

Medford Mail Tribune

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Bisected City

All up and down the Pacific coast, towns are "built around" the railroad. This is the historical consequence of the railroad arriving in an area before the town grows up, and then stimulating its growth.

It is true the length of the San Joaquin and Sacramento river valleys, it is partly true in the Willamette valley to the north, and it is true in Talent, Phoenix, Medford, Central Point, Gold Hill and Rogue River.

Medford, indeed, is in a sense an offspring of the Southern Pacific—or rather the old Oregon and California railroad—for if the rails hadn't gone through here, Jacksonville presumably still would be Jackson county's major city.

IN THOSE days, the railroad did well by Medford. It was on a main line; passenger trains were the principal means of transportation, and the public was served. Meanwhile, profitable freight service was beginning to build up in and out of the new land.

Under those circumstances, it is easy to understand why, in those days, the railroad was accepted as a friend, a neighbor, a benefactor, and was accepted as an integral part of the city.

If the line through the middle of town was an inconvenience, who cared? And who can blame the early residents for not foreseeing the day when Medford would be a city of nearly 25,000 people, with close-packed automobiles (not even invented in those days), a need for more crossings, and a need for orderly development and expansion?

BUT THE town did grow, and fast. It grew rapidly in the 1870s, had another spurt in the "colonist" days of the teens of this century, and another spurt during and after World War II. Until relatively recent years, planning for the future was something which cities, as cities, tended to overlook.

The price of that lack of foresight—for which no one really can be blamed—is now being exacted. The rail line does bisect the city, both physically and in less tangible ways. The noise, the blocking of traffic, the drab slash through the city, are all part of it.

AND IT'S probably too late to do much about it, except make the best of it. Underpasses and overpasses for street crossings are tremendously expensive, and two of them were eliminated for that reason (and we think it probably was a mistake to do so) from the arterial street plan OK'd by the voters last fall.

With an uncooperative railroad—which is more interested in making money than in rendering good service, or providing for the safety of its neighbors, or even assuming part of the cost of a new grade crossing—it will be up to the people and their representatives to force such betterments as they can from the railroad, and then provide the rest themselves.—E.A.

Watching the Sky

The clear skies and warm temperatures of recent weeks have produced the sort of conditions where contrails—those silvery cloud-like marks across the sky left by high-flying jet aircraft—frequently form.

They are a spectacular sight. Some of them are made by planes so high they appear to be nothing but tiny, bright dots trailing a long, long plume of white nothingness which sometimes stretches from one horizon to the other. These spread and diffuse in a little while, and soon resemble weird, deformed clouds.

IT IS a comforting thought, in these days of international tension, that they are made by U.S. planes. That they could be unfriendly aircraft, armed with bombs, is unthinkable to most of us. We are confident that our radar networks would spot planes that don't belong in the skies. And, we reassure ourselves, if radar misses them, the Ground Observer Corps will locate and report any planes which shouldn't be there.

We are secure behind the oceans and our defenses, we tell ourselves. Well, maybe we are. It's a cinch that the Air Force is doing its best to maintain a protective barrier. And it's also a cinch that members of the GOC are dedicated folk who, voluntarily, devote a few hours a month to "plug the gaps" in the radar systems.

THE big difficulty here, though, is the fact that there aren't enough people who are willing to give up their time to man the GOC stations. In Jackson county a year or two ago, there were about 1,500 people who devoted a couple of hours a week or a month to watching the skies and reporting planes to the authorities. There are now only some 800.

Medford—at least in theory—has a station that is manned 24 hours per day. But in practice, there are not enough volunteers to man it around-the-clock. In Jackson county, there are about 35 other ground observer stations, none of them on a 24-hour basis. Some of them are at locations where people combine their regular work with extra curricular plane-watching. During the summer, the forest fire lookouts are part of the network, and on their mountain perches, away from noise and confusion, are highly effective.

A MINIMUM of 86 volunteers is needed to man a station 24 hours per day for one week. This is on the basis of one two-hour shift per week each. Other volunteers, who can't help operate the Medford GOC observe post at Jackson st. and Andrews rd., but who can check planes passing over during the course of their other activities, are also needed.

Anyone interested in obtaining the details of the task can call Karl Knutsen, 615 North Columbus ave., telephone Spring 2-6481, or Mrs. Virginia Cox, 527 Beatty st., telephone SPRING 3-4488.

The lack of personnel in the Ground Observer Corps is a gap in our defenses, and that only volunteer personnel can fill.—E.A.



Today and Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

A WEAK MANDATE

There are many signs that while Governor Stassen does have a mandate to negotiate in London, it is thin and weak and tentative.



Walter Lippmann

He is authorized to see whether he can work out an agreement which, when it is brought back to Washington, will have the full support of the Administration, which is divided on the fundamentals, and of the Senate, which is keeping itself aloof and uncommitted.

The negotiator of any treaty is, of course, in the position of not being entirely certain that the Senate will ratify what he may agree to. But Governor Stassen's position is unusually precarious. For he has the Administration united behind him only in the sense that the President has made a ruling which must be obeyed, not in the sense that the opposition has been convinced and won over. The high officials who do not want an agreement at this time are being formally correct in not challenging the President's policy. But their real feelings ooze out in every direction, and are exerting a powerful influence in Congress and in the press.

What has happened, I believe, is that the great underlying issues of policy, which must in the end be decided by public debate, have been debated in secret within the Administration, and have been decided but have not been settled. The underlying issues turn on whether, if an enforceable agreement to limit armaments could be reached, it would be wise to make the agreement. The really important opposition is among those who think that an agreement to limit armaments, even though enforceable, would be undesirable. The President has ruled against them, and has taken the position that if an enforceable agreement should be made, Governor Stassen has the President's ruling behind him. But the serious opposition though it is overruled for the time being, is likely to continue to be very formidable indeed.

It is a pity that the case of the opposition was not debated publicly before the negotiations began in London. It may well become necessary to debate the case before the negotiations can go much further. For it is not realistic to assume, as the President does when he discusses the subject in his oversimplifying way, that the whole problem is whether the Russians will agree to some arrangements that they will not be able to violate.

Although for my own part, I would make a limited agreement, I would suspend the nuclear test for a trial period. I do not doubt that the case against such an agreement must be recognized and answered. Otherwise, we may find ourselves in the dangerous position of rejecting an international agreement that the President has made.

There are, it would seem, two principal objections to making an agreement. The first is that to suspend testing would be to sacrifice advantages that we now have and others that we expect to obtain in the future. Presumably we are not only ahead of the Russians in the race of armaments but the scientists think that we are within reach of advances which will put us decisively ahead for at least some considerable period of time. I do not know what there is in it, but there have been hints that defensive nuclear armaments may be developed which would make this country largely invulnerable to nuclear attack. If that were to happen, we should—until Russia develops the same defensive weapons—be way ahead in the race of armaments.

In any event, the burden will be on the President and his supporters to prove that a pause in

the race of armaments will not be an unequal sacrifice.

THE second of the principal objections is that any agreement, however limited technically, in a matter of such critical importance as nuclear weapons will have a profound influence on all the great issues which divide the world. An effect of the meeting at the summit in 1955 at Geneva was to downgrade the international importance of issues like the division of Germany. Any substantial agreement now which covers the ultimate weapons of modern war, will have a similar, perhaps a larger, downgrading effect.

Whether this would be a good thing or a bad one is the really debatable question. Does the downgrading of issues like the division of Germany, of Korea, of Viet Nam, like the rivalry in the Middle East, like the withdrawal of the Soviet Army from Eastern Europe, mean that these problems will never be solved? Or does it mean that they will all be solved in the end as suits the Soviet Union? Or does it mean that as the tension relaxes, the national and local impulses towards independence and nationalism will assert themselves? It is no one knows for certain. But as between the risks of standing pat and the risks of venturing forward, why should we take counsel only of our fears?

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In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

The United States has proposed at the London disarmament conference a reduction of "conventional" armaments. (Conventional armaments are shooting irons—all the way up from pistols to Big Berthas.) Under the plan proposed at London, surplus arms would be deposited in specified depots subject to international inspection and control.

H-M-M-M-M. Out here in the West, that strikes a chord that brings up memories out of the past.

There was a period here in the wide open spaces when more or less every male citizen packed a gun. In the general state of affairs then prevailing, packing a gun was a wise precaution. Nobody knew just when he might need one, so "going heeled" was the custom of the time.

But—There were moratoriums. These moratoriums included neighborhood social affairs, where people of all sorts mixed and mingled. So, in the interest of safety, the guests PARKED THEIR GUNS before joining the party.

The custodian at the door—acting in the capacity of the modern hat check girl—took care of inspection and control.

IN THE Wild and Woolly West, at a time when there were no policemen, the system helped to keep the peace. Maybe IN A WORLD WHERE THERE ARE NO POLICEMEN it will help to keep the peace.

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER, addressing the governors of our states at Williamsburg the other evening, proposed something that may never come to pass but MIGHT go down in history as one of the most important suggestions he ever made.

In brief, he proposed that the governors of the 48 states join with the federal government in working out a new states right policy... in determining just how much authority and responsibility should be WITHDRAWN from Washington and GIVEN BACK to the state.

Putting it more pointedly—He suggested to the governors that the states DO FOR THEMSELVES a lot of the things now being done for them by Washington and PAY FOR IT THEMSELVES with state funds.

AS YOU have undoubtedly read in the papers and heard on the air, the proposal got no rousing cheers from the assembled governors. No hats were thrown in the air in approval.

How come? The answer, I imagine, is that money from Uncle Sam is still rather widely regarded as manna from heaven.

Matter of Fact

By Stewart Alsop

THE TESTS WILL GO ON Washington—Since the President's press conference on Wednesday, it is clear that there will almost certainly be no mutual agreement with the Soviets to suspend nuclear weapons tests.

Bar a miracle the tests will go on. When, on June 15th, the Soviets proposed a two or three year suspension of all nuclear weapons tests, it was met by the President who was faced with a simple, dangerous, vitally important choice.

Should the United States try to negotiate a suspension of the tests, as a "first step" towards disarmament, independent of other conditions? Or should the United States tie the suspension of tests into a "package deal" including conditions which the Soviets would almost certainly reject?

The question divided the Eisenhower administration into two bitterly opposed camps. In the lower policy-making levels there were those who favored the first course. Their arguments ran about as follows. The Soviet experts, including former Ambassador to the Soviet Union Charles Bohlen, had expressed the view that the Soviets were probably serious about negotiating a limited agreement. And the Soviet proposal, since it involved the stationing of monitors within the Soviet borders, looked like a serious proposal.

Moreover, it would be relatively easy to test its reliability. The experts have heretofore unanimously contended that a mere handful of inspection teams operating in the Soviet Union and equipped with acoustic, seismic, and radiological devices, could detect a nuclear test of significant power anywhere within Soviet-controlled territory. Thus a test suspension could be monitored without a vast army of inspectors on both sides.

Moreover, it was argued a test suspension should logically be to the advantage of the United States, since this country has tested far more bombs of far greater total power than the Soviet Union. And it would provide the "first step" of which the

President has so often talked. At his first press conference after the Soviet proposal on June 19th, it was obvious that the President was strongly influenced by such views. "I would be perfectly delighted," he said, "to make some satisfactory arrangement for temporary suspension of tests while we could determine whether we couldn't make some agreements that would allow it to be a permanent arrangement."

THIS looked very much like willingness to accept a test suspension without the "package deal." A powerful group within the Administration led by AEC Chairman Lewis Strauss and Admiral Arthur Radford, violently opposed any test suspension on any terms, and they were undoubtedly appalled by the apparent weakening of the President on the issue.

Strauss, who has the President's ear, had based his stand largely on technical grounds—that the radiation danger was greatly exaggerated, for example, and that continued tests were necessary to develop efficient missile warheads. Then, apparently fortuitously, Strauss' two main allies in the scientific community, Dr. Edward Teller and Dr. Ernest Lawrence, came to Washington to testify in closed session before a Congressional committee. They provided Strauss with the clinching arguments in the battle for the President's mind.

Both men testified that further testing was necessary to develop a whole family of "clean" hydrogen bombs. They testified further that the development of "clean" bombs made it technically possible for the Soviets to cheat on any test suspension agreement, bar a vast inspection system reaching into every corner of the Soviet Union.

AT THE suggestion of Rep. W. Sterling Cole, a close Strauss ally, Teller and Lawrence were taken to the White House by Strauss to brief the President on these two points which greatly strengthened the Strauss-Radford case. Meanwhile, of course, the President had been hearing other cogent arguments against suspending the tests, including the fact that both the British and the French opposed suspension. But the

POTLUCK (By M-T Staff and Contribution)

One can fall into the habit of thinking of Police Chief Charles Champlin as a conservative man—in dress, appearance, behavior and talk. We were jolted out of this obvious misconception the other day when a reporter snapped a picture someone had snatched of the chief, clad from the ears up in a gift-hat colored blue, brown, silver, gray and white, with a brass buckle, presented him, for no reported reason, by some colleagues.

Champlin conservative? Hah! Judge for yourself:



A wise modern youth was observed standing on the concrete bus area in front of the Trailways depot last week when his mother, sitting in a chair next to the door, called out, "Billy, get out of the runway." He replied, "How come? There ain't no planes going to land."

The Mail Tribune staff member who covered the annual installation of officers of a local service club patiently observed all the ceremony, back-slapping, presentations and announcements which go with such an event. He typed out a plaintive little note when he handed in the story. It said:

"Can you make anything of this? I doubt if I can. There were more people thanking others for this and that. I became downright confused. Did YOU get a past-president's pin?"

Before some fast pencil work was done by a secretary, an entry in the police log last week read: "Kenneth A. Blank, 823 Blank st., reports at 12:09 p.m. June 27, 1957, that his dog has been bit by a neighbor's child."

A subscriber went on a tour of a local industry the other day as part of a group, and almost had hysterics when reporting the fact that an M-T reporter in the crowd had to borrow a piece of paper to take his notes.

One of our wives attended a wedding picnic the other day, and reports what she thinks is a classic answer given by the bride, who was asked

whether she wanted to carry a prayer book or a bouquet of flowers. "I don't know," she declared. "I've never been married before."

The Oregon Water Ski tournament is being held at Gardener lake this week end, and last week participants were practicing for it. A car drove up, complete with skis on a rack on top. One water skier viewed it as a symbol of the change of the seasons. The skis on the car were snow skis, used for the last snow of the season at Crater Lake that day.

A patron telephoned the other day to ask the telephone number of an M-T staff member. She said she's called every number in the book listed under the last name of the person she wanted to call.

The one who answered the call checked the telephone book, and found the proper name and number, and told the caller the page. "That page has K's, not H's, in my book," was the answer. It did, too, for it was found to be last year's book.

A boy who attended YMCA day camp this week reported that one of the leaders suggested that boys who brought a lot of lunch share part of theirs with those who didn't bring very much. This was a good idea, particularly for the leader, who suddenly remembered he'd brought no lunch at all.

We were dismayed at the report, given us by a colleague, that the U.S.S. Forrestal, America's mightiest super aircraft carrier, had been wrecked and scuttled.

We were therefore considerably relieved to learn that he was referring to a plastic model of that ship, in the window of Slem's Hobby Shop across the alley, which had stood in the sun too long and collapsed from the heat.

A staff member finds something funny about seeing a square sign on the end of a great, big boxcar that says "Fragile."

The same staff member, who keeps alert as he prowls the street, reports in the "Defeat of Purpose Department" a car which was parked at the curb, and which had attached to the dash board by an ingenious magnetic device a small black metal box labeled "Hide-A-Key."

On the west wall of a large brick building downtown, the prowling newsman also reported, is a large painted sign reading "Odd Fellows," and just below it is a soft drink sign saying "Three Sizes, Large, Medium and Small."

Communications

Letters to the Editor must bear the name and address of the writer, although under certain circumstances the use of a pen name or initial for publication is permissible. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with a view to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words.

Orphan Bills Stymied To the Editor: I wish to commend the very fine action which Sen. Richard L. Neuberger and Sen. Wayne Morse of your state are taking in regard to the refugee orphan legislation. In spite of the fact that there are many good American families who wish to adopt the half-American orphan children born in Japan, Korea and Okinawa, at the present time not one of these children is allowed to enter our country. The reason for this is simple enough—there is no law which permits their entry.

Your senators have fought nobly for such legislation but it remains stymied in committee. I urge that the citizens of your state write to Washington and express their opinion.

Rep. Francis E. Walter has introduced yet another bill which also is stymied in the House Judiciary Committee. Only persistent demands from American citizens can bring about this legislation. The cause for the delay seems to be political in the main. Since a bill allowing a specified number of orphans to enter the United States for purpose of adoption is non-controversial, certain congressmen wish to attach controversial material of their own. This delays the entry of the children to a damaging degree.

I think the American people Teller-Lawrence briefing was undoubtedly the clincher. So on Wednesday the President did what he had not specifically done the week before. He placed conditions on a suspension of tests which hardly anyone believes the Soviets will accept, including the kind of vast "inspectional system" to use the President's phrase, which is contrary to every Soviet instinct. Thus the Strauss-Radford group has won a signal, and probably final, victory—whether for good or ill, only history can tell.

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should know about the children and their predicament. Pearl S. Buck R.D. 3 Perkasie, Penn.

Against Parking Item To the Editor: In a recent issue of the Mail Tribune appeared a summary of the proposed City budget. In it appeared an item of \$50,000 for off-street parking. In the recent election when the question of off-street parking was placed before the voters it was turned down. Is not the inclusion of this item in the proposed budget an attempt on the part of the budget committee to accomplish by council action something that has already been rejected by the voters? It seems to me, and I find the same opinion exists among many persons with whom I have talked, that this is purely and simply a doublecross of the voters of the city. In other words, the council would take their tax money and spend it for a project they have already refused to approve.

We do not question the desirability of off-street parking, but we do believe that the assessment for such a project should be made against those who would be directly benefited thereby, the down town business interests, and that it should not be paid for by revenues collected in part from outlying residential interests who would derive no direct benefit therefrom. That was the primary reason for the defeat of the project when it was submitted to the voters, and I dare say were the budget submitted to the voters with this item in it, it would be defeated again.

Therefore, should the city council approve this budget with the off-street parking contained therein, how would members of the council who voted for the item explain their action to their constituents when the next election comes along?

A. J. Curry, 906 West Main st., Medford, Ore.