

Fear of the Truth . . .

FEAR of the truth—in those four words lies the sole excuse for the recent Czechoslovakian imprisonment of William Oatis, Associated Press correspondent.

Oatis, convicted on charges of espionage against the Czech government, was sentenced July 4, to ten years in prison. The sentence will be "commuted" to five years with good behavior.

In a recent broadcast, the Voice of America referred to the conviction as "an awful crime" perpetrated by "Czech stooges of the Kremlin." The charges against Oatis were based on his activities as head of the AP Prague bureau.

What in democratic countries is known as good, objective reporting falls in the category of spying under Czech law.

The radio program and nationally prom-

The man who tries to work all day and all night, too, is not always the fellow who gets the most work done.

inent figures have pointed out the reason why such a government would interpret these activities thusly. It boils down to the basic fear of the truth.

The reason for a government like Czechoslovakia to fear the truth is plain enough. How can the tripe dished out from behind the Iron Curtain stand a chance when set up against accurate news?

And, what's more important, the outward flow of accurate news always leaves at least a chance that truth might seep back into these suppressed countries. That would be disastrous to the devotees of the Kremlin. The only mind that Communism can control is one hamstrung by ignorance.

Should the mass of people in the USSR or any of its satellites find out what freedom is, enjoyed elsewhere in the world, no force could keep them suppressed.

Well might the powers of Communism fear the truth—it will probably be the weapon with which they are to be eventually destroyed.

Even the Russians, we suppose, must be right some of the time, but they certainly go to great lengths to keep it concealed.

Scientific Advances Bring Uncertainty

ONE OF the often-debated questions of today concerns the ultimate product that scientific advance can offer the world. Most especially in these days of uncertainty when threats of atomic bombings and all-out war on a hitherto unequalled scale offer gloomy possibilities for the future, it helps every now and then to sound a note of hope.

Such a note can be found in the words written recently by Bertrand Russell. His words contain, moreover, a basic insight into the only real solution to world conditions of unrest.

Science, says Russell, is capable of offering mankind a greater well-being than has ever been known if three conditions are met: war must be abolished, ultimate power must be evenly distributed and the growth of the population must be limited.

It is in the method of accomplishing these ends that we find Russell's words particularly apt. He says.

"The root of the matter is a very simple and old-fashioned thing, a thing so simple I am almost ashamed to mention it, for fear of the derisive smile with which the wise critic will greet my words.

"The thing I mean—please forgive me for mentioning it—is love, Christian love, or compassion. If you feel this you have a motive for existence, a guide for action, a reason for courage, an imperative necessity for intellectual honesty."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor, The Battalion:

With reference to the letter from Rex E. Hall in your "Letters to the Editor" column; evidently, Mr. Hall is a single, immature boy or man (?) who cannot possibly conceive of the relationship of a man and wife.

True, the part a woman plays at home in the drama of war is greatly discussed, perhaps magnified, but no amount of writing or talking can express the deep emptiness one feels when your spouse is away.

Some may welcome the free moments but those who have

chosen in seriousness and deep love, a partner for life, will only feel loneliness and disillusionment. Mr. Hall may think an article depicting "a woman without a man" a sentimental sob story but if he were mature enough to know real love and not egoism, he would realize Mrs. Castleberry's story is much too true.

The sadness of the story increases even more when you wait the long months filling your time as best you can, temporarily living with hopes for a better future, praying, yes . . . but after all of the empty hours, the dreaded

word comes that those hours will only increase and the sustained vision of "his" return must be abruptly discarded.

May you, Mr. Hall, never have a wife that must live with only memories of a marriage. My husband was killed in Korea.

You may add my story to your collection of sad, sad stories.

Name Withheld by Request

P. S. The Battalion offers some fine articles for "Men"; why not read those and leave the "Women's Column" for us girls?

The Battalion

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions "Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

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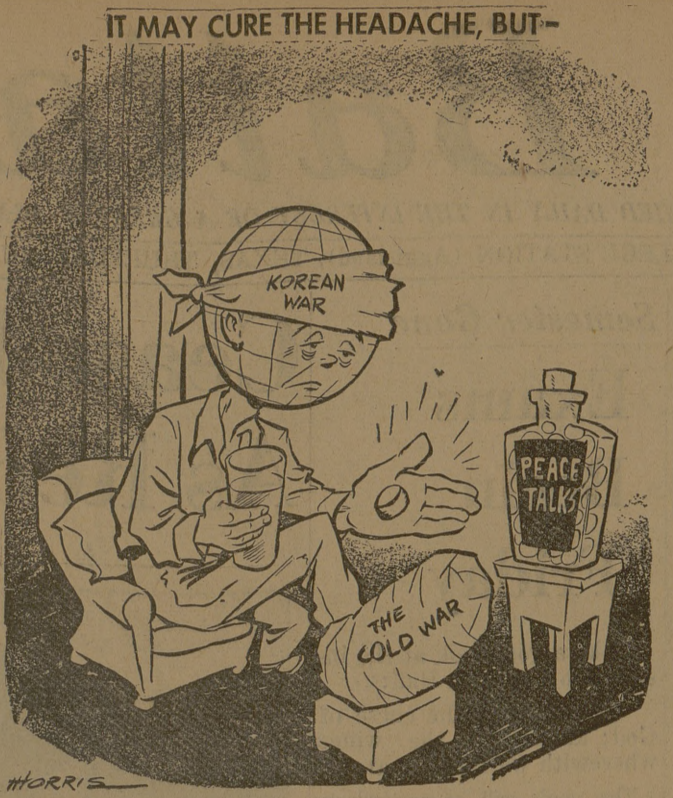
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M. E. Professors Working at Boeing

Eight Mechanical Engineering Professors have been employed this summer by The Boeing Aircraft Corporation, Seattle, Wash., according to C. W. Crawford, head of the Mechanical Engineering Department.

L. P. Thompson, L. G. Berryman, R. L. Acres, J. H. Caddess, Warren Rice, J. C. Wilhoit, R. H. Fletcher, and J. V. Perry will work in the corporation's engineering department. The men will receive an expense-paid round trip by first class air-liner, salaries, and a bonus for work done while on leave from the college.

All of the instructors, except Fletcher and Perry, are accompanied by their families on this working vacation, according to Crawford.

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INSIDE THE WALLS OF FOLSOM PRISON Steve COCHRAN - David BRIAN NEWS - CARTOON

Is B-36 Bomber Obsolete? Committee Seeks Answer

WASHINGTON, July 12—(AP)—Because of recent developments in atomic weapons, the question is being raised in the House Armed Services Committee as to whether the Air Force's global B-36 bomber is obsolete.

It was reliably learned yesterday that the Air Force told the committee that it has only 87 of the Giant inter-continental bombers ready to go into action.

Several committee members were described as "utterly amazed" since it had been believed the Air Force had several hundred.

Bombers "Modernized"

An Air Force representative is reported further to have told the committee that another 65 of the huge bombers are in the process of being modernized with "jet-assists."

The Air Force said it had ordered or received delivery of a total of 170 B-36s. Deliveries were halted for a while to change over from all-piston type engines to a

combination of four jet and six piston engines.

In addition, the Air Force has ordered two new B-36s with swept-back wings.

The committee in closed session is considering the Defense Department's \$6,561,262,000 military construction program for installations at home and abroad.

Of this the Air Force is seeking \$3,580,000,000 and Secretary of the Air Force Finletter indicated that the plan calls for huge expansion of the strategic air command's ground installations.

Number is Secret

Chairman Vinson (D-Ga) said information as to the number of B-36s in the Strategic Air Command is "highly secret."

Several weeks ago when Vinson said that Defense Department representatives would be called before the committee shortly to relate progress in rearmament, Rep. Gavin (R-Penn) demanded that the inquiry include the B-36 program.

Today on the House floor Gavin

charged that production at the B-36 plants in Texas has not been good.

He commented during House discussion on a proposal in the defense production bill that would give the President authority to locate or relocate defense plants.

He said the B-36 plant had been "put down in the heart of the cattle and cow country" where it was difficult to get at needed raw materials and where necessary personnel trained for the work was not readily available.

1950 Defense Act Extended for Year

Extension of the Defense Production Act of 1950 for another year in its present form has been urged by the National American Wholesale Grocers Association, the Houston District Office of Price Stabilization has been informed.

The telegraphed request for the extension has been sent to Congress.

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