

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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Flight o' Time

Medford and Jackson County History from the files of The Mail Tribune 10, 20, 30 and 40 years ago.

10 YEARS AGO

Oct. 17, 1947 (Friday) New lighting system installed on Main st. marks first important advance in the lighting of the street since the present system was installed in 1911.

20 YEARS AGO

Oct. 17, 1927 (Monday) Rumors narrowed to 16 cases of typhoid fever in the Medford area.

30 YEARS AGO

Oct. 17, 1927 (Monday) Rumors narrowed to 16 cases of typhoid fever in the Medford area.

40 YEARS AGO

Oct. 17, (Wednesday) Heavy frost kills tomatoes that were unprotected and puts an end to cucumbers in the valley.

What's Your I.Q.?

- 1. When does the 24th hour of the day begin? 2. Is arsenic a chemical element? 3. Bible: At the final "fall of Jerusalem" did the Jews retain their national identity?

Back to Alger Hiss

A few weeks ago the "Nation,"—one of the oldest weeklies of independent opinion in the country and respected at home and abroad—did an unusual thing. It devoted its entire issue to a review of the Alger Hiss case.

The author of this opus was Fred J. Cook, a well known New York newspaper man, who has made a specialty in reporting the criminal courts in Greater Manhattan.

According to the editors of the magazine, Reporter Cook when he started his research, admitted he had a vague idea that Hiss was guilty as charged. But when he concluded his work, he had his "douts" which he summarized as follows:

In the final analysis, it would seem that, if one is to believe Alger Hiss guilty, this is the very minimum that one must believe:

To believe Hiss guilty, one must believe that he was a Communist—even though Chambers' testimony on the collection of Communist dues circled in a maze of voluntary contradictions.

To believe Hiss guilty, one must believe that there was a close and continuous association with Chambers until mid-April, 1938—even though Chambers backed away from a key angle of his own testimony, even though he is further discredited by independent witnesses.

To believe Hiss guilty, one must believe that Whittaker Chambers erred at least eight times in saying he broke with Communism in 1937—and that his final testimony, arrived at after the documents were produced, arrived at after many adjustments, was the true testimony.

To believe Hiss guilty, one must believe that Whittaker Chambers was a virtual saint who would risk perjury on the witness stand to protect a former friend by denying he had the documents he had.

To believe Hiss guilty, one must believe that he passed the documents to Chambers as Chambers testified that he did—despite the implausibility of the typing, despite the evidence that he could not have had some of the documents.

To believe Hiss guilty, one must believe that he would have been such a fool as to pass to Chambers his own handwritten memos, such a fool as to hunt and find and produce the typewriter that would prove his guilt.

There are many, many other details that one must accept merely on Chambers' word, and one must be able to ignore entirely the researches of Chester Lane into the identity of Woodstock No. 230,099 and the internal evidence of fraud in the documents. If one can do all this, then one can believe Hiss guilty. But, if one cannot, one is virtually forced to the conclusion that an innocent man was convicted.

IT SO happens that the present writer attended the second Hiss trial in New York city and sent reports almost daily to this paper.

Chambers admitted he was a Communist spy for many years; he admitted he had perjured himself, both when he was a member of the party and after he resigned; there was something oily, soiled and suspicious about the man—as a man.

But the fact is—or was—his main story held up. Not that Hiss had ever been a communist or had at any time deliberately betrayed his country or became a conspirator against it; but that he had under oath not told the truth.

And Author Cook seems to have forgotten this fact—or never to have been aware of it.

ALGER HISS was never charged with "treason;"—the statute of limitations had run out. He was charged with perjury.

And we fail to see how anyone who reviewed the trial carefully and sifted all the evidence could have denied that his guilt on such a charge was proved "beyond a reasonable doubt."

THE testimony was conflicting, many of the conclusions summed up by the government, were far from justified, and often completely unconvincing. But time after time, it was apparent that under oath, for reasons known best to himself, Hiss did NOT tell the truth.

However anyone still interested in this sensational and puzzling case should secure a copy of the "Nation" dated September 27th, for to any such person it would prove extremely interesting.

Our surprise is that any newspaper man who before making the research, had a VAGUE—or any—idea Alger Hiss WAS guilty, could at the conclusion have had any DOUBT. Not, as noted, doubt of the man being another "Benedict Arnold," but doubt of his veracity under oath.—R.W.R.

Just a "Guess"

And now—with the permission of our former irate subscriber in Jacksonville—we will comment on something we know "little or nothing about."

That is the MILITARY significance of the Russian satellite.

We would even go further and suggest that most newspaper editors and practically all politicians KNOW little or nothing about it, also.

But they are all—or most of them—talking and writing about it, which is natural but not necessarily enlightening.

Vice-President Nixon, for example, maintains that the "Moscow moon" represents quite an achievement in the area of interstellar-ballistics but has no military significance for as of now, he claims, this country is still ahead of Russia in that vital field.

Is it? How does he KNOW? The answer is he doesn't.

This is a matter not for any layman to determine, but for the experts,—men who have devoted years to the study of guided missiles AND their military significance.

BUT the trouble here is that even the experts don't agree. We only know, as did the late Will Rogers, "what we read in the papers" but that has been sufficient to demonstrate that in this field there has appeared to date no "Supreme Court."

HOWEVER we don't wish to leave things up in the air 500 miles so we will conclude with not



Matter of Fact

THAT PRE-KOREAN SMELL Paris—"There's a smell in the air nowadays that reminds me much too much of the months before the Korean war."

The speaker was a wise, highly placed and admirably qualified by long experience to judge the international atmosphere. As he hastened to explain, he did not mean that a shooting war was immediately likely.

Such a tilt in the power balance was both the prelude and the chief cause of the Korean war. The feckless Truman-Lewis Johnson disarmament program of 1949-50 very gravely weakened the West. It thus constituted an open invitation to aggression.

Today, the absolute power of each of the great world systems has grown incalculably, but the all-important balance between them has again been complacently neglected for five euphoric years.

IN THIS connection, we must remember that in world politics men commonly discount what they believe is the future, treating as if it had already happened.

THE region where Khrushchev is thinking of having a gamble is already pretty clearly marked out. For a few months after Suez, he was warned off the Middle East by the fine-sounding rhetoric of the Eisenhower Doctrine.

IN THIS connection, Egyptian delegations are now negotiating with a British delegation in Rome and a French delegation in Geneva in an attempt to restore the economic relations which have been broken since Britain and France invaded the Suez Canal Zone one year ago.

THESE are days when our people, who have been hearing much bad news, are becoming of a mind to listen to some hard truths. One of them is that the Eisenhower-Dulles foreign policy is on many critical issues based on a wishful estimate of our own power and a self-deluding notion

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Egyptian Troop Movement Seen Political, Not Military, Gambit

By CHARLES M. McCANN United Press Correspondent

Egypt's action in sending troops to Syria appears now to have been a political rather than a military move.

The announcement that President Gamal Abdel Nasser had sent the troops caused a lot of excitement because it came at a time when the Egyptian government was accused of aggressive intentions.

It was obvious, of course, that a few thousand Egyptian soldiers could hardly be of much value in event of a Turkish-Syrian clash.

Now, it seems quite clear that Nasser was thinking not of Turkey but of himself and Russia.

First, Nasser had been on the sidelines during the savage Syrian and Russian campaign against Turkey.

Secondly, Nasser has felt himself more and more shoved into the background by the increasing importance of King Saud of Saudi Arabia in the Arab world.

Nasser still aspires to be the leader of the Arab countries. By sending the troops to Syria, Nasser got himself back into the act, so to speak.

But there is another interesting and important factor in the situation.

It is reported from middle eastern capitals, apparently accurately, that one reason why Nasser sent the troops was to lessen the chance that Russia would send a big force of technicians to instruct the Syrians in the use of the weapons it has sent there.

Nasser, according to these reports, wants to get Egyptian instructors and technicians into Syria himself, and to keep the Russians out.

This fits in with the persistent reports, first, that Nasser is getting increasingly worried over Russian penetration of the Middle East, and secondly, that he would like to find some way to improve Egyptian relations with the United States.

In this connection, Egyptian delegations are now negotiating with a British delegation in Rome and a French delegation in Geneva in an attempt to restore the economic relations which have been broken since Britain and France invaded the Suez Canal Zone one year ago.

Nasser sent his troops to Syria under the Egyptian-Syrian mutual defense treaty of 1955. This treaty established a joint military command for the two countries, with Egyptian Maj. Gen. Afif Bizri, Syrian commander in chief, visited Nasser and Amer in Cairo on Sept. 11.

At that time, Bizri showed he was sensitive over the charge that the present Syrian regime is pro-Communist. He said in an interview: "I am not a Commu-

nist and there is not one single Communist officer in the whole Syrian army." Nasser always has gone out of his way to assert that he is not pro-Russian.

It seems that now, while they welcome Russian arms, neither Syria nor Egypt wants to see Russia take too big a part in Arab affairs.

Today and Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

BITTER TRUTHS A few days after Sputnik was launched, Mr. Dulles left Washington for a long week end at his island retreat. This was a sensible thing to do if it meant that, instead of making statements, he was taking time out to think whether and how what Sputnik signi-

fies has affected this country's position in the world.

He will not, we must suppose, have comforted himself, as did the President at his press conference, with the notion that Sputnik is a "scientific" achievement which has no serious "military" importance. He cannot entertain the crude idea that there are two separate compartments—one for science and one for the military—that there is some vast difference between launching a missile and launching a satellite.

Mr. Dulles cannot have any doubt that a nation which can launch Sputnik is very far advanced in science, in engineering, and in industrial capacity. Nor can he doubt that if this advance continues, or, as it might, if it is compounded and becomes cumulative, there will be a radical alteration in the world balance of power.

IN THIS connection, we must remember that in world politics men commonly discount what they believe is the future, treating as if it had already happened. Thus in the few years after 1945 when this country had a monopoly of the atomic bomb, the world regarded us as more powerful than in fact we were.

Now, as a result of the successful test of the ballistic missile and the launching of Sputnik, Russia looks enormously powerful. Almost certainly the truth is that she is not now decisively superior but that if present trends continue in Russia and in the United States, she will achieve decisive superiority.

The discounting of this expectation by the rest of the world is having a profound effect on the American position. Mr. Dulles, in his island retreat, can hardly have failed to ponder deeply the consequences. For what he and his country are faced with is the disparity between our actual power and the positions to which we are committed, the objectives we have declared for, in our foreign policy.

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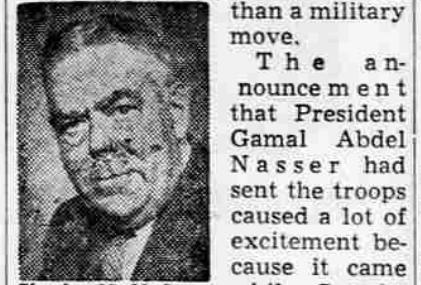
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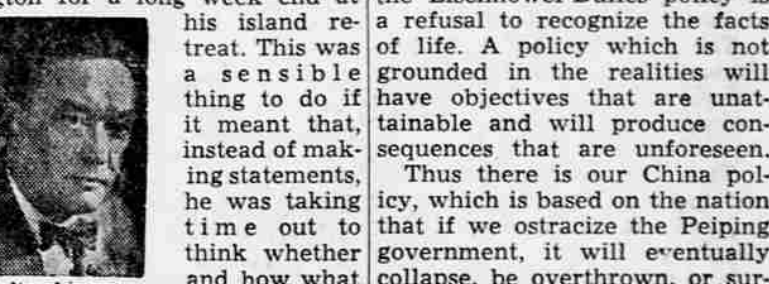
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Charles M. McCann



Walter Lippmann

Communications

Extends Thanks To the Editor: I would like to take this means of thanking all my good neighbors and friends, men from the sheriff's office and from State Patrol, who so willingly gave of their time and energy to help locate me while lost on a hunting trip. It's wonderful to know you have so many good friends and I thank you all.

A. C. Brisbane, 1847 Stewart ave., Medford, Ore.

ing out of Washington even more headily intoxicating than their native vodka.

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REVIVAL Pilgrim Holiness Church 611 E. Pine St., Central Point Evangelist Rev. and Mrs. Rollie Schell From Indiana Specials — good music. Services that will give you a spiritual uplift. Services 7:30, Oct. 16-27 Clarence Jackson, Minister

Life is a matter of knowing what to select and what to pass by. We haven't time for everything, so we should choose that which will count most for ourselves and others in the long run. What the world needs is a religion that won't put the bad strawberries at the bottom of the box. It is a great mistake to set up our own standards of right and wrong, or to yield to a wrong just because "others do it." Tomorrow is never an acceptable substitute for today. This is why the best intentions can usually be discounted at about 50 per cent of their face value. The millennium would be crowding us hard if the good things people intend to do tomorrow were done today.—Grit. DAY OR NIGHT — PHONE SP 2-8030 Chapel Mortuary Across from the Courthouse Frank Morgan — Harold Snodgrass FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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