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Non-Sense

Oregon's chief labor leaders Messrs. Marr, Earle and Brost vigorously oppose support of President Roosevelt's national service act on the ground it would be tantamount to "slave labor" and therefore unconstitutional.

Needless to say we can't pinch hit for the Supreme Court but the constitutional claim in our judgment is absurd enough for any layman to recognize.

HOW could any court hold this government can not legally tell a citizen in time of war where he must work, when it CAN tell the SAME citizen, where he must FIGHT and if need be, DIE?

As to the slavery angle, if compulsion as to a man's job for an 8-hour day comes under the heading of involuntary servitude, how would one classify compulsion to fight ten thousand miles away from home, on a 24-hour basis!

THERE can be honest disagreement as to the necessity or desirability of national service at this stage of the war.

But there can be none, as we see it, as to the legal right of our government to have it, if the military authorities and the "Commander-in-Chief" regard it as essential to the better prosecution of the war, and request it. This they have done.

Have the Japs Quit?

A subscriber wants to know what has happened to Japanese resistance in the Philippines. Has it collapsed because of superior U. S. air power or have the Japs decided to abandon these islands and make a final stand further north? It is all (he thinks) very mysterious.

Well it is. And so is the absence of any effective German resistance in East Prussia or Silesia. The military expert of this department in fact can't quite make it out.

BUT our guess is, in both instances, the enemy is deliberately retiring to prepared positions, and also drawing their opponents farther and farther from their bases of supply, extending their lines of communication, and making their logistics more difficult.

That is the way it looks from here at least. We can't believe Japan intends to give up Manila without a real fight, or Germany intends to fall back to Berlin without making an all-out stand, somewhere along the eastern front.

Perhaps in both cases the enemy is weaker than anyone has supposed. Here is hoping. But the probability is a very different brand of Jap and German resistance will begin to show up this coming week.

Good But Ex-Parte

Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius jr., is author of the leading article in the February "Reader's Digest" entitled "What the Dumbarton Oaks Peace Plan Means."

The author's conclusion is as follows: "We seek a calm and considered and complete judgment upon this plan and then, if it is approved and ratified, a solid effective support for it, not merely by government, but by peoples. In the end it is they and only they who by their determined purpose, their understanding and continued loyalty, can bring to the world peace, security and progress.

And here is the gist of his preface: "The range of the airplane and the new weapons already developed make certain that next time, if we permit a next time, the devastation of war will be brought to our own homes and our own soil. Next time, if we permit a next time, it is likely that the United States will be attacked first, not last, by an aggressor nation."

WE can imagine no thinking person denying the complete truth of both statements.

But toward the end of securing the support of "peoples" as well as "governments" it is the conviction of this department that the weaknesses of the Dumbarton agreement as well as its virtues, should be frankly stated, in short all the facts put on the table instead of only a portion of them, for all to see.

But our new Secretary of State, in this article, does not present all the facts and fails to even mention one of the most important ones, namely the unilateral veto power in the Council.

AS the plan now stands, whenever a decision to use force arises, the decision in the Council must be unanimous, in other words any one of Council powers, the United States, Russia, Great Britain, China or France, can veto a declaration of war, or the use of force against any other nation including itself.

As no nation will declare war against itself, this means that if any of these five nations should ever attack any other, the new League of Peace would be powerless to prevent it.

It may be contended this is not very likely to happen. Of course it isn't, NOW.

But who is wise enough, or prophetic enough, to predict precisely what the world situation will be 20 or 30 years from now? And not immediately after the present conflict, but when a new generation has grown up, will the acute need of such an organization as this to enforce world peace probably arise.

Moreover if the threat of a Third World War can not come from any of these five great powers; with Germany and Japan liquidated, from whence will such a threat come?

WE don't maintain, this defect in the present plan is a fatal one. Not at all. But we do regard it, from the standpoint of every realistic approach, a serious one, and one which should be corrected before the final program is offered to this government or any other.

News Behind The News

By Paul Mallon

Washington, Jan. 26—Behind the Bowles-Krug project to curb garment prices is a chaotic condition which every woman knows.



Paul Mallon

worked on them as in the old days of bargain store rushes. Messrs. Krug and Bowles announced they proposed to start cutting prices 6 or 7 per cent, but from the standpoint of the shopper in the stores it looks more and more the cheaper dresses are just being sold as higher-priced dresses, while the top standard is the one which has disappeared.

THE announcement said the trouble is cheaper garments are no longer being produced, but from the standpoint of the shopper in the stores it looks more and more the cheaper dresses are just being sold as higher-priced dresses, while the top standard is the one which has disappeared.

But here for the first important occasion, the OPA is moving into the aspect of correcting the gradual but deep decline in quality of goods, which has been protested so frequently in this column the past few weeks. The OPA figures (bureau of labor statistics) in this instance show the price of clothing has increased only 11 per cent in the last 18 months.

ALSO the general cost of living, according to OPA statistics has risen only 1 per cent in the same 18 months. Food prices are supposed to have gone down and rents held stable.

This will be difficult for any consumer in my neighborhood to understand, when he measures the similar declines to size and quality of many goods, where standard quality has disappeared (food, cigarettes, liquor, etc.) and standard measures lost.

Now to meet this same condition in clothing, OPA proposes to get, first a hand on the raw materials outlets through the war production board, and thus force the manufacturer to make the cheaper dress goods, then to check directly on deterioration in quality of garments and also move to reduce actual price increases.

OPA THINKS this program will at least prevent an expected 15 per cent increase in prices during 1945. They expect industry profits may be reduced somewhat by the innovations but will still remain higher than in peace time and consumers will save at least \$600,000,000 a year.

Unfavorable comment, however, is coming from industry where restrictions already in effect are considered excessive, allowing much profit to some and little profit to others, under the burdens of heavy war taxation.

My own opinion is that the changes will not restore anything like prewar quality, but may stop the downhill run which has gone on unattended to since the war started. What cheers me is that OPA even intends to do something about this angle.

KORDA STRICKEN Hollywood, Jan. 26 (U.P.)—Sir Alexander Korda, British film director, suffered a heart attack while dining at a Hollywood restaurant last night and was rushed to a hospital where his condition was reported improving, relatives said today.

MONEY TO LOAN! On JEWELRY CAMERAS and MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS. Used and unneeded jewelry at great savings.

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Flight o' Time

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

TEN YEARS AGO TODAY January 26, 1935 (It Was Monday) State Grange opposes changing Oregon primary dates from May to September.

Bruno Hauptmann, Lindbergh baby kidnaper, breaks under cross-examination by prosecutor, and shouts.

Sen. Huey Long's militia rule at Baton Rouge tightened. Unsettled with rain. High 47, low 30 degrees.

Many autoists in county have failed to procure new licenses. Transient nabbed for passing counterfeit nickels in beer halls.

Sen. George W. Dunn of Ashland, returns to state senate desk, after recovering from being hit by auto while crossing Salem street.

ANTI-SALOON league president of state testifies at legislature hearing state dry enforcement agent has served his usefulness.

Grand Duke Nicholas prepares to march against Bolsheviks in spring. President Coolidge asks early passage of farm aid bill.

Unsettled, with probable showers. High 55, low 32 degrees. Record freeze and blizzard hits Middle West.

Jim Allen, star center of basketball team returns to school. Price of eggs drops to 47 cents per dozen as decline continues.

Democrats oppose nomination of Harlan F. Stone to supreme court.

THIRTY-FOUR YEARS AGO TODAY January 26, 1911 (It Was Thursday) Butte Falls road is impossible of travel even by team.

Legislature accused of "unfit, and dealing in peanut politics". Wrestling match at Nat ends in riot.

OBITUARY GLEN S. McCAY Funeral services for Glen S. McCay will be held Saturday at 2 p. m. from the Conger-Morris Funeral home.

JOHN DEAN WILLIAMS John Dean Williams passed away at Gold Hill Wednesday. Mr. Williams was born in Springfield, Mo., April 22, 1875.

FRANK J. RUNTZ Paint & Wallpaper Store 1408 No. Riverside - Phone 4564

Childers and Mrs. Gene Childers of Medford, and Mrs. Fred Roper, Grants Pass; one brother, Oscar Williams, of Gold Hill. He is also survived by three grandchildren and a host of friends. Private funeral services will be held at the Perl Funeral Home Monday at 2 p. m. The Rev. D. E. Millard will officiate and interment will be in Central Point cemetery.

BLANCHE FRAKER Blanche Fraker, a resident of Medford for the past 10 years, passed away in Portland, Ore., January 24.

REFINERY EXPLODES Long Beach, Calif., Jan. 26—(U.P.)—Seven men were injured, three of them critically, when a series of explosions rocked the recently completed Richfield Oil Co. refinery last night.

RUST COLLEGE SINGERS COMING TO GOLD HILL Gold Hill, Jan. 26.—The Rust College quintet will give an hour's program Sunday starting at 4:30 p. m. at the church. The five negro women are from the Methodist college for negroes in Mississippi. There will be no admission charge but a free will offering will be accepted.

DOG OWNERS URGED TO GET 1945 LICENSE NOW Dog-owners are urged by the county clerk to procure their 1945 dog license on or before March 2. Under the law, March 1 is the final day for purchase without the penalty fee being attached to the regular fee of \$1, irrespective of sex. Only a small proportion of the estimated 4000 dog owners in the county have responded.

PERSONAL TAX BLANKS NEEDED BY ASSESSOR The county assessor's office again requests citizens to send in as soon as possible their tax assessment blanks sent them the first of the year. Fourteen were received in the mail today but there are still many tardy taxpayers. They are urged not to wait until the last minute. The final date is March 1.

Quick Relief FROM SHUFFY, STUFFY DISTRESS OF Head Colds! Instantly, relief from sniffling, sneezing distress of head colds starts to come when you put a little V-A-T-R-O-NOL up each nostril.

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Ye Smudge Pot By Arthur Perry

A Portland establishment was robbed of 21 packages of cigarettes recently. Mayhap the burglar doubted the word of the clerk: "No cigarettes today!"

The editor of the esteemed Slaklyou News has received a poem mildly defending the plane priority granted Col. Roosevelt's hound. As usual, in such cases, the poem is worse than the original sin.

"A government financial post should be given the San Francisco who supported five wives on a streetcar conductor's wages." (Oakland, Calif., Tribune.) One cabinet post is not enough for such a genius.

Samples of spring will soon be on tap here. Crows have started cawing at dawn in the suburban areas, while flying as the crow flies.

THAT WEATHERMAN! (Salem Statesman) "Then came a period when he was infallible, then for a time we couldn't mention weather (military secret) and now again we hear from him daily, but can't take him too seriously. The other day, we had difficulty reading about how there would be only light showers, because the pouring rain kept us from seeing, today I sit in the bright sunshine, reading about the cloudy weather we're having." (Maxine Burne.)

Stockholm reports Russian victories on the eastern front have caused the German high command to be low in spirit. In East Prussia, some of the "war lords" have retreated until they are close enough to their own estates, to sneak over to their castles and steal the rare valuables they have stolen in conquered lands.

The controversy between Messrs. Jones and Wallace, high cabinet officials, has touched off a half dozen other political feuds in the national capital. What seems to be needed is a gunny-sack full of boxing gloves, with no horseshoes concealed in their innards.

The news from the war fronts continues optimistic for the Allies, so the world needs a dose of pessimism. "Authoritative sources" and "high British militarists" fear over-confidence, and London reports via Stockholm, the Nazis have a V-rocket ready to shoot at New York, from off the coast of Denmark.

The fair sex, due to the cigarette crisis, are "rolling their own". Some turn out neat and artistic jobs, but most of the production looks less like a cigarette, than their hat looks like a hat.

New lambs are plentiful on rural meadows, and the bleating of the new arrivals for their Maws is heard far and wide. These are the creatures a popular song of a few months back called "Marzy doats" and alleged they ate ivy.

A week from today is Ground Hog Day, and if the animal sees his shadow it will rain Easter Sunday. The occasion is no provocation for banks, barber-shops, public offices, and stores closing up, until the following Monday, to aid the war effort. It also has nothing to do with country sausage, most of which has not been out of the city limits.

Washington State, home of the Grand Coulee dam, has 41 per cent of the nation's potential water power, but only 9 per cent of the potential power in the U. S. has been developed.