

# The News-Review

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## PARK SYSTEM PRAISED

By Charles V. Stanton

Douglas County's unique public parks program has entered national politics. It may affect national legislation dealing with development of recreational facilities on public lands. At least, Douglas County's plan has been commended before Congress.

Forrest E. Cooper, legal counsel for the Interstate Association of Public Land Counties, appearing before congressional committees, pointed to Douglas County's public parks program, the only one of its kind in the area, and urged that Congress encourage development of recreational facilities on public lands by making federal aid available to co-operative counties.

Attorney Cooper appeared in opposition to two current bills designed to make revenue available from national forests for recreational development. One bill would authorize the U. S. Forest Service to earmark 10 per cent of all forest revenue to a recreational program. The other would set up a fee system for use of the forest, similar to charges made for entrance into national parks.

H.R. 565, the so-called Tackett bill, would permit the Forest Service to retain 10 per cent of all revenues, amounting to approximately \$7,000,000 annually, to construct, maintain and improve recreational facilities. This bill has resulted in much controversy. It has been given enthusiastic support by many sports groups, such as the Isaac Walton League and the National Wildlife Federation. It also has met widespread opposition.

### Violates Congressional Policy

The bill is a violation of congressional policy. Congress controls the nation's purse strings. It insists upon its right to place safeguards around national expenditures by making all departments come to it for such money as may be needed. Giving any department or agency power to collect and spend funds without congressional approval is held to be a dangerous policy.

Congress has been negligent in supplying funds for recreational development on public lands. During the days of the Civilian Conservation Corps many campgrounds, picnic spots, recreational roads and trails and other such facilities for public use were built. But no appreciable money has been spent since CCC days. Facilities built by the CCC have deteriorated. The Forest Service has been pleading without avail for money to rebuild and maintain existing facilities and to extend the program. The Tackett bill was offered to meet this request. There also is much sentiment in Congress that recreational use of the public domain should be self-supporting. This sentiment has resulted in H.R. 7000, which proposes to impose a charge upon all people entering the forest. The latter bill has resulted in vigorous remonstrance.

Western counties oppose the Tackett bill because of its effect upon local income. Counties receive 25 per cent of gross forest revenues. A 10 per cent cut by the Forest Service would lower the county income slightly.

### County Supervision Proposed

Cooper proposed to Congress that it adopt a policy similar to that obtained by cattlemen for range improvement. An annual appropriation is made for that purpose. He explained Douglas County's public parks program and said that a congressional policy should be set up to encourage self-reliant counties. "Congress," he said, "should provide that if the county elects to do so it can take over the entire rural recreational facilities program upon its national forests and that the Forest Service turn over to it each year the amount of money it would otherwise spend upon such an activity." He added that: "Any money flowing to such a county should be paid over in like manner as is the existing 25 per cent lieu tax money — with no dictation attached."

Cooper announced that he would submit suggested legislation of this type to the Interstate Association's annual convention and would endeavor to obtain opinions from other interested groups.

We can see many complications in a program such as Cooper proposes. Putting the load of recreational development on public lands in the hands of the individual counties has obvious advantages. On the other hand, it could be dangerous unless the counties had definite assurance that Congress would provide continuously adequate and proportionate appropriations. Otherwise we might find ourselves in a position of building up facilities only to have appropriations cut off. Facilities then would deteriorate, as is now the case, and counties would take the rap.

**Seraps** From the **MENDING BASKET**  
 by **Vidnett Martin** P.O. Box 874, Drain, Or.

The "Seraps" about shoeing oxen certainly brought in a reader response! Both by letter and verbally. It was read by "two ex-New Yorkers" who live in Portland, and they looked me up the next time they came down this way with the intention of bringing a set of oxen shoes which an uncle in New York had sent them. Only they forgot to pick up the shoes at the last minute, and said "We'll stop the next time we are down this way." We had a good visit anyhow. (I've wondered if the unidentified visitors on March 21 could have been they? I wasn't able to answer the door that day, three rings were neighbors; the fourth is still a mystery. "A man in a brown suit, and a lady out in the car.")  
 Last week a Roseburg reader wrote "By the way, my husband says there is a pile of oxen shoes in Cook Bay, ones that were really used!" The writer enclosed a letter to be forwarded to Mrs. T. in Long Beach who wanted a correspondent in Roseburg who would answer questions about the area.

Today a letter came from Mrs. T., saying how delighted she was to receive the letter!  
 Another reader tells how pleased she is with the idea of sending magazines overseas to help promote world friendship. She had written the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce for the stickers and directions. Says she is so glad to have a good use for magazines with too much interest in them to be burned. She also added: "Your Mending Basket... is always a welcome visitor—even MY Mr. Bitwuns reads it!"  
 (Well, I don't know how I'd ever get it written sometimes if MY Mr. Bitwuns didn't help me write it, said help being entirely involuntary!) How glad I am when a reader's letter will contain something I can quote. That doesn't mean I fail to appreciate the ones too personal to quote or the inspiring letters that just tell why they like the Mending Basket—letters I can't quote without seeming to "blow a trumpet," but which I treasure in my heart!  
 One reader wrote she and her

## Playing With Fire?



## Fulton Lewis Jr. WASHINGTON REPORT

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

WASHINGTON — I propose to examine the so-called independent voter who is being courted with such fanfare by the supporters of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

In his hands is supposed to rest the fate of the Republican Party and, if you listen to the Eisenhower camp followers, the defeat of Senator Robert A. Taft, should the Ohioan secure the Republican nomination.

If you are an independent voter you have lots of company. There are supposed to be 5,000,000 in the nation, if you believe the lipsters, pollsters and political pundits. And not a single one of them has yet made up his mind whether he will vote for a Democrat or a Republican in November of this year. In fact, if the fiction is carried to its illogical conclusion, no independent voter would be caught outside after dark with a political opinion until the GOP and the Democrats have completed their nominating conventions. Eisenhower is alleged to have great charm for the independent voter, Taft none. And the reason is that the independent voter, a political hybrid, is supposed to be a rousing internationalist who sees nothing but good in the Democratic foreign policy, except that maybe there's some waste in it, and nothing but sorrow in any candidate who opposes same.

In 1948, Republicans lost the national election to Dewey's playmate by 2,135,747 votes. The political pollsters tell us the independent voters put us in our present fix by voting Democratic that year. That's quite a burden to bear, and the independent voter is welcome to the blame.

A logical question, that never seems to get asked, is where was the independent voter in 1944 and 1948 when Gov. Thomas E. Dewey ran the "me-too" GOP campaigns for the presidency? Dewey endorsed the Democratic foreign policy to the disgust of Republicans everywhere, but few if any independent voters responded as they are supposed to do.

The State of California, naturally, is a haven for so-called independent voters. As such, since Gov. Earl Warren is both a Dewey and Eisenhower supporter, it would only be natural for California voters to flock to the governor's banner. Nobody could ever accuse him of sincere objections to Mr. Truman's foreign policies. And Warren is an out-and-out Eisenhower supporter, which made his recent race as head of the California GOP convention delegation a doubly juicy prize for the independent voter.

Strangely enough, however, the independent voter again failed to respond on schedule. He helped vote instead a 1,750,000 majority for Senator William Knowland, who ran far ahead of the governor. Knowland campaigned on strictly anti-Fair Deal foreign and domestic issues. In fact he roared up and down the California coast, ripping Mr. Truman and his henchmen for the thievery at home and the give-aways abroad.

There are other examples of the husband were looking forward prayerfully to the day, soon now, when their son would be home from Korea. "He wrote to have the refrigerator full of ice cream because he hasn't had any over there." There must be many mothers and fathers... exclaiming prayerfully. And soon, counting the days—May His blessing rest on them all.

the presidential aspirants. Absolutely nothing to get excited about. They excel at slinging mud and making evasive campaign speeches.

How about Ike? From his speeches I have heard enough to convince me he will be one of those do-nothing Presidents. He does not believe in tampering too much in government regulations as the law stands. Hoover was like that. When his administration ended in a nationwide depression Hoover refused to act. Just sat and twiddled his fingers. Ike is just another dyed-in-the-wool conservative.

And Taft? Absolutely impossible! Here is a man who has been in power too long, being a senator for 20 years. I still remember the hard times and unemployment while his father, William Howard Taft, was president. Robert Taft is the gentleman who advised etching up our belts and eating less meat; that if price controls were removed the old law of supply and demand would lower prices of meat. Steak was then 65 cents. Now it is from 70 cents to as high as \$1.18 per pound. Senator Taft has voted against every single piece of legislation which I considered would be beneficial and desirable.

Among the Republicans, in my opinion, their best man for the presidency is Gov. Warren of California. The next choice would be Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon. He would poll more votes than Taft and he might win the election. The rank and file voters in the United States have time and again proven that they prefer a do-something, liberal, broad-minded president. Remember Franklin D. Roosevelt, the unbeatable champion?

I know little about the Democratic aspirants. Would prefer Kefauver to either Ike or Taft; or would vote for Harriman, if nominated, in preference to the ultra-conservative Republican candidates.

I am first and last for liberality and justice. That is why I am an independent.  
 An ultraconservative president cannot possibly represent fairly the entire population of the United States. Does a nation like the U.S. need a rock-bound, narrow-minded, single-track, hard-boiled individual in the White House? What is desirable is someone who can do something other than keeping us fed up with cold war propaganda.

B. AMES  
 Roseburg, Oregon

### BOY ORATOR WINS CASH

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — A 12-year-old Oregon boy, Dan McCall of Eugene, won the Optimist International speaking contest at the group's annual convention here Saturday.  
 He received an award of \$1,000.

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FREE PARKING AT THE FARM BUREAU

## In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

path away back in 1912.  
 Economic note:  
 Midsummer heat last week reduced the supply of livestock coming to the Chicago market to the lowest numbers since last August, and prices reacted HIGHER accordingly.

Supply and demand, you see, still do have something to do with prices in this country. We aren't COMPLETELY regimented yet.

Cost of government note:  
 The joint congressional committee on reduction of non-essential federal expenditures (more briefly tabbed as the Byrd committee) reports that civilian employment in the executive branch of the government increased by 10,655 during the month of April. The total number of such civilians on April 30, the committee said, was 2,579,714.  
 That's almost twice the total population of the State of Oregon.

That brings up another thought. The State Unemployment Compensation Commission estimates in Salem that during May 439,700 persons were working at non-farm jobs in Oregon.  
 That's 6,000 FEWER than were similarly employed during April and 15,900 fewer than were employed in May of 1951.

Do you reckon there could be a connection between MORE government employees in the city of Washington and FEWER employees in private industry in Oregon?

It could be. Every needless GOVERNMENT employee has to be carried on the backs of those who work in private PRODUCTIVE industry, for needless government employees PRODUCE NOTHING.

The last figures I saw indicated that every five persons employed in private PRODUCTIVE industry now have to carry on their back one non-productive government employee (meaning by that ALL government—federal, state, county, city, etc.)

That's a pretty heavy load to have to tote while you work.

Another interesting, but far from comforting, thought:

You must have noted that President Truman sent to Congress a budget calling for federal expenditures totaling approximately \$5 billion dollars in the next fiscal year. That's nearly \$600 for every man, woman and child in this country.

That's a good thing to remember when you pay your taxes. It explains why they are high. It's also a good thing to remember when you buy your groceries, your shoes, your blouses, etc. Taxes have to be added to the cost of production, because they ARE A PART of the cost of production. So they have to be added onto the price of whatever you buy at the store.

Considering the astronomical height of taxes, it's no wonder prices are so high.

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