

country should make clear once more that the purpose of the pact is a defensive one. We should also broadcast again the Pacific Charter which is the preamble to the pact, and which asserts in clear, unmistakable terms the right of all people to self-determination, self-government, and independence...

“Much has been said of the easing of international tension in the world... The present danger lies in jumping to the conclusion that at last the Communists have taken a softer tone and that when they talk of disarmament or free elections, they mean what we mean. Instead of that being the case, the meanings of peaceful co-existence are miles apart. In fact, since first the Communist world raised that slogan two wars have taken place in Asia. One in Korea—the other in Indochina...

“With the exception of Thailand, all of the present countries of Southeast Asia were born since World War II. If we can help give them a generation without Communist interference, they will be able then to stabilize and secure their independence... We have sought solutions to alleviate the conditions of continued poverty in the underdeveloped countries of Asia. The Communists, on the contrary, count on that continued poverty in the underdeveloped countries to soften up new areas for conquest and control...

“At this critical period of our country, we must have a Government of self-respect. As a people, we create that self-respect in our Government. However, we as a people must recognize that we are in a conflict which will be with us at least for a generation. Perhaps for fifty years to come. Let us face the simple fact—there is no gadget or device for victory—to think so is to delude ourselves.”

**Oveta Culp Hobby:
A Newspaper Woman Speaks**

As the first woman speaker in the history of The Economic Club, Oveta Culp Hobby, former editor and publisher of The Houston Post, and The Federal Security Administrator at the time, spoke on newspapers on March 23, 1953.



“Though communication—the transmission of ideas and facts—has overleapt the boundaries of time and space, it is still hemmed in, over a large part of the world, by man-made political boundaries.

“That is one of the tragedies of our time. Dictators know that one of the first steps in the limitation of freedom is to control the transmission of ideas. A frightening vision of how far this kind of thing can go was given in that remarkable satirical novel by the late George Orwell. He called his book “Nineteen Eighty-Four.” It was a picture of what London might be like 31 years hence if state control of lives and minds of Englishmen followed, to their ultimate absurdity, patterns already laid down by countries behind the iron curtain.

“Not only, of course, was there complete control of the transmission of ideas, but ideas themselves were remolded by a chance in the meanings of words. For example, the three slogans of the ruling—and only—party, dinned continually into the minds of the citizens through every possible means of communication were: ‘War is peace.’ ‘Freedom is slavery.’ ‘Ignorance is Strength.’

“This perversion of the meanings of ordinary words was, however, only a first step. The party was developing a new language, which it called ‘Newspeak,’ and which it was gradually substituting for standard English, which it called ‘Old speak.’ In ‘Newspeak,’ such words as honor, justice, morality, internationalism, democracy,

science and religion simply did not exist. Future generations, educated by the state, would have no words for communicating ideas about these things; hence, it was hoped, the ideas themselves would cease to exist.

“Not only was the language being changed by the part, but history was continually being rewritten by them to fit the party line and scientific truth as the party saw it.

“Was the chocolate ration about to be reduced, in spite of a previous party pledge, published in the Times, not to do so? The former pledge was simply rewritten as a warning that it would probably be necessary to reduce the ration some time in April. Back issues of The Times were withdrawn from the public files and reissued, and this and similar ‘printers errors’ corrected...

“George Orwell’s horrendous fantasy pictures dictatorship carried to the ultimate. But let us not forget that this dictatorship was the evil flowing of seeds which have actually been planted, first by the Nazis and now by the Communists.

“Let us remember that, according to Pravda, it was a Russian who discovered lightning, and a Russian who invented the printing press and the airplane. And probably it was also a Russian who discovered America! Let us remember that every dictator and every dictatorship since history began has tried to control and pervert what people know and think—through control of their means of communications.

“Conversely, freedom of communication and every advance in the means of communication—from the sharpened stones that chipped the cave walls, to electric impulses that reproduce sounds and pictures over thousands of miles—has brought man his greatest happiness and his greatest opportunity.

“When communication is not free and when the means of communication are not developed, there can be no real freedom—of thought, or action. I believe it is primarily because of the freedom and breadth of our own system that this nation stands

today in the forefront of all nations.

“Yet there have been people who seemed to think that the newspaper as a free American institution is fading slowly from the picture. First they pointed to newspaper chains as the great threat to freedom of the local press. Time has proven these fears unfounded. Following perhaps the biological law of protective coloration, the chain newspaper became, in everything but ownership, a local newspaper. It had to, in order to survive. It couldn’t operate on just imported news and imported views. It had to reflect, as well, the opinions and the local doings detailed around the local cracker barrels.

“After the chain newspaper bugaboo was given honorable burial, the cry was raised again that newspapers generally were on their last legs. This time the murderer of cock robin was supposed to be the radio.

“It is true that there are in the United States a good many fewer daily and somewhat fewer weekly newspapers than prior to, say, 1920. But newspaper circulation for every thousand of population today is at an all time high. And the reason why, in spite of this, there are fewer newspapers, is not the lethal effect of the radio. It is economic. The almost fantastic increase in the cost of newsprint, the increasing cost of editorially and mechanically producing and distributing newspapers, and the inevitable competition between the strong and the weak, has brought about mergers, and in some cases, death...

“But now the newspapers face another threat—television. That, I admit, is something once again. I suppose one could shell peas or knit while watching television. But you certainly can’t watch a ball game, or Kukla, Fran and Ollie, or Zsa Zsa Gabor and read a newspaper at the same time...In fact, in the case of Gabor, I think you would be ill advised to try it!...

“When you look at one television program, you can hardly look at another at the same time. When you tune in your receiver, you automatically rule out

whatever experience you might receive over any other channel until you again turn the tuning knob... Thus, if you are watching a comedy during a news program, or perhaps during an interview with Mr. Churchill, you will have to get that news or the sense of that interview elsewhere. You will always be able to get it from your newspaper. In fact, you will depend on getting it there. The newspaper will still be a vital means of communication."

**John F. Kennedy:
Poverty amid Prosperity**

John F. Kennedy was the Democratic Senator from Massachusetts when he addressed The Chicago Economic Club on October 9, 1957, on prosperity and poverty.



Lawrence Seaway to baseball, has been long and sometimes intense. Legend has it that one Bostonian, who had made frequent visits to the Loop, was agreeably surprised upon arriving in the next world to find, as he exclaimed out loud: 'Heaven is no different from Chicago!' 'Excuse me, sir,' said a doleful bystander, 'you are not in heaven.'

"Even for a local resident to speak of American international responsibilities before a Chicago audience was at one time an invitation to high adventure. Today, however, Chicago provides a natural forum for such a discussion, for it has become one of the great international cities of the world..."

"Similar changes have altered the contours of our foreign policy. It was only 20 years ago that President Roosevelt came here to Chicago to deliver his famous 'Quarantine the Aggressors' address. The articulate response to that speech was generally even more chilling than the winds which usually blow across the Lake Shore Bridge which the president was dedicating. Yet today that same speech would probably be criticized as a weak and tepid pronouncement on the obvious and inescapable responsibilities of American leadership. Such is the measure of progress—or at least change.

"Today, other vast changes in world relationships demand our attention and reassessment of our role as leader. Before noting some of these changes, however, I want to offer a short zoology lesson on the Scandinavian rodent known as the lemming. Never far south of the Arctic Circle, these small, mouse-like animals are—like Americans—noted for being restless, courageous and pugnacious—for never running from a fight. But in certain areas, the Arctic lemmings are even better known for their strange mass migrations, in which they advance steadily and slowly over tremendous areas of land, devouring every blade of grass, every crop, every garden in their path, actually multiplying as they march, swarming through towns and across rivers, not one turning back—until, after a devastating journey of from one to three years, they reach the Atlantic Ocean, plunge blindly and resolutely ahead and perish without a single survivor..."

"Could this nation, this world, be headed for the fate of the lemming? Could we be plunging blindly on, fat and merry and pugnacious and unstoppable, oblivious to the suicidal course toward which our growing population and economic appetite are leading us? Could this be, not the age of the fatted calf or the golden goose, as we like to believe, but the age of the lemming?"

"Fantastic, most of you will say—unrealistically gloomy—and most of our nation's leaders would agree. For this is an age of prosperity, an age of abundance. It is an age characterized by full