

MEDFORD TRIBUNE

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Reason for Hope

Writing in the "Letters to the Editor" column of the Oregon Statesman in Salem, a former mental patient at the Oregon State hospital makes a plea for larger staff and more individualized treatment at the hospital.

He makes the plea on behalf of "the 800 to 1,000 . . . who are now condemned to live and die in a mental institution" but who "could be rehabilitated in as little time as three months, a great many in six months, and an endless number who could, with patience, eventually be returned to normal life."

But he also makes the point that this would be an economy in the long run, and says:

" . . . This would be more of an investment than an expense—it would lift a heavy maintenance load from off the state."

HIS letter, with which we agree wholeheartedly, brings to mind a report in the February issue of Harper's which is essentially optimistic about the nation's chances of getting somewhere in the fight against mental illness.

The states, says the author, Walter Kaufmann, have at long last begun to do something about their "snake pits," the state mental hospitals which sprang up simply as custodial institutions where the "insane" could be put away, out of sight.

Encouraged by recent developments in treatment, and shocked by World War II induction figures which showed a high percentage of armed forces rejections for mental inadequacy, the states have been putting more and more money and effort into the hospitals—not only into buildings, but more important, into trained staff.

THE western states have done more. Through the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (an organization supported by states joined by compact to seek better means of interstate cooperation in education, of which Frank J. Van Dyke of Medford is chairman), western states have formed the Western Council on Mental Health Training and Research.

An ambitious, but still brand-new and experimental, program has been outlined and started. Already a telecommunications conference, joining physicians, psychologists, social workers and nurses in five states (not including Oregon), has been held, to the mutual benefit of those involved.

STILL ahead are a conference of western mental hospital superintendents, a model program for mental health research, draft legislation for mental health research, an interstate psychiatric residency program, a four-state conference leading toward experimental interstate service and training program, and a pooling of university statistical experts to develop better methods of analyzing state hospital operations.

As the council says, knowledge has, in many cases, outrun practice. To permit it to catch up will take trained men and women in many fields, and far better communications between them than is possible at present.

The state hospitals at Salem and Pendleton will be with us for years to come, and potentially curable patients—who could become healthy, tax-paying, wage-earning, useful citizens with proper treatment—will continue to be confined there.

BUT for the first time in many years, there is hope that the worst of the problem can be licked. As the Harper's article reports, the total population of mental institutions, for the first time in years, is staying steady, or even declining slightly.

This is a reflection of new drugs, new methods of treatment, new concepts of what mental disease is.

The new interstate program, with its emphasis on communication, and the training of personnel, can do much to speed the day when the "snake pits" will no longer be a shame and a disgrace to America.

Dr. Robert Felix, director of the National Institute of Mental Health, has stated the problem thus:

"There seems to be a feeling among many of the people in our country . . . that if you forget about mental illness and ignore it, it will go away . . . We hide this thing and cover it up; we alibi for it and bury our heads in the sand . . . and this is the greatest problem, the most expensive health problem we have in this country."

Is it possible we're beginning to pull our heads out of the sand? Let us hope so.—E.A.

What's News?

We read a long article the other day about "What is News?" and it seems a man has written a book about it in which he says newspapers are filled with other stuff than news.

Isn't that newspapers are filled with material other than news. A simple answer would be that news is whatever is new.

A price change in beans or overalls or mutton claps is news and newspapers publish such things. A better metaphor is news or a high-tailed car was news once. And readers find out such things by reading newspapers. If Bumstead wins an argument it is also news.

But newspapers do more than that. They publish ideas or the information from which ideas may be obtained. You see, we think that ideas are very personal things and grow in a head from something that goes into that head, usually through the eyes, and reading newspapers is the most common way of getting the information that can grow into ideas. There is a lot of valuable information that is not new, although it might be new to someone. Putting such things before readers in a form they are accustomed to and can understand is what newspapers do, and whether it is news or history or information, it can and does contribute to the manufacture of ideas.

And that is valuable, very much so.—Sherman County Journal, Moro, Ore.

Dennis the Menace



"WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT IF WE GOT SNOWED IN AN' DAD HAD TO COME HOME ON A SNOWPLOW?"

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. The letters printed in this column do not necessarily represent the views of the paper; in fact the contrary is often the case.

Mining Potential

To the Editor: I read with interest the article in the Jan. 25 paper on the present and future economy of the state, which was discussed at a meeting of "Great Decisions" in connection with Oregon's Centennial.

Logging, agriculture and industry were emphasized. Mining wasn't mentioned, although it may well be that it was intended to be included under "Industry."

However that may be, there is a great lack of interest by the state as a whole, and more especially, by Jackson county, in a basic industry that could prove potentially great if we, the citizens of the state, would encourage the production of more minerals, of which we have a great abundance still to be unearthed. We have here in our own county gold, copper, mercury, chrome, manganese, nickel, cobalt, asbestos, to name but a few.

Of course mining has had it tough in recent years. Our present administration has, in order to promote good will in foreign nations, caused to be imported vast quantities of metals, some of them almost duty free. Foreign aid is commendable, but to allow the United States to be a dumping ground for foreign products in competition with our own mines and factories is poor legislation in my estimation.

Three years ago I worked at an antimony mine in Alaska which was caused to be shut down because the government traded the farm surplus to Czechoslovakia for

antimony. We had been shipping to Portland, Ore. At that time there was no smelter in the U.S. that would take our own ore so we shipped to Japan which was too costly so we shut down. But things finally straightened out. The owner of this mine now can ship to a large company in the East who refuses to buy any more foreign ore.

The above isn't meant as a criticism. I am merely probing and wish the mining industry in Jackson county and the state a rosy future. I am not a "tourist" but a native and have lived here most of my life.

James Chisholm, Gold Hill, Ore.

Fishing Expert

To the Editor: When I was a boy I belonged to the old sandhill quartet. We spent most of our time fishing for carp in the South Platte river. We always fished the hard way, with a 4 pound pitchfork, tied to a 150 pound steel rope and cast from a pair of stilts. That is not the best way to catch carp, but it is a swell way to fall into the river and catch pneumonia. I never stabbed anything but my big toe and we soon had it sewed back on again.

We had another good way of not catching carp in a gunnysack. One of us would hold the gunnysack between our stilt, while the others would try and herd the carp into the sack. All we ever got in the sack was tadpoles and boys.

Fishing today is different, but catching them is the same. We fish from a motorboat with a river guide, a game warden and an income tax consultant, four seat cushions, four lifejackets, a fire extinguisher and an assortment of 100 spinners, a fishing license, fish tags and a lawyer to show us where to cast. We fish above Savage Rapids and below Savage Rapids dam. In four years I ain't caught a Savage Rapids dam salmon. All I ever catch is a motorboat, going in the opposite direction. Last year I caught two motorboats going down the river. I wrapped the line around the propeller of one, but the other one got away. I am not the world's champion fly caster, but I can throw a pitchfork farther than anybody from a pair of stilts. The 1959 salmon season will soon be here and I'll be there to catch my limit in motorboats.

Everett Acklin, Ashland, Ore.

TODAY

In Oregon History
(A Centennial Feature)

FEBRUARY 3, 1846

Held a regular Cabinet meeting today . . . Mr. Buchanan read the draft which he had prepared for an answer to Mr. Pakenham's second proposal to refer the Oregon question to arbitration. All concurred in the conclusion that the offer to arbitrate should be rejected. . . . The answer which should be made to the two Resolutions, one of the Senate and the other of the House, calling for information on the Oregon question, was also considered; but both subjects were postponed. . . .

Diary of President James K. Polk

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

A PAIR OF Communists from a satellite delegation sneaked off to Miami Beach for a stolen weekend. "What a glorious place this is!" enthused one. "Such gorgeous hotels! Such sun! Such beautiful girls!"

"Not so loud, you fool," warned the other. "The miserable capitalists will hear you and start enjoying it, too!"

A mixed-up industrialist who's been haunting psychoanalysts for seven years explained to his accountant, "It's not the cost of the analysis that bothers me; it's all the loose change that slips out of my pockets while I'm lying on the couch!"

A southern entomologist wanted to study some cotton bugs, but the laboratory supplier told him there were only two available—and they could only be rented by the hour. "Thank you, no," decided the entomologist, "I do not care to be the lesser of two evils!"

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Russia, China Interdependent Today, But Future May Hold Breakup for Red Giants

By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign News Editor

In the long run it seems inevitable that Red Chinese and Soviet Russian interests must conflict.

Some differences already are apparent. But for the short term, there is no reason to believe there has been any weakening of the Moscow-Peiping axis. Each remains too dependent upon the other.

Red Chinese Premier Chou En-lai voiced the party line when he told the 21st Communist Party Congress in Moscow:

"The Soviet Union and China share a common fate and joint interests. Their friendship is eternal and unbreakable."

Yet even in the last 10 years profound changes have occurred in relationships between the two. The greatest is the fact that in that time Red China has emerged from the status of weak satellite of the Soviet Union to full partnership.

That change in status has enabled the Red Chinese to exert great influence on Kremlin policy decisions, at times apparently even possessing the power to force Soviet premier and party leader Nikita Khrushchev to reverse himself.

There are several notable examples. In 1956-57, it was Chinese party leader Mao Tse-tung who encouraged Polish leader Wladislaw Gomulka to take a more independent

line in Poland and forced Khrushchev to swallow his own dislike for the Polish leader.

Last summer, Khrushchev brought every pressure to bear to bring about a summit conference among the United States, Britain, France and Russia. But after a hurry-up, secret trip to Peiping, Khrushchev abruptly reversed his stand.

Khrushchev has made no secret of his dislike for the Red Chinese commune plan which has engulfed some 500 million Chinese in a gigantic push to speed agricultural and industrial production.

But in the 21st Congress, Khrushchev had to give lip service to the commune plan, saying it was a permissible instrument for "building Socialism."

Considerable has been made of the fact that all the Communist party leaders, only Mao of Red China and Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia did not attend the Moscow congress. Tito long has been at odds with Moscow and his absence was anticipated.

It may be that Mao's health, never good, was not such that he could make the trip. Or it may be that he could not bring himself to take a public position second to Khrushchev and to say as Chou En-lai did say: "The practice of the Soviet people is showing the whole world the way to transition to Communism."

But whatever their differences, it is essential now that the two present a united front to the outside world.

Needs A Friendly China
Khrushchev could not afford an unfriendly China at his back while fomenting a new crisis in Berlin.

A public falling out between the world's two great Communist powers would create a hurricane such as to make Tito's defection seem a minor breeze.

Further, despite the great percentage increase in Red China's agricultural and industrial output, she still is dependent upon deliveries from Eastern Europe and upon Soviet Russian technical and financial help.

The long run outlook may be something else. There can be no such thing as co-equal dictators. One must follow. And Mao shows no disposition to follow indefinitely.

And in the years to come, it would seem logical that China's exploding population must look beyond China's present borders. Where more naturally to the vast subarctic lands of Soviet Siberia or toward the Urals.

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop
COMMENTARY ON THE McELROY GOSPEL

Washington—By studying last week's testimony by the Defense Department leaders

as scholars study the Bible, you can now discover the strange insights of the Eisenhower Administration's decision to accept inferiority to the Soviets in ballistic missiles.

The clue to the mystery lies in budget pressures, plus the great difference between the liquid-fueled missiles of the first generation and the solid-fueled missiles of the next generation.

In brief, liquid-fueled ballistic missiles cannot be kept full ready to fire. Their minimum "reaction time" is a quarter of an hour or rather more. Even by maintaining a costly fuel-alert, in other words, these missiles cannot be fired within less than 15 minutes of the first warning of the enemy's attack. Because of the same fueling problem, bases for these missiles are also very costly. The expense is further increased by a wide margin, if the bases are "hardened" in order to protect the missiles on their pads against anything but a direct hit.

THESE characteristics make liquid-fueled IRBMs and ICBMs much more suitable for a nation that can attack first and by surprise, like the Soviet Union, than for a nation like the United States, that has vowed not to attack first. If the necessary money is spent to disperse and "harden" the launching sites, liquid-fueled Atlases and Titans in sufficient quantity can certainly even up the ICBM balance between this country and the Soviet Union. But Atlas and Titan are interim weapons, which will certainly have to be replaced as soon as possible.

The planned replacement is the solid-fueled Minuteman missile. Minuteman will hardly be able to carry as heavy a warhead as the more powerful liquid-fueled Atlas and Titan. But the solid-fueled Minuteman missiles will be cheap to produce in quantity. Having built-in fuel, they will have zero "reaction time" and their launching sites can even be made mobile, for greater protection.

FOR the United States, therefore, the second generation of ICBMs is immensely preferable to the first generation, except for one tiny fact. Atlas missiles can be obtained now, and Titan missiles can be obtained soon. Minuteman missiles, in contrast, will hardly be available in operational quantities until five years from now, and the delay may be considerably greater than this.

All these facts are so important because the Eisenhower Defense Department has never been able to get used to the idea of disposable weapons. This is certainly odd, in a country that invented

the disposable facit tissue, and in a Defense Department reshaped and still dominated by that great man, Charles E. Wilson, who is such a strong advocate of the disposable automobile. Nonetheless, Wilson also rebelled, and his successor, Neil McElroy still rebels against the basic need to maintain force-in-being by purchasing weapons now that have to be replaced later.

This being the psychology, the Defense Department is buying very few liquid-fueled missiles now, and waiting to buy a lot of solid-fueled missiles later. The result, inevitably, is acceptance of heavy inferiority in missile striking power, at least until the distant date when the Minuteman missile will become available in quantity.

This light-hearted treatment of the "missile gap" has in turn been justified by two devices which would cost the greatest executive his job, if he used them while still in private business. In the first place, the "missile gap" has been made to seem very much less dangerous by comfortably downgrading the opposition. To be sure, the comfort of General Motors would not be long-lasting, if G.M. production and pricing policies were based on the belief that a bunch of slack-twisted incompetents. But this is the best parallel for the Defense Department method of judging Soviet missile capabilities.

IN THE second place, the dangers of the "missile gap" have been further obscured by the simple act of cooking the defense balance sheet. The comparatively useless ICBMs being sent to our NATO allies are counted on the balance sheet as major assets. The far more numerous and immeasurably more useful Soviet IRBMs are not counted at all; or, if reluctantly mentioned under Senatorial pressure, the Soviet IRBMs are not put down on the debit side of the balance sheet. Other examples of this interesting practice might also be cited.

If American newspapers would print something comparable to the grimmest Biblical commentary, chapter and verse could also be cited to prove all the foregoing that may seem incredible. But for the present purposes, this is commentary enough on the McElroy Gospel. It remains to examine the risk, the allegedly "calculated risk" to which the McElroy Gospel exposes the United States and the free world.

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Washington Report

By WILLIAM S. WHITE

Washington—Every now and then a veteran of public service who has become an institution in himself, Gen. Lewis Hershey, raises a quiet voice of common sense in a country more full than it ought to be of luxurious nonsense.

General Hershey, who has been director of Selective Service since before Pearl Harbor, has just made another such contribution. He has suggested that the millions of young men who have been and will be exempted from the military draft should have no absolutely free ride in consequence.

Why not, he asks, at least train them in Civil Defense? In what is surely the understatement of this winter season he tells Congress: "We are not doing all that we should in preparation against possible nuclear attack."

This recommendation will get nowhere. Nevertheless, it is important that it has been raised, apart from the plain fact that there has always been an ugly inequality of sacrifice between those who have had to go into service and those who have stayed at home.

FOR, intentionally or not, General Hershey has put in a good blow at a widespread American attitude that is doing us no good as a country. This is that "happiness" is somehow guaranteed, exclusively to Americans. Happiness must be delivered by life with the calm regularity that the utility pipes in the electrically necessary for looking, say, at "I Love Lucy" on the television.

If happiness is not so delivered—and "happiness" roughly means an absence of all trial, trouble, contention and upset—the whole thing is unconstitutional, un-American, and unbearable.

Young women go home to mother the moment they are not "happy," even if this unhappiness proceeds from some scarcely appalling denial such as a husband's refusal to buy a dish washer on the installment plan. Mother usually thanks heaven that daughter, if only by her own grit and gumption, has been saved from unlawful oppression in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment.

YOUNG men leave their jobs the second instant after they become "unhappy." It has long since been pointed out to them that a fellow can't do his best work when he isn't happy, and particularly not if his unhappiness results from the savage withholding of his right to become an "executive" before his fifth college reunion. The young men know that a vice-presidency of the corporation is part of

the American way of life. And they certainly will not permit others to destroy the American way of life—even if they have to quit and fall back on Dad to make their point.

It is extraordinary how this happiness legend has pervaded our national life. One forgets how deeply it has done so until he goes abroad after long absence from any foreign shore and sniffs anew the atmosphere of foreign life.

Men in old Europe—and in old Asia, too—wear the long pants of adulthood. They know that "happiness" is an ideal rather than a condition of living, particularly personal happiness as defined to mean that one is always allowed to do, or not to do, just as he pleases. They are gay before the manifold troubles of our times. But they know the vast difference between turning a gay face toward life and assuming that life will be very careful not to cause one any trouble, anywhere, anytime.

THEY know that happiness is a large, loose word, and that nobody can expect to have it for long if it means simply that precise state of affairs that will make him personally entirely comfortable and never bothered by a nasty word.

In short, in this way they are more grown-up than we are. And while we are worrying about the cold war, perhaps we could do worse than worry a bit, too, about the state of private, individual morale in a country where so many have come to expect to live always on the peak of that big rock-candy mountain.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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Elkins Reversal Appeal Studied

San Francisco—The U.S. Court of Appeals took under submission today a petition seeking reversal of the federal wire tap convictions of two Portland men.

Walter H. Evans Jr., attorney for Portland nightlife figure James B. Elkins and Raymond F. Clark, his associate, argued Monday that the evidence was insufficient for conviction and that some of it was obtained by an illegal search.

He contended that 15 judicial errors had occurred during the proceedings.

U.S. Attorney C. E. Luckey of Portland said the defendants had been given a fair trial and that they now were claiming errors "in a shotgun manner."

Elkins was sentenced to 20 months behind bars and Clark up to six months. Both are free pending outcome of the appeal.

The use of a chemical retardant causes chrysanthemums to grow full-sized blossoms on short stems.

Counsel With . . .

Mr. Insurance—Fred Brennan



Fred Brennan

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Bill Fish

Complete details on request.