

# The News-Review

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## THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Each presidential election is followed by much popular demand that the electoral college be abandoned and that presidents be elected by popular vote. Proponents point out that it is possible for a candidate receiving a minority of the popular vote to be elected president against the wishes of the majority. In fact, this actually has happened in the past, but so seldom that a better argument is needed before we undertake such a fundamental change in our Constitution.

Why should we have such an apparently useless thing as an electoral college? The answer is tied up in an understanding of the structure of our government and the check and balance factors of our Constitution. Without the electoral college there would be little protection for minorities. Small states would be hopelessly at the mercy of populous states.

As an example, Oregon played a very prominent part in the primary campaign in which Dewey won the Republican nomination over Stassen. Had Dewey been elected president, there is reason to believe that a cabinet post, that of Secretary of the Interior, would have been offered Oregon's Senator Guy Cordon. Oregon is a very small state in the matter of electoral vote but because of our electoral college system it becomes possible for one state with a small electoral vote to gain political recognition. Recall how Woodrow Wilson defeated Charles Evans Hughes for the presidency because Hughes failed to shake hands with Senator Hiram Johnson in California. Such things make the electoral college important, because of the protection to small states and small factions. This last election could have been turned by the Dixiecrats and the Progressives—both minority groups—had they gained only about one percent more of the popular vote.

On the other hand, if presidential elections were decided by popular vote, the states of New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio and California would completely dominate the nation. These states would get 90 per cent of the political attention and political favors, while small states would receive only the crumbs from the political table. No minority faction, no matter how worthy its cause might be, could obtain preference.

Ralph T. Moore, writing in a recent issue of *The Oregon Voter* explains these and other factors of the proposed elimination of the electoral college as follows:

The fundamental principle involved is whether the United States is to remain a union of the several sovereign states or to become an empire based on republican democracy. There is a very great distinction between the two. The former would continue the original union of the states wherein each has sovereign rights within its borders but yields to the federal in matters of mutual concern such as interstate communications and the common defense. The empire idea would change this union to make each state a province in a federal dominion subservient to a common central government. In effect, it would be a socialist state.

The electoral college was conceived as a means to equalize the influence of the states and to prevent complete domination of the smaller states by the larger. It was presumed, with ample foundation in experience, that no workable union of intensely provincial commonwealths could be effected unless each had assurance of individual sovereignty and independent voice in management of federal government. There had to be mutual confidence and the certitude that the strong would not suppress the weak.

Amending the electoral college to conform with popular vote would obviously increase the influence of the larger states and decrease that of the small. This would be a major concession to those who wish to change our form of government from republican democracy to a socialist state. The first step in such an endeavor is always to herd the people into large corrals where they can be more readily homogenized. The persistent independence of the several states and the stubborn adherence to the sovereignty of local government constitute insuperable obstacles in the path of statist planning. The present electoral system implements such independence and hence is attacked as being undemocratic. The Russians are currently encountering similar opposition behind the Iron Curtain.

An enervating philosophy has swept over the world during the past quarter century. It is the idea of a planned economy based on the doctrine of artificial equality. This pitiful belief in human capacity to excel the Almighty in detailed planning of daily life manifests itself in the many collectivized schemes with which we have become familiar. The common premise is that the profit motive is immoral and that equality should be interpreted in the carnal sense to confer upon the state the right to forcibly take from the provident to benefit the indolent. Unless we are prepared to change our republic into a socialist empire and to embrace the above theory of the omnipotent state we should be slow to alter our electoral system. Ill-advised change could easily destroy the harmony and mutual confidence that now binds the union and could gradually atrophy local government.

## Parley Endeavors To Avert Strike On Greyhound Lines

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 13.—(AP)—With a Greyhound bus strike in seven western states tentatively set for Monday, wage negotiations resumed yesterday and are expected to continue through today.  
 Federal Conciliator Omar Hoskins sat in the meetings as an observer. There was no report at noon as to what progress was made.  
 In a letter to the company, the union said the strike would be called unless an "acceptable" wage offer is forthcoming before that deadline.  
 Affected would be 2,800 drivers, and 800 station employees in California, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.

The letter said drivers "will be instructed not to take out any scheduled (commute) routes as well as inter-city runs" after midnight, Nov. 14.  
 No company comment was available pending the arrival of President F. W. Ackerman, en route here by air from Chicago.  
 The company's last offer, the letter said, was rejected "by an overwhelming majority" of the union membership. The union said the offer called for a rate of 63 cents per mile or an hourly wage of \$1.32, and a daily minimum of \$11.28 for drivers, with increases ranging from "nothing to \$15" for the station employees.  
 At present, the union said, drivers are receiving six cents per mile or \$1.25 per hour and a daily minimum guarantee of \$10.48.  
 The union is asking for 7 1/2 cents per mile, or \$1.35 hourly, and a minimum of \$14 per day for drivers, and a \$35 across-the-board monthly increase for the station attendants.



## Scrap from the MENDING BASKET

By Viahnett S. Martin

Mr. and Mrs. Bitwuns like to have a picnic or a snack, according to which one is speaking, along the road somewhere when they go for a drive. It always begins with Mr. B warning his wife, "Now don't pack up everything in the pantry. There will be plenty of places to eat, you know, if you don't have enough, and don't forget the pickle eggs—" (or pickles or the cups or whatever Mrs. B forgot last time in her eagerness to keep the size of the picnic at a minimum. She always dreads to hear Mr. B's reaction when she tells him "this goes in the car" . . .).

"Hope springs eternal in the human breast" but you would think even Mrs. B would know by now how the picnic will go! "Spread a cloth and all that—piffle!" The Bs will drive along, Mrs. B looking for a good place as directed by the as yet un-hungry Mr. B. "Now don't wait till we're half a mile past before you tell me . . ." Mrs. B has to see the place before she can tell him, naturally, and by then they are probably two miles by because if Mr. B isn't hungry he isn't interested in any place however 'good.'

Then suddenly the car pulls

out at the side of the road, preferably where there is just enough space off the highway for the car to be missed by traffic whizzing by, the swish of their tires sending nice spurts of dust . . . not on Mrs. B, however, because she doesn't "have to do a thing but just sit there" while the gallant Mr. B (suddenly attacked by the gnawing pangs of hunger) dives into the picnic things. "My gosh, you brought enough for a ship's company but I'll bet you forgot the salt . . . no, here it is. Boiled eggs? Yes. What's this stuff? Here's your plate—now!"

Mr. B having piled Mrs. B's plate with this and that, now stands happily beside her by the open door, munching rapidly so as not to hinder progress a minute longer than necessary . . . even if they are just roaming for the ride . . . and then . . .

"Well, I guess that's that." He looks at his watch and appears pleased. Jams the unfolded pretty little table cloth back on top of the picnic fixings . . . tosses the whole business into the back of the car . . . and away they go!

But next time they will have a 'real picnic' with a cloth and a leisurely eating of it. Says Mrs. Bitwuns!

pression and up to the good things of today.  
 I'm not a good Democrat or a Republican. I'm only one of the children who suffered two wars and a lot of bad times.  
 Some children always have had plenty, so they are not afraid of Father or anyone else. They can laugh and take a chance. But many, many more were not so lucky. They are the ones who really sat down to do a lot of thinking. Again they looked into the eyes of the pictures. They looked for understanding, kindness and tolerance. They have again chosen to cast their lot with Mother.  
 MILDRED HOLLY  
 Riddle, Ore.

## In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

lusioned.  
 Courtesy, thoughtfulness and friendliness pay off NOT SO MUCH IN DOLLARS AND CENTS AS IN SATISFACTION AND SOLID ENJOYMENT OF LIFE.

WE'RE all research minded in these days. Here's a research project this writer would like to see tried out:  
 Take 100 average American boys and girls. Follow them through life. Keep careful records, based on accurate and unprejudiced observation. This writer has a notion that at the end you'd find that those who had been courteous, thoughtful and friendly had done better for themselves than the surly, brassy, SLICK kind.  
 ALSO that they were more numerous. The nasty kind of people impress us out of all proportion to their number.

HARRY Truman, the human lit-tle man who a week ago knocked the world on its ear, is vacationing in Florida—fishing, among other things. As many another man has done, he has let his whiskers grow. At a press conference, the reporters twitted him on the subject.  
 He explained to one questioner that his beard ISN'T a Van Dyke. "IT'S A JEFF DAVIS," he said.

PRETTY smart. Harry Truman needs the Solid South. Every Democrat since the Civil War has needed the Solid South. Every Democrat is in the immediately foreseeable future is going to need the Solid South. It's the Democratic party's ace in the hole.

WATCH Harry. Watch him especially closely now that when he shaves in the morning he SHAVES HARRY TRUMAN and nobody else. It will be interesting to see what that fundamental change does to him. His Jeff Davis beard crack indicates that he is nobody's political sap.

## Marshall Bares Real Intent Of Red 'Peace' Move

PARIS, Nov. 13.—(AP)—Secretary of State George C. Marshall declared yesterday that Russians are carrying on a "propaganda peace offensive" hoping to weaken the position of the United States.

Marshall told a news conference Russian propaganda in the United Nations Assembly has not been successful. He said the great majority of nations in the U. N. have lined up solidly in their opinions on the world situation.

The secretary said the Moscow reaction to published suggestions that Prime Minister Stalin and President Truman confer on world problems is one of the propaganda peace efforts.

Such peace efforts are "very dangerous because everyone sincerely wants peace, but not everyone wants mere propaganda for peace," Marshall said.

"We (the United States) are represented as being war mongers but what we want is peace."

Marshall said the propaganda peace offensive was designed primarily to exploit the world's desire for peace.

Marshall said the western powers still look to the United Nations Security Council—particularly to the so-called neutrals who have been trying to mediate—for anything they might propose to solve the Berlin crisis. The question still is before the council, he said.

Marshall said he noted that Vishinsky, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, repeated Prime Minister Stalin's charge that the west refused a proposal of the neutrals which Russia said she had accepted.

Marshall said the western powers never saw any agreed resolution on the Berlin case except the one vetoed by Russia Oct. 25 in the Security Council. This called for lifting of the Soviet blockade of Berlin followed by introduction of Soviet-sponsored marks as the sole currency of Berlin.

Marshall said the western countries approved this and Russia vetoed it.

## PUD Would Manage New District at Lakeside

Petition has been made by the Central Lincoln P. U. D. to manage a new water district being formed at Lakeside, Coos County. It was reported by Paul Hand of Newport, superintendent of the Central Lincoln P. U. D., on a visit to Reedsport Wednesday.

The Lakeside community is forming a fire district and a water district. Surveys have been made of available sources of water, but no decision as to the source to be used has been reached.

With Frank Seelye, manager of the Reedsport P. U. D. office, confined to a Coos Bay hospital following a severe heart attack recently, general supervision of this district has been given to Ralph Middleton of Florence, manager of the Florence district.

It is not expected that Seelye will be able to leave the hospital for several days.

## Popular Dance Hall Near Baker Destroyed by Fire

BAKER, Nov. 13.—(AP)—The Covered Wagon, large, popular dance hall a mile west of Baker, was completely destroyed by fire of undetermined origin yesterday morning. Loss was estimated at \$35,000.

The dance hall was purchased last month by the Oregon Trail Riders, a Baker riding organization, and turned over to Baker County for use in connection with a new youth center being constructed. An Armistice dance was held in the hall Thursday night.

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 Evening—Young People Meeting 7 P. M.  
 Service 8 P. M.  
 Bible Study Wednesday 8 P. M.