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WISE TO DELAY COMPACT

The Oregonian, Portland

Senator Paul E. Geddes of Roseburg made the right decision, in our opinion, in recommending that his committee on natural resources suspend further action this session on the bill for a seven-state Columbia Interstate Compact. There are too many hazards in this type of organization to accept without further study and deliberation.

There is, of course, a reluctance on the part of the representatives of the states who worked long and hard on the compact draft to see it put aside for another two years. But Oregon is not alone in approaching this with caution. It is unlikely that the Washington legislature will accept it either. Adverse testimony was broad and representative of many groups in hearings both in Olympia and Salem. And all four "major" states—Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana—must ratify the compact before it can go into effect.

Should there be a two-year postponement of ratification no power dams or irrigation projects will be lost, for the compact proposed would provide for only a "recommendatory" commission. It could not, under the present understanding, build anything. It could only bring pressure to bear on other agencies.

On the other hand, acceptance of the compact in its present form would establish a pattern of agreement for the division of hydroelectric power among the states, with upstream storage states having first claim on a tremendous block of power for which they have no immediate market—plus pullback provisions when they do need it—and the populous, industrialized coastal region being placed in the role of supplicant.

The late drive among compact negotiators to get this proposal into shape for consideration of the 1955 legislature was understandable from the standpoint of the upper basin states. But the compromises obtained by the Oregon delegates still do not answer all the questions.

The disagreements arise primarily over the division of power among the states. And this attempt to divide on state lines is the basic departure, and an unwise departure, from the policy of developing the region as an entity which has been the inherent policy of the federal government for two decades.

Perhaps within the next two years the need for an interstate compact on power will become less evident. A strong movement is under way for congressional approval of a regional power corporation which would assume the properties, obligations and sales of the federal Bonneville power administration and would go on from there to build large main-river dams, with revenue bond financing.

This approach to the problem of getting dams built and power on the line for the entire Northwest needs to be considered before Oregon, particularly, joins any agreement for a states' rights division of power not yet generated. Perhaps the two ideas are compatible. But we believe the regional corporation approach should be given consideration before state roadblocks are thrown in its way.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP) — If you don't like to nibble on Mexican fried worms, Mrs. Evelyn Haines won't quarrel with you. "They taste something like a crisp rice cracker, and make a good conversational tidbit at cocktail time," she said. "But I myself prefer the flavor of Florida rattlesnake meat or French larks stuffed with truffles and goose liver."

Mrs. Haines, a tall, attractive Pennsylvania Dutch housewife, has an unusual job. She is a food scout who searches the markets of the world for rare foreign menu items unknown to most American palates. Her own palate has few prejudices, and she feels she has one of the most interesting and enjoyable careers of any woman in America.

"Right now I'm trying to find someone who imports chocolate-covered ants," she said. "They're quite a delicacy in South America, I understand, and I'm very curious to see how they taste."

Other delicacies Mrs. Haines has received orders for, but so far has been unable to fill: Roasted grasshoppers, canned bats from Guam, and French fried bumblebees from Burma.

"One customer wanted me to get him some hummingbird tongues, because he heard that the old Roman emperors used to snack on them," she said, smiling. "But I think he was merely trying to send me on a wild goose chase."

Mrs. Haines was launched on her odd career after her employer, Max Hess, head of a department store in Allentown, Pa., returned from a trip abroad convinced his customers might like to try exotic foods they had read about but perhaps never tasted.

Husbands, she soon found, were willing to buy dishes like Japanese boiled quail eggs, but their cautious wives restrained them. They did, that is, until Hess got the idea of having Mrs. Haines open and sample the delicacies before their eyes, and show the wives how to prepare and serve them.

"I had a pretty good background for the job," said Mrs. Haines. "My dad—was an undertaker—was a gourmet. As a child I got used to eating strange foods such as calves' testicles and oxtails."

She has found men are far more willing than women to adventure with foreign delicacies. Former servicemen, in particular, like to sample new dishes they ate in other lands during wartime.

"Some people buy things, such as the Mexican fried worms only as a gag," she said, "and then are surprised to learn they like them. We've had quite a few repeat orders for the worms. They're one of our best-selling items. They look rather like empty black locust shells. But they aren't as tasty

"Well, and How Are All The Future Premiers Today?"



Congress Chat

By HARRIS ELLSWORTH,
M. C., 4th Oregon District

At long last the taxpayers of the land-grant counties of Oregon have received substantial relief to their local tax load by the distribution to them of the money due the counties from funds impounded in the treasury for more than 12 years. The money is from the sale of timber on O & C lands.

It has been held in "suspense" pending the settlement of a dispute between the departments of Interior and Agriculture. Last year Senator Cordon and I succeeded in securing passage of the bill, since known as the Cordon-Ellsworth bill, which settled the dispute by law.

The payment of this money has been delayed several months because of a suit previously filed by one of the counties. This legal action accomplished nothing and in my opinion was little more than a meaningless gesture after the law was passed. However, it has the effect of blocking the payments to the counties and even now, until the case is finally disposed of, \$800,000 of the money due the counties is withheld. The reason for this is that the attorneys handling the litigation have demanded a fee of \$800,000. Assuming the money is worth 3 percent interest to the counties, they are still paying \$24,000 per year or \$2,000 per month because of these suits. That money could be saved and the remaining \$800,000 distributed if the suits were now withdrawn and the record cleared.

Checks sent to the counties in our Congressional district were as follows:

Curry	\$ 157,237.36
Cook	307,711.60
Douglas	1,311,923.74
Jackson	815,047.88
Josephine	630,938.08
Lane	794,878.55
Linn	137,048.03

Some people may recall that during the election campaign last fall I was suffering from severe pains in my knee and ankle. The trouble started last August and has continued. Although I had the opinion of good orthopedic doctors that the condition was due to a severe sprain or strain and with care and treatment and time would clear up, I thought it was not getting well fast enough and that there might be something seriously wrong. I decided to have a thorough going over and another opinion on my trouble by the famous Mayo Clinic. It took some valuable time and some money but was well worth it. Their opinion was about the same as given me by other doctors. What pleased me about the experience, though, was that they went over me from head to toe, took numerous x-rays and made every conceivable test and then reported their findings. The result was that I was recommended to be a much healthier specimen of humanity than I thought I was and haven't a health worry in the world. That is really worth knowing, isn't it?

The House battle over the Reciprocity Trade Agreements extension ended, even though the decision was close, in a straight administration victory. I voted for the amendment, which would have watered down a bit the tight authority given the President to make final decisions on tariff reductions. I felt that the amendment would not hamper the President in managing his policies with foreign governments, but would give our little Oregon industries and farmers a chance to make a last ditch stand toward protecting themselves. Although the amendment (which was in the motion to recommit the bill) was defeated, the debate on it cleared the air a bit. The discussion and the close vote served notice on the President's advisors that more consideration must be given these small producers when tariff concessions are made.

BILL APPROVED
SALEM (AP) — The bill to let school board members collect travel expense money was passed 23-7 Wednesday by the Senate and sent to the House.

Average Weekly Earnings In Oregon Reach High
SALEM (AP) — Average weekly earnings of Oregon's production workers rose to an all-time high of \$88.92 in January, the Unemployment Compensation Commission announced.

The total was \$2.16 more than in December, and almost \$7 a week more than in January, 1954. Hourly pay reached a new top of \$2.22, compared with \$2.12 a year ago. Lumber and logging workers earned \$2.36 an hour, against \$2.25 a year ago.

The average work week was 40 hours, compared with 38.6 in January, 1954.

Construction workers led all groups with average earnings of \$100.48 a week. Next were printers with \$95.59.

Lumber and logging workers averaged \$94.72.

SALEM (AP) — Tire chains should be carried because of packed snow at Government Camp, Timberline, Santiam Pass, Meacham, Austin and Seneca, the Oregon Highway Commission advised Wednesday.

Adenauer Marshals Forces For Arms Debate
BONN, Germany (AP) — Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and the opposition Socialists marshaled their forces Wednesday for the crucial parliamentary debate on the Paris treaties rearming West Germany.

The debate begins Thursday, with Adenauer's foreign policy—and perhaps his political future—resting on the outcome.

The 79-year-old chancellor sent parliamentary leaders of his four government parties to make last-minute appeals for the solid support of the 336 coalition deputies in the 487-member Bundestag (lower house).

Adenauer also summoned the cabinet to a final meeting before the house begins the three-day debate on the decisive second and third readings of the treaties. Adenauer, four cabinet ministers and 48 deputies were scheduled to speak during the session.

Reader Opinions

Reader Gives Criticism Of Oregon Legislators

MYRTLE CREEK — Please give me space to tell your readers my views of the right honorable legislators who are reported on in a story in The News-Review of Roseburg, Saturday, Feb. 19, page 4. As I understand it, the legislators are elected and paid by the people to pass laws in the interest of the people of the State of Oregon. However, it seems the majority of the legislators have forgotten their oath of office, and are scheming to thwart the wishes of their electors.

It seems to me that they think, instead of being servants of the people, they are or should be dictators of the people. Instead of passing laws that they know the majority of the people want, they try in every way to thwart our wishes.

The majority of the people do not want a sales tax. They do not want the legislators to name the price we must pay them for trying to thwart our wishes and, furthermore, we do not want dictators, which the majority of the legislators seem to think they have a right to be. Sen. Robert D. Holmes of Gearhart has the right idea: Pass constructive laws and the people will sustain you. I hope the people will study the bills that some in the Legislature are trying to put over the people by misleading statements. Sen. Lee Ohmart of Salem thinks that the people should let the Legislature write tax measures with an emergency clause, so that the people could not defeat them with the referendum law. I suppose he thinks he has made a bright speech. I think he wants the referendum law repealed; in fact if we allow the Legislature to attack the emergency clauses to all bills, we would have no way of stopping them from raising their own salaries as high as the President's or higher. And of course they would pass the sales tax, and put it on everything and for any amount they liked. I hear California is raising its sales tax. If we get a sales tax the Legislature will sure go on a spending spree (instead of cutting expenses as they should). They claim a sales tax is painless. It should be for the wealthy, but not for the old people or the poor who are either on relief or should be (and will be if we turn our state over to dictators). We want a free rein, with no hold-up on their scheming.

E. M. (Cap) MORGAN
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Myrtle Creek

Long Process Still In Making On Labor Merger

WASHINGTON (AP) — A long process of consolidation lies ahead of the AFL and CIO, once their merger agreement is nailed down. Behind the merger deal signed by top AFL and CIO leaders in Miami, Fla., two weeks ago was their feeling that they had stopped making any big gains and that only by blending forces could labor unions progress in dealing with employers, organizing new members and achieving political aims.

These leaders don't intend to stop with the merging of their two federations into one 15-million-member organization. They plan to help "weak sister" unions by "encouraging" them to join, either by mergers or working agreements with other unions in the same of similar industries.

One such merger of separate CIO unions was already in the works before the AFL-CIO pact. The 100,000-member Oil Workers Union and the 85,000-member Chemical Workers Union plan to complete a merger this spring and then tee off on new organizing campaigns in the chemical and plastics industries.

Similarly, the once-bitterly rival AFL and CIO Textile Workers Unions held a preliminary merger meeting some months ago.

So far, there has been remarkably little opposition from union leaders to the AFL-CIO merger agreement. Tuesday, the merger pact was approved unanimously by the general executive board of the CIO Amalgamated Clothing Workers, which claims 400,000 members. The CIO executive board was expected to go through the formality of approval at a meeting here Thursday.

The next step involves drawing up a constitution for the giant new federation and its ratification by separate AFL and CIO conventions, then by a joint AFL-CIO convention. Leaders say all this will be accomplished by autumn.

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Northwest Congressmen Torn Between Loyalties In Stand On Tariff Bill

By A. ROBERT SMITH
News-Review Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Pacific Northwest congressmen were torn last week between devotion to President Eisenhower or the reciprocal trade program and their desire to offer protection to a host of regional industries that opposed the president's tariff-cutting trade program.

Representatives of many Northwest industries were here trying to enlist votes to modify or kill the trade bill, a feat nearly carried off with help from other regions until Speaker Sam Rayburn and GOP Leader Joe Martin stood shoulder-to-shoulder to back up a last minute plea for support from

Eisenhower.

Rep. Thor Tollefson, Tacoma Republican, spoke for most Northwest industries opposing tariff reductions, telling the House of Representatives that the House of Representatives is in danger.

"In my district alone are grown some 30 million King Alfred daffodils annually—more than are grown in all of Holland. But faced with growing imports of foreign flowers, produced at the low-wage rates prevailing there, the growers of the Northwest are facing bankruptcy."

"There are several thousand ships and an estimated 20,000 or more fishermen employed directly in the taking of these fish... and yet with imports from Japan and South America growing at an alarming rate, these American ships will be driven from the seas and the American fisheries closed up unless relief is granted soon."

"Red raspberries... imports of cheaply produced red raspberries from abroad are beginning to threaten red raspberry growers in my district."

"Hardboard... 'Six of the nine domestic producers of this vital national-defense item are located in Washington or Oregon... Vastly increased imports have already had a serious impact on the domestic industry. One producer has been forced to lay off more than 350 employees; another reports production cutbacks of 50 per cent.'"

"Plywood... 'this important industry, likewise, is suffering from a lack of adequate protection, and plywood made in Japan was sold at rates drastically below those of our own workers is now coming into this country in greater and greater volume.'"

"Tree nuts, including filberts... 'The nut industry has consistently sought (tariff) relief... but this relief has just as consistently been denied them.'"

"Wool growers and cherry growers of the Northwest also opposed the trade bill."

Tollefson was joined by two Oregon Republicans, Reps. Harris Ellsworth and Sam Con, in voting for the motion to send the bill back to committee with instructions to revise it so that (1) the Tariff Commission would have to cancel tariff cuts if an industry showed it was threatened by foreign competition; and (2) the president could now, as now, set duties independently of the commission's recommendations.

Eisenhower openly opposed this move by sending Joe Martin a letter to read to the House. Supporting the president were Republican Rep. Walter Norblad and Democratic Rep. Edith Green, who favored the president's plan to negotiate with U.S. allies for gradually reduced trade barriers over the next three years.

While many lawmakers duplicated Tollefson's plea for industries in their own areas, they were countered with arguments from others favoring more trade who pointed out that trade is a two-way street in the sense that every American dollar used to buy foreign imports is then subsequently used by the foreigner to purchase American goods in return.

In short, the Americans who buy imported daffodils or raspberries are supplying U.S. dollars to foreigners who must then use them to purchase American wheat, apples or Douglas fir and other U.S. products that are seeking new world markets.

House Okays Equipping Volunteer Firemen's Cars
SALEM (AP) — The House Highway Committee recommended passage Wednesday of a bill to let volunteer firemen equip their fire cars with flashing orange lights.

Firefighting groups had asked for a bill to allow them to mount flashing blue lights. The Highway Commission objected, saying this might cause confusion because its snow-removal trucks use blue lights. The flashing orange light then was favored.

Another is that I live in a small city that in all probability will not be the target of a nuclear bomb because THERE ARE SO MANY SMALL CITIES IN AMERICA THAT THE RUSSIANS CAN'T AFFORD ATOM BOMBS ENOUGH TO DESTROY THEM ALL.

Fortunately for our enemies, and quite unfortunately for our country, too many of our people insist on living in our vast metropolitan centers, smog and all, because that's where the bright lights are and this is a brightlights era.

Also—Too many of our vital industries insist on clustering together in these swarming anthills that we call modern cities, thus making it EASY for our enemies to cripple our industrial machine with a relatively small number of A-1 bombs.

We TALK a lot about diversification, but so far we've DONE nothing about it.

But—As the French say, with a shrug of the shoulders—"C'est la guerre."

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