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LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

By Charles V. Stanton

Proposition No. 2 on the forthcoming general election ballot would authorize the state legislature to divide into districts any county having more than one senator or representative.

This proposal, which probably would affect only Multnomah County at present, was referred to the people by the legislature.

Multnomah County voters will be required to elect seven senators and sixteen representatives. It is to be expected that there will be two or more candidates for each office on primary ballots and at least two, one from each party, on general election ballots. The Multnomah County voter, then, will be called upon to select at the general election from a slate of 14 candidates for state senator and 32 candidates for representative.

Obviously only a few of these candidates will be well known. The average voter will know, either personally or by reputation, only a very limited number of those seeking office. A pressure group, backed with enough money to campaign vigorously, has opportunity to "stack" the delegation.

Under existing practice the metropolitan area naturally holds almost exclusive monopoly on legislative posts. Rural fringes will have increasing difficulty in obtaining representation, unless the proposal is passed.

If the legislature is authorized to create subdistricts for the purpose of electing senators and representatives, each area would have equal representation.

Population Centralized

It is quite probable that only Multnomah County would be affected in the immediate future, should the bill be approved. It is remotely possible that subdistricting might be extended into Marion and Lane Counties, neither of which, however, cites need for the change.

But the trend of population is toward cities. Studies of population show that agricultural areas have experienced only limited growth while cities have greatly expanded.

Our state legislature until comparatively few years ago was largely representative of the rural and agricultural areas. But in more recent years farmers have become fewer in number in legislative halls. City voters have gained control, particularly in Multnomah County. While other counties have maintained a better balance, the city vote has become more and more commanding in the western half of the state.

By dividing counties into subdistricts, it is claimed by proponents for the measure that representation would be spread to all people of the county; that voters would have better opportunity to know the candidates, and that more responsible legislators would result.

There is an argument on the other side that, by restricting candidates to districts, opportunities for selecting the best men are limited. It is pointed out that the city area often furnishes the most prospective candidates, qualified through financial ability, experience, and other factors, to serve the state. It is contended that it is wrong to bypass these men when less capable candidates must be chosen from districts. Opponents hold that the proposition limits voters in their selection of the best men for the respective offices.

Flexibility Provided

The proposal is simply one of authorization. It must come before the people because it is an amendment to the Constitution. Any change in the Constitution must be made by the people.

The legislature, after gaining approval, would have to set up the system and policies for creating subdistricts. It doubtless would take many factors into consideration, particularly the matter of equal representation for population and geographical area. Any such system would provide more flexibility than exists at present. The legislature then would be in position to meet rapidly changing conditions throughout the state or in any one portion of the state, such as Multnomah County, needing a different method for selecting its legislators.

Outside Multnomah County the proposition has little immediate necessity. But it is well to look to the future. Considering the growth we now are enjoying, we should prepare to meet conditions which may arise anywhere in the state in the years ahead.

Douglas Larsen

WASHINGTON (NEA) — If any part of the federal housing "windfall" scandal ever reaches the U.S. Supreme Court, Chief Justice Earl Warren may have to disqualify himself from taking part in the decision. He has been one of the victims.

When the new Chief Justice first hit town with his family he moved into the newly-finished, plush Woodner Hotel. It now turns out that \$89,000 worth of detective fees spent in connection with the building's divorce, were included in the cost of the government-financed building. This increased the rent of the apartments and of course brought Warren into the problem as an interested party.

A COUPLE of weeks ago when Secretary of Treasury George Humphrey was down in Texas to speak at a tax institute meeting sponsored by the University of Texas, Governor Allen Shivers made his personal car and chauffeur available to him. Shivers was going to be out of town.

Humphrey was delighted at this courtesy, and decided to do some sightseeing. After inspecting most of Austin, Humphrey found himself in the country just outside of town.

"I hear there's a big lake near here," he said to the chauffeur. "Can we drive over there to see it?"

"I'm afraid not right now," the chauffeur said. "Don't tell me that the personal car of the governor of the great petroleum-producing state of Texas is about out of gas?" Humphrey asked jokingly.

"It's my guess that there may be a tablespoon left in the tank," the chagrined chauffeur replied. "Somebody just forgot to fill the tank this morning."

They barely made it to the next gas station.

IN CASE any young Republicans have a burning urge to or-

der to appear in the 1954 election, the Young Republican Federation of the national committee provides them with the following instructions in a special pamphlet:

"Five foot poles should be used. At one end wrap either cotton cloth or burlap very tightly. Dampen the night before and then soak in a mixture of white gas and crankcase oil. Under the wrapped end slide a large can which has a hole the same size as the pole. Then place two nails in the pole just under the can to keep it from dropping on the carrier during the parade."

The pamphlet also gives this advice: "If cars are to be used there should be at least 20, with as many convertibles as possible. Expensive cars should be avoided if possible."

THE DEMOCRATIC National Committee is recommending that whenever a local candidate finds a billboard with his opponent shaking hands with President Eisenhower, that he erect next to it a picture of himself shaking hands with a typical voter of that area.

U. S. Army Provost Marshal General William Maglin has put MPs back on their feet.

"Whenever possible we have increased the number of MPs who walk beats," he reports, "and I can say that the walking patrolman is a greater deterrent to crime than the man in a roving jeep or sedan."

It gives these results: "Our incidents, Army-wide, have dropped. I note a decrease in Europe of almost seven per cent in military offenders for the first six months of 1954, as compared with the previous six months. This drop is reflected in our prisoner population in Europe. We had approximately 1400 in January of this year and in June the population dropped to 975."

Republicans Are Confident Of Returning Candidates In First And Third Districts

(This is the second of a series of six articles on the candidates and issues of Oregon's general election. This deals with the Congressional election in the 1st and 4th districts.)

By PAUL W. HARVEY JR.

SALEM (NEA) — The Republicans aren't "running scared" in the 1st and 4th Congressional districts of Oregon, like they are most everywhere else.

They are certain that Reps. Walter Norblad, Stayton, and Harris Ellsworth, Roseburg, will be re-elected.

In these two districts, which never sent a Democrat to Congress, it looks as though the Democrats have little chance.

Norblad, a lawyer who represents the Northwest Oregon district, has been in Congress nine years. He hasn't done much reelection work this time, spending much of the campaign attending hearings by the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee.

His opponent, Donnell Mitchell, Willamina salesman, hasn't worked very hard, either.

Norblad, like all of the other Republican candidates in Congress in Oregon, stands on the record of Congress during the first two years of the Eisenhower administration.

He hasn't discussed the power issue, and has separated himself from the bitter Cordon-Neuburger campaign for the Senate.

Mitchell, like the other Democrats, wants federal development of the power dams, lower taxes for the working man, laws favorable to labor, more industries, and more social security.

Norblad's main emphasis has been the fact that he has some seniority in Congress, and he says this makes it possible for him to serve Oregon better. He's Western Republican whip, and serves on the Armed Services and Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committees.

In Southwest Oregon, the 4th district, Harris Ellsworth is opposed by fiery Charles O. Porter, 35-year-old Eugene lawyer.

Ellsworth is campaigning a little harder than Norblad is, but he's just as confident.

This district was created in 1942, being split off from the 1st District. Ellsworth, a former newspaper editor, is the only man who's ever represented it.

Here there are the same power issues, with a couple more thrown in.

Ellsworth, like Norblad, says he's risen to a power position in Congress that helps Oregon. He's third-ranking member of the House Rules Committee, most powerful committee in the House, because it decides what legislation goes to the floor.

Ellsworth points proudly to his with an alveolar stop.

On the other hand, E. Bagby Few of the University of Texas voiced this preference: "You start with a voiceless bilabial stop, aspirated, followed by a voiceless alveolar stop, exploded and aspirated."

In each case, of course, you top the mixture with whipped cream, sprinkle with unsalted almonds, and serve while hot.

The most unusual clue was given by D. E. Bangham of the University of Florida, who advised:

"Slip up behind an alley cat on a dark night, grab him by the tail and listen to him go phfft."

This suggestion met a quick veto.

"If a guy used his right hand for that little game," grumbled a studio employee, "he would end up with his friends calling him 'Lefty.'"

"Phfft" makes a hit, however, the moviegoer might as well start bracing himself against a rash of weird new titles such as "Ugh," "Hm-m-m," "Whew!" and "Ho Hum."

In The Day's News

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and heating drums (and chests) and passing laws to make communism illegal — all with a weather eye on the votes that may be garnered in the process.

As to the problem of handling communists in government, here is a pretty good solution:

1. Don't hire 'em in the first place.

2. If, in spite of all your precautions, one does sneak past and get on the payroll, FIRE HIM as soon as you have good reason to suspect that he isn't a good, loyal American.

After all, you know, working for our government isn't a RIGHT. It is a PRIVILEGE.

England's Eden and our Dulles arrived in Paris to see if they can talk France out of her ingrained fear that Germany is a greater danger than Russia.

Just before he left London, Queen Elizabeth made Eden a Knight of the Garter in an ancient 15-minute ceremony in Buckingham palace. The queen touched him lightly on both shoulders with a sword and said: "Arise, Sir Anthony."

Foreign Secretary Eden now joins Prime Minister Churchill in England's oldest order of chivalry, an order that dates back to the 13th and King Edward III. (It gives him the title of "Sir," and gives his wife the title of "Lady.")

According to popular legend in England, The Most Noble Order of the Garter originated at a court ball back in the 1340's. The tale goes that Joan, Countess of Salisbury (Sawsbury, the English pronounce it) was doing a lively dance (though probably not as lively as the dances current in our day) when she slipped her garter.

King Edward picked the garter up from the floor and gallantly diverted the attention of the guests from the discomfited lady by binding the blue band around his own knee and saying as he did so: "Honi soit qui mal y pense" (Shame on him who evil thinks.)

How come that an English king spoke in French?

It's perfectly simple. When Edward III did his Boy Scout deed for Lady Salisbury, it was somewhat less than three centuries after the bold Duke of Normandy had vanquished the Saxons and conquered England. French was then the official language of the English court.

Come to think of it, it might be a good idea for Eden to say to stubborn Mendes-France in the negotiations that are coming up in Paris:

"You must remember, sir, that YOUR COUNTRY conquered and overran MY COUNTRY long before the Germans conquered and overran your country."

You have no better historic reason to hate and fear the Germans than we have to hate and fear the French. Let's both be REASONABLE about this business of ancient hates and fears."

Court Of Appeals Rejects Government's Pleading To Dismiss Clackamas Co. Suit

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U. S. Court of Appeals Thursday rejected a government plea to dismiss a suit by Clackamas County, Ore., to force payment of some seven million dollars held for 18 Western Oregon counties.

Involved is money impounded pending settlement of a controversy between the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service over administration of 472,000 acres of timberland.

The U. S. District Court here had dismissed the suit. The Appeals Court reversed that decision last April. It said the money should be distributed to the counties and remanded the case to the lower court for further proceedings in line with that interpretation.

Since that decision, Congress has passed a law giving jurisdiction of the land in the Forest Service with the provision that timber sale receipts be distributed to the counties on the same basis as those from other lands in the Oregon and California Railroad Land Grant.

The government then urged dismissal of the suit on the grounds that the county's action had made the subject moot.

Rejecting this plea, the court said Thursday "it is not alleged and it does not appear" that the new law "changed the distribution directed by the 1937 act."

The court said amendments of the new law went "principally to the future administration of the revenue lands, a matter which was not involved in this litigation or considered in the opinion of this court."

The court of Appeals said also that by "inadvertence" its decision last April upholding the county had remanded the case to District Court directing the entry of a decree and specifying its terms.

Since the government had not pleaded in the lower court other than to seek dismissal of the county action, the court said, his ruling is "premature in the present status of the case."

It then corrected its April decision to show that the District Court judgment was reversed "and the case remanded for further proceedings not inconsistent with this opinion."

Tom McKevitt, Justice Department attorney who has been handling the action for the government, told a reporter the effect of Thursday's decision will be to return the issue to District Court for hearing on its merits.

The decision has no bearing on other suits brought by the county, including one challenging constitu-

Photogs Return With Wild Life Film For Disney

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (AP) — A pair of famed wild life photographers, Herbert and Lois Crisler, have emerged from the isolation of the arctic wilderness with film for a planned full length Walt Disney movie.

The couple from Washington State and Colorado spent nearly three years on the Disney assignment—in a strange land of vast spaces and many hardships.

From last April until last week, when a chartered plane lifted the Crislers from their wilderness camp, they had seen only four human beings. Their most constant companions have been the wolf and the caribou.

Last July their cameras ground out a recording of the impressive flow of a vast herd of 30,000 caribou above the Arctic Circle—a moving mass two miles wide across the desolate tundra.

The Crislers packed their supplies endlessly on their backs after being supplied by air. They lived in tents or "crackerbox" shelters made of plywood and plastics. They lived and worked in 40 below zero cold for the first time in their lives.

Crisler sounded a nostalgic note as he described the lure of the lonely job: "Getting wild animal pictures in the Arctic is like the gold rush."

he explained. "It's there. You become ruthless and gambling. You spend your spirits, your life and your fortune. Maybe you get it and maybe you don't. But it's there, all right."

A new type of ditch digger will dig a ditch as much as 15 feet wide and 30 feet deep.

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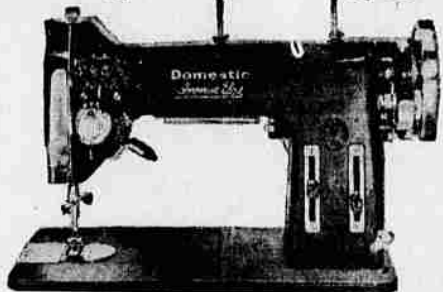
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