

The Kennewick Courier-Reporter

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WEEKEND VIEWPOINTS

By J. W. H.

If David E. Lilienthal is unsuited for the job he holds as chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, he is as unsuited as William J. Bryan was to be Secretary of State in a war cabinet—as unsuited as Neville Chamberlain was to compete diplomatically against Hitler, as unsuited as Franklin D. Roosevelt would have been running a German concentration camp.

If this were a different world than it is—one in which men bent all of their energies only in the direction of good, there would be no question regarding David E. Lilienthal's fitness for the job he holds. Senator Hickenlooper and others who are attacking him know that he would make every effort to make something out of atomic energy that would benefit mankind. They know he would work to have the results of scientific effort for every body. But this is not the kind of a world in which it is safe for some men to be themselves.

Custody of the atomic stockpile is a responsibility which demands at the moment more concern with such things as secrecy and national defense and military advantage than with the humanitarian benefits of people. When the military considerations of atomic energy become incidental, then Lilienthal will be the man for the chairmanship and those who are accusing him, whether they do so for political or patriotic purposes, will stop questioning his fitness. As it is, maybe Lilienthal should resign and use his ability in some other direction where his true qualifications can count for more. Maybe he is too unsuspecting for the job of chairman.

William J. Bryan was an idealist who wanted a perfect currency, who thought you could bring about a strict temperance condition by passing a law. He was the appeaser of the first World War. Chamberlain believed there was good in every human being—even in Hitler. He was willing to stake the fate of the world on the power he saw in a sincere desire to be fair and just to others. Franklin Roosevelt, if he had been offered the choice of being a Himmler or a common refugee, would have stepped inside the barbed wire of the concentration camp. As long as the world does not have the courage and the conviction to throw down its guard and put its trust completely in the power of being right, the nation needs men who can match the cunning of others, who can sleep with one eye open, who can demand that every person who comes within reach of atomic secrets must prove himself not to be guilty. The job that Lilienthal holds may need a man of smaller bore.

State of the community:

Prospects appear to be excellent for the average person living in the Tri-City area. That is so from the standpoint of his opportunity to work at good wages. Although the prospects from the standpoint of living conditions are not quite so good, every able bodied citizen of the community who wants to work can have reasonably good accommodations, including a tight roof over his head, enough heat for fall and winter months, enough food, and ample clothing. Sanitation will not come up to 100 per cent of what should be expected in a community in which prosperity has held sway for a decade. There still will be over crowding. There simply will be too many people living in a given total housing space for some time to come, regardless of the fact that building continues.

The PUD reports that electrical installations are on the increase and have been affected little by the layoff of some 7,000 by General Electric and private employers at Richland and Hanford. The business index remains something of a question mark because of (1) Reductions in employment (2) Uncertainty among those who are employed by wondering whether they will be laid off, and (3) A reduction in the farm income. Little is heard about the farm income factor relating to prosperity but it has always and always will have a direct bearing on spending in this community. Concord grape prices fell sharply last fall. The total net income probably was not more than half the previous year. On top of these developments, the number of retail business establishments in the community increased considerably. The dollar spent is being divided into more parts to go round. Add to this a slackening in the selling effort and you have a defeatist combination. Some merchants are reaching much less than half of all the prospective customers in the community because of their methods of advertising.

Dear Editor:

The danger of a Columbia river flood this season appears to be 99 percent passed. There has been too much of a run-off during the past 14 days with the river at a minimum high, due to cool weather commencing May 15th, which will make it impossible for the Columbia River to regain its punch in 1949. In 1948, I 'guessed' there would be high water in '48 based on a late spring and later warm weather and much rain, though there was not an unusual amount of snow in the mountains, but with a late spring it was bound to turn warm and hasten the melting of the normal snow fall then in the mountains resulting in the '48 flood.

I was old enough to remember the flood of 1894, when the Columbia got some five and a half feet higher than it did in '48. It is reported that the flood of 1833 was somewhat higher than that of '94, the flood of '33 seems to be the earliest report of floods of the Columbia river. Perhaps the Indians paid little attention to any of the early floods as their only inconvenience was to move their camps to higher ground.

In 1894 the weather turned extremely hot in May and all of June and into July and the Snake river rose at the same time as did the Columbia. It may be borne in mind that the Columbia must have the help of the Snake river to put on a really first class show. It is figured that it would take a hundred and seven rivers the size of the Yakima river at flood stage to equal the Columbia river at flood stage.

The late spring of '48, plus much rain set the stage for the '48 flood, even though the mountain snows were no more than normal, so it follows that weather, not the amount of snow in the mountains, governs floods in the Columbia. This year, the stage was all set for trouble, plenty of snow in the low and high mountains, but so far, the weather has intervened. During the past 14 days a tremendous amount of water has gone down the Columbia, and no doubt has broken its punch for '49.

Assuming that it was as long previous to 1833 when another flood occurred as it was from '33 to '94, a total of 115 years in the time of the three floods, or a probable average of 37 years between floods, figured on this basis our chances of escaping a flood in '49 were 57 to 1. The general conditions this season were none too reassuring to those of us who may have flooded out, it all depended on weather conditions and we are accordingly grateful for the past two weeks of cool weather and feel that the Columbia has reached its crest for 1949.

He who can forecast weather conditions may accurately predict Columbia river floods, or their absence.

B. F. Thrasher, Rt. 1
Kennewick

Dear Editor:

For each and every member of the Children's Orthopedic Hospital Board of Trustees, we wish to say "Thank You" to you and to members of your staff, for the very excellent news and editorial space your paper gave to the Hospital's 1949 Penny Drive.

We are all aware of the many drives with their endless demands upon newspapers, and we want you to know how deeply we appreciate your generosity and the continued support of your paper to all Orthopedic events.

Yours very truly
Janet Watson Brady
Public Relations Director



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SCARLET FEVER

Fever, sore throat, headache, and vomiting suddenly overtaking a previously well child suggests the probability that sometime during the preceding week he has been in contact with a person who had either scarlet fever or streptococcal sore throat.

The appearance within twenty-four hours of the characteristic rash completes the picture and we label such a child with the diagnosis "scarlet fever."

Recent studies have indicated, however, that the same disease may occur without the rash. In fact it is not uncommon to see the two conditions coexisting in the family—mother or dad with a sore throat and fever but no skin rash, and Johnny or Susan with the same symptoms plus the rash.

Characteristically, the rash starts at the neck and proceeds rapidly to cover the entire body, leaving only the face clear. After a varying length of time the skin begins to peel, indeed, it may

seem as though the child is acquiring an entirely new skin.

The acute feverish stage does not last long, usually, but strict adherence to a regimen of complete bed rest for a period of at least three weeks is important because of the frequency and seriousness of the possible complications.

Careful tests should be made to assure proper functioning of the kidneys for as long as one to two months after the onset. The glands in the neck are peculiarly prone to become involved and abscesses in the throat are occasionally seen. The heart too may suffer damage necessitating continued rest long after the fever has subsided.

Immunity or susceptibility may be discovered in any individual by means of the Dick Test, in which a minute amount of material is injected into the skin and the subsequent absence or appearance of reaction noted.

While not as universally practiced as some other immunizing procedures active immunization against scarlet fever is an acceptable method of protecting children and other susceptible individuals. The occasional reaction has made this form of immunization less popular than some others. Passive immunity of a temporary nature may be transferred by means of serum from the blood of a person who has recovered from scarlet fever.

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A family reunion was held May 22 at the Roy Larkin home on Columbia Avenue in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Don Larkin and daughter Kathleen from San Diego, Calif.

Guests present: Mrs. Maude Dennis, Mr. and Mrs. Benton Farnam, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Farnam and children, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Farnam and son, Mr. and Mrs. Bowers and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Bud Larkin and children, Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Simmelina and children, and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Kratzer.

There were four groups of four generations and the only relative missing was Mrs. T. G.

Thompson of Richland who is vacationing with friends in Berkeley, California.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Powell of Kennewick, visited at the Ayers ranch last Saturday.

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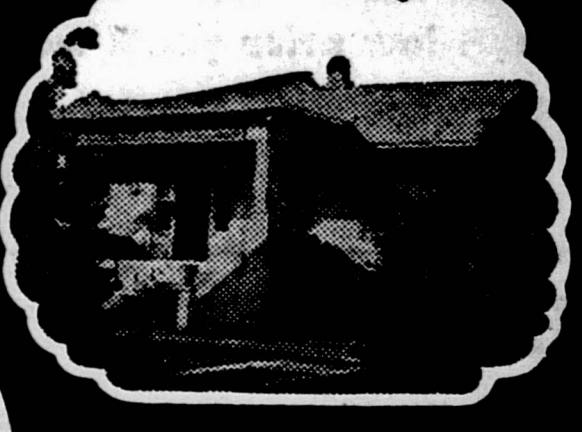


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