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F. D. R. On the Defensive

Well, Governor Dewey has accomplished one thing at least and it is something none of his predecessors was able to put over. He has put the "shrewdest politician of modern times" on the defensive.

Yes, for the first time since F. D. R. so easily kayoed Herbert Hoover in the first round, President Roosevelt has had to rely on his abilities, not as a whirlwind offensive annihilator, but as a defensive counter-puncher.

No longer does he find the best defense an aggressive offense. In fact, Mr. Roosevelt has only tried the offensive once since the present campaign opened, and that was his appearance before the teamsters' union, which most impartial observers agree was not a great strategic nor tactical success.

Since then the President's chief political activities have been confined almost entirely to White House press releases, trying to parry the blows of Mr. Dewey's speeches which, directly or indirectly, would assign the Republican candidate to the Ananias club.

IN his speech on Monday night in St. Louis, the Republican candidate quoted a report made by the President's uncle, Frederick A. Delano, head of a postwar adjustment committee, as follows:

"Despite compelling reasons for rapid military demobilization, the prospects of economic and industrial dislocation at the close of the war are so grave and the social consequences so far-reaching that a policy of orderly, gradual, and if necessary delayed military demobilization has been strongly advocated."

That, Governor Dewey maintained, sustained the charge he had made that the administration's Selective Service Director Major General Lewis B. Hershey, had advocated keeping men in the army following the end of the war, for that would be cheaper than supporting them in civilian life, where there would probably not be sufficient jobs to take care of them.

SO the White House counters, not with any denial of the truth of the statements, or the authenticity and accuracy of Mr. Dewey's quotations to support them; but quotes another extract from the same Delano report as follows:

"A general policy of speedy, but orderly and controlled, military demobilization should be adopted, coupled with the use of all reasonable plans and measures to increase the employment available to those being demobilized."

THERE is one danger of the counter-punching technique. It repeats and therefore increases the force of the original blow; and it also gives ones' opponent the probability of another opening—a counter to the counter-punch.

And here certainly is an opening. For these two quotations from the same report merely sustain what Governor Dewey has maintained all along—that, not only is the present administration full of confusion, indecision and dissension, between departments; but within them—so that the officials of one department are often so bound up by red tape, legalistic and alphabetical hocus-pocus, they don't know whether they agree or disagree with other officials of the same department.

FOR example what is the average layman to conclude after reading these two extracts from the same government report; one plainly granting the probable necessity of delaying military mobilization because of unavoidable economic and industrial dislocations; and the other opposing any such delay by putting on a program of speedy demobilization made possible by measures which would nullify those same "unavoidable" dislocations.

Which is right, which is wrong? Both can't be.

The O. W. I. Mystery

We have long since given up any effort to understand the basic theories of the OWI. Time after time, what appeared to this department to be harmless or desirable information, has been withheld; while information which seemed of obvious benefit to the enemy has been released.

It is all very confusing. Why, for example, was that story from England yesterday, quoting Congressman Compton of Connecticut, ever oked through the censorship?

AFTER spending all of six days at the front, the Congressman proceeded to broadcast to the world that because of difficulties in the system of supply, General Patton has been held up indefinitely at Metz, and any Allied victory in Europe this year is illusory. In fact, the Allied High Command never contemplated victory in Europe this year, continued the touring Congressman, and the OWI is responsible for such a false impression gaining ground!

DISREGARDING the fact that General Eisenhower himself, not the OWI, was responsible for the belief Germany would be defeated this year, could anything boost Germany's fading morale more, or encourage our soldiers at the front and the people at home LESS, than to admit there is serious trouble with the Allied Service of Supply?

How could broadcasting such a report do the Allied cause the slightest good, or fail to do it real harm?

IT would be different if inadequacy of supply were something publicity might remedy. But obviously everything that CAN be done IS being done to get needed supplies to our fighting men on every front. Advertising the fact, the effort to date has not fully succeeded—how could that fail to give a shot-in-the-arm to Hitler, and make the tremendous back-breaking task of General Eisenhower more difficult?

News Behind The News
By Paul Mallon

Washington, Oct. 19 — The surges we made in Holland, at Aachen and at Metz were but limited attacks. They did not approach the scale of assault of which we are capable in manpower and munitions available to that front.



What has prevented us from getting it started sooner was the suicidal Nazi retention of the channel ports and the complete destruction they wrought before surrendering. This effectively tied up our troops by hindering reinforcements and supplies.

THE whole city of Brest was wrecked. Le Havre was damaged beyond early use. Even at Bordeaux we have been able to use only the neck of the peninsula.

A major campaign is still raging around Antwerp, and while enthusiastic dispatches have told frequently of late that we have cleared the Schelde estuary approaching that port and commanding it, we have just made good progress on the south side of the river and failed to do much on the north side.

At Metz, Aachen and in Holland, the nazis have shown fairly good artillery, and some tanks. They must have saved these from earlier war years when their production was full. Their new recruits fighting at these points were not as bad as could have been expected. The number of older men in evidence has been offset by the fanaticism of the boys.

WITH this artillery, the tanks and the young zealots, they have formed a cohesive line from Switzerland to the Baltic, although the final power of this line has not yet been tested by full attack.

Their morale, however, is surprising, especially in the face of two great defects. They are pinched for oil and they have a great air inferiority.

Their game is to hold on through the winter in hope of a miracle by spring. In Poland and Italy, it is the same story.

We pierced their vaunted Gothic line both in the center and on the Adriatic. Now they hold the last line of hills in front of the Po valley, but they hold these natural obstacles well.

THE Russians have had great success on both flanks. They have just about mopped up the Baltic states and severed connections with Finland. (A great many Germans escaped.)

In the south they will soon get Budapest, and Belgrade will fall. Greece is ours (British) and the only escape for the Germans left on Crete is by air.

But in the center, on the east Prussia-Vistula river-Warsaw line through Poland there has been a lull of weeks if not months—and this is the only suitable military route to Berlin. The Russians are taking the Baltics before trying for Berlin.

THE nazis anticipate that winter weather will soon grant them the same respite in the west. They are mistaken. It is true, mud may impede our progress (the ground does not freeze in Germany or offer good winter fighting conditions for mechanical equipment) but our attack has been delayed. We have been awaiting the arrival of power.

The published estimates that we have 70 divisions on the front against 40 nazis are unwise because no one knows how much we have. Yet everyone knows it is sufficient to start a full grand-scale assault within a short time and keep pushing the

attack through the winter. That is quite clearly our strategy. To say the war will not end until spring is to suppose this attack will not be fully successful. I would not bet on that yet if I were you.

COMMUNICATIONS

Letters to the Editor must bear the name and address of the writer or initials for publication is permissible. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with a view to clarity and conciseness.

Don't Vote For Roosevelt To the editor: The law of averages indicates that President Roosevelt should have less than a 50-50 chance to live out a fourth term.

Of our last eight deceased Presidents, four died younger than Mr. Roosevelt now is. The average life of the whole eight was about 64 years, 6 months. Mr. Roosevelt would be 66 at the end of a fourth term.

The nub to this fact is that in electing Mr. Roosevelt there would be over a 50-50 chance of getting only Mr. Truman for much of a fourth term; and that Mr. Truman was given his start by Boss Pendergast of Kansas City, who was convicted of a felony connected with machine politics, and served time in prison. Nor has Mr. Truman ever held any high executive post, or in any way proved his fitness to deal with reconstruction here, or with the worldwide settlement which are to come at the war's end.

With Dewey and Bricker on one side and over a 50-50 chance that only Mr. Truman is to be on the other side, it obviously would be a daring gamble to elect the Democratic National ticket.

Another angle that should appeal to the many who love Mr. Roosevelt personally, is that a fourth term would surely shorten his life, because of the killing duties that are to be imposed upon the Presidential office during the ensuing four years.

CHARLES P. STRAIN, 1619 West Third St., Santa Ana, California, Oct. 17, 1944.

Navy Commander Arrives Here For Mother's Funeral

Commander F. F. Ageus, United States Navy, has arrived in Medford from Boston, Mass., to attend the funeral of his mother, Mrs. Jeanette M. Ageus, who passed away October 16. Commander Ageus is staying with his aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Kidd, of 1820 Crown Hill road.

Commander Ageus is well known in the Rogue River valley. He is a graduate of the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, class of 1927, and received a Master of Science degree at the University of California in 1937. He is a member of the American Society of Naval Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and is an associate member of Sigma Xi.

Commander Ageus spent three years in China and the Philippines prior to the war. For the past two years he has served in the South and Central Pacific on two large aircraft carriers of the Essex class. He has just recently returned to the states.

Daily Weather Report

Medford and vicinity: Clear to partly cloudy tonight and Friday. Oregon: Clear tonight, becoming partly cloudy Friday morning, fog near ocean, little change in temperature.

Table with columns: Local Data, Temperature a year ago today, Total monthly precipitation, Total precipitation since September 1, 1944, Relative humidity, Sunrise, Sunset, Moonset, Past 24 hours, High, Low, Precip.

From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

As American as Huckleberry Finn

About the best-read books in our town are the works of Mark Twain—who wrote Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn and all those other lovable, undying stories. And I think it's because he's the most American of all our writers. He understood his fellow men—and loved them as he loved all humanity. You may remember what he said of Tolerance and Freedom—those principles so basic to our way of life. Mark Twain believed in them, of course. He fought for them. But he cautioned: "Never let tolerance become indifference, never let freedom become license."

Flight o' Time

Medford and Jackson Co. History from the files of the Mail Tribune 10, 20, and 34 years ago.

TEN YEARS AGO TODAY

October 19, 1934 (It Was Friday) Portland docks are swept by huge fire, at high loss.

Red Cross Congress opens in Tokyo.

Yugoslav troops reported on Hungarian border. Eleven-year-old King Peter assumes Yugoslavian throne.

Cloudy with probable rain. High 67, low 33 degrees.

"On to California" is cry of Arizona jobless.

Eastern Oregon hunter fires at "horns" in brush, and wounds friend.

President Roosevelt warns veterans "cash for bonus is not available."

TWENTY YEARS AGO TODAY

October 19, 1924 (It Was Saturday) Coffee jumps to 50 cents per pound on Portland market.

Japanese clash with China imminent. Gen. Wu orders all suspicious Japs held as spies.

Famous scientist declares world is "marching to annihilate."

COLD-STUFFED NOSE?

Open up the cold blockade in your nose with fast-acting Penetro Nose Drops. Breathe free, easier, almost instantly, as they cool, soothe and shrink swollen nasal membranes. Caution: Use only as directed. Generous bottle 25c, 50c. Get PENETRO NOSE DROPS

THIRTY-FOUR YEARS AGO October 19, 1910 (It Was Wednesday) Espree depot is dedicated before huge crowd. Commercial club moves to new quarters in Nat. More than 800 voters in county fail to register. Foxes show progressively larger ears as they inhabit progressively warmer regions, from Arctic tundra, to forests, and finally to deserts.

CITY MEAT MARKET 121 North Central JOHN HARTSOOK - OTHAR RICHEY, Managers FRESH FISH No Points Do your canning now! Salmon Trout 2 to 5 lbs. 25c lb. Oysters 65c pt. Salmon Cheeks 20c lb. Red Snapper 39c lb. File Sole 43c lb. Black Cod LING - CATFISH LOBSTER - SALT COD FISH A - GOOD - AA - CHOICE Round Steak 38c lb. Sirloin 31c lb. Rib 31c lb. Swiss 30c lb.



Her audience is carried in!

NO standing room—for her audience cannot stand. In cots, in wheel chairs, on crutches they come. Eager, hopeful, mending men. She plays the hospital circuit. She is one of hundreds of entertainers provided by U.S.O. Camp Shows. Others play the "Fox-hole Circuit" in the South Seas... or the snowy wastes of Alaska and Iceland. YOU are one of the important "backers" of this vast playbill. Your dollars given through your local Community War Fund make it all possible. Part of your gift goes to the U.S.O., part to merchant seamen through United Seamen's Service, part to War Prisoners' Aid. And part of your gift

You Support the U.S.O. When You Give to The MEDFORD Community Chest —and— National War Fund Let's Fill The Chest Now! MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE