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Salem, Oregon, Monday, June 20, 1949

Illusion Becomes Delusion

The annual Oregon Methodist conference held the past week at Ashland following a lively debate on world peace, adopted resolutions calling for the removal of peace time conscription, the end of atomic bomb production until international controls are effected and opposed the North Atlantic defense pact on the basis of three points:

1. It aggravates rather than eases existing tensions.
2. It contradicts both the spirit and the letter of the United Nations charter.
3. It is military in character.

The conference voted more than two to one to retain the sections in the report and the peace committee was instructed to notify Oregon's senators in Washington and Senator Tom Connally, Texas, chairman of the senate's foreign relations committee, of the conference's stand on the three issues.

The platform is that outlined by the so-called "world peace committee," which is conducting an extensive pacifist propaganda campaign, an ideological essay that when war comes, as it may, will fill the conscientious objectors' camps with fanatical pacifists.

The atomic bombs, under present conditions of the unsettled world, are the present defense against communist aggression and without such a stockpile of the deadly missiles in all probability all European nations would now have become Russian satellites along with the Balkan and Baltic states. They are the restraining influence until Moscow solves their secrets.

The only reason why we do not have international control of atomic energy under the United Nations is because Russia vetoed the only practical control plan offered, which the United States tried vainly to put into effect.

The Atlantic pact is part of the plan to unite western Europe against Russian aggression and to contribute to the peace of the world. In union there is strength against the program of Russia to stage its aggression on one state at a time.

Military conscription is merely essential preparedness to resist aggression and a deterrent against it. War is not made on prepared nations and the recent World War was due to the unpreparedness of democracies to meet aggressors.

The pacifist program is altruistic, unrealistic and visionary in the state of the world at present and we echo the Oregonian's opinion that the resolutions are a "lamentable indication of why the various denominations, when they speak officially, have lost their influence." The Oregonian continues editorially:

"And certainly we do not speak of the Methodists particularly. They are only the occasion for our comment. The fact remains that in coming to decisions in matters of this sort—and they seem to think they are required to come to official decisions—they increasingly decide to prove their good will rather than their good sense. They recommend a course which they stand for—the whole concept of the importance of the individual human soul. They depend upon the general body of the people to save them from the folly which they intend.

"And still they puzzle about the failure of the church to increase its influence over the thinking of the people. How can there be increased influence when the church groups officially recommend what the people instinctively know would destroy all that the Christian centuries have won? Sometimes we think that Christianity is in the hearts of the individual citizens. And somehow we are convinced that God is not unaware of this."

Yet, if war is again forced on the United States, as it has been in the past, the churches will again, as in the past, be among its strongest and most patriotic supporters as they again realize too late, that their lives and liberties are menaced by the aggressor, and that their illusion has flowered into delusion.

Prison 'Break' Almost Forgotten

The names of Benson and Pinson were too familiar to the Salem area early this month. Escape of the two dangerous men from the state penitentiary here was the top topic of conversation locally at that time.

But now, in the passing days, the convicts' names have been almost forgotten. So has the demand for a full public report on the "break," with recommendations for additional security provisions.

Just as the relentless search for the men must go on, so should efforts to prevent another similar "break." Naturally, those efforts will be made by Warden Alexander. But what are his recommendations designed to help him do the job? All he can do is use what the state gives him in the way of cell blocks and guards.

Are more guards needed? Would an electric-eye system be considered advisable? Are rehabilitation measures adequate? The legislators had denied the warden's requests.

Two weeks ago the Capital Journal called on the state board of control to get all the facts on the prison "break." The board meets next week. There is no reason why members of the board can't hear the facts so they can make recommendations to aid the warden in preventing more men from "going over the wall."

The people of Oregon are entitled to know what it will take to see that more Pinsons and Bensons don't escape.

Pup Springs Burglar Alarm

Seattle, June (AP)—A pup got lonely after a Ballard tavern closed up last night, leaving him inside. He turned on the burglar alarm.—at least that's the only explanation the owner, Leon Collins, and Police Patrolman W. E. Lowney and E. M. Wesselius, could give today for its sounding at 1:45 a. m.

As the officers rushed up and hurriedly opened the door, the dog slipped out and disappeared.

"Apparently the pup belonged to some customer," Collins said.

Just an Address

Chester, Pa. (AP)—John McCafferty, 46, arrested as a homeless vagrant insisted the police were wrong—he had a home, and gave its address—714 Melvaine St.

Today McCafferty came before Magistrate R. Robinson Lowry.

"Where did you get that address?" Lowry asked the defendant.

"It's just an address," McCafferty replied.

"I'll say it is," said the magistrate. "That's where I live." The sentence for vagrancy: 90 days.

BY BECK

Popular People!



SIPS FOR SUPPER

Passing Show

BY DON UPJOHN

Homer Smith, Sr., the well known insurance magnate, was drifting along Court street rather early and encountered Joe Hutchinson, the well known realty magnate. Joe was engaged in the useful occupation of sweeping the night's debris from the walk while Homer was engaged in the useful occupation of getting down to his office. "How are you, Joe?" Homer asked of the realtor. Then he hastened to add, "Not that I give a tinker's darn but I just wanted to start some conversation." This bit of Americans we considered inhumane of most all of the "How are you Joes?" passed out in the morning as acquaintances meet.



Don Upjohn

Money the Hard Way
Chesterfield, Eng. (AP)—To win a halfpenny bet from a classmate, 14-year-old Brian Mitchell swallowed: Twenty-four 22 caliber cartridge casings, ten buttons, two farthings, a length of metal chain. Then he collected the halfpenny he wagered and swallowed that, too. Now he's in a hospital, on a heavy diet of bread and potatoes. A halfpenny is worth about five-sixths of a cent.

FT & BA Note

(Mill City Enterprise)

A near disaster occurred at the Idanha Lumber Co. mill Friday. It started with a sneeze. An employe let loose with a walloping ha-choo! He then was seen to paw frantically through the sawdust, then dash out of the mill and down to the conveyor. There he waited for a few moments, at last picking up what he'd lost. You guessed it. 'Twas his uppers.

A small shower at cherry time seemed inevitable but to date there's little likelihood that it

Distressed Women Hit the Silk

McAlester, Okla. (AP)—One hundred and fifty women in distress have hit the silk at the Oklahoma state penitentiary.

The lady prisoners are wearing parachute pants—but nobody's bailed out yet.

Warden Clarence Burford nearly went into a spin himself when the prison matrons reported a grove pantie shortage in the women's ward. The state hadn't provided enough to go round.

So when Burford heard of an airforce surplus sale he he jumped at the chance.

A prison agent bought 300 'chutes—two for each pantie wearer. Matrons held sewing classes.

The result: happy landings—on nylon.

MacKENZIE'S COLUMN

Oldest Chinese War Lord Carrying Nationalist Load

By DeWITT MacKENZIE

(AP Foreign Affairs Columnist)

The government of Nationalist China finally has been strapped on the aging shoulders of the country's oldest war-lord—Marshal Yen Hsi-Shan of Shansi province—who has been made Premier



DeWitt MacKenzie

of what is widely regarded as a "last straw" regime.

From Canton the great southern metropolis which now is capital comes the grim word that most nationalists feel if old Yen fails to hold the on-rushing Red advance from the north, they will have lost their last chance. The premier, invoking the great fighting spirit of his younger days, has pledged himself to lead what remains of the nationalist armies in "a fight to the end for independence."

In the background, of course, is Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek who still makes the nationalist governments. If the nationalists should by chance be able to withstand the communists, the real leader will be Chiang.

Do the nationalists have any prospects at all of standing off the communists? If you had to wager your last cent on that question, the odds would compel you to bet on the Reds. They already have great reaches of northern China firmly in their grasp.

However, southern China is a vast and difficult area for conquest. Many observers feel that the fighting may continue for years, especially in isolated areas.

And who can say what might grow out of a civil war of attrition? The very vastness and

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

American Tourist Should Be Good-Will Ambassadors

By DREW PEARSON

Ed. Note—Part of Drew Pearson's Column today takes the form of a letter to James Webb, acting secretary of state:

Mr. James Webb
Acting Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jimmie:
When your old chief, O. Max Gardner, was preparing to become ambassador to England, he was working on an idea which you, who were not with him at that particular time, may not have known about. And since Max is now where he can't put his own ideas across, it occurred to me that maybe you would consider helping to put them across for him.

This is the season when thousands of American tourists are sailing for Europe and when Max would have especially wanted his idea to be circulated. Though Max was departing for our most important of all embassies, he felt that no ambassador was any more important than the rest of the American people. In brief, he thought that every traveling American, whether he likes it or not, is an unofficial ambassador, and as he conducts himself abroad so he builds up good will or ill will for his country.

So Max figured it might be a swell idea to take a leaf out of the army's book and let everyone getting a passport also receive a little pamphlet on the importance of spreading good will while traveling abroad.

The state department hands out a lot of other dull visa information with each passport which nobody ever reads. It might as well hand out some human, readable information instead.

Before the American army landed in England, every G.I. was given a small booklet telling him about the English people, reminding him that he was a representative of his country, that whatever he did would reflect on his country.

The army did an A-1 job of selling the American soldiers on getting along with their allies and most G.I.'s took the hint. On the whole they were excellent ambassadors for the U.S.A.

I think what Max Gardner had in mind was that an invading army of tourists can be pretty much like an invading army in wartime. Even though we're fighting on the same side or even though we're spending tourist dollars, we sometimes get in each other's hair.

The raucous American tourist who knows all, sees all and wants to tell all, can cause his country more harm than an ambassador can patch up in a week. He thinks that a surfeit of dollars can atone for a deficit of courtesy. On the other hand, the kindly American who is much more typical of this country can create more good will than a paid ambassador, because there are so many of them.

As we all know, getting around in Europe isn't so easy these days. You built your head against a number of slow-moving customs officials, slick-moving waiters and dollar-greedy hotel managers. And that's why it's all the more important for Americans traveling abroad to be reminded that even though they pay taxes to keep ambassadors plenipotentiary and envoys extraordinary on the job, they themselves can do an equally important job of representing their country abroad.

I realize that some know-it-all Americans would resent being given this word of advice when their passports are handed out by the state department. But I don't think they'd resent it if they knew it came from a great human being like Max Gardner who is always thinking about his country first and who isn't around to help his country any more.

Sincerely yours,
Drew Pearson.

While economy—at any cost—senators are chopping off dollars going to Europe under the Marshall plan, they have completely overlooked the unfair

profits rolling back. Of these, the big oil companies alone are gobbling up more Marshall plan dollars than the senators have been able to save.

The amazing, little-realized fact is that 20 per cent of the money appropriated for the Marshall Plan is spent for oil products. And out of each dollar, the oil industry is squeezing a fantastic profit. What this really amounts to is carpetbagging—at the expense of European recovery and the American taxpayer.

Here are some of the eye-opening ECA figures: It costs the oil companies only 40 cents for a barrel of Saudi Arabian oil. Yet these companies have been charging Marshall plan nations \$2.20 per barrel for fuel oil. After a great deal of ECA pressure, this was finally reduced to \$1.75 per barrel. Yet for the same oil the navy pays only \$1.40 per barrel.

How is the navy able to buy oil 35 cents cheaper? It is difficult to understand—particularly because of the short haul from Saudi Arabia to Europe.

However, the probable explanation simply is that ECA is not a tough customer. In fact, ECA isn't permitted to deal directly with the oil companies, merely puts up the cash and leaves it to the individual countries to arrange the price.

ECA is constantly hammering at the oil companies, however, to bring their prices within reason. Instead of using the lash of public criticism, ECA is merely slapping the oil boys over the wrist in private. As a result ECA has got nowhere.

The senate might also find it more economical to demand more value from the dollars spent rather than to cut appropriations. In that way, Marshall plan dollars could be stretched much farther.

NOTE—The Federal Trade Commission is also investigating oil profits under the Marshall plan—to find out whether the anti-trust laws have been violated.

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How to Untree a Treed Cat

Newport, N. H. (AP)—Newport firemen believe they have solved the treed cat problem.

Called out to rescue a yowler from a lofty perch one night, the firemen first tried a ladder, but the feline only climbed to a higher, more inaccessible limb.

Then they hooked up a hose and directed a light spray over the cat. The cat came down without more ado.

SALEM HOSPITAL DRIVE

Crowded Conditions Called Skeleton in Closet

(Editor's Note: In a few weeks the Salem hospital development program will be brought before the people of the Salem area. So that questions being raised may be known by all, along with the answers, the Capital Journal is co-operating by printing them daily. Questions may be directed to the hospital program headquarters, 335 N. High St., or may be phoned to 2-3851.)

QUESTION: Dr. M. K. Crothers, what is your observation on the crowded conditions of our hospitals?

ANSWER: One very bad feature of this is that the sickest patients, being the most recent admissions, have to take the accommodations that are left and these are all too frequently in the hallway.

Many a patient with pneumonia or a ruptured appendix has been put to bed in the hallway in both our hospitals.

The situation really is a skeleton in our community closet.

A seven-month-old baby had a temperature of 107, and the fretful cry and grunting respiration of a child desperately ill with pneumonia. A home-made trailer housed the family of parents and three children. There had been measles in the family and a rash disappearing on the baby might have been measles.

Hospital administrators are properly reluctant to get contagious disease cases into a general hospital, but hospitalization was imperative for this baby. Neither hospital had any beds except in the hallway, but it was apparent the child would die without oxygen, penicillin, and good nursing.

BY GUILD

Wizard of Odds



POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Best Foxhole in Europe Is Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

By HAL BOYLE

Luxembourg. (Via Airmail) (AP)—The best foxhole in Europe in the event of an atomic war is the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

This tiny postcard country has been prepared for 200 years against the dropping of the atom bomb. Deep beneath the breath-taking hills of its capital, one of the world's most picturesque cities, lie 17 miles of defensive tunnels.

"They were dug in the early 1700s, and they could easily hold everyone in the country," said David Ned Blackmer, 33, of Binghamton, N.Y.

The little monarchy, ruled by Grand Duchess Charlotte, is only 999 miles square and has a population of about 300,000.

Blackmer, an ex-G.I., decided after the war—like many another American soldier—who wanted to learn more about the lands he had fought across. So when he had recuperated from

a severe head wound he came here to study the culture of Luxembourg to win his doctorate degree.

"The people have been extraordinarily friendly and co-operative," he said.

Luxembourgers have had a weary time trying to live up to their national motto: "We Want to Remain What We Are."

The country is a natural stronghold, a crossroads for invasion armies moving across Europe, and its name means "little fortress." It has been a military outpost since Roman times.

More than most small countries Luxembourg knows the cost of being a football to the big powers. It agreed in 1867 to demolish its fortifications in return for a guarantee of "eternal neutrality." Since then German troops have wheeled across it in three wars.

German commanders took what they wanted, even forced Luxembourgers to serve in their armies.

But this tiny door mat of Europe is beginning to bristle. It has found "neutrality" doesn't pay.

"They are a little imperialistic now," laughed Blackmer. "They want a slice of Germany. That is they want the land—but not the Germans who live on it."

And Luxembourg has raised its pre-war army of 300 men to 10,000. This is really a token gesture, however, to give a legalistic basis to its claim that its soldiers should be treated as war prisoners rather than impressed into foreign conquering armies.

How long Luxembourgers could hold out in the event of another invasion attack is problematical—unless they were quickly reinforced.

"But they are wiring the old tunnels again," said Blackmer.

During the last war Luxembourg served as the headquarters of Gen. George S. Patton's third army and the U.S. ninth airforce. It was saved from destruction during the battle of the bulge in 1944, and the people are now strongly pro-American.

"They love American cars," said Blackmer, and there are probably more American-made cars per capita here than there are in the United States.

On the other hand, there are also more Luxembourgers in Chicago than there are in the capital city here, and more Luxembourgers in America than now live in Luxembourg country itself.

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