is that Bricker toned down his own anti-segregation amendment, the minute it conflicted with the real estate lobby.

Bricker's original anti-segregation amendment would have cut off federal funds, including FHA loans, for any segregated housing project. But when the real estate boys saw this, they realized Bricker would cut off one of their most lucrative sources of money—loans from the federal housing administration.

So they hot'footed it to Bricker's office and had him change his amendment so that it abolished segregation for public housing, but not FHA-financed housing.

NOTE—Bricker's real motive was to inject civil rights into the housing debate so it would turn the southern vote against public housing.

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MALMEDY TRIAL

Only one important committee hearing at this session of congress has been chairmanned by a republican—Senator Baldwin of Connecticut who presides over the Malmedy trial investigation. Baldwin is one of the ablest and most fair-minded members of the senate, but there is an interesting backstage story behind his appointment.

It results from the fact that Maryland's dapper Senator Tydings wanted to euchre the probe of the army's court-martial away from his democratic colleague from North Carolina, swallow-tailed Clyde Hoey.

Tydings appeared to believe that American officers were justified in using brutality and torture to wring confessions from ex-German storm troopers who allegedly took part in the Malmedy massacres during the battle of the bulge. Tydings also claimed jurisdiction for his armed services committee—though only after Hoey had ordered his special investigating committee to look into the case. Previously, Tydings had flatly refused to investigate: then changed his mind after learning of Hoey's interest.

Fearing that Tydings would whitewash the brass hats, Hoey suggested turning the investigation over to a joint committee, made up of members from the armed services, judiciary and expenditures committees.

This started talks between the two that were still proceeding when suddenly Tydings pulled a surprise announcement that his committee would go ahead with its own investigation, and he appointed Senator Baldwin, republican to head the probe.

The payoff is that Baldwin's law partner, Dwight F. Fanton helped the army prosecute the Malmedy defendants.

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TRUMAN SORE AT ISRAEL

President Truman, who frequently blows hot and cold over Palestine, has given a private spanking to the new republic of Israel. He is boiling mad at the Israeli government for what he considers an insult to the American ambassador to Israel James G. McDonald.

McDonald reported to the president that during a recent interview with the Israeli foreign minister, Moshe Shertok, the minister spoke disparagingly of American aid to Israel. This made Truman so mad he ordered the U. S. representative to the United Nations, Warren Austin, not to object when the United Nations pigeonholed Israel's application for U. N. membership.

Warren's silence shocked the Israeli because they were counting on wholehearted American support for their cause. As a result, President Weizmann is trying to patch things up during personal conferences with President Truman.

(Copyright, 1949)

FOR LITTLE WOMAN TOGGLE

'Bare-Male-Torso' Era Finds Stars' Muscles Down

By VIRGINIA MacPHERSON

Hollywood (U.P.)—Movie queens aren't the only ones who're worrying about their curves these days. Hollywood's going through a "bare-male-torso" era—and it's catching a lot of glamor boys with their muscles down.

Virginia MacPherson

Seems the movie-makers decided it was high time to give the litle woman something to look at while pop was ogling Betty Grable and Jane Russell.

Down came orders for the he-men to strip off their shirts and dazzle mama with a rippling display of bulging biceps. There was just one trouble: It wasn't the biceps that bulged—it was the he-men!

Such a scurrying to gymnasiums and steam baths you never did see.

The boys at the local sweat-it-off emporiums report business never has been so good. And plumpish actresses have to wait their turns while lumpy leading men work off those spare tires around their middles.

And they're not always the romoes who're getting along in years, either. Young gents like Bill Williams, Bob Ryan, Lex ('Tarzan') Barker, and Kirk Douglas are beginning to sign up for regular afternoons in neighborhood gyms.

"It's a crime the way most actors let themselves go," Williams says. "They figure they can wear padded shoulders and tight girdles and get away with murder.

"Male shapes are almost as important in this business as female curves. If the studios were smart they'd make their actors work out regularly and get rid of all their blubber."

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Williams, who is no puny gent himself, says Bob Ryan is the best physical speciman in town. (And we know a lot of ladies who'll agree wth him there.)

"But he works at it regularly," Williams added. "Some of these older guys—the top stars—may trim off 10 or 15 pounds for one role, but they slip right back as soon as they wind up the picture."

Williams says the dashing screen heroes can take a few tips from the glamour queens they woo every day from 9 to 5. All those curves and dips and swells just don't happen, he says.

And if they do, they don't last long without a lot of help from the gal who's got 'em. Practically every top-bracket movie lovely in town spends as much time on her figure as she does learning her lines. And it's been years since some of 'em have looked a baked potato in the eye.

BY GUILD

Wizard of Odds

POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Mudball in a Clean Sky

By HAL BOYLE

New York (AP)—In a vast mansion on Mars the president of that planet sat listening to the music of the spheres—the melody made by the stars in their courses.

It was his favorite pastime.

Hal Boyle

But into the universal symphony came a jarring sound. The maritian president frowned and twisted the dials of his electronic radio.

"Again that discordant note!" He exclaimed. "This time I'm going to do something about it. It's been ruining my concerts for the last 10,000 years."

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So he called his wise men together.

Gravely, one by one, they checked with tuning forks the sound that came from each of the multitudinous bodies in the wide heavens. Then they reported:

"Sire, the jarring noise comes from an obscure planet known as the earth, our neighbor in this constellation."

"That mudball!" said the president.

He had his leading stellar explorer, Rado, brought to him.

"Rado," said the vexed chieftain. "Trot down to earth and see why that flyspeck in the sky is out of tune."

Rado sprayed himself with invisibility lotion, climbed into his two-seater anti-gravity ship and took off.

Exactly a year and a day later he returned to Mars. A great mass of Martians was there to greet him.

"Well, what is the earth like?" asked the president.

"It is a beautiful globe, washed by soft seas," said Rado. "It is capped at both ends by mountains and wide fields covered with a cool white substance known as snow. And between the caps are great fields and towering cities full of living things.

"Oh, it is an enchanting place—fairer than our Mars."

"Why is it out of tune then?" said the president crossly.

"I think it is the people."

"What, in the name of the Milky Way, are people?"

"There are two forms of life that move about," said the explorer. "One kind is people. The other kind is animals. The people have enslaved some animals and driven the rest into the wilderness."

"How savage!" cried the president. "That explains the discordant note."

"No siree," said Rado. "There is more to it than that. After enslaving the animals, the different peoples began enslaving each other. And they destroy themselves in great disastrous wars. The wails they send up ruin the music of the stars."

"Life takes life," murmured the president. "Is it possible?"

"On the earth death is often a way of life," said Rado.

OPEN FORUM

Compulsory Socialized Medicine

To the Editor: The secret of the success of Arcad, the richest man in old Babylon, is one which the American public would do well to study: "A part of all you earn is yours to keep."

According to the survey of current business, July, 1948, Americans spend 4.5 per cent of their income for medical care and death expenses as compared to 5.9 per cent for alcoholic beverages and 2.4 per cent for tobacco. It is plain to see than when the American population willingly spends more for liquor and tobacco than for medical services that the solution to the problem of the nation's health is one of education rather than compulsory socialized medicine.

Like Arcad of Babylon, we must learn to anticipate the future emergencies which will beset frail man, and provide for their occurence with an adequate savings program.

DR. JAMES A. GARSON,
801 Morgan Bldg.,
Portland 5, Oregon.

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