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4—Salem, Oregon, Thursday, May 19, 1949

No Willamette Flood

An Oregonian headline says "Rampaging Willamette Kills Man" on its leading story of the Columbia river flood. The lead tells of a gravel company employe being drowned near Junction City when his boat capsized. His two companions escaped by swimming ashore and he swam with them but when "he tried to crawl ashore he grasped a floating log which tossed him back into the water when it turned. He disappeared and was not seen again."

In the same issue the Oregonian dwells on high water in the Willamette in Portland harbor as practically the same level as the Columbia.

As a matter of fact there is no flood in the Willamette river. There never is at this time of year. The stream at Salem is some 17 feet below high water mark, 27 feet below the emergency flood stage, and proportionately as low at Junction City.

The drowning at Junction City 96 miles south of Portland was not caused by the "rampaging Willamette" for it is not "rampaging"—it was merely a routine drowning in a placid stream, likely to happen any time. And the high level of water in the Willamette at Portland harbor is due solely to backwater from the Columbia flood, and stops at the falls at Oregon City.

Of course most Oregonians realize these facts, that is those living outside of Portland, but those at a distance do not and when such stories get into the nation's newspapers through press association wires, they create a false impression throughout the country and scare tourists away from the "flood ravaged and endangered" Willamette Valley.

That is what similar accounts did last year and are likely to do this year. The metropolitan papers are giving a false impression in their seeking for flood sensation to make the headlines that distort the facts.

McCloy to Rule American Zone

President Truman has named John J. McCloy, president of the world bank, as first civil high commissioner for occupied Germany, succeeding General Lucius D. Clay as military commander. He will assume his duties in Germany before July 15. The appointment marks the change-over from military to civilian administration of the American zone. Concerning the future administration, the White House said:

"One of the matters which Mr. McCloy will take under early advisement will be the development of plans for the transfer of responsibility for nonmilitary aspects of the United States occupation of Germany from the department of the army to the department of state and the economic co-operation administration. The transfer will take place on or about the time of the establishment of the German provisional government."

McCloy will be the supreme United States authority in Germany and subject to consultation with the president will be under the immediate supervision and direction of the secretary of state, exercising all government functions other than military command. The troops will remain to stabilize the civilian administration.

McCloy, 54, is a New York attorney. He served as assistant secretary of war from November, 1941, to November, 1945. He was elected president of the world bank in 1947. He is a veteran of World War I in which he attained the rank of captain and was awarded a D. S. M. He has been a director of the Foreign Policy Association and is a republican.

Socialists Balk at CVA

A statement issued by the Socialist party at the northwest regional conference at Seattle views with alarm the proposed Columbia River Administration and recommends amendments to the bill, to change its membership.

The statement said the Socialists are "alarmed at the present rapid trend toward collectivization without democratic controls. We realize the urgent need for a CVA. We also realize that CVA is a socialist venture, but the proposed CVA measure centralizes power in the president and three of his appointees, thereby in some measure justifying the charge of opponents of federal public power and regional planning that CVA will be a step in the direction of the authoritarian state."

The statement says that in its analysis of the bill, "The Socialist party states it finds no adequate safeguard to insure democratic control."

The statement was released by Anne M. Fisher of Seattle, who said she had been commissioned by national headquarters to coordinate a study of the CVA proposals. She said the statement was by a committee including herself; Jack R. Hopkins, the party secretary for Washington, and Thomas Scanlon, Portland.

Representation on the board by consumer organizations and technicians connected with the river project, and labor organizations is urged, for the admittedly venture in socialism which like all such ventures leads eventually to the totalitarian state.

STORIES IN LIFE

Officials Have Red Faces

Tokyo (U.P.)—Sponsors of the annual all-Japan pigeon race suffered a wholesale loss of face today.

Resplendent in tails and top hats, the officials waited for the winner of the 45-mile race to arrive from the northern island of Hokkaido.

Only a few curious local sparrows showed up.

Fishin' Tale Is Verified

Moorhead, Minn. (U.P.)—Art Sanders was telling today about the big one he landed—then threw back.

Sanders had to have eight other fishermen help him beach his big sturgeon after fighting it for one and one-half hours. It weighed 93 pounds and measured five feet, nine inches. Because state law forbids catching sturgeon except in boundary waters, they threw it back in the lake.

Henn Loses Hen Crate

Henn has lost a chicken crate, and needs it back to carry all the little hens.

An add in today's lost and found section of the Capital Journal classified section reads:

"Lost: Chicken Crate. Notify Lester Henn, Route 2, Box 16, Woodburn."

BY BECK

Boyhood Hazards



MacKENZIE'S COLUMN

Rebuff to Communism in East Germany Blow to Reds

By DeWITT MacKENZIE

The Kremlin must have been set rocking by the election in the Soviet zone of eastern Germany, where more than a third of the voters balloted against hand-picked, communist-approved candidates for the new "people's congress."

The Red command had anticipated the usual favorable vote of virtually 100 per cent in such elections. This was to be a triumph for presentation at the forthcoming meeting of the Big Four foreign ministers' council in Paris.

Moscow's strategy was to lay before the council this "people's congress" of 2,000 delegates which would match the federal republic of western Germany. Not only that, but the congress contains 500 delegates specially designed to represent western Germany.

In short, the "people's congress" was to have been put forward by the Russians to represent all Germany.

What line of strategy the Muscovites will pursue to offset this upset is a matter of keen speculation in western diplomatic circles. Certainly the so-called "people's congress" has lost any magic which it might have held for western Germany had the election been practically "unanimous" as planned.

This revolt of the German voters in the Soviet zone is in itself a momentous development, but it seems to me to fit into a picture of much broader significance. Last week-end this column analyzed the statement by Paul G. Hoffman, director of the economic cooperation administration, that "our way of life



DeWitt MacKenzie

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Mrs. FDR Halts Tieup with Spanish Dictator Franco

By DREW PEARSON

Washington—Inside reason why the American delegation to the United Nations abstained from voting on Spain was because Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt threatened to denounce the state department publicly if it voted for Franco.

Warren Austin, the U.S. delegate, was all set to vote for sending ambassadors back to Spain when Mrs. Roosevelt found out about it. Immediately she telephoned Secretary of State Acheson and gave him her very blunt views on getting cozy with a dictator who had played ball with Hitler and Mussolini during the war.

Any move to embrace him, Mrs. R. told Acheson, would only embarrass the truly democratic nations of western Europe and play into the hands of the communist propaganda machine at a critical time in world affairs.

Acheson seemed impressed with Mrs. Roosevelt's argument and suggested as a compromise that the American delegation abstain when the vote came up. He further promised to issue a statement blasting Franco as a dictator.



Drew Pearson

ATOMIC CONTRACTS

Painstaking, persevering Senator Joe O'Mahoney of Wyoming has been applying the scourge to big monopolies for years. Now he has come up with revealing information on the way big corporations handle big contracts with the government.

In 1946 the atomic energy commission signed a contract with General Electric for atomic energy work at Hanford, Wash., and Schenectady, N.Y., under which G.E. was paid all its costs plus a fixed fee of \$1. The total amount obligated under this contract was \$370,000,000, of which \$7,000,000 was paid to General Electric for salaries, training of personnel, etc.

Meanwhile, Senator O'Mahoney points out that it has become a common practice of the atomic energy commission to get around congressional appropriations by authorizing blanket contracts in such a way that congress cannot judge their validity. In the current year, for instance, the commission has contract appropriations of \$600,000,000 and congress has no way of knowing what it's all about.

The senator from Wyoming, therefore, is demanding that, without going into atomic secrets, these contracts be filed with the congress and made available.

Later both women cooled off and walked out of the hospital together.

The Cain divorce is supposed to become final on June 14. The lawyer who is handling the matter for Senator Cain in Tacoma, Wash., is Ed Eisenhower, Ike's brother.

COMPROMISE IN CHINA

American Ambassador Leighton Stuart in China is mad as a hornet at the British for trying to make a deal with the Chinese communists behind his back.

Without telling Stuart a word, British representatives talked with the Chinese communists twice last week. By accident Stuart has discovered that what the British have proposed is this: If the Chinese communists let the British keep Hong

BY GUILD

Wizard of Odds



NOT AFRAID

Columnist Has Cancer and Says He Will Die of It

San Diego, May 19 (U.P.)—Forrest Warren, columnist for the San Diego Daily Journal, announced in a by-line story: "I have cancer and I am going to die of it."

Warren, a newspaperman for more than 50 years, writes a daily column of folksy news for the Journal on "People I and strength, and have time ahead of them."

"I would like to appeal to them to give to the cancer research fund, so that it may become possible for doctors to detect cancer more quickly, and even perhaps find a cure."

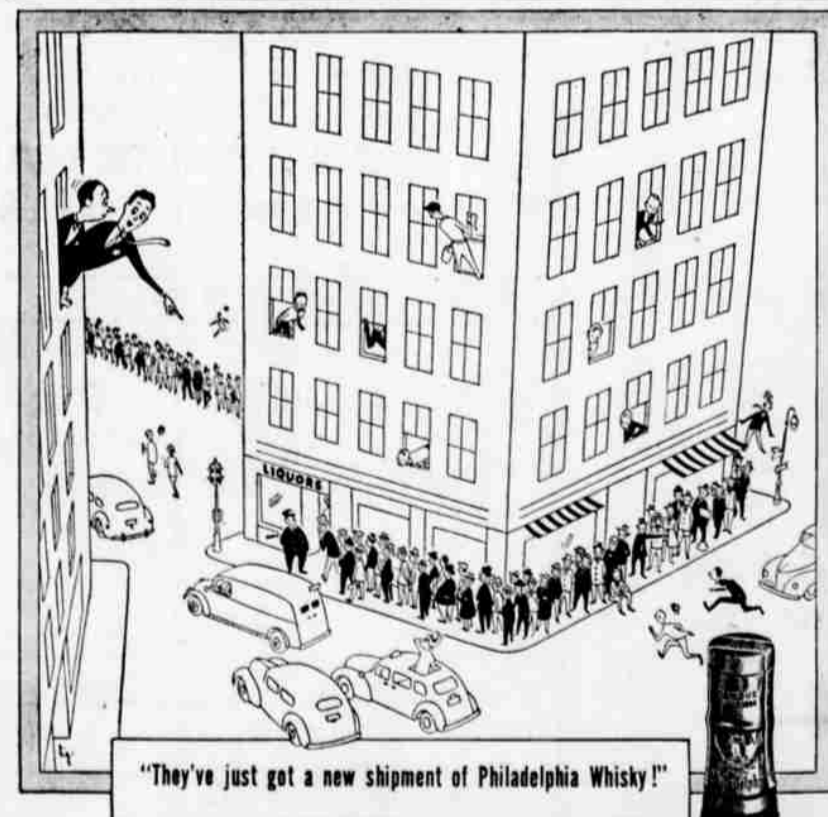
Warren wrote: "I am not afraid. I have made my peace with God. My heart is filled with love. Only happiness will surround me until the end."

Warren said he had malignant melanoma, a type of incurable cancer.

Takes Game Seriously

Athens (U.P.)—A Greek football fan jumped to his death from the ruins of the Acropolis because he was disappointed in the showing of the Greek football team in an international match, police disclosed today.

The suicide, a 38-year-old printer, left a note saying "he would not bear the disgrace of having seen the Greek football team defeated 2 to 1" by a Turkish eleven.



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