

The News-Review

Published Daily Except Sunday by the
News-Review Company, Inc.
Entered as second class matter, May 1, 1928, at the post office at
Roseburg, Oregon, under act of March 2, 1925.
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Member of the Associated Press, Oregon Newspaper Publishers
Association, the Audit Bureau of Circulations
Represented by WEST-HOLLIDAY CO., INC., efforts in New York, Chicago,
San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Portland, St. Louis
Subscription Rates—In Oregon—By Mail—Per Year, \$19.00; six months, \$9.50;
three months, \$5.25. By News-Review Carrier—Per Year, \$13.00 (in ad-
vance), less than one year, per month, \$1.25. Outside Oregon—By Mail—
Per Year, \$21.00; six months, \$10.50; three months, \$5.25.

NO COMPETITION, EH?

Charles V. Stanton

Time and again you hear political speakers, particularly those connected with the federal administration, verbally sniping at the country's press.

One of the favorite themes is that there is a lack of competition. The speakers try to make people believe that press services are not diligent in getting the news for the public.

Numerous other charges are made in an effort to undermine public confidence. Often we hear that the press is biased and prejudiced.

It should be quite evident to any thinking person that bias, prejudice, unfactual reporting, etc., could be only an exception rather than the rule if competitive spirit actuates press services. If, as claimed by critics, competition does not exist, there might be some reason to believe the criticism. But if there is constant rivalry in gathering and reporting the news, any press service trying to suppress or distort news will find its competition aggressively presenting the truth.

Competitive Race Demonstrated

If any newspaper readers are of a mind to believe the critics, perhaps a report from the weekly log published by The Associated Press would be enlightening.

The report comes from New York headquarters and is distributed to A. P. correspondents, managing editors and others.

A recent issue contains the following:

You can measure AP's beat on the seizure of Brig. Gen. Frank Dodd by Red POWs on Kojima Island by this one fact: AP knew about it before Gen. Ridgway did. Ridgway got the news from an AP dispatch!

It was Bill Shinn's story. He had it nearly five hours ahead of other news services. He filed the story with EUSAK censors, and a colonel personally took it to Ridgway. The U.N. commander ordered it held up. "I take full responsibility for the action," he said later. "I did not want my superiors in Washington to read something in the newspapers before I had a chance to tell them myself."

This touched off one of the weirdest of all fantastic episodes characterizing Korean war coverage. In Seoul and in Tokyo, AP men went to bat with the censors. All they got was a concession that AP would be given a 10-minute advantage on the officially stipulated release time. Ten minutes instead of five hours!

Just as you'd expect, things didn't work out as planned. The Army announcement of the seizure was handed to correspondents at EUSAK in advance of the release — and, inevitably, it leaked out. Two agencies put out the news nearly an hour ahead of the fixed hour. We were beaten in some parts of the world on a story on which we should have been first everywhere, by hours.

The bulletin proceeds to relate how by resourceful action, AP correspondents got the story to readers in the United States 25 minutes ahead of rival press services.

Doesn't it seem that The Associated Press is making quite a fuss and doing a lot of bragging about a 25-minute news "beat"?

It may seem to the average reader that 25 minutes one way or the other isn't a very important matter in flashing out a bit of news by way of newspaper and radio. But to a trained newsmen that's a real victory. Something of which to be proud.

It is only a small incident, perhaps, that we find in the AP Log, but just remember it the next time you hear some blabbermouth politician trying to tell you that the nation's press is not competitive.



August 6, 1864
Dear Sister I take this time to write you a line to let you know how we are. Last night we got a letter from Charles, the first one for four months he is well and unhurt but I guess has seen some hard times he has been in the saddle for four months continually he was once in the saddle five days every hour except to lead his horse and so keep from falling while sleeping they buried 33 men that died with starvation and counted 218 horses lying dead and dying in one day in aging 8 miles.

one day they had onion another potatoes as big as his thumb and other day nothing but clover and birch bark other days corn in the ear and green apples. he said on two occasions I have charged into a town (with only five men) full of Johnnies taking on one occasion a Colonel a Major an Adjutant and two men, when they started they had 1500 men in the regt. and now only 116 left, and only four in his Co besides himself and one Lieut.

he is now wearing a hat and boots taken from the regt. when he took the hat the man cried and said he had paid 180.00 for it. he has paid 15.00 for one pound of sugar and sold one pound of coffee for 30.00. gave twenty dollars for three biscuits. the next day received the same amount in silver for one quart of meal he expects with the help of his little black pony to cause many a Johnny to halt and dismount as they have heretofore.

I have been waiting to hear from Charles before I wrote to you I began to think we should not hear from him very soon if ever. just think of it we new he was in the fight and his Capt was taken prisoner together with some of the men others killed

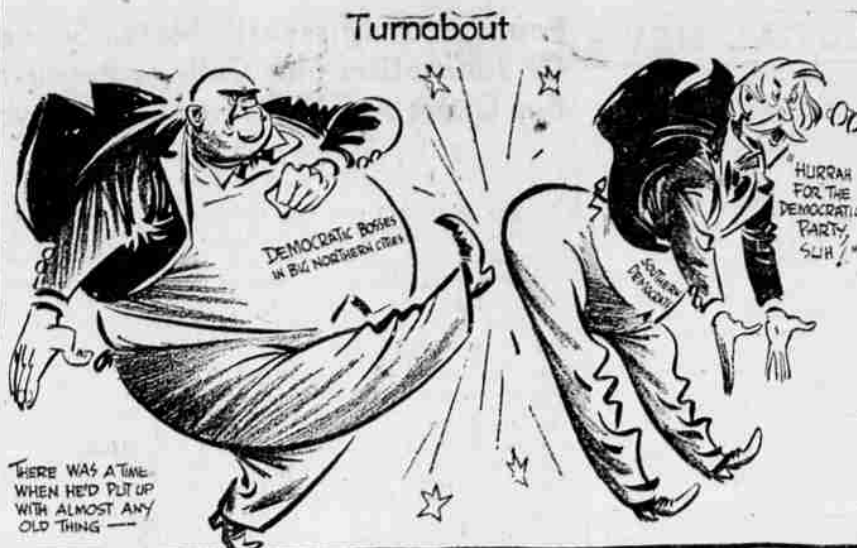
Sale Of Indian Timber Target Of Federal Suit

PORTLAND — Eight hundred acres of Curry County Indian timber land drew an offer of \$416,000, a witness testified Tuesday in the government's suit to wipe out a sale for \$135,000.

After earlier pre-trial talks, the suit opened Tuesday with the government trying to nullify the sale. The \$416,000 figure was the highest yet mentioned. David H. Miller of Bandon said he had offered that sum. The Forest Service had appraised the timber at \$405,000.

But the two Indian owners, Jasper Grant and Harold Thornton, got \$135,000 for it in a sale approved by the Indian Affairs office here.

The government says that was too small an amount and besides the deal was handled improperly. Two Indian Service aides, F. E. La France and Clyde W. Flinn, are under suspension for it. Defendants are Mrs. Ernestine Siminical, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Taylor and Elmer Reed. The government says all had a part in the involved transaction.



Fulton Lewis Jr. WASHINGTON REPORT

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

WASHINGTON — President Truman's recent plea for the nomination of a so-called Liberal Democrat at the party's national convention in July creates a mantle that fits snugly around the shoulders of Senator Paul H. Douglas.

It's not likely, however, that Mr. Truman will ever endorse the Illinois Democrat. He doesn't like Douglas, and vice-versa. Among myriad reasons is the impasse over the federal judgeship appointments in Illinois. The President ignored Douglas' recommendations of two highly qualified Illinois barristers in favor of a pair of political proteges.

The Senate backed Douglas, but the feud is still rotating in political philosophy. However, Douglas and Mr. Truman are much closer than either realizes. Both make pious preachment about economy in federal spending, but neither does anything noticeable to achieve it.

Douglas wrote a book recently hailed widely by the Liberals, "Economy in National Government." The title is tasty; so are his passages which call for a \$1,800,000,000 cut in the civilian payroll, and a \$5,800,000,000 cut in military and foreign aid spending. And he wants to do it right now.

"If the ratio of federal expenditures to national income were to increase at the same rate as in the last forty years, within a few decades the expenditures would swallow up the entire economy."

It has a familiar ring. Republicans in Congress — together with Harry Byrd, Walter George and other Southern Democrats — have been chanting the same lament since the mid-thirties. But in 1951, when GOP Senator Dirksen of Illinois proposed that the NATO spending authorization be clipped by \$500,000,000, Douglas voted against it. The book contains another luscious passage: "To be liberal one does not have to be a wastrel."

This will come as something of a shock to the large flock of Democrats, plus a smattering of Republicans like Sen. Wayne Morse, of Oregon, who professionalize the "Liberal" label. Unlimited spending has always been their trademark. And yet Senator Douglas writes in his new volume:

"When such expenditures are even approximated, political and economic liberty, as we have known it, will tend to disappear. For if the overwhelming proportion of people would work either directly or indirectly on or contract for the state, men and women will be afraid to speak or act as free human beings lest they lose their livelihood."

In 1951, Douglas, against a heavily backed opposition, voted to increase funds for federal grants to states to set up more local public health units. He also voted to increase funds for the Voice of America from \$63,000,000 to \$85,000,000.

He voted against limiting new public housing units to one-half million a year, after the House had approved the limitation.

Douglas writes like a man running scared. He says that the "warfare world, not the welfare state, makes government expensive."

In 1951, Douglas voted against limiting the military budget to \$55,000,000,000. This would have meant a \$5,000,000,000 saving in the "warfare world."

Douglas writes well, and in

Bingham Will Return To Coca Cola Co. Job

PORTLAND — When William A. Bingham is relieved as state liquor administrator he will accept a post with the Coca Cola Co., he said Wednesday.

Bingham spent 25 years with the company and had been vice-president, general manager and treasurer at Boston before coming to Portland.

He was in the automobile business here before his appointment as liquor administrator by Gov. Douglas McKay.

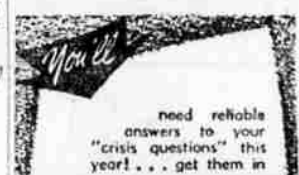
Bingham has resigned and the State Liquor Commission will meet in Salem Friday to consider a successor.

Good Samaritan Deed With Fawn Cost \$29.50

ASTORIA — Thomas S. Day, 25, tried to be a Good Samaritan and ended up paying a \$29.50 fine.

He took a fawn he saw standing beside the highway to state police. But the police arrested him for molesting a game animal.

They explained that last year they raised 22 fawns brought in by motorists and expressed belief that, in each case, the mother deer had been hidden in brush nearby.



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In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

(Continued from Page One)

socialism was President Truman's seizure of the steel industry when it refused to accept his government-ordered increase in wages without an offsetting increase in prices. If that had gone through, its ultimate result would have been refusal on the part of individuals to invest any more money in steel stock. If private investors won't buy steel securities there can be no more expansion in the steel industry.

We have to have steel, so the next move would have been NATIONALIZATION, with the government providing the money for expansion and modernization.

That is socialism.

The steel mess is now in the courts. But what the courts do won't in itself stop our present trend. That can be stopped only by electing a President and a congress who are AGAINST socialism and will pass and ENFORCE laws that will STOP it.

We'll know more about socialism in America after the fourth day of next November.

There's an intriguing tale on the wires today about a \$42-a-week messenger-handyman in Chicago who was big-hearted with money. He liked to GIVE IT AWAY to people.

He gave \$10,000 to a saloon-keeper whose house wasn't as good as it might have been. "Your kids will like their home better," he said to the bar boss, "if you'll fix it up."

To another friend, he shelled out \$9,650 one day as a friendly gesture. "You aren't well enough dressed," he said to the guy. "Go out and get yourself some good clothes."

To another friend he gave \$5,000 to pay off the mortgage on his home and to pay for an operation he needed badly.

Wonderful? We ought to have more people like that?

Well, there's a catch to it.

It seems that he was tapping the boss' till for the money. It came out when he was arrested that the total amount he had taken from the till for his philanthropies came to \$34,300.

The boss didn't share his employee's enthusiasm for philanthropy and appears to have squealed like a stuck pig when he found out what had been going on.

I'd like to add a word here about this boss and his departed \$34,300. Anybody as careless as that with the firm's money not only deserves to lose but ought to be hauled before a morals court and given a stiff sentence for CORRUPTING HIS EMPLOYEES by putting temptation in their way.

A word more:

This poor devil will probably be sent to jail for giving other peo-

ple's money away — and we'll all applaud. In our private affairs, we don't like such things.

If he had been a POLITICIAN, we'd probably send him back to jail for giving other people's money away.

We the voters are an inconsistent lot, aren't we?

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