

# Capital Journal

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## INDOCHINA IN THE LIMELIGHT

General Mark Clark, commander of UN forces in the Orient, at Saigon stresses the importance of Indochina in the communist effort to dominate Asia. Clark's objective is to view at first hand what the native Indochinese are doing to build up their armies fighting alongside the French against the Red led Vietnam. It is also to see what is being done with the hundreds of millions of dollars of American aid to the French led forces there.

The Eisenhower administration rates the Indochina war against communist forces strategically equal to the United Nations war against the Reds in Korea and a victory there must be won if a victory in Korea is to mean anything.

Clark, it is reported, will seek to arrange an exchange of military training teams to train the Indochinese as the South Koreans have been trained for front line duty, to switch the burden from France, part of Ike's strategy for training the Asians to fight Red aggression, as is being done in Korea.

The French have hitherto resisted the idea of accepting American training aid, but are now ready to accept it to relieve their own forces, and let them concentrate on European defense.

The disengagement of North Atlantic Treaty Organization troops from direct combat with communist forces anywhere in Asia is basic in long-range Eisenhower strategy. France will be unable to meet her military manpower requirements for western European defense until she is relieved of the Indochina front line battle drain. French junior officers and sergeants actually are being killed in Indochina faster than they can be trained and sent to combat.

Rene Mayer, French premier, is expected in Washington next week to confer with President Eisenhower, hence the importance of Clark's report on Indochina. American military aid shipments to Indochina have priority second only to Korea. This program is estimated at about \$1 billion, of which \$400 million worth of arms, tanks, etc., have already been delivered. In addition there is an economic aid program that will cost \$100 million.

Strategists hold the communists must be defeated in Indochina, to prevent their sweeping through all of south-east Asia, more important in resources and population than Korea. Clark's visit is on the invitation of Marshal Alphonse-Pierre Juin, French commander there, who recently visited Clark in Korea.

## BRITAIN TO DENATIONALIZE STEEL

A news item from London carries the significant word that the Churchill government's bill to return the nationalized steel industry to private ownership has passed the house of commons by a virtually straight party vote and is headed for the house of lords where success is assured.

When the conservatives returned to power there was widespread speculation as to whether steel could be denationalized. There was doubt that the former owners would be interested in buying their properties back, since the labor party would be sure to take them back into the government fold whenever it returned to power, likely at a considerably lower price than the first time. And British income taxes being what they are, operation of no business holds too many attractions over there.

That the government has pushed the bill through commons indicates that it expects to find buyers for the mills when they are offered for sale by the government. This is of major significance, indicating a returning confidence in the future of private enterprise in Britain, possibly because the series of special elections to fill parliamentary vacancies since the last general election have shown a continuing swing toward the conservatives and against the labor opposition.

It is very doubtful that the steel program could have been carried out a year ago. That it apparently can now means that Britain is moving in a more wholesome direction now.

## ON OUR OWN NOW

The last price controls have been scrapped, as wage controls previously were, and the nation's economy is substantially on its own again. We have price supports for basic farm commodities, but these are free to fluctuate in a large area and have done so, mostly downward. Yet we don't see much happening. Gasoline went up and coffee is evidently going to. Price controls held down plantings in the coffee countries, causing shortages for which American consumers will now pay, for a time. Higher prices will increase the available supply or divert some consumption to competitive beverages, so the coffee squeeze will probably be of short duration.

Meanwhile other commodities have gone down and show no sign of going up with the end of controls. Particularly is this true of manufactured articles which are faced by an extremely competitive market, with ample supplies and price conscious buyers.

The cost of living has been virtually stationary for several months. Unless there is all-out war we doubt that it will show much change for the remainder of this year. Nearly eight years after the end of the war the most effective regulator of prices, normal business competition, is ready to take over.

And we think most Americans will agree that this is by far the best regulation of all, when it is given a chance to operate.

## 3 Small Children Burn To Death at Oakland

Oakland (AP)—Three small children burned to death as they crouched trapped in a West Oakland apartment last night.

A fourth child was carried to safety by a heroic neighbor who rushed into the blazing inferno.

The children, two boys and two girls, were locked in the apartment at about 9:30 p.m. while their mother went to the store.

Their father, Edward J. Johnson, 38, a laborer, was working at his job at the Oakland airport.

## Oregon Teachers End 50th Annual Conclave

Portland (AP)—Thousands of teachers returned to their homes today following the last session of the 50th annual Oregon Education association convention here.

Closing business yesterday was confined to a series of workshop discussions and election of officers in some departments. The convention officially adjourned around noon.

Featured in the workshops were conferences in instruction, public relations, legislation, retirement and economic welfare.

## LEGISLATORS as Seen by Murray Wade



## WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

### Ike Republicans Unhappy Over Chairman's Selections

BY DREW PEARSON

Washington—While Republicans in Kansas are stewing over the lobbying activities of the new chairman of the Republican national committee, Wesley Roberts, Eisenhower Republicans in the senate aren't too happy about some of the new GOP appointments OK'd by Roberts.

They're not being quite so vocal about it in Washington as in Kansas, where ex-Gov. Alf Landon is comparing Roberts to Bill Boyle, ex-chairman of the Democratic national committee. Nevertheless, some comparisons are being made here too.

Boyle, it's recalled, got a \$1,250 fee in connection with an RFC loan to American Litho-Id; while Roberts got an \$11,000 commission in connection with the sale of a hospital to the state of Kansas which six Kansas ex-officials have testified belonged to the state anyway.

More important in the long run, however, are the appointments which a party chairman helps to make. Since the chairman of either the Republican or Democratic committee passes on most political appointments, his voice in shaping the destiny of the party—and the nation—can be all-important.

Most observers agree that the Eisenhower administration got off to a good start with its initial appointments. At that time, Attorney General Herbert Brownell did the screening. Of late, he has been busy in the justice department and Chairman Roberts has had greater choice and leeway. Here are some of the men he has either recommended or OK'd:

Jeff Robertson of Kansas to be chairman of the federal power commission in which job he would pass on oil and gas rates, vitally important to northern consumers. Robertson was immediately opposed by two staunch Republicans, Senators Ferguson and Potter of Michigan, with the former denouncing Robertson for his connections with the oil and gas industry.

It has now developed that Wes Roberts, who backed Robertson's appointment, received a fee of \$3,750 from an important gas oil company, Cities Service, during eight weeks in 1951 when the Kansas legislature was in session. In this connection, Kansas Sen. William Weigand has charged that Roberts actually lobbied the bill through the legislature giving gas companies the right of eminent domain in seizing underground storage facilities. In Kansas, Alf Landon calls Roberts a messenger boy for the gas and oil interests, while in Washington Roberts' critics point to the coincidence of Roberts' lobbying and his backing of Robertson for the key federal power commission.

Ex-Congressman Albert Cole of Kansas—To be housing administrator, in which job he must pass on public housing. Cole is the darling of the real-estate lobby, opposed the housing-slum clearance bill when in congress, but despite this was backed by Wes Roberts for the key housing post.

Some GOP senators griped at the appointment, and Sen. Irving Ives of New York, a strong Eisenhower Republican, said he was voting for Cole only on the assurance that Cole would fairly administer the public housing act regardless of his earlier opposition to it.

First thing Cole did when he was confirmed, however, was to telephone Akron, Ohio, and hold up construction of an important 300-unit housing project.

Craig Sheaffer, the Sheaffer pen king—To be assistant secretary of commerce. Sheaffer was OK'd by the Republican national committee despite the fact that he was a backer of certain rabble-rousing interests with which President Eisenhower certainly doesn't associate himself.

Senator Tobey, when examining Sheaffer, asked him about sponsoring Upton Close, the radio-commentator who has attacked certain religious groups, and for contributing to rabble-rousing Merwin K. Hart. Sheaffer defended Close but alluded to contributions to Hart.

Congressional records show, however, that he contributed \$1,300 to Hart, contributed \$1,000 to Senator McCarthy, and was a member of the western tax council which has been lobbying to limit the income-taxing powers of government to 25 per cent. When Senator Pastore of Rhode Island asked Sheaffer whether this would not drastically cut national re-

venue and lead to such things as a national sales tax, Sheaffer replied:

"No, I don't think it will lead to it (a sales tax). But if it does, the men in the lower brackets will have the opportunity to decide whether they want to buy something."

Harmar Denny as chairman of the civil aeronautics board. Denny was appointed director of public safety for Pittsburgh in 1933 when that city experienced its worst siege of crime and racketeering. In this job he got so much criticism for appointing detectives and police favorable to the city machine that, after one year, angry voters kicked him out of office.

With this background, he will now handle one of the most difficult jobs in the nation—deciding which airlines shall operate the prize routes and how much subsidy they're entitled to.

WASHINGTON PIPELINE  
Ex-Congressman O. K. Armstrong, Missouri republican, long an advocate of people-to-people diplomacy, is headed for an important post in the "Voice of America."

GOP congressmen aren't advertising it, but they are peeved because democrats have been getting the seats of honor at Ike's get-acquainted luncheons. Reason is that Ike insists his guests be seated according to seniority and all the senior GOP members of the house were siphoned off for the first luncheon.

Only belly-laughers in Eisenhower's official family, besides Ike himself, are Commerce Secretary Sinclair Weeks and Attorney General Herbert Brownell. Other cabinet members are chucklers and grinners.

Presidential burdens haven't changed Ike's engaging sense of humor. He still uses his mechanical grasshopper (the Eisenhower) to relieve tension at staff meetings. Another favorite gag of Ike's is to pick up a dictionary from a stenographer's desk and remark with a straight face: "Good book, but the stories are too short."

William Lester, president of Pyro Plastics, has called for a "disarmament conference" on warlike playthings. He wants to substitute toys of peace, such as fairy-tale and educational toys.

President Eisenhower admitted to congressional friends last week that he had once been decorated by Russia. However, he quickly added that he had given the medal to a museum when he started to run for president. The medal was presented him in Berlin by Marshal Zhukov.

## Salem 50 Years Ago

March 19, 1893  
Superintendent James of Oregon state prison, who is to manage the institution under the Chamberlain administration, is now in the city. Aspirants for the position of prison physicians are again in the anxious seat. Democratic favor is pretty evenly distributed between Dr. Byrd, Dr. Mott and Dr. Shaw who may have a little edge since he is head of the Willamette university medical college.

Mayor C. P. Bishop has called to order the gathering of citizens at City hall to consider entertainment of President Roosevelt due to arrive here May 21. In the end it was left to the citizens to make such an arrangement as they saw fit. Mayor Bishop named the following persons on the executive committee for the Roosevelt reception: Judge George H. Burnett, Senator E. M. Croisan, W. M. Kaiser, W. H. Holmes and Dr. W. B. Morse.

Councilman Russell Catlin, lately returned to Salem from Kansas, reports that seven cars of immigrants headed for Oregon were attached to the train that carried him homeward.

Mrs. H. K. Hines, widow of Rev. H. K. Hines, has presented the journals of Jason Lee to the Oregon Historical society. They are regarded by the society as a most notable contribution.

Marion county courthouse grounds are being greatly improved under the supervision of Judge Scott. Dead grass and moss is being removed. After this is accomplished the area will be covered with rich, sandy loam and sown to white clover.

Governor Chamberlain, Secretary Dunbar and Treasurer Moore departed today for The Dalles where they will inspect the site of the proposed Dalles-Celilo portage railway for the construction of which the last legislature appropriated \$165,000.

Directors of Salem Fruit Growers' Union will meet on Saturday to consider propositions from Portland and Salem firms anxious to distribute strawberries, cherries and other fruits produced by the Union's 60-odd growers.

Rev. Frank Abram Powell will be installed as minister of the First Unitarian church tomorrow evening.

County Judge Scott, president of the Oregon Good Roads association, and Henry E. Thielsen will go to Woodburn Saturday evening in response to an invitation from the Gervais Good Roads association to speak before that body on better roads for this locality.

Market quotations for today: eggs, 13c a dozen; potatoes, 25c to 30c a bushel; hops, 22c and 25 1/2c a pound, hogs, dressed, 6 1/2 a pound, good dairy butter 20c and 25c a pound.

## Top U. S. Ace Used New Radar Gunsight

Tokyo (AP)—Col. Royal N. Baker, world's leading jet ace, said today he shot down his 12 communist Mig's with the air force's new radar-controlled gunsight.

"I've used the sight ever since I've been flying Sabre jets," he said. "All my Mig's were shot down with it. It works, believe me."

## POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

### Mole Can Laugh at Man Now, For He's a Whole Lot Safer

By HAL BOYLE

New York (AP)—Now a mole can laugh at a man. In the new atomic age the mole is safer. . . . The test in the Nevada desert proved that. Man's greatest enemy always has been himself. . . .

From the dawn of time the weapons he created to kill lesser animals, either for food or in self-defense, also were used to war against his fellow men. The club. . . the spear. . . the bow and arrow. . . the rifle. . . they all served this dual purpose.

Each new weapon he invented gave him a greater edge over all four-footed creatures. To survive they had to dig deeper in the earth. . . . plunge farther into the wilds. . . . until at last man, who had destroyed them for his own nourishment or safety, came to hunt them for sport.

He made a fugitive of every form of life that wouldn't become his pet. Now man. . . with his atom bomb. . . had made a fugitive of himself. . . . And he is a

vulnerable fugitive, huddled in vast herds in vast cities. . . . as vulnerable as the old buffalo herds that once blackened the plains. It was a small atom bomb they used in Nevada this week. . . . not as large as the ones dropped on Japan. . . . only a tenth as large as some bombs in the American armory. . . . and perhaps the Russian armory, too.

But this bomb set broke on fire a mile away. . . . broke the joints and smashed the windows of a modern concrete and wooden house nearly a mile and a half distant. Such a baby bomb. . . . but a deadly baby bomb. . . . can now be fired in an artillery shell. . . . if Hitler had it during the aerial battle of Britain, the British would be slaves today. . . . If Hitler had it when he attacked Russia, the Nazi banner would probably be flying over a ruined Kremlin today. . . . and Stalingrad would have been a rubble of defeat instead of a rubble of victory.

What can a man do against the atom bomb? . . . He is safest in a foxhole. . . . But can he abandon his new homes, and build his new homes, and schools and churches in foxholes? . . . A few wealthy husbands can buy a abandoned lead mine near Joplin, Mo., and turn it into a cozy retreat. . . . but can 50 million husbands do it?

In the new civilization he has erected, man is less-equipped for survival than the woodchuck, the fox, the earthworm. . . . or the mole. They have their burrows dug. And if they have any real sense of humor they might get a wry laugh at the final foolishness of man. . . . caught in a web spun out of mutual fear.

The energy in the atom can be used to turn the earth into a garden of plenty. . . . or a wasteland in which all men become fugitives from their own ingenuity.

The mole. . . the woodchuck. . . the fox. . . they wait in their burrows. . . . Either way they are ready. . . . Mankind definitely isn't.

## Spring Festival

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