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LINCOLN, MAN OF COMPASSION

By BRUCE BLOSSAT
NEA Editorial Writer

Abraham Lincoln is one of the few great men of American life whose appeal is almost world-wide. Long ago his fame went out beyond our own shores, and its luster has not been dimmed by time.

In a sense, perhaps we should be chagrined that Europeans and Asians and others find so little to cherish in American history, indeed that most of them know so little of the exciting fabric of our history.

This great deficiency is a fact, and it reflects sadly on the pretensions of some peoples to a kind of aged-in-the-wood maturity. For, young and brash though America may be in comparison with many lands, it is a place of consummate importance to all the world in this era. And there can be no maturity that does not embrace an understanding of our country and its history.

Still, we should be eternally thankful that of all our revered historic figures, the world has fastened upon Abraham Lincoln as the man most deserving of their esteem and even devotion.

Because Lincoln in his rich individuality, in his stark simplicity, embodied most of the elements which have made America the great and unique place it is.

In this plain man from Illinois was the raw stuff of the frontier which has done so much to shape American ways. In him, too, was the flavor of the earth, a thing that could be sensed by plain, earthy folk anywhere around the globe.

For all his rough exterior, the chisel markings on his face were those of greatness. There were written the resolution needed for the hard decisions that kept a great, growing country from being torn apart; and the deep compassion this man felt for all who suffered in the nation's ordeal.

This compassion, mirrored in the sad, deep-set eyes, is most likely the universal element in Lincoln's appeal. Here was a man who unmistakably cared deeply for humanity. The intensity of his concern shone through for all to see.

But it is not only the look of him that tells this story. Among Lincoln's rare gifts was his almost innate mastery of the art of using words. Whether he wrote or spoke, the words that poured forth lent fierce power to his convictions and put the glow of simple honesty about his gestures of compassion.

Any who heard or read his words when Lincoln lived, or who read them now, must feel instantly elevated in the human scale. For at the core of what he said was his unending appreciation of the dignity and sanctity of the human individual.

That was Lincoln's secret, if a thing can be a secret when it is obvious to all his grateful fellow men.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP) — Suppose you were on a quiz show to-night and the master of ceremonies asked:

"What American President was born in a log cabin in Kentucky 146 years ago today? Here are a few hints: His mother was Nancy Hanks... He was nicknamed 'Honest Abe'... He wore a beard... His wife was Mary Todd... He freed the slaves... And listen closely to this final tipoff: He was shot by an actor named John Wilkes Booth."

The typical quiz show contestant might answer doubtfully, "Was it McKinley?"

But not you. You'd know the right answer — Abraham Lincoln.

Suppose then the M.C. said: "Wonderful! Wonderful! Now you have a shot at the final \$999,999.99 jackpot question. Please listen carefully. Lincoln was one of the most eloquent Americans who ever lived. He wrote or spoke millions of words. Can you repeat just one single sentence ever written or uttered by this famous man who now belongs to the ages. You have 30 seconds."

Well, if you are an average American here is what would happen:

"Sure, that's easy — the old Gettysburg Address. I learned that in school. Know it by heart. Couldn't forget it if I tried."

"Just give us one quick sentence then," purrs the M.C.

"Forescore and seven years ago," you begin, "our fathers... no, I think he said forefathers... yes, he must have said forefathers... forefore and seven years ago our forefathers... our forefathers... our forefathers..."

"And then you would simply stand there tongue-tied while the clock ticked away your chances for that \$999,999.99."

Maybe your teen-age high school kid could answer the question. But you are an unusual American adult if you can recite a single complete sentence that Lincoln would recognize as his own.

I made this test on five grown-ups in various walks of life — a writer, a secretary, a skilled workman, a housewife, a Negro maid. The results might be annoying to Carl Sandburg, who has spent more time on Lincoln's speeches than Lincoln did himself. But I think they'd bring a dry chuckle from old Abe.

All five of those polled flunked flatly. None could recite a complete sentence by Lincoln.

"Four score and seven years ago," nearly all five knew that. But then came the stumbling block. Did Abe say "our fathers" or "our forefathers?" and what did he say after that?

There is probably no other memorable sentence in the English language in quite such a predicament. It is a magic sentence. It begins with a figure—87—expressed in an odd way that sticks in people's minds. But they forget the sonorous, organ-toned

phrase with which that immortal sentence concludes, couching the loftiest idea of government ever to arise in the mind of man.

Honest Abe would probably get another chuckle out of how the five people polled ranked him in our country's history.

The writer and the secretary classed him as our greatest President.

The housewife and the maid thought Franklin D. Roosevelt was the greatest, Lincoln second.

"Lincoln was greater in some things," said the maid. "But he wasn't up to Roosevelt in other ways."

The skilled workman worked both ends against the middle. He said that Washington, the first President, was tops. President Eisenhower was the next greatest and Lincoln was maybe third or fourth.

Now back to the Gettysburg Address. Did Lincoln say "fathers" or "forefathers?"

This is the opening sentence in the version now accepted as official:

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

Naturally, you remember how the rest of it goes. Or do you? Don't bet on it.

Lincoln himself wasn't sure. Five copies of the Gettysburg Address exist in Abe's own handwriting. And the words vary.

The fifth copy, which sold for \$54,000 in 1949, is now regarded as the best. Old Abe knew how to take a good thing and make it better.

Queer-Looking Flying Contraption Is Hailed

FORT WORTH, Tex. (AP) — A queer-looking flying contraption—half helicopter and half airplane—was hailed here this week as the type of military aircraft needed to "get the soldier out of the mud" and to "get there fastest with the most."

The new craft, the Bell Aircraft Corp's ZVX 3 convertiplane which can take off and land vertically and also fly like an airplane, was unveiled at Bell's plant near here before 200 Army and Air Force leaders, civic leaders and newsmen.

"Come, Children—Let Me Read You a Story!"



Peter Edson

WASHINGTON — (NEA) — Among the Eisenhower programs not fully explained in the President's budget message, the item of federal aid for school construction is left suspended highest in the air.

The President has promised a special message on the issue from Secretary Oveta Culp Hobby's Department of Health, Education and Welfare by mid-February. The President also has his White House

Conference on Education coming up next November.

In the meantime, several bills to provide federal financial aid to the states for school construction have been introduced in Congress.

There is some indication that the Congress may cut short hearings and write its own ticket on this subject without waiting for a White House plan.

The problem the Eisenhower administration is trying to solve is how to aid school construction without increasing government spending or the national debt. This isn't to be just a handful of dollars handed to the states for free.

NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER, former undersecretary of DHEW and now a White House assistant, has headed most of the planning of this project. One idea has been to create an "Educational Authority" to insure bonds issued by state or local authorities to finance school construction.

All sorts of objections have been raised to this. It would create new agencies overlapping State Boards of Education, and would be fought by them. Also, it is too much like the proposal to issue bonds to finance new Tennessee Valley Authority power plants and the Eisenhower \$100 billion road-building program.

Only two states—Pennsylvania and Georgia—now have such local school financial authorities. Wisconsin courts have ruled a school authority unconstitutional there.

Even if such school authority plan as this was adopted now, with an initial \$25 million or \$50 million to get going, it could not produce one new schoolroom by fall.

IMPATIENT OVER THE DELAYS already encountered in getting more schools built faster, congressional advocates of federal aid to education have begun to take things into their own hands.

Sen. Lister Hill (D., Ala.) has proposed a two-year, \$500 million cash program of federal aid to take the states for school construction. The aid would be apportioned so that the largest amounts would go to the states with the lowest income.

Senators Irving Ives (R., N.Y.) and Hubert Humphrey (D., Minn.) with Representatives Carroll Kearns (D., Pa.) and Cleveland Bailey (D., W.Va.) sponsored a bill that would make flat federal grants to states that matched these grants with local funds.

Sen. John L. McClellan (D., Ark.) has a bill which would give a better break to the Southern states and protect their system of segregated education. This is perhaps the thorniest issue of the whole aid to education program.

IF SCHOOL AID BILLS are passed before the Supreme Court hands down its final decision on segregation there may be no problem. But a rider on any aid to education bill, prohibiting funds that maintained segregated schools, would certainly kill the program dead.

This in spite of the fact that the U.S. schoolroom shortage is appalling. In 1951 state and federal governments spent \$4 million for a survey. It showed that at the start of the school year in the fall of 1952, the country would need 312,000 more schoolrooms just to make up for schools not built during the war.

Since then two million more youngsters have been added to the school population in 1953 and 1954. The need now is 340,000 schoolrooms with no allowance for overcrowding or obsolescence.

MAYOR TO VISIT

LEBANON, Ore. (AP) — The mayor of Lebanon intends to visit the school population in 1953 and 1954. The need now is 340,000 schoolrooms with no allowance for overcrowding or obsolescence.

The mayors of the 28 cities named Lebanon in this country, were invited to visit the Near East republic in a celebration, March 1-15, and Mayor Ralph Scroggin of this city said he plans to go. His wife will accompany him.

COFFEE PRICES DIP; Industry Believes Bottom Attained

NEW YORK (AP) — The price of coffee came down sharply this week, but industry sources say it's not likely to get much cheaper unless there is a further decline in the price of green coffee.

Chain stores started cutting prices on their own brands on Monday, and by midweek independent roasters began lowering their wholesale prices to meet the competition. In some cases, retail prices dropped to around the lowest levels in two years. One chain commented that its reductions represented a drop of as much as 40 cents a pound from the highs of August 1954.

Some big independent coffee distributors have not yet lowered their wholesale prices, but informed sources said it was only a matter of time before they would do so.

Spokesmen for the major chains commented that they aren't planning further cuts until green coffee prices justify them.

Reductions in their own brands by nation-wide chain stores ran to as much as 15 cents a pound. One Eastern chain cut its prices 10 cents on Monday and followed up with a six-cent cut on Tuesday. Others came down 10 to 12 cents a pound.

Standard brands was the first independent roaster to pare prices. It knocked 10 cents a pound off the wholesale price of Chase & Sanborn coffee and dropped instant coffee prices as well. Albert Ehlert Inc., distributing in the northeast, cut its vacuum-packed coffee by eight cents.

Return To Single Tax Commissioner Plan Protested

SALEM (AP) — Oregon's return to a single tax commissioner was described this week as a "grave step backward" by tax authorities who appeared before the Senate Taxation Committee Thursday.

Alex Hay, tax consultant for Long-Bell Lumber Co., and Louise Humphrey, manager of Oregon Business and Tax Research, opposed the bill that would eliminate the state's three-member Tax Commission.

Gov. Paul Patterson supports the bill, which would let him name the commissioner. The present commission now is appointed by the Board of Control.

Hay said it is "unwise to put so much authority into one man's hands," and he added that three-member commissions are more efficient.

Mrs. Humphrey said the public wouldn't have confidence in a commissioner who might be changed every time there is a change in governors.

Sen. Paul E. Godder, Roseburg, author of the bill, said a single commissioner would handle appeals better, and that there is too much divided authority in the present commission.

Coffee Prices Dip; Industry Believes Bottom Attained

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Douglas County Fourth In Traffic Fatalities

SALEM (AP) — Crook and Wheeler counties are the only Oregon counties which had death-free traffic records in 1954, Secretary of State Earl T. Newberry said Friday.

Twenty counties had death increases last year, and 15 had decreases. The total for the state was 420, an increase of 30 over the 1953 total.

Multnomah County led with 64 fatalities, followed by Clackamas 34, Lane 23, Douglas 22, Marion 21, and Lincoln 20.

The News-Review's tabulation of 1954 deaths shows 27 persons died in connection with motor vehicle accidents, not limiting the count to those on the highways.

PLEADS GUILTY

TACOMA (AP) — Clarence Wayland Ramsey, 31-year-old Tacoma Bible salesman, pleaded guilty Friday to the \$67,000 armed robbery of the Parkland branch of the National Bank of Washington, after a psychiatrist had pronounced him sane.

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Five Furnaces Operating At Hanna Nickel Plant

Five furnaces now are in operation by the Hanna Nickel Smelting Co. at its Nickel Mt. plant at Riddle, reports the Myrtle Creek Mail.

Two of the furnaces are being utilized in melting, a third is an auxiliary and the other two are used for refining, according to the Mail.

About 285 employees now are working at the 30-million dollar plant. Employment of more persons is anticipated as the smelting operation goes into full production later this year.

MANY VISIT PARKS

SALEM (AP) — An estimated 6,085,000 visited Oregon's 154 state parks last year, or 700,000 more than in 1953, State Parks Supt. C. H. Armstrong said this week.

McKay Believes O & C Road Regulations Can Be Revised Satisfactory To Operators

By A. ROBERT SMITH
News-Review Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Interior Douglas McKay is confident his department will be able to revise O & C logging road right-of-way regulations that will be "reasonably satisfactory" to both large and small timber operators who are at odds over the regulations.

McKay said in an interview that the Bureau of Land Management is now in the process of reviewing recommended changes in the existing regulations which were proposed by the O & C Advisory Board in Oregon last month. The Senate Interior Committee, upon request of Sen. Richard L. Neuberger (D-Ore.), has asked McKay to defer final action on the new regulations until the subcommittee on public lands can review them. Neuberger is a member of that subcommittee.

"We are anxious to get the best possible regulations," McKay said, adding that he was perfectly willing to have Congress "investigate anything they want in my department — it's an open door."

Neuberger charged that the proposed changes, which have not been made public here, would abandon the requirement of reciprocal road-use agreements as a condition precedent to granting right-of-way and road use permits, and that this would "seriously weaken the policy of facilitating competition for federal timber."

Both McKay and BLM officials indicated the requirement of reciprocal road-use agreements would not be abandoned in the final revision of regulations. Two BLM officials from the Portland area office spent last week here working over the proposed regulations, making certain changes.

One official told this reporter the reciprocal road-use clause will not be dropped. McKay said: "We are responsible to the taxpayers to get the most we can for the federal timber, so we need access to it."

The proposed changes were drafted by a subcommittee of the O & C Advisory Board, approved after wrangling within the board by an 8-4 vote and submitted to BLM last month. BLM is under no legal or administrative obligation to act on the recommendations, but it is the declared intent of the Interior Department to do so.

"There were things in the recommendations that the department could not go for," an official said, explaining that BLM has already revised them and sent them back to members of the 18-man O & C Advisory Board for comment.

One proposed change which BLM is understood to go along with would be to require all users of private access roads to pay a rental charge to the owner. Under existing regulations, only the cost of amortizing the construction cost of the road may be charged, after which the road is free to all.

General Advises Against Underestimating Russians

WASHINGTON (AP) — Maj. Gen. James Gavin, Army chief of operations, said this week it would be "complete folly" to assume that the Russian armies trail the United States in weapons development and readiness.

The deputy chief of staff for operations was asked at a news conference about the statement of Marshal Ivan Konev, in which the Russian army official declared that the Soviet armed forces have "all kinds of weapons."

Gavin read that statement, then commented: "They do, too."

The Red general, addressing the Supreme Soviet in Moscow Wednesday, said the weapons are ready for "the complete defeat" of "imperialists"—meaning the United States—who might attack the Soviet. Gavin did not go into that.

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MEMBERSHIP FORUM

Monday Noon Hotel Umpqua
Civic Room

Subject:
State Parks in Douglas County

Speaker:
C. H. Armstrong, Superintendent of State Parks.

Program designed to bring us information telling of any plans for our county and something about the overall state program.

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