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4— Salem, Oregon, Tuesday, June 28, 1949

Johnson Should Know by Now

Months ago the Capital Journal labeled as dangerous and ill-advised the arguments of William Bradford Huie in Reader's Digest. Huie would build the air force to the detriment of the other armed forces.

As expected, his writings forced navy and marine corps supporters to come to the aid of the department of the navy. Huie's preachings increased the fears of those supporters enough to force them into the open and thus harm efforts being made to bring the services together.

Latest to knock effectively the idea that the next war will be won by air power alone is a flying admiral, D. V. Gallery, U. S. N. He writes in the current issue of the Saturday Evening Post:

"The British can testify, from experience, as to the futility of terror bombing unless it is backed up by the ability to invade. He warns that the 'instant and devastating retaliation' plan is doubly dangerous because it has terrific appeal to the popular imagination. 'It sweeps all the unpleasant facts of war under the rug and promises easy victory without much fighting, in case war does come. It offers us a sort of sugar-coated war in which the only horrors are experienced by the enemy, and which we win at the expense of comparatively few long-range bomber crews.'

The idea of getting something for nothing, which the Huie crowd peddles, avoids the ghastliness of war. As Admiral Gallery notes, 'even from the purely cold-blooded military point of view of getting the shooting war over with as soon as possible, blasting cities does not pay off.'

"Such bombing has much more effect on post-surrender problems than it does in bringing about surrender. It is a diversion of effort and may, therefore, prolong, instead of shorten, the war."

He cites figures to prove his statement. The United States Strategic Bombing Survey Summary Report supports him this way:

"The Germans were far more concerned over attacks on one or more of their basic industries and services—their oil, chemical, or steel industries or their power or transportation networks—than they were over attacks on their armament industry or the city areas."

As long as Huie and other super air force advocates had such a play with their earlier statements, the navy and marine corps supporters can't be criticized for answering.

Secretary of Defense Johnson ought to be convinced by now that only balanced armed services can be considered for the security of the United States. And that balance can be achieved only by cooperation on a top level among the services.

Flaws in Our Educational System

Wilma Morrison, school editor of The Oregonian, has an informative article in the Sunday Magazine section of the paper on "Why College Freshmen Flunk?" She thus summarizes the existing situation:

Statistics and opinions of college professors suggest entirely too many Oregon high school students are not adequately prepared for college work.

Ninety per cent of entering freshmen at University of Oregon cannot take the course in mathematics that was considered standard 20 years ago.

Between one fourth and one third of freshmen from the state of Oregon who enrolled at Oregon State in September got D and F grades in English, mathematics and science in their first quarter—too low for graduation credit.

Of Portland's 336 entering freshmen at Oregon State college last fall, 20 withdrew and 113 were in scholastic difficulties.

One of the reasons is that our schools do not concentrate on the fundamentals—the Three Rs being the most neglected. Educational instruction is scattered over too wide a field and frills replace essentials.

The average high school student of 50 years ago was far better equipped for college than those of today for there were fewer courses, more work and less play. There was no commercialization of sport to take the time and efforts of the student body, no social swirl to absorb their leisure. We are long on theory and short on realities and discipline. And the students "don't know how to study."

Although we have palatial school buildings, playgrounds, well paid teachers, they scatter their energies over a wider field, and are not getting the results attained under a simpler system.

We refuse to recognize the fact that not all youth can absorb a high school or college education and we waste time and money in forcing them to try. In bygone times, before the days of compulsion, those unfitted by nature were permitted to quit and work out their own salvation. Even the writer of the article quotes "the present broadening the enrollment base to include all levels of intelligence and accomplishment rather than the comparatively selective student bodies of years ago," which complicates the problem.

Stinky Has Kittens 'Rather Often'

Seattle (AP)—Stinky, a shaggy, black and very friendly cat, has given birth to 288 kittens in the past 10 years.

And if that isn't a record, the somewhat bewildered Paul Mayovsky family says it doesn't care to contemplate a record holder.

Stinky joined the family in 1939 and they tried to get rid of her. But the "tidal wave" set in first. Her last seven arrived a week ago, with one dying.

Telling about the cat, 16-year-old Jerry Mayovsky, in a masterpiece of understatement, commented:

"The strange thing about her is that she has kittens rather often."

Who Has \$20 Long Enuf to Count

Portland (AP)—Have you been noticing too many chimneys on your \$20 bills lately?

Other people have, reported Frank J. Kenney, agent in charge of the U. S. secret service here. He said the \$20 bill designed by the government last November has caused scores of inquiries from people who think it's counterfeit. Even bankers have asked, he said.

The new bill shows the White House as it is today: With four chimneys and the balcony. The old bill had two chimneys.

BY BECK



SIPS FOR SUPPER

Local Boy

BY DON UPJOHN

Governor Douglas McKay's appointment of Circuit Judge E. M. Page of Marion county to the supreme bench to succeed the late Justice Percy M. Kelly will be hailed with pleasure by the thousands of friends of both the men as a good appointment.

Judge Page has made a splendid record on the circuit bench and his constituency has returned him to the post without opposition which is the best evidence of what they think of him as a jurist. That he is a very human chap may be evidenced by the fact that his acquaintances call him "Max," his friends and associates still don't hesitate to address him as "Bing," the name he acquired in his boyhood in Salem and which has clung to him. Where and how he got it we don't know, but it seems a natural form of address when he isn't cloaked with the sanctity of the bench. We have a pretty good idea the governor's selection of a successor to Judge Page will be equally good. We happen to know who the choice will be as told by grapevine and he is a deep student, a most meticulous practitioner and a man of strong integrity, an opinion in which we think everybody will coincide when the name is revealed.

Note that in the Hiss-Chambers case back east the allegation has been made that some years ago Mr. Hiss accepted a rug from Mr. Chambers. The case is beginning to look slightly ruggid, as it were.

A Jump Ahead "An eastern college professor says that courting should be taught in school. He seems to have overlooked the fact that it is already an active course in our best coeducational schools." We doubt if there are many of the professors sufficiently advanced in the art to teach the present day student crop anything they don't know already. But the professors might learn something.

We note that the Chemekeets plans to call on the three sisters the holiday week-end. The girls will probably be glad to have such a nice bunch of visitors.

We want to welcome into our FT & BA Junior League Paul Harvey, Jr., editor of the Hulsey News. Paul is 12 years old and maybe not the youngest member but a right important addition. He went to the dentist expecting to lose a tooth and he lost four instead. It seems nature had been too bountiful with him and the teeth were crowding each other out.

MacKENZIE'S COLUMN

Once Before Great Britain Cut Value of Her Money

By DeWITT MacKENZIE (Of Foreign Affairs Analyst)

It's not surprising that Britain's economic crisis should have given rise to discussion on both sides of the Atlantic as to whether devaluation of the pound sterling would ease the situation.

Under England's managed (controlled) currency, the pound now is pegged at about \$4.03. It also has a fixed value in relation to the currencies of other countries.

The point in lowering the value of the pound would be to encourage foreigners to increase their purchases in Britain.

It works like this: Say the value of the pound in U.S. money were reduced from \$4.03 to \$3.03. Then obviously the American would save a dollar on every pound transaction he made, whether it be for a pair of gloves or for food. That would be a drawing card for tourists and likely would increase exports.

However, this would cut two ways for England. While she would be selling more goods, she would have to pay more for necessary imports, say from America, with her devalued pound. Britain is such a heavy importer that her increased expenditure for imports might more than offset her gain in sales.

So Britain thus far has turned thumbs down on any idea of devaluation.

Back in 1931, during the great depression, England faced another crisis which forced her in effect to devalue the pound, and she did it by the sensational move of going off the gold standard—long her financial Rock of Gibraltar.

That was on September 21, the memorable day on which the whole financial world was shaken.

Governments and big business the globe around were in a cold sweat, while they waited for some sign of the trend.

It was my fortune to be Associated Press chief of bureau in London at that time, and I decided to consult the American ambassador General Charles G. (Hell and Maria) Dawes, former vice-president and one of the world's financial experts. I found him in conference with the late Thomas Cochran, a partner in the banking firm of J. P. Morgan.

The general invited me "to get in on this," and I did. After a bit, Cochran turned to me and said:

"You ought to go down and get an interview with Morgan about the gold standard." (Mr. Morgan was then in London, with headquarters in the Morgan bank).

Well, Morgan received me like a long lost brother. He played the perfect host, and we talked at length about the gold standard.

I told him the situation was precarious and I thought he should make a statement. Finally he agreed.

Morgan's statement, which described the British government's action as "a hopeful and not a discouraging" event swept into front pages throughout America, and of course raced around the world. This optimistic word from the sphinx of the House of Morgan was credited with having much to do with steadying international reaction.

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Joint Chiefs of Staff Cautious on Arms Aid

By DREW PEARSON

Washington—The state department's Dr. Philip Jessup, trailing homeward after the failure of the Big Four conference in Paris, was reflecting on the high hopes which preceded that conference.

Jessup had been in on the discussions with Gromyko before the conference, and he remembered May 3 particularly. That was the day when the final Russian note was delivered to him in New York, the day all the world wondered what was in that note.

Would the Russians say yes or no? The note reached Jessup's office, No. 2 Park Avenue, in the morning, and he knew it was the fatal document that would tell whether the blockade of Berlin was to be lifted. He knew it was the climax of his weeks of secret negotiation and hidden meetings with Malik and Gromyko.

But nobody in his office could read Russian... frantic search for a translator... an hour passed... Jessup hid the secret document under his desk blotter... another hour passed... headlines in the press: "No reply from Moscow."

Finally, after three hours—a translator, Jessup hurried to his desk, took the fatal document from under the blotter, and said: "Here, translate this quickly. I'm tired of acting like a character in a dime novel!"

LATE RECOMMENDATION The joint chiefs of staff held one of their most significant meetings last week with Secretary of Defense Louis A. Johnson.

Johnson was about to testify before the senate armed services committee and, before he did so, the heads of the army, navy and air force told him that they seriously question the advisability of sending large amounts of arms to Europe under the North Atlantic pact.

The joint chiefs of staff were cautious in making their statement, pointed out that they were making no recommendation, that the final decision was up to the state department.

Nevertheless, from a military viewpoint they could not justify the expense of arming 25 European divisions. They also expressed doubt as to what would become of these arms in the hands of Western European armies, if Russia invaded.

NOTE 1—Private comment of senators who heard about the joint chiefs of staff recommendation was: "Why tell us so late? Without arms the North Atlantic pact becomes an empty shell."

NOTE 2—While details were not discussed at the above meeting it's understood that the nub of the problem is tanks. The U.S. army could send rifles, machine guns, some artillery with no loss. But it has no tanks to spare.

European military, especially the French, point out that a modern army without tanks is like an army with pitchforks. It couldn't last a week against the Red army's Stalin tanks—considered the most powerful in the world. Russia has eight tank divisions between the Vistula and Oder Rivers alone.

NOTE 3—The joint chiefs of staff include Army Chief Gen. Omar Bradley, Navy Chief Adm. Louis Denfeld, and Air Chief Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg.

BLIND JOAN OF ARC "There will be no questions," said Chairman Percy Priest of Tennessee when pretty, 28-year-old Mildred Wiesenfeld of New York finished testimony last week before a congressional subcommittee.

"You have made one of the finest and best-documented presentations I have ever heard," said the congressman. "No questions are necessary."

The witness could not see the congressman. She was blind. She had come to urge government funds for research into diseases causing blindness, which is increasing every year, with little being done to find out why.

Every year 20,000 are stricken with polio, whereas 30,000 lose their vision.

Miss Wiesenfeld's story began three years ago when she founded the National Council to Combat Blindness with a capital of eight dollars and no office. Now she is the "Joan of Arc" of the blind and near-blind people all over the country.

Among the things she told the congressmen: "There are 260,000 blind in this country... Relief and Welfare for them costs the government \$30,000,000 in a single year. Yet only \$400,000 is spent annually for research into the reasons for blindness. In most cases of fading vision, the doctors must sit helplessly by doing nothing."

"But I have never lost faith in the heart of America," concluded Miss Wiesenfeld. "It is too late to help me, but there's still time to save the sight of thousands of Americans who are gradually going blind, many without knowing it."

COMMUNIZING ASIA—Intelligent sources have learned that the Soviet has sent 362 key comintern agents to Siam to set up a base in Bangkok to win over southeast Asia. The Russian agents arrived with printing presses, paper supplies, and short-wave radio. They even have their own air force—private planes for the use of the Russian diplomats. The Red agents are concentrating their fire on the whole southeast Asia perimeter, all the way to Manila.

MESSINGER-BOY VISHINSKY—The foreign minister's conference convinced Secretary Acheson of one thing: Molotov is still boss of Russia's foreign policy, not Vishinsky. The Paris conference took twice as long as it should, because Vishinsky couldn't make even the most minor decision without sending to Moscow for instructions. When Molotov was foreign minister, he had much more authority.

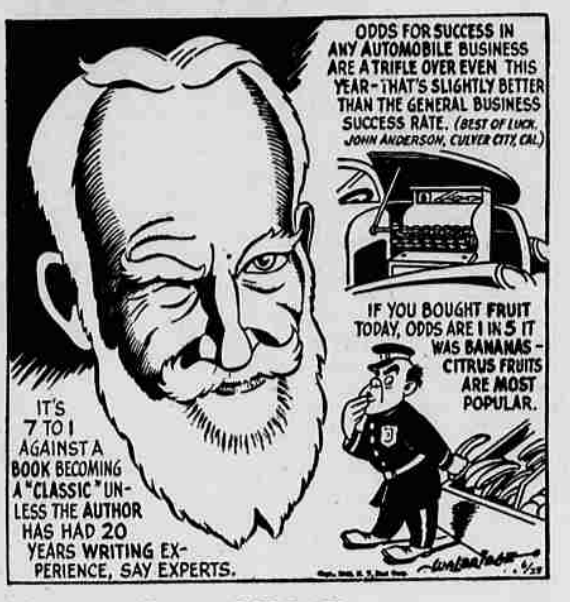
THREE SENATORIAL SCALPS—President Truman has ordered the Democratic National committee to get the scalps of three republican senators at the next election at its cost! Taft of Ohio, author of Taft-Hartley; Hickenlooper of Iowa for smearing the atomic energy commission, and Donnell of Missouri—because H.S.T. doesn't relish G.O.P. senators from his home state.

These highly secret figures were smuggled to me by a rascal friend who sent them here, hidden in an old pumpkin, via an intermediary. The man traveled on a coach car of the New York, New Haven and Hartford railway to avoid detection.

The statistics show that 25 years after leaving Yale's ivory tower the boys have an average earned income of \$17,210 and an average income from all sources of \$25,111. The largest single income was a tidy \$400,000.

The boys have turned out to be good, steady husbands. They carry an average of \$55,262 in life insurance—enough to cheer any prospective widow. Some 71 per cent have one or more servants and only 7.1 per cent have wives who work outside the home.

BY GUILD



POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

From 'Boola Boola' to Plenty of Moola Moola

By HAL BOYLE

New York (AP)—Ever wonder what happened to good old Frank Merriwell after he left Yale? He seems to have been lost in the crush of years, but a number of Old Eli's sons have done right well by themselves.

Yes, sir, the lads who stayed up all night a quarter of a century ago singing "Boola, Boola" can sleep late now because they are making plenty of "moola moola."

The class of 1924 has done all right for itself. In fact, I have come to the conclusion, after studying some statistics compiled for the classes 25th reunion this year, that one of the signs of a misspent life is not to have been graduated from Yale university the year Calvin Coolidge was elected president.

Some 194 men thought the country was in for more inflation, 90 thought prosperity would continue, 37 foresaw recession and 177 a depression. On the other hand 181 thought the outlook of their own business was good, 125 believed it was fair and only 10 poor. Yale men are self-reliant. They believe in themselves.

In the last election 82.7 per cent reported they voted for Thomas E. Dewey, 6.7 per cent backed Truman, 2 per cent Wallace and 8 per cent Norman Thomas.

In the matter of hobbies 63 said they preferred golf, 48 fishing, 15 music, 15 hunting, 14 skiing, 13 photography, 12 bridge, and 2 find their relaxation in Boy Scout work.

Wonder what Frank Merriwell's doing?

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