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EGO AND GOVERNMENT

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Why are so many highly intelligent people communistic or socialistic in their thinking? Why do we find so many brilliant minds in the ranks of planned economy advocates? If planned economy, Socialism and Communism are dangerous political systems, why are these theories endorsed by so many scientists, educators, economists, writers and others who have demonstrated mental ability above the general average?

We had the privilege recently to hear an excellent explanation of this question. The speaker was Dr. J. A. Hall, director of the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment station, Portland.

Dr. Hall said, in effect, that intelligent individuals supporting planned economy or totalitarian forms of government are, for the most part "specialists." He could have added the "genius" class.

These individuals are highly educated on one particular subject. They believe that they have the answers to our problems. They are impatient with ordinary, slow acceptance of their special theories. If they had authority to enforce their theories upon the public, advancement would be rapid. Consequently they favor an authoritative form of government in which as specialists they can promote public welfare according to their own ideas.

Doesn't Work Out In Practice

The theory, like many others, may sound fine, but theories don't always work when put into practice.

Specialists, in the first place, can't always agree. Then we find that the best salesman wins. The individual with the most political pull or the most pressure is the one who gains authority.

Thus, we find in Washington a group of planners, pulling, hauling and wrangling.

Being specialists, each has one particular theory. He advances his program without thought, or knowledge, of its effect upon the rest of the economy. Instead of overall planning, coordinating and embracing all branches of government, the planning is done piecemeal, project by project, and the planner with the most influence puts his particular field ahead of all others.

We find brilliant minds in economics, agriculture, labor, education, housing, reclamation, power, and many other lines, each striving to do its bit for humanity through a planned and controlled economy. Competition is keen for the right to raise the public welfare, and the result is chaos and confusion.

Each specialist is sure he has something for the advancement of mankind. He needs only the authority of government to make his program effective. Intolerant of delays encountered in normal processes, and obsessed with real or imaginary mental superiority over the general public in his own field, he seeks power by which he can do the things he thinks should be done.

Economy Thrown Out Of Balance

Readers of this column know that we are especially interested in the field of conservation of natural resources; that we want improved utilization of forest products, protection for watersheds, better logging processes.

Anyone will agree that conservation is a fine thing, that many bad practices are to be found in the timber industry, that we need better soil conservation, better water usage, etc.

Suppose we were able, through political pressure, to obtain a high place in government, where we could make our ideas operative by force.

But, without experience in logging and milling, knowing nothing about the technical details of agriculture, we could, if we had authority to promote our conservation opinions, completely wreck general economy.

That is an example of the situation we find existing today. Public power advocates are in the saddle and are using water for power purposes, with a few crumbs tossed out to reclamation and recreational interests.

Agricultural planners would levy general taxes to subsidize overproduction of farm crops.

But, in each case, the individual specialist believes he is doing a service for mankind. He endorses planned economy, totalitarian government and social reforms because he cannot tolerate the slow tedious process of gaining his point through education.

Thus, we have many so-called intellectuals sponsoring alien isms and disrupting our economy due to urging from their own ego.

Canyonville Plans 'Appreciation Day'

An "appreciation day" celebration was planned at the regular meeting of the Canyonville Chamber of Commerce when it met Wednesday night at the community hall.

The details and date will be announced later. On the committee are: Mrs. Albert Mault, chairman; George Binder, Dayton Bailey, Chuck Allen, J. N. Gray, E. S. Wilkey, George McClane Jr., Gordon Harry, Carl M. Hill, Chris Daniels and T. L. Weaver.

A committee for the Memorial day parade was also appointed. The members are: Charles E. Williams, Albert Mault, C. E. Parker,

I. N. Gray, H. J. Hash and Mrs. Albert Mault.
Dayton Bailey, secretary of the chamber, has spent a great deal of time and effort the past two weeks contacting various Canyonville businesses for membership. The results are the following new members: Daniel's Red and White store, B-Lovely shop, Loffer Barber shop, Neal's Fountain and cafe, Superette market, Pacific Highway garage, Canyonville Realty Co., Coffee Creek Logging Co., Alcan Lumber Co., Rimmell Feed and Seed store, Canyonville hotel, Mobil Service station, Shell Service station, Chevron station, John Bingham Jr. and Robert Shaffer. George Binder is president of the chamber this year.

A male leopard may weight 160 pounds.

The First Few Days Are Always Tough



Scopes from the MENDING BASKET

By Vianett S. Martin

Did you ever sit under a big tree alongside a creek, and lazily watch a bright red and green "bobber" floating on the scarcely moving surface of a deep pool? Your line was a green string, your sinker was a small washer if the corner store was temporarily out of proper sinkers, and your hook was the very best penny hook available.

Oh yes, your pole—no "rod" about this—was a slender sapling cut on your way to the creek to save carrying it, your companion was on gallant, as mine invariably was on such expeditions. Or perhaps you could scornfully set aside the home made fishpole and sport a brand new bamboo one that cost at least a quarter. Did you? Then you know why I cheered when I came across this in the Game Commission Bulletin for April:

"Bass and Other Spiny Rays" was written for expert fishermen, and it was written by an expert fisherman, and it mentions Douglas county places to fish as well as other areas. It tells how, and when, and why, and with what, at considerable length and it leaves no doubt in the reader's mind as to the wide experience of the writer, Stuart J. Cooper of the Oregon State Game commission. But tucked in the middle of the article is this: (three cheers!)

... one can lure a mess of yellow perch or catfish from these waters by using the pleasant and effect process of cork-and-worm angling. This method often scorned by those who profess a higher plane of virtue is probably the cause of a lot more downright satisfaction for more people than ever saw a dry fly." And, Mr. Cooper adds elsewhere, "It is possible to fish successfully from the bank for all varieties of pond fish although it is more commonly done for crappies and catfish."

Al, that's the way to fish! Or to sit dreaming over your rod, no, I mean pole, P-O-L-E, Pole!—while a flatbottomed boat drifts slowly or is held by an anchor. If one has a bite—excitement! If the fish don't bite—one has still had a deep kind of pleasure. But if your companion is the up-anchor-and-away kind, when the fish fail to bite pronto, then you might better have a putt-putt ... that way is fun, too.

P. S. The address of the Game Commission Bulletin 1634 S. W. Alder, Portland 8, April issue.

In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

who can see a bad situation 2000 miles away but can't see a thing wrong here at home.

WELL, let's come clean. I think, Mr. Wilson, that Oregon's overlooking of the playing of slot machines and other forms of gambling is just as smelly, in principle as the alliance between racketeers and politicians that exist in our bigger cities back east. The difference is only a matter of degree.

In all these big cities, there are laws against gambling and other forms of wrongdoing, but the laws are more or less ignored because somebody in authority gets money for ignoring them. Here in Oregon, there are LAWS AGAINST GAMBLING. Gambling is forbidden by our state law. Gambling is forbidden by ordinances in nearly all of our cities. GAMBLING IS EVEN SPECIFICALLY FORBIDDEN BY THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF OREGON.

But, as you say, Mr. Wilson, slot machines and other gambling devices are permitted to operate from time to time more or less all over our state.

It isn't legal. It isn't nice. It isn't honest.

I've remarked often in this column that every time I see a slot machine running (or a punchboard, or any other gambling device) I can't help wondering who is GETTING MONEY FOR LETTING IT RUN.

That isn't a pleasant situation, because often enough over this state of Oregon the men whose duty it is to enforce the law are personal friends of mine. One doesn't like to wonder if friends are getting money for looking the

other way while the law is being broken.

LET'S be candid about this whole business. Here in Oregon, slot machines and other gambling devices operate (from time to time, in between spasms of morality) because the public doesn't seem to care much whether they operate or not. Has anyone ever heard of an Oregon citizen placing himself in front of a slot machine that is open for business and yelling bloody murder until a cop comes and puts a stop to it?

I never did. And yet it is each citizen's duty to see to it that the laws are enforced. I suspect that if every citizen stopped every time he saw a slot machine in operation and yelled loud and long for a cop and kept yelling till the cop came and did his duty, slot machines would soon vanish in Oregon.

If every citizen in Kansas City did likewise, the Kansas City racketeers would soon be ended. The public just doesn't seem to care much. If laws are to be enforced, they must have public backing.

ONE other point, while we're on this subject.

As yet, here in Oregon, our gambling racket is small-time stuff. The swag involved hasn't yet got big enough to cause our racketeers to kill each other off over the division of it.

But it's getting closer. There are the Bugsy Seigels, who got potted in Los Angeles. There are the Mickey Cohens who so far have been missed every time they have been shot at. Gambling profits lie at the root of these shootings.

Oregon is growing. We like to point out that in the past 10 years our rate of growth has been the highest in the United States. If we get big enough and careless enough about our responsibilities as citizens, the time will come when the profits of our gambling rackets are

Fire Causes Damage To Camas Valley Home

The home of Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Smith in Upper Camas was partly destroyed by fire Saturday.

Mrs. Smith, alone at the time, discovered the fire when flames broke through the ceiling of the living room. Upon investigation she found flames coming from the tops of cupboards in the kitchen.

The ceiling of the living room had been lowered 18 inches below the floor of the upstairs and it was in this foot and a half of space that the fire had started from a defective flue.

The fire started about 9 a.m. Mrs. Smith carried water from a pump and crawling into the space between the ceiling and upstairs floor put out the greater part of the fire. She was unable to leave to go for help as the fire would spring up anew every little while.

About two o'clock she put a note in the mail box for Guy Moore, the local mail carrier, to call her neighbors. Moore reported the fire and Mrs. Smith's husband was told of it.

By the time Smith arrived the fire was out. A great deal of damage was done to the stairway and interior of the house.

big enough to cause our racketeers to kill each other over the division of the swag.

I'd hate to see that. I'm proud of the fact that as of now the average sense of public duty in Oregon is probably higher than anywhere else in America.

Awards For 1949 Are Announced By Oregon Press Club

PORTLAND, April 18.—(AP)—Former Governor Charles A. Sprague, publisher of the Oregon Statesman, and four Portlanders are winners of the Oregon Press club awards for 1949. The awards are presented annually for what the press club deems outstanding in journalism and radio work.

Sprague was cited for "maintenance of high standards of journalism and a free and impartial press." The award was based on his articles on the Meier and Frank-Oregonian controversy.

The Portlanders cited were Philip Parrish, editor of the Oregonian editorial page; Ted Hallock, radio station KPOJ; Dick Litfin, United Press; and Tom Humphrey, associate editor of the Oregon Journal editorial page.

Parrish's award was for editorials urging the recall of Marion L. (Mike) Elliott, then Multnomah county sheriff.

Hallock's was for his work as moderator of "On the Record," a program in which newsmen interview persons in the news.

Litfin's was for his reporting on the pineapple barge riot at The Dalles.

Humphrey's was for a series of articles on the Elliott recall campaign.

The judges were Clifford F. Weigle, journalism dean at the University of Oregon; Fred Shidler, head of the Oregon State college journalism department; and Stewart Holbrook, Portland author.

Grants Pass Manager To Head Chamber Executives

PORTLAND, April 18.—(AP)—L. C. Hansen, manager of the Grants Pass Chamber of Commerce, is the new president of the Oregon chamber executives.

He was elected here last weekend to succeed Walter Underwood, formerly of Albany, a chamber spokesman announced today.

Underwood recently resigned his position at Albany to enter business in Portland.

Lew Garbutt, Springfield, was elected vice-president to succeed E. M. Killion, formerly of La Grande, who resigned to go to Albuquerque.

New members named to the board of directors are Howard W. Moffatt, Bend, and Oliver Larsen, Lebanon.

ATTEND AD MEET

James Turk and Lloyd Stutsman of the News-Review advertising department attended a meeting of Oregon Newspaper Publishers' Assn. advertising managers at the Cosmopolitan club in Portland Saturday. Turk was a principal speaker at the meeting, presided over by President Morris Jones of the Coos Bay Times.

Pearson Anti-Sales Tax, Would Oust Utilities Head

EUGENE, April 18.—(AP)—Walter Pearson, state treasurer and a Democratic aspirant for governor came out here last night against (a) a sales tax and (b) George Flagg, public utilities commissioner.

Pearson told the Lane county Democratic central committee he would veto any sales tax if he were elected governor.

Then he asserted, "George Flagg should be fired." Flagg must go, he said, because he allowed two telephone rate increases in Oregon, and "juggled" rates for the benefit of a private power firm. He said Flagg allowed the firm to lower rates at Tre Dalles in order to meet competition of a people's utility district, then allowed the same firm to raise rates in Portland.

Declines were noted in 1949 in murders, negligent manslaughters and auto thefts in both urban and rural areas in the United States.

HAM DINNER SLATED

The Tiller-Drew School Benefit club will hold its annual ham dinner Friday, April 21, at the new schoolhouse. Dinner will be served from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Mrs. Ray Charters, chairman, said she had a most active group of women working to make the annual affair the biggest success ever.

The dinner is held for the benefit of the school lunch program.



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