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Reader Opinions

MILK BATTLE LOOMS

Charles V. Stanton

Next to the presidential race, the Milk Production and Marketing Bill appearing on the November 4 election ballot seems to be attracting most attention from Oregon voters. The issue even has reached the mud-slinging stage. It is reported too that several Portland women, aggressively campaigning for the bill, have been made targets of threats.

It appears that the issue has reached the state in which consumers are lining up on one side and milk producers and distributors on the other. Retailers seem to be divided, with the majority opposed to the bill.

During the early days of the Great Depression, and following a milk war in which the milk industry suffered heavy losses, the State of Oregon adopted the Milk Marketing Act. This Act provided a system of guaranteed profits in every department of the milk business. It authorized the State Board of Agriculture to appoint a Milk Marketing Administrator. The Board and Administrator, working with Oregon State College, investigates costs of production, distribution and sales in each of the state's milksheds. Quotas are established for each area. The butterfat content of milk, in relation to price, is controlled. Prices to producers, processors, distributors, retailers and customers are fixed.

Under the existing act, competition is restricted.

Retailers Have Lost Business

Because there is no differential between retail prices at the store and the price of milk delivered at the door, retailers have suffered an estimated 40 percent loss in the volume of milk sold, it is reported. Milk is a good sales commodity. Stores handling a large volume would like to get back the trade they enjoyed when they had a differential in price. Thus chain stores, particularly, are supporting the proposed new bill. But many independents are fighting the measure because they feel the chain stores would use milk as "leaders," thus adversely affecting the smaller food merchants.

The new law would knock out all controls other than minimum prices to producers. It would replace the Milk Marketing Administrator, now appointed and working under the Board of Agriculture, with an Administrator appointed by the Governor. Acts of the Administrator under the new bill, would be subject to the states courts, whereas, under the existing law the courts can only review the Administrator's decisions to ascertain that they comply with the law.

The new law also would repeal quota and pooling provisions. At present the Administrator fixes the amount of fluid milk to be sold as Grade A for human consumption in every milkshed. This discourages new dairy operations, as a producer in a surplus area would have only the factory market open to him until he could secure a fluid milk license, which might require time. He can sell his product only for ice cream, butter, cheese or other processed products, if denied a fluid milk license by the Administrator, while the quota for his area is full.

The proposed new law also would remove all restrictions on butterfat content, permitting sale of richer milk at such price as the retailer might desire to quote.

Protection Given Producer

The only person given protection under the proposed law would be the producer. He would still be guaranteed a minimum price, and distributors or processors would be required to pay that price.

The proposed change would eliminate restrictions on areas to be served by distributors. Currently, a distributor can operate only in the area in which he is licensed. He can't enter into competition in a neighboring community. If voters approve the new measure, however, a distributor would be placed on a competitive basis in any area he might serve economically.

Proponents say the milk industry needs competition; that if we can get higher-grade milk at lower price the opportunity should be provided, so long as production costs are protected. They say it is unfair to assure profits all along the line to one industry when no other industry gets like protection.

Opponents contend the existing law is working satisfactorily; that because milk is a vital food its production and marketing should be protected at all levels, and that milk should not be made a competitive commodity in retail stores.



Scraps From the Mending Basket

by Vidnett Martin P.O. Box 874, Drain, Ore.

"When Cortes landed in 1519 to conquer Mexico, he brought eleven stallions, five mares, and one colt born on board a ship carrying its mother from Cuba. These were the first horses on the American continent."

J. Frank Dobie's interesting history of "The Wild and Free Mustangs" in the October Country Gentleman begins thus. It's a long article, and one that will, I venture to say, interest anybody who likes horses.

Mr. Dobie gives instances showing how in the pre-fence days a mare would return from Arkansas to south Texas to a certain place on the range where previously she had foaled. Another mare took three months to make a trip of 600 miles. Another story is about an "outlaw bay" that pitched off his rider and left for his old range "not less than 1000 miles away" where he was found the next spring by his former owner. A piece of the saddle still was fastened to him. However, the article closes with a story of a mustang deliberately choosing to lose his life when he lost his liberty. If you like horses, don't miss the article! (How teen-agers would like the

story!)

My friend, Mrs. Finney, once traded a plug of tobacco out of her husband's trading post for an old bridle that even her husband thought not worth a dime. Mrs. Finney commanded a young heifer, and the two of them set to work with polish and rags. All the corroded black pieces of metal turned out to be just what Mrs. Finney thought they were: silver! Then her husband took interest and had the silver remounted on new leather. From what they could find out from an old Indian they came to the conclusion that bridle had once belonged to a Spaniard. It was a handsome bridle when restored.

Speaking of Spaniards bringing the horses reminds me of the way the pretty little forage plant, alfalfa ("little pin") arrived here. It came of course as seeds caught in the wool of the first sheep. And what a pretty little plant it is! I was so charmed with it when I first saw it in California that it was inspiration for a teen-age story which sold the first time out. You know the plant? A little flat rosette of green with magenta blossoms.

Tax Measures Bound To Strike Minorities

ROSEBURG — It is hard to understand your shedding of tears for the plight of smokers should the voters choose to react favorably to the Cigarette Stamp Tax Revenue Act Nov. 4th. Or to see any logic in arguments advanced by you in support of your contention that a minority group is being saddled with a burden for the benefit of another.

Since when has a tax measure done otherwise? Can you name one, with the possible exception of a retail sales tax, that strikes all alike, benefiting none at the expense of others? Can you say that the taxes imposed on liquor are not assessed against a certain group? And the heavy burden placed on gasoline by our state and federal governments certainly hits one group harder than another. Why not spare a tear for those saddled with a near-confiscatory property tax. Here, certainly, is a group singled out for extinction, forced to pay the cost of projects voted for by people who contribute little or nothing towards them. In more enlightened areas no one votes for added school expenditures who will have no part in the payment thereof.

You belittle the argument "no smoke, no tax," saying it applies equally to the other tax items. Not quite. With a few exceptions, most of the taxed products are essential. Notably automobiles and gasoline, just to name two of those heaviest taxed. Could you say that any person refusing to smoke because of the tax assessed against it would not be immeasurably better off? It goes without saying, the powers that be are desperately searching for new sources of revenue. Whether justified or not is not in my province to say, but they go at the matter the right way, they who place the taxes in their proper order. First on the absolute non-essential, then in progressive order on the balance.

IVAR J. LINDSTROM
Roseburg, Ore.

Depredations Justify Banning Of Hunters

CAMAS VALLEY — Thank goodness for the law that allows and upholds us in the right to post our property against hunters — not "sportsmen" but hunters of wild game and the farmers' livestock as well.

They have created the existing situation themselves by overrunning the ranches, cutting fences or breaking them down, shooting valuable livestock and disregarding the rights of property owners in general.

On the opening day of the pheasant season we are rudely awakened at daybreak by shot whizzing everywhere; men and dogs in such numbers descending upon us to equal the arrival of Coxe's army. I could tell plenty more on the subject, as could any ranch owner. Did it ever occur to the minds of those who complain about trespass pass notices that we might just like to see some beautiful birds or wildlife on our places?

MRS. ALBERT SCHAFER
Camas Valley, Ore.

Real Democratic Party Not Now Functioning

PORTLAND — When American voters learn to elect a president on the basis of party performance rather than personal prejudice or popularity, we will have started

In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

not on the basis of his brief career as a politician."

He adds: "I will continue fighting for leadership which is alert to the needs of the times and offers a constructive rather than a NEGATIVE program."

I suppose, Charlie, you mean by that you won't go on fighting for Eisenhower. I can read the meaning of your words in no other way. I think you're wrong.

In the very nature of it, General Eisenhower's campaign has to be negative before it can be positive. We have to say NO to what is going on now before we can say YES to what we're going to do in the future. You have to defeat your enemy in war, before you can decide what you're going to do after the war is over. First things come first.

As I see it, the chips are down. It's NOW a choice between Dwight D. Eisenhower and Adlai E. Stevenson. Under Stevenson, we'll get a change. Under Eisenhower, we won't. I think it's high time for a change and I WANT A CHANGE. Too much power has been held in too few hands too long and we are suffering from the evils that always follow when that happens. We can't get a change by cursing out our leader and expressing our dissatisfaction with the way he is conducting his campaign. Nor can we get a change by deserting our leader in a fit of pique (as it seems to me Senator Morse has done) and going over to the enemy we're trying to dislodge and defeat.

Anyway, that's the way I feel about it.

And on top of that I HAVE FAITH IN IKE. He has been a great leader of men as a soldier, and I'm personally certain he'll be an equally great leader of men as President of the United States.



Fulton Lewis Jr.

WASHINGTON REPORT

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WASHINGTON—The excuse given in 1948 for not kicking Communists out of the United Nations was that such an indecacy would embarrass the U.S.A. in its relations with the Soviet Union.

There was no question but that the UN was loaded with Reds at that time. Robert C. Alexander, a State Department patriot, who couldn't stand watching Soviet agents cross our borders any longer, sent the names of over 100 Reds on the U.N. payroll to a committee of the Senate.

Both Gen. George C. Marshall and Secretary of State Dean Acheson were prowling around the State Department at the time. When they found out what Alexander had done, they clawed the wailing wall with invective, and publicly ordered him to admit he was wrong.

To the everlasting benefit of the nation, Alexander refused. He almost lost his job because of his patriotism. And the Communists once again had the satisfaction of receiving an apology from the State Department.

Either Marshall or Acheson appointed a citizens committee of Washington newspaper publisher, who were supposed to investigate Alexander's charges. That they were hand-picked goes without saying, and they dutifully reported to their peers in the State Department that Alexander was taking through his hat. The only investigation they made, of course, was to read the State Department's denials.

All three ought to publicly apologize to Alexander now. They used the weight of their prominence as citizens to track down on a loyal government employee, just so that Marshall and Acheson could play patty-cake with their Russian counterparts once again.

Alexander said there were over 100 Soviet agents and sympathizers in the UN in 1948. There were and most of them are still there today. He named names, and the McCarran internal security subcommittee is busy dredging them out of the U.N. at present. Most of them are ducking the \$64 question, naturally, but that hardly upholds Marshall and Acheson.

The housecleaning of UN is only four years late and God knows what the Moscow errand boys have done to us between the time Alexander tagged them and today. It can't have been anything helpful, that's for sure.

I doubt if either Marshall or Acheson conceived the idea that nobody in the U.S. should talk nasty about Communists on the payroll. But there is no doubt they think it is a good idea, whoever had it in the first place. It's the stock answer now whenever a rock is overturned in the State Department and another Kremlin lover comes creeping out of the mud.

The entire Alexander affair was a sickening display of moral decay on the part of U.S. officials who are trapped by their own ignorance or lack of desire to do anything about the Communists.

Maybe it isn't diplomatic to raise the questions Alexander did, but then he knew he was not dealing with diplomats but espionage agents. No such distinction is made in the Department of State.

The passion to avoid embarrassing Russia has cost us a lot of

back up the long road to success as a republic.

In the words of Al Smith, "Let us look at the record." In the twenty years of New Deal administration our public debt jumped from 19 billion to 319 billion. During those twenty years it has become impossible for the average individual to save anything for a rainy day. During that period the majority of the people surrendered to the belief that government should care for us from the crib to the cemetery.

Now, I beg if you not to blame this entirely on the Democrats. Since the days of President Jackson, when the national debt was almost nil, public debt was frowned upon and individual and state rights were championed by Jackson and his loyal followers. All this has been put into the ash can.

But the real Democratic Party is not now functioning. The banner of Democracy is being waved by the various "Dealers," but they are allowing it to drag in the mud. In the name of the Democratic Party they have plunged our nation into the worst possible financial and moral condition.

It remains then for those Republicans and Democrats, who desire above all else to see the American form of government restored, to unite and to elect a strong man who will carry with him enough conservative congressmen to clean house in Washington. Eisenhower is clearly the man of the hour.

We have had twenty years too much of so-called "liberal" government. We know now that "liberal" means liberal with our time, our money, our lives and with our liberty itself.

E. B. BIRKENBEUEL
921 Terminal Sales Bldg.
Portland, S. Oregon

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Vital Statistics

Marriage License
HOWARD-ROSE — Billy Joe Howard, and Donna Jean Rose, both of Oakland.

Divorce Decree Granted
POWELL — Florence Isobel from Eugene William Powell. Plaintiff awarded custody of three minor children and \$150 monthly support. Property disposition approved.

HOME UNIT TO MEET
The Tenmile-Clalla Home Extension Unit will meet Tuesday Oct. 28, at 10:30 a.m. at the Ladies Club house. Discussion will center on canning and frozen foods. Amy Erbe and Louisa Coats are project leaders.

STREET VACATED
The County Court has signed an order vacating Paris Street in Pearl Subdivision.

The order was signed on petition of Leon J. and Eleanor Morehouse, George G. and Leona H. Weed, W. F. and Anna L. Paris, and Vic and Margery Leigh.

ALL TEN MILE FANS

Due to the Closure of
The Ten Mile Dance Hall

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Vote 319 x NO

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Taxes on large common carriers, large private carriers and large logging trucks are increased approximately 35% on mileage.

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Oregon Highway Council, Ellery Sills, President, 622 S. E. Grand, Portland, Oregon

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