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THE COST OF POOR ROADS

By CHARLES V. STANTON

A printing equipment trade magazine with national distribution presents in its current issue a picture from the Newport, Oregon, annual crab festival. An editor's note accompanying the photo says: "This item was sent before the recent floods which destroyed the city of Newport."

The editor, of course, confused Vanport with Newport, an understandable error but one which shows the confusion and misunderstanding arising from the recent Columbia floods. This misunderstanding is proving very costly, for the Oregon State Motor Association has just completed a survey disclosing a 25 per cent drop in tourist business in this state. With tourist income forecast by the state at more than $150,000,000 this year, a 25 per cent decrease is a serious matter.

The survey shows the decrease in Oregon tourist revenue to be general, ranging from five per cent in some instances to as high as 75 per cent in others.

Adverse publicity growing out of the flood is the principal cause of the reduction, although the late season and high cost of travel are other contributing factors.

But it is quite evident that Oregon will realize far less from tourist trade this year than had been estimated earlier, although an intensive advertising campaign in neighboring states, pointing out that travel conditions now are normal and that the late season has enhanced beauty of Oregon scenery, might even yet produce income equal to pre-season estimates.

The Oregon coast section has been particularly hard hit by the drop in tourist travel. Investigation revealed that many tourists northbound from California were advised to take the inland route, Highway 97, through Weed and Klamath Falls, and were told that the Coast Highway, No. 101, was in poor condition and made dangerous by excessive log and freight hauling. Similar reports were made concerning the Pacific Highway, Route 99.

The State of Oregon must solve some very critical highway problems. It is possible that some of the answers will be forthcoming in the report from the Legislative Interim Committee, which has been studying the state's highway system, future requirements, and financial outlook.

While neighboring states are building wide, straight, limited-access roads to speed through traffic, Oregon's highways remain crooked, poorly surfaced, narrow, and filled with bottlenecks. The large volume of motor freight, even though much of it moves at night; oil tankers, logging trucks, etc., crawling in low gear on grades and limiting passing on crowded, crooked and narrow roads, detract from the pleasure of tourist motoring. Passing through many of Oregon's cities becomes an ordeal because of traffic congestion on inadequate approaches. Roseburg is a prime example with highway traffic stalled to a bare crawl over the hazardous northern approach, which becomes more congested daily.

Oregon needs a highway improvement program calculated in billions of dollars, not millions. Our main-traveled routes must be straightened and widened to give separation of freight and passenger travel. We need, without further delay, final settlement of rerouting through our cities and towns. Nearly every community in Western Oregon is booming. Population is growing by leaps and bounds. Yet no city is able to do an effective job of planning, zoning and controlling its growth until it knows where the highway is to be located.

Grants Pass and Medford have been concerned with rumors of highway changes, but a Highway Department official has been quoted in the *Grants Pass Courier* as saying that no final relocation in the Grants Pass area is contemplated for at least 10 years. Yet the approaches to Grants Pass are most definite bottlenecks, although not nearly as serious as at Roseburg, Eugene, Corvallis, Salem and other cities.

It is the practice in some states, reports the *Medford Mail Tribune*, to post new highway routes as soon as they have been officially determined, even though actual construction may be some years in the future.

The Oregon Highway Commission could perform a most valuable and needed service to Western Oregon's municipalities if it would determine the routes to be adopted either through or around towns, and buy the right of way, even though construction were left until a later date. At the rate land values are increasing, towns growing and improvements added, the State would save money by buying rights of way in and near populous centers without further delay.

We should recognize that while good highways cost money, they are self-liquidating and deserve far greater attention than they have been getting in this state.

Poor highways can lose more money than good highways cost.

LAW COMES SECOND

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., July 10.—(AP)—City Judge Charles G. Kelly yesterday dismissed a charge of double parking on a downtown street against B. T. Maynard, Jr., an insurance agent.

Maynard, called to the bar, explained:

"I saw a lady walking down the sidewalk who was behind in her insurance payments, so I just stopped in the street without thinking and went after her."

OUT OUR WAY — By J. R. Williams

In the Day's News

(Continued From Page One)

baser metals and thus making gold synthetically as nylon is made. If gold could be produced synthetically in large quantities at low cost, it would lose its monetary value and would become merely another metal for use in the arts.

(Whether that would be a calamity in the modern world remains to be seen. We have most of the monetary gold in the world, and about all we can think of to do with it is to bury it in the ground at Fort Knox and elsewhere and hire men at heavy cost to guard it. As long as we produce more goods than anybody else, we won't need monetary gold, whose principal use is a medium of international exchange to settle debts that get temporarily out of balance due to fluctuations in the flow of goods from nation to nation.)

* * *

OF course if the time comes, as it might, when due to the wage-price spiral we LOSE CONFIDENCE IN OUR PAPER MONEY, our buried gold might provide a medium that would restore our confidence and make it possible to do business with each other again. That would be useful.

You must have noted in the news that one of Europe's greatest troubles is more or less complete lack of confidence in the money that is now in circulation there. Heaven knows there is plenty of reason for Europe's lack of confidence in its money. Never was money more thoroughly, more cynically, debased than in Europe since the last war began. Among other things, every victorious nation has indulged in actual COUNTERFEITING, flooding conquered countries with paper money turned out by the bale on fast printing presses.

Europe badly needs HARD money that people have some faith in. (So do we, for that matter.) Gold coins might turn the trick.

* * *

DEMOCRATIC Chairman McGrath predicts in Philadelphia that General Eisenhower's name will not be offered to the Democratic convention this week. He adds that he doesn't believe Justice Douglas will permit his name to be offered in opposition to President Truman.

Good for McGrath! He seems to be a realistic thinker. Eisenhower obviously means what he has been saying. Justice Douglas, in this humble writer's opinion, is far too cagey to offer his person as a living sacrifice on the altar of anti-Trumanism.

* * *

THE poor old Democratic party might as well take what is coming and pretend to like it. It is hitting the inevitable aftermath of a decade and a half of chasing the will o' the wisp of something for nothing, don't-worry-leave-it-all-to-Papa, through the get-rich-without-work swamps.

It was wonderful while it lasted, but we're learning the hard way that we can't eat or wear or shelter ourselves with demagogue promises of something for nothing.

* * *

WATCH this Communist business in Malaya, Burma, etc. It could be highly important. It MIGHT mean that the big boys at the top of the Communism racket are concluding that Western Europe is too tough a nut for them to crack and are shifting their base of operations to Asia.

Laughs at His Former Captors

Itzaak Valentchik, Irgun fighter in Tel Aviv, who escaped from the British prison at Acre, Palestine, laughs derisively at the "Wanted" poster which pictures him and fellow fugitives. Valentchik had his face remodeled and his hair dyed to prevent detection. He claims all 40 who escaped with him are still free. (Photo by NEA-Acme staff correspondent David S. Boyer.)

Note to Moscow Warns That U. S. Will no Longer Stand Bullying

By DeWITT MacKENZIE
AP Foreign Affairs Analyst

The American note to Moscow, demanding that the Soviet Union immediatey lift the food blockade of Western Berlin, is couched in a bluntness which is the only kind of language the Bolshevists understand.

It is perhaps the most forceful communication ever laid before the post-war Muscovites.

It isn't belligerent and it doesn't make threats, but it leaves no doubt that Uncle Sam has had enough of bullying. He isn't taking any more.

Similar notes were sounded simultaneously by both Britain and France. So far as America is concerned, it will be sweet music in the ears of the average citizen, who has been waiting eagerly for this hardening against Communist aggression.

The "average" citizen, by the way, gives his loyalty to America. There are Communists and Fellow Travelers, who are citizens in name only and take their orders from Moscow, to whom the note will not be music.

The Communist food blockade is, of course, an inhuman effort to starve the 2,400,000 civilians of Western Berlin and thus force America, France and Britain to withdraw from the Capital. Such a withdrawal would leave the Reds free to create another satellite state out of their German zone of occupation, with Berlin as the capital.

Blunt Warning Given

Of this scheme the Washington note warns that the United States will not be compelled by "threats, pressures or other actions" to abandon its rights in Berlin. And listen to this:

"It is intolerable that any one of the occupying authorities should attempt to impose a blockade upon the people of Berlin. The United States Government is therefore obliged to insist that in accordance with existing agreements the arrangements for the movement of freight and passenger service between the western zones and Berlin be fully restored."

Secretary Marshall says in the note that the United States "is ready as a first step to participate in negotiations in Berlin among the four allied occupying authorities" for the settlement of outstanding d'sputes. However, he flatly declares it is "a pre-requisite that the lines of communication and the movement of persons and goods between the United Kingdom, the United States and French sectors in Berlin and the western zone shall have been fully restored."

War Wouldn't Be Needed

Well and good, but supposing Moscow should "get tough" and tell us to go to the devil. Do we have to go, or is there a counter action which we could take without a rupture of peace?

While there has been no indication of how the three powers would deal with that contingency, there certainly are ways and means. It is safe to assume that an early move would be to place before the United Nations the issue of this assault on the defenseless people of Berlin. Even if the Security Council found is impossible to impos sanctions because of the Russian veto, yet the condemnation of Democracy would be registered.

Moreover, that's not the end. Any block of Democratic countries could impose their own sanctions, outside the U. N. Those sanctions needn't involve the use of force. Economic and diplomatic sanctions can be very terrible punishments.

It wouldn't be necessary to go to war to bring Russia to reasonable terms.

Slayer Dies in Chair Protesting Innocence

HUNTSVILLE, Tex., July 10—(AP)—Joseph Lee Saulter died in the electric chair yesterday, protesting his innocence and naming three of four persons he said figured in the fatal stabbing of Thelma Leslie Cook.

"I am not guilty of this crime," he told the handful of witnesses. "Four other people did it. Three women and a man. That's the truth, so help me God! I know the names of three of these people. One name I do not know."

Saulter was convicted of murder in the stabbing of the Cook woman in a Galveston bar Feb. 24, 1947.

European Reds Turn Down Bids to Yugoslav Meet

(By the Associated Press)

European Communist parties began following Russia's lead in turning down invitations to the fifth Yugoslav Communist congress in Belgrade July 21. So far the invitations have been declined by the parties in Russia, Italy, Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

Dewey Reported Asking Contact With White House

WASHINGTON, July 9—(AP)—The White House declined comment yesterday when questioned about published reports that Gov. Thomas E. Dewey's advisers feel the administration should keep him informed on foreign affairs developments.

A reporter (Joseph H. Short of the Baltimore Sun) brought the subject up at a news conference with Charles Ross, presidential secretary. The reporter said that apparently members of Dewey's staff are "complaining that he is not being kept advised of developments in foreign affairs," and that he might say something which "would unsettle international relations."

"I have no comment on that," Ross replied.

The questioner went on to say that men around the Republican presidential nominee seem to think President Truman "should keep him advised." He wanted to know if Ross would comment on that.

"I will not," Ross said.

Ross added that he thought he was using "Mr. Dewey's own words," in saying, "I do not give gratuitous advice to the opposition."

(The Sun said July 6, in a dispatch from its correspondent Thomas O'Neill who is with Dewey at Pawling, N. Y.:

("Up to date, it was learned authoritatively today, there has been no response from the White House to broad hints that the Republican presidential nominee, Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, would be ready to forego campaign discussion of sensitive subjects in the field of foreign relations if kept advised by Washington on diplomatic developments.)

Red Paper Rants In Comparison To Awe Berliners

BERLIN, July 12.—(AP)—The Soviet Army Newspaper Tae gliche Rundschau Saturday likened the present situation of Western Berlin to the last days of Hitler's resistance here.

"Wall Street and the (London) City are forcing Berlin's population to wage the same sort of fight which the Nazi leaders enforced in 1945, only 24 hours before the leaders themselves suicided or fled while the masses stayed and suffered," the paper explained.

"Just as in 1945 Berlin's population was made a victim of Nazi bankruptcy, so today the people of the western sectors are not heroes in some grotesque fight for freedom but victims of the bankrupt policies of the imperialistic western powers."

Meantime, the western sector press reported receiving hundreds of letters from Germans in the Soviet zone expressing sympathy and solidarity with West Berliners.

Reports that Marshal Sokolovsky, the Russian commander, had gone to Moscow carrying a protest from German communities that blockade was causing their party to lose ground politically could not be confirmed.

State Press Comment

IKE NOT FLATTERED

Eugene Register-Guard

It is not flattering to General Eisenhower to be "drafted" to rescue the Democratic party from the chaos into which it has degenerated after sixteen years of uninterrupted power. It is particularly unflattering to have the "draft" movement fostered by such characters as New Jersey's Boss Hague and other politicos whose obvious concern is to keep their party in power rather than to "save the nation." Those who cling to the idea that "Eisenhower couldn't refuse the call to patriotic duty" overlook the fact that in this case it is NOT the nation which is calling but just one of its political parties, and that makes quite a difference.

Having refused Kansas overtures which might have led to his acceptance as the Republican candidate, having avoided any statement definitely aligning him with either the Republican or the Democratic party, having stated repeatedly his view that no military man should seek the presidential office, having stated his refusal in unequivocal words, Eisenhower would be in an untenable position if he were to accept even a nomination by the Democratic convention as any mandate for personal service and sacrifice.

A two-party nomination would, of course, be "a draft," but this is now out of the question, Dewey having received the Republican nomination. A one-party call would of necessity involve Eisenhower or any other candidate in the problem of straightening out the party factionalism which has developed since Franklin D. Roosevelt's death. The bitterness over "civil rights" is only the most acute symptom of the Democratic party's internal disorders. The party is suffering from the divers diseases which come to any political organization which has been too long at the trough—political gout, acidosis, halitosis and even the hallucinations of indispensability which come with time.

TWO DRUNKS NABBED

Anton Edward Olsen, Lookingglass route, was committed to 10 days in the city jail on a charge of being drunk on a public street, when he appeared in municipal court Saturday, reported Judge Ira B. Riddle.

Vernon M. Lee, Roseburg, arrested on the same charge, forfeited $20 bail when he failed to appear, the judge reported.

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