

Capital Journal

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BERNARD MAINWARING, Editor and Publisher
GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor Emeritus

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FREED POW TELL OF CAPTIVITY

A summary of interviews with the first 100 sick and wounded prisoners of war including 80 Americans released from captivity and turned over to the United Nations at "Freedom Village," shows that the Reds treated them fairly well, especially after the truce negotiations began, but varied with the ups and downs of the negotiations. Before that the treatment was "unbelievably poor," referring particularly to food, housing, clothing and conditions under forced travel and marches.

All complained of the persistent effort to indoctrinate them into communism. The Chinese had a political indoctrination course which required attendance up to the beginning of 1952, when it was dropped. The Reds, however, showed "no partiality" to prisoners who seemed favorable toward propaganda.

Officers and enlisted prisoners were segregated in communist camps and the Reds made a bigger effort to indoctrinate the enlisted men. Generally the enlisted personnel received better treatment than captured officers. But the morale of the captured was still quite good.

In the attempt of the communists to teach politics, classes for the POW were held nearly every day, but lessened down with the resumption of negotiations. Three or four months attendance had been required at the classes. Only a minority of prisoners had been influenced by Red propaganda.

Some of the sick and wounded POW complained that they had received no medical treatment in over two years imprisonment. The prison camp libraries were full of communist literature, with "very few novels."

Other prisoners stated "the Reds tried to give us lectures on bacteriological warfare, but we wouldn't listen to it—they quit with some of us, 'because we would go to sleep.'" There were some who listened and were "moved into villages without guards."

All the released POW were joyous to be released and said "It certainly feels wonderful to be free again."

PERON LOOSES HIS MOBS

Peron has been slipping for some time, according to word that has been coming out of the Argentine, breaking with long time supporters, losing the support of army officers, labor unions and the "shirtless ones," to whom his wife, Evita, made her big political play.

The dictator seems to have sensed this and cracked down on his opposition with an iron hand, loosing mobs that roamed the capital city Thursday night, burning and looting with gay abandon. Their fury was turned upon known opponents of the regime, but it probably wasn't confined to them. After all, loot is loot, regardless of where it is secured.

But Peron has probably frightened many of his opponents into silence with his furious reprisals. His control is tightened rather than loosened as a result of the rise of opposition. For the time his power is supreme.

However, the country is going through an economic crisis that does not yield to Peron's remedies as easily as frightened opposition leaders do. And if the people continue to hunger in a land where food was once plentiful the head that wears the pewter crown will indeed lie uneasy.

A dictatorship places every person in the realm in constant jeopardy, including the dictator himself.

WEEKS GETS HIS FINGERS BURNED

Commerce Secretary Sinclair Weeks has bowed to the rising storm of protest over the ouster of Dr. Allen V. Astin as director of the federal bureau of standards, and has cancelled the order.

Whether Weeks thought he was acting in the national interest or to do a political favor to the manufacturers of a storage battery that was given a bad report by the bureau is not known to the public. Possibly Weeks acted from pure motives, possibly not.

But the man he sought to remove enjoys an excellent reputation, as does the bureau he heads. Even if a mistake was made in one instance, which is not certain by any means, this did not justify his removal, as Weeks substantially admits now.

Changes of top policy making officials were decreed by the election results last November. But this does not mean that every bureau chief who ever steps on somebody's toes should be butchered to make a party holiday. If Weeks thought otherwise he knows better now, and it is to be hoped that other cabinet members will take due note.

CHARLIE 'SHAKES' US

The real Charles Chaplin, not to be confused with the wistful, funny looking little man he created out of himself for the amusement of movie goers of long ago, isn't coming back to these shores.

The multimillionaire magnate of the leftist sympathies made this announcement from a luxurious suite in London's ritzy Savoy hotel the other day, with the declaration that "powerful reactionary forces . . . by the aid of the yellow press have created an unhealthy atmosphere in which liberal minded individuals can be singled out and persecuted."

The inference here is that Chaplin's political views were the sole cause of his troubles here, and of the refusal of our government to readmit him. Yet these probably figured less than Chaplin's moral record, which is about the worst of any prominent man we have. Neither kept Chaplin from becoming immensely rich in the land he never thought enough of to seek citizenship, though he lived and prospered here for 40 years.

We consider the U.S. well rid of him and our gain Europe's loss, though we still love the little man on the silver screen who was so different from his creator.

Growers Urged to Cut Spud Planting

Redmond, (AP)—Growers have been urged to cut down their 1953 potato plantings, Ben Davidson, administrator of the Oregon Potato Commission, reported Friday.

Davidson, who returned recently from Washington, D.C.,

where he attended a meeting of the National Potato Council, said there would be a potato surplus if growers planted as heavily as they said they would.

The council asked Secretary of Agriculture Benson to review present potato grades and to consider the possibility of a national grade labeling act, Davidson said.

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Dulles at First Opposed Ike's Foreign Policy Talk

BY DREW PEARSON

Washington — It's significant that the "big speech" delivered by President Eisenhower last week was prepared and launched while Secretary of State Dulles, the alleged chief architect of American foreign policy was out of town.

It's also significant that there was some difference of opinion between the man who supposedly guides foreign affairs and a White House adviser who has become extremely close to Ike—C. D. Jackson, former publisher of Fortune Magazine.

At first, Dulles didn't entirely like the idea of the speech. Jackson pushed it hard. And it's barely possible that the speech might not have been delivered had it not been for the much-publicized Dulles press boner which the president of the United States officially denied.

This included the background statements on Korean peace terms and on Formosa which Dulles dropped at a gathering of newsmen, and which quickly reverberated around the globe.

Prior to this, Dulles had intimated to Jackson that he should keep his nose out of state department business. After the Dulles flub, however, Jackson had the upper hand. Dulles' skepticism regarding the speech was based on the reasoning that senators wouldn't like it, that it too closely patterned the "milk for every Hottentot" idea of Henry Wallace, and that the United States needed to take a more cautious approach.

Jackson, on the other hand, argued that the United States couldn't play second fiddle to the Russians regarding world peace, that we must either grasp the present opportunity to lead the world, or quit kidding ourselves about world leadership.

DANGEROUS HAIR-PULLING

One of the most important and secret weapons of the defense department may get sabotaged as the result of the hair-pulling contest over the bureau of standards.

Secretary of Commerce Sinclair Weeks, who fired Dr. Allen Astin, director of the bureau, is piqued at the defense department because it has been referring work to the bureau which Weeks thinks should be done by private enterprise.

But the defense department, in turn, is worried over the fact that some of its most delicate experiments would be crippled if some 200 bureau scientists resign in protest over unfair political accusations.

How strongly the defense department feels about the matter is illustrated by a secret warning to Secretary of Defense Wilson by the research and development board. This is the organization which has charge of new inventions for the army and navy. Reporting to Wilson of the proximity-fuse studies of the bureau of standards, the research and development board said:

"This closely knit program cannot be disturbed without major disruption in the national defense program. If dissolved, years would be needed for its re-establishment."

It so happens that the proximity fuse, so essential to guided missiles, was developed in the bureau of standards during the war under Dr. Astin, the man now being fired.

Furthermore, it's an ironical fact that Dr. Astin's work once had a great deal to do with saving General Eisenhower's military position in the latter stages of the war.

When the Germans broke through the allied line at Ardennes and pushed us back in the tragic Battle of the Bulge, Eisenhower's military prestige hung in the balance. It was at this moment that tons of proximity fuses were flown to Europe and used against the advancing Germans. It was their first use in the European ground war, and they had a lot to do with turning back the German advance.

Now, the man who developed the proximity fuse is being fired, though he happens to be a republican, and was first appointed under a republican administration. Hitherto politics has played no part in the delicate scientific experiments of the bureau of standards.

Note—To date Dr. Astin has had six attractive offers to go into private industry, in each case the proposed salary offered him being about double the \$13,800 he has been getting from the government.

MYSTERY OF MALENKOV

The diplomatic grapevine is buzzing with the electrifying report that Stalin's heir, Premier Malenkov, has already been deposed. Speculation is that he'll continue to serve as figurehead premier until the new bosses are entrenched, then he might follow the precedent set by Lenin's heir,

Premier Rykov, who was shot as an enemy of the people in 1924 on Stalin's orders.

This bootleg report, smuggled out from behind the grim, gray walls of the Kremlin, seems to get some substantiation from the following events:

1. The startling release of the nine doctors who had been accused of poisoning Andrei Zhdanov. Pravda has attacked the former state security minister, Semyon Ignatiev, for political blindness in pressing the "false charges." Yet Ignatiev was known to be a Malenkov man, was just elevated by Malenkov to the five-man secretary of the communist party's central committee. Instead of resting comfortably on Malenkov's coattails, however, Ignatiev was suddenly put in the doghouse.

2. Malenkov's announcement that he was "voluntarily" giving up the post of communist party secretary. This post was the source of Stalin's massive power, the key to controlling the iron-disciplined, hard-core communist organization. Viewed in this light, Malenkov's announcement was tantamount to abdication.

3. Malenkov's strange silence on affairs of state. The most popular move by the new government was the order freeing 2,000,000 prisoners. Yet it was not signed by Malenkov. The Soviet pronouncement, supporting the new Chinese peace bid in Korea, also didn't come from Malenkov, but from Molotov. These are added signs that Malenkov's power has been undercut.

4. The un-Stalinlike treatment that Malenkov is receiving in the Soviet press. Whereas Stalin was glorified in every other news column, Malenkov has practically disappeared from the pages of Russia's newspapers. His picture hasn't been printed for several weeks, except in a group picture of the supreme Soviet presidium. Quotations from his speeches have disappeared from the editorials, and his name is strangely missing from the lengthy articles by party dignitaries. In fact, some editions, such as the March 13 and 23 editions of Pravda, haven't mentioned Malenkov's name at all. This would have been considered sacrilege in Stalin's day.

If Malenkov is being eased (Continued on Page 4, Column 1)

Salem 32 Years Ago

By BEN MAXWELL

April 20, 1921

Construction of a new hospital, sponsored by the Salem hospital association, will begin this summer according to H. W. Meyers who is campaigning for building funds. The unit to be erected will accommodate about 75 patients.

Frank Durbin is busily converting his prune dryers back into hophouses. No so long ago Frank made prune dryers out of hophouses. Now he is re-converting to care for 20 additional acres of hops planted this year on his Central Howell farm.

Ira Jorgenson is getting ready to build his new machine and blacksmith shop on the corner of High and Ferry streets.

An autoist who passed a Salem street car yesterday before the car had closed its doors and started to move was

fined \$10 for the offense.

A Portland firm has been awarded a contract for making motor vehicle license plates for 1922. These plates will cost 17½¢ each.

Charles W. Niemeyer, lately returned from an auto trip to Neskowin, believes that come dry weather the traveller by car make the 90-mile trip in about five and a half hours.

Gervais city council will shortly consider a measure to make it unlawful for cattle and horses to run at large upon the streets of Gervais.

Agriculture as a subject in the curriculum of Oregon public schools will not be open for examination this year says J. A. Churchill, superintendent of schools. The reason, he explains, is because few teachers have any preparation or training in the subject.

WHERE TO DRAW THE LINE?



POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Man Needs Two Heads to Direct Movie

By HAL BOYLE

New York (AP)—To sing a song, all you need is a voice. To paint a picture, all you need are brushes, colors and canvas.

"But to produce and direct a movie today a man really ought to have two heads," says George Stevens, a man in a position to know.

"It is like trying to be a traffic cop and write a poem at the same time."

"You need an executive head to handle all the vast paraphernalia of movie-making. You need another, more sensitive head to get the delicate human emotional values you are trying to put on film."

Stevens, one of perhaps half a dozen authentic geniuses in his field in Hollywood, has a mind that combines both abilities. Each of his pictures bears the stamp of a man who knows people and takes infinite pains to portray them accurately.

His latest, "Shane," a story of the old gun-fighting west as seen through the eyes and heart of a small boy, raises the standard horse opera to the level of an art form.

"I try for reality," he said. "I like a story with enough drama in it the actors don't have to steam themselves up and start behaving like actors instead of normal people."

George is a rugged, modest, down-to-earth fellow himself, who has managed to remain completely human in the unreal world of Hollywood.

"I have no truck with the social life there," he said. "I like baseball, and I like to hunt and fish. But the work of making movies is so varied itself it can give you all the pleasure and satisfaction you need."

Stevens came from a prominent theater family himself. He started out as an actor. But, overcome by a desire to eat regularly, he then became a cameraman, a gag writer, and a director of two-reel comedies.

"I suppose I made about 30," he recalled. "In those days, however, we didn't count two-reelers — we accumulated them."

Since 1933 he has made 21 major films, including such hits as "Alice Adams," "Quality Street," "Vivacious Lady," "Gunga Din," "Woman of the Year," "I Remember Mama," "A Place in the Sun" and "Something to Live For."

During the war Stevens directed 42 armed service cameramen in the filming of battle action in Tunisia and Europe, a monumental job for which he received no credit line—and wants none.

"After I came home, I wanted to do a really good film based on the Second World War," he said, and added wryly:

"I thought that since I knew at least something of the local color of war, somebody would ask me to direct a war picture. I sat around waiting—and that was a mistake. Nobody asked me. And now I am afraid it is too late."

But George is still yearning for the chance. He likes to vary his pictures.

"What kills off most directors," he observed, "is that they start repeating themselves—or begin taking themselves more seriously than they do their work."

"The biggest danger in Hollywood is to go Hollywood. You can't just make new pictures based on previous pictures that did well. You have to keep in touch with real people and real events."

George likes to keep things simple. It still amazes him that it requires scores or hundreds of technicians to film a single scene.

"You have a Grand Central Station atmosphere around you," he said, "and in all that wilderness of people and machinery perhaps the only thing you are trying to record is a small boy, crying goodbye. With all that organization you feel you ought to be filming a battlefield."

"You have to squeeze so much grapefruit—to get so little juice."

OPEN FORUM

Silverton Woman Hits Indecent Literature

To the Editor: Congratulations to the Albany Ministerial association which is asking others to help "rid the city of lewd and salacious books and magazines." More and more people are becoming perturbed, and rightly so, about the indecent literature found on newsstands.

Too often indecent literature is considered popular and modern. And this immoral literature is being adopted out of human respect because it is considered to be "up-to-date" and most people seem to be reading it. "Beware! That is treason to reason." This lewd literature is degrading the sacredness of marriage, the sacredness of sex, of life, and everything that is sacred and holy to every Christian man, woman and child.

How can we hope to build a strong nation with literature such as this in the hands of our youth? This indecent literature actually shows them how to be delinquent. It affects their minds and is a bad influence on our children's character with its low moral stories of "passionate embraces and torrid love scenes" and where matrimony is "dissolved as quickly as soap chips."

And the detective stories will undermine our youth even further with their "well balanced, smoothly blended combination of lust, hate and murder." How many grim gremilins are there, who boastfully admit "I'm broadminded enough, I can read anything and it doesn't hurt me a bit. I don't care for that old milk and water stuff. I want something 'readable and exciting.' But, our youth does absorb this literature with each exciting story until involuntarily but gradually they become what they read and fill our prisons with homosexuals, sex perverts, thieves and killers.

J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the F.B.I., says "filthy literature is the great moron maker. It is casting criminals faster than the prisons can absorb them." In a February newspaper I read that it takes half a million dollars year to keep 150 prisoners at Alcatraz prison. But, it seems our prisons are not always "curing" the criminals. So how about a little of this money spent on prevention?

MRS. JOHN PFELFER, Silverton.

Look Out or Portland Will Move the Capital

To the Editor: I am glad to see someone is waking up against Portland. Some of these days they will have an election to move capital and look out.

This aged mental hospital is going to be built in Portland but we are within 20 miles and land could be purchased for half the price here. It is quiet, away from traffic and noise, but no one will talk to you. Money means nothing to the legislature when Portland wants a thing. I still think a big saving could be made by getting out of Portland.

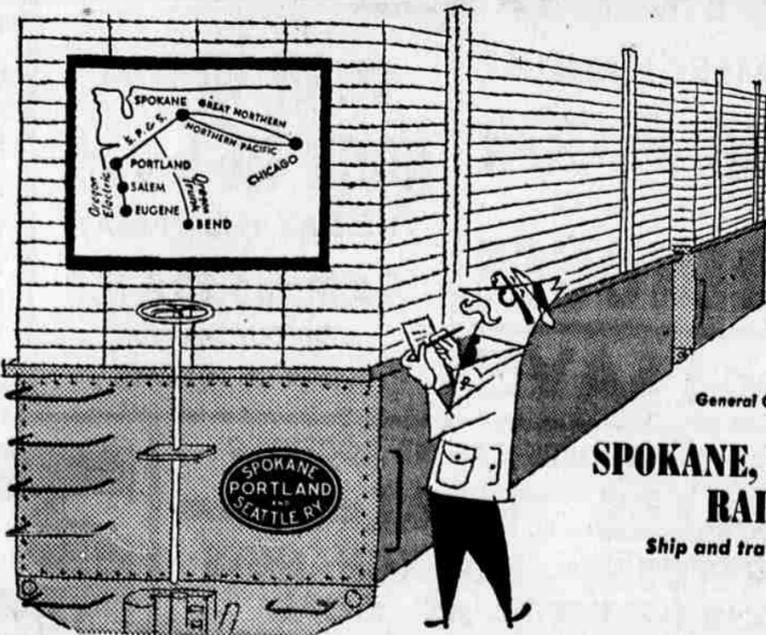
W. W. WINKLE, Sherwood, Ore.

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