

THE TASTE OF TODAY

Is the "taste" of today — the preferences of Americans in art, literature, furnishings, recreation and what have you — "appalling," as is alleged by a writer in (of all places!) the current Saturday Evening Post?

Speaking on an over-all average basis, and considering all 174,000,000 of us, probably he's right, that the general level of taste is appalling.

Any society which will permit movies such as "I Was a Teen Age Werewolf" to be a success; which will endure and even encourage the general run of soap operas on both radio and TV; which will make a millionaire out of a third-rate hillbilly music-gargler; which will make "Confidential" and "Whisper" and such tripe the best-selling magazines of the day—any such society must, indeed, have appalling taste.

THE author of the article, a writer, poet and educator named Randall Jarrell, is appalled by other things, too. Among these is the fact that most eighth graders cannot identify Charlemagne, that Shakespeare has been "rewritten" to be more readily understandable by youngsters, and that a great body of knowledge and experience and background, which once held our culture together and formed the basis for mutual understanding, has been frittered away in the wake of Life Adjustment Courses, the Reader's Digest, John's Other Wife, and Kiddie Kartoon Karnivals on television.

All right, is Mr. Jarrell a snob? Probably. And he's the kind of snob who, throughout history, has had an influence on creative and sensitive thought, who serves to make people more conscious of the difference between what is good, bad or mediocre, who do their bit to banish slovenly, lazy patterns of thought, and to attune his listeners and readers to a more forthright and aware concept of their cultural birthright.

AND yet, despite these indictments of Americans, Mr. Jarrell concedes, and we agree, that all is not lost; not everyone is a stupid oaf; there are signs of awareness and appreciation of many of the things which make men men instead of mere creatures — creatures whose only motivation is excitement, or comfort, or oblivion.

And he acknowledges that his complaint is a timeless one, that each age has complained of the "appalling taste" of the time, that Goethe said "What kind of a time is this when one must envy the dead and buried!", and that it is entirely possible that the people of the age to come will look upon the mid-20th Century and moan that we never had it so good.

He cites the steadily growing acceptance of the "good" paper-back book, the increasing popularity of quality music, the ferment and excitement in the experimental worlds of painting and sculpture, the growth and improvement of much of today's architecture.

IT'S A funny world. And perhaps we should permit ourselves to be bitter, to be appalled, to be outraged, about those things which sensitive people find atrocious and demeaning.

We could get stomach ulcers that way. And our ulcers would not improve, by a jot or tittle, the condition of mankind.

Nor will the condition of mankind be improved by waving a wand, nor by exhortations. It will be improved only slowly, starting in the home, and continuing in the schools and colleges; it will be improved only when people are ready for it.

And, in part, it will be improved by men like Randall Jarrell, who, while cautious, still serves to point the way. Even the Saturday Evening Post can help, by printing such articles, which, if nothing else, serve to make one ponder on mankind's taste and condition.—E.A.

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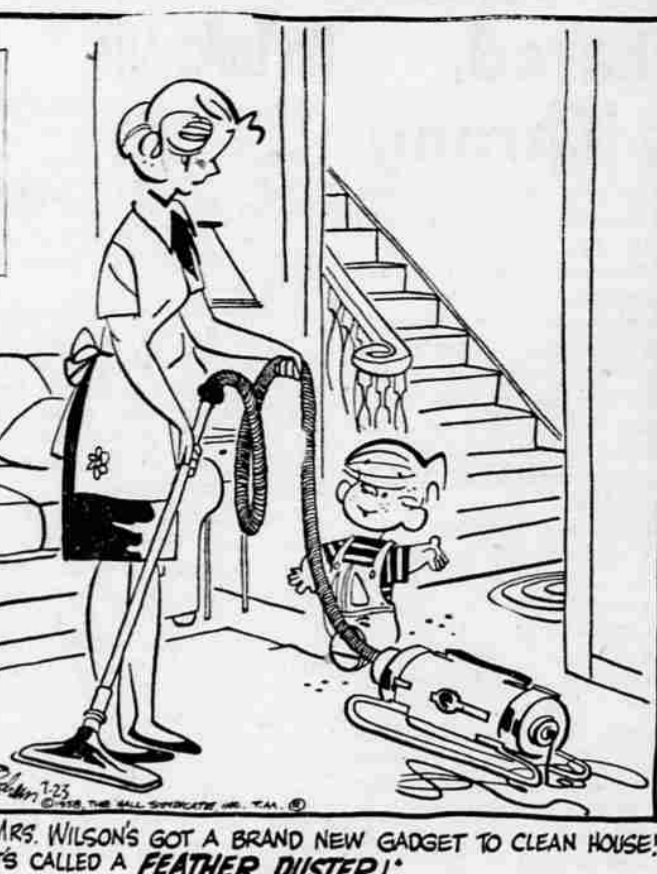
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Bill Henley Jr., in his column in the Ashland Tidings, describes his irritation at one of the political flip-flops of the year, an irritation we share with him.

He points out that Robert G. Danielson, who filed his candidacy for district judge this spring, then moved from the county before the election, came back after the election, in which he received the most votes.

At that time he told the Tidings (in words almost identical to those he told the Mail Tribune): "All votes cast for me in the primary will not count, in my opinion, and Roy Bashaw won the nomination and his name should be placed on the ballot for the November election."

Dennis the Menace



MRS. WILSON'S GOT A BRAND NEW GADGET TO CLEAN HOUSE! IT'S CALLED A FEATHER DUSTER!

Today & Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

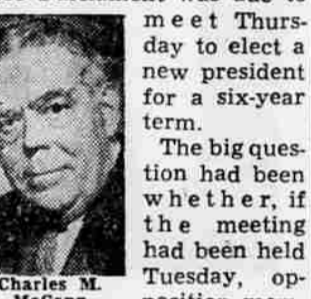
TIME FOR DIPLOMACY For the moment, there appears to be a pause with something of the nature of a military standstill in the Middle East. It is precarious, and most certainly it is temporary.

A COOL assessment of our position is the essential basis of a constructive diplomatic policy. What happened in Iraq, the keystone of the Baghdad Pact and supposedly the one firm and reliable pro-Western Arab country? Was King Faisal's government the victim of external aggression as were Czechoslovakia and Poland and Hungary?

It was not. King Faisal's government was overthrown swiftly and totally by a conspiracy of Iraqi officers. What is most significant is that the Iraqi army supported the revolution immediately and that this revolution is manifestly popular in the country. So, we would be deluding ourselves if we believed that the friendly government of Iraq was subverted by foreign agents acting contrary to the national sentiment of the country.

Compromise Sought in Lebanon Political Turmoil by Leaders

By CHARLES M. McCANN UPI Foreign News Analyst The Lebanese situation is entering a new phase. The 66-member single-chamber Lebanese Parliament was due to meet Thursday to elect a new president for a six-year term.



Charles M. McCann

The big question had been whether, if the meeting had been held Tuesday, opposition members would boycott it. There was almost no chance they would attend.

It is now announced that the meeting has been postponed, probably until next week.

There are indications that the postponement may have been decided upon in hopes that agreement could be reached on a candidate to succeed President Camille Chamoun.

The election of a president is the issue that lies behind the entire Lebanese crisis. Under the Lebanese constitution, a president is ineligible for re-election.

Chamoun, however, decided in mid-April to ask Parliament to amend the constitution so that he could run again.

He did so because he believed his re-election was necessary to keep his little country out of the clutches of President Gamal Abdel Nasser of the United Arab Republic and to continue its present pro-Allied policy.

Opposition protests caused an explosion of protests by opposition elements. From it stemmed the Lebanese rebellion that started on May 10 and now, with the pro-Nasser rebellion in Iraq and the landing of American and British troops in Lebanon and Jordan, has caused a grave international crisis.

Lebanon's political situation is singular. Its population consists of about 675,000 Christians and 557,000 Moslems.

Because of this religious balance, it was decided when Lebanon attained its independence from France in 1944 that the country should have, traditionally, a Christian president and a Moslem prime minister.

The rebels are Moslems. They are disorganized. They have four principal leaders, who are united on only one thing: They want to throw Chamoun out now.

Chamoun and his Moslem premier, Sami es-Solh, are firmly pro-Western and firmly against Nasser's attempt to make himself master of the Arab world.

When the rebellion started, Chamoun appealed to the United States for support. He did so because the rebels were getting aid in weapons and men from Syria, now merged with Egypt in Nasser's U.A.R.

At first, Chamoun and Solh wanted support through the United Nations, to seal the frontier. But when the situation got critical, they asked for direct American help.

Shocked by the sudden, murderous revolt in Iraq, the United States started landing Marines in Lebanon July 15.

Before that, Chamoun had decided he could not be re-elected. Premier Solh had announced the government would not change the constitution for him. On July 9, Chamoun announced definitely he would not run. But he said he was determined to serve out his term.

The British idea is simply to hang on to the Gulf coast sheikhdoms by military force if need be. There would be no great difficulty in doing this, if the most important oil-producer happened to be Bahrain, where British troops are already stationed. But the Bahrain wells are of minor importance, and Kuwait and Qatar are the real prizes, with

Murphy was called out of a Senate committee hearing the day after the Marine landings and told to leave at once. He did not even have time to pack his bags. His wife packed them and sent them to the State Department, where he was being briefed.

Murphy has been consulting Lebanese leaders of all political leanings. If a compromise is found, it will be a victory for him.

Kuwait by far the biggest prize of the two. What Selwyn Lloyd asked for in Washington, therefore, was the promise of American support for military occupation of Kuwait and Qatar, if Nasserite agitation in the sheikhdoms make this step necessary. According to reliable sources, John Foster Dulles at least three-quarters committed himself to give the British moral support, providing the legitimate governments of the sheikhdoms ask the British to aid them with troops.

This in turn gives special interest to the sudden appearance in Damascus of the present ruler of Kuwait, Sheikh Abdullah As-Sabah. The Sheikh of Kuwait was apparently vacationing in the Syrian capital when Gamal Abdel Nasser flew in from Moscow.

Hence the recent meeting between the Sheikh and Nasser may perhaps have been accidental. But taken in conjunction with the Sheikh of Kuwait's earlier visit to Cairo, it was "the sort of accident that makes you think," as one American policy-maker remarked.

AT PRESENT, however, most of the real power in Kuwait is in the hands of Sheikh Abdullah Mubarrak. This uncle of Sheikh Abdullah As-Sabah is now Kuwait's acting ruler. It is thought that if the ruler himself strays towards a deal with Nasser, the acting ruler can be relied on to do whatever may be needed.

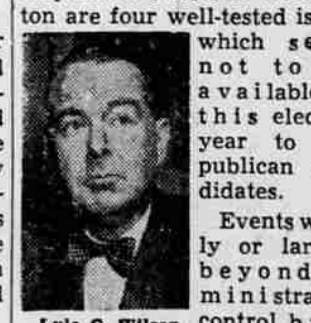
Besides the danger in Kuwait, the danger in Saudi Arabia cannot be overlooked. King Saud's virtual abdication in favor of Crown Prince Faisal has by no means stabilized the situation there. A Nasserite conspiracy to seize control of the Arabian government is just as likely, in fact, as a Nasserite grab for Kuwait. If this danger materializes, the British will surely press the American government to try to detach and hold Al-Hasa province. And this project looks fairly feasible, if it wins the support of the virtually independent Governor of Al-Hasa, Sheikh Saud bin Jalouli.

There is, indeed, only one difficulty about the Persian Gulf hole-card. In the present state of the Middle East, the mere dispatch of British troops to Kuwait would have the approximate effect of a big bomb in a crowded movie house.

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GOP Seeking New Issues, as Old Ones Dead, Dying

By LYLE C. WILSON UPI Correspondent



Lyle C. Wilson

Neither the members of the Republican Policy committee nor other Republican senators are responsible for the statements herein contained, except such as they are willing to endorse and make their own.

Such statements as, for example, this one: "The hold of the labor bosses on the Democratic Party has, for all practical purposes, rendered responsible Democratic leadership impotent."

The ultimate goal of the labor bosses is not merely to take over the Democratic Party, but to eliminate it — along with the Republican Party — as a decisive force in American politics.

Such statements are a matter of political opinion or, even, of prejudice. Of more substance as a political issue might be a question of law which the staff committee report raised in detail. The question of law was simply this: Whether the spending of hundreds of thousands of dollars by labor unions to educate union members politically during campaigns for federal office is, in fact, a violation of the Corrupt Practices Act.

A federal court in Michigan recently held that such expenditures were not in violation although the act relates to labor unions equally as it relates to banks and other corporations. The implications of the report are that the Justice Department, now in Republican hands, could bring that issue alive by alert and vigorous action to challenge union campaign spending. The department, however, did not even appeal the Michigan case.

Some old pros among Republican strategists believe that the money power and the political ambitions of some leaders of organized labor offer a rewarding issue which would have national application and significance. Some other Republicans would deem such an issue outright political suicide. All hands would agree that it could lead to dangerous ground.

The staff of the Senate Republican Policy committee was aware of these conflicting points of view among Republican senators. The committee report contained an escape hatch for any Republican to exist as an independent state. There is no other way, short of unconditional and unlimited war, to prevent indirect aggression while popular feeling is what it is in the Middle East.

A NEUTRALIZED Lebanon would not be the end of the Middle Eastern problem. But it might be an auspicious beginning of a settlement. For it would establish the principle, which is essential to any settlement, that the Soviet Union and the Nasser confederation have interests in the Middle East and that we are prepared to work out an accommodation.

There will be some, perhaps many, who believe that an accommodation of interests is in the bad sense of the word, the Munich sense, appeasement. For myself, I do not think that it is appeasement, that Nasser's part in the Iraqi revolution is at all like the dismantlement of Czechoslovakia by Hitler.

Nasser is Nasser, not Hitler, and while he is difficult and unfriendly to the West, he is not the master of a great military machine, and while we deal with him, we can keep our composure. We must not become the victim of our old stereotypes, seeing all big international events in terms of "Munich" or "Yalta" or "Pearl Harbor," and therefore never seeing clearly and freshly the events themselves as in fact they are.

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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 July 23, 1948 (Friday) Eight travel editors from eastern newspapers, touring Oregon scenic spots, arrive here tomorrow.

20 YEARS AGO July 23, 1938 (Saturday) Standard Oil of California is distributing color pictures of Crater Lake, providing publicity for the lake.

30 YEARS AGO July 23, 1928 (Monday) A French "75" cannon destined as a war trophy for Medford is expected to arrive this week.

40 YEARS AGO July 23, 1918 (Tuesday) Motorcycle Speed Cop McDonald plans to crack down on motorists driving without tail lights.

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

Answers: 1. Edward VIII. 2. Duke of Windsor. 3. Massachusetts. 4. Thomas Jefferson. 5. Spanish-American War. 6. House of Lords and House of Commons. 7. Game. 8. Montgomery. 9. Saudi Arabia. 10. Cognac.

Applications Being Taken for Positions Applications for clerical positions in Federal agencies in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana are now being accepted, according to John M. Young, regional director of the Civil Service Commission.

Communications

Sand-Burrs To the Editor: An obnoxious North American annual herb, franseria acanthi-carpa, the name of the common sand-burr, according to Webster's New International dictionary, seems to be thriving in North Medford, especially west of Riverside avenue, to as far south as Barlett and Fifth streets. It is most noticeable on vacant lots and sidewalks that have a park row. The city power mower is quite effective where the sand-burrs are in reach of the sickle on level ground, and is a temporary relief to a few plants.

Name on File, Medford.

Pierre Renoir, the French impressionist who died in 1919, produced more than 6,000 paintings.



OSCAR FRALEY

An All-American writer on all sports is Oscar Fraley, of United Press International. His column, "Today's Sport Parade" and his reports from sidelines and press-box and sideline win favor with fans the country over. To get the most from the sports you like best, read Fraley daily in

Medford Mail Tribune

THE HAND OF HELP in the hour of need... is extended here to all who grieve, regardless of race, social position or financial standing.

LITWILLER Funeral Home Mountain View Chapel Hwy. 66 at Normal Office 88 N. Main ASHLAND "It is better to know us and not need us, than to need us and not know us."

The Village DAIRY-SMITH at Genesee East Main St. Nowhere in this wide wonderful world will you find a more satisfying Ice Cream, not even in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin.