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STARTING AT WRONG END

By CHARLES V. STANTON

A legislative interim committee has been organized to study the state's migratory fishery problems. The committee was authorized at the last session of the legislature. Senator Douglas R. Yeater, Salem, was named chairman at the committee's first meeting. Representative Melvin Good, Albany, was elected secretary. Other members are Representative Fred Adams, Ophir; Anton Sorenson, Astoria, representing commercial fishing interests, and Joseph W. Smith, Portland, representative of sports groups.

At the organization meeting, held in Eugene, Aug. 13, the committee, after electing its officers, gave consideration to the plan for its studies. It was decided that first attention should be given habitat, including studies of watershed, stream obstructions, water diversions and pollution and consideration of all factors impairing natural reproduction. After exploring habitat, the committee proposes to inquire into the matter of harvest, seasons, etc.

Members of the committee are men of integrity, and undoubtedly are very sincere in their effort to conduct an honest inquiry into the problem of rapid depletion of our migratory fish.

But from the report of their first meeting, we fear the committee has been maneuvered behind the fish commission's "Iron Curtain."

Following Wrong Scent

The fish commission has done a fine job of selling the legislature and a large segment of the public a "bill of goods."

It has gone to the legislature for a large appropriation from the public treasury on the argument that the money is needed to build back the fishery resource by increasing spawning areas. The commission points to depleted water supplies, clogged stream beds, damaged watersheds, pollution, etc., and asks money to make needed improvements.

No one can quarrel with a program of habitat improvement. However, anyone having the least knowledge of our anadromous fishery knows that we haven't enough escapement of fish in our coastal streams to occupy the existing spawning beds.

If we have unused spawning beds, are we not taking a rather foolish course in spending thousands of dollars to open new spawning area which can only remain barren? Isn't it sensible procedure to first direct our energies to the task of preserving enough fish to utilize to capacity the spawning beds already available? Shouldn't we first determine how many fish can be accommodated by the spawning gravel not now being used, providing for the escapement of enough fish to utilize these beds to the maximum, and then start building up new areas?

The fish commission has made a show of doling out quotas to commercial fishermen on our coastal rivers, indicating that these quotas provide ample escapement. The fact is that streams, to date, have not produced as many fish as the commission has fixed for allowable harvest. Quotas last year were sharply reduced when it was observed that the actual catch was far below the figure set for the take.

The quota system would be an excellent move toward conservation if honestly applied. It is not being honestly applied when quotas are higher than total runs.

Save Merchandise First

When a store building or a residence catches fire, the first effort is devoted to saving the contents. The merchandise or furnishings are pulled out of the burning building while there is still time to save them. It would be a crazy idea to start erecting an annex to a building while it was still afire. Yet that is, in fact, the pattern of what we are doing with our fishery resource.

The fish commission is raiding the public treasury for large sums of money for stream improvement while the migratory runs are being dangerously depleted.

The commission would have us believe that damaged watersheds, water diversions, obstructions, etc., are exclusively responsible for our declining fishery. It soft-pedals the effects of over intensity of commercial fishing, the destructiveness of the offshore troll and the many other evils of the commercial system.

The commission's program, if honestly applied, has its merits. The trouble is that the commission, while selling the public a bill of goods, hasn't carried its program nearly far enough. A costly program of opening new spawning areas is a waste of money unless there are fish to occupy those beds. Limitation of the commercial catch is not effective unless quotas are brought well below the actual volume of migration.

Without question lessened water flow, diversions through irrigation, pollution, obstructions and impaired watersheds have their part in damaging fish populations. But the greatest contributory factor to the present state of depletion is over intensity of fishing effort. Sports bag limits have been drastically revised downward. The commercial catch, however, has been reduced only by the depletion of fish.

The interim committee, in our opinion, if it follows the agenda as now proposed, is getting the cart before the horse. Its first effort should be to "rescue" the few fish remaining, then attempt to rebuild the badly damaged habitat.

Tougher Deferment Rules Loom, Official Warns

OMAHA — (AP) — Selective service officials have been so lenient with deferments to date that only one of every 16 registrants has been inducted, according to Brig. Gen. Louis H. Renfrow, deputy director of selective service.

Addressing the convention of United National, Italian-American service organization, General Renfrow said, however, that if draft calls go up, selective service officials will have to put much tougher deferment policies into effect.

We predicted that draft calls during the coming year would remain at least as high as they are now

and probably would climb. The October draft call, the last one issued, was for 41,000 men. The largest call since the Korean fighting began was 80,000.

General Renfrow said the selective service had delivered 650,000 men to the armed forces since the Korean fighting began and undoubtedly was responsible for influencing many more to enlist voluntarily. The strength of the armed forces now is some 3,500,000 men, he added.

The first paper mill in the United States is believed to have been built in Germantown, Pa., in 1690.

West Point Is By No Means An Isolated Case



Fulton Lewis Jr. WASHINGTON REPORT

(Copyright, 1951, King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

GARMISH, Bavaria — State department pussyfooting in forcing the release of Associated Press Correspondent William Oatis from a Communist prison in Czechoslovakia is sickening to Americans in Europe.

If left to Secretary of State Dean Acheson and Ellis O. Briggs, Acheson's right hand man in Prague, Oatis probably never will get out of the filthy Communist lockup. He got tapped in the dark of night by Communist cops who jailed him on vague charges that he was disrupting their type of peace on earth. Neither Briggs nor Acheson did much besides deplore the arrest until Oatis was safely in jail. And little seems to have been done since.

What is needed in Europe in diplomatic circles are a few Yankee horse traders. There is none in the diplomatic corps in Europe — or at least none that I could locate.

Oatis will probably go through the same ringer the Reds put Robert A. Voegler through in Hungary before the State department gets around to offering a big enough bribe for his release. Besides a wad of cash it looks as though the Hungarian Reds got permission from Acheson to reopen their consulates in Pittsburgh and Cleveland, as part of the bribe to release Voegler. The consulates had been closed because the Communists were operating espionage nets from the front office in these and other cities.

The State department has been getting sucked in by the Communists for so long now, either by intent or lack of spine, that about all we can do is pray for people like Oatis or work for the political miracle that will get rid of the weak-kneed scavengers cluttering up the federal payroll.

Keeping Oatis and Voegler in mind, let's you and me take a look at some State department operations — in connection with the Communists and some of their own citizens who were caught with their hands in our security cupboards. You hear about such things over here.

Valentin Gubitchev, you'll recall, was collecting secrets from Judy Coplan when he got caught. The State department, "in the interests of this government," promptly allowed the Russians to have him back. He could have been kept in prison for trading purposes, for a few years at least. In fact, if the State department parted the lace curtains long enough to let the FBI arrest a few Communist newsmen and other creeps cluttering up the streets of Washington and New York, the Reds over here might be anxious

to send Oatis home where he belongs.

There is another little story you ought to hear, concerning the State department and Russia, before the history of Voegler and Oatis is complete. This will give you an idea of what Americans unfortunate enough to be nabbed by the Reds in Europe, are up against when they appeal to the State department for help.

The Russians in 1938 sent a spy boss, Balovich Ovakinian, alias Mark Jones to the U. S. His mission was to find out all our oil producing secrets. He did. But he got caught by the FBI just as he started aboard an Amtorg ship bound for Vladivostok, USSR. That was in 1941.

The State department went into a diplomatic tizzy. The Soviet embassy was so eager to get Ovakinian released that they offered to release six Americans held in bondage in Russia.

This sounded like a fair trade, but stick around and learn how horse trading operates in the State department.

Ovakinian was allowed to depart for Russia July 23, 1941. Three of the six Americans in the swap have never been heard from, almost from the date the Russians first said they could come home from Communist prisons. Three of the others, many months later, arrived at U. S. ports of entry. Two of them are still at large in the U. S., although security officials have had to keep a constant watch on their activities. They've traveled with home grown Communists since the day they set foot on U. S. soil.

The third, a youth, appears harmless, or at least isn't giving the FBI any trouble.

There are some 80 other instances of State department "swaps" for captured Americans in Red prisons. They always get their spies back before we get our citizens aboard ship for their journey home. But the way the State department goes about it, it hardly seems worth the effort. One quick way to free Oatis would be to pick up a dozen or so Communist newsmen in the U. S. That would cheer up anti-Red Europe quicker than another \$10,000,000 ECA gift, or another bouquet of verbal posies from the Voice of America.

ROSEBURG — "One smoldering campfire can destroy a forest. One match can destroy millions of trees." — From lumbermen's advertisement.

And the flash from a hot power saw can destroy thousands of acres of fine timber and homes of more than a dozen farmers and create one of the worst disasters in Douglas county history.

Let us all practice what we preach. Since July 15 this section of Oregon has been sun-seared and scorched tinder-dry. Actually it has been unwise and unsafe to be in the forest, whether working or otherwise, at any time. Every day a burning hot wind blows steadily from the north, lowering humidity. No power saw should have been permitted to operate. But it is too late now to lock the barn door after the horse is gone.

The timber was burned, potential jobs with it, homes were laid waste, livestock killed. The beauty of those forests is gone. Ghostly snags, ugly blackened hills remain instead. People fled their homes in panic. Others were packing ready to go at a moment's notice; homes upset and topsy-turvy. The critical period still is with us, and will be with us until it rains. For months anxious eyes have watched the grass burn yellow. Experienced persons have noted the searing dry wind sucking the moisture out of the ground knowing that eventually a bad fire hazard would be the result. The man with the power saw which set the blaze perhaps needed the job and the wages, but how many jobs did the fire destroy and how much damage did it do to the home owners and how much money was the green timber worth?

Let us practice what we preach — Keep Oregon Green. Keep out of the forest when it is as dry as it is. Don't use a power saw or even a cross-cut saw.

The Cleveland hill, Elgarose district has many homes each of which is in extreme danger from adjacent forest fires. Some home owners remain partially packed, ready to vacate in view of the desperate conditions.

BEN FAMES
Roseburg, Ore.

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

(Continued from Page 1)

GOT CONTROL OF THEIR OWN OIL RICHES.

That is to say:

The people of Iran are learning in the hard school of experience the important economic lesson that mere ownership of a natural resource doesn't OF ITSELF make you rich beyond the dreams of avarice.

Before you can cash in on your natural resource, IT HAS TO BE DEVELOPED, and development of a big natural resource such as an oilfield takes a lot of cash capital and a lot of highly skilled brains.

Iran has neither the accumulated cash capital nor the highly skilled technical brains that are required to make the oil that lies under the Iranian deserts produce wealth and comfort for the Iranian people.

So— When they take the wells and the refineries and the rest of the physical property away from the British—

And the British, no longer able to share in the profits, shut down the wells and the refineries and stop the tankers that carried the oil to the world markets—

Well, when all that happens, the Iranians discover that an oil industry DOESN'T WORK doesn't do them any good. Crude oil in the ground can't be eaten. It can't be worn on your back. It isn't any good as a shelter. Why, even a gambling joint won't accept it as collateral for a bet! It has to be DEVELOPED before it has value.

This Mossadegh is undoubtedly a smart hombre. He wanted political power and he knew that the way to get political power quick is to promise the people everything they've ever wanted if they'll just VOTE FOR YOU. But he slipped a cog.

Because Iran has nothing but oil, he had to promise that when he grabbed the British-owned oil plant the manna would begin to fall. But the wicked British shut down the plant and there isn't any manna.

That, I'd say, is hitting a demagog below the belt.

In the old and long-established economies, such as Britain and

the United States, where generations of HARD-WORKING people have built up large accumulations of wealth in the form of producing industry, the demagogos have it much easier.

They catch a time when the people are dissatisfied and at the psychological moment they promise the people everything there is, with a fence around it, and they get into power.

Then they open the doors of the treasury and begin to shovel the stuff out. In the United States, it falls upon the grateful people in a "gentle rain of government checks." In Britain, it falls in the form of free false teeth and spectacles and doctor bills that are charged to the government.

But in Iran THERE ISN'T ANYTHING IN THE TREASURY TO BE SHOVELED OUT!

That's where Mossadegh made his big mistake.

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