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A Mutual Problem for City and Railroad

Salem is thinking ahead. Evidence of this is found in several plans and actions. There is acceptance of the Baldock plan, which will bring some order to the present traffic chaos. And now there is the step to "free" the downtown section from the present railroad track system.

The meeting of representatives of the city and the Southern Pacific company Tuesday night offers the chance to tie in the desire for a smoother traffic flow with the need of passenger and freight rail service for the city. In considering the problem of railroad tracks which happen to box in the city's downtown section, it is well to recall the coming of the railroad to Salem. The city was established prior to the coming of the railroad, but Salem's growth has been influenced greatly by the rail lines here.

The first railroad franchise in Salem was granted to the Oregon Central Railroad in 1868. The franchise authorized the operation of trains on what is now the main coast line of the Southern Pacific along 12th street.

When Oregon Electric was putting in a rail system between Portland and Eugene in 1908, permission was granted to lay track through Salem on Front and High streets. The high street line was principally for passenger train use. Automobile competition killed the passenger service for the Oregon Electric.

When the new bridge system is put in across the Wilamette, the present congestion of traffic on Center street, when a log train crosses at Front, will be greatly relieved. As for the Southern Pacific route, that is another problem. That is the one up for discussion Tuesday night.

In considering the specific Southern Pacific track problem, both parties will find it is one of equal mutual concern.

The city can't lose sight of the great benefit gained from the rail connection, while the company faces the problem of adjusting its operation in order to get along with Salem motorists.

Holding of the meeting itself is actually a great step forward. It is evidence of the concern both parties have for the problem. If such cooperation can continue through the discussions, there is no reason why a long-range improvement program cannot be worked out for the benefit of both the city and the railroad.

Cold War Not So Hot

The four-week Paris conference of the foreign ministers of the United States, Russia, Britain and France has agreed in "principle" on a settlement of all outstanding Austrian treaty issues and a working arrangement for running a divided Germany. Russia sought unsuccessfully to make a last minute change in the Big 4 communique.

The west accepted the \$150,000,000 Soviet claim on Austria for German assets. The Russians dropped their support of Yugoslav claims on Austria. These developments cleared the way for an Austrian treaty which the ministers told their deputies to produce by September 1.

Russia promised not to reimpose a blockade of Berlin, in return for efforts to revive east-west trade in Germany. This was contained in a six-point statement of principles by the Big 4 to guide negotiations in Germany.

These accomplishments brought a temporary lull in the war of nerves between east and west but leaves the cold war as cold as ever. While there is no actual war and little threat momentarily of war, there is still no peace and the war will continue.

The conference ended Monday night in a symbolic anti-climax. After all four foreign ministers had agreed upon the text of a communique summarizing their work. Russia's Andrei Vishinsky suddenly called for another meeting and a delay in publication of the communique. He said he was acting on "direct orders from Moscow."

Vishinsky wanted a paragraph added to the communique saying that the Russians were guaranteed the free export of profits on oil properties in Austria that they will keep them. The western powers refused, but agreed to take up the matter through normal diplomatic channels.

It is evident that the way to get along with Russia is to discard appeasement and stand-pat on opposition. Stalin doesn't want war but he wants all he can get without it and if he can't get it all by bluff and abuse will be conciliatory to a degree.

Recrudescence of the Klan

A recrudescence of the Ku Klux Klan of the early 1920's is being staged in Alabama and Georgia and floggings and assaults and even a lynching or two by hooded mobs are the order of the day, accompanied by moronic Halloween antics and burnings of the "fiery cross."

The Klan is the favorite child of intolerance but religious and even racial bigotry does not seem to figure in the recent cowardly assaults as much as personal grudges, hate and revenge for most of the victims are "white, protestant and native born" and they include war veterans, women and young children.

Georgia law enforcers have made some laudable attempts to curb the wave of violence although southern juries were prone to acquittal of those accused for fear of reprisals, but the refusal or failure of Alabama law officials to curb the outrages or punish recent mob terrorism in which 11 persons were flogged and threatened with hanging has aroused public opinion.

Law officers in two Alabama counties are under public fire for inaction and the beating of a newspaper reporter investigating unpunished mob terrorism has furnished the climax. War veterans and business groups are organizing investigations and prosecutions not only of the Klan, but of law officials.

The sheriff of Walker county, one of the scenes of violence has been ordered by the Alabama supreme court to stand impeachment trial on 86 counts of corruption and neglect of duty. The Alabama legislature has reconvened with the house scheduled to pass an anti-masking measure already passed by the senate.

Civic leaders of Birmingham are forming a "citizens' posse" of vigilantes to curb terrorism but the governor's verbal denunciation has not been followed by legal action.

BY BECK

Life at Its Lowest Ebb



SIPS FOR SUPPER

It's Warm, Anyway

BY DON UPJOHN

Summer showed up this morning but there seems to be a difference of opinion as to just when it arrived. The United Press sent out a dispatch from Portland saying it arrived at 11:03 a.m., while the Associated Press advised via the teletype that it arrived at 10:03 a.m. It seems the same sort of balled up situation existed in Salem. It just goes to show you what a hay-wire condition can be created by a city council in a town even as small as this one. It passes an ordinance telling the people to juggle their clock hands around and the effects of it are felt so extensively that a guy doesn't know whether it's spring or summer. The sun was supposed to stand still this morning to create the summer solstice but even the sun didn't know whether it should stand still at 10:03 or 11:03 a.m.

Hedda Swart, the Table Rock expert, wasn't quite decided either as to whether it's summer yet or not. He opined that because we had a shower Sunday night there must still be snow on Table Rock and he couldn't quite figure how it could be summer and still snow on Table Rock. No doubt it melted by this morning and we presume will start snowing up there again in a few days as we head along the road toward winter, which is happening right now. But we can't blame Table Rock for getting mixed up since the city council gummed up the works and even the press asso-

Query from a reader in B. Mike's column in the Oregonian this a.m. asks if Governor Douglas McKay wears a toupee? We don't know where the reader got this idea as we never even heard it suggested by anyone and the thousands of times or so we've seen him about town hatless such an idea never occurred to us. We asked a few of his friends today and they couldn't say either. But at any rate, if we keep mulling the thing over we'll begin wondering, too. At least, if he has, it's a mighty fine piece of work.

The glory of France, its cuisine, is limitless again. The bread—wonderful, crust-crunchy French bread—is back. And there is gold with a flavor to spread upon it, the butter of Normandy. Belgium knows the same wealth of food. So does tiny Luxembourg, and adds another boon—fresh cold milk, a fluid the French seem to regard in its raw form as a kind of poison excreted by cows in a pasture plot to destroy mankind. The earth of Germany is being tilled as never before. The storefronts have glass in the windows, and the windows are full of goods to sell. Somehow this seemed unnatural to one who went from the Rhine to the Elbe in 1945 and had no memory of seeing a storefront holding anything but wreckage.

POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Europe Asks: Is the U. S. Getting a Little Hysterical?

By HAL BOYLE

New York (UP)—The look of fear has left the face of Europe. Its peoples are better fed, better clad and more hopeful of the future.

These are a few of the impressions gained by a group of former war correspondents during a two-week tour of five European countries sponsored by the American Overseas Airlines. A fortnight on the continent hardly qualifies a poor man's philosopher to pose as an authority on Europe's complex political and economic problems. But a country reflects the collective plight of its individual citizens. And even the most casual traveler cannot help but see the immense betterment of living conditions for Europeans now as compared to the mid-1940s.

How much is due to their own initiative? How much have they been able to lift themselves by their American bootstrap—the Marshall plan? These are questions for the research bird-dogs of government and finance to determine. But the ordinary visitor, coming back for the first time since the war years, notes little signs of recovery such as these: In England they have strawberries on the hotel menu, and a melty substance similar to what is known in the United States as ice cream. It is possible now to get a taxi in London without leaping four feet into the air, cracking your heels together and yelling "kebi" at the peak of your lungs. As a matter of fact, if you do that now, people will stare at you. They know your living in the past—the time of the blackout.

At a small restaurant in Isigny, France, near the invasion beach landings, the waiter brings a bottle of good wine for 400 francs—less than \$1.30. Is this possibly? Hasn't there been a mistake? No, it is true. History records no example of a French waiter ever making an error in the bill that favored the customer. Cognac is inexpensive also. The hope that grows in France is shown in its rising birthrate, too. The land is alive again with youngsters of 3, 4 and 5. In gay Paris it is again possible for a tourist to emerge from his hotel without having both legs broken by rival black marketeers tacking him for the privilege of changing his money. The French franc is so sound that the black marketeers have had to go back to work.

The glory of France, its cuisine, is limitless again. The bread—wonderful, crust-crunchy French bread—is back. And there is gold with a flavor to spread upon it, the butter of Normandy. Belgium knows the same wealth of food. So does tiny Luxembourg, and adds another boon—fresh cold milk, a fluid the French seem to regard in its raw form as a kind of poison excreted by cows in a pasture plot to destroy mankind. The earth of Germany is being tilled as never before. The storefronts have glass in the windows, and the windows are full of goods to sell. Somehow this seemed unnatural to one who went from the Rhine to the Elbe in 1945 and had no memory of seeing a storefront holding anything but wreckage. Give a German a cigarette or chocolate bar today and he steadfastly refuses to drop dead of gratitude. He hardly even fawns anymore. Returning to London, I was struck by the thought that nowhere on the continent or in England had I heard three "fear words" we heard so often in the United States—"war," "communism" and "depression." I commented on this to a friend who has spent 20 years reporting continental affairs. I asked him what Europeans really thought of the United States. "Right now they think Americans are a little hysterical," he said dryly. Well, are we?

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

China Didn't Want Russ Deal Until Mao Started Winning

By DREW PEARSON

Washington—An amazing story of Chinese bargaining between the U. S. and the USSR has been carefully hushed up by the state department.

At one time during the China war the Chiang Kai-Shek government was almost on its knees before the Soviet ambassador to patch up a deal with Russia—at the very time it was yelling for aid from the U. S.

The hitherto untold story began nine months ago, September 1948, when the Soviet ambassador at Nanking suggested that the Nationalist government sign a nonaggression pact with Russia—including a highly important clause whereby, in case of Russo-American war, China would side with Russia. The Chinese Nationalists stalled their reply. Meanwhile, Russian pressure increased in Manchuria.



Drew Pearson

Finally, on Oct. 11, Chiang Kai-Shek replied that China would accept a nonaggression pact provided it did not contain the clause putting China against the U. S. in the event of a Russo-American war.

News of this leaked back to Washington three days later, Oct. 14. But it was not until Oct. 17 that someone thought to inform the White House or else the White House woke up to the situation. At any rate, on Oct. 17 at 5:30 p.m., presidential assistant John Steelman phoned General Al Wedemeyer, head of the war plans division, with the ultimatum that unless the president received a full report on sending war materials to the Nationalist government, the Pentagon building would be blown higher than a kite.

Supplies to China must start moving within two weeks, Mr. Steelman warned. The first ships actually left Nov. 16. But meanwhile, on Nov. 2, the Nationalists evacuated Manchuria. Later, as the Chinese communists approached the Yangtze River, the Nationalist government decided to accept the Russian treaty overtures of last September.

Suddenly Soviet ambassador Nikolai Roschin was informed that China was willing to accept the nonaggression pact with no reservations whatsoever. It would even accept the clause against the U. S.

By this time, however, Russia had cooled. Knowing that victory was just around the corner a n y w a y, Ambassador Roschin replied that there was no hurry. But the Nationalist government was now frantic. It informed the Russian ambassador that it was willing to sign anything—provided General Mao Tse-Tung and his communist army was stopped. And the Chinese ambassador to the Kremlin went so far as to state that since the United States had betrayed China the Nationalists were willing to make any kind of arrangement with communist leader Mao.

They were even willing to enter a coalition government with Mao as prime minister. Two years before, Gen. George Marshall had urged that Chiang Kai-Shek form a coalition Chinese government with communist leaders in his cabinet, but with Chiang retaining control. Chiang said no.

But of spring of this year, the Nationalist government was so desperate it was willing to accept its hated enemy, General Mao, as premier. This time it was the Russians who in effect said no.

Latest stage of the frantic Nationalist attempts to make an alliance with Russia came last month after the government was moved to Canton. One again Nationalist Foreign Minister George Yeh tried to draw the Russian ambassador into a discussion of a Nationalist-Soviet alliance. But once again the ambassador was coy. Studiously he avoided all contacts with the Nationalist leaders.

Premier Hu Ying-Ching then held an official reception to which all foreign envoys were invited, and the Russian ambassador was urged to come ahead for a conference. He refused, however, on the ground that such action would cause unfavorable comment among the other diplomats. Then he was asked to stay behind after the reception. This he also refused, and for the same reason.

Finally Ambassador Roschin was told that unless he accepted this invitation tendered by the head of the Chinese government to come early to the reception, he would become persona non grata and his recall would be requested forthwith. Roschin therefore finally agreed to arrive at 8 p.m., knowing that the premier had an appointment with the British ambassador at 8:45.

He actually arrived, however, five minutes late, and without giving Premier Hu a chance to say a word, launched a long series of complaints about the fact that he had been in Canton since April, housed in lamentable quarters, and in all this time had not been able to get a telephone.

Communications, he said, were abominable. He had suffered great delay in receiving mail, the servant shortage was terrible, and the Chinese government, he demanded, should transport Russian servants to Canton.

The ambassador even demanded special visas for his servants, especially a chef, because Cantonese cooking, he said was atrocious. By the time Roschin had rattled off his stream of complaints, the British ambassador had arrived for his 8:45 appointment. The Russian ambassador bowed out, having successfully avoided any conversation regarding a Chinese-Russian pact which by that time Moscow emphatically did not want.

UNDER THE DOME

Young Abramam Ribicoff, a fast-stepping freshman Democrat from Connecticut, already has sponsored more major legislation this session than many of his senior colleagues, including the international claims commission bill for the settlement of American claims against foreign governments. Foreign affairs chairman John Kee of Virginia has designated Ribicoff to handle this measure on the house floor, a rare distinction for a house yearling. (Copyright 1949)

IN RELATION TO OTHER CITIES—

Each Person's Share 'Low' For Hospital Fund Drive

(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: What reason does anyone have for believing that \$1,100,000 can be raised in this community for hospital construction and improvements?
ANSWER: The Salem hospital service area is certainly above the average community in per capita wealth, per capita income, and standard of living. Other communities are raising funds to provide adequate hospital care for their people. Here are a few recent examples in this section of the country.

Newport, Oregon, with 5,000 people subscribed \$104,000; an average of \$20.80.
Bend, Oregon, and community of 20,000 subscribed \$430,000; an average of \$21.50.
Prineville, Oregon, and community of 8,000 subscribed \$383,000; an average of \$47.87.
And Nyssa, according to an editorial in the Oregonian, subscribed \$89,000 per person for a new hospital.
Salem with 50,000 and serving 30,000 more can subscribe \$1,100,000 on an average per person of \$13.75.
Yakima, Washington, with a population of 35,000 and serving an additional 25,000 raised

BY GUILD

Wizard of Odds



MacKENZIE'S COLUMN

Closed Big Four Meeting Raises Point of Secrecy

By DeWITT MacKENZIE

Some of the American correspondents who have been covering the Big Four foreign ministers' conference in Paris have voiced disapproval over the U. S. state department's arrangements for

supplying the American version of developments. Most of the information available regarding the western plans is said to have come from British and French sources. The Russians, of course, don't talk.

As one who has spent most of the past generation reporting international events, your correspondent has a sympathetic ear for this point. It's the old, old story. American diplomatic circles exalt freedom of the press and subscribe to a fully informed public. Despite this, some highly diplomatic quarters long have pursued the idea that if important problems can be worked out secretly there will be a better chance of success.

On the other hand, the British, and to some degree the French, always have the latch string out for news gathering. London and Paris take a different view than do many American officials, recognizing the propaganda value of presenting the news from their own standpoint.

So, on the whole, the life of a reporter abroad is no bed of roses. He has to dig hard for such ore as he uncovers, and then has to make a careful assay to make sure that he has rare exceptions, is a mighty real thing and not fool's dangerous thing.

Of course, every correspondent recognizes that there are times when the authorities have to delay the announcement of delicate news. Broadly speaking, however, experience has demonstrated that secrecy is a bad thing. In our democracy the government is the servant of the people. That being so, the public is entitled to an exact accounting of the stewardship. The best way to render that accounting is through the news.

Secret diplomacy, barring rare exceptions, is a mighty dangerous thing. Of course, every correspondent recognizes that there are times when the authorities have to delay the announcement of delicate news. Broadly speaking, however, experience has demonstrated that secrecy is a bad thing. In our democracy the government is the servant of the people. That being so, the public is entitled to an exact accounting of the stewardship. The best way to render that accounting is through the news.

'And' Expensive With Coffee

Chicago (AP)—"Coffee and" cost Alfred Ellis \$282.05. It was the "and" that proved expensive. Ellis, who owns a store, bought a cup of coffee in a nearby soda fountain, returned to his place and drank it. Thus far he was out five cents. Then he brought back the cup and saucer to his store. While he was out, quick thieves took \$282 from his cash register.

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