

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE
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What Price Brains?

Here is a coincidence.
Yesterday we received our first official communication from the "Friendly Southern Pacific" in a very long time.
Only a day before we received a communication relating to the same subject from "Railway Age."



I HAD TO BORROW YOUR ROBE, MRS. MITCHELL. DID YOU KNOW HE HAD A TWO-PINT WATER RIFLE?

Today and Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

THE VICIOUS CIRCLE IN SYRIA

In his speech at the United Nations on Tuesday, the Syrian Foreign Minister, Salah Bitar, let it be known what is his real complaint against Turkey and the United States. Though he talked about armies, his real complaint is not that an armed invasion of Syria is in fact being mounted in Turkey. His complaint is that "certain countries" are being used as "bases for activities of subversive elements that are still plotting in Turkey against the Syrian government. They dream of setting up a Syrian puppet government that would be transplanted into Syria with the help of Turkish armed forces."

This complaint is that from some of the countries which surround Syria—presumably Jordan and Turkey, and possibly Israel, Lebanon and Iraq—agents with arms and money are being infiltrated into Syria, and that the whole plot is being organized and directed from Turkish soil with the encouragement of the United States. This is a good deal less than the military aggression which the Syrians have been talking about. But it is quite enough to account for their indignation. For it stands to reason that the former Syrian rulers, who were ousted by the present Syrian rulers, would like to return to Damascus, and that Turkey, the United States, and all the other Western Powers, would be glad to see them succeed.

What we have then in the Turkish-Soviet demonstration is a move to protect the present revolutionary government of Syria from being overthrown by the counter-revolutionary Syrians.

sumption that there cannot be a truly independent and neutral Syria. In the eyes of the Soviet Union, a Syrian government which is not under its influence will certainly be under our influence. In our eyes, it is vice versa. Yet the one thing the Syrians themselves insist upon is that they want above all things to be independent and neutral. Because none of the great powers believes that they can be, Syria is a world problem.

One question that we must ask ourselves is whether there is any way by which Syria could be enabled to break out of this vicious circle of great power rivalry and distrust. For while the present Syrian government is not likely to believe it, the fact is that a truly independent and neutral Syria, and with it a truly independent and neutral Middle East, would be the best and the most that the United States and its allies could desire.

FOR we know that there is no decent future in an everlasting struggle for control of the weak Arab governments. That is the way to disaster. On the other hand, there is no future in appeasement which would deprive Western Europe of assured access to the oil of the Middle East. What we must want is an understanding and arrangement which will at one and the same time promote the independence and neutrality of the Middle Eastern states and will assure Europe's access to the oil.

May it not be that the principle of such an understanding and agreement could be found in a new arrangement about the oil—an arrangement in which the producing countries, the transit countries, and the importing countries would all share? There are signs on the horizon that the existing arrangements are going to have to be revised in favor of the Arab countries, and in that need may well lie the opportunity to inaugurate a new deal in the Middle East.

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Editorial Comment

They Fool No One
The Pentagon fools no one by this sudden concern for the understanding of the public. It was prompted certainly, not by a real appreciation of the need for public knowledge in a democracy, but by the inescapable beep-beep-beep of Sputnik. It must be clear even to the most ill-informed American that, with a satellite in the air, the Russians have less to learn from our classified research in projection than we have to learn from theirs.

Chances are the Pentagon would jump at the chance right now to exchange information on a 50-50 basis with Sputnik's developers, cutting the American people in on the communication line, albeit incidentally.

The Red satellite has done more than score a psychological success for Russia. It has also apparently reminded those in the highest U.S. military councils that public opinion is a mighty force and one which cannot be snubbed with impunity by those who happen to be in the know. And it has, we trust, convinced the brass hats of the utter lunacy of maintaining walls of secrecy even between the services. If such awakenings can be permanent, Sputnik's gain to Russia will be called them not only "enemies of the people," but "plain thieves and liars."

OF course, generally speaking, the shoe is on the other foot now, but not so completely as some might imagine. For "T.R." did not fight only the "malefactors of great wealth," he fought what he called "wrong-doing" in the ranks of labor, the special object of his wrath, as we recall it, was John Mitchell.

THE market has been declining since early in July. At first, the decline was gradual, but of late the downward curve has been more acute. That prompts this question: What happened to cause the decline?

SEVERAL answers suggest themselves. By July, the market had soared pretty high. About the same time it became apparent that a slowdown in the hitherto spectacular pace of business was balanced.

A well-informed public under democracy is not a prey to "morbid pessimism." An uninformed public can scarcely escape that state.—Portland Oregonian.

THE CITY'S NEW AMBULANCE
The Astoria city government has entered into the ambulance business in rather modest fashion with purchase of a used vehicle.

It is unfortunate that the city government has to get into the ambulance business at all, but ambulance service is essential and with no private operator willing to undertake the task, the city government has no choice.—Astorian Budget.

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.

Suggests TV Column
To the Editor: After reading the letter concerning TV in this evening's Tribune, I decided to write you a letter asking if it wouldn't be a good idea (if the Tribune would agree) to have something of a "B-Mike" column in the paper, allowing persons to write in about their "likes" and "dislikes" of different TV programs.

If such a column were possible, it might bring about better programming and would give everyone an opportunity to express their opinions as to what could be done about improvement in the shows that are now on television here in the valley. There would be a chance to see if local shows or network shows have the greatest popularity and if the majority prefer sports on Saturday and Sunday or if they would share my preference of sports on Saturday and a movie on Sunday afternoon. Also, I should like to see some fine youngsters' programs such as "Lassie," "My Friend Flicka," and some good, clean western movies that children really enjoy, or comedies like "Little Rascals."

With winter weather approaching and more children having to stay indoors, I believe most parents would appreciate having some good children's shows such as the above-mentioned ones, or "Mickey Mouse" club. These could be shown from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. each evening in place of "Gateway," etc. I sincerely hope that someone else will write in and express their opinion on a column of the "B Mike" type in the Mail Tribune.

Mrs. Tom Robnett, 2350 Meadows Lane, Medford, Ore.

P.S.—A "program preference" column would also give local sponsors an opportunity to learn the type of shows preferred by the majority of the viewers.

T. V. Programs N. G.
To the Editor: I was rather amused when the person whose name is "on file" was unhappy because the television station program said one thing was coming on at a certain time and something else was shown.

We have watched television since it started 4 1/2 years ago, and as yet, they have never run a day's shows as advertised. In last Sunday's Mail Tribune they had the program for Oct. 13 instead of what was shown on the 20th. To me this only proves the station is operated in a shiftless, sloppy manner due to the fact there is no competition. It isn't any wonder they can't get local sponsors, after the flop they made on the Big Pines Lumber company show last week. I have been a sports fan, but I've had so much baseball and football thrown at me that I won't turn the set on. All day

Saturday nothing but sports and in the evening what do we get? Records or as the party wrote in about, "Gateway." How to make a bathtub or a goat skin water bottle. Well who in the state of Oregon is interested in that?

If a show comes on that is of any consequence, when is it shown? At near midnight when people who make an honest living are in bed and children have to view rubbish or nothing. We still have a good radio so it might be, we will get rid of the TV set, put a good easy chair in its place and listen to something worth while.

A disgusted TV viewer. F. M. Z. (Name on file)

Says TV is Lousy

To the Editor: I would like to say, I sure do agree with the party from Rogue River about TV in this valley. They put in the paper the shows that are supposed to go on and then show something else. And the reception they have is lousy, you can hardly see the picture at all. For the last month there have been bright spots all over the screen. They put something on that's not worth looking at, you can see that swell, but when something good comes on its all spots and the program goes hay wire. Then they say, don't adjust your set, the trouble is in the transmission. They never blame the station. Why can't they get decent or more experienced technicians?

There are some folks who depend on TV for their entertainment, such as shut-ins and elderly folks and children. It seems as soon as they have a little rain they have trouble at the TV station.

Just like Wednesday, Oct. 23, they had no Matinee Theater, but did they give any reason for it at the station? No, and of all the repeats we get, we had them all summer and still get them. Last week there was a show on that had been repeated three times, and there were many more in the last two months. They want us to patronize the sponsor, but why should we when we get such rotten reception and repeats?

I spoke to a party awhile back who works for a company who sponsors on KBES-TV and he didn't like the shows that were being put on. They say that the trouble is in the telephone cable and has been for the last month. Well it seems to me that they could put a new cable in, in a month. What would they do, if they didn't have somebody to blame?

I have had a real technician come in and look at my set, which is a brand new 1958 Model, and he says that the trouble was not in the set, but at the TV station.

B. F. S. (Name on file)

POTLUCK

(By M-T Staff and Contributors)

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Hogan (he's the city's purchasing agent) attended the League of Oregon Cities convention in Portland last week. But before they could make the trip, they had to solve a problem—what to do about the care of their goldfish, "Tish." As it turned out, they just took it down to city hall where some of Dick's co-workers fed the fish during the meeting.

A staff-member, obviously a sentimental sort, thinks that what with Halloween coming this week and all, there should be a Society for the Promotion and Preservation of Scarecrows. He says he's looked and looked around Jackson county, but hasn't seen any—in contrast to the east, say, where he once saw a scarecrow the owner of which changed its clothes according to the weather. On rainy days, it had a sou'wester, oilskins and rubber boots on.

Mayor John Snider's reputation as a wisecracker continues to grow apace. The other day, he drew a shocked group around him, when he asked if they'd heard about someone breaking into the mausoleum and stealing ashes. Then he added: "He wanted to sell them to the cannibals to use in making instant people."

The story is being told at the police department about the applicant for a secretary's job who had an interview with the chief of police, and while it was going on, had a parking ticket placed on her car. She was even more impressed with police efficiency when, a few days later, an officer delivered a warrant to her door. She'd forgotten to pay the parking fine.

An interesting social fact was pointed out by one of our co-workers this week—that while you may have to wait hours in a doctor's office to get to see him, there always seems to be plenty of room in a dentist's waiting room.

He thinks the reason may be that the doctor oftentimes merely looks you over and prescribes a pill; but the dentist usually goes right at the trouble—spot with a drill.

Members of the police department are still wondering about what happened in the case of the man who called for help. He reported his wife wouldn't let him have his clothes so he could leave the house.

This rainy weather poses problems for the people on our staff.

A reporter and a photographer were discussing what they'd do if the heavy rain continued while they were at work at a football game. They finally decided the answer would be a sort of water-proof space suit, covering them from top to toe. This solved, they found they had only two more problems—how to persuade the boss that such a gadget should be obtained and paid for by the company, and how to rig up a "helmet wiper," to keep the rain from blocking their vision.

Jacksonville Police Chief Frank Carter reported to M-T Correspondent Bette Hoskins about the crazy, mixed-up Comics pear tree which is blooming profusely on a ranch near Jacksonville.

We have been told about the Upper Applegate woman who reportedly heard an actual curfew bell on a recent trip to the east. She talked a neighbor into getting a bell and walking down the street at night ringing it. It was discontinued, however, when it was found it only served to wake up the early-to-bed residents of the community.

There are all sorts of hazards involved in attending conventions, but we heard a new one last week, about the woman attending the Public Health Association meeting here, and who slipped a shoe off during a long lecture, and then found that one of her associates had smuggled it out of the room under his coat.

The Health association program distributed at the convention had a "Public Service Department" which defined some terms so that those attending could "be aware of correct terminology." Among these were: Atom—Eve's husband. Barium—What you do with dead people. Chlorine—A dancer in a night club. Hydrogen Bomb—Das Eargeschplitten Lendenboomer mit ein grosse Holengraund und Alles Kaput.

Our farm editor reports that there were comparatively few farmers in attendance at the recent hearing in Gold Hill on formation of a state beef commission. He suspects this might have been because too many of them were out looking for beef's chief competitor during October—venison.

NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

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. 27, 1947 (Monday)
Ashland Kiwanis club presented charter by the Medford club at a dinner in the Civic club house in Ashland.

From Arthur Perry's Ye Smudgie Pot column: "K Wyandotte Rooster was shot in his backyard, yes. While impersonating a C. Pheasant!"

20 YEARS AGO
Oct. 27, 1937 (Wednesday)
Phoenix Presbyterian church celebrates with other Presbyterian churches the centennial of foreign missions of the church. Homecoming celebration is planned at Southern Oregon state normal school this weekend.

30 YEARS AGO
Oct. 27, 1927 (Sunday)
Total tax levy for Jackson county this year will be about 2.5 mills less than last year due to redemption and payment of interest on highway bonds from O and C tax refund money. Heavy fog last night and today delays planes of the Pacific Air Transport.

40 YEARS AGO
Oct. 27, 1917 (Saturday)
Elks plan a dance for the Red Cross Christmas box fund. A significant change locally will be the discontinuance of present train No. 17 between Portland and Ashland.

What's Your I.Q.?
Nine or ten correct is superior; seven or eight is excellent; five or six is good.

- 1. Who gave the (American) Indians their name?
2. In what area in the Far East did the famous "Morrill's Marauders" of World War II operate?
3. Bible: During the period between the Old Testament and the New Testament which was the most important movement in world history?
4. In measuring the height of horses, each four inches is known as a—what?
5. What was the name of the mythical prince of Niderland on the lower Rhine, hero of the Nibelungenlied?
6. In which settlement in colonial Virginia did Captain John Smith live?
7. Name the youth who, in classical myth, fell in love with his reflection in a pool.
8. What is the name for the legal document which makes final disposition of a person's estate, taking effect after the maker's death?
9. When "brand" and "new" are combined should it be written to include a hyphen?
10. Vesta Victoria's great song hit (1906): What reason was given for not marrying the bride who was "waiting at the church, waiting at the church, waiting at the church"?

Answers: 1. Christopher Columbus. 2. Burma. 3. Rise of Greeks to power. 4. Hand. 5. Siegfried. 6. Jamestown. 7. Narcissus. 8. Will. 9. Yes (brand-new). 10. Because "My brand won't let me."

BUT it so happens the article in "Railway Age" does not share the S.P.'s view.

It cites the example of a comparatively small railroad, the "Denver & Rio Grande Western."

According to this article, this railroad runs only a bit over 2,000 miles and only about 20 years ago it was bankrupt. But thanks to its courage, energy, enterprise and skillful management, it has not only pulled itself out of the "red," but established new records in patronage and profits. Even more important, these new records are not only in the freight, but the passenger department.

SO instead of cravenly surrendering to the "private cars, airplanes and busses," the "D.&R.G.," according to this report in "Railway Age," has gone out to increase its profits, in the passenger field by improving, instead of neglecting or entirely dropping its passenger service.

Also instead of following the "S.P." line and asking for higher rates for less service, it has reduced its rates, for better service.

On the first of this month, for example, it offered on its Salt Lake-Denver line a "package deal" which to quote from "Railway Age":

"is built around reduced fares. Its action is significant both because reduced fares are contrary to the current trend and as an indication that pessimism about passenger business hasn't as yet penetrated to mile-high Denver."

And Railway Age does not expect it to. For again quote:

"Last year the Rio Grande realized a net of just under \$12.2 million on a gross of \$61.3 million. This year it expects its gross to be something over \$87 million with enough left after costs and taxes to equal \$8 per common share against \$5.61 in 1956. . . . At the end of July, 1957, Rio Grande net was \$7,251,716 or \$1,134,396 ahead of that time last year."

Of course the "Friendly S.P." will give its usual "So What?" to "better service at lower prices"—only egg-heads and saps in the railroad business, according to S.P. doctrine, recognize the monetary value of good public relations!—but it is reasonable to believe that considering its passion for placing profits above public service if S.P. brass ever reads "Railway Age," it will pause and wipe the dust off its bifocals when these figures appear on the printed page.

Of course the total is "peanuts" to this billion-dollar corporation but we venture to say that over \$6 a common share ISN'T.

SO what? Well, it is the time-honored struggle between public utilities that have some enterprise and sense of their public obligations, and those that have not. It is also between those railroads that have no faith in their business, except in the super lucrative freight-field, and those who have faith that if they improve their passenger service, to meet public demand instead of letting it go by default, that will eventually not only mean better public relations but better profits.

So, our suggestion is that the Friendly "S.P." take a little time out from the "counting house" and do a bit of research into the management of the "D&RG" as well as other railroads with similar policies like the CB&Q, Santa Fe and Southern—it might—we said "MIGHT"—prove profitable to find out just what these successful railroads have that the SP "Dinosaur" HASN'T. —R.W.R.

Meany HAS Them

Speaking of brains, President George Meany of the A.F.L.-C.I.O. has them.

In taking a firm stand against the sort of labor racketeering represented by Messers Beck and Hoffa, he is not only on firm ground morally, he is smart. For, if organized labor is not to be set back 25 years and suffer some of the agonies that "Malefactors of Great Wealth" suffered 40 or 50 years ago, then labor itself must insist upon a thorough house cleaning and complete repudiation of the sort of gangster tactics that this odoriferous pair represent.

SPEAKING of the "malefactors of great wealth era," the present situation is reminiscent of the fearless and redoubtable "T.R." when he waged war against the Hills, Harrimans, Morgans, et al, and brought about a complete revolution in the relation of what he called "the vested interests" and the American people. T.R., needless to say, did not mince words—he