## The News-Review <br>  <br> FEAR. AND BRIBERY

## By CHARLES V. STANTON

## Americans are shocked when they read that people in

 foreign countries fear to speak their minds. Many personsin Communist-controlled countries, we know full well, are not Communists and do not believe in communistic doctrines, political opposition.
But must we go outside the United States to find a very
similar condition? Is it even necessary to go outside the State of Oregon?
We heard a speaker this week describe how a merchant in a neighboring town was afraid to discuss a local issue carried on in a back room. The merchant, of course, was not fearful of death, imprisonment, or exile to a labor camp, but he was afraid of loss of trade-
if he publicly proclaimed his views.
The incident described occurred in a town in the Rogue river valley. It could have happened in any other town. Only
a few months ago some people in Roseburg and Reedsport a few months ago some people in Roseburg and Reedsport
were afraid to express their opinions concerning closing the Umpqua river to commercial fishing lest they incur ill in which feeling runs high.
Particularly is this true when federal agencies, such a
the Bureau of Reclamation, Army Engineers, Department of the Interior and others start bribing us with our own
money, adding fuel to fires of avarice, greed and prejudice. The Bureau of Reclamation proposes a water project That is a lot of money to be spent in a community. It is
only natural that everyone wants to get his hand into the only natural that everyone wants to get his hand into the
pot.
The fact that the project, from an economic standpoint is unsound, is brushed off lightly when possibilit.
business and individual profits are considered.
Agricultural benefits to result from the project couldn't A
pay even a fraction of the interest charges. To retire the
pay even a fraction of the interest charges.
sarily be sold at considerab

be impaired by heavy irrigation charges.
But $\$ 100$ million dollars would be put into circulation and
Consequently, why worry about the fact that the American in benefits?
A few voices in the Rogue river valliny have been raised
against the destruction of the river re arce through erection of high dams. But prevailing pressure from irrigationpersonal profits fro
 a fact given much prominence in an effort to discredit critics.
The fact was, however, that only a few brave valley residents dared risk possible
But despite setbacks, opposition still exists in the Rogue
Broponts. river valley,
the Rogue,"
avowed purpose of trying to show the uneconomic, wasteful
and destructive factors of the Rogue basin proiect.
Many residents doubtless would like to be affiliated with the resistance group but fear reaction from expressio honest opinion. The few aggressive oppositionists are appeal-
ing for help, believing that if enough strength can be found utside the valley to again put up a fight, it may rein become tired, defeated or afraid.
Fear has no place in our political life, but it is all too
requently to be found, especially since federal authority
has discovered that a tantalizing bribe is as effective in creating fear as a secret police

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|  | First Baptist Church Sunday $\qquad$ "When Heaven Was Empty" The Choir and Wendell Johnson <br> 7:30 P. M. $\qquad$ "Christmas $\qquad$ Special Music |
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|  | Sundoy School-9:45 Youth Groups at b:15 Heor Mrs. Joseph Anderson Tonight (Friday) 7:30 |

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