

The News-Review

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STATE'S CLAIM INVALID

By CHARLES V. STANTON

We have previously referred in this column to the several controversies surrounding O & C grant lands and related controverted lands.

One of the principal current issues is a demand that O & C lands be surrendered to the State of Oregon. We use the term "surrendered." Advocates of this plan use the term "restored."

Among one of the strong proponents of the demand that the lands be given to the state is *The Oregon Journal*, which recently devoted considerable space in its editorial column to an argument favoring aggressive action to gain possession of the grant lands.

While recognizing that the program has a strong public appeal, we cannot agree with *The Journal's* position nor with the policies it advocates.

The plan to gain possession of O & C lands was strengthened by a joint memorial adopted at the last session of the Oregon legislature. Since that time, considerable controversy has raged whether the state has a legal claim to title.

Possession Never Relinquished

The Journal holds that because the lands were granted to the railroad company to be sold to settlers that they actually passed into private ownership and that, therefore, the state has a legal claim to sovereignty; that the land was "held in trust by the O & C railroad for development of the state."

We find, however, in a report by the Senate Committee on Public Lands, made to Congress May 18, 1916, a quotation from a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court that "The railroad company was chosen as the agent of Congress to effect the settlement of the grant lands."

If we are to accept the interpretation of the court, the federal government did not relinquish title to the lands, but only assigned them to an "agent" to be used for the purpose of drawing settlers to the state. When the "agent" failed to discharge his assignments in conformance with instructions, the lands were taken from his charge and were revested with the federal government.

If the interpretation thus given by the courts is correct, the unsold lands were never "state lands"; were never within the sovereignty of the state, even though state taxes were paid by the railroad company.

The Journal says "The very fact that Congress ordered the land 'revested' in the government indicated that it had actually been vested in private ownership for 37 years." This argument is untenable if the "agency" status of the railroad company is correct.

Ownership Would Create Problems

It is our opinion, open of course to criticism, that O & C lands are better off in federal control, at least for the present. Until the State of Oregon shows more interest and knowledge in resource management, we cannot be safely entrusted with this valuable timber asset.

There is no question of our ability to provide excellent forest management. Our State Department of Forestry has proven itself efficient and progressive. It could handle the technical aspects of the job. The department, however, still has far to go in adjusting practices and laws to protect watersheds, limit erosion, siltation, logging through streams, preserving water supply and scenic and recreational resources. In other words, although we have forestry laws considered among the best in the nation, those laws apply only to forests and are not coordinated with other conservation needs.

This, however, is a minor fault, and one equally chargeable to the federal government, when compared with the lack of conservation knowledge and interest by the Legislature, various state departments and agencies and by the people of Oregon.

We are willing to sacrifice our resources for immediate dollar benefits, as shown by pressures for the Rogue River irrigation and power development scheme, Pelton dam, some of the Willamette Valley projects, Columbia dams and others. We have permitted water withdrawals from streams to total more than minimum flows. We have surrendered some of our best agricultural land for high dams, when low diversion dams with canals and penstocks would have been as serviceable.

If the O & C lands were surrendered to state sovereignty, while we still are so little conscious of resource values, we fear that pressures from selfish but powerful interests soon would break down the protective structure now established to preserve the O & C forest resource in perpetuity.

MENDING BASKET
 Scrap From the
 Viadnet Martin - PO Box 874, Drain, Ore.

Maybe the reason the Bitwuns keep on celebrating wedding anniversaries is that they are so opposite in everything. Algernon likes to get rid of everything — "we can always buy more if we need it," he says as he tosses out whatever it is that thrifty Matilda wants to save.

My gracious, Matilda says she doesn't even dare mention scrap wood around their house right now. You see she wanted to save all the odds and ends of wood left over from their house because sooner or later she was going to have smoke coming out of a chimney, instead of just watching her neighbors' smoke wafting upward, and wishing she had something to burn with.

Well, sooner or later Algernon weakened and put a wood-burner in for a rubbish burner and so on. How did Matilda reward him? "If you hadn't paid those boys half a day's time to burn up all that wood..." Well, it has now reached

the point where it seems a good idea not to mention the wood Algie didn't save!

Then there's the unfinished attic. What a wonderful place to store perfectly good this-and-that! But Algie won't have any. What difference does it make to him? He doesn't go up there, now he has built stairs for Mrs. Bitwuns to navigate the ascent safely. Hand-rail and all. But bless you, Algernon just has to know every thing that goes up in that attic and make a speech about it! Of course, for the sake of peace... Matilda lets him throw it out. She notices where he throws it however.

What brought all this up? Why, the Bitwuns had fun reading "Your Wife Is Like That" in the January 12 Saturdaypost. Corey Ford tells all the things wives save — but he does admit husbands save a few things too. The reason he can be so brave about telling all he knows on the subject is that, according to the editor, author Ford doesn't

Tail Gun



In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

(Continued from Page 1)

simple process of saying to everybody who does any spending:

"You can spend ONLY—SO MUCH. There isn't going to be any more, for we aren't going to appropriate it. Period. Class dismissed."

That would do the trick—if congress stayed with it.

For years those of us who believe that national bankruptcy is the last, final, WORST calamity that can befall a nation and that national bankruptcy follows inevitably in the wake of too much government spending have been yelling bloody murder about the extravagance of the two Presidents we have had in the past 20 years. We have been right, of course, about the extravagant habits of these two Presidents.

But we have been wrong—Dead wrong—

—in our approach to the problem of over-spending. In all these years, it has been CONGRESS—not the President—that has been responsible for the fact that we have spent too much money. The

President can't appropriate. He can only spend. If it isn't appropriated, he can't spend it.

If there is ever again to be wise and reasonable economy in the conduct of our federal government, it must come about by the process of electing a congress that will force economy by refusing to appropriate too much money. That is the only way it can be done.

One word here about President Truman's \$5 billion dollar budget; it amounts to \$550 for each man, woman and child in the country—or \$2250 for each family of four persons.

What about President Truman? Personally, I don't think we can afford him. He isn't a good enough manager. But if we're going to get economy back into our governmental processes, the initiative will have to be taken by congress. We're doing a lot of talking about whom we're going to have for our next President. We'd better be doing a lot of talking AND THINKING about whom we're going to elect to the next congress.

Fulton Lewis Jr.
WASHINGTON REPORT
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SAN FRANCISCO — California Democrats are in the midst of their regular four-year war over who is going to boss convention delegates for the presidential nomination in July. This year, however, the in-fighting is the roughest it has ever been.

President Truman's failure to declare his intentions, and a desperate determination on the part of Northern California Democrats to dump National Committeeman James Roosevelt, are the two underlying reasons why the political conflict is so hot this year.

Jimmy Roosevelt represents a polyglot collection of California Democrats, including most of the limp left-wingers left over from his father's New Deal. All of them are eager for the renomination of President Truman — or at least, so they say publicly. In fact, they want to send their men to the national convention pledged to support Mr. Truman and all he stands for.

The opposing faction of Democrats, led by National Committeewoman Elinor Heller and San Francisco County Chairman William Malone, want to go to Chicago in July unencumbered by a pro-Truman label. Since this group represents the majority of heavy contributors to the party it is more likely its views will meet with more favor in at least some parts of Washington. In an election year the chairman of the Democratic National Committee never lets principle stand in the way of cash. Jimmy Roosevelt for years has striven to extend his political domain outside the Los Angeles area. He made his biggest bid in the 1950 race against Governor Earl Warren, in which he took a frightful licking.

Party wheel horses now look upon him in much the same fashion as Midwest Republicans view

have a wife! But anyway he certainly does hit a few nails on the head. Wives reading it will say, "Isn't that just like a husband!" and husbands will say, "That's a woman for you!" And laugh!

the continuing political ambitions of Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York. In both instances it is felt that nothing could be gained by again exposing the populace to their electioneering charm.

What the Democrats really fear in California is the open public disgust over the conduct of the Korean war. Both pro and anti-Truman Democrats share the nightmares over this issue. The futility of current events in Korea is on almost every tongue in the state, and most of the comment is not conducive to political comfort.

Republicans, of course, are exploiting the Korean issue for all it is worth, and get few answers from official Democratic party spokesmen. In fact, in Los Angeles County, the Democratic organization refused to vote its approval of a resolution commending President Truman and the United Nations for their action in Korea. This, in spite of the fact that President Truman is the avowed candidate of this particular organization.

California, of course, is not the only place in the country where the Korean fumbling has put the Democrats on the defensive. On the basis of White House and Defense Department announcements, hopes were high that American troops would not have to spend another winter in Korea. They are doing exactly that now, however, and the administration is getting the blame. Democrats will admit it privately and say they are sending to Washington a continuous stream of demands for an explanation of the truce delay. They are not getting any answer.

California Republicans have taken advantage of the situation in two ways. First, they are accusing the administration of complete

Congress Chat

By HARRIS ELLSWORTH, M. C., 4th Oregon District

The visit of Winston Churchill and his staff was not for the purpose of asking us to furnish financial aid directly to Great Britain. It was for two other purposes—both of which could involve heavy expenditures by us.

(1) Churchill explained that England's financial difficulties can be eased, if not actually solved, if she is relieved of some of her present commitments in the fight against communism.

(2) The British government would like us to assume an equal share in keeping the Suez Canal open and protected, and to join in other undertakings — in short, "walk the same path."

The British Prime Minister produced an impressive bundle of facts to bolster his request that his country be relieved of some of the cold war and defense burden it has voluntarily carried. He pointed out, for example, that Britain's participation in the European defense system is now equal to two-thirds as much as all of the rest of Europe combined. Certainly Churchill's approach to the problem of setting the financial affairs of his country in better order makes a lot of sense. He says simply that the United Kingdom is spending more money than it has or can raise and that it cannot continue to do that. What a pity that we have not had that sort of simple logic used in the operation of our own government these last four years.

As I listened to Mr. Churchill's speech, I wondered a few times if it would not be better for him to make his statement to the other European governments rather than to us. After all, we too have all but over-extended ourselves in this fight for freedom in the world. I was lately right close up to the situation in Europe and came away with the impression that the governments in Western Europe are not really going "all out" in this fight—surely not to the extent that the United States and the United Kingdom are contributing.

As for the British second objective, that of our closer unity with them in their world policies and endeavors, I have some grave misgivings. We may be forced finally to do exactly that but I am inclined to think that to do it voluntarily, and now, might foreclose the still living possibility of genuine cooperation in all of the free world.

In other words, I think it would be unwise to consolidate the English speaking areas into a tight and separate combination of power. This could have the effect of creating a third great division in the world which would then consist of: 1.) the Communist-controlled countries; 2.) the English speaking countries; and 3.) the remainder of the free world. It will be better, I think, to keep the present lineup—the entire free world opposed to communist aggression.

The House Committee on Banking and Currency has been directed by the House to investigate the insuring and guaranteeing of loans (by the U. S.) for private housing in order to determine the extent to which government agencies have facilitated or made possible the insuring or guaranteeing of loans for defective housing.

Hon. Brent Spence, chairman of the committee, says the committee will welcome receiving any complaints from home purchasers dealing with defective construction, drainage or sanitary conditions. Such information, says Chairman Spence, will be most helpful in appraising the extent of defective private housing which is being constructed with the assistance of Government home loan financing. Such complaints, which should recite specific facts, may either be sent to me for transmittal to the committee, or directly to the House of Representatives Committee on Banking and Currency, Washington, D. C.

The principal crops of Bulgaria are wheat, rye, barley, oats, corn, potatoes, tobacco and fruit.

Cowlitz Dam Permit Sticks Over Protest

WASHINGTON — The Power Commission Thursday refused to reopen a case in which it granted Tacoma, Wash., a license for a hydroelectric project on the Cowlitz River.

A rehearing was requested by the Washington State Department of Fisheries and Game and the Washington State Sportsmen's Council, Inc.

The Commission said their objections to the order it issued Nov. 28 "are found to be without merit when considered together with the evidence of record."

A commission spokesman told a reporter the denial of the rehearing closes the record so far as the commission is concerned. He said opponents could go to the courts if they wish to continue their fight.

The project calls for construction of two high dams which opponents contended would ruin fishing runs on the river.

In authorizing the project, the commission directed the city to come back before it with completed plans for handling fish over and around the dams before installing any permanent fish handling facilities.

The city estimates the project would cost 125 million dollars, exclusive of fish handling facilities which it estimated would cost about seven million.

failure in Korea. Secondly, taking advantage of the interparty Democratic strife, they have organized an extensive campaign to register California voters — and register them Republican. The state in recent years has had the biggest influx of new residents in its history. Thousands of them are from traditionally Republican states and party leaders here are spending time and money making it easy for them to continue their traditional political beliefs.

Democrats, bogged down by the anti-Roosevelt battle, haven't made much progress in nabbing the new voters who have arrived recently on the West Coast. This could be a fatal political error for administration hopes of keeping California safely in the Democratic victory column in 1952.

Hear Fulton Lewis Daily On KRNR, 9:15 P. M.

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Eric Johnston Given New Post

WASHINGTON — President Truman Wednesday nominated Eric A. Johnston, former stabilization chief, to be chairman of the International Development Advisory Board. The group supervises planning operations under the Point Four Program.

An exchange of letters disclosed that Johnston accepted the chairmanship after consulting with

the Board of Directors of the Motion Picture Association of America of which he is president.

Johnston said he agreed with the President that the Point Four Program of technical aid to underdeveloped countries "embodies all those things that we stand for in America, and all those things we seek to achieve as a leader in the free world."

WRESTLING
SATURDAY NIGHT
AT THE ARMORY
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 Australian Tag Team Match
HERB PARKS and BILL PARKS vs. SOLDAT GORKY and IVAN GORKY
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