

The News-Review

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CHECK AND BALANCE

Charles V. Stanton

If we seem to be harping too much on the work of the Oregon Water Resources Committee it is because we feel that the project upon which this committee is engaged is vital. It is not possible, in our opinion, to give the matter too much consideration. So many things are involved, so many decisions must be made, that only thorough exploration of every phase of the resources problem will permit the right kind of a program.

The committee, of course, makes no decisions. It will prepare a report and recommendations to be submitted to the legislature. The legislature will be responsible for setting up a program. The legislature will be influenced by the committee's recommendations. It also will be subjected to heavy pressures.

At the committee hearing in Roseburg last Wednesday it was quite apparent that the committee has in mind an entirely independent water commission. This was brought out in implied objections to suggestions by the Roseburg Rod and Gun Club that any program set up by the water commission, which the club recommended, should have approval from the State Fish Commission and State Game Commission. The committee, by nature of its questions, apparently objects to any "veto" powers.

Resource Program Uncoordinated

Oregon's treatment of natural resources is a mess. It is completely lacking in coordination.

We have a state water code that has been copied by many states.

Our forestry laws are recognized as the best in the nation.

We have good management of our fisheries and our wildlife.

We have excellent state sanitary laws.

We have good hydroelectric legislation.

We have a state engineer, a board of forestry, fish

commission, game commission, hydroelectric commission,

sanitary board, department of agriculture, department of

geology and mining, land board, reclamation commission,

soil conservation committee, three river basin commissions,

and numerous other agencies, departments and officers

each dealing with some phase of natural resources.

To this list it now is proposed to add a water commission.

Despite the excellence of our laws and the efficient

work of the many bodies charged with administration of

those laws, there is an utter lack of coordination. Numerous

conflicts exist.

More water has been appropriated from many of our

streams than flows in those streams during low water

periods. There is no authority to say how much water shall

be used for irrigation and how much must be left to pre-

serve fish life. Nor is there any legislation resolving

conflicts between water use for irrigation and power.

We have had battles over proposals for dams in the

Deschutes and Snake rivers, with politics rather than wise

use of resources principally involved.

Recommendation Needed

Some improvement resulted under the administration

of Douglas McKay who set up an advisory board on natural

resources. This board has been continued by Governor

Patterson. It is a board composed of representatives from

each of the interested commissions, departments and agen-

cies, and it has done much to resolve conflict. But it has

no official status.

There has been some pressure from organized conserva-

tionists for establishment of a state board of natural re-

sources which would embrace all agencies of government

concerned with resources. Creation of such a board at this

time would result in much controversy. A long campaign

of education must be undertaken, we believe, before the

many special interests and the general public would ac-

cept a central resources authority. We anticipate such a

board will be created in time, but we are not yet ready for

it.

The water resources committee doubtless will recom-

mend formation of a permanent water commission and

will, we expect, propose that it incorporate functions of

some existing agencies and departments, such as the sev-

eral river basin commissions, the state engineer, etc. The

water commission, however, will deal only with water.

But water, forest and soil are all interrelated. We need

some method, established by law, whereby conflicts in

resources management can be resolved. We need a sys-

tem of checks and balances to prevent overemphasis on

any one phase of resource development.

We hope this need will be given serious thought by the

water resources committee and that it will offer some re-

commendation for better cooperation and coordination in

the future.

Hal Boyle

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ahhh. . . Saturday morning. Wonder what time it is. Wish I was turned over so I could see the alarm clock. Can't be very late — don't hear kids. Time for another little snooze. Wonderful thing, Saturday morning. Nuts to the alarm clock. Bet alarm clocks hate Saturdays. Must feel frustrated. Cock of the Walk five days a week, bound and gagged Saturday. Idea there: Alarm clock unbending its soul to psychiatrist. Must write it someday. Not now, though.

(Offstage Voice: "Daddy! You sleeping, daddy? Come and play with I.")

Huh? Oh, yes. Better get up. Ought to play with the little guy. Fathers should play more with their kids. Don't know what they are missing. Important to the kid, too. Kids spend too much time with women. Shows up in later life. This morning, though, got lots of work to do. Been letting it go lately. Let's see. First thing to do is —

ZZZZZZZZ (Offstage Voice: "Daddy! Daddy! I broke it. I broke my airplane. You fix it, Daddy!")

Oh, brother. That airplane. Meant to fix it last Saturday, but — got to fix that gate, too. Really need a wrench for that, though. Wonder where I can borrow a wrench? Better let that go and paint the picket fence. Not much of a job once I get started. Have to see if there's a brush in half-decent shape, though. Bet there isn't. Best idea would be to put that screen door stopper on. Wonder

though — couldn't let him get away with the nonsense he was spouting. Bullheaded. Kept contradicting me. Shouldn't have argued with him, I suppose. Meant to give up talking about McCarthy for Lent.

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It Looks Pretty Silly From Where We Sit



Bruce Blossat

To listen to some people, you'd think this country has been embarking on a pretty wild and radical course for the past 20 years. Actually, as the evidence will show, the United States is a quite conservative place.

For six years of the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt's regime, from 1933 through 1938, the nation grafted on some large patches of social and economic legislation which went by the label, "New Deal."

These patches included social security, public housing, unemployment insurance, bank deposit insurance, a new labor-management law, protection for home owners, aid to farmers. They were indeed a new departure for America. But in the larger content of the world, they were neither radical nor startling.

Britain and Germany had adopted similar social measures two or three decades earlier. To the historian, America was simply catching up.

But even those who may have been horrified at the 1933-38 changes must acknowledge that very little of this sort of thing has transpired since then—and that was 16 years ago.

Mr. Roosevelt, preoccupied by war and blockade by a less cooperative Congress, never pressed the New Deal after 1938. His successor, President Truman, conceived the "Fair Deal," but it was mainly a thing of paper promises. A higher minimum wage, certain changes in social security, a new housing law (enacted with the aid of the conservative Senator Taft), that about sums up the legislative record.

Nowhere among the responsible elements of the two major parties has anything more radical been proposed than certain extensions and modifications of existing social measures. If you analyze closely what Adlai Stevenson had to say for the Democrats in 1952, you realize he was largely declaring that the New-Fair Deal would simply be maintained and improved.

The millions of Americans who were affected by the New Deal in the 1930's may have seemed radical then in some eyes, in the sense that they were grasping for things they did not have. Long since, however, they have become conservative, trying mainly to hold onto what they gained more than 15 years ago.

Significantly, the Republican presidential platforms in recent campaigns have consistently declined to propose repeal of any important portion of the 1933-38 legislation.

President Eisenhower's new program reflects the 1952 platform accurately. And if it should be carried out, the Democrats will be hard pressed to devise one of their own for the 1954 elections. They could only move into more radical ground, and none but their worst extremists have ever shown any disposition for that.

We are not suggesting here that there are no differences between Democrats and Republicans. There are substantial distinctions on questions like the size of government's role in the economy, the proper attitude toward government spending, taxes, deficit financing, the place of federal gov-

ernment with respect to lesser governments.

Most Democrats lean automatically toward extension of the federal government's role, and take a fairly casual attitude toward heavy federal spending. These views implant fear in the hearts of some that more radical propositions are just around the corner.

But the fact is that, except for the 1933-38 flurry, we have had no really new departures in America. The fears hardly seem justified, particularly when it is remembered that since 1938 Congress has mirrored with astounding fidelity the basic conservatism of the American people.

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In The Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

sight, the results will be as bad as sewing up an incipient cancer and leaving it. You can't trifle with a cancer, and you can't trifle with communist infiltration and subversion. Both can be fatal if neglected or glossed over.

But I don't think McCarthy is the man to lead us in such a crusade. His bull-in-a-china-shop methods tend to divide us instead of uniting us. If we are to checkmate the communist purpose to destroy us by infiltration and subversion (as so many free nations have already been destroyed) we must remain united.

In unity there is strength. In dissension there is weakness. We must remain STRONG.

E. M. (CAP) MORGAN
Myrtle Creek, Oregon

Family Pet Poisoned; Mother Relates Story

ROSEBURG — I am the mother of four wonderful children and, although we go by a strict budget, ours has been a completely happy family until Saturday. This was the day "Stymie" our family collie died from poisoning. He was a large, beautiful, good-natured, pedigreed dog, two years old.

Stephen, 6, our oldest son, sobbed his heart out and since that fatal day has been listless and without an appetite. "Stymie" was wonderful with children and played with all in our neighborhood.

We raised him from a tiny puppy and all dog lovers know how pets become part of the family. Stephen and "Stymie" were inseparable. The younger children loved him too, but are too young to comprehend the real meaning of his absence.

It breaks my heart to see tears quietly streaming down a little boy's face, just because of the merciless action of another. It is inconceivable to me why anyone could be so careless as to place poison where an animal or child could eat it. If this particular type of thing rarely happened in this neighborhood I would not be as disturbed as I am at this moment. However, it has been repeated too frequently to be overlooked.

A person responsible for these deaths could not possibly realize what he is doing, for the next may be the life of a child. I would like for him to have seen the look and heard the cries of a little boy when we gently released his arms from around the neck of his beloved pet and carried the dead animal away. If he should read this, I hope he will give thought before acting again. I should hate to have this on my conscience.

MRS. G. B. P.
Roseburg, Oregon

Godfrey's Pilot License Held Up

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Civil Aeronautics Board decided Friday to suspend Arthur Godfrey's pilot certificate for six months, effective March 16, as a penalty for careless flying at Teterboro, N. J., airport Jan. 7.

The action came in the form of a recommended decision by CAB Safety Examiner Albert H. Ruppard. Godfrey has the right of appeal, but a recommended decision by a safety examiner customarily is adopted by the board as its own decision.

The recommended penalty is surprisingly severe in view of the fact that the Civil Aeronautics Administration had asked for a suspension of "at least 30 days."

Godfrey, star of radio and television and a flying enthusiast, has denied that either intent or carelessness was involved when his plane roared close to the control tower in a takeoff at Teterboro.

VFW Post Sends Letter Backing Gen. Zwicker

STOUGHTON, Wis. (AP) — A Veterans of Foreign Wars post in this home town of Brig. Gen. Ralph W. Zwicker has adopted a resolution attacking Sen. McCarthy (R-Wis.) for what it termed "outrageously abusing and insulting" the general.

McCarthy, in a Senate hearing, told the general he should be removed from command.

Richard Bakken commander of the VFW Badger Post No. 328, said the resolution expressed the post's "confidence in the patriotism of Gen. Zwicker and its gratitude to him for the valiant service he has rendered in the battlefield against the enemies of democracy."

Her condition today was critical. Police hunted the boys.

Band Of Boys Set Fire To Aged Woman In Italy

BARI, Italy (AP) — A band of boys showered a 71-year-old woman with firecrackers and flaming paper and set her afire in her home here.

The victim, Mrs. Annunziata Vecicelli, drove out the boys, but fell in the chase and broke a leg. She rolled on the floor to put out the flames in her clothing and that set the house afire. Neighbors rescued her.

Her condition today was critical. Police hunted the boys.

PEERY MEDICALS

One is often obsessed with the thought that the early Americans who left their opinions on the intelligence level of our Indians did not live on a dizzy intellectual level themselves. Else they would have seen in some of the Indian customs a recognition and reverence for the Giver of Life. Our Indians saw in the food they gathered the kindly hand of some Divine Spirit. That the processes of nature fitted together as neatly as a fine mosaic was as evident to the more intelligent Indians as the fact that water runs down hill. But he was handicapped in his ability to give expression to his deep emotions. He had neither the education or the vocabulary.

Yet in his appreciation for Divine help, our Indians held their regular Thanksgiving ceremonies. Some tribes held several such fetes a year, some only one. But these rites were celebrated across the nation by our primitive Indians—from the banks of the Umpqua, on the Pacific, to the Hudson that flows into the Atlantic. Our Indians were observing Thanksgiving as a part of their cultural pattern long before the Pilgrim Fathers landed at Plymouth. That is a significant fact. Did our own forefathers adopt the idea of Thanksgiving from the Indians? The Indians took part in our first Thanksgiving ceremony, furnishing part of the products of the earth and most of the wild game.

The day set aside for Thanksgiving by our Umpqua Indians was not named by presidential decree. Nature set the day, which was the annual run of the spring salmon. The "Feast of the First Salmon" was observed in varied ceremonies by Indians all along the coast, when the first salmon of the season was caught by a member of the village.

This fish was treated with the greatest respect. He was given a place of honor in the canoe that bore him from his river home to the village of the natives. When the excited shouts of the approaching fishermen bore the news they had caught a salmon, the village was in a frenzy of excitement. All sick persons were carried to a place behind the village and women who were unwell remained to care for them. The presence of any of these people would be an affront to the salmon.

A newly woven rush mat was laid on the beach and the salmon was placed on it with his head pointing upstream, a red salmon berry in his mouth. The shaman, who was a priest, in company with the head chief and his subordinates led a procession of villagers to the spot where they formed a respectful circle around the newly caught salmon.

The shaman addressed the salmon. He told him they were sorry to take his life, but his flesh was necessary to feed the people. He told the salmon they had observed all the proper rites in his honor. For these reasons the people hoped the activity of catching and drying fish for the salmon people in the sea and tell them the men-people of this village had treated him as a person of great importance should be treated.

When this formal reception was over, another procession was formed. It was led by a member of the village at the head bearing the salmon on his clean mat, and he was escorted by the chanting villagers to the chief's house. The salmon was cut open in a way taught the Indians by their animal god Speelyi, or Coyote. First the heart was taken out and placed on a stick and roasted in the hands of a member of the party would eat it. Otherwise the heart might be stopped on by a man or eaten by a dog. In this case the salmon spirit would be outraged and return in a huff to his people in the deep and tell of the disrespectful treatment he received at the hands of the Umpquas. The salmon people would be outraged and would not return to the river the following season. Then the people would go hungry.

When this ceremony of Thanksgiving to the salmon people was over, the open salmon season was on and the natives began the fevered activity of catching and drying fish for the coming winter.

Of course there may have entered into the Indian motive a little of the modern idea of public relations, as between the Indians and the fish, but it was a gesture of appreciation just the same.

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