

Capital Journal

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IS THE CONSTITUTION OUTMODDED?

This column has already denounced Clement Attlee's attack on the United States in his recent speech as an unprincipled piece of demagoguery that comes as a painful surprise from a man who has usually been a statesman as well as a politician.

But what of Attlee's charge that the American constitution is designed for an isolationist nation, not for one to become a world leader, that it hogs the Eisenhower or any other administration from exercising effective leadership? This deserves an objective analysis free from angry emotions aroused by a gratuitous attack from one who has been America's friend before it became good politics to be otherwise.

Admittedly the constitution was the product of a horse and buggy age in which dominant American thought, so well expressed by Washington, was to turn our collective backs on Europe and face west where our great opportunity lay.

But has the constitution prevented vigorous American action in the foreign field? It didn't prevent the Louisiana purchase or the Monroe Doctrine, which has been such a vital force ever since. Or the building of the Panama canal.

Nor did the constitution's permission to congress "to raise and support armies," envisioning at most a few scant regiments, prevent congress from drafting millions of men for World War I, an act the supreme court upheld unanimously against legal challenge.

The constitution didn't prevent our participation in World War II, or delay our quick, vigorous reaction to communist aggression in Korea almost three years ago. Never, so far as we can now recall, has the fundamental law stymied quick, effective American action in any emergency. Weakness and indecision in our national leadership, yes, but not the constitution. Its elasticity has been shown repeatedly by the most severe tests.

We do operate a government of limited powers in which only congress can appropriate funds to implement policies, and in which treaties negotiated by the executive branch must be ratified before they become effective. This differs from other governments, but it helps to preserve our liberties and it does not paralyze us in time of crisis, as Britain, twice the beneficiary of this fact in world wars, should know better than other foreign countries.

GOING TO THE OTHER EXTREME

The present congress, though almost equally divided between the two political parties, is the most friendly toward the president of any congress for a good many years. Democratic members have repeatedly come to the rescue of the president when important issues were voted upon.

But this congress is extremely unwilling to grant additional powers to the president, or even to continue powers that already exist when these expire. Suspicion of growing executive power, against which congress has battled for many years, continues to plague a president who has as little disposition to swell his power as any within the average person's memory.

For instance the senate voted Tuesday to strip the president of his authority to freeze wages, price and rents for 90 days in the event of an emergency. The bill to extend the Defense Production act for two years deleted these powers.

This looks like a mistake. Eisenhower won't proclaim an emergency merely to use emergency authority. Nothing is more certain than this. If an emergency does come it will come swiftly, possibly when congress is not in session. If congress is in session it can be temporarily paralyzed by a filibuster, as we have just seen.

Prices, wages and rents, particularly the first and last, may not wait. They can get completely out of hand within a few days and then defy the best efforts of the government to roll them back. This is what the senate invites by its vote denying the president standby power.

Steady growth in presidential power under Roosevelt and Truman was cause for nationwide concern and congress does well to resolve to assert its traditional authority. But it need not rush to the other extreme and expose the country to unnecessary danger in order to do this.

'WHO'S WINNING THE AIR WAR?'

That's what the Oregonian carpenterly asks under the above caption editorially. It says:

"It's all very well to have headlines about America's heroic jet ace in Korea and a day-to-day report of their latest killings. But how about the other side of the boxscore? What are America's air losses? We've looked in vain for a satisfactory answer to that question, both in the files of The Oregonian and in the complete texts of the official communications from the Pentagon, Tokyo and Korea."

Yet the army issues a weekly summary of air losses, which press associations supply to newspapers, though a daily report would perhaps be better, but army brass probably has valid reasons for it. So the Oregonian turns to the North Korea radio, which never yet told the truth, for the other side of the story. And it accepts the communist propaganda as authentic fact.

It finds that the Reds claim they shot down 22 U.S. planes in a six-day period by antiaircraft fire against the loss of two Red jet Migs in battle. It fails to mention that the U.S. planes destroyed were probably small bombers or observation planes.

As if to reply to the Oregonian the U.S. airforce at Seoul Wednesday officially reported that during the Korean war 692 Russian built Mig-15 jet fighters have been destroyed, all but 17 by Sabrejets. And Sabres were credited with more than 90 per cent of the 126 probably destroyed and 860 damaged. Only 55 Sabres had been lost in combat with Migs—a superiority of 675 to 55.

This ought to convince even the Oregonian of who is winning the air war.—G. P.

SOBBY BURGLAR

New London, Conn. (AP)—Police were looking today for a burglar who broke into Bulkeley junior high school, cooked himself a meal in the home economics room, took \$110 from the principal's room, and scribbled, "I'm sorry," on a blackboard.

Still Small Change

Chicago (AP)—A holdup man poked a gun through a ticket window in an Illinois Central railroad office here and told Mrs. Carol David to "give me the big money this time." She pushed \$59 through the grating. The same man held her up for \$47 last week.

HORSE OF A DIFFERENT COLOR



POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Wonder Drugs Not Always Wonderful in Their Results

By HAL BOYLE

New York (AP)—A wonder drug is something you take and then wonder why you still don't feel wonderful.

But the most widespread and dangerous disease today is probably "wonder drug addiction," of one kind or another.

Everybody yearns for a new miracle panacea in every field of human activity—health, agriculture, economics, politics, and matrimony.

The ideal cure-all is a magic capsule that would cure the baby's mumps, balance the national budget, end wars, hike wages, lower prices, make a profit for industry, raise bumper farm crops, cause papa to come home at nights, eradicate women's wrinkles, dissolve grandma's melancholy, whisper the name of the winning horse before every race.

Naturally, nobody with common sense and a knowledge of human cussedness, expects or believes such a capsule will be invented. But if a fellow even claimed he had, all he'd need to do would be to lift his voice—and he'd find plenty of customers.

Faith is powerful, but the too-prevalent trust in wonder drugs and magic pills is not faith, but blind and dangerous superstition. Today's wonder drug is tomorrow's disappointment, because people expect too much of it.

Optium used to be a wonder drug. So did aspirin. Alcohol was perhaps man's first wonder drug. But people still have pains, headaches and hangovers.

Remember when vitamin "B" was supposed to wipe out gray hair? Did it? Remember when DDT was supposed to rid us of summer insects? Well, a science feller tells me they now have a strain of tough mosquitoes so dependent on DDT they die if the stuff is taken away.

Doctors know there is no true magic pill for Mother Nature's children, no capsule that will take the place of proper food, sleep and rest, except for emergency periods. It is the public who abuse wonder drugs.

The dental profession right now is actively promoting a wonder instrument for keeping teeth clean. It is called a toothbrush, and has been known for some years.

Warning that dental health is being imperilled by the public's belief that dentrifices will do more than they actually will, Dr. William Alstadt, a trustee of the American Dental Association, said recently:

"There is still no green wonder or white miracle toothpaste or powder that will magically prevent dental decay and eradicate disease of the gums. No such dentrifice will do anything that a suitable toothbrush properly used won't accomplish alone."

Every new wonder drug, when properly tested, takes its place in the endless check-board battle against disease. But there is still no "fountain of youth" beyond proper living, and no drug will ever be more than an accessory to it.

Salem 43 Years Ago

By SEN MAXWELL

May 21, 1910

Charles McNary had been selected orator of the day at the meeting of the Yamhill County Pioneer association at Amity.

Superintendent James of Oregon State penitentiary was responsible for another reform in the state prison—that of providing prisoners with pillows and pillow-slips. Heretofore the prisoners had been compelled to use their coats for pillows and this was found to be unsanitary.

View Halley's comet from the river with the excursion leaving Salem Monday evening.

Salem Nest of the Brotherhood of Owls was to meet next Thursday and initiate another large class.

Salem Auto Garage, J. F. Priests, manager, Reliable Maxwell cars delivered here. Model AA, 12 horse power, \$725. Model G, 30 horse power, toy tonneau, \$1725.

Sulphurous rain falling over Lemans, France, was attributed to passage of the earth through the tail of Halley's comet.

Capital Journal stated editorially that the people should create NeSmith and Umpqua counties if they want the State of Oregon to develop. "It is the same business as cutting up a big farm."

Count De Lesseps, French aviator, had completed a flight across the English channel.

Governor Benson appointed port commissioners for Toledo, Alsea and Newport.

H. S. Woolery was seeking land options in the Woodburn area for the purpose of oil drilling. He expected to start a well soon and explore to a depth of 5000 feet.

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WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Relations With Our European Allies Worst in Many Years

By DEW PEARSON

Washington—It may not be pleasant to talk about, but at no time in years have our relations with our ancient allies in Europe been on such thin ice.

Behind the senatorial blasts of Joe McCarthy et al—which are bad enough—relations with our old friend and mother country, England, are in deplorable shape. Not much better are our relations with France.

Here are some of the background factors which have strained relations to the point where we are not only bitterly disliked in many British circles, but where British officialdom has almost given up the idea of working with us and seriously contemplates closer ties on the continent and even behind the iron curtain!

1. Churchill's desire for a Big Three meeting lies squarely across the Dulles-Eisenhower belief that there must be no such meeting until the Russians show some indication that they are ready for genuine cooperation.

2. The appointment of red-headed Adm. Arthur Radford as chairman of the joint chiefs of staff is the signal that the U.S.A. from now on will follow an Asia-first policy.

3. The shortsighted sleight of hand by Secretary of Defense Wilson in juggling the low British bid for generators for the Chief Joseph dam has the British boiling. Admittedly the British made the low bid. Admittedly, under U.S. law, the defense department was obligated to accept the bid. However, Wilson finagled new bids in order to cut the British out.

4. Chancellor of the Exchequer Butler charges that we have forced England to curtail trade with China and satellite countries and simultaneously blocked British trade with the United States. We can't have our cake and eat it too, the British say. They also allege that the Eisenhower slogan of "Trade-not-aid" is a complete phony.

5. If the Eisenhower administration doesn't let down the trade barriers, the Churchill government is ready to re-establish heavy trading with Red China and iron curtain countries.

IKE AND WINNIE

The important thing to remember is that this impasse has taken place not with the

Labor government of England, but with the British Conservatives led by a Prime Minister whose mother was American and whose chief policy in the past has been cooperation with the United States. In fact, Churchill took a special trip to the United States to visit Eisenhower before the inauguration in order to cement a friendship which some felt had lagged under Truman.

Furthermore, Eisenhower himself was considered the best wartime friend England had, and his Guildhall speech in London has been hailed as a milestone cementing American-British relations.

Tragedy is that Ike himself, though realizing the dangerous drift between the two allies, seems unable to do anything about it. His desire to "get along with congress" is now uppermost on his agenda of objectives. In fact, some friends say he seems hypnotized by that goal.

Of the various snags in the path of British-American relations, you will probably hear less about the appointment of Admiral Radford as chairman of the joint chiefs of staff. Yet it ripples deep with the British.

They are too diplomatic to talk about a domestic American appointment; nevertheless, they recall all too well how Radford has advocated virtual war with China, and how he sold Eisenhower a promising but phony bill of goods regarding the power of Chiang Kai-Shek's Formosan army only to have it turn out to be a dud.

EUROPE VS. ASIA

Radford's appointment revives the World War II row between MacArthur and Eisenhower as to which theatre of war, the Pacific or the European, should come first.

Eisenhower at that time wanted more men, more materiel for Europe. His old boss, Douglas MacArthur, wanted more for the Pacific. The navy generally sided with MacArthur. But Eisenhower had two powerful friends who in real fact were calling the shots for the total war—Roosevelt and Churchill. They decreed that the European theatre should come first, and that was why V-E day came ahead of V-J day.

Today, Eisenhower is in a position where he can call the shots as Roosevelt and Churchill

did. However, if he is calling them—and it looks as if he is not—he has in effect put Asia, not Europe, first. He has done this at a time when the United States lacks the munitions to spread itself over two continents at one time. And in doing so, he has let the China lobby, the Admiral Radford wing of the navy and the extreme Asia-first wing of the republican party actually dictating our foreign policy.

HEADLINES AND FOOTNOTES

Attorney General Brownell has sent a private note to President Eisenhower urging him "to commute the death sentence" on Shangri La, the presidential retreat in the Maryland hills. Ike was about to abandon Shangri La along with the presidential yacht Williamsburg as an economy move. However, his attorney general has been using it as a week-end hideout to catch up on his work away from the clutter and clatter of his office. . . . President Eisenhower was shocked to learn that a few veterans hospitals are still segregating the sick. As a result, he is preparing a special order abolishing segregation in government hospitals. . . . Edmund Mansure, the conscientious new general services administrator, has stopped political firings in his agency. He instructed his staff: "A man's politics is as much his own business as his religion, provided he's a loyal American."

Senator McCarthy may be able to buffalo the state department, but he couldn't talk his way through the Washington police lines. Caught in the Armed Forces Day parade, McCarthy tried to cut through the parade to get to his office. He argued with the cops at every intersection, but they routed him the long way around—just like the rest of the traffic. . . . Senator McCarthy is using his new power inside the administration to plant his pals in key government jobs. His requests are taken as orders by timid administrators, though many are concerned about the infiltration of McCarthyism in government. . . . Senator McCarthy's junior G-men, Roy Cohn and David Schine, left behind a raft of jokes after their whirlwind snooping junket across Europe. Latest: One U.S. official says to another, "I'll see you tomorrow, come Cohn or Schine" . . . The Israeli government is recruiting former top U.S. officials to help bolster her struggling economy.

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Dick Irvin, coach of the NHL's Montreal Canadiens and oldest mentor in professional hockey at 60, has piloted four Stanley Cup champions.

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