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COSTLY LETHARGY

By Charles V. Stanton

Voter lethargy has again complicated Roseburg's fiscal program. Not more than 10 percent of the city's eligible voters participated in the special election at which the city budget and a proposal for a sewer sinking fund were submitted. As a result, both measures were beaten.

It is extremely difficult to interest voters in city and district elections when those elections must be held so frequently. Yet we will continue to be confronted annually with this condition until we revise our budget laws—revisions permitting rapidly growing municipalities and school districts to adjust tax bases in proportion to growth.

Nearly every year this same thing happens in various communities.

Every taxing unit has an unflinching negative voting strength. A certain group of people will vote "no" on every tax measure. The negative vote is always well represented, although even the "anti" vote lacked normal strength in the Roseburg election.

A study of past municipal and school district elections will show negative strength to be fairly consistent. The affirmative vote, however, varies widely. Whenever as many as 1,200 voters turn out in either city or school district elections, the affirmative side usually wins. But, when the vote falls under 1,000, the contest is close, particularly if a substantial tax issue is involved.

It now will be necessary for the city council to resubmit the budget. Elections cost money. It can hardly be called good economy to vote against tax costs while adding to expense. Naturally, we don't mean that a budget should be accepted without careful scrutiny. But many people will vote against any budget, no matter how economical it may be, often without thinking that the expense of another election may be more than any saving through revision.

It is to be hoped that when the budget is resubmitted we will at least have better representation from the city's voters. We hope, too, that the next legislature will do something about amending our laws to eliminate necessity for so many elections which, by their very frequency, are conducive to voter lethargy.

RODEO WAS BIG SUCCESS

The annual rodeo, sponsored by the Sheriff's Posse, was a decided success, so we are told.

We had to get our information secondhand because we were forced to miss the big event through conflict with the convention of the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association.

Many spectators have told us how they enjoyed the parade, the arena show and the competitive events. Posse officials report a record attendance, higher gross receipts, and the finest of public cooperation.

Most of the talk, however, centers around the traffic jam caused by limited approach to the Fairgrounds. This situation will be improved when the new highway is built. But, if our growth continues along expected lines, even the new highway will not carry the traffic load.

It is not too early, we believe, to be starting a sinking fund to build a direct route from the south part of town, with a bridge across the South Umpqua River, to Umpqua Park.

Roseburg's critical traffic problem, in our opinion, can be materially improved by opening up more north-south through routes, thus taking congestion off the cross streets. It now is necessary to channel traffic over short east-west streets before reaching or upon leaving north-south routes. A grid pattern, we believe, would only complicate traffic flow.

With the building of the westside highway, east-west congestion will be increased, unless we build new direct approaches to the north and south. A bridge across the river at the south end of town would take thousands of cars daily off Oak street.



What a wonderful opportunity for furthering goodwill between two countries our American teachers have when they go overseas, especially when the teacher is a devout Quaker given the character-testing tasks of teaching English to the 12-year old Japanese Crown Prince. I have thought much about "Windows for the Crown Prince" (Lippencott-1952) since I read it, and have given thanks many times for the sincerity and simplicity with which Elizabeth Vining won the trust of the Imperial family, the political powers that hedge them about with age-old tradition, and, above all, the Crown Prince himself. Who can tell what the four years of association with Mrs. Vining may mean in the future!

Mrs. Vining is sure that there is a genuine friendliness on the part of the Japanese people for Americans. She cites the attitude of the children everywhere she went. "Children reflect what they hear at home. If there were hatred and bitterness and talk of revenge in the family circle, the children would not swarm with obvious delight about the foreigner. They could be taught to chorus, as they did, Haro! and good-bye! But they could not be taught to hide shrinking and fear and distaste if they had learned them at home."

The Imperial family must have liked Mrs. Vining's sincerity and Quaker simplicity for they, with the approval of the political powers, renewed the contract for each year, finally over Mrs. Vining's insistence she must return to America. The Empress urged her to send for her sister to spend the next year with her in Japan! It

was the Emperor's own idea to have the American teacher, and not the American Occupation influence. Mrs. Vining strove to open "windows" for the Crown Prince and to free him from the stifling atmosphere of too many servants and too much dependence upon others. It was a great day for the Prince and his family when he finally was permitted to have his English lesson without any one else being present! Of the Emperor (who learned to play "snap" along with the rest of his family) Mrs. Vining writes: "His character was unfused to me gradually as the years went on, and I came to have, besides affection for him, and admiration, a real respect for his goodness, for his self-sacrificing devotion to his people, his humility (that rare quality) and his genuine love of peace."

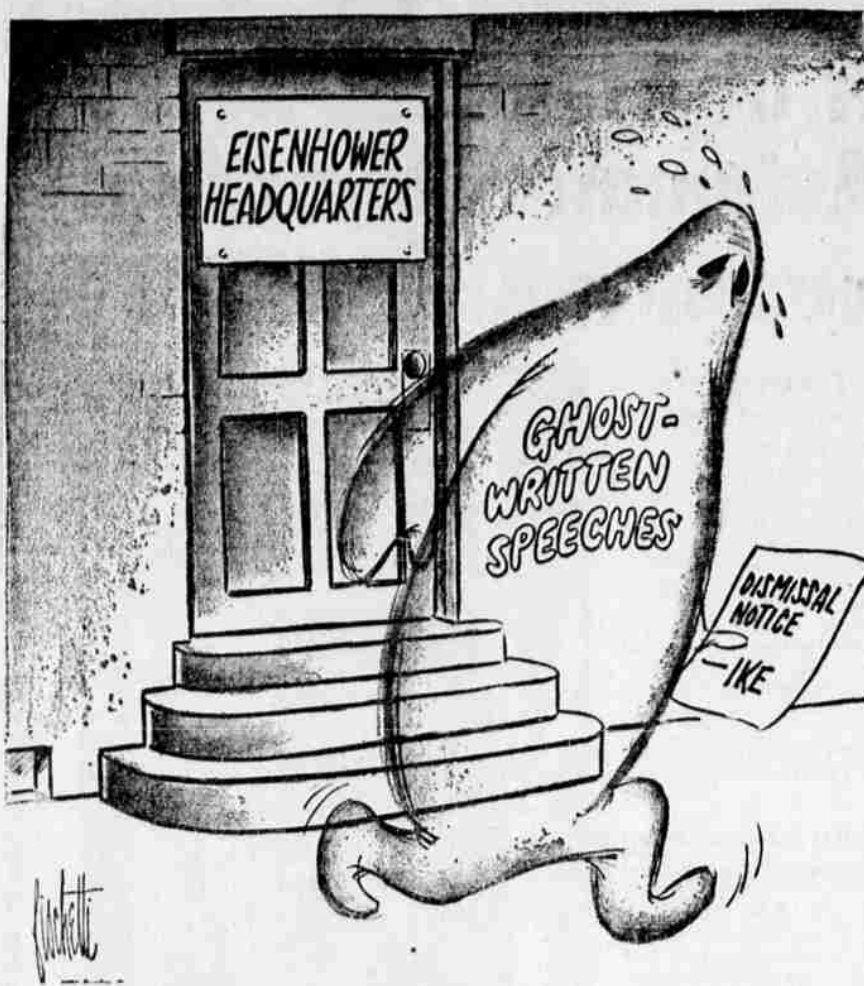
When the Emperor refused to approve the war plan, he quoted a poem by a former emperor, who are told, and then left the room. "Surely in this world men are brothers all."

Pilot Escapes As Spray Plane Crashes In Swamp

PORTLAND, Ore.—A plane spraying mosquito breeding grounds on Sauvie Island crashed Saturday morning and was demolished but the pilot suffered only a leg fracture and cuts.

The pilot, Roy L. Darby, 38, Milwaukie, was thrown into a swamp and he clambered on the overturned plane's fuselage and awaited rescue.

The Ghost Walks



Fulton Lewis Jr. WASHINGTON REPORT

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

WASHINGTON — It must be assumed that the summer heat is responsible for the wild cries of pain arising from the political machine promoting the candidacy of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Charges of fraud, immorality and corruption fill the air over the tactics being used by Senator Robert A. Taft to obtain the GOP presidential nomination. Eisenhower backers sound as though they had never before been engaged in a political war. Nothing could be further from the truth. Take Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, of Massachusetts, for instance. Lodge is a self-confessed politician who has himself engaged in a bit of political blood-letting on occasion.

Take Senator James Duff, of Pennsylvania, as another example. Duff, a former governor of the Keystone state, sleeps, eats and breathes politics. And if there is any place in the world where politics gets rough, it is in the State of Pennsylvania.

Another Eisenhower supporter who practices the gentle art of politics with consummate artistry is Gov. Alfred E. Driscoll of New Jersey. The governor's adroit maneuvering forced Senator Taft to withdraw from the New Jersey primary contest after Taft had extracted a promise of neutrality from Driscoll prior to the election. There were expressions of grief from Taft and his managers at the time, but nobody in his entourage suggested a lifelong protest over their shelling.

In fact, what happened to Taft in New Jersey as a result of Driscoll's back tracking almost equalled, in delegate cost, what happened to Eisenhower in Texas. By applying a few basic political tricks, all of which were and are forces, Taft secured the Texas delegation.

Nobody has ever accused Taft of not being a politician. Lodge, Duff, and presumably Eisenhower, were aware of this when the GOP nominating battle got underway. If not, surely Gov. Thomas E. Dewey and his adroit campaign manager, Herbert Brownell, knew it. They tangled with Taft in 1944 and again in 1948.

Eisenhower supporters in the press and on the radio, naturally, have been deploring the Texas debacle ever since it happened. Not a one raised his voice in protest over the New Jersey steal, however. Not even Henry Luce, of Time and Life magazine. And I, for one, consider it their privilege if that is the way they want to report the news. But in so doing their howls of dismay lose a lot of steam.

I mention this because I expect we shall hear a lot more about the "Texas steal" on July 7 in Chicago. If convention rules are observed, the pro-Taft delegates, not the Eisenhower delegates, will be seated. I doubt, unless Taft raises his voice, if we hear a word about New Jersey.

Another issue is sticking in the Eisenhower camp. It concerns the selection of Walter S. Hallanan, a Taft supporter, as temporary GOP convention chairman. He is being accused by Lodge and others of everything but thievery.

Hallanan, it will be recalled, did not object when Harold Stassen, Dewey's floor manager, was named temporary chairman of the GOP convention in 1944. But it appears from the sound heard now that in 1944 it was all right to have a Dewey partisan in the chair but all wrong in 1952 to have a Taft partisan in the same seat.

Dewey is for Ike this year.

Eisenhower himself admits he is in a fight and that he has had some 40 years of practice in that art. He says he is ready and willing for the political wars. I doubt if he has anything but honest admiration for Taft's political acumen. He would be less than honest if he did. As a politician, Taft would be less than human not to envy a slick political trick on Ike's part, even if it hurt.

Otherwise a lot would be lost in American politics. This is a political dogfight, not a cream puff contest. Nobody in the business could be made to believe that Eisenhower acquired his delegates in a manner that differs much from Taft's method. So the tears coursing down the cheeks of Senator Lodge had best be handed back to the crocodile that owned them initially. Most Americans like their political fights dry-eyed.

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

Taft Answers Ike On Question Of Texas Groups

WASHINGTON — Senator Robert A. Taft said Monday he believes Texas delegates temporarily admitted to the Republican national convention should be barred from voting on the permanent seating of that state's delegation.

But Taft told a news conference he does not agree with Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower that delegates from all contested states should be barred from voting on contests.

He said he thinks those seated temporarily from contested states must be permitted to vote on contests outside their own states.

"Otherwise," he said, "fake contests could be brought in a majority of the states and the convention would be helpless to act."

Ike's Backers Dubious
Some of Eisenhower's backers have contended that Taft controls the machinery of the Republican National Committee which will approve the temporary roll of the Chicago convention.

They expect the national committee to seat temporarily delegations favoring Taft in most of the contested states.

They have asserted that such delegations ought not to be allowed to vote on the permanent seating of contested delegations.

Taft said he wants to answer later in a formal statement, or in a speech, charges made by Eisenhower in a Dallas address Saturday night that there was a "steal" of Texas' 38 delegates by the Taft forces.

But Taft denied the charges and said: "The law was on the side of Henry Zweifel."

Zweifel is Texas national committeeman and a Taft supporter. Zweifel's group named a pro-Taft delegation after refusing to seat many Eisenhower delegates in a state convention.

The Eisenhower group bolted and named its own delegation. Taft said he isn't at all certain his followers will have a majority on the vital credentials committee—the group which recommends action to be taken on the seating of contested delegates.

In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

to meet your needs, you'd better buy it from somebody else if you can. That is substantially what this proposal to buy planes in Europe amounts to.

Incidentally, it is humiliating and more than a little disturbing to learn, as we're beginning to, that with all our boasted production capacity we can't make war material as fast as we need it. Are we slipping?

More from Washington: "The House and Senate, 175 million dollars apart, left to a conference committee the decision on the size of the country's flood control and navigation program for the coming year."

The House wants to spend only \$492,434,900 for these projects—which are often tainted heavily with the odor of the pork barrel. The Senate wants to hit the total to \$667,474,699.

Just a thought: "Is this trip necessary?" Why not say King's Ex for a year and put the whole two-thirds of a billion dollars into the war material—especially warplanes—that we so badly need?

Maybe that wouldn't be good politics in a campaign year, but it would certainly be good common sense.

This meteorologist guy, Jack Hubbard, of Olympia (Wash.) intrigues me.

He tells a reporter he has chemicals so powerful that they can cause a big, threatening rain cloud to fold up and silently steal away. He says he can prove it, and adds that he's going to have his men set up equipment UNDER BLUE SKIES to form a cloud. With his cloud dispersing chemicals, he'll then (he says) slice the cloud, which he himself produced, in half and WIPE IT OUT.

He may be just shooting the breeze for the benefit of the reporters, but if he can back up what he says, I think it's too much power to be held in one man's hands.

Suppose someone could get out of a test tube the secret of complete and detailed predictions of the future.

Would it be good? I doubt it.

Suppose you learned through such hocus-pocus that ten years hence you'd inherit a million dollars. Heck! You'd have it all spent by the time you got the million and in the process of spending it you'd learn bad habits that would ruin you.

What if the process told you the exact day and hour on which you'd die of cancer or heart failure—or maybe the pip? Again your life would be ruined.

I'm not so sure but what there's a point at which we'd better call a halt on science.

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