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A TOUGH PROBLEM

motives on the part of the adjoining municipality in any an-
North Roseburg voters reacted in the normal and ex-
pected manner Tuesday in rejecting a proposal for annexa-
tion. Had the vote been favorable, we would have credited
proponents with accomplishing the impossible, for experience
indicates that annexation of an area such as found north of
town is accomplished only after conditions become far
more intolerable than presently existing. The resistance ex-
hibited by Tuesday's vote simply repeats experience in ev-
ery other boom area of Oregon. The merger, we anticipate,
will take place only through necessity.

Annexation elections are guided more by emotion than
by reason. Jealousy, suspicion and fear furnish receptive
ground for seeds of misinformation and rumor. Seeds of
sound reason fall on barren ground.

Too many residents of suburban areas suspect ulterior
annexation proposal. They feel in danger of being exploited
for the city's benefit. They are jealous of their own inde-
pendent status and freedom from municipal controls. They
fear they will suffer heavy tax increases.

It seems impossible to overcome the distrust suburban
residents have of municipal motives. There seems to be no
way of dispelling fear of exploitation.

Also involved is the ever-present resistance to change.
We dislike any alteration in status and we fight changes in
habits or procedure. Only through necessity do we reluc-
tantly surrender to the inevitable.

Experience Costly Teacher

There is an old proverb to the effect that "Experience
is good if not bought too dear." That proverb, we believe,
is most applicable to the annexation problem confronting
every growing city in Oregon; for the Roseburg commu-
nity is not alone in seeking the answer to this troublesome
question. All over the state are to be found suburban com-
munities persistently refusing merger, even though their
tax rates often are higher than in the neighboring munici-
palities. Usually those communities develop such dangers
and hazards that they finally are compelled to merge, trans-
ferring their long-standing troubles to the city government.
Then the municipal administration receives abusive criti-
cism because it cannot immediately eliminate the intoler-
able factors which eventually broke down the resistance to
consolidation. But the experience so gained, even though
costly, often produces a high degree of civic pride once the
step is taken.

Conditions in North Roseburg are not yet sufficiently
irritating to compel union. We hope they will not become
acute, but we fear otherwise.

Rapid Growth Anticipated

One saving factor has been the public-spirited approach
of residents to their problems. They have joined in the
formation of fire protection and sanitary districts. Only in
a few instances to date have residential property values
been adversely affected by commercial encroachments.

We anticipate, however, that this condition will not long
prevail.

Few suitable building sites remain within the city limits.
New construction must necessarily be situated principally
in the suburban areas. Relocation of the highway undoubt-
edly will result in commercial development adjacent to the
Garden Valley road intersection. We envision a large shop-
ping center in that general area. The trend already is ob-
vious. Without control, a haphazard and unsightly devel-
opment is not only possible but very probable. Without zon-
ing, there is nothing to prevent a junk yard in the midst of a
residential or business block. We have only to look at sub-
urban areas around other towns to see what can happen
here.

North Roseburg proponents of annexation should not be
discouraged by this most recent failure. They simply are
a few years ahead of time, fighting a cause they eventually
will win. But the reaction shown is typical and indicates
we are, after all, normal human beings, subject to the
same emotions as are found elsewhere. If the results in
the election had been different we would have been able
to ascribe it only to miracle working.

The next step, it would seem, is to bring into union with
the city the smaller areas wherein the problems are most
pressing, leaving until later those sections where the situa-
tion is not yet sufficiently urgent to overcome the natural
and to-be-expected emotional resistance.



The sequias are not the oldest
trees in the world after all. I
thought they were, didn't you? But
in an interesting story about a tree
in Old Mexico called "El Tule,"
the National Geographic Society
says the tree is "admittedly thou-
sands of years old, but various ex-
perts cannot agree on an exact
figure between a minimum of 3,000
years and 6,000 years or more."
"El Tule" is in the news now
because it is feared that it is suf-
fering from drought and may not
survive. What a pity that would
be! Perhaps you have seen it. So
many people have been in the
state of Oaxaca where the tree is,
about 220 miles southeast of Mex-
ico City. Wouldn't I like to see
that tree! I never have forgotten
my stunned incredulity as I stood
at the foot of the biggest sequia.
I couldn't believe it—even stand-
ing there looking up at it.
The General Sherman tree is
supposed to be 3,500 years old. It
is. (I quote of course for I never
can remember figures more than

a minute.) 101.6 ft. at the base in
circumference. Its height is 272.4
feet... one of its branches is 6.8
feet in thickness!
"El Tule," at five feet from
the ground, is 112 feet in circum-
ference! Twenty-eight persons,
touching fingertips of outstretched
arms, barely encircle it. It's not
so high-only 140 feet—being a cy-
press instead of the sky-reaching
sequia family, but its branches
spread over 130 feet, providing
enough shade, according to the Na-
tional Geographic Society, to shel-
ter a large part of the population of
villages thereabouts.

"Local Indians hold the tree in
reverence, as did their ancestors.
Hernando Cortez and his followers,
spreading the Christian faith
through Mexico, cut many trees
as pagan symbols, but El Tule was
spared, either as a concession to
local tribes, or because it was too
big to tackle.

"Missionaries who followed Cor-
tez declared the monumental cy-
press the property of the church
and an arm of God. They built a

Which Twin Has the Halo?



Fulton Lewis Jr. WASHINGTON REPORT

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(Copyright, 1952, King Features Syndicate, Inc.)
SPRINGFIELD, Illinois, April 24 — Gov. Adlai E.
Stevenson's polite but firm refusal to seek the Democratic
presidential nomination left party machine politicians in this
state hanging on the ropes.

Jacob M. Arvey, Democratic boss
and close advisor to Governor Ste-
venson, made the understatement
of the week when he said the Gov-
ernor's decision made him "very
unhappy." The truth is that Ste-
venson admitted what Arvey and
other Democrats have known for
a long time, but consistently re-
fused to confess: that the Demo-
cratic party organization in this
and other states is coming apart
at the seams.

Naturally, Arvey and the other
machine bosses, blame the White
House for the impending disaster.
They can't find anyone willing to
run on Mr. Truman's record who
is acceptable to their brand of po-
litical manipulation. Normally the
powerful political bosses have to
keep brushing prospective candi-
dates off their backs. But this year
things are different.

Not only different, but desperate.
So much so that even W. Averell
Harrison, the weary errand boy
for both New Deal and Fair Deal
administrations, has been trotted
out as the political burnt offering
of boss Ed Flinn and his New
York political cronies.

In public speeches Harrison has
difficultly making himself coherent,
despite a flock of high priced ghost
writers. The mere mention of his
name gives Arvey the political shud-
ders.

In fact, hardly a Democratic boss
west of the Bronx can stand the
thought of Harrison heading the
party ticket. He is willing, however,
and is the darling of the same Dem-
ocrats who tried to make a presi-
dent out of Henry Wallace, the 1948
stooge of the Communist party.

California Democrats have yet to
be heard from but party bosses
here are not awaiting the western
word with much optimism. The
way things are going, Democrats
here would not be surprised if Ed
Pauley is reduced to pleading Cal-
ifornia to James Roosevelt, who
will run for any office any time.

In New Jersey the political boss
of the Democrats, Archibald Alex-
ander, is making a brave try at
ignoring Senator Estes Kefauver
while he scans the horizon for an-
other candidate. He would have
liked a small piece of Gov. Steven-
son, but he is now in mourning
along with Jake Arvey and prob-
ably won't be heard from for a
fortnight.

Kefauver, of course, has all of
the political bosses looking over
their shoulders. So far none have
displayed any affection for him,
but if one ever does, all the rest
will fall in line so as not to miss
out on any of the political gravy.
It is unlikely, however, that Arvey
or any of the other Illinois Demo-
crats will be the first to break
ranks and climb aboard the Ke-
fauver band wagon. They consider
the Tennessee senator some kind
of a political freak who won't go

church under its shade, and East-
er and Christmas fiestas are held
under its spreading branches. Its
Mexican name (which came down
from the Aztec, indicating its age)
is "ahuehuete" pronounced "ah-
we-we-te." But alas, the drought
which has lowered the water table
and dried the soil now threat-
ens the greatest tree in the world.
Without water—oh, let us hope it
will not continue without water!

In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

prisoners with the Reds, our re-
cord in Europe is black enough.
There, after V-E Day, we sent
back to the Russians (despite the
protests and the pleadings of the
helpful victims) thousands upon
thousands of Russian prisoners
of war who had deserted to the
Germans to get away from the
horrors of Russian Communism.
We took these prisoners over
from the Germans and handed
them back to the Russians because
the Russians insisted on it. What
happened to all of them we don't
know in detail, but we know enough
to be bitterly ashamed of the whole
nasty and sickening transaction.

The dispatch telling of the pres-
ent situation in Korea says the
U.N. command "declares that
prisoners who do not wish to re-
turn... SHOULD not be forced to
do so."

I hope that is a misquotation.
With the tradition of FREE AMER-
ICA behind them, our negotiators
should make this ringing declara-
tion:

"These unfortunate people
SHALL NOT be sent back to the
ruthless despotism of Communism
from which they fled to the sanctu-
ary of our lines. Before we will be
guilty of such a dastardly betrayal
GO ON FIGHTING INDEFINITELY
IN KOREA, regardless of the
cost."

Wary as we all are of a war we
can't win, a war that should never
have been allowed to get started,
I think we'd all smack our fists
in our palms and shout with grim
approval:

"THAT'S the stuff! THAT'S AM-
ERICA! We're willing and ready
to FIGHT for a principle like
that!"

In Pennsylvania, the pendulum
of Republican favor, which had
swung strongly toward Ike in New
Hampshire and Minnesota, then to
ward Taft in Wisconsin and Neb-
raska, swings back sharply toward
Ike in Pennsylvania.

With the bulk of the Pennsylv-
ania votes counted, Eisenhower
has in round numbers \$26,000 out
of 1,110,000 Republican votes cast.
That is 75 per cent of the total, or
three out of four.

Taft gets some 167,000 write-ins
and Stassen gets some 118,000 bal-
lot votes.

Taft's name was not on the Penn-
sylvania ballot. He refused to
file, and urged his followers not
to write him in. So his backers
call the Pennsylvania primary
"meaningless."

Personally, I can't agree.
Among the other things, I think
the fact that, under the circum-
stances, Senator Taft got some
167,000 write-ins is a fine tribute
to him. A written-in vote is usually
a VOTE OF CONVICTION. If I
were Senator Taft, I'd feel good
over those 167,000 hand-written bal-
lots.

Still, you can't shrug off the fact
that General Eisenhower, in the
old, Back-East, supposedly hard-
boiled state of Pennsylvania, got
three out of four of all the Repub-
lican votes cast, including write-
ins.

Keep this in mind:
No dirt was done Senator Taft in
Pennsylvania. Nobody kept him off
the ballot. He was free to file, if
he had wanted to. He just antici-
pated that he would lose in Pennsylv-
ania and decided to stay out. It
will be the same in the Oregon
primary. He could have filed, but
didn't.

Our system of hodge-podge, hit-
and-miss state Presidential pri-
maries is more or less of a joke,
but at least it's a crap game that
everybody can horn into. Senator
Taft just chose not to horn into
Pennsylvania.
The results indicate that his judg-
ment was sound.

Congress Chat

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

If present plans for the ad-
journalment of this session of Con-
gress are actually carried out we
have only a little over two months
to go. The Republican National
Convention begins July 7. The
Democratic Convention follows a
couple of weeks later. It is antici-
pated Congress will either recess
or adjourn about July 1. If the
session ends with what is called a
"sine die" adjournment, that will
mean the complete wind-up of
the 82nd Congress. After that if
Congress convenes again in the
year 1952 it will be in a special
session, called by the President.
It may be remembered that is ex-
actly what happened in 1948. The
80th Congress adjourned sine die
late in June but was called back
to a special session by the Presi-
dent on July 26.

The Congress can by resolution,
however, declare a recess to any
date prior to January 3, 1953, and
at that time formally adjourn
after it reconvenes.

I am happy to report that a
minor catastrophe, which very
few people knew anything about,
has been averted. Early this year
I learned that the U. S. Coast
Guard, which in November 1951
closed the Coast Guard station at
Bandon, had plans to pick up the
building and move it up to Willapa
Bay. I protested against that plan
on the basis that I considered the
present inactive status of the sta-
tion only temporary. This station
will, I am sure, ultimately be re-
activated. To move the present
building away and then later
build another one would be a
waste of money. I pointed out that
population and traffic is growing
so rapidly on the Pacific Coast
as to make the reactivation of the
Bandon station almost a cer-
tainty.

I have just received a letter
from Vice Admiral Merlin O'Neill,
Commandant of the U. S. Coast
Guard, in which he states: "I
wish to advise you that the Coast
Guard does not intend to move the
Coquille River structures to Willa-
pa Bay at this time, but in-
tends to retain the installation in a
boarded up status without sig-
nificant cost to the government.
This determination has been made
in order to fulfill potential mobil-
ization requirements of the
Coast Guard. Such a course will
also permit reactivation of the unit
for live-saving purposes should a
compelling requirement for reactivation of the station be deter-
mined within the next few years."

A few years ago when President
Truman was anxious at the Rail-
road Brotherhoods he demanded
that the railway employees be
drafted into the army and forced
to work. But there was a dif-
ference in his action then as com-
pared to his recent order taking
over the steel plants. At that time
he made his demand to CON-
GRESS for authority to do what
he proposed. Meanwhile we seem
to have drifted a long way down
the road toward one-man govern-
ment. This time Truman did not
ask Congress for legal authority—
he just assumed it. The heads of
organized labor who applaud the
President's steel seizure order
should be thankful that he was
angry at the companies and not
the unions THIS TIME—but watch
out, who knows when he might
change his mind? That is the way
things work under our present
"Liberal" government.

It appears to the onlookers that
everything has been made to order,
to fit a schedule, and the machinery
oiled. And for that reason a lot
of us dumb voters are going to do
a lot of thinking and wise handling
of the pencil in the voting booths
this fall. After election day there
will be some big surprises for the
political brass.

A lot of us have no way of saying
anything out loud, unless they write
their gripes to the local paper, and
only about ten out of a thousand
will do that.

B. AMES
Roseburg, Ore.

Reader Opinions

Silence Of Candidates Prompts Questions

ROSEBURG—The political brass
hats are so confident that Ike will
get the nomination that it is an-
nounced he will not make a
speech before the convention.

We wonder if these silent candi-
dates think all the voters are
dumb? Why is all the political jock-
eys so mysterious and silent?
Of all the presidential campaigns
in the United States, the present
one is the most peculiar.

Why, in the first place, should
the Democrats desire to choose a
Republican for their candidate? Did
they not know that Ike was a Re-
publican? If now, then why pick
some one unknown as to his po-
litical affiliations? Why should both
parties want the same man for
their candidate? And why has not
the candidate spoken long ago. Are
they afraid some beans might be
spilled if he talked.

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B. AMES
Roseburg, Ore.

Lack Of Access Roads Handicaps Small Loggers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Big logging
outfits are getting an advantage
over small operators in national
forests because the Forest Service
lacks money for road building,
Sen. Dworshak (R-Iowa), said
Thursday.

Contracts for timber sales in na-
tional forests are being awarded
on condition that buyers build ac-
cess roads.

This lets small operators out be-
cause they haven't enough capital
to build roads costing in the neigh-
borhood of \$500,000, Dworshak told
a reporter.

The Forest Service, justifying its
policy, says it's necessary to get
the timber for defense use, and
access roads must be built to get
to overripe trees. The Forest Ser-
vice will have no money for access
road construction this year.

Dworshak is checking into the
possibility of having the Recon-
struction Finance Corporation lend
the Forest Service enough money
to build an access road in the
Kanku Forest in Idaho, so a
large timber tract there could be
offered to small logging firms.

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