

The News-Review

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BETTER BILL NEXT TIME

Charles V. Stanton

The Oregon Council of Churches, which with other groups sponsored the proposal on the general election ballot to outlaw pari-mutuel betting, reports it will continue its fight against gambling.

It is to be hoped that if another bill is submitted that it will be more expertly prepared than the one Oregon voters rejected. It is quite possible that had the measure been approved at the last election proponents would have found that they had achieved exactly the reverse of their purpose and actually would have opened the state to unrestricted gambling of all kinds.

We submitted the legal aspects of the proposal to several attorneys. All agreed that the measure was poorly prepared and undoubtedly would have resulted in lengthy litigation. The courts might have construed, these attorneys said, that all barriers against gambling had been removed. In such case the proposal would have operated in exact reverse to the will of the voters.

Oregon's existing laws against gambling are predicated upon a very short constitutional provision. Section 4 of Article 15 provides: "Lotteries, and the sale of lottery tickets, for any purpose whatever, are prohibited, and the legislative assembly shall prevent the same by penal laws."

Prohibition Lacking

The proposal offered voters would have repealed this direct prohibition. It would have replaced it with an amendment stating that "No lottery shall be authorized by the legislature . . . nor shall any gambling device be legalized." (The italics are ours.)

The question we submitted to lawyers was whether the repeal of the direct prohibition, substituting an amendment merely stating that gambling should not be "authorized" or "legalized," would not permit wide-open, "unauthorized" gambling. The only direct prohibition in the measure submitted to voters was that lottery or betting "tickets" should not be bought or sold. If then—assuming that the prohibition against gambling had been removed—the pari-mutuel interests could find a system of betting without use of tickets, it might have been possible to continue pari-mutuel betting without existing state controls and without any payments to the state's fund for agricultural fairs or to the general fund.

Lawyers were unable to give us a definite ruling on the question. They agreed, however, that a grave question was involved and, undoubtedly, the matter would have had to be determined by the courts. Inasmuch as it was a proposed constitutional amendment, the courts could not have ruled it unconstitutional, if passed by the people. On the other hand, they would have had to rule on its exact language, regardless of the intent of the voters.

It is possible, in our opinion, that even the most sincere anti-gambling opinioned voter should be glad the measure was beaten. Otherwise we might have had a wide-open state, for all our existing laws against gambling are predicated upon the one prohibition which would have been repealed. If the proposal is to be revived, it should be more carefully framed before presentation at another election.

RECORD VOTE AROUSES PRIDE

Tuesday's election affords reason for pride. We had the largest percentage vote ever cast in the nation. Douglas County followed the national pattern. The avalanche of ballots was such that our counting system broke down completely.

Unofficial returns show more than 78 per cent of the registered voters actually voting at the polls. This figure is obtained by using the total number of votes cast for the office of President.

The true percentage, however, is much higher, probably around 85 per cent, as the registration books contained names of persons who have died since the poll books were revised, persons who have moved away, voters too ill to cast ballots, and various others.

Some of our precincts, deducting names of deceased and absent voters, polled well over 90 per cent of their active registration list.

If we could only make such a voting record normal instead of abnormal we would never need fear bad government. A democratic government requires, and must have, a responsible electorate. When voters properly discharge their responsibility we may have had government temporarily but never permanently.



"Writing letters is no chore for me — it's stopping that's hard! (And getting to the supper dishes. . .) Well, I know what the writer of an interesting letter from Camas Valley means. That way with me, too. One reason why I always get bogged down around Christmas. I always want to 'add a line or two' to the greeting, especially if it's someone I haven't heard from since last Christmas. It's frustrating, too, to receive a card, maybe a really beautiful card, from someone I used to know and like very much — but one can't keep up correspondence when one has as many former neighbors as we have! And relatives in Texas, too! — and then all the card tells me about my former neighbor is the printed greeting and the names. . . Well, it's nice to know one isn't forgotten, and after all, maybe I didn't get around either to that note I planned to add!"

Thanks Mrs. B. of Oakland for letter and poems your sister wrote. I echo your pleasure in the au-

turn colors: "Right across from our house, in fact out of our picture window," says Mrs. B., "looking south there is one of the most beautiful sights anyone would want to look at. The trees are ablaze with autumn colors, and as I behold their beauty every day I glory in the privilege I have of living in this country, having the beauty right at home that so many have to drive miles to see. Isn't it wonderful to be able to express gratitude in these trying times!"

If you have special interest in Reed College, then I do hope you saw the interesting story of that college in the Oct. 25 Statepost. Story by Oregon's indefatigable Richard L. Neuberger. Really good! Titled: School for Smart Young Things.

Look's Nov. 18 issue, the one with the sailor and his girl on the cover, has two pages about "Dry Soups," the kind you serve in a bowl but eat at least partly with a fork. Says "Americans are re-discovering dry soups," a standby

The Poor Lady Can't Decide Which One She Fears Most



Reader Opinions

Population Growth Adds To Problem Of Safety

ROSEBURG—Few of the residents of Roseburg ten years ago dreamed of the possibility of an increased population and a rapid growth of community activities. Yet it has happened.

With this growth many problems have arisen. Expansion of services furnished by the city have been necessary; addition of school facilities have resulted and building construction is everywhere in evidence. Some problems have reached the serious point.

Perhaps no problem presents a more serious aspect than that of vehicular traffic.

As we are aware the Pacific Highway on Stephens Street cuts through the center of our city. Obligated to cross the highway with its heavy traffic are seventy small children who attend Rose School. Several hundred junior high school students also cross the highway.

Second Avenue South also known as the North Umpqua Highway presents a problem for Benson School as about a hundred small children must cross it to and from school.

The three crossings, Brockway Street at Stephens, Washington at Stephens Street and Third Street at Second Avenue South, are extremely hazardous. This presents a serious problem. It is very dangerous for the children to cross these avenues of heavy traffic.

Practically the only protection and assistance offered to the school children at these crossings are of children of the individual schools affected. Some of the children are quite small.

About seven years ago the Lions Club sponsored School Boy Safety Patrol groups in Roseburg. The children were to be trained and supervised by a member of the city police. Some training and attention has been given the patrols. As a whole, however, the children have had to assume full responsibility due to the lack of police man power.

The children have done, generally speaking, a good job. The patrol was able in the start to function quite efficiently while the traffic was lighter but now as traffic lines the highway bumper to bumper, child patrols have no justification on heavy lanes of traffic. There have been some near accidents but with luck no child has been injured. However a tragedy can happen.

While serving on patrol duty a student misses classwork. Some don't mind; others do. Some are responsible while others execute their duties in a questionable manner. It is difficult to keep the patrol filled and it is not unusual for a patrol member to forget his job. When this happens there may not be a patrol on duty at the crossing.

The problem of school safety patrol has received careful study by both superintendent Mike Delier and his assistant Marvin Smith in conferences with the principals. A seeming solution would be to employ adults to patrol the three crossings at times when school children are on their way to and from school. This plan is practiced in many cities, Albany and Lebanon, two Oregon cities employ adults for dangerous school crossings.

To make the plan possible for in European homes. Sort of thin stew. Well, Ed likes soup, but he doesn't like stew! But I can put stew in a bowl, slap some crust on top and bake it — than it's meat pie and he goes for it happily. Of course he puts the parsley garnish as far away as possible first. (I eat mine, and his, too.)

Fulton Lewis Jr. WASHINGTON REPORT

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WASHINGTON. — In the heat of the election campaign, a sordid story of United Nations betrayal of anti-Communists in Korea did not receive the attention it deserves.

The issue of peace in Korea, U.N. negotiators insist, hinges solely on one point—the return of prisoners of war to Communist North Korea and Communist China. President Truman and Secretary of State Dean Acheson wanted peace in Korea before the election. They had a plan, submitted it to the United Nations and are still hopeful it will work.

The new President-elect should insist that the United States withdraw its approval of the Acheson-Truman program by notifying the United Nations. Unless he does so, every shot fired in Korea and every American casualty suffered there will have been in vain.

Initially, the Communists informed the United Nations they would settle for the return of 116,000 prisoners of war held in allied prison camps. There are 170,000 South Korean, North Korean and Chinese Communists held as U. N. prisoners behind barbed wire at present.

When informed that the Reds would settle for 116,000, United Nations negotiators, on instructions from the State Department and the White House, informed the Communists that we would help them get that many to return to Red rule and, most likely, sudden death. Many of the prisoners already had pledged their allegiance in writing to the Chinese Nationalists; many others had tattooed anti-Communist slogans on their bodies. The names of all prisoners, however, were handed over to the Communist negotiators, which probably led to a typical Kremlin fate for their families in Communist dominated territories.

In order to help the Communists secure 116,000 prisoners willing to go back to North Korea or China, our government actually participated in a pro-Communist propaganda program. We told anti-Communist prisoners of the advantages of Communist life, and every thing was done in lectures and in re-broadcasting Chinese Communist propaganda to persuade the anti-Reds to return. The facts are on the record.

Gen. Mark Clark, Pacific military commander, following instructions from Washington, stated in an interview in U.S. News and World Report, July 25, 1952, that "we had done all within our power to encourage prisoners of war to return to their homeland in North Korea or China." In other words, while fighting Communists, who have been labeled a vicious and inhumane enemy by the administration, we turned ourselves into their propaganda ally.

Anti-Communist prisoners of war also were informed, according to Clark, that their "future would be uncertain," and "there was no guarantee of a new homeland," unless they returned to Communist territory.

Thousands of prisoners surrendered because allied propaganda leaflets offered them safety and a new homeland. Once they had surrendered, however, they were asked such questions as "don't you

Roseburg perhaps both the city and the school district will have to share the cost. Whatever the cost it will not equal the value of a life of one of our school children.

Protection for the school children at highway crossings merits the interest and help of Roseburg citizens. Some means for correcting one of the city's serious traffic problems should be forthcoming. Let us remember that an accident can happen at a school crossing.

E. S. HALL
Principal, Rose School
Roseburg, Oregon

In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

mile wide and three miles long, on which the detonation took place."

If it's true, the next thing to do is to see to it that some communist spy doesn't sell the secret to Russia — as happened in the case of the A-bomb.

Back to politics: General Eisenhower's friends think he may name a Southerner to his cabinet in recognition of the huge vote the South gave him. I don't think Ike would put it that way. If he should name a Southerner to his cabinet, it would be in recognition of the fact that after all these years the South has finally come back into the Union.

That was a historic and HOPEFUL event. It gives us, for the first time in nearly a century, the makings of a REAL two-party system.

The New York Times says President Truman has been telling his intimates since the election that while he recognizes Governor Stevenson as the leader of the Democratic party he himself expects to be a controversial figure in American politics for the next three or four years.

The Times adds: "The interpretation placed on this remark is that he plans to be active in trying to restore the Democratic party to power again in 1956."

Well, I hope the Democrats put up a real scrap on every foot of the road that lies ahead of us in the next few years. That's the best possible way to make the GOP effective. It is just as true now as it was before election day that too much power in too few hands is dangerous. A lot of our troubles track back to the rubber-stamp congresses of the 1930's, which swallowed everything that was offered without opposition.

A two-party system can't be truly effective unless the party of opposition PUTS UP A FIGHT for its beliefs and its principles.

I hope, though, that if he leads the opposition Mr. Truman adopts a different line. I didn't care much for his offer of the Presidential plane to Ike to make the trip to Korea — "if (after the election) you still plan to go there."

That sounded to me like a snide crack.

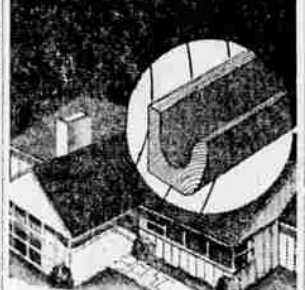
Salem Plant Explosion Injures Two Mechanics

SALEM — An explosion at the Miles linen thread plant in North Salem Friday night injured two mechanics.

Ralph Fry, 30, Brooks, was in serious condition with first and second degree burns on the hands, arms, face and back. Leonard Foster, 39, Salem, suffered second and third degree burns on his hands, arms and face.

The explosion occurred as the two cleaned a boiler in a building next to the main plant. Firemen attributed the blast to spontaneous combustion.

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