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# Herald and News

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MALCOLM EPLEY  
Managing Editor

## Traveling Through

By MALCOLM EPLEY

WASHINGTON, D. C. (Special Correspondence)—This fact has impressed us on our visit here: the resident of Klamath Falls, Ore. knows just as much about what is going on in governmental and military affairs as the resident of Washington, D. C.

We must make exceptions, of course, of a limited few in the places of highest power and those close to them. But what we have said goes unquestionably for the vast majority of the people here.

Probably 89 per cent of them, including governmental employees, get their news about congress, the executive's activities, the war, etc. from exactly the same place you get yours—their newspapers and radios.

We sit in a Washington hotel tonight and read about what happened today on capitol hill, only a few blocks away. If we were home, we would be getting exactly the same information from the front page of The Herald and News.

Washington people read the same Washington comment you read in our paper and the Portland and San Francisco papers. Most of them have never sat more than a few times in the galleries of congress, and no doubt large numbers of them have never been there at all. Only a tiny fraction of them have ever been to an important congressional committee hearing.

This does not mean they are not well informed about their government. Sure, they are, if they want to be; the point is, you and I, 2000 miles away, can be just as well informed if we want to be.

## Aggressive Press

THE reason for this, primarily and fundamentally, is the great, enterprising, aggressive press of America. That press long ago developed the methods and technique for disseminating to every nook and corner of the nation the news about every important event, here and elsewhere, by the day and by the hour.

As governmental and military activities increased to the present all-time high, the press kept pace. The great press associations, such as the Associated Press in whose Washington office we have been writing these chronicles, expanded their staffs and facilities to meet these increasing responsibilities over the years. Newspapers, including virtually all the dailies and many weeklies throughout the country, carried to the people the results of this effort, by publishing the news thus gathered. More lately, radio has entered the field as another method of presenting to the people the results of the work of newsgathering organizations.

The great cooperative enterprise which is the American press seized upon every new

development in communications facilities—the telegraph, telephone, teletype, wireless, wire-photo, wire picture transmission, along with new methods and techniques in printing and newspaper distribution—to speed the dissemination of this news.

## Essential Job

ALL of this sums up into a gigantic effort to inform the American public. This comprehensive coverage includes many things beside governmental and military affairs, of course; but it is in these fields that it performs its most vital function in making democracy work.

It is patent that if people are to govern themselves intelligently through representatives of their own choosing, or if they are to support a war that is to perpetuate that form of government, they must be well-informed about governmental and military affairs.

And they must be universally well-informed. It is just as important that the resident of Klamath Falls, Ore. knows the facts as the resident of Washington, D. C. To realize anew that this equality of opportunity for information does exist has pleased and impressed us on this, our first visit to these precincts within the shadow of the White House and the Capitol.

We do not mean to imply that the press is perfect. Sometimes, we think, press association stories are too assiduously objective and could well stand a little more interpretative material. On the other hand, some newspapers, particularly certain metropolitan ones, frankly slant what should be straight news to achieve an editorial end. There is room for improvement in various other particulars.

But by and large, the press has done an essential job well. From this vantage point, we are more sure of that than ever before.

## FDR Complains

THE press, it is true, has incurred the displeasure of the president of the United States. He let that be known again the other day in a bickering and rather undignified press conference.

But that, we believe, is a tribute to the independence of the press, which is a very wholesome thing in a democracy.

When the supreme court did not go along with Mr. Roosevelt on part of his legislative program, he attacked it. When congress shows evidence of independence rather than subservience, he cracks at it.

The press, because of an independent and critical editorial viewpoint, has incurred the president's displeasure. The latest complaint from him came because the press had objectively reported the disputes between various New Deal officials.

It is noteworthy that the president's complaints against the press have been duly reported by the press. That is a proof of the discharge of its responsibility.

It is not required, as it would be if this were a totalitarian country, to assume that because Mr. Roosevelt does something it must be right—even though that may be the theory held by Mr. Roosevelt.

and there losing thousands of dollars a week in their operations due to this cause. An industry report indicates only nine out of the 39 packers in Detroit were operating this week.

## Hog Situation

THE situation on hogs can be just as simply presented, minus all the intricate, detailed orders and counter orders of government administrators. The government fixed the corn price at \$1.07 per bushel, and then fixed the feeding price of corn to hogs at \$1.35 to \$1.40 per bushel by its price on finished hog products.

The farmers naturally are not going to feed hogs. They have been dumping their surplus hogs on the market lately in order to avoid feeding and because warm weather makes hog care in summer difficult. (Some have to be washed daily with water), and there is a shortage of feed. Yet the closing of slaughter houses keeps even this plenty from fully reaching the people.

The situation holds the price unduly low to the farmer and is forcing disposition of hogs which should be kept for winter supply.

Congress is threatening to go to the extent of passing a law forcing the administration to move the corn price up to \$1.37 in order to encourage feeding and provide a more orderly condition.

Here you have two opposite results of the same managed economy. A shortage of beef in the face of almost plenty has been promoted by inefficient price management. A dangerously over-plentiful supply of hogs has been caused by the same mistake.

## Price Fixing Failures

THE original price fixing policies were such failures that the administration openly conceded them as such in moving to try subsidies.

But these failures have been aggravated sharply by the six weeks of argument over subsidies, and now there is no one here who will say that these matters can in any way be satisfactorily straightened out even if the subsidies start working, and even if a single overall food production chief tries to start smashing bottlenecks.

This experience should be enough to prove, even to national planners, that post-war national economic planning like this is impossible. Our methods of production and distribution are like a high brick wall built gradually by years of custom and experience in details.

When you try to pull a brick out here and there, you weaken the whole structure to the point where it totters and may fall down upon you and destroy you.

# CONTROL OF PRESS ARGUED IN AP SUIT

NEW YORK, July 8 (AP)—The federal government in its anti-trust suit against The Associated Press is "not seeking to control or regulate the operation of the press of the country," Charles B. Rugg, special assistant to the attorney general, said today in opening arguments seeking a summary judgment in the action.

In asking for summary judgment, the government seeks to have the case decided on documentary presentation without testimony.

Rugg said there were four facts which "have not been controverted" which, he said, were sufficient to make the taking of testimony unnecessary. Rugg listed the uncontroverted facts as:

1. The Associated Press is engaged in interstate commerce.
2. The by-laws of The Associated Press contain a provision making its news service exclusive to its members.
3. That in its 43 years of existence the AP has interpreted these by-laws so as to deny services to non-members.
4. That the AP occupies an outstanding position "in the industry of gathering and collating world news."

"No substantial or genuine issue exists as to the fact that the AP occupies a pre-eminent position in the gathering of world news," Rugg asserted.

Rugg also told the court that the contract of The Associated Press and The Canadian Press and the contract by which the AP acquired Wide World Photos, Inc., represent "a combination and conspiracy in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law."

The government, in its suit, charged The Associated Press operated as a monopoly by not making its news reports available to all newspapers wishing to pay a proportionate share of the cost of operations.

## NEWSMAN INJURED BY BUENOS THUGS

BUENOS AIRES, July 8 (AP)—Police disclosed that Frank Breeze, 29, of Santa Barbara, Calif., news manager of the Buenos Aires bureau of the United Press, was injured Tuesday night when assaulted by two well dressed, unidentified men.

They said the men followed Breeze for some distance and struck him down from behind with a dull weapon, inflicting a head wound which required eight stitches.

The men fled, they said, leaving Breeze semi-conscious in the street a short distance from his home.

Police said the motive for the attack was not known. Breeze's condition later was described as satisfactory.

## Forest Control of Old Grant Lands Provided in Bill

WASHINGTON, July 8 (AP)—A bill providing for forest service administration of unselected and unpatented odd-number sections of the old Oregon-California reversioned grant lands has been passed by the senate and sent to the house.

The bill, introduced by Senator McNary (R-Ore.) would distribute all revenues from use of the lands according to an act of 1937, which provided a method for reimbursing counties in which the lands are situated for tax revenue losses.

Interior and agriculture departments have clashed for years over the administrative authority.

## SATISFIED

SEATTLE, (AP)—Harry F. Coulson, a sheet metal worker, isn't one to complain about the competence of the helper assigned him at his shipyard job.

The helper is Mrs. Harry F. Coulson.

## Holden Allowed \$15,000 for Libel

SPOKANE, July 8 (AP)—Ashley E. Holden, Spokane newspaper man, was allowed \$15,000 damages yesterday in his \$280,000 libel suit against a magazine distributing company.

A federal court jury deliberated from 4:20 p. m. to 8:50 p. m. in reaching its verdict.

Defendants were the American News company and its Spokane agent, C. A. Hawksley, who were held to have distributed an issue of "Pic" magazine which Holden contended was libelous.

## WRA Subject of Bill To Be Introduced

WASHINGTON, July 8 (AP)—Rep. Thomas (R-N.J.) said today he will introduce a bill to remove administration of the war relocation centers from the war relocation authority to the army.

Addressing Dillon Myer, director of WRA, in a hearing of a Dies sub-committee of WRA's handling of Japanese, Thomas declared:

"It is just a silly social experiment you are conducting." Myer replied: "That is a matter for the chief executive and congress."

# BANDAGE ROOM TO OPEN AGAIN AFTER LAY-OFF

The surgical dressings project work room in Red Cross headquarters on Main street will open Monday, July 12, following a five-day vacation, it was announced by Mrs. Ralph R. Macartney Sr., projects chairman.

Members are urged to return to work and new hands will be most welcome as the group hopes to make up lost production as the result of the five-day much needed holiday.

A request was received here this week from the war department asking for the delivery of 45,000 dressings of a new type. The dressings are needed immediately, Mrs. Macartney was advised.

Men's classes will be held Monday night, the women's evening classes on Tuesday and Thursday nights with day classes

as usual. The auxiliary units have had no vacation.

## ECONOMIC WARFARE

TULSA, Okla., (AP)—B. H. Stauffer, Tulsa baker, says adults could cut their shoe consumption to one pair a year, by following his example.

He goes barefoot, at home and work, for six months a year.

It's often hard to get away from the easy-to-approach man.

## Copco Reports Increased Income

SAN FRANCISCO, July 8 (AP)—California Oregon Power company reports \$98,464 May net income against \$92,972 for May 1947. Five months net income was \$470,763 this year, \$447,064 last year.

Five months operating revenues rose to \$2,309,332 this year from \$2,293,100 last year.

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## News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

WASHINGTON, July 8—This country has the greatest population of cattle and hogs in all its entire history now, at a time when slaughter houses are going out of business in droves, housewives are unable frequently to get beef and pork at the butcher shop, and the value of beef rationing points had to be increased by the government because of shortage.

The cattle population is about 78,000,000, and hogs 73,000,000, both more than enough to furnish half a cow and half a hog for every man, woman and baby in the United States. The cattle population is 3,000,000 over last year and 12,000,000 above normal (1939), while hogs actually are 13,000,000 above last year and 23,000,000 above the same normal.

The enigmas of why you cannot often get the minimum rationed amount is generally attributed to administrative inefficiencies—or, as a Norwegian farmer put in a letter to Senator Shipstead "too much forth and back talk in Washington."

But no one seems to have explained in simple, unargumentative language just what has happened so the public can understand it. Take beef for instance. Messrs. Prentiss Brown and Jesse Jones announced weeks ahead that roll-back subsidies would be paid to processors to inspire meat production beginning June 15. The government would pay the meat packers a bounty out of the treasury so they could pay the farmer more and thus induce the farmer to send more meat to market.

But when June 15 arrived, the government forms which the packers were to fill out to get this money, not even had been printed and distributed by the government. These have been printed by now, and partly distributed, but the uncertainty as to congressional approval of the subsidies scared the packers out of increasing the price to the farmer.

Indeed, the price of beef fell \$1 to \$1.25 per hundred pounds about three weeks ago, and the farmers naturally are sending fewer and fewer cattle to market. (Total price has been \$16 or \$17 on high grades). The packers themselves are frozen against a fixed ceiling price of meat and, therefore, cannot pay the farmer enough to bring in the cattle.

Frequently of late, little items have appeared in the newspapers about packing plants here