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By PAUL MALLON

By KELLY ROBERTS

Today's Roundup

STATEHOUSE, Salem, Ore. (Special Correspondence)—In the humorous by-play that affords relief from the serious business of law-making here, the Klamath county community of Henley is getting more than its share of attention.



EPLEY

Henley is the home of Klamath's senior legislator, Henry Semon. Always listed as from Klamath Falls—now identified as a village eight miles north of Henley—Rep. Semon has become acutely Henley-conscious this session, and legislative circles have become interested.

Land Issue

DISTRICT ATTORNEY CLARENCE HUMBLE of Klamath county joined the little band of Klamathites gathered in this neck of the woods. It was not a desire for a pay raise (though he thinks he'll get a boost from \$3000 to \$3600 out of a general district attorney's salary bill) that brought him here.

This proposal would require the federal government to get approval from the state, and the county affected, before acquiring land in Oregon. This harks back to the fight over land exchanges between Shevlin-Hixon company and the forest service of a year or two ago.

Mr. Humble says that Klamath county's valuation has been falling, causing increased tax rates, and that a factor in recent valuation declines has been the loss of Shevlin-Hixon property exchanged with the federal government. He contends that the county's consent should be necessary before any land is removed from its tax rolls because of transfer of ownership to the federal government, which already owns a huge slice of tax-free lands in Klamath county.

Briefs From The Pocket File

SENATE PRESIDENT MARSHALL CORNETT took one look at the flaming red furniture in the new senate lounge, and the gleaming white refrigerator, and ordered the whole business moved out. . . . More sober furnishings will be attempted to suit the conservative taste of the Klamath senator, who felt the loud and colorful articles were out of place. . . . The house lounge features quieter, pastel shades, and apparently will stay. . . . Circuit Judge David R. Vandenberg will probably get a pay hike from \$6000 to \$8000 in a general circuit judge salary bill. . . . Vandenberg and Humble are paid by the state. . . . Former Klamath County Legislator and House Speaker Harry Boivin just hiked through the house corridor. . . . Rep. Rose M. Poole of Klamath county is one of three women in the house. . . . She has a reputation for level-headed legislation and conscientious committee work. . . . Legislators generally beef about the maze of halls and stairways and the inadequate committee rooms in the Oregon capitol, but no one can belittle the beauty of the place without getting an argument out of us. . . . We like its clean, gleaming lines (inside and out) and the general impression of airy beauty that prevails in the central rotunda and the legislative halls.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30—The British are said to be the smartest diplomats in all the world, but this has not been said much lately.

The foreign minister, Mr. Bevin, has had a tussle with Pravda and/or Stalin the past few weeks, which may cause some revisions of opinion on that subject. Mr. Bevin's retund philosophy of foreign policy was being hard pressed at home by certain rowdies in the ranks of his socialist labor party who claimed he was too close to the United States. They wanted a more pro-Soviet or anti-American policy. So Mr. Bevin made a speech. He said Britain is not tying herself to anyone—just like that, not tying herself to anyone.

Imagine Mr. Bevin's chagrin and surprise when criticism of his remark, came not from America, not even from his own rowdies, but from that great international mind which knows all, sees all, but does not tell very much—Pravda. Now Pravda said Bevin's remark renounced and repudiated the British mutual aid pact with Russia. Mr. Bevin must have lost five pounds or more when he read that for he did an unexpected if not unheard of thing. He wrote Stalin. He sent an official note denying the Pravda interpretation of his own remarks. He assured Stalin he had no such thing in mind, a plea which was not hard to believe because no one else thought so. He had not even been talking about being tied to Russia but answering complaints that he was tied to us.

It would require a British sense of humor to understand how Bevin could possibly have taken the Pravda accusation seriously. But he did in the note, saying his observation had been "lifted out of context" and "distorted" which indeed it had been—both.

Shades Of Siberia

NOW do not go away, kiddies. Here the story just starts to become interesting. Pravda, which sees things no one in the entire world can see, came right back at the poor misunderstood (?) Mr. Bevin and said he was wrong in interpreting his own speech. Bevin did not know what he meant by his own remarks, said Pravda, and added: "This cannot be denied."

Well Stalin denied it—the very same day, (January 23). Shades of Siberia! Spirit of forced labor in the salt mines! The editor of Pravda was denied by Stalin. Gullible as I am, I immediately conjured visions of the whole staff of Pravda being invited by the gestapo to pack up suddenly and ask no questions because they were going somewhere. I know what trouble it is to dispute an editor in a democracy. But for a Pravda editor to dispute Stalin! The contemplation of such an event thrusts me into unutterable sadness.

Anyway, kiddies, the great and good Stalin answered Bevin's alarm, calmed his troubled mind, straightened out his misunderstood spirit, and said Bevin was right in his interpretation—that is, he was right if (printer, please repeat "if"), he changed some of the weakening reservations in the Anglo-Russian treaty. Or perhaps it is not entirely accurate to put it so obviously. What Stalin precisely said was that the weakening reservations should be changed presumably to bring Britain further within the Russian camp, and that Bevin was right, of course, in interpreting his own remarks. Stalin did not mention what reservations. Quite plainly he was dickering for some kind of a better deal for himself.

Point Missed

THE point of the matter may have been lost in the humorless but misunderstood British foreign office—it was not lost in the American state department. The current point of the matter was that a treaty for disposal of Germany is to be drawn up in Moscow in March and the basic question at issue is whether to maintain Germany as a democracy or turn it over to totalitarian communism and how to do either thing. That's the core of all the disputes being stirred in all the anticipating foreign offices. For that Moscow gathering Stalin has now underlined the British position to the point where Bevin is embarrassingly explaining he did not mean what Pravda said he said, but is eager to renew a mutual agreement—one clause of which says Britain is "not to negotiate with any German government for a period of 20 years from 1942 except for German governments which clearly renounce all aggressive intentions." (I bet Pravda will have some fun telling Bevin and the British which German governments are apt to be aggressive, and that none of these are in the Russian-occupied zone but in ours, the French and British).

In short, Russia seems to have the British just about where she wants them—what with Bevin explaining to his own party pro-Moscovites and anti-Americans, explaining to Pravda, explaining to Stalin. Frankly I think he should next write a note to the state department explaining that he has not been trapped by anyone.

Truly, no one is saying currently the British diplomats are the most clever of all the world. And I will be willing to make my usual top wager of 25 cents that the Pravda writer who has now been officially proclaimed to have been wrong, will get a medal instead of Siberia.



"If he asks me how much I make, I'll tell him I make enough so I don't have to worry a lot about my income taxes!"

The World Today

By J. M. ROBERTS JR. AP Foreign Affairs Analyst

The U. S. decision to withdraw troops and abandon mediation as a means of arriving at Chinese unity may put more pressure than ever on the contending factions there.

Some nations, including the United States, have achieved true national unity only after civil war, and that may be China's destiny. But there are forces working against as well as toward it. While they are taking shape U. S. policy may be held in suspension, but Ambassador Stuart will still have some effective tools with which to work.

Economic Aid Needed Chief among them is China's efforts to satisfy us on this score by bringing the non-communist minorities into the government can hardly be sufficient as long as the communists control large and important areas and there is constant fighting. Some sort of compromise with them, therefore, must remain a prime objective for Chiang. Civil war, or even continuance of the present situation, will prevent even a start on his economic program.

On the other hand, while U. S. policy heretofore has been a help to Chiang in many respects, it also has restrained him from an all-out military campaign against the communists. Now that restraint is removed, he is believed to have the edge if full-scale fighting develops. In the face of this the communists may decide that compromise is better than chancing complete defeat. Now they have great power would be able to participate in the government and still keep a certain degree of autonomy. If they fight it out and lose their territory will merely be re-annexed to nationalist China. These are factors which the U. S. can continue to play upon. She may also be aided by a lessening of general anti-foreign sentiment as the troops leave. Their presence had come more and more to cloud the issue.

No Red Implication One thing should be made clear. There is not the slightest indication that Russian criticism had anything to do with the troop withdrawal. It is wholly a matter of dropping a method of procedure which failed to work. With the closing of truce headquarters and the end of the supply problem they created, the troops are not needed. The decision does, however, have an automatic corollary affecting relations with Russia. We seem to be heading for a collision over Poland and the European situation generally. China was the main place where we were open to the accusation—however unjust—that we were doing the same things Russia is doing in countries where

she has troops. At least that talking point has now been removed.

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