

'Globalanguage' Invented For 'One World' Alphabet

could world."

WASHINGTON, July 28 (AP)—Using 41 novel symbols and holding 16 others in reserve, former U. S. Senator Robert L. Owen of Oklahoma has developed a "global alphabet" he thinks capable of breaking down the world's language barriers.

"Through it I can teach any reasonably intelligent man Chinese in two months," he enthused. "It is a means by which we can teach the English language to all the world at high speed and negligible cost. It will pay its own way."

Although at first glance Owen's alphabet appears to resemble some shorthand systems, he said it is entirely different. His is based on 18 vowel sounds, 18 consonants and five double consonants—ch, sh, th, ng and wh. The 41 regular letters are little hooks and wiggles and slashes and curves.

In case it develops that Tibetan or Urdu or some other tongue contains sounds not capable of expression by the 41, Owen has 16 orthographic substitutes warming the bench. In general, they are

angular or triangular in form. Owen at 87 is blind—a handicap he scoffs at.

"I just dictated them to my secretary, by metes and bounds," he explained. "In my mind, I would picture a square, and describe to her how the character should fit into its limits."

A former Indian agent for the five civilized tribes in Oklahoma, Owen was inspired by Chief Sequoia, who in 1823 invented an 85-character alphabet which enabled his Cherokee tribesmen to learn in two or three weeks to write their own language.

An outline of Owen's system was printed recently as Senate Document No. 49, at the request of Senator Thomas (D-Okla). Illustrations show the global alphabet standing in for the conventional letters of Latin, Greek, French, Japanese, Chinese, and Cherokee Indian.

As for English, a few simple waggles of the pen and there was: "I saw Esau kiss Miss Kate. The fact is we all three saw, I saw Esau, he saw me, and she saw I

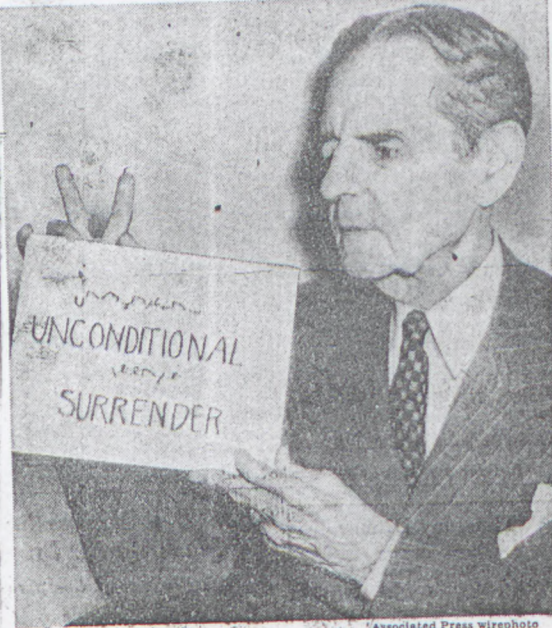
saw Esau." Owen said his shorter, phonetic word forms would save paper, ink and postage, that spelling no longer would be a problem and that "the use of this system with its defined pronunciation would have a tendency to end or limit brogues and dialects."

But in announcing that the copyrighted system would be "my free gift to the world," the former

Senator stressed this: "The global alphabet comprises a mechanical agency through which to make effective the dreams of the great men now leading the people of the United Nations in a struggle for peace, abundance, goodwill, justice and happiness. The four freedoms, the Atlantic Charter, the twentieth century economic policy adopted by the London Chamber of Commerce

NEW YORK

The Meaning's Clear, Whatever the Language



Associated Press wirephoto
Former Senator Robert L. Owen, of Oklahoma, is shown in Washington yesterday demonstrating how the United Nations ultimatum looks when translated into the "global alphabet" he has devised

Another Cherokee Syllabary.

News comes from Washington that 87-year-old, former United States Senator from Oklahoma, Robert L. Owen, has devised a "global alphabet" of 41 symbols, by means of which, he claims, the language barriers between nations may be broken down.

Mr. Owen's "global alphabet" may have validity; it may be something that people find they want, or it may not. But the point of the news of Mr. Owen's invention is that it serves to remind us that this great public servant, though blind, is still alive and intellectually active.

Mr. Owen is part Cherokee, a descendant of tribal nobles. Sequoyah, who invented the syllabary by means of which his Indian tribe was given a written language, also was a Cherokee. That invention is considered one of the masterworks of the human mind. It is an alphabet of symbols representing sounds in Cherokee. By means of it, translations of the Bible and other works were made into Cherokee, which hitherto had been a spoken language only. Newspapers and books printed in Cherokee greatly accelerated the cultural advancement of the tribe and the means the syllabary offered for the preservation of tribal records and agreements helped to cement better relations between the whites and their Indian wards.

Mr. Owen was United States Indian Agent for the Five Civilized Tribes in old Indian Territory from 1885 to 1889. He has devoted a long life assiduously not only to the welfare of his Indian kinsmen but to the welfare of his white kinsmen as well. As three-term Senator from Oklahoma, he earned a reputation for far-seeing statesmanship and incorruptibility in a time of much corruption. His services to the nation-at-large have been notable also, including his drafting of the Federal Reserve Act and of the Farm Loan Act in the United States Senate

N.Y. World Telegram

Former Senator Owen Devises Global Alphabet

Blind Oklahoman, 87, Sees End of Language Barriers

WASHINGTON, July 28 (AP).—Using forty-one novel symbols and holding sixteen others in reserve, former United States Senator Robert L. Owen, of Oklahoma, eighty-seven years old and blind, has developed a "global alphabet" he thinks capable of breaking down the world's language barriers.

"Through it I can teach any reasonably intelligent man Chinese in two months," he contended. "It is a means by which we can teach the English language to all the world at high speed and negligible cost. It will pay its own way."

Mr. Owen's alphabet is based on: eighteen vowel sounds, eighteen consonants and five double consonants—"ch," "sh," "th," "ng" and "wh." The forty-one regular letters are little hooks and wiggles and slashes and curves.

Mr. Owen said his shorter, phonetic word forms would save paper, ink and postage, that spelling no longer would be a problem and that "the use of this system with its defined pronunciation would have a tendency to end or limit brogues and dialects."