

LAS VEGAS AGE

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Gestapo Is Here

The seizure of the Montgomery Ward store in Chicago by the attorney general of the United States who invoked the power of the army to carry out his decrees, brings the people of the United States face to face with the grim reality that gestapo methods are no longer a threat—the American gestapo is here.

The word of the dictator is supreme. America no longer is ruled by law but by decrees carrying out the personal whims, or prejudices, or political policies of those clothed with power by the administration.

This dictatorial power is exercised not alone by those high in government places, but by even the petty officials of the thousands of minor committees in communities throughout the United States.

An outstanding example of this is the interference of the Office of Defense Transportation with the efforts of the Anderson Dairy of this city to operate its business strictly according to the dictates of the authority and at the same time to provide convenience to its customers.

To save gasoline and tires the original edict went out that but four deliveries a week could be made. That edict was accepted by all the dairies in good faith, even to the serious inconvenience of many customers.

Anderson Dairy recently in addition to its deliveries by motor vehicles four times a week as designated by the ODT, harnessed Old Dobbin to the little old-fashioned delivery wagon and started using that outfit to augment its service and, probably, to reduce its consumption of gasoline and rubber.

In steps ODT with an arbitrary order—"Deliver only four times a week." The justification of this order was that other dairies using motor vehicles only could deliver only four times a week.

This it appears to the average citizen is an arbitrary, unjustified use of assumed authority. In the opinion of those desiring to perpetuate the American system of business, the ODT should have said, "Fine work! You have to feed Old Dobbin anyhow, so make him do some useful work to justify his existence. If those other dairies want to put their horses to work it is their own business. Just so they do not transgress the clear object of the ODT regulations, which are to conserve gasoline and rubber, we will encourage every attempt to give additional service under these repressive regulations."

Republican Unity

Unlike the democratic party, which is split into factions by the defection of those who still believe in representative government and the American way of life, from the fallacies of the new deal, there is unity in the republican party.

Even in the minor differences of opinion on the best ways to accomplish this or that, republicans are united in the ambition to nominate an able executive who is not the child of nightmare dreams, for president of the United States. Whatever may be their personal preferences as between this candidate or that, once a nomination has been made the republican party will be a unit behind that nominee.

Of course the fact still remains that, while a large faction of the democratic party is bitterly opposed to new deal policies and all they stand for, some of them are so far subservient to political interests that they will vote for the fourth term candidate. It is evident, nevertheless, that there will be enough of sane, patriotic Americans among those registered as democrats, to elect a republican president and put a stop, for the time at least, to the tendency to destroy the American way of life for which our boys in the service are fighting.

In Hollywood

By ERSKINE JOHNSON
NEA Staff Correspondent

A girl gets to know how to handle wolves in Hollywood, but lions, Leslie Brooks said, were out of her line.

They were going to introduce Leslie to the lions at 2:23 p. m. And, naturally, she was a little worried.

Someone in the studio publicity department had dreamed up the idea of having Brooks pose for some pictures with Clyde Beatty inside a cage full of lions as a "special added attraction" to the Russell Bros. Circus. Beatty had assured everybody that the cage was safer than a night club dance floor on a Saturday night. Being a cooperative soul, Leslie agreed to the stunt.

We had looked up Leslie after seeing "Cover Girl." She had given a mighty fine acting performance in another curvaceous meanie role. But we didn't expect to be lurching with a young lady about to keep a date with some lions.

Everything turned out all right, though. The lions, Leslie reported later, were more docile than some Hollywood wolves she had met. The photographers snapped their pictures and nobody got hurt.

Weary of Meanies

Her role in "Cover Girl," she said, was the best she had received in three years of the movie wars. But she was getting weary of playing meanies.

"Let's face it," she said. "There are meanies—but the girl can still be nice."

Leslie has been very, very bad in her last dozen movies. In fact, even her family has taken to calling her "Stinky Mae." But things are a lot better now, Leslie had to admit, than when her hair was brunet instead of blond. Her name was

U. P. Anniversary

Next Wednesday, May 10, 1944, will mark the 75th anniversary of an event which has had a profound influence in the development of the west. On May 10, 1869, the tracks of what was then but the embryo of the great Union Pacific Railroad System which we know today.

When the golden spike was driven uniting the railroad track building from the west with that building from the east at Promontory Point, Utah, the hopes of years had been achieved—a transcontinental railroad became a reality.

The development of the Union Pacific down through the seventy-five years since then has become an epochal struggle. It has required strength and courage and vision to build this great system to its present perfection and it still requires the ability and the experience of such great executives as its president, William M. Jeffers, to keep the great system operating and the wheels of its great traffic rolling as it does with the precision of a watch.

Las Vegas owes its existence to the railroad. Its prosperity has been intimately wrapped up in the railroad since the town was born May 15, 1905. It would be fitting if Las Vegas service clubs and other civic organizations, possibly the Hellorado celebration, should see fit to give some joint observance of these two anniversaries.

Autocracy In Power

The fear deep in the hearts of millions of Americans that the new deal administration at Washington would develop into an autocratic system of dictatorship has been justified.

Insidiously dictatorship has grown up and little by little the use of gestapo methods has crept into our system of government. At first there was a desire on the part of the people to overlook and excuse arbitrary methods on the ground of war necessity. In some cases where great and vital war problems were involved stern measures were perhaps justified.

The machinery of government has become complicated and massive. Thousands of authorities, boards and committees have been created for various purposes. Millions of persons never before clothed with authority of any kind have been pressed into government service. It was not surprising that in some cases authority should be abused.

Now, however, we see the ugly monster of gestapo with its fangs bared, tearing at the vitals of the American way of life. The government at Washington, instead of seeking to preserve the rights of the people under the constitution, is backing with all its power, including the military, the very forces which threaten to destroy America.

More Bureaucracy

Democratic leaders in the congress of the United States and in all walks of life throughout the nation loudly decry the grabbing of power and the growing despotic rule of "bureaucracy," and the tendency of the administration at Washington to "regiment" the country.

Which has a fine sound in the ears of those who would preserve the form of government under which the United States has grown to greatness.

The odd thing is that democratic leaders such as the distinguished Senator Alben Barkley, democratic party leader in the United States senate, will roundly denounce the new deal administration for its destructive policies and then turn about and support President Roosevelt who is directly responsible for the things which he, Senator Barkley, so vigorously condemns.

Lorraine Gettman and she was one of the "Navy Blues" sextet at Warner Bros.

All she did was pose for "cheesecake" and tour the nation's theater stages to ballyhoo "Navy Blues." The tour was very dull, she remembered.

It was after this publicity tour that she changed her name and the color of her hair and signed a new contract at Columbia studio. They put her into hosiery shows at first, then graduated her to meanie roles.

Now, as a result of "Cover Girl," there's talk of stardom. At the moment she's co-starring with Steve Crane, the gentleman Lana Turner doesn't want but Columbia studios does, in some dramatics no one will ever see. Leslie and Steve take dramatic lessons together every day. It's part of Crane's pre-camera work before Columbia casts him in a picture.

He's going to be a great actor," Leslie said. "He knows how to handle lines and he knows what it's all about."

A "Killer" Model

Leslie hails from Lincoln, Nebraska, and spent much of her childhood with grandparents who ran the hotel at Crofton, Nebraska. She went to school in Omaha and Hollywood. She first attracted Hollywood's attention as a model by her portrayals of beautiful killers for the covers of sundry horror magazines.

Her horror prop on these occasions was a dagger dripping with blood. The dagger was real; the blood, ketchup.

Leslie has a slender, shapely figure which draws low whistles from discerning males. She looks well in slacks and wears them a lot. In fact, she looks good in almost anything, including a lion's cage.

Roger W. Babson

BABSON PARK, Mass., May 6—There are more than 35,000,000 families in the United States. Statisticians believe that some 65 per cent of these families will be heavy spending as soon as the German phase of the war is over. People have accumulated the funds with which to make very substantial purchases. Most articles will be bought to replace present equipment.

Automobile Outlook

Just when the automobile companies will be able to again manufacture passenger cars is not now known. The chairman of the board of one of the largest companies in the industry recently said that his company originally based its plans on the assumption that the German war would end in November. Recently, however, the directors of this company have revised their time schedule. They do not now believe the war will be over in November.

Customers for new cars should not expect new models. Cars will continue what would have been the 1942 models plus a few refinements. Trucks for civilian use will be available before passenger cars. I anticipate that at least 3,600,000 families will be in the market for new automobiles. This does not include cars sold for export, used cars or cars purchased on a wholesale basis for sales forces. These families will spend at least \$3,300,000,000 for new cars just as soon as they can be delivered.

Household Appliances

This market includes all of the varieties of household equipment commonly in use, such as electric irons, sewing machines, vacuum cleaners, washing machines, stoves, radios, refrigerators, fans, garbage disposal units, lamps, carpet sweepers, mangles, electric toasters, etc. 13,750,000 families will want some kind of mechanical refrigerator and possibly 2,500,000 radios will be purchased.

A potential market, in excess of \$1,200,000,000, therefore exists for household appliances. This does not include household equipment for apartments, for commercial use or for export. In connection with the sale of such articles, the sales forces of dealers and distributors will greatly be increased. For the small businessman, the merchandising of household appliances may offer an attractive future.

Home Furnishings

Many items in this category, such as floor coverings and furniture, have not been restricted during the war. To some extent, families have been able to keep abreast of the replacement demands and buy some new articles. Home furnishings, therefore, will not enjoy the postwar demand that the more restricted metal and rubber consumers goods will have.

Nevertheless, nearly 6,500,000 families will buy furniture, rugs, carpets and/or linoleum along with lamps, glassware, curtains, draperies and household linens. Most of the thousands of couples who have been married during the war have not yet had an opportunity to furnish their homes. Furthermore, there may be a sharp rise in marriages after the war which should mean several hundred thousand more customers.

What About Building?

Within six months after the war is over and materials are available, at least 1,500,000 families should be in the market for a new home. Nearly 25 per cent of these will not spend more than \$3,500 for a house. A little more than 25 per cent will be able to spend up to \$5,000. There is where the big market exists for pre-fabricated houses, provided manufacturers can get their costs down.

Some 40 per cent of the families will be able to spend more than \$5,000 on a new house. At the moment, the big real estate market is in homes costing less than \$10,000. After the war before inflation sets in a good deal of house should be possible at around this figure. The trend is away from the larger type of house. More household conveniences and better utilization of space should enable even large families to live comfortably in smaller houses.

Farm Improvements

A big postwar market exists for repairs and improvements in existing farm structures. Such improvements would include interior and exterior painting, insulating, new plumbing and bathrooms and general remodeling. Kitchens will be modernized and much new heating equipment installed. Over 10,000,000 urban and rural families are almost certain to make some kind of improvements or repairs to their homes in the postwar era. To do this, they will spend close to \$8,000,000,000.

Finance Companies

Most families will not pay cash for the above-described items. The habit of installment buying, while deplorable, is firmly engendered in the American people. Consequently, the outlook for most credit and financing companies should be bright. But for the same reasons the country will be headed for another depression after this spending and borrowing period is over.

As You Might Say—

Well, the money experts came out yesterday with a plan for stabilizing world currency, the only thing I could understand about it was they were talking about gold, that is the stuff we mine out of the ground to put back into the ground. . . . Now I've got a better idea that will solve the money problem and the postwar unemployment problem, too, all at the same time. . . . Let's have Morgenthau's men take all the gold bricks at Ft. Knox and start burying them in the dark of the moon in different places all over the country. Then we'll get up a huge treasure hunt and pay everybody who wants to hunt gold for the government, with federal notes based on the gold they are going to find, maybe. . . . If they don't find it quickly they keep on drawing their weekly salaries like the W.P.A. And if they do find it, Mr. Morgenthau can put it back in the cellar at Ft. Knox and then have his employees hide it again, and the whole thing can start over again. . . . It's better than perpetual motion. . . . Or will I be accused of stealing this idea from Jerry Voorhis and the New Deal?—By Ed Ainsworth, in Los Angeles Times.

Is Ickes Too Tight?

A recent statement issued by Petroleum Administrator Ickes declared that, contrary to the impression held in some quarters, there is no possibility at this time of increasing gasoline supplies for civilian motorists in any section of the country.

When the oil situation first became serious the oil producers stepped up production and the railroad carried as much oil as the government asked for. Even now the Standard Oil company tells the country definitely as though they were divulging a "military secret" that there is plenty of oil now for a thousand years, for military and civilian needs. Ickes says "it ain't so!"

Head and Shoulders Above the Crowd



Victory Garden

By J. H. WITTEW
County Agent

As a means of conserving surplus production of not only Victory Gardens, but also that of all production that becomes available for conservation, the Nevada University has secured the services of Mrs. Willa W. Bowman, graduate of West Virginia University to promote a thoroughgoing program of conservation during the current months of May and June.

Much emphasis has been placed upon the seasonal surplus of many of our vital food supplies. As a result, an unjustified optimism exists regarding surpluses. As a matter of fact, there is nothing to indicate that the critical shortage of basic food stuffs will be alleviated until several years after victory. Good authority advises that 1944 will see a big demand for foods of all kinds. Civilian supplies of canned vegetables for civilian use in 1944 will be less, as a whole, and it does not seem possible that we can let down on gardening or home processing.

Our army quartermasters corp is doing the seemingly impossible task of supplying more than 50 battlefronts from the frozen Arctic to the steaming jungles of New Guinea, India and Africa; in Italy; and sooner or later, throughout the globe. We have the longest lines of communication ever attempted, and for the largest army in the history of our country. Millions of meals are being served daily on land and sea, and adequate food supplies are being supplied our armed forces under situations not thought possible heretofore.

Reports from Extension Agents throughout the state indicate that the farmers of the state are meeting the Victory Garden challenge. They not only propose to raise as many gardens as last year, but to increase the volume of production.

According to Mrs. Bowman, though emphasis has heretofore been placed upon growing Victory Gardens, it now becomes of prime importance to plan conservation of all the surpluses for out of season use.

"The first step in this preparation for conservation," says Mrs. Bowman, "is to get all equipment in readiness. A plan should be made for the kinds and amount of food to be stored. An inventory should be taken of containers and lids on hand. Additional ones should be purchased now if needed to complete the plan set. Delay in purchasing cans and lids until the season starts will often result in the loss of sizable quantities of foodstuffs as these items are sometimes unobtainable during the canning season."

ADVENTURE AHEAD

One of the most striking chapters in the great pioneering drama of the United States was written in the pages of history by a small group of hard riding, straight shooting men who drove lumbering stagecoaches across hundreds of miles of wilderness at breakneck speeds, often under attack by Indians and highwaymen. The arrival of the stagecoach was an event in isolated communities. The words, "Wells Fargo," still bring a thrill to every red-blooded American. Think what they must have meant in the early days to the people who saw them emblazoned on a travel-stained coach as it came thundering down a dusty trail and into town, loaded with news, luxuries and necessities from the outside world!

Today, the descendant of Wells Fargo, the Railway Express Agency, is writing a new chapter in the history of American service industries. More than a decade ago, it took to the air with the inauguration of an Air Express division. It has pioneered air express with the same tenacity and thoroughness that made its stagecoaches famous. By coordinating it with rail express, 23,000 communities having railway express offices are now able to enjoy the benefits of air express.

Washington Column

By PETER EDSON
Las Vegas Age Washington Correspondent

Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes isn't anything more just at present on that trial balloon he recently launched to give ownership of the government's war plants to veterans of the armed services. He doesn't want to get too specific.

If the thing sounds screwy—well, it's a screwy world. But the grateful government gives the veteran bonuses, insurance policies, hospitalization, dependents' benefits, pensions. Why not give them a few shares of stock? Sure. Make budding capitalists out of them and stop a lot of this communistic nonsense.

Maybe Harold has something there. It would solve the problem of what to do with all this surplus property. Simply form a huge stock company, another government corporation, say White Elephants, Inc. The shares would be free. Being free, they would be worthless to begin with, and could be counted on to depreciate from there. The dividends—don't be silly. No government corporation ever paid a dividend.

If the stock were made negotiable, the vets would soon dispose of it at one good combination ham and Swiss cheese sandwich on the dollar. Speculators would soon buy up the stock and get control of the war plants, and the veterans could then march on Washington.

A Legitimate Worry

All kidding aside, this disposal of government-owned war plants is something to worry about. The figures frequently kicked around are that the government has invested \$15,500,000,000 in war plants, private industry having invested \$4,500,000,000 more, bringing the total to a neat 20 billion dollar valuation on all pre-war, privately owned factories.

War Production Board's planning division estimates that 40 per cent of the new plants can be fully used for civilian production, 30 per cent can be used partially, and 30 per cent can't be used for anything but production of munitions. It can be assumed that all of the privately financed plants will go into civilian production for full utilization. Uncle Sam is stuck with the less desirable properties.

One of the little appreciated complications of the government-owned plants is that on over a third of the projects the government does not own the real estate under the plants, just the improvements. For instance, the Ford jeep plant expansions, built at government expense and government owned, are not on government-owned property. Of nearly 1800 Defense Plant Corporation projects, nearly 1000 are in this class.

War Plants Galore

The list and breakdown by industry on the DPC properties, having a valuation of \$7,500,000,000 or about half of the \$15,500,000,000 figure mentioned above, gives a slight indication of the staggering job of property disposal that's ahead:

No.	Project	Investment	No.	Project	Investment
548	Aircraft plants, including parts and engines	\$2,880,000,000	78	Ordnance plants	\$309,000,000
68	Shipyards	151,000,000	68	Shipyards	151,000,000
96	Aluminum	783,000,000	100	Radio and communications	69,000,000
36	Aviation gasoline	175,000,000	166	Steel and iron works	901,000,000
128	Chemicals, including equipment in 68 alcohol plants	92,000,000	68	Synthetic rubber and components	657,000,000
163	Machine tool plants	82,000,000	72	Flying schools	45,000,000
47	Magnesium plants	443,000,000	185	Miscellaneous pipelines, barge lines and guinea pig farms for Public Health Service	419,000,000
62	Minerals projects	157,000,000			

The total number of these projects as of January 1 was 1817; total investment as of that date was \$7,163,000,000. Some of the plants had two or more projects, so the net number is 1788. Largest is an investment of \$200,000,000; smallest, \$400.

Just which would you like to have a share in, under the Ickes plan? The line forms to the left.

Another Draft Question

Something new has been added to the varied policies and pronouncements of selective service. Major General Lewis B. Hershey now says that after the 18-26 and 27-30 age groups have been combed over, army and navy needs will be met by men over 30 not engaged in activities materially contributing to winning the war, or—and here's the new addition—"those who, although engaged in such activities, do so in a half-hearted manner."

What system of fractions will be used to compute the degree of hearty effort? Who will make the decisions? Will every over-30 striker and frequent absentee be automatically drafted? Is military service a patriotic and honorable obligation, or a threat held over a war worker's head?

The general's new order needs some clarification.

Think what you will, but have will enough to keep some of your thoughts to yourself.

Some of the best cooking tips are available now. You'll find them on the end of asparagus stalks.