

October 1, 1942

#1 Rumor.

The editor of the New West Trade paper Spokane Washington in running an item in his paper, which he had clipped from the Wallace Miner, to the effect that the rubber drive was a Shylock affair, because four firms had received \$1.50 per ton profit, and believing that \$.50 was not so large a profit as to arouse criticism, and hence believing it to be a mistake, he took out the decimal point thus making it appear that the profit was \$150 per ton.

Another Washington paper recopied the item exactly as it appeared in the Spokane paper, crediting it and the Spokane paper to the Wallace Miner, which caused the matter to be taken up by Mr. Dale Strong, publisher of the Spokane paper, who published a retraction on September 19, 1942, which he entitled " A Retraction and an Apology".

Journal Editorial

Dictated Mr. Robinson

October 1, 1942

Rumor #2.

At the City Club on September 18, a non denominational missionary named Bullock addressed the City Club. He was in Hong Kong when it capitulated to the Japs. He made the statement that the British sentries were drunk with liquor supplied by the Japs with the aid of the Fifth Columnists. He said their failure to resist the Japs was due to their drunken condition.

On September 23, phoned Rev Bullock and ask him for the facts. (see attached stenographic report of conversation)

I asked him if he witnessed such conduct on the part of the British soldiers himself and he said "No", that he got it from another missionary, who in turn got it from somebody else.

I explained the harmful effect of reporting such statements and he expressed regret and said that he would not do so again.

This story was started by Rev. Ralph Bullock the missionary who returned from Hong Kong on the Grisholm. He told the story as a definite fact which he had witnessed when he talked to the city club three weeks ago. (Francis)

Dictated Mr. Robinson.

Published Oregonian

First Rumor Spiked

Honor of being Portland's rumor No. 1 went to a story spiked Wednesday by Mr. Robinson, a story saying that the reason Hongkong was captured was because the Japs got the British sentries drunk and then just walked in while the guards were sleeping it off.

"That tale was told and repeated in Portland," Mr. Robinson said Wednesday. "I heard it and I called the man who was reported to have repeated it. He admitted it was hearsay on his part and that he was repeating something he'd heard, rather than something of which he had proof. That's the way all rumors start. Somebody repeats something he overhears and then it's off like a rolling snowball."

On Friday, September 18, Rev. Ralph D. Bullock, recently returned non-denominational missionary, gave a talk before the City Club of Portland. He was present during the battle and surrender of Hong Kong. In the course of this talk, he told how the Japanese agents working through local fifth columnists sold the British soldiers and particularly the sentries large quantities of whiskey at a very low price; that one reason the Japs crossed over on to the island was because the British sentries and other soldiers were drunk, etc.

Mr. David Robinson, member of the City Club, and who was present during Mr. Bullock's talk, followed the matter up in a telephone conversation with Mr. Bullock on September 23, 1942. Conversation taken down in shorthand is transcribed as follows:

DR: Good morning, Mr. Bullock. My name is Robinson, David Robinson. I heard you speak at the City Club last Friday. I am much interested in many things that you said. Of course it was a very serious talk, but particularly I am interested in your statement about the British soldiers getting drunk. Was that in Hong Kong?

B: That was on the Hong Kong island.

DR: Did you have personal knowledge of that?

B: Of course I was not there to see it, but that was one report and I got others from eye witnesses.

DR: But you did not have any personal knowledge of it?

B: No, I did not see it myself. There was one of the British police guards who came into the concentration room at the prison who told himself about another instance of some Canadian soldiers who were sent to a place where they were loading some ammunition near Stanley and the soldiers were so drunk they could hardly load the truck.

DR: Was this supposed to be pretty general among the troops--I mean was drinking so general among the British soldiers as to have been the cause of the defeat?

B: Well, I wouldn't say that. But these were the incidents I was told about and before the war broke out I saw soldiers every night that were drunk and carousing--in fact, one of the officers said as he got on a bus with me - "that's the thing that makes it hard for the rest of us." I was told by those who claim to know first hand that the Japanese got on the island because of it. They had no opposition on account of the drunken sentries.

DR: Who told you that?

B: Some of the men there.

DR: Missionaries?

B: A missionary told me that one of the officers told him--that is a British man told him.

DR: I am interested in civilian defense and enemy inspired propaganda material which helps to create confusion and demoralization. I discussed your statement with others in your audience and they resented it very much. I'm inclined to believe

with them. Repeating material not of your own knowledge can be very harmful in breaking down morale in this country. If we have lack of confidence in our allies and in each other, we are lost. Our enemies are striving to create friction and mistrust among the United Nations.

B: My purpose was a warning to our own troops and people to exercise more self-control.

DR:Well, that is being done by the officers giving instructions to their men. We are far more strict than any other country in the world. I think our standards are pretty high. I think you commit a great error in telling stories like that publicly or otherwise.

B: I'm glad for your advice. Before the war, I saw so much of it there.

DR:There is no defense for such conditions if they exist, but the United States Government is in close touch with the commanders of all the allies and if you have stories like that, you should bring it to the attention of the correct United States officials who in turn will give it through proper channels to our allies.

B: I was not referring to our conditions.

DR:We are going to be so welded together, Britain and the United States must pool their resources of man power and supplies. The fate of both nations and peoples is inextricably entwined. Our cause is one. Anything that affects our allies adversely affects us and vice versa.

B: The papers were telling about the conditions at Pearl Harbor at the time. That was about the same type.

DR:While they were denouncing the officers in charge they were satisfied that the public had been taken into the President's confidence. I don't think there was any question of any drunkenness.

B: I was told they saw in the paper, I believe, or by a letter from somewhere that the night before there was great deal of carousing. The Japanese would sell the whiskey to the troops and that they would not drink themselves because it was poor.

DR:You can have access to the official report and it makes no effort to shield anyone. I do not recall reading any such stuff in the official report of the President's investigating committee.

B: I didn't read the report.

DR:Getting back to your objectionable statement about the British soldiers--now that you have been made aware of the harmful nature of your remarks which you admit were made on hearsay, will you promise to refrain from any such utterances hereafter?

B: Yes, I will. I am glad to know the reaction so that I can speak in a way that will not do any harm because that's not my purpose.

DR:I am glad to know your attitude and to have this assurance. Thank you, Dr. Bullock. Good-bye.

Published October 11 Oregonian.

#3- Tel.

October 1, 1942

That you will never get y ur money back if you buy war bonds and war stamps.

Informant : Mrs. Bessie E. Rapp Route #1, P. O. Box 188 Roseburg Oregon

Notes : Mrs. Rapp states; There is a man here who is doing a lot of talking and a lot of brram I am sure. He goes about telling people not to buy war bonds and stamps or they will not get their money back. That they did that in the last World War. He is married to a lovely lady. She is English. He is surely talking against our government.

Mr. Robinson talked to Mr. Swenson of the FBI Office who stated that this was not a rumor but a statement involving un- American utterances and is something the FBI would handle.

Letter ack October 30-42

PUBLISHED OREGONIAN OCTOBER 11, 1942

#4- Tel

October 1, 1942

That Queen Wilhemina- ran away from her people in their greatest moment of distress.

Informant : Anonymous; addressed to Rumor Clinic and sent by Tom Humphrey of Oregon Journal.

Notes; Informant wants to know if this is true or false?

Facts : Straight Nazi propoganda. The Germans would have preferred Queen Wilhemina to have been a prisoner of war rather than providing leadership for resistance.

October 1, 1942.

#5 RUMOR: " That our National Executive is still playing politics, instead of carrying on war successfully. Don't answer by alibi, but by 'yes' or ' no' "

Informant Anonymous : addressed to the Editor of the " Rumor Clinic". Sent by F. T. Humphrey Oregon Journal.

October 1, 1942

#6 RUMOR :

That Donald Nelson appointed administrator showed preference to the Standard Oil Company, while other companies were given the cold shoulder in the synthetic manufacture of rubber. Is this a fact ? Also did he take the admission only of these Standard Oil experts that they were good, or did he find out from some other unbiased source that they were good ? (We know this is a hard question but you experts should know the answer.)

Informant

Anonymous : Addressed to the Editor of the "Rumor Clinic" sent by F. T. Humphrey Oregon Journal.

Notes :

Letter to office of War Informant Washington D. C.
October 6, 1942

Journal Oct 11.
P.

October 1, 1942

Released to Journal Oct. 11-42 and published

#7 RUMOR : " That brother Ickes has found an undiscovered well holding 250,000 tons of synthetic rubber. Now did this Oil Czar give these figures confidentially to the press, or did he dream them. Your unbiased answer to this should give right at the start a vote of confidence.

Informant anonymous ; Addressed to the Editor of the " Rumor Clinic ". Sent by F. T. Humphrey Oregon Journal.

Notes : Copied from the letter of October 3rd 1942 from Mr. Joel David Wolfsohn, Assistant Commissioner, United States Department of the Interior.

" Ickes never announced any secret "Well" of synthetic rubber. At a press confidence on July 30th, he discussed at length and in much technical detail the butadiene program of the oil industry which was generally recognized as holding possibility of developing 200,000 tons of rubber. The thing was thoroughly hashed out in the press at that time as a part of the general discussion of the industries' synthetic rubber program. Rumor possibly arose from the fact that in discussing the situation, Ickes pointed out the synthetic outlook as in addition to the usual rubber supply and remarked that " this is like discovering a new oil well."

8 RUMOR : " That Roosevelt visited Portland ship-yards and other defense works last week, personally. If so, how soon can we let everyone in on the Rumor ?"

Informant. anonymous- addressed to Editor of the "Rumor Clinic". Sent by F. T. Humphrey- Oregon Journal.

October 1, 1942

#9- Rumor:

That an attempt to suspend congressional election during the war is proposed. Can you spike this rumor now- cause you know another election the national side show will shortly be pulled.

Informant: anonymous: addressed to Editor of the Rumor Clinic. Forwarded by Tom Humphrey Oregon Journal

October 1, 1942.

10- RUMOR : That thousands of our boys died of Malaria at Bataan and Corriegdor, because of the lack of quinine- which is now controlled by a Cartel of Germans, British American and other unscrupulous heads of Farbenindustrie. Answer immediately to save the lives of our fighting boys in foreign lands.

Informant

anonymous - Addressed to the Editor of the " Rumor Clinic ". Sent by F. T. Humphrey Oregon Journal.

Notes :

Letter sent to office of warinformation Washington D. C. Octpber 6th, 1942.

October 1, 1942.

11- RUMOR : " Port Orford was wiped off the map night before last"

Informant Mrs. D. B. Parks- 7126 S. E. 19th Avenue
La 9480
from Mrs. O. H. Plath 6512 S. E. 19th Avenue
from her daughter Dorothy Plath same address
from Russ Reed, Associated Press Photographer
also from wife of Journal man who lives in the same neighborhood.

REMARKS : " Reporters and Photographers from Life Magazine and other Associated Press publications and our two newspapers as well as all the other news photographers were there investigsting, but that it had become a closed milita ry area and all these peopl sworn to secrecy, and no information re- leased so the Japs won't know the damage done. Aimed- at Bremerton and miscued. "

Notes : Conferred G 2- damage even less than at Brookings- date correct- A fter west Command releases story show variance between fact and rumor.

Journal Oct 25
P.

October 1, 1942.

Released to Journal Oct 5-42

12 RUMOR : " Had a friend whose husband was killed at Dutch Harbor and that the damage at Dutch Harbor was much worse than reported.

Reported by: Mrs. D. B. Parks- 7126 S. E. 19th Avenue
Portland Oregon- Tel. La 9480

Informant : Mrs. O. H. Plath, 6512 S. E. 19th Avenue
Portland Oregon whose friend is an infantile
paralysis victim who works at Jantsen Woolen
Mills.

* Not true

Note : Pictures in Life Magazine and official
government release accurately describes
the damage.

Released to Oregonian Nov 1st-42 (not P)

" " again " 8th October 1, 1942

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#13 RUMOR : " All the cars are to be jacked up".

Reported by : Mrs. D. B. Parks-7126 S. E. 19th Ave.,
Portland Oregon Tel. La 9480

Informant : Her husband.

From : Fran Wallace (maiden name), didn't know
married name, who is the manager of the
Ya kima Bruno studios, whose husband is
in the a rmed forces. (Didn't know whether
the information came from him or not)

Purpose to create dissatisfaction. :

Facts : Talked to Clark Van Fleet OPA who said rumor definitely
not true. Every effort is being made to suuply tires to all
and that means everyone. There is a reason to believe this
is possible if everyone observes the president's request
for care of tires, thirty-five mile limit in driving, proper
inflation and no abuse.

Journal Oct 11-
P.

October 1, 1942

Released to Journal October 11-42 and published

14- RUMOR : " That Mr. Kaiser is Mr. Ickes ' brother-in-law and has no regard for the amount of labor he hires because it is paid for by the government. He gets \$75,000.00 every time he turns out a ship and that he is employing about twice the number of men he actually needs and that he bringing all these men from out of town only as a build up and that the men who are working on eight-hour shifts are actually working about four hours "

Informant;

Mrs. St. Pierre- Phone to Mr. Robinson's Pacific Building office.

Note :

First line answered in letter of October 3, 1942 from Joel David Wolfsohn, Ass't Commission United States Department of the Interior, General Land Office.

" Henry Kaiser is no cousin, or any other kind of relative, in-law, or otherwise, or even a close personal acquaintance of long standing of the secretary. Their only association has been in official connection with Kaiser's work on reclamation projects on which he submitted low bids which were thoroughly publicized at the time ."

May 6, 1943

Mr. Clarence Porter reported that Mr. Louis Galbraith overheard a man on the train to Klamath Falls say that Mr. Kaiser and Mr. Ickes are related to one another.

Mr. Porter will write Mr. Galbraith refuting this statement, to stop further spread of this rumor. .

October 1, 1942.

Released to Journal October 18- 42
and published.

15- RUMOR : " That an old sea captain had just come back from a cruise in the Mediterranean was on a ship turned out by the Oregon Shipbuilding corporation and he said that the kind of welding done was simply terrible and the ship was leaking all the way over- that the boat was merely put together in that way because they figured they were going to lose so many anyway that it didn't make any difference. Leaked like a sieve."

Informant: Mrs. St. Pierre. Mrs. St. Pierre heard it tol at a luncheon by a Mrs. Bea ner (Beener) (Buehner) but didn't want her Mrs. St. Pierr name mentioned or Mrs. Buehner contacted.

Notes : Facts demonstrate just the opposite. See report dated October 7th, 1942 addressed to Mr. Hal Babbitt, Oregon Shipbuilding Corporation from Carl Savage (H. C. Savage) of the Kaiser Company Inc., Portland Oregon.

Facts published in Journal story October 18, 1942.



TURN NOW TO I

The Rumor Spike

O. M. S. Journal

Help Wanted:

To spike the Axis guns of propaganda, you're asked not to repeat rumors. Telephone instead to ATwater 3853. That's the office of the Rumor and Propaganda division of the Oregon State Defense council, room 101 Oregon building. The rumor will be investigated and the facts made public.

Here are some of the tall tales with an Axis slant, picked from those reported to the Rumor and Propaganda division:

It is rumored, "That an old sea captain had just come back from a cruise in the Mediterranean, on a ship turned out by the Oregon Shipbuilding corporation. He said that the kind of welding done was simply terrible, that the ship was leaking all the way over and that the boat was merely put to-

gether in that way because they figured they were going to lose so many anyway that it didn't make any difference."

from signing on. Then, too, if people, asked to pay heavy taxes and to buy bonds, can be led by Hitler and the Japanese to believe that tremendous sums are being wasted, they will not be so willing to give their money.

Here are some actual records of the Liberty ships' performances:

The S. S. Fisher Ames, operated by the American Mail Line, Ltd., completed a 15,000-mile voyage across the Pacific and return, at highly satisfactory speed. Upon its return to San Francisco, the requisitions from the deck and engine departments were marked, "No voyage repairs."

The S. S. Philip Schuyler made a voyage from the Pacific Coast to Australia, from there to the Red Sea, via the Straits of Magellan and the Cape of Good Hope. The ship returned to the east coast of the United States, via Cape of Good Hope, thence through the South Atlantic, across the equator and home. Her voyage requisitions were also marked "No voyage repairs."

W. L. Williams, district manager of the American Mail Line, Ltd. confirms the statement that



together in that way because they figured they were going to lose so many anyway that it didn't make any difference."

In describing the psychology behind this rumor, David Robinson, managing director of the Rumor and Propaganda division, explains:

"This rumor is one of many of the same ilk that have been reported to the office. Everyone

Released to Journal Occ
and published,

15- RUMOR :

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The Rumor Spike

Continued From Page One

ships no voyage repairs of any consequence were required. Each of these ships completed a voyage of from 17,000 to 25,000 miles.

C. E. Collins, district operating manager of the McCormick Steamship line, declares that he has not heard a single complaint from any of their operators in regard to the Liberty ship's seaworthiness or staunchness. Of course there are a few of the mates and engineers who make petty complaints about the way the settees are arranged or mirrors are hung. The McCormick line has had several ships complete voyages and their files show nothing but the highest praise for their seaworthiness, staunchness and operating performance at sea as well as in port.

The best example that the Liberty ship is O. K. is shown by the adventures of the S. S. George Clymer. She was abandoned after a German submarine put two or three torpedoes in her. A British naval vessel saw her still afloat, and fearing that she would be a hazard to navigation, tried in vain to sink her by bombing and

shelling. If the British navy gives up in disgust when they try to sink a foundered ship, she must be one of the best.

Quoting from Alex Ingram, chief engineer of the Joseph N. Teal, Oregon's famous 10-day vessel, after her run from the Columbia river to San Francisco:

"The engine worked perfectly. We have a good ship and a fine crew. Give my regards to the boys in the yard for the good job they have done. The ship is the talk of the town down here."

Gasoline Prices In Foreign Cities

Even in the face of gasoline rationing, the rubber shortage and what-have-you, the price of gasoline is still a matter of interest to American motorists. Just by way of consolation it may comfort you to read the following list of prevailing retail gallon prices for regular grade gasoline at 10 cities abroad:

San Salvador, El Salvador—46 cents;
San Pedro Sula, Honduras—45 cents;
Bombay, India—46.8 cents; Delhi, India—55.5 cents; Goteborg, Sweden—67.5 cents; Stockholm, Sweden—67.5 cents; Ankara, Turkey—89.9 cents; Istanbul, Turkey—90.1 cents; Cairo, Egypt—35.3 cents; Bahia, Brazil—33.3 cents.



C. O. HANSON, 9613 N. Syracuse street, Oregon Shipbuilding corporation worker, has solved his own transportation problem by building himself a motor bike out of odds and ends. The motor once ran a washing machine, the wheels and pulleys came from a local department store, and the headlight was intended for a bicycle.

October 2, 1942.

#16 RUMOR :

" They spent \$5000 to build the ramp at the Oregon Yard for the President's use when he was here for the launching of the Teal "

Informant:

Mr. C. H. Weekes-3937 N. Concord Avenue
Portland Oregon- Tel. We. 2662

From :

Mr. George Weiss, Multnomah about the 4000 block.

Remarks :

Later in the day Mr. Weekes made a personal call to this office saying he had been worried for fear his report on Mr. Weiss would cause trouble or embarrassment due to his German name. Said he had known Mr. Weiss for 40 years and that he was perfectly reliable and straightforward and that Mr. Weiss had given little credence to this remark. Mr. Weekes asked that this office call him for he wanted to be sure this matter was straightened out.

Mr. Weekes residence called and message left for Mr. Weekes that Mr. Robinson would respect his confidence in this matter. 8/3/42

Note :

Babbitt : Money not wasted. Lumber all used. Tremendous boost to morale and etc.

P

October 2, 1942.

#17- RUMOR : " Asked if I ever expect to get my money back from Defense Bonds, but that they were a good thing to buy regardless, for they will help.

Informant : Mrs. B. D. Miller, Room 435 Court House
Tel. Br. 8441

Remarks : These comments were made to Mrs. Miller by two different employees after she expressed her delight in getting her bond at pay day.

Mrs. Miller mentioned she also heard remarks of this type were prevalent at Breitenbush Springs this summer, by people from California. Mrs. Miller did not want to give the name of the two employees.
Telephoned.

October 2, 1942.

#18- RUMOR :

" She heard that they were talking in the shipyards that most of the men brought out by Kaiser were not going to work in the shipyards because they said that the contract they asked them to sign here was not the one they saw in the East. That the wages were different and they thought it was very unfair."

Informant :

Mrs. Therese Cohn (Mrs. Charles S.) 710
Public Service Building Portland Oregon
At 8531

From :

Mrs. Ray Summers, 729 E Burnside Portland Oregon originally from Baker Oregon, whose husband and son are in the Navy. Mrs. Summers felt this was a rumor. Mrs. Summers works on the graveyard shift at one of the shipyards.

Oregonian
Oct 18-42
P.

Released Oregonian Oct-18-42
and published

October 12, 1942.
11:20 a. m.

#19 RUMOR : " That the Sheriff's office was informed that a bulkhead at the Oregon Shipbuilding corporation over turned several nights ago killing 17 people. That great numbers of men are being killed and that the news is being suppressed."

Informant : Miss Bonnie Wiley, of the Oregonian at the request of Mr. Johnson. Miss Wiley said this type of rumor is constantly coming into the paper.

Telephoned:

October 3, 1942

#20

RUMOR : It cost \$10,000 to have a ramp built for the president to drive out on to see the launching. That the ramp was torn down after he had viewed the launching(in Portland Oregon)

Informant Mrs. M. E. Schermerhorn, Route #1 Yamhill Oregon

From : a neighbor

Remarks : does not want name used.

Letter October 1, 1942
a ck.

October 3, 1942.

#21 RUMOR : " I have been offered a good position and believe it my duty to accept it. It will be necessary for me to put my four year old son in a Day Nursery School, and that is the drawback. In most of the Nursery Schools the children are doped to keep them quiet. Yes, at least there are several who do. The physicians know this and are just waiting to nab them in the act. My little boy heard us talk about this, and that night he said, ' I don't want to go to school and be shot in the arm'. Wasn't that cute ? How quickly children catch on."

Informant: Mrs. Esther Humphrey Tschanz 2914 N. E. 50th Avenue
Portland Oregon Tel 1300

from: A customer

Remarks : Mrs. Tschanz writes " Please do not quote exactly if this is ever referred to in print, as the customer of mine might know that I had repeated the words".

Letter September 30-1942
ack.

Data # 21 RUMOR : Mr. Prosser phoned in that one day nursery in particular, the Portland Day Nursery at 10th and Yamhill sts, that they had no license and the complaints were directed at them. Full information could be secured from Dr. Stricker, State Board of Health.

Dr. Stricker reported he had heard rumors but had no facts to support them. Asked why he didn't prosecute them for operating without a license, he said; that all the day nurseries were full and their wouldn't be any place for the children to go. About seven operating without licenses.

Information telephoned by Mr. Prosser

Oregonian
Oct 18-
P.

Released Oregonian Oct-18-42
and published

October 3, 1942.

#22 RUMOR : " That three women welders and eleven men
were killed at the Oregon Shipbuilding
corporation on or about September 30, 1942.

Informant Mr. L. F. Rose, 320 New Fleidner Building
Portland Oregon

Remarks : Mr. Rose wanted to be informed of the fact
of this matter. Was indignant over the rumor
and upheld the safety precautions of the
Oregon Shipbuilding corporation.

P ✓

November 22 Journal Published

October 3, 1942.

(see Rumor #84) same subject

#23 RUMOR : " That Japanese invasion troops have landed at an unspecified place on the Northwest Pacific Coast, possibly Port Orford. All were supposed to have been captured".

Informant: Dr. H. Notkin 440 N 6th st., Corvallis Oregon

Facts : Full information was released by the army and published in the papers.

Oregonian
Oct 18
P.

Released to Oregonian Oct-18-42 and published

#24 RUMOR : " That men are constantly being killed in the
ship yards and no mention made of it in the press.

Informant: Mr. M. B. Belden, 411 Postal Building
Portland Oregon, Mining Engineer

Remarks :

In person.

P

October 3, 1942

\$25 RUMOR : With reference to bonds and being redeemed at the end of the war.

Informant : Mr. Jerry Lakefish 732 S. W. Lincoln Portland Ore.
Tel. # At 0379

Remarks : Mr. Lakefish did not want to give the name of his informant re bonds, but said he would trace this matter down and inform this office later. Also heard another acquaintance remark he would cash their bonds in to get money for fear they would not be redeemed later.

Interview

Oregonian
Oct 11 P
3

October 3= 1942.

26 RUMOR : " Some people are putting little or nothing in defense bonds and stamps because they have heard that they will never get a dime back. This rumor is being circulated not only in Oregon. Just recently I have travelled in California, Washington and Montana and have heard this same rumor. My husband puts 10% of his salary in war bonds and he is thought to be foolish."

Informant : Mrs. Edward Kramer 614 Broadway Bend Oregon

Letter October 1, 1942
ack.

Oregonian
Oct 25th
P.

October 5, 1942

Released to Oregonian Oct-25-42 and Published

#27 RUMOR : " That there may be such a thing as something in our drinking water that be causing people to become drowsy and sleepy. That in the occupied countries the people are sleepy and dopy and there was supposed to have happened there, and the may be the cause here."

Informant ; Mrs. Edwin E. Ballard 1915 N. E. 53rd Ave
Portland Oregon Ga 9568

Remarks : Mrs. Ballard reported this rumor was discussed in a group of neighborhood women in front of the Thompson home at 53rd and Hancock but could not remember who brought the matter up.

Supt. Kaiser said no such substance put in water, our water is pure.

Telephoned.

October 5, 1942

\$28 RUMOR : Pertaining to the article in Wednesday's paper Oregonian regarding the Public Mass Meeting called to consider the increase in the negro population in Portland.

That instead of a public mass meeting it was a closed meeting. An unintentionally closed meeting. That Tom Ray of the Boiler's Makers Union was present etc.,

Informant : Ruth Haefner

Remarks : That the churches want to know whether it was a public mass meeting or a closed meeting.

Mr. Robinson.

October 5, 1942

#29 RUMOR :

" That the Jews will have control of all the money or the majority of it by the first of January and will then dictate how long the war goes."

Mrs. Wrightly in charge of Lincoln High School cafeteria. Mrs. Wrightly was supposed to have made the remark to someone at this informant's theatre.

The informant said he owned three theatres in the southwest section of Portland, said he was Irish and the majority of his customers were Jewish. Said remarks of this kind were very dangerous to people who were not rational and felt indignant over the remark and thought Mrs. Wrightly should be reported.

BBA called Mr. Misher at the Hamrick Theatres and gave description of man and Mr. Misher thought the man to be Phil Carlin who owns the Lincoln theatre and the Taylor street theatre.

October 6, Mr. Robinson reported the matter to Mr. Gunn, Asst, City Supt of schools.

Mr. Robinson talked with Mr. Gunn this morning October 22nd- and one day Mrs. Wrightly heard five or six women in the kitchen talking about it coming over the radio. Doesn't remember ever repeating it. Didn't do it with malicious intent if she did repeat it.

In person.

October 5, 1942

#30

"That the fellows working at welding will become sterile".

Informant: Same man as Rumor #29

Remarks: Said he turned the matter over to the FBI

Dr. George Ury
Bureau of Health
Portland, Oregon

December 28, 1942

Dear Dr. Ury:

Replying to your letter of December 19th, I would say that I think there is no possibility that any radiations that are given off by an arc welding torch have enough penetrating power to produce sterilization or to do anything whatever that extends beyond the very surface layer of the skin. In other words a welding torch can produce ultra violet light and hence sunburn but cannot produce the much more penetrating rays which we call X-rays, so that you have completely right in assuring your welder that there is no such danger as that rumor indicates.

Very truly,

(Signed) Robert A. Milliken

RAM:IH

Robert A. Milliken, Chairman Executive Council, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, is a world wide recognized authority on different forms of radiation and he is considered to know more about radiation than any other living man.

Bureau Nails False Reports

Stop that rumor! Don't repeat pro-axis gossip! Report those "phonies" instead to the rumor and propaganda division of the Oregon office of civilian defense. Its offices are in Room 101, Oregon building, telephone Alwater 3835. The following is from the files of David Robinson, managing director of the rumor bureau.

RUMOR: "The occupation of welders is dangerous because those engaged in it become sterile, hence cannot have children, because of the rays given off by the welding arcs."

FACT: The story is false.

Women welders in Portland and Vancouver shipyards who have conceived and given birth to babies refute this phony. Male workers also need feel no apprehension because, as shipyard workers themselves know, babies have been born in many families where the fathers are

Dr. Robert A. Milliken, Nobel prize winner and one of the world's greatest authorities on the subject of radiation, in a letter addressed to George Urey, United States public health service official now stationed in Portland, wrote on December 26, 1942:

X-Ray Not Present

"Replying to your letter of December 19, I would say that I think there is no possibility that any radiations that are given off by an arc welding torch have enough penetrating power to produce sterilization or to do anything whatever that extends beyond the very surface layer of the skin.

"In other words, a welding torch can produce ultra violet light and hence sunburn but cannot produce the much more penetrating rays which we call X-rays, so that you are completely right in assuring your welder that there is no such danger as that rumor indicates."

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