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KIND WORDS FOR LOBBYISTS

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Writing in her column of impressions at the State Legislature, Esther Geddes has an interesting comment concerning lobbyists. Mrs. Geddes is writing exclusively for News-Review readers. It is her first experience with legislative procedure, and she approaches the experience from the angle of the neophyte.

Many others who write of legislative proceedings for newspapers are old hands at the task and have gone through many sessions. Familiar with the law-making operation, they instinctively assume that their readers also know all the angles and they fail to include many interesting highlights and impressions which are so outstanding to the person experiencing a legislative session for the first time.

Mrs. Geddes points out that lobbyists are representatives of large groups and are extremely helpful to the legislator.

The word lobbyist carries some measure of odium in the public mind. In some cases this impression may be deserved, but for the most part the lobby is a very important and essential part of legislative procedure.

Lobbyists could more accurately be called legislative advisors. Usually they are men paid by large groups having a common interest. They are men fully informed on the activities they represent.

For instance, the railroads have a very strong lobby employing men thoroughly versed in every department of the transportation industry. Auto freight companies also have their lobbies. When a question arises regarding transportation law, legislators, many of whom know nothing of this industry, are able to obtain information from experts. As nearly every lobby has its rival, the legislator seeking information gets both sides of any controversial issue. Every legislator uses the lobby as a source of information. No lawmaker can be expected to know all the subjects in the gamut of bills. Yet he must pass on each one. Thus, in the large number of lobbyists attending the session, he can find persons who will give him the information he needs on both sides of any controversial issue.

The lobbyist is a hard-working individual. His first task is to become acquainted with every member of the legislature and place himself on friendly terms. He must learn the opinions of each legislator concerning the group, industry, business, profession or activity he represents. If he finds opposition to his particular cause, he presents facts and arguments favorable to his side. Naturally, when some important bill of a highly controversial nature is concerned, the lobbyist is a very busy person.

The lobbyist must keep in constant contact with legislative personnel. Finding a legislator hopelessly opposed to the project supported by the lobbyist, the latter may try to bring influence from the legislator's home district. Naturally, the lobbies on each side of the issue are going through the same procedure, so that the eventual outcome is that the legislator votes according to the best information he has available and his own opinions based on that information, plus consideration of the wishes of the people of his district or of the state at large.

Lobbying is not the dangerous practice many people seem to believe. There have been instances in which lobbies became too powerful and exerted too much pressure. There have been cases in which legislators were lured into compromising positions and threatened with exposure if they voted "wrong." This type of lobbying, however, is not as prevalent now as in some former years. There is less trickery, beguilement and blackmail, and more emphasis on helpful information and persuasion through open argument and debate.

It would be extremely difficult to handle the great number of bills passing through a legislative session if legislators did not have available lobby experts to aid them in learning facts,

Building Trades Oppose Tech School Support

NORTH BEND, Ore., Jan. 18.—(AP)—The Oregon Building Trades Council wants the state to quit supporting Oregon Tech at Klamath Falls.

The institution, formerly known as Oregon Vocational School, was the subject of a resolution at the semi-annual session of the council here over the weekend.

The resolution urged that the state funds, instead, be used to establish a state apprenticeship training program.

Other resolutions asked: A six-hour work day if a recession comes; a law licensing contractors to fix financial responsibility on them for labor and materials; a prohibition against outdoor privies on construction jobs.

Volney Martin, Portland, resigned as president and was elected executive secretary. Charles Cravey, Medford, was elevated from vice-president to president.

Congress Votes Raise in Salary of President

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—(AP)—Congress yesterday gave President Truman a pay boost from \$75,000 to \$100,000 a year and raised his tax-free expense allowance from \$40,000 to \$50,000.

By voice vote, the House completed action on the pay hike measure which already won Senate approval by a vote of 69 to 9.

The bill now goes to the White

House for Mr. Truman's Signature

It also raises the salaries of the vice-president and speaker of the House from \$20,000 to \$30,000 a year and gives them \$10,000 each in tax-free expense allowances.

Woman Would Protect Housekeeping Allowance

GLASGOW, Jan. 18.—(AP)—Mrs. Jean Mann, happily married Scotchwoman and Labor member of Parliament, wants Parliament to pass a law forcing husbands to keep hands off any money their wives save from the housekeeping allowance.

For the first time, she said, she wants the law to aid this thrifty project by forcing husbands to hand over a "reasonable share" of their earnings.

At present, Mrs. Mann said, a husband legally can take his wife's household savings—and frequently does if the marriage breaks up.

Mrs. Mann's invalid husband and her five children, she says, are all backing her.

Looking Back

BIG TIMBER, Montana.—(AP)—David Herries was hanging away earnestly but not effectively at an antelope that was moving away fast but kept looking back over its shoulder at the hunter as Herries fired. Suddenly, the animal crashed into a fence post and was knocked out. Before the antelope could regain consciousness, Herries had killed it.

Familiarity Breeds Contempt



Scrap from the MENDING BASKET

By Vivian S. Martin

Surely sardines packed in Eastport, Maine, are no better than sardines caught and packed on our Pacific Coast! I was surprised, for two reasons, when EJ brought home some tinned sardines; surprised to find they had been packed in Maine and so had come all the way across the country, or around the Canal—talk about carrying coals to Newcastle!—and was surprised to think EJ would consider sardines as a late-sneak item. He eats the most extraordinary conglomeration of this and that just before he goes to sleep, and sleeps like a baby, but he has never seemed interested in sardines, probably because he lived on them for three days during the 1916 storm in Galveston. Sardines and handfuls of all kinds of sweet crackers. Who donated the sardines? Must ask him. Pacific or Atlantic Coast pack?

EJ stayed that first night in the History American Insurance building; he entered by swimming through the aperture where a plate glass window had been. He had lots of company, all cold, wet and hungry. They kept track of the rising water by counting the steps from the first landing down to the water. The steps kept disappearing.

He had intended to make his way out to where his brother, J. W., and his sister-in-law were living in a two-story frame house, but gave up. Sarah was expecting a baby soon; she was upstairs in the house. Now and then JW would descend to the first floor and return with a cheerful report that it was "no worse" he guessed, or "letting up a bit." (I meant to ask Sarah when she was here this summer if she really did believe him or if she helped him along by pretending she did?)

Early in the storm, JW opened the front door to have a look and the howling wind hurled a big tree across the front of the house, ripping off the front porch, and taking that along too. JW braced the door as best he could; after that he, too, just counted steps . . . but didn't inform Sarah of his tally.

There's one thing about an earthquake: The ocean stayed where it belonged and didn't come up into the town; neither did the ships, which in Galveston were left high and dry by the storm. And oh, what gratitude the people of Long Beach felt for the 3,000 sailors and marines who, armed and efficient, were ashore in 45 minutes, patrolling and aiding wherever needed.

proposal would merely extend the sales tax to include personal services.

The legislator who thought up the idea calls it a "logical step," and adds that "people might as well realize right now that this legislature must impose some new taxes if the state is to remain financially solvent."

A LONG time ago, a wise philosopher offered this conclusion: "The best tax is the one that gets the most feathers from the goose with the least squawking."

MEANWHILE, we get an interesting little story from Philadelphia, where police have just seized \$1,500,000 worth of Irish Sweepstakes tickets. At the same time, they nabbed 50,000 tickets on the Grand National Steeplechase in England.

The point seems to be that people yell bloody murder about taxes but LOVE TO GAMBLE.

HERE in our own Oregon, Senator Irving Rand of Portland proposes a dirty trick. He says he's thinking of appointing himself to the job of keeping score on how each Oregon senator is fulfilling his campaign promises. He adds that legislators are going to have a hard time living up to their promises because "some potential dandies were tossed into the recent campaign."

That would be hitting below the political belt. In this country we've more or less built up the idea that the way to get office is to PROMISE ANYTHING during the campaign and expect the saps to forget it after election.

In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

that it does have to be—that there is no way out of it.

UP in Alaska, as elsewhere, they are bothered by the problem of getting enough tax money to go around. A bill has been introduced in the territorial legislature that at least has the merit of simplicity. It calls for a territorial income tax with payments amounting to ten per cent of federal income taxes.

That has the local advantage of shoving most of the cost off onto Uncle Sam. He hires the organization to see to it that federal taxes are apportioned out to the people. The territory says simply to the local taxpayer: "Give me ten percent of the sum you're going to have to put up to your old uncle in Washington."

ALL over the country licenses and occupation taxes are getting a lot of attention. In addition to the 10 percent income tax, Alaska proposes also a \$25 fee to be paid by all business, professions and services, plus one-half of one percent of gross receipts above \$20,000 a year.

The state of Washington, whose governor has just called for 75 million to 100 million dollars in new revenue "to meet the state's large impending deficit," wants a retail sales tax on PERSONAL SERVICES—such as those performed by doctors, lawyers, dentists and barbers. Washington already has a sales tax. The new

High Crime Rate Blame Fixed By Director of FBI

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—(AP)—One out of every 20 persons in the United States has been arrested and fingerprinted at one time or another, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover says.

The FBI last year handled a record total of 759,698 fingerprints resulting from 21-year-olds than any other age group.

"The continued high crime rate in the present peacetime era," he said, "is a serious reflection upon the failure of adult Americans in the discharge of their responsibilities of citizenship."

"Many communities have failed to provide law enforcement agencies with adequate facilities and sufficient funds for operational and training programs to meet the present-day crime menace. The need for sufficient recreational facilities to absorb leisure time has been overlooked to the detriment of youngsters."

"Many individuals, indifferent to the responsibilities of parenthood, have failed to provide their children with proper training and adequate supervision during adolescent years."

"Home life, in many instances, has been neglected and too many youngsters have suffered as the result of broken homes."

The 1948 statistics showed that while 15.3 percent of the total arrests were among persons under 21, these minors accounted for 44.7 percent of all auto-theft arrests, 38.5 percent of all burglary arrests, 31.6 percent of all rape arrests, 27.1 percent of all robbery arrests, and 12.3 percent of all murder arrests.

Compared with 1941, the arrests of boys under 21 was up 3.1 percent last year, while arrests of girls under 21 jumped 20.9 percent.

Of the total arrest records processed in 1948, 440,872—58 percent—showed previous arrests. The repeaters among persons under 21 totaled 33.5 percent, among those between 40 and 44 years of age, 70.5 percent. The repeaters in the age group 25 to 29 ran to 64.4 percent.

Machine Led Man Into Slavery

The machine led man into slavery slowly. The saying arose: "All you have to do to get ahead is to put your shoulder to the wheel." Ho, ha, ha! Does that satisfy the machine today?

No, it demands your whole anatomy. To drive a car to work you have to climb completely inside the machine. You have to use your head, your hands, your feet, your eyes, your nerves, your muscles—and often your vocal chords.

And when you get to work is the machine willing to let you put merely your shoulder to the wheel? No! It demands now that you keep your nose to the grindstone—the last indignity.

Robot's Wants Envisaged

Dr. Ashby bases his belief that his machine is beginning to think on the fact it automatically adjusts its electrical balance to make itself feel more "comfortable."

Well, the desire to be more comfortable is a fundamental quality of all life—from a one-celled amoeba to a one-trunk elephant. Dr. Ashby sees no limit to the complexity of thought the brain machine may achieve in time.

So it is silly to think it will be satisfied with just adjusting its electrical balance. It's going to want the good things of life—song, feminine companionship, wine, laughter, freedom. But the only way the machines can get these things, as they wisen up, is to make mankind work harder to support them in the style to which they will want to become accustomed. There goes the 40-hour week.

Machines already are too smart to wage wars. When they hit their real brain stride, the machines will probably keep armies of pet men and bet on the outcome of their mortal but pointless battles—just as some men now bet on two trained roosters slashing each other to aimless death in a bloody pit.

All right, go ahead and laugh at a poor philosopher. People laughed at the Wright brothers—

Navy Asks Congress For More Money

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—(AP)—The Navy signaled Congress today that more money is needed if it is to keep pace with the atomic era.

It estimated that its operating costs in the fiscal year ending June 30 will "again exceed appropriations by more than \$1,000,000,000" and that it won't be able to keep on drawing upon dwindling wartime stockpiles of equipment to make up the difference.

Some senators who help hold the nation's purse strings promptly said they thought the emphasis should be on air power rather than ships.

Secretary of the Navy John L. Sullivan in his annual report, issued over the weekend, advised the Congress that the Navy's dollars "in their shrunken condition" have failed to accomplish all that was planned for them.

"Technological advances which have greatly increased the range, effectiveness, power and speed of weapons, planes and ships have also greatly increased their complexity and cost," he added.

President Truman in his budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, suggested a three-way split of about \$14,000,000,000 for the armed forces, composed of the Army, the Air Force and the Navy.

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Flood of Gadgets Shows Science Needs Someone to Holler 'Whoa'

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK.—(AP)—The poor man's philosopher says: Science needs someone to holler "whoa!" Right now. Before something climbs out of a laboratory and overwhelms the human race.

What's going on here? What's test tube savants and nabobs of nuclear energy taking us? What have the blimp jockeys got coming up next on science's radar? Who's in such a hurry to go where?

The warplane? It's a toy of the past—or soon will be. The atom bomb that was supposed to have the power to destroy civilization is getting to be old stuff, too. The military is reported to be planning a man-made platform in the ionosphere—a circling satellite to serve as a kind of pitcher's box from which to throw the weapons of the future.

Space ships and rockets to the moon—they are in the offing. Only optimists will buy a round trip ticket.

As if these Jules Verne nightmares weren't enough, a British scientist has come up with a horror to end all horrors—a mechanical brain.

And that's why somebody'd better yell "whoa!" right now to the boys who burn the midnight burners.

This scientist, Dr. W. P. Ashby, helped build a machine which he says is beginning to think. Well, there you are—the machine at last is on a mental par with man. For man, after all his stormy centuries, is only beginning to think, too.

Illusion Corrected

It's been a fraud all along—that idea that man was master and the machine the slave. People used to have a fear that the machine would throw them out of work. That was nonsense. The machine intended all along to put more and more people to work—and to make them keep working, too. And it has.

When the original traitor to mankind discovered the first machine—the wheel—how many men had to labor for a living? And how many have to work now? Millions upon millions more.

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Capital Taking On Inaugural Dress

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—(AP)—This 150-year-old federal city just about finished dressing up today for the nation's 41st inaugural ceremony—one that may go

down in history as the most festive of all.

Out of town visitors who began streaming in for an entire week of celebrating saw a mass of white enveloping the stand and seats built in front of the grand domed Capitol where Harry S. Truman and Alben W. Barkley will take the oath as President and Vice President Thursday at 9 a. m. (PST).

They saw the circus seats of more somber hue stretched out along well-trod Pennsylvania Avenue awaiting some of the 750,000 or 1,000,000 persons expected to see all or part of the formal launching of the Truman "fair deal."

Lamp posts clutch American flags and blue-gold presidential seals on shields of wood. Another great white pine-boarded stand has been constructed in front of the White House where the President will watch a two-and-a-half-hour parade of troops, cadets, bands and state floats in which 40,000 persons will take part.

when perhaps they should have wept.

But don't blame me if your great-great-grandson meekly goes to carry a breakfast tray in every morning to a still-ribbed robot lying abed with a creaky nongover—a breakfast tray carrying, perhaps, a shot of Bourbon with a fuel oil chaser.

The best thing science can do with all thinking machines is to throw sand in them—strip 'em from gear to gear. Now!

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