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WENDELL LAWRENCE, Editor

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The current furor over the State Department's "Voice of America" radio broadcasts is the most serious the program has become involved in so far. For a long time a sizable minority in Congress has doubted if the broadcasts can do any good. At one time it looked as if either the House or Senate might refuse to vote the necessary appropriations to keep the program going. It was saved by Secretary Marshall, who made a strong plea in which he said it was an important adjunct to our foreign policy.

"Voice of America" is beamed by directional radio to a long list of foreign countries, in their languages. The broadcast which recently aroused anger in Congress seems to have been extraordinarily critical of this country, at least in part. It was in the form of a travelogue, in which two men journeyed through various states and discussed what was going on. Heavy street, apparently, was laid on real or alleged racial and other inequalities. The author of the script said that taking isolated lines from the contest did it an injustice, and that anyone who listened to all of it would get a favorable opinion of the United States. Whether that is true or not, it looks as if division of responsibility is a very weak link in the "Voice of America" chain. The State Department does not prepare the scripts, but has that done by a broadcasting company. No one in authority, apparently, checks them before they are released. In the recent controversy, everyone passed the buck to someone else.

Regardless of what has happened in practice, however, the theory back of "Voice of America" is interesting. The basic plan was to put out entertaining and informative programs that would give foreign listeners—particularly those behind the iron curtain—a more accurate idea of American life and thought than can be gained from their own newspapers and radio, most of which are government controlled. The idea was to reach the rank and file of people, and to show them, among other things, that America is peacable, sympathetic with their problems, and eager to cooperate in solving the world's ills. No one knows how many foreign listeners have actually heard the broadcasts. In some countries, notably the Soviet Union, where people caught listening to foreign broadcasts may find themselves in serious difficulty, the number is undoubtedly small. Even so, the program's advocates say, it has been a positive and growing influence.

The future of "Voice of America" remains to be seen. Within the United States, a number of non-governmental activities are being carried on to give Americans themselves a clearer idea of the superiority of the capitalist over the socialist and communist systems. There is no end of authorative information of this kind, but much of it is long and scholarly monographs which are not widely read. More and more thought is being given to reaching people with ideas and facts which can be quickly assimilitated and easily remembered. The Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, as an example, has put out a series of charts called "Magic of America" which have been received with much more enthusiasm than was expected. The charts are largely factual in character, and are devoted to the difference in living standards between capitalist America, communist Russia and socialist Britain. The average American wage earner, it is pointed out, could buy six pairs of shoes with a week's earnings, while in Russia his counterpart gets enough for only one shoe. Again, in America an hour's work will pay for six quarts of milk, while in Russia it will buy but a third of one quart. And, despite our housing shortage, we have an average of 410 square feet per person as against Ivan's 40.

These, and many other comparable works, are all part of the war of ideas, which is a relatively new thing in the world. The basic conflicts between nations today are ideological. That is why totalitarian governments always take over the press and the radio as a first step in cementing their authority, and eliminate all criticism, no matter how mild. The Russians, for instance, are very proud of the fact that their newspapers have had an astonishing growth in circulation in the last eight or ten years. One leading paper actually said that this was an example how "real" freedom of the press—which consists of putting Soviet propaganda into every story!

One of the basic weaknesses in the communist system is, of course, this inability to stand criticism. The Soviet leaders are afraid that their people will be contaminated by western ideas and knowledge of western ways of living. It is realiably reported that returning Russian soldiers who have had close contact with British and Americans are forced to take indoctrination training, during which the virtues of communism and the sins of capitalism are pumped into them ad nauseum. Then, when the soldiers are released to go home, they are watched carefully to make sure they are free of subversive ideas.

We live in an age in which thoughts are weapons no less than guns. Whatever one may think of the capitalist system, it is the only one which lives amiably with a free press and a free radio.

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"Backward America"—Bunk!

All the proponents of socialism, communism and the other what-have you isms argue that their systems offer the "common man" greater security and material benefits. As Al Smith used to say, let's look at the record.

Russia has gone whole hog in its version of a "people's government," to own or control all productive activity, and only a miserable minimum of consumer goods is produced. Her retail stores—all of which belong to the state—are stocked with only a few necessities and even these are strictly rationed. Prices, measured by average earning power, are far higher than in this country.

"Backward America," on the other hand, still clings to representative government and a capitalist economy. The "tragic" results of this are seen on every hand—the most efficient industries on earth, the highest standards of living in the world despite inflation, more leisure and opportunity for all, retail stores groaning with every kind of commodity, and a competitive system which has to please the people or go out of business—no "take it or leave it' system.

Open Mike

by Doyle SEELY

The newest addition to the KWIN staff is Miss Marjorie Thompson who joined the program department this week. She replaces Verene Bailey who has left for Boise, Idaho.

Marjorie has already received her baptism of fire in front of a mike, taking over the "Listen Ladies" show each morning. When she's not preparing copy or emoting for the ladies, Marjorie spends her time whipping up the other programs on the KWIN log.

The Teen Age club of Ashland is now making semi-regular appearances on Friday afternoons. So far, they've been on the air twice preceeding their dances in the junior high gym. Last week, Miss Mary Waterbury acted as Mistress of Ceremonies, and presented fifteen minutes of local talent supplied by the teen-agers.

Biss Bissell, also representing the teen-agers has taken over the Monday night Juke Box platter spinning job. From now on, Bill plans to spin mail requests for the teen-agers, as well as working in news of the Teen-age club.

You didn't have to be crazy to enter Will Miller's contest, but it seems that it sure helped. Will heard from nearly 200 listeners during the course of the week. Most of them had the right answer to his birthday question, which incidentally was "one birthday." And just about every entrant included the box top. Consequently, Will has an assortment of box tops. What will happen to them still remains to be seen.

Sara Miller Weds A. N. Nicolai June 10

Mrs. Edward E. Brown, 407 N. Main Street, announces the marriage of her sister, Miss Sara Miller, of same address, to A. N. Nicolai of McMinnville, Oregon, at the Chapel of the Rocks and Roses in Medford, Oregon, on Thursday, June 10, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

Judge Frank L. Lonergan of Portland officiated, using the single ring ceremony.

The bride was attended by her sister, Mrs. Edward E. Brown, and the groom by Dr. Edward E. Brown.

Nicolai owns and operates the Oregon Hotel in McMinville, and his bride was traveling representative for the Empire Production Company of Kansas City, Mo., and has made her home here with Dr. and Mrs. Brown the past year.

Following a two weeks honeymoon in Oregon the couple will be at home at the Oregon Hotel in McMinville.

GRANTS PASS GLAD SHOW TO BE AUGUST 13 & 14

The late spring in Southern Oregon has caused a postponement of the 1948 Grants Pass Gladiolus Show it was announced following a special meeting of grower-members of the Grants Pass Gladiolus Society recently.

The show was originally scheduled for July 30th and 31st. Because of late plantings and an expected shortage of blooms at that time the show dates have now been set for August 13th and 14th, according to John A. Bastian, President of the Society.

Miss Smith Is Wed Fri. June 4

Candlelight services held at the Methodist church at 8 p.m. Friday, June 4th, united in marriage Miss Eva Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Smith and Wallace C. Cannon, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Dollarhide, all of Ashland.

The double ring ceremony was read by the Rev. Robert McIlvenna before a altar of white flowers, palms and ferns. Prelude music was played by Mrs. Frank Davis as guests were seated by ushers, Robert Hoefs and Delbert Landing.

Preceding the ceremony white tapers were lighted by the two attendants, Mrs. Delbert Landing and Mrs. Robert Hoefs, dressed in light blue and pink.

Soloist Clifford Williams sang, "With This Ring' and "Because" before the bridal party entered.

Escorted to the altar and given in marriage by her father, the bride wore the traditional white slipper satin gown, fashioned with tight bodice, long sleeves, and full skirt. Lace trimmed the yoke and also edged the train. She carried a white prayer book on which a white orchid was fastened with white satin ribbon streamers.

Matron of honor was Mrs. Robert O'Harra who wore a yellow formal. Best man to the groom was Jay Samuelson and Betty Berry was flower girl. Bouquets of tinted carnations were carried by the attendants and matron of honor.

For her daughter's wedding, Mrs. Smith wore a dusty rose lace afternoon dress with pastel cosage and white accessories. Mrs. Dollarhide and Mrs. Martha Dahuff, grandmothers of the bride and groom wore navy blue with gardenia corsage.

"The Lord's Prayer" was sung by Clifford Williams which closed the ceremony and the traditional wedding marches were played by Mrs. Davis.

The reception which followed in the church parlors, was attended by approximately two hundred people. The rooms were decorated with large baskets of stocks, snapdragons and fern.

After the bride and groom first cut the tiered bride's cake, cutting was continued by Mrs. Marc Smith, with Mrs. Winifield Roberson and Miss Barbara Helm pouring punch and coffee. Mrs. Jeannette Williams was in charge of the guest book and Mrs. J. E. Chamberlain, Mrs. Mayne Cary, Mrs. Katie Scroggins and Mrs. Verla Lutz assisted about the rooms.

Following a brief wedding trip, Mr. and Mrs. Cannon will be at home at 190 Mountain Avenue. Both are well known locally, having graduated from the Ashland high school in 1945.

During the war the groom served in the navy, in the Pacific theatre. Since discharge he has been currently employed by Harrison Parts.

Mrs. Cannon attended Oregon State College and for the last year has been employed by Dr. James C. Hayes of Medford.

For her traveling outfit, Mrs. Cannon wore a light blue suit with white accessories and orchid corsage.

BROWNS ENTERTAIN AT INFORMAL DINNER PARTY

Dr. and Mrs. Edward Brown entertained at an informal dinner party Wednesday eve, June 9, at Omar's restaurant. The dinner was in honor of Mrs. Brown's sister, Miss Sarah Miller, and A. N. Nicolai, who were married Thursday, June 10.

Micky Nicolai, Miss Lenora Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph D. McCullouch, Nicholas Nicolai, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest L. Scott of Medford, and Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Coleman of Medford, were present for the party.

Mrs. Jackson Geiger, 84 Dowey street, left the last of the week for Chapel, Nebraska, to visit relatives and plans to be gone some time.