

Capital Journal

An Independent Newspaper—Established 1888
BERNARD MAINWARING, Editor and Publisher
GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor Emeritus

Published every afternoon except Sunday at 280 North Church St. Phone 2-2406.

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BENSON UNDERSTANDS HIS JOB

In his first annual report to the president, made public as congress prepared to take up the administration's recommendation for a controversial flexible price support program to replace the current rigid high props on basic crops, said that while farm prices have been "stabilized" and 1954 offers encouragement to farmers "we are not satisfied with the present level of farm income." It continued: "Our goal is a farm program that will enable farmers to obtain their rightful share."

Benson said that before "moving constructively" toward the attainment of sound goals for agriculture the administration has to deal with problems "inherent from our predecessors' problems" made "more difficult because the tools available were not fully adequate."

One of these problems, Benson stated, was the waving of imposition of controls for more and more production each year since the Korean war started when, according to the law, they were in order for certain crops. As a result "we came face to face with the fastest accumulation of excess reserves which ever existed in the history of farm programs."

Consequently, in this situation, "the task is clear." Agriculture must expand markets, get production in line with prospective market demands, to "cushion the price decline as much as possible through both direct and indirect price supports wherever practical."

Benson admitted that he went "beyond the requirements of the law" and met problems "as well as possible with the tools at hand." At any rate he has a better knowledge of agriculture than any of his recent predecessors in his office, who had little or no knowledge of either economics, conservation or practical agriculture and who were merely politicians seeking the farm vote.

At any rate, if Benson cannot solve the farm problems, it is a cinch congress cannot for the net results of years of trial amply proves that penalizing the consumer for special interests merely makes confusion more confounded. Socialistic doles and panaceas are no cure for either farm or industrial ills as has been amply proved wherever tried. —G. P.

A NEW HENRY WALLACE

Henry Wallace, out of the public eye since he quit politics several years ago, has been busy since with scientific experiments and with the routine work on his farm near Salem, N.Y. But he has been thinking while he worked.

This was shown the other day in what Wallace termed "my most important speech in several years," delivered to a farm audience in Des Moines, his native state, where he was invited to speak.

Wallace came out flatly for flexible price supports not too high, stating that he will be both happy and surprised if the farmer receives an average of 85 percent of parity through the next decade. A rigid support system involves the creation of huge surpluses and the risk that the American people, most of whom now live in cities and towns, might repudiate the whole support system, as they did on potatoes. Said Wallace, as quoted in this week's Time Magazine:

"My greatest fear is that farmers themselves may destroy the farm legislative machinery by asking it to do work for which it was never designed. It would be a great disaster if the ever-normal granary were converted into an abnormal granary by loans completely out of line with the weather and the market. The farmer should face the economic facts of life and not strive for the impossible in a postwar world where worldwide supply and demand forces are loaded against him for the next 10 years at least."

The article continued that Henry Wallace was applauded for a whole minute by his farm audience when he concluded. No longer running for office, he talks like a different, and wiser man.

WEST GERMANY BACKS THE WEST

One gainer from the Berlin conference is West Germany's great chancellor, Konrad Adenauer, for its results proved to any intelligent doubters that the chancellor had been right all along in siding with the west against Russia.

Adenauer announced immediately following the conference that his policy will be to seek the reunion of Germany as a free, democratic republic, but not through war. He believes a stronger west, determined to get the Russians out of East Germany will eventually be able to achieve this through diplomatic pressure, without having to drive them out in a new war. But to do this West Germany and the rest of the west must be strong.

Evidently the West Germans agree with him even more than when they re-elected his government last year. For the West German parliament voted a few days ago by an overwhelming margin to take steps toward forming a 500,000 man army, to serve as part of the western force, which it is still hoped will include France.

Here West Germany again takes her stand boldly with us. The uncertain quantity is still France, where prospects are better since it is now clear that Russia's determination to dominate all Europe is unchanged. But the other allies should not wait much longer on France. They should go ahead without France if France is unwilling to come in and bear some of the burden. For they have a very powerful ally in West Germany, whose help should not be lost because of French opposition.

BUSINESS FAILURES NOT ALARMING

Business failures in the United States declined to 215 for the week ending February 18 from 277 the week before, according to Dun & Bradstreet, the country's leading credit agency. They were the lowest in four weeks, but higher than the 176 and 177 that occurred in the comparable weeks of 1953 and 1952.

But hold a minute. These failures in what is alleged to be a "recession" if not actually a depression, are 27 percent below the prewar level of 293 in 1939. And 1939 was after six years of the new deal, it may be recalled.

Dun & Bradstreet aren't in politics, aren't running for anything and won't be. They have no motive except to call 'em as they happen. And they do not indicate anything very serious in one of the most sensitive spots in the entire economy, sick businesses.

TEN HIGHWAY DEATHS

Ten persons died on Oregon highways over the past week end, eight of them by reason of failure to round curves. These were probably due to excessive speed, and the other two deaths may well have been.

Ten deaths in a single week end, seven in two accidents, the worst of which occurred in the neighboring county of Linn, ought to bring home to everyone the basic rule, which is never to drive so fast that one cannot have his car instantly under control.

This calls for a moderately slower night speed and a slower speed on unfamiliar roads where one does not know where to expect the curves. No amount of warning can possibly bring back precious lives lost, but it may prevent future tragedies, of which excessive speed is still the primary cause.

THE "ORDINARY" AMERICAN

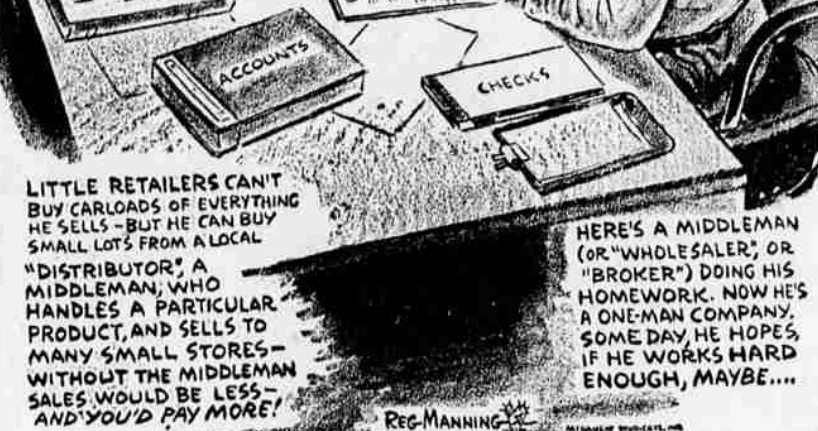
AMERICA IS MADE OF PEOPLE—GOOD PEOPLE—HARDWORKING PEOPLE—PEOPLE LIKE THE "MIDDLEMAN"—

YOU'VE HEARD OF HIM—HE'S THE ONE THEY SAY SHOULD BE "ELIMINATED."

BUT ELIMINATE HIM, AND YOU ALSO ELIMINATE "LITTLE BUSINESS," WHICH EVERYBODY WANTS TO SAVE—

LITTLE RETAILERS CAN'T BUY CARLOADS OF EVERYTHING HE SELLS—BUT HE CAN BUY SMALL LOTS FROM A LOCAL

"DISTRIBUTOR," A MIDDLEMAN, WHO HANDLES A PARTICULAR PRODUCT, AND SELLS TO MANY SMALL STORES—WITHOUT THE MIDDLEMAN SALES WOULD BE LESS—AND YOU'D PAY MORE!



HERE'S A MIDDLEMAN (OR "WHOLESALE," OR "BROKER") DOING HIS HOMEWORK. NOW HE'S A ONE-MAN COMPANY. SOME DAY HE HOPES, IF HE WORKS HARD ENOUGH, MAYBE...

REG-MANNING

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Dulles May Be Jumping From Frying Pan to Fire

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON — Harassed, indefatigable John Foster Dulles may be jumping from the frying pan into the fire today as he transfers his diplomatic talents from Berlin to Caracas.

Not since the sixth Pan American conference in 1928 when the United States faced a buzz saw of protest over the landing of marines in Nicaragua and the bullying of Mexico regarding oil, has a U. S. delegation faced such an unfriendly atmosphere.

Part of this is the general feeling in Latin America that we just aren't interested in the good-neighb policy any more.

At the Havana conference of 1928, for instance, the top American envoys were President Calvin Coolidge, Secretary of State Frank B. Kellogg and Charles Evans Hughes — the three top Republicans in the nation.

That was the last time a Republican administration participated in a Pan American conference. This time, in contrast, the new Republican administration is sending as delegates to Caracas:

1. John Foster Dulles, thoroughly up to date on European problems, but with no chance in Berlin to prepare for Caracas.

2. John Cabot who has just been fired as assistant Secretary of State for Latin American affairs. He will go to Caracas as our ambassador to Sweden instead. While Cabot has a lot of personal friends among the Latins, unfortunately he will have the prestige of a has-been.

At the last minute, the State Department has also summoned from Athens Tom Mann, U. S. Minister-Counselor to Greece, to be an emergency member of the American Delegation in Caracas.

Pan American diplomats can't help contrasting this with the last GOP delegation—Calvin Coolidge, Frank B. Kellogg and Charles Evans Hughes. They also contrast it to the trips Franklin Roosevelt and Cordell Hull took to Pan American conferences, and it confirms their contention that, as far as the United States is concerned, Latin America is a forgotten stepchild.

The firing of John Cabot as assistant Secretary of State illustrates one of the most unique developments in the conduct of our current Pan American affairs.

Cabot was actually fired by the President's brother, Milton Eisenhower, who has become the chief administration policy-maker on Latin America. Today, when Latin American diplomats want advice they go up to State College, Pa., to talk to Milton Eisenhower, President of Penn State. They find this more satisfactory than going to the State Department.

There are two reasons why they go to Penn State. First, they know that Milton Eisenhower is an extremely able gentleman who has his brother's ear. Second, they know that last October Milton tentatively fired John Cabot as assistant Secretary of State, and though Cabot continued, the diplomats figured that he was in a position to make major decisions.

This division of authority between Washington, D. C., and State College, Pa., obviously has not helped a harmonious good-neighbor policy. Here are the background events which led to it:

Last summer, when Milton was sent by the President on a goodwill trip to South America, assistant secretary of State Cabot went with him. Cabot is a sincere,

conscientious, hard-working career diplomat, a cousin of ex-Senator Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts. He stems from the bluest blood in blue-blooded Boston, where it's said "the Lodges speak only to Cabots and the Cabots speak only to God." But he also has a habit of rubbing some people the wrong way. And when Milton Eisenhower came back from his trip he quietly went about transferring Cabot to another post.

President Truman did not mean to intervene to help Cabot—quite the contrary. After his official visit to Washington, President Truman went up to the Waldorf in New York where he told Ambassador, Bob Heurtematte:

"Mr. Ambassador, I hereby give you the following instructions. You can transact business with the undersecretary of state, and you can transact business with the named John Cabot."

After this, the state department temporarily changed its mind about firing Cabot as assistant secretary of state. The United States, it was decided, could not be put in the position of transferring a man because, in effect, a foreign government demanded it.

So Cabot stayed on, until last month when it was quietly arranged for him to become ambassador to Sweden.

Actually Cabot has been an enthusiastic booster of the good-neighbor policy, though an ineffective one—partly because policy has been directed from Penn State college. Unfortunately, furthermore, every Latin American diplomat knows the Cabot-Remon-Milton Eisenhower story, so his influence at Caracas will be almost nil.

The incident illustrates the lack of attention being given to our good-neighbor relations, despite the fact that Dulles and Eisenhower, campaigning in 1952, repeatedly promised an improvement in Pan American relations.

Note—With French Indo-China now almost certain to go communist, thereby jeopardizing the tin and rubber of southeast Asia, this is not a time when we can afford to lose ground in tin and rubber producing Latin America.

Road to Progress

Albany Democrat-Herald

It's interesting what politics can do to a person's intelligence and sense of ethics. There's Mrs. Edith Green, fine, intelligent Portland woman, who has been a teacher for many years, who lets herself be quoted as saying:

"Multnomah county's congressional seat has been occupied by a Republican for many years, and during that time we have failed to keep pace with the major communities of Washington and California."

That's just the old "post hoc, propter hoc" fallacy again. No doubt Portland will boom and expand and blossom like the rose if only it elects a good Democrat to succeed Homer Angell in the lower house. Mrs. Green is running for the job.

Work or Get Off Job

Albany Democrat-Herald

Whenever an office-holder is forced out of an important position, there's always the question Why? The right answer is not always easy to get. The government, often, has the answer, the displaced person another.

So it is in the case of Clarence Manion, whose resignation as head of the President's commission on intergovernmental relations has just been forced. Manion gives out that he was fired because he is making speeches favoring the Bricker amendment, which would clip the President's wings in the conduct of foreign relations. The administration explains that the real reason was his failure to work at the job to which he was appointed last September. This would appear to be reason enough.

Probably the President's regret at terminating Manion's connection with his administration was not increased by the fact that the former head of the law school at Notre Dame has been plugging a measure to which the President is most seriously opposed.

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POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Rereading Old Film Mags A Harrowing Experience

By SAUL PETT For HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (U)— Somebody dumped a pile of old movie fan magazines near my desk and I looked them over. It was harrowing.

It also was inspirational, in a way, because these editors seem to have such great, big, ubiquitous hearts. Moreover, they must use very sensitive seismographs to detect the slightest heart tremors anywhere in the world.

In March, 1953, Motion Picture Magazine found the Gregory Pecks abroad, where he was making a picture, and the writer was enchanted by their marital bliss. "There's the story of a love that's nourished from day to day."

The next month, a title in FilmLand Magazine echoed the enchantment: "Live Alone and Like It? Never!" sub-head: "Family life and love isn't a sometime thing for Gregory Peck . . . He wants his brood around him wherever he goes . . ."

But right under this, as though a hot cable had just been flashed in, was a boxed editor's note: "Unfortunately, as we go to press, there are storm warnings from the Peck household; but because of the solid foundation the marriage has, we have every hope the difficulties between Greta and Greg will soon be straightened out."

It struck me as a purely unselfish hope. Still, the clouds were gathering.

The same month, Photoplay asked, "Trouble across the way?" There were hints of a foreign romance in Peck's life and Photoplay was facing up to them squarely.

In May, Modern Screen asked, "Divorce Ahead for the Pecks?" But in August, Modern Screen was reassuring, "Peck's a good boy now," it said. Still, two months later, Screenland's Seismograph wasn't satisfied. "There is a new Gregory Peck, a worldly sophisticate," it said, "and reports are that he and Greta are finished with each other forever."

I quickly flipped through the magazines to see if the dilemma had been resolved in some issue I had missed. It hadn't although Screenland was certain about "Gene's affair with Aly." It said, "There's no doubt Gene Tierney's flipped over Aly Kahn, but will they wed?"

Well, would they? I raced to the next issue of the magazine hoping to find the answer. Instead, I found another question—"What's happened to Jeff—how long can Jeff Chandler keep a smile on his face to cover up an inner void?"

I was relieved to find that Movieland had answered one question—"How the Van Johnson rumors start"—and explored the spreading of such rumors, in 3,000 words.

"With questions tumbling over questions in my mind, I raced down to the nearest news stand for the very latest fan magazines.

The first thing I saw was a Hollywood columnist's "good news" in Modern Screen. Subtitle: "Shelley vs. Vittorio . . . June Haver finds Fred McMur-ray . . . Dale Robertsons split

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Salem 36 Years Ago

By BEN MAXWELL

March 1, 1918

Soviet commissaries arriving in Petrograd from larger Russian cities were demanding that a holy war be declared against the invading Germans.

Salem Commercial club had assured Pacific Potato Starch company that 1000 acres in this locality could be signed for potato planting and members were preparing to stage a house to house canvass to obtain pledges for that acreage.

Despite an eight hour day granted to loggers by government edict I.W.W. had continued to agitate and were saying May 1 would be "blanketless" day in behalf of better sanitary conditions in logging camps. On that day members were urged to saturate their blankets with kerosene, ignite them and hope that the demonstration would give loggers hotels to live in rather than itchy bunk houses.

Stockton, corner of Court and Commercial streets, advertised white silk petticoats, double panel in front and back, for \$2.89.

Oregon City's strike afflicted papermill had advertised in the Capital Journal: "\$3.10 the lowest wage for an eight hour day; board and lodging at Oregon City \$6.50 a week. Apply at the office at West Linn across the bridge. Those big men are policemen, the little fellows are strikers. Pay no attention to them."

Morse Over-Reaches

Astorian-Budget

Sen. Morse's soup line statement about Portland seems to have put the senator more deeply into the soup himself. The soup line has been demonstrated to be a charity organization's method of doing something for the inhabitants of skid road, where it is located. A soup line in the skid road district is going to find patrons no matter how great the prosperity and how high the employment in the community.

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Salem Business Men say: Willamette Valley Bank serves business Best!

Hundreds of progressive Salem business firms now enjoy these advantages offered by this bank:

- PERSONAL SERVICE BY BANK EXECUTIVES. All accounts, regardless of size, receive individual attention by highly trained personnel.
- TWO HANDY BRANDED LOCATIONS, away from congested traffic areas, make banking easy. (Ample parking space is available always at both banking offices.)
- BANK-BY-MAIL SERVICE permits making deposits to accounts at any time.
- CONVENIENT BANKING HOURS. All teller services available from 8:30-5:30, 6 days a week. Banking rooms open: 10:00-3:00. Walk-up Teller Window Service: 8:30-10:00, 3:00-5:30.

For banking at its best... bank at Salem's home-owned bank.

Head Office: 1900 Fairgrounds Road
University Branch: 1310 State Street

Willamette Valley Bank

Ample parking facilities at both banking offices.

Deposits insured to \$10,000 by F.D.I.C.

ARE YOU FULLY COVERED?

But don't YOU STALL about getting adequate INSURANCE on your car to cover all driving hazards.

STALLING about getting Full coverage AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE could bring disaster upon you. After the accident happens it's TOO LATE. For AUTO INSURANCE that gives you FULL COVERAGE