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4— Salem, Oregon, Friday, January 13, 1950

BY BECK
A Dog's Life



POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Friday the 13th—Superstition Is Reverse Side of Faith

By HAL BOYLE

New York. (AP)—This is Friday the 13th, and if anything unlucky happens to you—blame it on superstition.

People have been doing it for centuries, and they will probably keep on doing it.

Superstition is the reverse of faith—the lazy man's way of keeping out of trouble.

Faith requires acts of positive good to retain the favor of the lord you worship. But superstition is the opposite. They usually are attempts to buy off the devil at a low price—by some small ritual.

But since civilized man remains a lazy animal, superstition still thrives in his heart side-by-side with faith. He tries to work both sides of the street—to please God and placate the devil.

People who say they aren't superstitious simply don't know how deeply superstition is worked into the fabric of their daily lives.

Why, for instance, do you decorate your home with evergreen branches at Christmas? Well, the custom springs from an ancient fertility rite—an appeal to bless the house with more children.

Everyone, consciously or unconsciously, observes some ritual of superstition. Once, entering his hotel room to interview Primo Carnera, I took off my hat and coat and tossed them on the bed.

"Don't do that!" he exclaimed. "Don't you know it's unlucky to throw a hat on a hotel bed?"

My own pet superstition is to knock three times on wood when I don't want something to happen. No one has to tell me that it is a silly and useless gesture. I know it. But I've been doing it since I was a child—and I'm going to keep it on.

The most superstitious classes today probably are show people and horse players.

Beggars make a good living by hanging out in theatrical districts, knowing that most entertainers won't pass them without tossing them a coin for luck. And confirmed horse bettors will follow their favorite superstitions right into bankruptcy courts.

"It means a lot of money," she says stubbornly. However, I still have to go to work. And that's no superstition.

Cold War With Reds Costing Taxpayers Too Much Money

By JAMES MARLOW

Washington, Jan. 13 (AP)—The cold war with communism is costing you plenty.

If it weren't for that, this country's spending and your taxes—to cover the spending—would be away down.

That's the one point which stands out above all others in the budget President Truman sent congress this week.

The cost of the cold war, big as it is, is cheaper, of course, than a shooting war. That would cost far more, plus blood.

There's no certainty—only hope—that the cost of the cold war will decrease.

It's the cold war mainly that's keeping the U.S. in the red. It's spending more than its income, more than it collects in taxes.

Because of this—more expenses than income—Mr. Truman figures this year and next will put us another \$11 billion in debt.

It's nice to believe, or hope, that as Europe gets back on its feet, we'll be able to cut down the billions we're pouring into the Marshall plan.

But by the time the Marshall plan is supposed to end, new crises may arise, requiring more billions in Europe or elsewhere.

As for cutting down on national defense—which is to keep us ready if we have to go to war or discourage the Russians from making war—that depends. It depends on whether, for instance, the Russians somehow suddenly and unexpectedly become nice little boys.

They show no signs of folding up, particularly now that they can use the atom.

And communism shows no signs of ceasing its endless pushing. Stopped in Europe, at least temporarily, it found a soft touch in China and pushed there. It will push where it can.

Put yourself in the positions of the Russians for a moment. In short, keep the U.S. spending its blood off.

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

John Maragon Linked With Gambling Czar Frank Costello

(Ed. Note—This is the first of a series of columns by Drew Pearson giving the inside on the nation's far-flung gambling rackets and how they influence government).

By DREW PEARSON

Washington—Four years ago I may have contributed to a murder in Chicago. This series of columns, therefore, is written as my contribution toward cleaning up an ever-widening area of big-city government in which such murders flourish.

Sen. Estes Kefauver of Tennessee has wisely put his finger on this menace in his proposed

probe of interstate gambling rackets. And last summer, Sen. Clyde Hoey's investigating committee unearthed an important clue linking the gambling racket to Wash-

ington; then backed away from it as if they had stepped on a rattlesnake.

This clue was a statement by John Maragon, now under indictment, that he had worked for a man named Kastell. "Dandy Phil" Kastell, an alumnus of Atlanta penitentiary and associate of murdered gangleader Arnold Rothstein, is the long-time partner of the current king of the gamblers, Frankie Costello, and of Bill Helis, the "Golden Greek" of the race track world.

It had long been suspected by those who have carefully watched the peculiar operations of John Maragon and his amazing entre at the White House, that Maragon was linked to Frankie Costello. It was also suspected that Maragon might have been the funnel by which Costello poured campaign contributions in to Maj. Gen. Harry Vaughan.

Republicans Persist. Perhaps it was not unnatural, therefore, that Democrats on Sen. Hoey's committee backed away from this, and had it not been for the persistence of GOP Sen. Karl Mundt of South Dakota, the links between Costello, Helis and Maragon might never have been exposed.

Republican senators also developed the significant acknowledgment from General Vaughan that Helis had contributed campaign contributions to Democratic political campaigns.

Now, government is not supposed to have even the remotest links with gambling. But when a gambling syndicate contributes \$20,000 to the campaign of a Florida sheriff who gets a salary of only \$7,500, or when Big Bill Lias, the Wheeling race track operator, contributes \$35,000 to an earlier campaign of Lee Spillers, now U.S. attorney to be prosecuting attorney, it stands to reason that gambling syndicates can exert powerful influence with our city governments.

It is said by some that the Pengergast machine and big-city politics have now moved into the White House. While this columnist does not altogether agree with this—for reasons to be shown later—yet it is true that when Frankie Costello controls a \$2,000,000 gambling business, he can afford to spend a fortune electing men whom he can influence.

And though Costello now claims to be a man of peace, other gangsters, reaching for the golden profits of the slot machine and the race track, have not hesitated to steal, kidnap, hijack and murder.

This was how the murder took place in Chicago for which I may have been partly responsible.

And he did. The justice department assigned 12 FBI men to act on the tips Regan gave them, and for a time it looked as if Chicago gangland was in for a cleanup.

But suddenly, Regan was shot. He had told me that he probably would be shot, and had hired a bodyguard to be with him night and day. But driving home one afternoon, his car stopped for a red light. Alongside him, as he waited, pulled up a vegetable truck, and from under the crates blazed a volley of gunfire. Regan crumpled in his seat.

Regan, however, did not die. Taken to the hospital he fought for his life. A month dragged by and Regan seemed out of the woods. Then suddenly he was dead.

A tube of mercury was found in his intestines. How it got there nobody knew. But the gangsters of Chicago are powerful.

Not only have they ways of getting inside hospitals, but they have ways of reaching inside the federal government, as we shall show in future columns of this series.

Willamette Lassies Put Up Snowman Pal for Circuit Rider

Three lovely lasses from Willamette university, across the street from the capitol, crossed over from the campus Thursday to do their bit toward decorating the state house grounds.

They built a jaunty snow man, stuck a pipe in his mouth, put a straw hat on his snowy pate and gave him a bouquet of tree leaves to carry.

This bit of impromptu sculpture is close to and looks toward E. Phimister Proctor's statue of the Circuit Rider. Wonder if the Willamette lasses know how fitting this tribute to the Circuit Rider is? The statue was "Presented to the state of Oregon in reverent and grateful remembrance of Robert Booth, pioneer minister of the Oregon country, by his son, Robert A. Booth."

Robert A. Booth, Lane county lumberman, was one of the principal financial supporters of Willamette university.

OPEN FORUM
Bus Service in Salem

To the Editor: I've lived and worked in several large and small cities and towns in several states. And Salem is just about tops. It has wide, clean streets, nice buildings, pleasant people, etc. But why in Heaven's name haven't they got a bus service.

Salem is about 10 years behind in transportation. The people stand huddled together like sheep on Commercial street without any covering. Some o'clock. The busses are late plenty hours. JOHN COOPER, Salem.

Dr. Townsend's Birthday Friday

To the Editor: Again on January 13th many thousands of annuitants will celebrate the 83rd birthday of Dr. Francis E. Townsend, known as the father of old-age pensions.

Due to his untiring efforts many are receiving pensions that otherwise would be eking out poor house. Also due to his efforts, especially in Colorado, with its \$83 average monthly pension, many merchants are doing a good business, who otherwise might be unable to even meet their taxes.

F. K. HASKELL
Weonma Beach, Ore.

BY CLARE BARNES, JR.
White Collar Zoo



Wife who keeps dropping into the office

SOCIALISM ON HIGH

England Gives Security from Womb to Tomb; Cost Great

Editor's Note: Prime Minister Clement R. Attlee announced Tuesday night that a general election will be held in Great Britain on Feb. 23. In that election, British socialism will be on trial.

In the following dispatch, a member of the United Press cables staff who was assigned to London during most of the labor government's five years in power tells how Attlee and his colleagues have changed the whole British way of life.

By HOMER JENKS

(United Press Staff Correspondent)

Britain has had five years of socialism, and never again will be the same.

Prime Minister Clement R. Attlee and his labor government have changed irrevocably the British way of life. Not even a conservative victory in this year's general election will bring back the pre-war Britain.

It has been a five-year revolution, albeit a peaceful one. Probably in no similar period in British history has the whole basis of the nation's life been altered so completely.

The socialists have brought the individual Briton unparalleled security from womb to tomb. But they have made him pay for it with the heaviest taxes in the western world and hemmed him in with restrictions hitherto unknown in these enlightened days outside totalitarian countries.

The government government interests itself in the citizen even before birth. If a prospective mother works to help balance the family budget, she gets \$5 a week for 13 weeks—including before and after the birth. She gets an additional \$11.20 as a special birth grant.

A non-working housewife also gets a grant of \$11.20, plus \$2.80 a week for four weeks.

No mother, and indeed no Briton, need worry about doctor or hospital bills. Under the controversial national health plan, all medical care at home or in the hospital is free. Mothers also get free orange juice for the government for their babies.

The government also insures all Britons for unemployment, injury, sickness and retirement. Every widow gets a pension for up to 13 weeks if she is under 50 years of age; if older, she gets it for the rest of her life.

And at death, the government contributes \$56 toward his burial expenses.

To support this gigantic welfare program, the government taxes all incomes over \$378 a year at a basic rate of 40 per cent and a sliding scale of surtaxes.

A married man with two children earning \$2800 a years pays an annual tax of \$504. If he earned \$28,000, he would pay \$17,717. A single man earning the same salaries would pay \$743 and \$17,957, respectively.

Then there are special payroll deductions of up to 70 cents a week for every worker to help pay the cost of the national health, insurance and assistance plans sales taxes ranging from 33 1/2 to 100 per cent, inheritance taxes ranging from \$1 to 75 per cent, and assorted taxes on beer, liquor and entertainment.

This high taxation, along with the war-time state program and the welfare state program and the lower-bracket wages have toward Britain a long way toward the socialist goal of equality.

The number of Britons with net incomes above \$420 a year has more than doubled since 1939. Those earning \$14 to \$28 a week has nearly trebled. But persons with an income after taxes of \$2800 or more has dropped 25 per cent. Fewer than 900 persons now earn more than \$11,000 a year after taxes, and there are only 45 who earn more than \$17,000.

For the first time in any democratic country, the government also has assumed the power to tell workers what jobs they must take. The unemployed or those wishing to change their jobs must go to government employment exchanges. If they refuse to take one of the several jobs offered them, the government can fine them and send them to jail.

Moreover, the socialist government has seized ownership of the nation's coal mines, railways, airlines, bus lines, road transport, cable companies, gas and power plants and the Bank of England.

If returned to power, the labor government intends to nationalize similarly Britain's steel, shipbuilding, cement and other industries.

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An Ambitious Program for Salem

Next week Salem Chamber of Commerce directors will consider a nine-point program for 1950. Those nine points describe well the problems facing the community.

The nine points are worth reviewing: Point one is the encouraging of new business to locate in Salem, with emphasis on the selection of firms specially adapted to the community. The need for year-round employment here is obvious from the seasonal unemployment figures.

Point two is a highway and traffic program that will push completion of a bridge across the Willamette river, will improve the northern entrance to the city by a four-lane highway, will put in a new road between Mill City and Mehama, and will get Salem a decent highway north toward Portland.

On the latter point the Chamber notes that it favors improving the Wilsonville cut-off. The Capital Journal still believes a four-lane road north to Oregon City is best, since more of Marion county would benefit by such a highway than by the Wilsonville cut-off and a two-lane stretch north of the proposed cut-off would leave merely a bottleneck. But any widening of the road to Portland would be an improvement, so which-ever stretch got approval would be helpful.

For point three, the Chamber has been asked to do something about off-street parking. This problem can't be neglected any longer if the city is to continue to grow. And there's no doubt the city will grow, so the Chamber must make a definite start on this problem before the year is half-way along.

These first three points were advocated for the Chamber's attention several months ago by the Capital Journal as the basis for the Chamber's program for this year.

The five other points are these: Continued improvement of the airport development program. Continued support for the Willamette valley project. Encouragement to a Salem park program. Assistance to the transient labor camp program. Backing for Salem's long-range planning. Development of Salem's tourist qualities.

This is an ambitious list. But the Chamber can't shrink from the problems which are admitted in this program. The points which are not accomplished this year will return to haunt the community in more aggravated form next year.

The program should be adopted next week. The chamber has an opportunity with these nine points, with emphasis on the first three, to make a record for itself and do Salem and Marion county a service. Retiring President Harland deserves credit for outlining these objectives for the year.

An accounting on these points at the end of 1950 will be interesting.

U. S. Foreign Policy in the Far East

In his declaration of American foreign policy toward the Far East, Secretary of State Acheson stated that Russia is in process of taking over 2,000,000 square miles of northern Chinese territory, including Manchuria, Outer Mongolia, Inner Mongolia and Sinkiang, consisting of nearly half of China's 4,314,097 square miles and annexing it to the Soviet empire.

The incorporation of these areas into the USSR would rob China of rich agricultural and industrial lands and make its economic rehabilitation totally dependent upon Russia. Acheson asserted that the United States considers the four countries to be integral parts of China. This Soviet procedure was to be expected as part of Russian imperialism's program since the days of Ivan the Terrible, now the avowed and inflexible aggressive policy of the Kremlin.

Acheson outlined a three-point strategy for blocking and aimed reversing, the spread of Russian communism in Asia, aimed at bolstering non-communist nation's in south-eastern Asia to eventually drive a wedge between China and Russia and holding America's own western Pacific defense line, which does not include Formosa.

On this Russian aggression and the belief that Asia is caught up in a great revolutionary ferment, Acheson outlined three lines of strategy for dealing with the situation, summarized as follows:

1. To promote the growth of nationalism and help satisfy the desire for economic betterment in the countries of southeast Asia as the best way of preventing them from going communist.

2. To exploit the conflict between Chinese national interests even under communist rule, and what Acheson called Russian imperialism in North China.

3. To hold indefinitely the American defense line in the western Pacific based on Japan, the Ryukyu Islands and the Philippines. To this end, he made clear, the United States is determined to keep defense forces in Japan even after a peace treaty.

This policy has limitations, Acheson admitted. The United States could not help countries which did not want American aid nor could it help those too weak to make effective use of it, nor could security guarantees be given lands lying beyond the American western defense line, for final reliance of those peoples must be first in their own will to resist and in the United Nations. He added:

"The consequences of this Russian attitude and this Russian action in China are perfectly enormous. They are saddling all those in China who are proclaiming their loyalty to Moscow and who are allowing themselves to be used as puppets of Moscow with the most awful responsibility which they must pay for. Furthermore, these actions of the Russians are making plain that any speech or any utterance or any legislation can make throughout all of Asia what the true purposes of the Soviet Union are and what the true function of communism as an agent of Russian imperialism is."

Things Are Tough, You Say?

Warren, O., Jan. 13 (AP)—Things are tough, you say? Read on:

Five years ago, a 33-year-old man was stricken with tuberculosis of the spine. He recovered sufficiently to handle a part-time job.

Then he came down with sugar diabetes. After two more years of enforced idleness, he went back to work for three days—and caught a severe cold that bordered on flu.

The man returned to his home here and tried to kill himself with a rifle. The bullet went through his chest, bounced off a rib, pierced a kidney and went through his back.

He's recovering.