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SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Charles V. Stanton

We're beginning to worry. Perhaps we have been wrong in our opinions (which, of course, isn't rare). But we have felt this country was in little danger of depression. We have believed firmly that most of the talk about recession was "scare" talk emanating from political sources. We have also contended that there is no grave danger to our economy in the leveling off of the inflationary spiral we have been riding so long; that, in fact, such leveling off was a good thing.

But we're beginning to wonder if maybe the "signs" aren't indicating we're on the wrong road.

Many people hold the opinion that a war is preceded by an increase in the ratio of male to female births. Similarly we have observed over the years that hard times are presaged by the number of candidates filing for public office in election years.

When times are booming there is a paucity of political aspirants. No one wants a public office. But just let times toughen up a bit and we find scores of hopefuls announcing they have been "called" by their friends into the political arenas.

If we are to accept the rush of candidates into the political wars of this year as an omen of economic future we can only assume that there's a hellbender of a depression around the corner.

Day Still May Be Saved

But perhaps we may be saved from this dire fate by the very volume of candidates.

W. L. (Pinkie) Josslin has been touring the state publicly bemoaning the fact that the high cost of electioneering is keeping good men (meaning himself) from running for office. He has stirred many of his Democratic friends into singing tenor to his bass. But we fail to observe any great deterrent to candidacy at present. It appears that very few aspirants are being discouraged by the high cost of politicking.

If, as Josslin chants, a small fortune must be spent in acquiring a public office, expenditures this election year should put enough money in circulation to stave off any threat of depression. So our worries may be in vain. Perhaps the signs are wrong for once. Anyway, we're not going to be too disturbed until the evidence becomes more convincing.

We'll agree with Josslin, however, that the expense of running for political office is extremely high. The situation is ideal for the self-starter, and particularly the self-starter backed by special interests having plenty of money to spend.

Candidacy today demands that a man endanger his physical health by extensive travelling for many weeks, eating at all hours, sleeping in strange beds and talking himself hoarse. A man old enough to be a candidate for office needs his own bed and his wife's cooking.

Cost Keeps Increasing

He must pile up a large travel expense. He must pay for newspaper and radio advertising, posters, cards, billboards, etc. A new and very expensive factor has been added by television. People expect a certain amount of personal contact, so a candidate must visit business leaders, industrial plants, farmers, attend every meeting he can reach and otherwise get to know people, all of which costs money.

It has long been our belief that Oregon's primary election system needs changing. Our present system has greatly impaired party competition. Anyone can run for office. A candidate successful at the primary election, through the efforts of himself and his friends, becomes the party candidate even though he may be far removed from the party's ideology. We believe a return to a system of party nominations, without excluding independents, would greatly improve our political situation by strengthening competition between parties. We can't maintain such competition when the parties have no control over candidates.

But, regardless of all that, and whether the signs point to depression, recession or continued prosperity, and despite the high cost of politicking, we can rest assured that our primary election ballots will not be lacking in names of aspirants for public office.

Hal Boyle

By SAUL PETT
FOR HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (AP) — Harold Vincent Boyle, who regularly presides over this space, is off on a three-week vacation. He left on a Caribbean cruise with Frances and their seven-month-old daughter, Tracy.

Now, those who know Boyle know how difficult it is to get him out of a room. Getting him out of the country is only a little less strenuous than dispatching the 1st Armored Division off to an invasion.

It's not that he's lazy—not agile, energetic, elbow-swinging Boyle who everytime he loses an ounce calls himself the "Tiger Man." Nor is he afraid to make decisions. It's just that Boyle has a special attitude toward decisions. The more he lets others make, the more food they'll have for their own ego and sense of usefulness.

And so, on the morning they were leaving, I arrived at the Boyle apartment. Three or four other friends, recruited to help in the last minute arrangements, also were there. Baggage, cameras, film, hats were scattered about the living room. Frances gurgled in her play pan. Tracy ran around efficiently collecting things, checking lists and baby clothes.

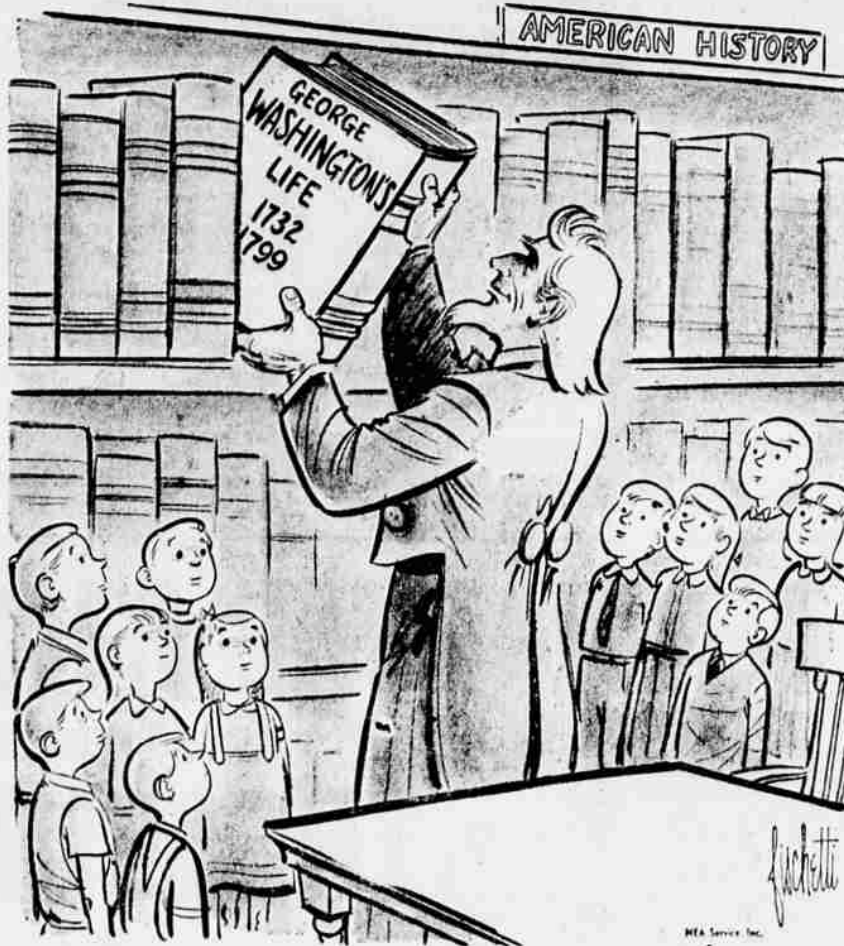
And, in the midst of the inevitable confusion, Harold Vincent Boyle sat on the couch, enjoying a sublime serenity, grinning like an Irish Buddha. He wondered what tie to wear to the boat.

Frances ran off to shower. The rest of us started putting state-room stickers on his baggage.

"Of course, you kids realize," Boyle announced, without moving,

All Our Wealth Isn't at Fort Knox

AMERICAN HISTORY



Bruce Blossat

The season for exaggeration is almost upon us. In a month or two, the 1954 political campaigns will be under way full force. The air will be filled with charge and counter-charge.

Anyone who has watched American campaigns over a few decades, and dipped into the coun-

Stevens Order To Deal With Security Risks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of the Army Stevens, following up a policy announcement he made earlier this week, Saturday ordered Army commanders to act under appropriate regulations against officers who are security risks.

His order, applying to all reserve officers and to regular Army officers who have not completed their three years of probationary service, provide for discharges other than honorable for all found to be security risks.

Army authorities said the order also applies to enlisted men.

Stevens cataloged as security risks those individuals who:

1. Refuse to sign the loyalty certificate required of all personnel.
2. Plead protection of either the fifth amendment to the U.S. constitution or of Article 31 of the uniform code of military justice, which prohibit compulsory self-incrimination. It would be forbidden, under this section, to refuse to answer questions relating to subversive activity.

Senator Langer Displeased With Non-Patronage

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Langer (R-ND) said Friday his displeasure with the administration's handling of patronage in his state had no connection with the Senate Judiciary Committee's month-old consideration of Chief Justice Earl Warren's nomination.

One aspect of Langer's dissatisfaction with North Dakota patronage matters was brought into the open Thursday when he issued a statement protesting he had not been consulted by Eisenhower or Postmaster General Summerfield about four postmaster nominations in his state.

Langer later said in answers to questions that he also had made recommendations for judgeship appointments that have not been acted on by the Justice Department and declared he was "not happy" over administration handling of patronage in North Dakota.

Vatican Reports Say Pope Continues Recovery

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Vatican apparently answering rumors that Pope Pius XII has taken a turn for the worse, announced Saturday that his "gradual, slow recovery continues normally."

A communique, the first issued in several days on the ailing Pontiff's health, said his convalescence from a persistent stomach ailment was expected to be a long one.

"A good period of repose," it is noted before the Pope can regain his normal health, the Vatican said.

had just been accused of a capital offense. Frances, of course, produced the tickets while her husband apologetically directed the stewards with the baggage.

"Most of this is trucks to trade with the natives," he explained.

Finally in their stateroom, Frances set about making the baby comfortable while the stewards unloaded bags.

"Who brought this along?" Boyle asked, snuggling at his portable typewriter.

try's history, knows that this sort of thing is pretty standard. It is unlikely to be done away with simply because pious hopes are uttered for cleaner campaigning.

Nevertheless, in the name of a certain fundamental decency and sanity, we can perhaps expect to confine the exaggerations and distortions and mudslinging within rather wide limits. There are some things that ought not to go, even in free-swinging American politics.

Possibly the worst of these is to suggest that either major party, as a party, would deliberately do anything to hurt the safety and welfare of the United States. Unhappily, politicians in both parties have in the past not stopped short of that suggestion. The Democrats have had spokesmen who sought to convince the voters that the GOP is the "party of depression." The Republicans sometimes have called the Democrats the "party of war."

The clear implication is that each wants these particular conditions, for its own selfish purposes.

The tenor of political comment so far in 1954 indicates that neither party has determined altogether to bar such extreme exaggeration.

The Democrats are flailing away on the depression theme, ignoring the fact that they made no such noises when their own party was overseeing an economy with double the number of unemployed we have today.

And some Republicans have gone so far as to describe the 20 years of Democratic rule as "20 years of treason." This amounts to an attempt to stigmatize as traitors virtually the entire Democratic leadership. And where this leaves the majority of Americans who voted for that leadership for so long is hard to say.

Obviously, if both parties were guilty of the things charged, then neither would be fit to govern the country. To argue that one is guilty and the other not is to contend that we should have a one-party system, hardly a democratic arrangement. What other conclusion is possible?

These wild statements have no place even in a nation given to great flights of political fancy. The Democrats are not traitors or warmongers and the Republicans are not depression-mongers. We ought to have no more of such talk.

Bley Claims He Was Mentally, Physically Broken

WASHINGTON (AP) — Maj. Roy Bley testified Friday he was "mentally and physically broken" by his Communist captors in Korea when he signed a false confession to engaging in germ warfare operations.

Bley, 40, appeared at his own request as a witness in the Marine Corps court of inquiry which is determining whether his fellow officer, Col. Frank H. Schwable, should face a court martial for a similar false confession.

Bley was named "an interested party" to the inquiry Thursday after Schwable's counsel, Col. Paul Sherman, told Bley he was "suspected" of improper dealings with the enemy after Schwable and Bley were captured July 8, 1952.

The Marine Corps decided overnight to confine the current inquiry to Schwable rather than investigate Bley's conduct at the same time.

The Army, meanwhile, prepared to set up a court martial for one of its men, Cpl. Edward S. Dickinson, who at first decided to remain with the Communists who captured him in Korea but later elected to return home.

Some of the accusations against Dickinson are applicable only in time of war and this may raise a legal problem: Was the fighting in Korea a war?

Evelyn Cooper Claims Workers' Testimony Curbed

WASHINGTON (AP) — A public power attorney protested Thursday that unnecessary restrictions are being placed on government employees called as witnesses at the Hells Canyon hearing.

Mrs. Evelyn Cooper, lawyer for groups favoring construction of the proposed federal Hells Canyon dam in the Snake River between Idaho and Oregon, complained that "valuable testimony is being lost" at the Power Commission hearing on Idaho Power Co. applications to build three smaller dams in the same area.

She clashed with John C. Mason, Power Commission attorney, during her examination of George C. Conner of the Bonneville Power Administration.

Mason, who has been calling Interior Department employees as witnesses, objected when Mrs. Cooper sought to question Conner as to whether surplus power generated by Idaho and Utah members of the Pacific Northwest power pool could have been used to ease shortages in Washington and Oregon during the winter of 1952-53.

Mason said Conner is an expert on transmission, not on power supply.

Mrs. Cooper said she realized some limitations must be placed on the testimony of individual witnesses but she declared "unnecessary" restrictions are being placed on the direct testimony of some of these interior witnesses.

During cross examination of several interior witnesses, Examiner William J. Costello ruled Mrs. Cooper could not go into matters not covered in direct testimony. He also ruled Conner was not qualified to answer Mrs. Cooper's question.

Mrs. Cooper had questioned early in the hearing whether interior witnesses would be permitted to testify freely after Secretary of the Interior McCarthy withdrew his department's opposition to Idaho Power's applications.

Interior officials made several announcements promising its engineers would not be under wraps at the hearing.

British Tobacco Group Aids Lung Cancer Fund

LONDON (AP) — The government-sponsored Medical Research Council is accepting the British tobacco manufacturers' offer of £250,000 pounds (\$700,000) to finance research on lung cancer.

The tobacco companies will make the payments over a 1-year period.

A week ago health minister Ian Macleod told parliament a government advisory committee had found "there is a relationship between smoking and lung cancer."

Tobacco manufacturers said there was no proof smoking caused lung cancer and a statistical relationship between the two "can never do more than indicate one of the lines to be further investigated."

Youth Succumbs From Hunting Accident Wound

SILVERTON (AP) — A bullet wound suffered in a hunting accident last October claimed an 18-year-old boy's life Friday, Jerry Stutz of Molalla died at a hospital here.

Stutz had been wounded Oct. 15 south of Molalla, when another member of his hunting party mistook him for a deer.

Irvin L. Blackman Jr., 23, Tillamook, was charged with careless handling of a firearm. He paid a fine and had his hunting license revoked. Blackman was Stutz' brother-in-law.

PATIENTS DIE IN FIRE

HARTFORD, Mich. (AP) — Seven patients—four women and three men—lost their lives in a fire that raged through a convalescent home for the aged late Friday night.

In 30 minutes, the fire destroyed the two-story frame building, three miles west of Hartford in southwestern Michigan.

Balmy Washington Weather Gives Congressmen Chance To Come Out Of Buildings

By A. ROBERT SMITH
News-Review Correspondent

WASHINGTON — The Capitol's infamous weather took a balmy turn for the better last week, offering Washington cavedwellers the chance to come out and see their shadows and bask in the prospect that spring is not far beyond.

It was also good weather for flag raising at the Capitol, where tourists might get their patriotic dander up if they noticed the unpredictable way in which the Stars and Stripes keep going up and down the main pole.

They would soon learn that it is all a part of a custom designed to please many of their patriotic brethren back home who cherish the thought of displaying an American flag which once graced the mast at the Capitol.

Flags flown at the Capitol are in such great demand from citizens and organizations throughout the country that they just don't wear out soon enough to account for the custom. A long list is on file of those who have submitted applications for tattered emblems.

But even though two flags fly night and day over the House and Senate, only about a dozen of them are consumed each year. So there is another category for flag flying quite apart from the 24-hour duty of the others. That is on the main pole above the east portico of the Capitol. A flag may fly there but a few minutes, only long enough that the architect of the Capitol, David Lynn, may certify that it actually was flown from the Capitol.

With its certificate, this flag is then boxed and sold at cost to members of Congress—only Representatives—who in turn wish to give them to those who have made special requests for this patriotic souvenir.

Hundreds of these flags are distributed in this manner each year. Some 800 flags flying days as many as 15 may be hauled up and hauled down again. And the man who pays the bill is the congressman, the indispensable middleman in the operation.

Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy (R-

In The Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

LACE. He said it in the course of a speech in Des Moines, Iowa—where he grew up under a hard-headed, able, straight-thinking father, but later became about as fuzzy in his thinking as anybody could be.

He seems to be going back to his early training.

Wallace's statement suggests a question: WHY could continued high, rigid price supports eventually be disastrous to agriculture—especially to corn?

All over the Middle West, the cribs are bulging with surplus corn from last year's crop. Because of high, rigid price support, the Midwest farmers are continuing to RAISE MORE CORN, regardless of supply and demand.

The time must come when these accumulating surpluses will break the back of the rigid support system and the bottom will fall out from under prices.

Then there will be a mess. We saw it happen in the case of potatoes and we're seeing it happen again in the case of butter.

Dr. Warren Weaver, president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, says today in a talk at St. Louis:

"There is a growing tendency on the part of some people to believe that anyone who has brains is subversive."

I'm afraid, sir, you're letting yourself get a bit cynical. What you really mean, I think, was well put about a half century ago by one of our leading humorists in these words:

"Too many of our people know too many things that ain't so."

A Belgian judge (in the town of Verviers) refuses in a minor trial to hear the testimony of a woman witness who was wearing trousers. He says he considers the wearing of trousers by women in as serious a place as a trial to be contempt of court.

One question, judge: Was the lady plump or slim?

In a report of nasty weather over the country today, including dust storms, blizzards, etc., the weather bureau says every road in northwest Kansas is blocked by heavy snowdrifts.

I'll risk a guess that in dry northwest Kansas they aren't unhappy about that situation. The snow will melt into water that will go into the ground gently, instead of dashing away down the gulches and the creeks, with the result there will be more water in the ground to raise crops with.

Don't sell snow short. It isn't pleasant, but it's EXTREMELY VALUABLE.

Red China Boasts Party Fulfills Tasks Of 1953

TOKYO (AP) — Red China boasted Friday that the Communist Party had "successfully" fulfilled the tasks for 1953, "first year of an ambitious five-year plan for industrialization."

A Peiping broadcast recorded here said the claim was made by Liu Shao-Chi, generally regarded as the No. 2 man in Communist China, in a report to a meeting of the Party's Central Committee.

Liu declared that "the total value of the industrial output of the country that of private industry exceeded that of the estimated, reached 100 per cent of the plan for the year."

As usual, the report gave no figures on actual production, but said it was 34 per cent more than in 1952.

Portlanders Will Vote On \$30 Million Issues

PORTLAND (AP) — Another 6½ million dollars was added Thursday to the May primary ballot in Portland.

That makes a total of \$30,359,000 the voters will be asked to approve for city works. The latest request was for dock improvements. The earlier ones were for a new zoo and a sports center. Still more are expected, including a proposal for a new bridge across the Willamette River.

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