

# Capital Journal

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## REOPENING PANDORA'S BOX

Acceptance of the Russian proposal for a Big Four meeting at Berlin is reported to have been agreed on by President Eisenhower, Prime Minister Churchill and French Premier Laniel at their Big Three conference in Bermuda at their first session. It is an endorsement of Churchill's demand that the West should seek every opportunity to open up contacts with the new rulers of Russia.

Another principal issue said to be on the Big Three agenda is enlarging and perfecting Western unity and a better understanding of the West's various disagreements inspired by the Kremlin's devious policy of divide and conquer.

More complex and more important is the problem of building a strong defense in Western Europe which has been hampered by French fears and distrust of a rearmend Germany. The U.S. and British governments insist that an effective anti-communist defense system cannot be built across the heart of Europe without participation by West Germany.

The French themselves proposed two years ago that this should be accomplished by a European Defense Community which would give France and four other West European nations a voice over Germany's future military policies. But successive French governments have failed to have the EDC approved by the National Assembly.

The Big Three may discuss various alternatives, such as remarmend of Germany independent of any new defense grouping, or a new defense strategy based on peripheral military bases such as the British Isles, Spain and Italy.

Other topics on the conference agenda are the Trieste dispute between Italy and Yugoslavia, the Anglo-Iranian oil dispute, the British-Egyptian clash over Suez, the Indochinese war and Korean peace.

A meeting with Malenkov has been opposed by both Eisenhower and Dulles on the ground that it should be held only after the Kremlin demonstrates sincerity of purpose—which it has not yet shown.

The Big Four meet may reopen Pandora's box as they did at Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam letting loose all the evils that flesh is heir to to afflict humanity.—G. P.

## STRONGER HAND ON REIN?

We have already commented on Eisenhower's reaction to Senator McCarthy's criticism of his administration, expressed by Secretary of State Dulles with the president's full approval. The president left no doubt that he and his aides will talk and fight back if the senator continues his sniping tactics.

We think this reaction has a further significance, far beyond McCarthy. We think it means that the president is determined to play a stronger role when congress meets in January. It is not secret that his original plan was to leave congress largely to formulate its own policies. But congress divides and bickers, accomplishing little under this White House policy. The last session is a fair sample.

Congress is going to require vigorous, determined White House leadership if a legislative program is to be put through at the coming session. The Republicans have only a nominal majority and they are not united. Most Democrats there are united in an effort to make the G.O.P. look bad and thereby lose the 1954 election.

This calls for strong leadership by President Eisenhower to mould the Republicans into a winning team that can enact a forward looking, constructive program of legislation upon which to face the country. The vigorous Eisenhower attitude in the McCarthy matter raises the hope that he sees this need and is prepared to meet it.

## PRISON'S NOT THE ANSWER

A Forum letter on this page yesterday generously voiced a sympathy for the unfortunate woman who attempted to rob a Woodburn bank, which is widely felt in this locality.

The woman was driven half crazy by the necessity of providing for four young children. The family had been deserted by the husband and father, who is believed to be in jail in California. She demanded money in writing from a bank teller, but was unarmed and went away when he refused it.

In releasing her the federal authorities in Portland indicate that they do not intend to send her to prison, which is good, for she is probably no criminal at all. But as the letter writer suggests: What now? What is to be done to keep this family together? Or can it be kept together, since she probably cannot provide for the support of four?

We do not have the answer to this or many other family tragedies to be found all about us, which only occasionally burst onto the public consciousness in this dramatic fashion. But we are quite sure the answer isn't prison for the mother, or that she must be left to bear alone a burden which is almost sure to be beyond her strength.

## PORTLAND LOOKS AHEAD

Portland's Mayor Peterson has what we suspect some taxpayers down (or up) there will think is quite a grandiose scheme in city planning. It is for a \$2,838,000 addition and renovation program for the present police station, which we presume includes the municipal clink, or hoosegow.

It seems clear that Portland's more forward looking leaders expect this phase of city government to enjoy a steady increase in patronage all through the years ahead. And while it seems a heck of a lot of money we're far from thinking them wrong. Portland may lag in some respects but her crime may be expected to keep pace or more than pace with her growth.

## Lucina Weber Wins Albany Speech Tilt

Albany—Speaking to warn United States citizens of the threat to democracy's life, Lucina Weber, Albany Union high school Junior, Wednesday won first place in the Albany

"Voice of Democracy" contest, sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

For her winning effort, Miss Weber won a table model radio, and a Voice of Democracy certificate. A tape recording of her speech will be made by KWIL and will be sent to Sacina Weber for statewide competition. Miss Weber won out over three other local contestants.

## HOME SWEET HOME



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## WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

### Hoover Denies Study of Public Power to Be Biased

By DREW PEARSON

Washington — You might have thought the secret of the H-bomb was to be revealed, judging by the way ex-President Herbert Hoover pledged everyone to secrecy at a recent meeting of the commission to investigate government waste and operations.

However, this writer is able to report what went on inside the closed-door meeting. One important subject, which the public is certainly entitled to know about is Hoover's plan to investigate the government's public power program.

This question is of such vital interest to private and public power groups, as well as to the general public, that one member of Hoover's commission, Congressman Chet Holifield of California, demanded to know why someone with a public power background wasn't appointed to the 26-man "task force" which will investigate government power projects.

"It strikes me as most unusual that not a single member of the task force is representative of the public power program," Holifield told Hoover during the secret session. "On the other hand, there are a number of anti-public power spokesmen on the task force. How can the investigation be objective with that kind of a setup?"

Hoover stoutly denied that the task force was stacked one way or the other. He insisted that no member was directly connected with public or private power.

"We endeavored to select people of ability and integrity who would be completely objective," said the ex-president. "Well, let's consider a few of them," shot back Holifield. "One of the members is Bracken Lee, Governor of Utah, who is against Hell's canyon and who has a vigorous record of opposition to the public power program."

Holifield also cited Harry Poik, former president of the national reclamation association, who wrote a news article September 25, 1952, attacking public power and the TVA; also Robert W. Sawyer, Oregon newspaper editor, who has consistently opposed federal development of low-cost electricity.

"The integrity of those men cannot be questioned," bristled Hoover. "I do not question their integrity," countered the California congressman, "but I do question the qualification of men to sit in judgment on the government's public power program, when they have pre-ordained views against it. And I intend to discuss the matter openly in the next session of congress."

Mrs. Warren's Birds. Chief Justice Earl Warren was chatting about things non-legal with Mrs. Henry Schultz during the recent anti-defamation league dinner honoring President Eisenhower. They were talking about hobbies.

"Mrs. Schultz," said the chief justice of the United States, "my wife once had a hobby that almost drove me crazy. She collected some lovely canaries and finches. At one time, we actually had fifty canaries and finches around our house. When I got home at

### Brownell's Perfect Timing

Evidence has just come to light that Attorney General Brownell had been sitting on the Harry Dexter White case since last August and carefully timed it just after GOP defeats in New Jersey, New York and Wisconsin.

It is now learned that Brownell discussed the secret FBI memo mentioning White's name with editors of U. S. News and World Report as early as last August.

The attorney general was interviewed by editors for the September edition of their magazine. He was careful not to mention the FBI memo in the official interview, but off-the-record he confided that he had an FBI memo dated November 5, 1945, which identified 37 government employees as communist suspects, including the names of Alges Hiss and Harry Dexter White.

In other words, Brownell had the political ammunition to set off his blast at least three months ago, but held his fire for the sake of political timing.

Incidentally, Brownell has dozens of other secret FBI memos loaded with accusations embarrassing to both Democrats and Republicans. Unlike White, however, most of the accused are still living, so Brownell cannot make the FBI charges public until he is prepared to back them up in court. That's why some of the names will come out through the Jenner committee.

(Copyright, 1953)

### Students to Russia

Eight U.S. college editors are going to get a chance to visit Russia. Presumably the Russian government, considering these visitors young and impressionable, will put forth extraordinary efforts to show communism at its best and, if possible, make a few converts or at least friendly observers.

However, the U.S. college editors may be a little smarter than the Russians think. It is doubtful if the best efforts the reds can make will have any effect in converting these lads. If they keep their eyes and ears open, they will be able to see behind the elaborate front the reds will put up for them.

## Salem 59 Years Ago

By BEN MAXWELL  
December 5, 1894  
Count Ferdinand de Lesseps, engineer for the Suez canal, had been reported seriously ill.

"Football," said a Capital Journal editorial, "is not to be classed with prize fighting. The former can be conducted by gentlemen. The latter, never."

Dr. J. C. Smith, formerly of the Red Front Drug store, had been elected mayor of Jefferson.

Two Syrian camels and two donkeys had been offered to the city by the Turkish company of Portland for \$150. Councilman Klein moved that the city invest and the council adjourned amid great hilarity.

Board of school directors for Salem had increased the monthly salary of Mrs. Sheridan, janitor of Central school, by \$2 a month by reason of care required for an additional room. In the future she was to receive \$12 a month for her janitorial services at Central school.

A new Willamette steamer had been under construction at Newberg for some time. Placing engines and a boiler from the hull of the Anetia would complete the steamer. Gray Eagle was a 110 foot boat with a 20 foot beam. When built she was owned by Captain Carey and Engineer Kemp of Corvallis. (For many years she served as C. K. Spaulding's towboat on the Willamette.)

First painted rooftop and highway markers for air travel were set up between Indianapolis, Ind., and Dayton, Ohio.

## POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

### New Yorkers Find Their Daily Newspaper Can't Be Replaced

By MAL BOYLE

New York (#)—What is the power of the press?

Empty newsstands this week taught the world's greatest city the answer.

Millions of New Yorkers learned that their favorite newspaper, like their favorite wife, was something they had taken for granted—something they now really appreciated for the first time because it was no longer there for them to depend on.

They missed the daily rendezvous with their daily newspaper, and nothing could quite take its place. A strike that silenced every major paper in the city for the first time in its history left holes, large or small, in every life. Even blind men, for whom a newspaper is still a window to an unseen world, complained.

People discovered anew the importance of the printed word—the daily printed word. Television and radio reporters worked overtime to tell the news, but the spoken word didn't fill the gap left by the silent presses. Nothing could do all the things a daily newspaper does.

The first day of the strike my wife, Frances, remarked cheerfully:

"Well, it's nice to see your face at breakfast again after all these years." Had forgotten what you looked like across a scrambled egg.

"To tell you the truth I miss the advertising more than the news," she said the second day. "It's rather nice not to know all the terrible things that are happening in the world."

"Oh, I guess I can put off my Christmas shopping until

this strike is settled," she said the third day. "You waste so much time shopping if you don't know what the stores are featuring."

But the fourth day she was hit by news hunger:

"Tell me what is happening. I want to know what is really going on. Even if most of the news is bad, I guess I want to know it. It makes me restless when there isn't a newspaper in the house."

I suppose this experience was typical in thousands of homes. The feeling of uneasiness deepened with each day of the strike. A newspaper is a mirror that reflects and fulfills many needs, and who likes to go day after day without looking in a mirror?

As a newspaperman, I found it odd to listen to the comments of readers on how the strike affected their personal lives.

"Gee, wouldn't you hate to get married now?" one girl asked another. "You couldn't even get your name in the Sunday paper, and I don't know how else I'll ever do it."

"My worst enemy could drop dead and I wouldn't know it," mourned a confirmed reader of the obituary page.

"How can I find out what my competitors are doing?" grumbled a businessman. "And what's going to happen to my Christmas business if I can't place an ad?"

The cross-word puzzle addicts complained crossly they didn't know what to do with their hands and brains on the way to work.

The children missed the comics almost as much as the adults.

The letters-to-the-editor writers had no forum for their gripes. Housewives didn't like doing without their beauty hints, or the lovelorn editor's advance on how to deal with a middle-aged wayward husband. Joe, who had quarreled with Maisie, had no place to put a personal ad saying, "M. It's all my fault. Please answer my phone calls. Very important. Joe."

The folks who dote on high society were unable to find whom was being seen with whom, or what prominent playboy had thrown champagne in what prominent playgirl's face. The pundits had no platform. The civil leaders held up announcements. Broadway gossip was better known in Dubuque than it was on Broadway.

Some 65,000 metropolitan press agents, were either in semi-hysteria, or telling unconvinced clients, "I had your picture lined up for every front page in town, just before the papers shut down."

Everybody from the horse player to the stockbroker was seeking to find new avenues to the daily information he wanted.

There was a great void in the daily voice of the city. Each missed something of the power of the press—its many-faceted power to inform, advise, enlighten, and entertain its millions of readers in a complicated world which nothing can explain so well as the daily newspaper.

"This would be a hell of a time," said one reader, "for anybody to start a really bad rumor."

## THE FIRESIDE PULPIT

### Much of the Best Comes To Us From the Long Ago

By REV. GEORGE H. SWIFT

Rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church

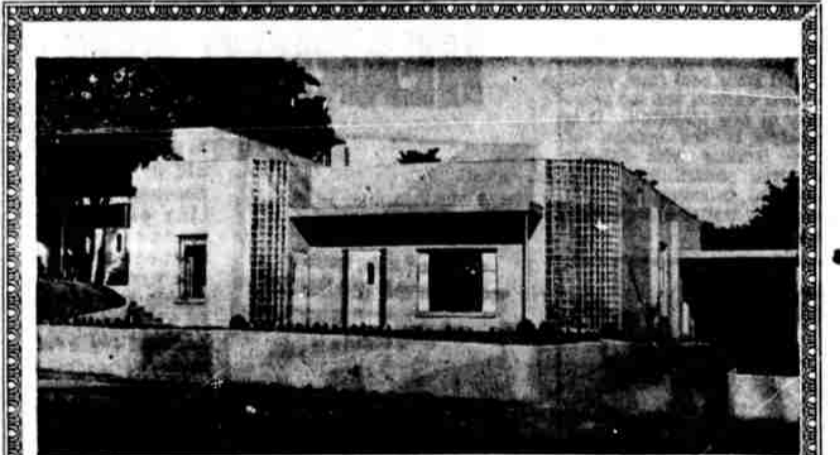
When attending theological seminary, we had a professor, a grand old man with a long white beard who was nearing 70 years of age. He was a profound scholar and an excellent teacher of Greek. The new dean of the seminary, who had just arrived, and who planned to make some sweeping changes, was anxious to retire the venerable professor.

At a dinner given to the senior class, which was attended by the faculty, the dean called upon several men to make short speeches. Then, at the close of the program, he suggested that the occasion would not be complete without a few words from "our antique." This brought the learned scholar and distinguished Greek professor to his feet. He heaved and shouted while he might be referred to by the young dean as an "antique," that he would remind him that the wise men of the ages consulted the elder statesmen, and the antiques on the library shelves.

In these days when people listen with profound interest to the latest words spoken, providing some celebrity says them, it might profit us to pause and consult some of the "antiques" on the subject. Aristotle once said, "Let us remember that we should not disregard the wisdom of the ages."

One of the antiques whose wisdom is as sound today as it was when first recorded years ago is the Holy Scriptures. The Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount found therein are still good foundation stones upon which to construct sound character. Millions of people are daily inspired, uplifted and helped, to a more perfect way of living, through the study of the Scriptures.

It is true the Bible has little to say about our superficial problems, but much to say about our ideals, our way of life, and our realization of God. The Bible will speak with as much authority a thousand years from now as it did a thousand years ago. The Bible is indeed a venerable antique which no younger book can supplant. Read the incomparable Psalms. It is true they give us no information about modern economic theories, or vitamins, or calories, but they do satisfy the yearnings of the soul. How many have been comforted by these words, "Lord, thou hast been our refuge from one generation to another; before the mountains were brought forth or ever the earth and the world were made, Thou art God from everlasting." "The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom then shall I fear—the Lord is the strength of my life, of whom then shall I be afraid?"



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