

SOUTHERN OREGON MINER

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THE DEATH OF OUR PRESIDENT

While we had the paper out last week too early to catch the distressing news of the passing of our great president, it is not too late, we hope to make a few remarks this week. The impact of the presidents' death has not faded yet; the nation still mourns the loss of a great man.

Fate, if we may call it that, has a way of taking events in its own hands, and with the death of our leader, at a time, when we apparently needed him most, is unfortunate, yet we cannot but feel that such things are for the best. President Roosevelt lived to see the fulfillment of his dream to subdue the enemy; another must carry on to the settlement of the peace.

The past two elections have been bitter ones and there are many who think that the other candidates could have done a better job of running the country than did Mr. Roosevelt. But we think that nearly everyone will agree that the late president was a great humanitarian, he had the interest of the small people at heart. The party which elected him to office has always had that as one of the keystones of its policy and Mr. Roosevelt carried out those ideals. Whether we like some of his policies or not we feel that history will record him as one of the great men of our country, and will place him on a level with Lincoln, Washington and the other outstanding presidents of our country.

Mr. Truman, in being elevated to the position as leader of the greatest nation on earth, has taken on a tremendously hard job, and while it has been expressed that we know little of his fitness for the job he faces, yet his opening remarks Monday on his policies, indicates he has a clear thinking mentality that we believe will bear up under the work he must do.

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ASHLAND'S BICYCLE RIDERS

We note with not a little concern that numerous Ashland youngsters have a habit of riding down some of the sloping streets that run into the main street and Siskiyou Boulevard, with a lot of abandon and darned little care for their safety. While we know it is a lot of fun for youngsters on bicycles to come down such streets as Gresham, North Pioier and such others which drop sharply to the Main street level, we doubt, if such is a very good idea from a safety standpoint. Most of them never stop at the intersection to see if there is an approaching car or not, but ride blithely into the street.

Such a practice is not to the best interests of the youngsters or the public in general. It is very easy in doing that sort of a stunt to ride out in front of an approaching car, or to hit a pedestrian, with the result that there would likely be a fatal or near fatal accident.

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DESERTING A SINKING SHIP

Daily newspapers the past week have carried several stories relating to the capture of the Nazi big shots, first Franz Von Papen, a Nazi diplomat of the first water, who was captured on an estate recently over run by American soldiers. Others included the widow of the late Kaiser Wilhelm her son, a sister and others. And we note that several top flight generals have also been bagged.

It would seem to us that their capture was quite easy. Any of them, it would seem from this distance, could have escaped with the retreating armies, but apparently did not do so. And we note with interest that they managed to get caught by the Americans and British rather than the Russians. A bad conscience, no doubt.

But it would seem to us that is is a case of 'rats deserting a sinking ship'. They know the jig is up, for Germany, and are getting out while they think they can gracefully

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A WHINING GERMAN GENERAL

The past week a captured German general is reported to have remarked that the war was unfair, in that the Allies had so much more planes, tanks, guns, so many more men and the things that go to make war, than did the Germans. Now, we have never heard that anything was intended to be fair in war, and we doubt if the Germans called it unfair when they overran Poland, the Balkans, France, Greece, and all the other smaller or larger countries, when they had a preponderance of the sinews of war and were able to overrun them without much opposition. Now that the shoe is on the other foot, they begin to whine about it. Germany is getting a thorough dose of what she has been handing out the past four years, and while it is a terrible thing they are undergoing, we can not but feel that they are getting their just deserts. After all, they are the ones that started the war in the first place. For a German to say that it is "unfair" is going pretty far.

What About the Children?

By Ruth Taylor

"A child's sob in the silence curses deeper Than the strong man in his wrath."

Elizabeth Barret Browning

There is one problem of rehabilitation which is greater than any other. It is also the most important. It is the rehabilitation of the children of Europe.

Unless they can be rehabilitated, all the great plans for a new and beautiful world are in vain. The danger and the hope, the menace and the salvation of the world of tomorrow lies in the children of today - for whatever ideals, ambitions, and beliefs are inculcated into the hearts and minds of these children will determine the future of the whole world. They are the ones who will have the keeping of the peace in their lands.

The most serious effect of war is never on the generation fighting it but on the generation following. The tension falls hardest on them - for they have not had the background, the bitter knowledge with which to properly evaluate happenings. Even when they do not show any immediate effect, fears, inhibitions and hatreds can be started which may well scar young minds permanently. Remember the Hitler's first followers were the warped children of the last war. And those who faltered and hampered and hindered in other lands were children when the guns roared before.

How are we going to teach security to a child who has never known peace? Who has lived in the constant presence of terror? Who has seen death in its most brutal forms. Who has known horrors from which the most hardened adults shrink?

How are we going to teach truth to a child who has had to learn to lie cleverly in order to keep alive? How are we going to restore faith to those who have watched murder go unavenged? How are we going to teach the value of law and order to a child who has learned to scurry in fear from those in authority? Who has known abuse, starvation and degradation?

"When young lips have drunk deep of the bitter waters of Hate, Suspicion and Despair, not all the Love in the world can wipe away the memory, though it may turn darkened eyes for a while to the light, and teach Faith where no Faith was." So Kipling wrote at the end of a sad story of a little child.

What can we do for these children? Unless we use all the wisdom, courage - and love - we possess to help them, there can be no lasting peace, his is the greatest problem. How can we solve it?

Washington Newsletter

—By—

HARRIS ELLSWORTH
Congressman from Oregon

NO COMPULSORY LABOR BILL. The overwhelming rejection by the Senate to the Conference Committee version of the manpower bill apparently wrote an end to the consideration of that subject by this Congress. Chairman May of the House Military Affairs Committee says members of his committee will not even continue in conference sessions. The bill is dead, and it is just as well. Paul V. McNutt, chairman of the War Manpower Commission, says there is a positive betterment in the employment situation. Production continues at a high level. Victory in Europe seems but a short time away. In spite of the loud talking

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Place
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Lilly's
GROCETERIA

On the Plaza

on the subject, there is no need of labor draft legislation.

Actually the question of how much war production will be cut back following V-E Day is much more serious. It is pretty certain that no one has any positive answer as to how much the cut-back should be. Figures ranging from 10% up as high as 60% have been kicked around rather carelessly during the last six weeks. The Byrnes report on reconversion planning revealed that there has been very little accomplished. The two top authorities on this subject have disappeared from the scene—Justice Byrnes resigned, and Major General Lucius Clay, who represented the Army in War Production Board and reconversion planning, has been sent overseas. The name heard most now is J. A. (Cap) Krug, former TVA executive, now head of the War Production Board. He is quoted as favoring a 12% reduction in war production the first quarter after the end of the European phase, and somewhere around 30% for the first year.

So many planners and writers of regulations and directives have become accustomed to controls of all sorts that there is an alarming tendency in our big centralized government or war to think of continuing such controls into the post-war era. This is really something to worry about.

A DOUBLE-CHECK ON DIRECTIVES. My good friend, Congressman Errett P. Scrivner of Kansas, has introduced a resolution which I hope will ultimately be adopted by the Congress. His proposal simply would require all executive agencies to submit drafts of all orders and directives to appropriate committees of Congress for review prior to becoming effective. The purpose of such a review would be for the committee to determine whether or not a directive conforms with the letter of the law as passed and with of Congress. During the past two years, numerous laws passed by Congress have been administered by the executive department in a way Congress never intended. In a few instances, directives and executive orders have gone outside of the letter of the laws themselves. If Congressman Scrivner's suggestion is adopted, the Congressional committees will not attempt, of course, to re-write directives, but will merely call attention to faults in them and ask that such faults be corrected.

Such a procedure should not be necessary, but it is. Acts of Congress are being man-handled and misinterpreted, and even circumvented by the executive department. People blame Congress for the troubles which ensue. Congress must therefore protect itself and the people from such mal-administration by exercising a check upon the executive department as suggested by Congressman Scrivner.

SPRINGTIME IN WASHINGTON. In spite of everything that is said about Washington, this is

a beautiful city, especially at this time of year. Although much is said about the famous "Oriental" cherry trees, I think their beauty is vastly overrated. During the three or four days when they are at their best, the scene is lovely, but the magnificent pink dogwood trees and other flowering shrubs found in all parts of the city are far more beautiful and make a more gorgeous and charming picture. The shrubbery on the Capitol grounds is in full bloom now.

Speaking of spring and wild flowers, etc., reminds me that I have received several letters recently mentioning that salmon are running in the coastal streams in Oregon now. I hope people will have pity on me and say nothing more about it.

Buy bonds to buy bombs to bomb bums.

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THE OLD JUDGE SAYS...



"When you think of the sacrifices our fighting men are making in this war, it's hard to figure out how we'll ever repay them, isn't it, Judge?"

"Yes, it really is, Tom. There are only certain things we can do. Such as... write them cheerful letters often. Send them favorite gifts from time to time. Work harder than ever to provide them with everything they need to finish their job quickly. Buy more and more War Bonds... especially during the current drive... to

pay for the ammunition and fighting equipment they must have."

"All that still seems kind of small compared with what they're doing for us, Judge."

"True, but it's about all we older folks back home can do, Tom. Except one more thing. And that is to be sure our fighting men come home to the same kind of country they left behind. The kind of country their letters tell us they want. Nothing changed that they don't want changed while they're away and unable to express their wishes."