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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.

18 YEARS AGO

Nov. 6, 1847 (Wednesday)

A blaze starting from an overheated stove destroys house at 1033 Court St.

Just More "Propaganda?"

Now that "Sputnik II"—alias "Mutt-nick"—is on its way we trust we will be spared any alibis from Washington that this is just more Communist "propaganda," and should give no citizen an "iota" of concern.

What if it is only propaganda—which it ISN'T—so could the announcement that a Russian guided-missile had hit its target 5000 miles away be dismissed as just another "circus trick," so long as it had not been tested in actual combat. But all that guff would fool no one—no one at all informed at least.

THE truth is—and we might as well face it—"Mutt-nick" is even more of a victory for Russia and more of a defeat for the United States in the realm of cosmic space than was its predecessor.

For it demonstrates in the first place that "Sputnik No. 1" was no fluke. Soviet Russia has demonstrated now it can launch an earth-satellite about ANY time it wishes, and properly equipped with instruments to record important celestial data.

Putting a poor dog on the satellite which, it is claimed by Moscow can in case of accident be parachuted safely to terra-firma, does not prove but it does INDICATE, that Russian scientists are on their way to a solution of the basic intercontinental-missile problem namely: This is not so much a matter of speed or distance, but a matter of hitting a given target on the EARTH'S surface INTACT, instead of being vaporized when passing through the heavier earthy atmosphere.

In short Soviet Russia, whether we like her or don't—and we decidedly DON'T—has not only won the race in the area of the artificial satellite, but is far ahead of us, in the race for perfecting the ultimate weapon generally known as the "ICBM."

AS often stated in this department this Soviet victory is no cause for panic. A battle has been lost but the war has not been.

It is cause however for dropping the ostrich-technique, putting our respective heads in the sand, and trying to kid ourselves that nothing has been lost of any consequence and as usual with Uncle Sam in peace or war, everything will come out allright in the end.

OF course it may. Everyone hopes and prays it will. But the path to ultimate victory does not lie in the realm of belittling the genuine achievements of Russia, nor falling back upon the complacent assumption that because we have never lost a war, in the past somehow, someway, we can't lose one in the future.

Nor does success lie in the area of placing the importance of the Almighty Dollar, above that of national security.

A program of victory in this cosmic "cold war" will take money—lots of it—it will take hard work and lots of that—and before it is over it will undoubtedly demand a national spirit of self-indulgence REPLACED by a spirit of willing self-sacrifice.

Above all, as indicated above, it will take a facing of the facts of life as they are today on this whirling ball of dirt, and an end to dodging and evading for political benefit chiefly.—R.W.R.

What IS "Propaganda?"

Just a word about this popular "alibi" of "propaganda." The proponents of this technique, apparently believe that to tag the announcement of any international accomplishment by this term, disposes of it. They say:

"Why be concerned, it is nothing but propaganda?"

Ok if it IS nothing but propaganda—that is merely talk without any basis in fact.

But if that TALK IS based upon FACTS, and those facts are clear to the world in general, then, with the world in its present condition of unrest "propaganda" becomes an offensive weapon of tremendous importance.

NEEDLESS to say we have the benefit of no "Gallup" poll, but we don't need one to be convinced that nothing since the battle of Stalingrad has so increased Russian prestige throughout the world, as the successful launching of these two satellites.

Practically everyone in this country, and undoubtedly throughout the civilized world, is talking about it, speculating about it, and most of them living outside the totalitarian orbit being at least disturbed by it.

MOREOVER among the nations which are neutral in this "cold war" neither for one side or the other, but sitting on the fence to see which way the "cat will jump" can hardly fail to be greatly impressed by this Russian achievement.

The general reaction therefore may be assumed to be something to this effect:

"Soviet Russia can't be as bad as she has been painted. At least here is evidence she has got something that her free-world enemies haven't got. Might be well to look into the matter a bit."

THAT can be called merely "propaganda" of course. But it is the greatest advertisement any nation in recent years has got—and it is not only "for-free" it covers the entire globe, NOT in "80 days" but in an HOUR and 43 MINUTES! (What would "Coca Cola" or Wrigley's Spearmint pay for that!)

AS indicated above all this is no cause to cry "fire" in our crowded theatre. BUT it IS cause to pause and consider well and thoughtfully the Sputnik situation, its significance and the nature of our own "hole card."—R.W.R.



"GET YOUR GAS MASK, MOM! THIS GUY SMOKES A PIPE, TOO!"

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

MUCH, MUCH TOO MUCH

Ankara, Turkey — The dust cloud Nikita Khrushchev raised over Turkey is rapidly subsiding, presumably as one result of the Kremlin's inner turmoil.

Unfortunately, the end of this artificial crisis does not in the least alter the very ugly evidence that the Soviets have been making elaborate preparations for another Middle Eastern gamble on an unprecedented scale.

In brief, the Soviet deliveries of military supplies to Syria really staggeringly exceed the utmost imaginable requirements of the Syrian armed forces.

Thus the question arises, "Who is going to use these vast stock piles?"

The coldly simple Turkish answer is that the Russians themselves mean to use them if they dare. The Red Army has about 20 airborne brigades. They can be put down in Syria in a matter of hours.

A ready-made base now exists for them there. They can easily be called in by the Soviet's Syrian puppets, when the time is ripe, to "aid in repelling aggression."

THE only logical purpose of the dust cloud raised around Turkey is to give a little color of justification to this kind of Syrian call for help. The dust cloud is there. The ready-made base that can only be useful to Soviet forces is there, too, organized at lavish expense.

Anyone who wishes to reject the Turkish explanation as too lurid, at least has the duty of finding another explanation that fits the facts equally well.

This is not at all easy to do, as the figures of supply deliveries to Syria only too clearly prove. Here, one must add, most people at home seem to have been studying the wrong statistics.

The Soviets have indeed given the Syrians a hundred or more jet fighters, probably Mig 17s, a couple of hundred T34 tanks, and an undetermined number of heavy Josef Stalin tanks.

In the context of the Middle Eastern situation, these are important quantities of advanced weapons. But they are not much beyond reason if the Soviet aim were merely to please their Syrian army friends with plenty of glamorous military toys.

What is really beyond reason is the bulk movement of military equipment into Syria in the last months. The movement began in March. It gathered momentum in April and May. It has been going on ever since.

And of this movement the toys for Syrians have only accounted for a small fraction.

BY TURKISH estimates, two to three shiploads of supplies are now being unloaded every day at the Syrian port of Latakiah. Certainly these estimates are quite conceivably correct, since they would account for only one-third of the inordinately heavy movement of Soviet freighters through the Bosphorus that has been going on all spring and summer.

Western estimates are more conservative than those given by the Turkish government. They show an average of about one shipload a day of military supplies laid down in Latakiah since the traffic reached peak intensity. But this means 8,000 tons of military supplies going into Latakiah daily. Thus one arrives at a rock-bottom minimum input of half a million tons. An input of a million tons seems very probable. An input of a million and a half tons seems possible.

Compare the supply laid down in Syria with the most extravagant requirements of the Syrian army of less than 60,000 men. Remember that it is probably exaggerating to put the Syrian army's previous supply consumption at a level of 30,000 tons of supplies per year.

The conclusion inescapably emerges that the Soviet supply input is intended to be used by armed forces which are not yet in Syria, but which the Soviets may wish to put into Syria later on. The calculation is complicated by the fact that the Soviets are undoubtedly building a submarine base near Latakiah, which of course needs to be stocked.

BUT even the construction of this submarine base, which is ominous and ugly enough, is not a sufficient explanation of the global supply movement. Add Soviet submarines to the Syrian army. Still other large forces that may need supplies have to be imagined, in order to make sense out of the Kremlin's logistics.

This interpretation is further strengthened by the known character of a large part of the supplies that have been moved. A very high proportion falls into the category of base supplies, that is, ammunition, motor fuel, replacement parts, clothing and other things that armed forces need after they have gone into action and expended their initial stocks.

This part of the picture is rounded out by the fact that large numbers of huge warehouses, suitable for military stockpiling on a massive scale, together with underground gasoline stores, are now being built in Syria. And the whole picture is rounded out by the further fact that having already built themselves four jet airfields—more than enough for their whole present air force—the Syrians are now lengthening four more fields to take jets.

Altogether, unless someone can supply a soothing explanation that does not spring to this reporter's perhaps feeble mind, here is as troubling a picture as the world has seen since the worst moments of the Korean war.

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Zhukov Removal Has Earmarks Of Emergency Action by Reds

By CHARLES M. MCCANN

United Press Correspondent

Marshal Georgi K. Zhukov's degradation appears to have been an emergency operation.

Exactly what lies behind the latest upheaval in the Kremlin is still a matter for speculation.

It is not even certain that Communist leader Nikita S. Khrushchev was the prime mover in Zhukov's dismissal as defense minister and ouster from the high councils of Russian Communism.

But it does appear to be certain that as late as Oct. 7, Zhukov was still in good standing.

Zhukov was dismissed as defense minister on Oct. 26. Apparently during that interval of 19 days the ruling Communist Party Presidium decided that Zhukov had to go at once.

The decision was reached

even though the members of the Presidium knew Zhukov's dismissal would cast something of a blight upon the big celebration of the 40th anniversary of the 1917 Bolshevik revolution which is to be held Thursday.

Zhukov arrived in Yugoslavia on Oct. 8 in his capacity of defense minister to visit Gen. Ivan retary for defense.

It has been suggested that he was sent out of the country so that his dismissal could be engineered in his absence. But the visit had been long scheduled.

It was announced officially in Moscow on Sept. 23.

On Oct. 7, Khrushchev gave a three-hour and twenty-minute interview to James Reston, chief of the Washington bureau of the New York Times, who was then visiting Russia.

At the very end of the interview Khrushchev himself disclosed that the Soviet government had sought an invitation for Zhukov to visit the United States but had been rebuffed.

Probably Didn't Know

It is hardly likely that Khrushchev would have raised this matter if he had decided

at that time to put the skid under Zhukov.

Some things about the Zhukov affair are clear. First, Soviet leaders feared that under Zhukov the armed forces were getting too independent and were a potential threat to the Communist Party. Secondly, some of them feared also that Zhukov himself was getting too popular and too powerful.

It has been taken for granted, generally, that Khrushchev engineered Zhukov's dismissal. Yet a Paris newspaper asserts that it has information that Khrushchev at first opposed Zhukov's dismissal, but agreed to it to keep his own position from being weakened.

There is always a tendency to find complicated answers to developments in the Kremlin. But maybe Zhukov just got too big for his breeches.

Today and Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

Last winter the Oregon legislature—misled by what turned out to be faulty estimates of the state's income for the upcoming biennium—upped taxes pretty sharply. The result was a prospective SURPLUS in the state's coffers.

This prospective surplus is a bit nebulous. There are people who contend it won't amount to much—maybe 15 or 20 millions at the most. There are others who think it might run up to quite a chunk of money. Seventy million dollars seems to be the figure most frequently mentioned by those who support that contention.

It all depends on how much money the new tax levies bring in and how much is left after the state pays its necessary bills.

At any rate, the governor got scared and called a special session of the legislature to consider the problem posed by the prospect that the state may have considerably more money in its pocket than it had expected.

THE legislature is in session. This is the issue it faces: Shall we go on and take the money out of the people's pockets NOW—when they need it to meet immediate payments on their installment contracts and other commitments?

Or shall we give some of it back in the form of a refund and trust to luck that the state will have money enough to pay its bills as they come due without having to reach into the people's pockets again and take out the money that had been refunded?

It's quite a problem, and the legislators are wrestling with it manfully.

WHAT to do? I wouldn't know.

It's a toughie—especially from the standpoint of politics. Whatever is done will have political repercussions in the next election.

Which way will the cat jump then? And why? That's the political problem.

FROM the viewpoint of the fundamental economics of the state over the long pull, it's probably a standoff.

If we put too much back into the people's pockets now, the chances are that MORE will have to be taken out of the people's pockets in the future.

But—We're all human. WE KNOW we can use the money NOW. Hope springs eternal in the human breast and we hope that in the years to come we'll all be rich and happy and won't miss the money that will be taken out of our pockets in the way of taxes.

From the political standpoint, I'd say it's better to GIVE IT BACK NOW.

SO MUCH for political problems. Let's take a look now at the problems of organized baseball. They are rugged—and getting rugged by the hour.

The Pacific Coast league thinks it ought to have damages because the majors have invaded its private preserves. Negotiations have been going on for days in an effort to fix by agree-

ment what the damages should be, but they don't seem to be getting anywhere much and P.C.L. President O'Connor has received authority to TAKE THE MATTER TO COURT if the negotiations fall through.

HMMMMMM. Let's take a sharp look at this situation. Suppose you have a going business in your home town. Suppose some outsider comes in and sets himself up in competition with you.

Should you sue him for damages? If you did sue, what would the courts think about it? And how about our prized system of free private enterprise?

IF YOU can set up a hamburger stand in some community that hasn't got one and thereby can stake out your claim in perpetuity to monopolistic operation of hamburger stands in that area, what will happen to the American free enterprise system?

In that event, if the courts sustained you, wouldn't free enterprise be gone where the woodbine twined?

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 an eye to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words.

MT Staff Is Praised

To the Editor: We wish to express the most appreciative thanks of the 33 member units in the Jackson County Council of Parent-Teacher associations, for the splendid cooperation of the Mail Tribune extended to us during October, our membership enrollment month. The space you allowed us in publicizing the place of the parent-teacher action program in our community, and the place of teachers and parents in that action program, was most generous.

The Medford Mail Tribune is to be commended for its continuing policy of obtaining necessary facts concerning the needs of education in our county community, and of publicizing those facts so citizens may have the basic information at hand.

Our sincere thanks for the kindness and cooperation of Olive Starcher, Peggyann Hutchinson, Earl Adams, Bob Vroman, and the numerous other staff members whose names are not known to us.

Jackson County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations

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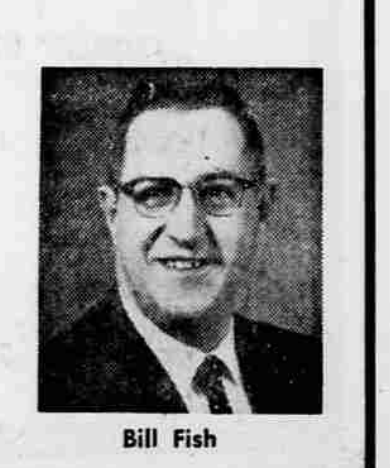
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The saddest part of hi-way toll, Of all of us who drive, One half, or near, Who die each year, Are not yet twenty-five.



Why Did She Do It?

GEO. N. TAYLOR, Wheaton, Ill.

Cat-Fit lived in an old shack beside the brick-yard. You see her tall and skinny, the icy winter wind driving her old coat and calico dress against her thin self. Down the street she came, drawing a four-wheeled boy's cart and you know that she has come for the family wash. Then one day word came that Cat-Fit was dead. She had hung herself by the neck, in her old shack there by the brick pond.

Now this thought. Give the Cat-Fit kind a little lift. It may open the way for you to testify as to what Christ has for such. —For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.—Luke, 19:10—BIBLE.