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Salem, Oregon, Tuesday, February 17, 1953

ADLAI FLINGS A FEW MORE PHRASES

Adlai Stevenson delivered his first major address since the night before the November election at a Jefferson-Jackson dinner in New York Saturday night, evidencing the same clever gift for words that was so evident during the campaign, but also the same mental confusion that caused him to get so many fewer votes than it looked like he would get early in the campaign.

Stevenson was clever when he observed that "to the victor belongs the toll," and kind when he promised to support President Eisenhower's "business administration."

But Stevenson went on to warn against the danger of the Ike regime becoming a "big deal" when he is obviously doing his best to reduce, not increase the magnitude of the federal bureaucracy that swelled to such vast proportions through 20 years of free and easy new dealing.

Then Stevenson offered a wholly unneeded and mischievous warning against the United States becoming a "big bully" to its allies, as if there were any likelihood of this. Here he provided the Kremlin and those who do its chores in the western countries with a telling propaganda weapon.

The former governor added that "there is always the tendency to mistake the particular interest for the general interest," an observation that would have had far better application to the new deal fair deal in its old age, and to an administration long and securely in the saddle than to one whose congressional majorities are so slim.

Adlai Stevenson has a glib tongue and is an agile phrase maker who is pleasing to listen to. But his latest effort does not suggest the practical common sense for the Herculean task upon which Eisenhower has embarked. He will make the better critic, Ike the better doer, we believe.

WRONG USE OF FLOOD STORAGE DAMS

Flood control in the Willamette valley, so long desired and now partially realized with Detroit, Fern Ridge, Dorans and Cottage Grove dams in operation, is regarded by some, who expected to be beneficiaries, as a mixed blessing.

Flood control authorities are happy to point out that Willamette valley flood control dams contained January's record rainfall and averted a flood comparable to the more disastrous in recent years. This was accomplished by impounding waters of the North Santiam, Long Tom and tributaries of the Willamette to the southward. Following the succession of heavy rain storms the impounded waters were gradually released.

The rate of release is what farmers, county courts and those living along the Willamette are disturbed about. Heretofore floods rushed through the valley, covered the farm land briefly and then subsided. Such work as could be accomplished on fields was then delayed but a few days. Now, with flood control, the land remains long covered with water and inaccessible. Roads in low areas likewise remain impassable for a longer period of time and subject to damage by submersion. More particularly are river banks quickly eroded by a river stage that keeps the stream running at full contained capacity for a prolonged period of time.

Perhaps the answer lies in a rapid completion of the entire Willamette Basin project thereby enabling flood control to become entirely effective by a more gradual release of impounded water.

HAMPERING THE PRESIDENT

Walter Lippman, the syndicated pundit of the New York Herald-Tribune in a recent article raps the self-appointed spokesmen, politicians and columnists principally for hampering Eisenhower's foreign policies by a "large cloud of opinion, dope, guessing, inference and attribution which envelop them." He continues:

"A great deal of bad feeling is being generated on both sides of the Atlantic by men who are discussing not the president's policies, but what somebody has said they might or ought to be.

"There is a practice, widely indulged in by politicians and journalists, of letting it seem that they are discussing the intentions, the purposes, even the plans of the president before he has disclosed them himself. This is an abuse of freedom of speech which interferes seriously with the conduct of foreign policy."

Even when the disclosure is accurate, Lippman points out, as to substance, the timing is essential, for a premature disclosure may destroy consumption of the policy, and when it is inaccurate as it usually is, the confusion created is enormous. "The effect is to create a popular expectation that cannot be satisfied without undue cost and risks, and arousing popular discontent." It also deprives him of the lost power to maneuver, which Ike's purpose is to recover.

Eisenhower's right is to speak for himself which too many self-appointed spokesmen are doing their best to destroy. It is fundamental and essential to the administration of his office and efforts to curb aggression and establish world peace.

Here's an Understanding Thief

Hollywood, (AP)—Police are seeking an understanding thief with a gin breath.

Mrs. Helen Veneman, 33, said the man appeared at her home, put a spring-blade knife against her and said: "I want something to eat and some money."

She asked him to be quiet because her four small children were asleep.

"I understand," he replied. "I have children." Lacking cash she wrote him a \$20 check. He raided the refrigerator, took a fifth of gin, cut the phone wires and left.

Editor Tries New Quirk

Hokah, Minn., (AP)—Editors usually provide "continued" lines to help readers find their way around newspapers when stories are carried over to other pages.

Herb Wheaton, author of the column "My Point of View" in the weekly Hokah Chief, is different. He starts the column on page one. But at the bottom, citing the continuation, is this terse line. "Hunt for it."

Harder pursuers of his weekly prose are rewarded, this week on page three, where the column continuation is headed, "You found it!"

LEGISLATORS as Seen by Murray Wade



Murray Wade's Cartoons Here Again—Appearing as a daily feature in the Capital Journal during the remainder of the state legislative session will be Murray Wade's cartoon sketches of the senators and representatives and some of the attaches. With the

exception of the 1951 session, when the cartoonist was in impaired health, Murray Wade has sketched all Oregon legislative sessions since 1914. That's 19 regular sessions, to say nothing of the special ones.

POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

World's a Bleaker Place With Lee Departed

By HAL BOYLE

New York (AP)—The world is a bleaker place today for all who knew Clark Lee, a war correspondent untimely dead at 46.

And they will talk of him for a long, long time—in Brisbane and Tokyo, in Manila and Madrid, in Paris, Honolulu and Cairo. For Lee had become a legend even in his relatively brief lifetime.

He died quietly of a heart attack in his California home. And I have the unreal feeling of one who steps out the front door of his home on a sunny morning and sees on the lawn a giant tree he loved, felled in the night by a sudden wind.

Clark Lee was an Ernest Hemingway hero in the flesh, the

kind of newspaperman every kind of newspaperman sometimes yearns to be. He put a kind of glamor into the drudgery of war reporting, and no one like him had come down the pike since Richard Harding Davis.

But Clark wrote his fame in his own sweat. He was a big, dark-haired handsome fellow, built like Jack Dempsey, and his favorite wine was adventure. Few men have ever drunk deeper of it in so short a time.

Clark was that rare breed of reporter who not only covers and sees on the lawn a giant tree he loved, felled in the night by a sudden wind. Clark Lee was an Ernest Hemingway hero in the flesh, the

first war reporter to discover the importance of telling the story of the private at the front—and getting his name and address back to the folks at home. He hit the beaches of Sicily and Anzio and Normandy. He was with the first liberating troops into St. Lo, Paris, Manila, and Tokyo, and had flown in the first B-29 raid on the Japanese capital.

He made news himself by discovering "Tokyo Rose," the propaganda broadcaster, and by personally seeking out and accepting the surrender of Col. Joseph Meisinger, "The Butcher of Warsaw," who later was hanged for his war crimes.

For all his boldness and courage in close-up combat reporting, Clark had a curious gentleness about him, an endless understanding of the other fellow's problems and a quick willingness to help him out.

It was this sensitive quality that made him a close friend of men as diverse as Ernie Pyle and Ernest Hemingway. It was an odd pair Pyle and Clark made during the Italian campaign—something like seeing a fox terrier riding in a jeep with a black bear.

After the war Clark became a free lance, wrote a fine biography of General MacArthur, and restlessly toured the world with his Hawaiian princess wife, Liliuokalani Kawanakoa, better known as "Baby." They were a great team.

But Clark found it hard to get down to peacetime routine. He missed the robust hardships and excitement of war—the thrill of gambling his life to get "The Big Story."

Clark had the attribute that stamps the champion—the ability to show his best in an emergency. He never was meant for the humdrum life. I doubt if he yearned for an old age pension.

Perhaps it is as well that, after passing through so many dangers on so many battlefields, he should be surprised by death on the quiet shores of the Pacific Ocean he loved so much—and always returned to. The same ocean washes the island where his buddy, Ernie Pyle, now lies at rest, home from the wars, too.

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Farm Support Flareup May Cost Benson Job

BY DR. PEARSON

Washington — Secretary of Agriculture Benson doesn't know it, but the White House is thinking of firing him if the farm crisis gets much worse. His hostile attitude toward price supports at the same time farm prices are dangerously skidding has made him the logical target in case the administration decides it's necessary to appease the farmers.

One White House aide remarked privately that Benson is "expedient and may be jockeyed out of his present hot seat into a less controversial job, perhaps as an ambassador."

Meanwhile, here are the latest clouds on the darkening farm horizon:

1. Farm prices, now at a postwar low, are expected to fall another 5 per cent in the next few months. Yet the cost of marketing farm products has gone up. Thus the farmer, who got 84 cents of the housewife's dollar in 1945-46, now receives only 45 cents.

2. Farm exports have fallen off 30 per cent in the past year, leaving the farmer's bins over-loaded and adding pressure to the downward price trend. The situation is so bad that senators are considering an international food reserve to stabilize the international market and shift food from surplus to starvation areas.

3. Farmers are so wrought up over plunging prices and Benson's remarks against price supports that some farm-state republicans were actually afraid to go home for Lincoln day speeches. Senate agriculture committee chairman George Aiken of Vermont is trying to shush congressional critics, pleading that the storm will blow over. However, the lid is about to blow off Capitol Hill.

FARMER PAYS MORE

What has the farmers especially ailed is that their costs are creeping up at the same time their prices are tobogganing down. For example, consumers paid \$722 in 1951 for what is known as the "farm-food market basket." Of this, the farmers got \$360 and the handlers, processors, and distributors got \$362 — an even split. One year later, however — 1952 — the same "farm-food market basket" cost the consumers \$739, an increase of \$17, while the farmer's take was down \$20 to \$340. The middlemen's charges, on the other hand, were up \$37 to \$399.

In other words, the farmer not only is getting less for what he sells, but is paying more for what he buys.

One basic cause of tumbling farm prices is the drastic drop-off in agricultural exports, particularly wheat and cotton. To counteract this, a group of senators, led by Montana democrat Jim Murray, are studying a proposal to establish an international food reserve.

The idea would be to collect surplus food in an international clearing house and distribute it to countries under the shadow of famine and starvation. Countries putting food into the reserve would draw out raw materials, such as iron and oil.

Murray argues that the world problem is not overproduction but under-production; that our fellow men are starving in some countries while food stacks up at home. He also claims that an international food reserve would stop the shrinking for-

\$19.70; hops from \$17.90 per cwt. to \$16; wheat from \$22.24 a bushel to \$2.12; corn from \$1.68 a bushel to \$1.50; oats from 95 cents a bushel to 84 cents; cotton from 40 cents a pound to 31 cents, and butterfat from 76 cents a pound to 70 cents.

COCKTAIL CHATTER

The plush, new Capitol Hill club, built as a republican refuge in the shadow of the capitol building, has stirred up a storm of pulp-pounding. The ministers denounce it as a "drinking club." . . . The club's confidential prospectus describes what it's like inside. ("The facilities) will include a spacious lounge or meeting room, a dining room seating about three hundred people, private dining rooms, reading rooms, barber shop and bar cafe," says the prospectus. "In addition, there will be about 30 double bedrooms, some for transients and some for members who may wish to rent them by the year. Furnishings and equipment are to be the best and the cuisine and service, while not elaborate, will be the finest obtainable with prices as low as possible." . . . Those getting the worst roasting from the preachers are the senators on the club's board of governors — Homer Ferguson of Illinois, Frank Carlson of Kansas and Hugh Butler of Nebraska. The proprietors are now trying to raise \$400,000 to build a republican national headquarters next to the club. . . . Each state has been assigned a quota to raise, will be rewarded by having its shield on the cornerstone.

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New Orleans Lets Go in Mardi Gras

New Orleans, (AP)—The shimmering kettles of revelry in the "City That Care Forgot" boils over today as Rex, Lord of Misrule, reigns over New Orleans. Hundreds of thousands will jam the streets for the climax of Mardi Gras carnival season. Thousands of these merry-makers will be dressed as clowns, pirates, gorillas, flappers and other outlandish characters.

BY H. T. WEBSTER

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