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Let Us Have Peace

The United States senate has belatedly and laboriously come to the same conclusion that a majority of the American people reached months ago: That the behavior of Senator Joseph R. McCarthy of Wisconsin has been deserving of condemnation. But the senate has not added to its prestige during the weary months of investigation and debate; and, in its concluding action, actually managed to evade the real issue in McCarthyism.

The blumptious Joe's standing with the public has declined because of his persistent abuse of the investigative power granted him by the senate and his reckless imputation of pro-Communist sympathies to everyone who does not agree with both his views and his methods. The straw that broke the back of public tolerance was the investigation of the dispute between Senator McCarthy and the army. Day after day, the television cameras carried to millions a picture of the Wisconsin senator in action. It was his downfall; and the public reaction was as responsible as any factor in bringing the senate to long last to the point of taking Joe to the woodshed.

Now that the spanking has been administered, what stands officially against Joe McCarthy? Not much. He has been "condemned" for (1) obstructing "the constitutional processes of the senate" by failing to co-operate with and by repeatedly abusing a senate elections subcommittee and its members in their investigation of his financial affairs in 1951-52; and (2) acting "contrary to senatorial ethics and (tending) to bring the senate into dishonor and disrepute" by his attacks on the special committee that recommended his censure. In short: Joe has offended his fellow senators. He has broken the unwritten rules of the club.

But in the final bill of condemnation there is no reference to McCarthy's atrocious conduct vis-a-vis ordinary citizens or anyone outside the senate chamber. His irrelevant attack on the loyalty of a young Boston attorney during the McCarthy-army hearings aroused the TV audience, but the senate found no offense in any of the similar episodes in McCarthy's investigative career. He once said that Gen. George C. Marshall "would sell out his own grandmother for personal advantage." He berated Brig. Gen. Ralph Zwicker on the witness stand as "not fit" to wear the uniform, and later referred to Zwicker as "a stupid, arrogant or witless man."

But the senate overlooked all such extraneous events. Its condemnation was based purely on the code of senatorial courtesies. Senator McCarthy had said the elections subcommittee was "guilty of stealing" and that a member of the subcommittee, Senator Robert Hendrickson of New Jersey, was "a living miracle without brains or guts." He had attacked the select censure committee as "the unwitting handmaiden" of the Communist party, had described its chairman, Senator Arthur Watkins of Utah, as "cowardly" and "stupid," and had referred to the special senate censure session as "a lynch party."

Many senators have used language just as offensive about their colleagues, among them Senator Ralph Flinders of Vermont, whose exchanges with McCarthy set off the train of events that have finally lowered the curtain on the McCarthy-senate follies of 1954. But no current senator has been as abusive of the ordinary citizen as has Joe McCarthy; and it was that fact that really lay behind the determination of a great majority of senators to chastise the Wisconsin maverick. It is to the discredit of the senate that, in so doing, it did not address itself to the real issue, that it did not subordinate its pique over its own ruffled dignity and say to Joe: "Stop bullying American citizens."

It is now up to the senate to set proper standards for its committee investigations and insure that they are honored. Meanwhile, perhaps the rest of us can enjoy a few weeks rest from the din set up on one side by Joe McCarthy and his die-hard supporters and on the other by those who build up McCarthy by ceaseless and strident criticism.

In Tennyson's words: "Beyond these voices there is peace."

Time to Settle O. & C. Case

To one not embroiled in the conflict over the 472,000 acres of "controverted" Oregon & California grant lands within the national forests there appears no sound reason why the case should not be settled at once. Distribution of more than \$7,000,000, on the basis of 75 per cent to 18 western Oregon counties and 25 per cent to the federal government, a sum that has accumulated during ten years of jurisdictional dispute between interior and agriculture departments, should proceed without further delay. The counties are entitled to the money and could use it now.

Last April 30, the circuit court of appeals in Washington, D. C., in a suit brought by Clackamas county, held the controverted tracts to be O. & C. lands and ordered distribution of the escrow funds. Various legal maneuvers by government attorneys have held up final disposition of the suit, however.

In June, congress passed the Cordon-Ellsworth bill, which declared the 472,000 acres to be O. & C. lands and directed that the accumulated and future revenue from timber on the lands be distributed on the O. & C. formula, 75 per cent to the counties and 25 per cent to the federal government. The bill left the lands under forest service administration, however. Distribution under this act has been held up pending settlement of the Clackamas county litigation.

Final settlement to the benefit of the counties could be had either under the court decision, by a consent decree, or under the act of congress, by withdrawal of the law suit.

Clackamas county has raised one point which appears to have merit: If the court opinion is permitted to stand it will help bolster the claim

that the lands are in fact O. & C. lands and may help defeat some future attempt to declare them a part of the national forests from whose timber revenues counties get only 25 per cent. Whatever the merits may be on either side of the argument, all interested parties should get together and settle it once and for all.

New Quarterback for NCC

Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, the Presbyterian church official who was elected the other day as president of the National Council of Churches, used football terminology in his first press conference following the election. He described the council as a Christian team with a winning gridiron strategy. Proper timing, he said, is the guiding rule in extending the church co-operative movement; it is as bad to get ahead of one's interference as it is to let the interference get too far ahead.

It was appropriate for Dr. Blake to use gridiron language, for he once played varsity football himself. Christy Walsh's college football record book shows he lettered at Princeton in 1928.

That was a good year for Blake's team, if that has any significance in his new job. Princeton opened the season with a 50-0 victory over Vermont. It defeated Lehigh 47-0, Cornell 3-0, Washington and Lee 25-12 and Yale 12-2. It lost only to Navy 9-0 and tied Virginia and Ohio State.

Dr. Blake is now playing for a "student body" of 35,500,000 Protestant and Orthodox church members. They'll be looking for a lot of TDs from the new quarterback.

Religion in Politics

For 26 years the Democratic National Committee has chosen, or been told to choose by their presidential candidates, members of the Catholic faith as chairmen. It is a tradition which annoys many Catholics, in that they believe it an admission that the party is unlikely to consider again the nomination of a Catholic for the presidency.

The defeat of Al Smith in 1928, with John J. Raskob serving as national chairman, was followed by a succession of Catholic national chairmen: James A. Farley, Edward J. Flynn, Frank C. Walker, J. Howard McGrath, William M. Boyle Jr., Frank E. McKinney and Stephen A. Mitchell.

As a political device, this appears to have been reasonably successful. But it casts a reflection on the intelligence of Catholic voters which is undesired. One cannot say how a Catholic nominee for president would fare these days. Our impression is that the people of America are more tolerant than ever before in the acceptance of men of all faiths for high office.

The Democratic National Committee meeting in New Orleans today to choose Chairman Mitchell's successor has the opportunity to break a rather irritating tradition. But we doubt it will.

Unanswered Questions

The whole story has not been told publicly in the case of Thomas J. Sheridan, assistant state liquor administrator. The state civil service board, in upholding his suspension for 30 days for accepting, through the hands of another commission employe, approximately \$40 from a distiller's representative to help defray the expenses of his wife's attendance at a convention three years ago, commended his otherwise unblemished record of 24 years in the state police and liquor post.

Mr. Sheridan made a mistake. But it was the kind of mistake which is not barred by law or regulation. The example he unwisely followed, in this single instance, had been established by members and other employes of the liquor commission for many years. This is the practice of liquor industry representatives "picking up the tab" for expenses and entertainment of commission personnel.

The unanswered question, so far as we are concerned, is this: Who is so interested in getting rid of Mr. Sheridan, the commission's chief enforcement officer, and why? It may be recalled that Governor McKay assigned Lieutenant Sheridan from the state police to straighten out matters at the liquor commission several years ago. He is a good policeman and his work has been effective. Whose toes has he stepped on?

We commend the civil service commission for its clear recommendation that the rules against accepting "gratuities" be made positive and unequivocal. In the present instance, we see no justice in making Mr. Sheridan a "fall guy" for a practice which many others have accepted. He should be kept on his present job, without prejudice.

Senator Soaper Says—

Many of mankind's most significant achievements have been the results of errors. And the thought occurs that some of the new automobile color schemes may have been caused by an assembly line mistake which hooked up the front of a red car to the rear of a blue one.

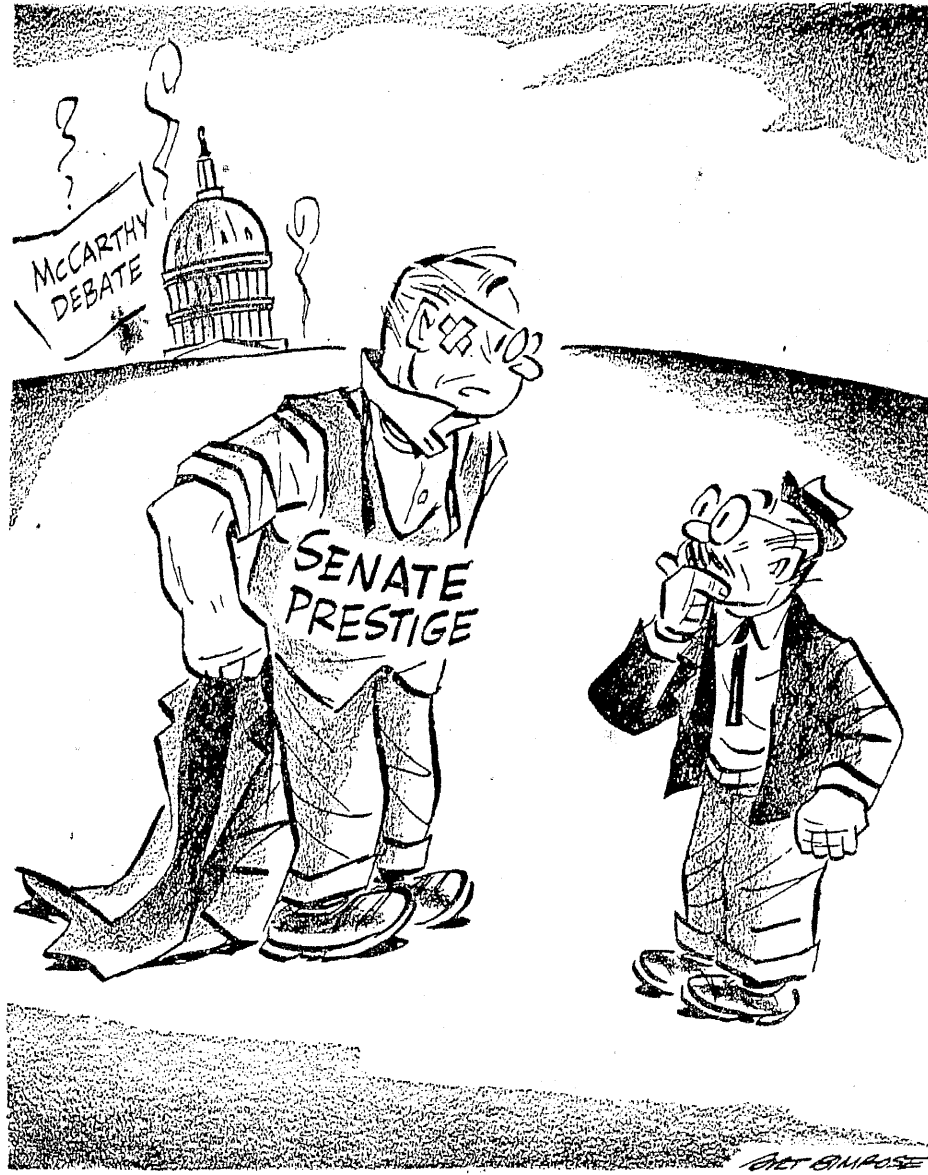
Always interesting are the annual stories of how turkey breeders are improving the festive bird, but they still haven't produced a model with dotted lines on it to match the how-to-carve diagrams.

The omens for 1955 are bright—economic prosperity, forward strides in international affairs and millions of women letting their Italian haircuts grow out.

These hooded headlights on all the new cars add insult to injury by making them look bored while pursuing the pedestrian.

"Co-existence" means different things in different countries. Like coffee.

'Well, How Do I Look?'



—The People's Own Corner—

FISH OBSTACLES

To the Editor: I note in a news item published in Sunday's Oregonian that the Oregon fish and game commission joined hands in "removing a seven-foot-high dam which had obstructed migratory fish for the past ten years . . . on Bear creek, a tributary of the Salmon river, near the town of Rose Lodge."

Oregon citizens should ask themselves why this dam was allowed to obstruct the passage of spawning fish for a period of years, on the major spawning tributary of one of our finest coastal fishing rivers. I personally notified the fish and game commissions, the Oregon state police and the governor of the state, of this obstruction five years ago. Getting no action in the matter, I organized the Salmon River Sportsmen's club, which is still active, in an effort to bring more pressure to bear on this and other menaces to coastal river fish runs.

The Oregon fish and game commissions are to be congratulated on their recent action. Yet we should ask in all fairness, why their action came so late? It takes far less than ten years of stream obstruction to kill runs of steelhead, and silver and chinook salmon. Other obstructions to fish runs exist in the state at the moment. One of these is at the Lafayette locks dam on the Yamhill river. Hundreds of thousands of salmon fingerlings have been planted in the Yamhill above this dam. How are they going to return? Are we going to continue to act too late?

FRANCIS H. AMES,
6021 S. E. 49th avenue.

PAGAN YULE

To the Editor: I read with interest the letter entitled "Fight With Christ" by D. Serres. My interest, however, stems from a knowledge of what Christmas really is, and not with a desire to make Christ a part of it.

The 25th day of December is not His birthday, nor are the customs followed thereon, Christian customs. The custom of Christmas was known as the Saturnalia 2000 years before Christ was born.

It was engaged in by the sun worshippers in honor of the birth of Tanumus, who was supposed to be Nimrod reincarnated, and was worshipped as the son of the sun god. These customs included the giving of gifts, the evergreen tree, the yule log (which means sun log) and the mistletoe. Only Santa Claus and the name Christmas has been added.

The date of Christ's birth is not revealed to us, and for good reason. He wants to be worshipped as the eternal God, not as a mere man. When the wise men took gifts on their visit to the manger it was not to

honor His birth but to honor Him as king.

It would be very nice if we would honor Him by giving Him gifts, but it is not very honoring to claim to worship Him by trading gifts back and forth, and especially on a day related so closely to heathen idolatry. As for me, I can get along without Christmas, but if you must celebrate it, please leave my Lord out of it. I believe that the most effective weapon against communism is practicing love and truth, not engaging in customs based on pagan myths.

BYRON S. OWEN,
Box 2677, Portland.

'NO GOLDBRICKS'

To the Editor: I hope the building trades bosses don't overlook this one. Sixty-five industrious, reliable and steady men—none of whom is afraid of hard, dirty work—are being released by the city of Portland to "balance the budget."

No common workers, these, for the loafers, goldbricks and their like have already been weeded or have voluntarily quit for more choice working pastures, as production pressures have increased in the past two years.

These are men who have taken the worst that the city of Portland public works departments had to offer in such jobs as sewers, ruddy waterworks trenches or streets and bridge maintenance. They have tackled and stuck to jobs that many Portlanders would have had to be plenty hungry to consider.

The skills involved are equal to those required in heavy highway construction, building, plumbing or other industry. Many dollars have been saved the city by the individual efforts of these men on their daily tasks.

I am not one of the 65, but I have seen enough of these men on the job to recommend them as competent and dependable producers who are a credit to any organization. They deserve a break.

ART WINTLE,
P. O. box 3725, Portland.

EARLIER LINE

To the Editor: I noticed an editorial a few weeks ago regarding the center line at the Mosier tunnel on the Columbia river highway.

The Mosier tunnel was not completed until about 1920.

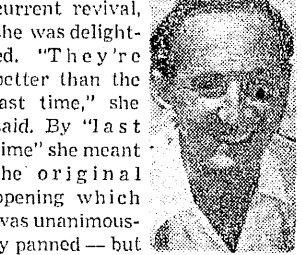
The first yellow center line ever painted on pavement was done under the direction of the writer, below Crown Point on the Columbia River highway, in April, 1917. Later the same year, this line was continued west of Crown Point.

PETER V. REXFORD,
Captain (Retired),
Multnomah County
Sheriff's Office,
1200 S. E. 162d avenue.

In and Out of the Lyons Den

—BY LEONARD LYONS

NEW YORK—When Anne Nichols, author of "Abie's Irish Rose," read the unenthusiastic notices on the current revival, she was delighted. "They're better than the last time," she said. "Last time" she meant the original opening which was unanimously panned—but established a long-run record for Broadway, and netted her \$5,000,000.



The show survived its first week, in those dark years, because of a gamble by the manager. Although only eight seats had been sold for the second performance, he turned away 40 customers and told them, "Sorry. We're sold out." Forty customers represented only \$100 at the box office. But 40 people,

spreading the word that tickets were difficult to get, started a chain reaction of orders. Customers always want tickets to a show they hear is a sellout.

Charlie Washburn, the press agent, was Miss Nichols' advance man for the show's tour. She fired him after the Chicago opening because, Thanksgiving day, he wrote an ad for the local papers: "If You Haven't Had Your Turkey at Home, Come and See 'Abie's Irish Rose!'"

There was a front-page photo showing Clark Gable dancing with Marilyn Monroe at the Hollywood party in her honor. They were seated at the same table, at that party, and Gable first danced with all the other ladies. "I wonder if he'll ask me," Miss Monroe whispered to a companion. "Gable. Clark Gable. All the dreams of my youth. Gable . . . But the actor had to be nudged into asking her to dance. He hesitated, he confessed, because he was shy,

News Appetite Unsatisfied By Official 'Handout' Diet

—BY MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON—Among the working reporters in Washington there is a growing concern over what appears to be a concerted effort to suppress legitimate news and with a system of rewards and punishments to see to it that only news which is favorable or reported in a favorable light is given to the public.

Partly this is a carry-over from the big and little wars of the past 15 years when propaganda was an instrument of warfare. Partly it reflects the tensions of the cold war and the continuing struggle with Communist imperialism. It reflects also the general climate of caution and conformity evidenced by the orders issued at West Point and Annapolis forbidding debating teams from the academies to debate the subject of recognition of Red China.

Recently in testimony before the Jenner subcommittee investigating "interlocking subversion in government" Gen. James A. Van Fleet attacked the integrity of an able reporter, Homer Bigart of the New York Herald Tribune, who has a reputation both as a Washington and a war correspondent for digging to get the story behind the official handouts.

The Jenner committee has just released the printed text of the Van Fleet testimony. Bigart was covering the struggle in Greece to suppress Communist guerrillas when Van Fleet was head of the American aid mission there.

"Mr. Homer Bigart was one of the American correspondents in Greece at the time," the general testified, "and Mr. Bigart seemed to sympathize greatly with the Communist cause in Greece, the guerrilla cause, perhaps thinking they were the underdog or were helping the underdog. Actually, they were the dirty dog rather than the underdog; but perhaps his views were honest."

Then with Senator William E. Jenner, Indiana Republican, in the chair and Senator Olin D. Johnston, South Carolina Democrat, as the other member present, this exchange took place:

The chairman: Were his views in line with our foreign policy at the time?

General Van Fleet: I would say "No." It was a very harmful criticism which he made of our efforts in Greece. Then he finally entered the guerrilla territory through Yugoslavia and spent some time with the Communist guerrillas in northern Greece and eventually came through the lines and surrendered to an American advisory group with a Greek national unit. I thought the whole episode was wrong.

Senator Johnston: Was he ever tried?

General Van Fleet: No, he was not. He wrote quite a story about his experiences.

Senator Johnston: Who had the authority to try him at that time?

Gen. Van Fleet: I do not suppose anybody had unless it would be this committee, with new legislation.

Bigart's stories were an effort to present the true picture behind the Communist line. He had obtained his factual material at considerable risk and at the cost of no little hardship. Able American correspondents abroad have consistently tried to report the facts even when cautious diplomats and generals with extraordinary authority were putting out an official "line."

One of these is Keyes Beech of the Chicago Daily News, whose recently published book, "Tokyo and Points East," tells of the remarkable propaganda machine that functioned for General Douglas MacArthur both during the war in the Pacific and later in the occupation of Japan. The whole tenor of the releases from MacArthur's headquarters during the occupation, according to Beech, was to show that Japan had been transformed into a successful and flourishing democracy.

"Any correspondent who dared to criticize MacArthur or his works," Beech writes, "and the correspondents were the only people in Japan free to criticize," was called a "petty carper" or something worse. I was often called something worse."

The attitude in Washington, as working reporters see it, is to keep back news except for what is put out in official handouts. This is not in itself new, but the effort seems to be to clamp the lid tighter than ever before in peacetime.

Then when it cracked, as in Chalmers Roberts' story in the Washington Post and Times Herald telling how President Eisenhower overruled a three-to-one national security council decision to forbid bombing on the China mainland, there is widespread consternation and an effort to clamp the lid all the more tightly.

Demos Seek New Chairman

—BY DORIS FLEESON

NEW ORLEANS—For the first time since 1912 the Democratic national committee confronts a free and open election for national chairman. At stake is control of the national convention arrangements in 1956. Perhaps it is only that they are out of practice at making up their own minds but the committee members at this point are acting decidedly glum about their glorious opportunity.

Apparently there is no out for them. Time was when strong presidents, aspiring titular leaders and a powerful handful of city bosses made it all so easy but all, all are gone, the old familiar faces.

The only really relaxed politician around is the present chairman, Stephen Mitchell. He's leaving. He has put the freeze on a draft or even a temporary extension of his tenure though he appreciates the compliment, especially as national chairman usually gets more invitations to go than to stay.

Adlai Stevenson is holding back from the assertion of his powerful influence. He is, one friend put it, still at the wrothy stage about a chairman.

The party's only living ex-

president has sent a typically jaunty and realistic message to Mitchell.

"Let the river take its course," said Harry S. Truman. "Make the committee vote it out. They'll do all right."

This same New Orleans meeting will also write another chapter in the struggle over the loyalty oath which caused so much clamor and confusion at the 1952 convention.

Mitchell conceived the plan by which he hopes to resolve that dispute and prevent it from re-emerging. He has appointed a committee of 70 influential Democrats to draw up the rules for the next convention, and it too will meet here.

Its object is to wipe the slate clean and also to modernize convention procedures so they will look somewhat more sensible and tidy when they hit the nation's television screens.

The committee is widely distributed geographically and an effort was made to include all of those on both sides who participated in the loyalty oath fight in any significant way.

The members appointed last September asked Mitchell to be chairman. He solemnly selected Senator Hubert Humphrey, the articulate liberal from Minnesota, and Governor John S. Battle of Virginia as vice chairmen. According to Mitchell, they are getting along fine.

Mitchell has told the group frankly that he believes the party's best campaigning is done at its convention. He explains that especially with TV, it is the best opportunity to get the opposition's customers to look at what you are doing.

He will concede that the loyalty oath, as it developed in the emotional atmosphere of '52, hurt the party. But he recalls, too, that it had a valuable purpose which was to make sure that the names of the Democratic candidates got on the Democratic ballot under the Democratic symbol. This was not done in several southern states in 1948.

Mitchell's hope is to get the new rules shaped and adopted by the national committee before the next presidential year rolls around.

MOUNTAIN MUSIC

To the Editor: The "Railroad Noise" letter this morning brings lots of memories back to many of us.

In a big city any sound is noise. But up on the big beautiful river called the Deschutes, where stars are the size of a dinner plate any night, the steam engine whistle is music.

Far away is the lonely, pleading, and sometimes downright insistent too. Around the bend flashed a huge headlight that lit the whole countryside. Mom would give them the "highball"; they answered and roared by. What a thrill! Around the next bend, quick as a flash, they gone. Then, the lonely coyote howl.

What an experience. Music, I call it.

MRS. S. B. FITZGUGH,
4602 S. E. Rex drive.

'HORRIBLE JUNK'

To the Editor: The grown-ups are always talking about the younger generation reading these horrible, sickening, filthy comics. But I wish a few grown-ups would look around and see who buys these comics. You say the teen-ager? Oh, no. Not just the kids buy them but also the parents give money to the kids to buy these horrible comics for themselves.

It appears to me that a few grownups had better practice what they preach.

Have you ever noticed the sexy magazines for "adults only" on the newsstands?

I think a good way to get rid of these filthy books on the street corner is to boycott every place that sells such horrible junk for the grownups and the kids alike.

I also think every parent, teacher and any other grownup ought to set an example, which might help.

DRAKE MOORE (15),
Box 187, Depoe Bay.

Quiet, Please

