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CHARLES V. STANTON, Editor and Manager

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COURAGEOUS ACTION

By Charles V. Stanton

Action by Melrose Subordinate Grange, which last week adopted a resolution favoring a state sales tax to be used for educational purposes, is creating considerable stir over the state. The resolution, boldly conflicts with the policy announced by the executive committee of the Oregon State Grange, which has consistently opposed the sales tax in past years and which recently issued a statement reaffirming its position.

The Melrose resolution is critical of the executive committee stand. It is contended by the Melrose Grange that the organization exists "for the benefit of farmers and property owners," that property owners "are already overburdened by the levy of property taxes on a local level," and that opposition by the State Grange to a sales tax therefore is "not consistent" with the best interests of property owners.

It is pointed out that thousands of families residing in Oregon do not own property and pay no property tax, yet these same families have contributed greatly to the increase in school population. The resolution declares the belief of Melrose Grange that non-property owners should pay their proportionate share of school costs.

In contrast to the opinions expressed by Melrose Grange, the Oregon State Grange proposes lowered tax exemptions and increased percentages in the upper brackets of the graduated income tax.

Economy Is Sought

The State Grange also contends that "Oregon has been on a spending spree these past few years and . . . the legislature should devote its energies to finding ways to economize."

Everyone, we believe, will agree with the State Grange that the utmost economy is desirable. But where do we begin?

The public constantly is demanding more and more government and more and more benefits. The demand for welfare payments, for instance, is more than one-half the anticipated deficit. But would the public stand for elimination or reduction of the welfare budget? The Basic School Fund is budgeted at \$70,000,000, an amount which exceeds the expected deficit of \$68,000,000. Does the State Grange propose repeal of the Basic School Fund law?

And so it goes throughout the proposed budget. Perhaps we could trim a few dollars here and there, but our expanding school system needs more buildings. We have authorized construction of an additional mental hospital. Labor is seeking more benefits. So long as we demand big government, we must expect to pay the bill.

The recommendation from the State Grange executive council to lower exemptions on income taxes would, if adopted, work a far greater hardship upon people with low incomes than would a sales tax, we believe. Governor Patterson has approved this recommendation and also proposes elimination of credit for federal taxes. Inasmuch as the great proportion of income tax revenue comes from small taxpayers, cutting exemptions will hurt those taxpayers most.

Property Values Endangered

The State Grange executive council has long been aligned with "liberal" philosophies. It still sticks to the "Soak - the - Rich" theme, which is good propaganda but poor economy. There are so few "rich" that if we confiscated their incomes in entirety, the sum would be an infinitesimal part of income tax revenue.

Even with all the economies worked out by the state budget director, and the total revenues anticipated, it becomes evident that without a sales tax it will be necessary to levy a state tax on property. Property already is overburdened with taxes. The farmer, who is hardest hit by property taxes, needs relief. Property and income taxes are so high they are discouraging business and industry. We depend on business and industry for jobs. If we permit a tax structure driving business and industry to more favorable tax climates, we suffer a loss of potential jobs on which local and state economy depend.

The Melrose Grange, we believe, has well defined the issues. It has shown great courage in breaking away from the tradition started by the State Grange as a matter of political expediency and tenaciously maintained despite changing economic conditions which make its policy inimical to the best interests of its membership.

Hal Boyle

By SAUL PETT
For Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP) — You meet so many interesting people in a gambling house, and not all of them cost you money. The most fascinating, I think, are the shills, those delightful Barrymores of dice, roulette, blackjack or whatever game happens to be dragging and needs a shot in the arm.

As you may know, shills are the genial fakers who are paid to drum up trade by playing with the house's money, to appear to be having the time of their lives in the hope that their thrills will prove contagious.

On a recent trip to Puerto Rico, where gambling is legal, I studied the shills. You understand, of course, that the only reason I went to the casinos was to gather material for a column.

Shills are easy to recognize. They open and close the joint. When they run out of chips, they retire to the men's room, smoke a cigarette, and somehow always return with another (or maybe the same) \$20 bill for fresh chips.

When they win, their eyes flash with triumph, and their chips are piled prominently in front of them. When they lose, their eyes darken, but never to the blackness of real despair because, after all, real despair is contagious, too.

The kindly old banker always wore an understanding expression. As you paid for chips, his eyes seemed to wish you luck. When you lost, he looked sad but, still,

encouraging. Always encouraging. When you won, he beamed. He couldn't have been more delighted that you were taking his dough.

Among the players, I noticed several types.

There was the young couple just off the cruise ship. She seemed taut and breathless. He tried his best to be casual, but his hand shook. She stood close to him. He rolled the dice, made two or three passes and you could see her tugging mentally at his elbow. But his sense of man-of-the-worldliness wouldn't let him leave. Not until he lost.

Then there was the middle-aged drinker, who appeared to be drunker than he was. When the dice came his way, he turned to a woman he didn't know and with great flourish invited her to shoot for him.

This, I guess, was supposed to indicate he didn't care what happened to his money. Anyway, the sight of a fresh woman rolling with somebody else's dough seemed to give the other players new hope. Many bet on her.

She won at first, and then lost.

Bruce Blossat

One of the items in President Eisenhower's program which he did not press in the 83rd Congress was his proposal for a liberalized foreign trade policy. He held off because of opposition within his own party.

The argument for delay seemed fairly reasonable, since the President already was assured of approval for a pretty good share of his program in his first two years.

Now, however, according to reports from the capital, he has decided to make this test of strength. To put the issue off until late in the congressional year, or to embroil it in the presidential politics of 1956, obviously would place it under grave handicap. So Mr. Eisenhower is plunging ahead, early.

Yet this does not mean that GOP elements opposed to freer foreign trade have shrunk in size. Undoubtedly a loud and bitter fight impends. But circumstances suggest that the opposition is much

less likely than before to block liberalizing action.

In the 83rd Congress, opponents of the program were in commanding positions in the committees concerned with foreign trade policy. In the 84th, Democrats generally friendly to the program will control these committees.

Furthermore, congressional Democrats as a whole are more receptive to the liberalizing plan. In combination with many Republicans, they give the President strong hopes for success with the proposal in 1955.

The program is not a radical one. He would extend the reciprocal trade act for three years instead of one, as has been the custom for a long time. Foreign traders want the stability that comes with a longer range plan.

He would also simplify U.S. customs procedures, which are among the most complex in the world and a definite hindrance to trade.

The President likewise favors reductions to encourage American business to invest capital abroad. The belief is that such investment would assist our free allies to become more self-sufficient economically.

There are other features designed to permit or foster enlarged trade between this country and its foreign friends.

The President and other supporters of this plan feel that fuller trade is the only path by which the nations of the free-world family may gain the strength and self-reliance they need to survive and prosper in this tense age of the Communist struggle.

The program's opponents, many of whom seem to favor neither trade nor aid, ought to be asked in the coming debate what reasonable and effective alternatives they offer. So far they have offered nothing, and the free world cannot survive on nothing.

U. S. National Reports Record Gain In Deposits

The United States National Bank marked up a record gain of more than \$86,000,000 in deposits during 1954. Deposits for the state-wide banking system now stands at \$748,300,328.

Part of this outstanding growth has resulted from the merger of the Commercial Bank of Oregon group and the bank of Albany with the U. S. National last November. In addition, U. S. National acquired branches at Dufur and Brookings earlier in the year.

Deposits for the Roseburg branch total \$20,821,178.80 according to H. E. Schmeer, manager. Loans and discounts also showed a steady increase and now aggregate \$270,178,235 for the entire system.

The Roseburg branch reported loans and discounts totaling \$3,600,091.50.

U. S. National lists total resources of better than \$810,000,000. This represents a gain of more than \$85,000,000 during the past 12 months.

"The year 1954 has been one of increased service opportunities for this bank," E. C. Sammons, president, commented. "U. S. National now serves the people of Oregon with 38 banking offices throughout the state."

The U. S. National is Oregon's only state-wide banking system that is home owned and home operated. Sammons pointed out.

Opening Of School Bond Bids Slated At Umpqua

Bids for sale of \$25,000 in construction bonds will be opened at the Umpqua School Feb. 9, according to Clerk Lois Mode. The board meeting is scheduled at 8 p.m.

The bond money is to be used for construction of two new rooms on the school which now houses 80 children.

Bonds will begin maturing April 1, 1956. The bonds will be paid off by 1961, Mrs. Mode says.

In The Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

ped a clam from up in the sky. It hit a woman in the head, gashing her scalp with its sharp edges, and bounced from her skull into a store window, which it smashed into smithereens.

But—
You ask—
How can that be called a hazard of MODERN life? Haven't sea gulls been dropping clams out of the sky for millions of years?

True enough.
But back in those earlier eras of time when sea gulls first learned that they could crack a clam's hard hull by flying the critter up into the wild blue yonder and then dropping it on a rock PEOPLE were so SCARCE down below that practically nobody ever got hurt. Now they're getting so thick that it's no longer safe to throw a rock at a marauding cat.

By the way—
That clam the sea gull dropped must have been one of these gooducks (pronounced GO-ee-ducks) that Puget Sound residents boast so loudly about.

Question:
How did it get back to Connecticut?

Speaking of the hazards of modern life, I suppose you must have noticed that the city of Portland—in the air—conditioned Pacific Northwest—had a touch of SMOG the other day.

That brings up a statement recently by a smog expert—one Lauren Hitchcock, of Los Angeles—that smog is one of the four chief threats to the future of our great cities—the other three being congestion, noise and the high cost of living.

He says that getting CLEAN AIR for our Bigtowns may cost as much in the future as getting good water.

A suggestion, sir:
Instead of concentrating our industries in the big cities—where, among other things, they'll be sitting ducks for a hydrogen bomb—why not scatter them out into the clean, open country, where living is BETTER?

Winstonites Make Move To Newly Built Home

By MRS. TED PETERSON

Mr. and Mrs. Ormond Dawson and four children have moved into their new home on Darrel Street. The house was recently constructed by Martin Suksdorf.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cory have returned to their home in Lewes, Wash. after spending the New Year's weekend at the home of the former's brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Cory on Gregory Avenue in Winston.

New Year's dinner guests at the Clyde Blodgett home in Dillard were the Reverend and Mrs. R. A. Feenstra.

Holiday houseguest at the Clinton Green home in Brockway has been Mr. Green's sister, Mrs. George Oglevee, a nurse at Villa Sanitarium in Daily City, Calif.

Mrs. Oliver Henry, Branley Drive, has returned to her home after a visit in Eugene with her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Henry and family.

Recent dinner guests at the Ralph Cory home on Gregory Avenue were Mr. and Mrs. Al Lange and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Nelson all of Cleveland Hill.

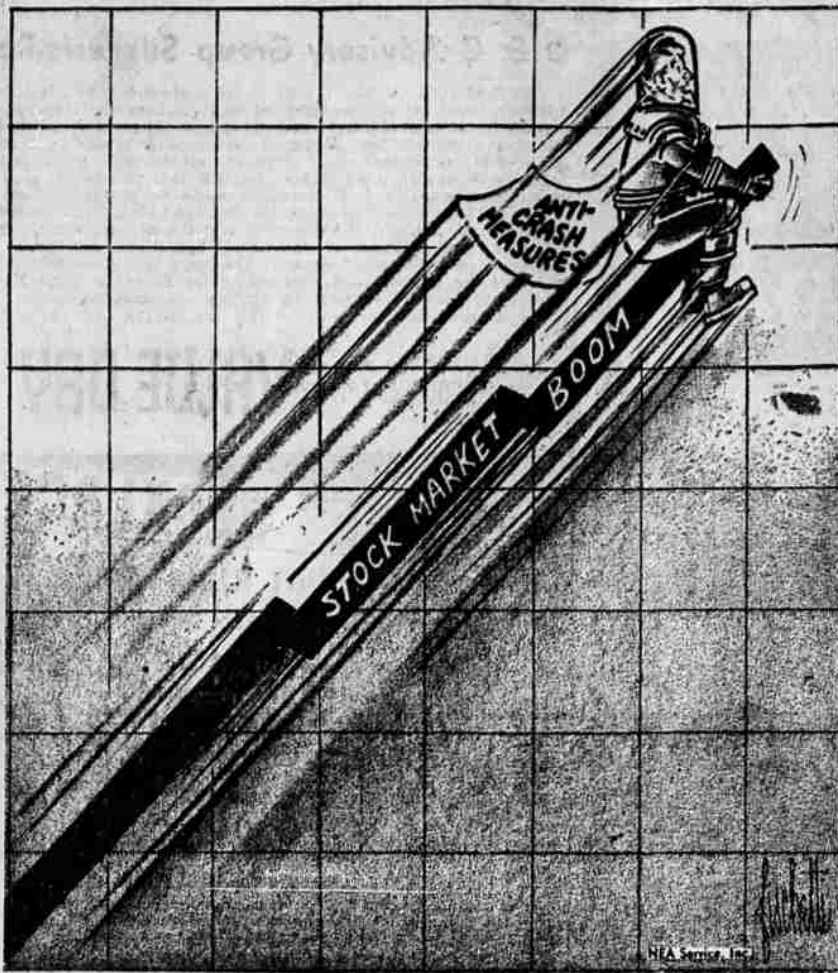
TWO MEN ARRAIGNED

Two Roseburg men were arraigned in district court Monday on charges of operating motor vehicles while under the influence of intoxicating liquor.

Kenneth M. Corley, 35, is awaiting trial after entering a "not guilty" plea before Judge Warren A. Woodruff. Ronald Keith Parr, 31, was fined \$250 after he pleaded guilty.

Both men were arrested in separate cases early Monday morning by state police officers.

Let's Hope That Spacesuit Works



Sen. Neuberger's Allusion To Character Assassination Starts Washington Talk

By A. ROBERT SMITH

News-Review Correspondent

WASHINGTON — For a fleeting moment the other night before he rose to make his maiden speech in the nation's capital, Sen. Richard L. Neuberger had the thought that his remarks might cause something of a to-do.

This occurred when he saw Vice President Richard Nixon arrive at the dinner of the Women's National Press Club at which Oregon's freshman Democratic senator and Jersey's Republican Sen. Clifford Case were the guest speakers.

"But," Neuberger said he thought to himself, "it's not to be said"—and shortly thereafter he plunged into the subject of the evils of character assassination and charges of treason used in the 1954 political campaign.

That everyone present—including some 70 senators—assumed he was referring to Nixon, without ever mentioning the vice president by name, gave the occasion its high political drama. And the walkout of the wife of Sen. George Malone (R-Nev.) made the occasion the talk of Washington the next day. Mrs. Malone, incidentally, is well-known socially here for her sharp tongue, which she exercised every day of the Army-McCarthy hearings by sitting directly behind the three Democrats on the committee and offering her pro-McCarthy sentiments in the case to the point almost of being a heckler.

Premeditation Correct

So Neuberger's fleeting promotion was correct—it caused quite a to-do, but one he takes pains to explain was entirely uncontrived. The speech, itself, for example, was nothing new for Neuberger, since it contained material he had used in his victorious senatorial campaign. The portion most widely quoted here was that "an election campaign never should be an excuse to suspend the Ten Commandments or the Sermon on the Mount," which Neuberger said at Forest Grove on election eve.

Neuberger and his wife, Maurine, were invited in mid-December to attend the dinner and share the guest speaker honors with Case who also had won a dramatic seasaw battle. Sitting in Portland, they knew not who would attend, other than the lady correspondents and their guests. They accepted the invitation and picked their theme.

Though it was a familiar topic to Neuberger, he drew up we in advance a set of notes for this important debut in the Washington spotlight. He didn't know until the day before the dinner that Nixon would be there. When he did learn this, the senator admitted he thought of picking another subject, but he decided to go through with his prepared address when he looked at it this way:

"Isn't it a terrible thing to think that one shouldn't talk about character assassination in the presence of the second highest officer of the United States government for fear of embarrassing him? It's like steering clear of a discussion of the evils of crookedness or chicanery in the presence of, say, a

PSYCHIC POWER NO HELP

PORTLAND (AP) — Aldora K. Hamilton, a psychic reader, told police Monday that her city license to operate her trade had been stolen from under the mattress of her bed while she was away from home.

She said her psychic powers hadn't been any help in locating the thief or the missing license. "I can only do it for other people," the 85-year-old woman said.

SENATOR GILL ROBBED

SALEM (AP) — Sen. Warren Gill LeBaron, here for the opening of the Legislature, lost \$150 Sunday night when a prowler entered his hotel room.
He had left the door open so another senator could wake him up in time for the opening of the session.

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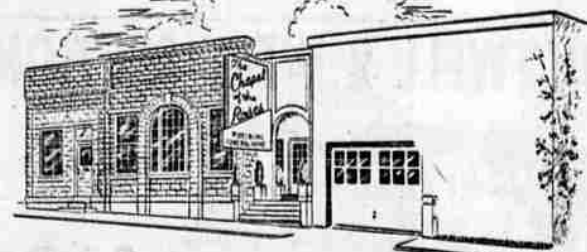
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