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CRITICISM NOT JUSTIFIED

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Criticism of the Legislative Interim Committee appointed to investigate the State Game Commission and wildlife management policies was voiced recently on the editorial page of *The Oregon Journal*. The criticism protested delay on the part of the committee in making public the contents of a report by Ira Gabrielson, head of the National Wildlife Institute and one of the nation's foremost conservation authorities, who was employed by the Committee to furnish technical advice. Gabrielson's report has been in the hands of the committee for several weeks, but publication has been refused by the Committee because of the objection from one member. Other members have expressed willingness to release the report for publication.

It is our opinion that the *Journal* is "off base" in demanding the release of the report until the committee is in agreement.

The report was not prepared for the public. Gabrielson was employed by the Committee as its technical adviser. When a person employs someone to conduct an investigation, it is expected the employee will report to his employer and not to the public.

In this particular case the issue arises that the committee is a public body, acting for and in behalf of the public and that the public, therefore, has a right to know what the Committee is doing. On the other hand, the Gabrielson report contains material and recommendations of a controversial nature. The public will be divided in its opinions concerning some of those recommendations. Therefore, in our opinion, the Committee is fully within its rights to withhold the suggestions of its technical adviser until it has determined its own action. Otherwise it would be subjected to considerable public pressure anent controversial issues.

The Committee is charged with a report to the Governor prior to the next session of the Legislature. To avoid outside pressure until it has agreed upon its own recommendations, the Committee, we believe, is justified in withholding the Gabrielson report.

Did Congress Defeat Itself?

During the recent election campaigns we heard much abuse of the 80th Congress. President Truman's attacks on the record of the last Congress doubtless had much influence in bringing about his election in the face of almost complete agreement of pre-election pollsters that he was a defeated candidate. But there also is in evidence an argument that the 80th Congress did its work so well that it defeated itself—a political paradox resulting from voter psychology.

At the 1946 election people were very dissatisfied, very unhappy. They demanded a change. In 1948 conditions were such that the people wanted no further change and were fearful that the Congress, which Truman pictured as a "tool of Wall Street," might proceed further to the right.

Back in 1946 the nation was plagued with strikes. The OPA still held rationing controls. Materials were in short supply. A black market was flourishing. Home construction was virtually at a standstill and was rigidly bound up in federal red tape. Meat was almost unobtainable. Sugar was very limited in the markets, but liberal supplies were in the hands of bootleggers. Farmers were worried about crop controls and the future of farm support prices. Unhappy voters installed a Republican majority in Congress.

Following the 1946 election the President, beating Congress to the punch, voluntarily ended OPA. Congress passed the Taft-Hartley bill which, with all its faults, brought about a 60 per cent reduction in work stoppages. Agriculture was assured continued prosperity level through renewal of price supports. Changes in housing regulations opened the way for home construction exceeding in volume anything ever before known in our national history.

Except for high living costs the public now is much more satisfied with domestic conditions than in 1946. There is mounting fear of a recession. The rightist tendencies of the 80th Congress could be construed as tending to contribute to a recession. Consequently, a turn toward the left was indicated.

In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

will remain about as it is—with no great progress toward better things.

Men who fear and distrust each other can't work together effectively, and when men can't work together effectively true progress lags.

IN Singapore, a salute is fired for a visiting French cruiser, and everybody thought it signaled the birth of Elizabeth's child. There was general rejoicing. . . . The Lord Mayor of London has announced that he will "give funds" to each child born in London on the day Elizabeth's child is born. . . . Not to be outdone, the mayor of Woodstock, Ontario (Canada) will pass out \$5 to each child born in his town that day. And so on over the world.

SILLY?
No, it's tradition — tradition

that runs far back into the roots of history. ALWAYS men have dreaded a change of leadership. Since the days of tribal chiefs, a change at the top has been apt to mean a ruckus. Men feared these changes, which, more often than not, meant war and bloodshed while a NEW CHIEF ROSE TO POWER. They tried to find a better way to make the change.

SO THEY INVENTED THE IDEA OF HEREDITARY MONARCHY. Under hereditary monarchy the first-born of the chief automatically became the new chief. Thus the intervening period of anarchy was avoided. People then said GRATEFULLY: "The king is dead; long live the king." They were grateful because there was automatically a new king without a fight in which a lot of innocent bystanders would get killed.

Instinctively (responding to tradition) the people of the British Commonwealth of Nations feel the same way about it. That is why they are so deeply interested in Elizabeth's momentarily expected confinement.

Perhaps He Can Find Out What's Wrong



Scrap from the MENDING BASKET

By Viannett S. Martin

I really feel at home in Oregon now. I have enjoyed the happy companionship that being with a room full of alert, entirely frank children gives one! The principal of Curtin School, who reads this column, invited me to "visit school in National Education Week and talk to the children." One of the mothers, Mrs. Stephens, provided transportation, my problem now that EJ has the car during the daytime. It has been a long time since I have had such a thoroughly happy hour!

I was a story-lady for an hour, reading one after another, receiving always the right answers to my attention-testing prestige, hesitating after each story to make sure another one was really wanted. Because of the varying ages it seemed wise to choose stories that could be easily visualized by the younger children, and so I kept an eye on the oldest boys! But their heads nodded as vigorously as the rest for "another one."

Children—and young people—make the most delightful audiences! I still remember one morning at City College it was my task and great honor to present the Service Flag for the City College Patrons to the Student Body. I had asked that a friend, the president of the Gold Star

Mothers, do it, but the Dean of Women, dear Mattie Paine, insisted that "the girls think you should; not because you are president of the Patrons but because Seeley's Gold Star is on the flag, too."

So—I did. But I was fairly "frozen" with fright. Not "stage fright" but the fear that I might break down from emotion and that I had horror of doing. You see, they were having the Navy Band from Roosevelt Base and you know what a military band can do to you! Also, and this was something I felt I just couldn't "take"—they would play Taps.

When the moment came for the presentation to the young man who was to receive it for the students, I walked forward to the microphone and I stood there for a second or two, looking out over the 1500 students and their guests—for they had really made an occasion of it. Perhaps, they were thinking, there might be a Gold Star for some of those now listening. In that moment or two as I stood there, there, came to me an indescribable feeling of warmth from that group of dear young people that did something to me. It relaxed my fear-filled heart, and gave me confidence. No, I was not going to let them down by becoming emotional—not even during Taps.

Willamette, the Cowlitz, the Sandy, Big creek and such other minor tributaries as exist on the lower river—cannot begin to support the fish population that once required the entire Columbia basin for its spawning grounds. And common sense tells us that 10 per cent of the basin can't support the fish that it has taken 100 per cent of the basin to support in the past.

Furthermore, there is no guarantee that the lower river will be saved for salmon. The Willamette river flood control program is bound to limit somewhere that river system's capacity to support fish runs. And what of such projects as that proposed by the Tacoma municipal power system for the Cowlitz? That project would destroy the Cowlitz for fish spawning.

The destruction to be done up river salmon runs if Col. Weaver's newest plan becomes fact is undisputable.

The Priest Rapids dam has been condemned by fish biologists because it will drown out one of

Waterfront Strike In East Not Yet Settled

NEW YORK, Nov. 15.—(AP)—City and union officials began conferences today in an effort to settle a waterfront strike which has paralyzed the East Coast's big ports.

The strike, meanwhile, spread to Halifax, Nova Scotia, which has been substituting as the docking port for some Transatlantic liners since the East Coast walk-out began.

The strike—at first a rank-and-file walkout—became official Saturday after the rejection by some 65,000 IILA members of a tentative agreement.

It called for a hike in the day-shift straight-time pay from \$1.75 to \$1.85 an hour and in the night and weekend overtime rate from \$2.62 to \$2.71 an hour.

The union now seeks an increase of 50 cents an hour, as originally demanded.

Double Slaying Leaves Seven Children Orphaned

KENTLAND, Ind., Nov. 15.—(AP)—Seven children, six of them of one family, were orphaned yesterday by a double shooting in the town of Goodland, eight miles east of here.

Mrs. Ethel Bobbitt, 45-year-old widow mother of six of the youngsters, was killed by two blasts from a shotgun as she and her 11-year-old son, Donald, were preparing to leave home for evening church services.

State Trooper Leon Apple said she was killed by George Martin, a 48-year-old paper hanger with whom she had been keeping company. The body of Martin, widower and father of a daughter who lives with an uncle in Brook, Ind., was found in his home shot to death with the same gun.

The most important spawning beds left in the Columbia river system. It alone will do tremendous damage.

The Dalles dam also has been condemned by biologists because it, along with Bonneville and McNary dams, will present a series of three big barriers to migrating salmon. Biologists say these three barriers will be too much for the salmon to pass; that salmon weakened by the fight to get through Bonneville are unlikely to survive both McNary and the Dalles dams thereafter.

The fishing industry's existence is gravely threatened by army engineers' dam proposals.

If army engineers consider it necessary to sacrifice the Columbia river salmon fishery to the need for more power in the northwest, we wish they had the courage to say so. As it is, they talk of saving salmon by fishways and by transferring upriver runs to lower river tributaries—plans that competent biologists say won't work. Apparently their talk is just sales propaganda to put their projects over with congress and the public.

They will go ahead and destroy the salmon industry, denying all the time that they are doing it.

Douglas County Pupils Will Send Gifts Overseas

Hundreds of pupils of Douglas County schools will this year play Santa Claus to young folk of war-torn countries, as classrooms are undertaking a gift box project under direction of the American Junior Red Cross of this county.

A national project now in its fourth year, gift boxes are being made up by classrooms throughout Douglas County under leadership of Miss Ruth Sweeney, Junior Red Cross Committee chairman of the Douglas County chapter.

The gift boxes, conservatively valued at \$2 each, are filled with only new, clean and best quality goods. Items include pencils, paper, toothbrushes and paste or powder, balls, bars of soap, and various other educational and toy items. These items are provided by classroom pupils and filled under direct supervision of their respective teachers.

64 Schools Adopt Plan
Miss Sweeney and Mrs. Frank Johnson, chapter motor service driver, recently covered nearly 1,000 miles distributing material to county schools for enrollment in Junior Red Cross and enlisting schs into the gift box project. She reported that 64 county schools adopted the project.

Majority of the classrooms were most enthusiastic in taking part in the project, reports Miss Sweeney, a retired school teacher, in that they can easily adapt the project to class work without additional classroom load. Teachers have found the project to have a fitting relationship to studies. People and history of the countries to which the boxes will go—modern events and present conditions that make the boxes so important at this time, managing the money for purchases—these and other points have arisen in filling of gift boxes and tie directly into classroom study of geography, history, mathematics, and social studies.

Special mention was given by Miss Sweeney to Mrs. Vera Mathewman and her two-room Elgarose grade school which was the first to complete the project, turning in five boxes, and Miss Rhoda Wheelock of Upper Olalla school, which was first to enroll in the program. Other schools have reported enrollment and brought in contributions amount-

ing to more than \$70, as well as many filled boxes.

Killer of 2 Children

Committed to Hospital

GRANTS PASS, Ore., Nov. 15.—(AP)—Mrs. Francis McCurdy, Gold Hill widow who had been indicted by a Josephine County grand jury for first degree murder, was last week ordered committed to the State Mental Hospital by Circuit Judge Millard for observation.

The woman was charged with stabbing her 9-year-old son, Paul, to death with a butcher knife in an auto court here Sept. 1. Her 11-year-old daughter, Pamela, was slain at the same time but grand jury action on the second charge has been deferred.

One Killed, Others Injured in Ship Fire

TACOMA, Wash., Nov. 15.—(AP)—At least one man was killed and another believed trapped in a fire which followed an explosion today in the Swedish motorship *Los Angeles*.

At least five others were injured, Tacoma firemen said. Ralph La Plante, refrigeration engineer, died at a hospital from the effects of carbon monoxide fumes. A Mr. Olson, guaranty engineer for the firm that built the ship, was feared trapped in the engine room.

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