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DUCKING RESPONSIBILITY

Charles V. Stanton

The Oregon Legislature, in refusing to submit a sales tax to referendum, has failed to measure up to its responsibility to the public, in my opinion.

Few legislators, I believe, would deny that a sales tax is the best method of meeting Oregon's dire necessity for more revenue. But because the tax has been rejected previously, some legislators probably thought it futile to submit the proposal again. Others probably ducked it for reasons of political expediency.

It is the responsibility of the legislature, in my opinion, to act in accordance with the best interests of the state. If it believes that a sales tax is desirable, it should have said so. It should have explained the necessity to the voters, even though there was reason to believe it would be defeated again. At least, in that case, the legislature would properly discharge its duty.

The tax muddle resulting from this session certainly is not beneficial.

Oregon is in the midst of industrial growth. It is drawing many people from all parts of the United States. Now it is proposed to add to the income tax, making the highest rate of levy in the nation. If this income tax is permitted to stand, it is reasonable to believe that our growth will stop. In fact, we'll probably lose a lot of people who will move to states where earnings are less heavily taxed. Industry, we may be certain, will seek more favorable tax climate.

Tax May Be Initiated

There may, however, be method in the legislative decision.

Governor Patterson, at the beginning of the session, advised that the legislature avoid a sales tax. It was his opinion that the public, having rejected the tax previously, should initiate the measure, if it is wanted. This is a negative approach, in my opinion, and is deliberate ducking of responsibility.

Taxes now proposed by the legislature, however, together with the heavy load of local property taxes, probably will be so onerous that the people will demand a sales tax and will initiate the proposal, as the Governor suggested. Perhaps that is what the legislature had in mind.

A referendum undoubtedly will be called on the cigarette tax. A cigarette tax also has been rejected in the past. It is hard to understand why the legislature would fear referral of a sales tax, because it has been beaten previously, while again supporting a cigarette tax despite past defeats. It doesn't make sense.

There also may be a referendum on the income tax boost. If the referendum occurs, that measure, too, probably will be defeated, inasmuch as nearly every individual voter is affected.

Should both these revenue measures be beaten, we'll really be in a mess.

SCHOOL BUDGET TROUBLES

Roseburg School District again is in trouble with its budget. The budget must be revised and another election held. Unless more people vote at the next election, the budget will be beaten the second time.

As has been pointed out in this column previously, opposition to any budget, bond or other finance measure, can almost be tabulated in advance. At a minimum it runs around 1,000 votes, and at a maximum about 1,600 votes. It is nearly always the case that the affirmative side of any issue, particularly where finances are concerned, polls a smaller proportion of its side than does the opposition. The economy-minded folk are usually out in full force.

If the people who believe in an adequate budget for school purposes want the second budget to pass, they'll have to work a little harder next time.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP) — The parents of what is believed to be the nation's largest all-boy family don't see why poverty should cause juvenile delinquency.

Emory and Thelma Harrison, a farm couple who live near Johnson City, Tenn., have 13 sons ranging in step ladder style down from 21-year-old Guy to Ivan, an infant of 3 weeks.

"On Your Account," But the wonders of Manhattan pulled quickly and left the whole family homeless.

"It's corn plantin' time," explained Harrison.

The tall, rawboned farmer, who had to quit school after the fourth grade to go to work, is a man of natural dignity with a rich vein of homespun humor.

Having a large family came naturally to the Harrison. His wife is one of 16 children. His grandfather, a religious man as he is called, had 27 children, 3 wives, rode a red mule to church every Sunday until he was 85, and died triumphant at 93, still praising the Lord for a good life.

"And he raised all 27 children on a 70-acre farm," said Harrison. "I courted for a year before I got married when I was 23," he added. "I'll never forget that day. I didn't have anything at all — only a woman" — Mrs. Harrison glanced up with a shy smile. "And maybe 75 cents in my pocket. I earned only \$2 the first week we were married."

"After years of struggling labor during which he sometimes had to go out after his day's work and cut wood to trade for groceries, Harrison was able with the help of a friend to buy a 72-acre hill farm."

The farm has 2 horses, 3 cows, 225 chickens, 6 or 8 hogs, a large vegetable garden. The cash crops are wheat, corn and tobacco.

"We don't spend more than \$13 to \$14 a week for food," Harrison said. "We raise the rest."

"I don't believe our medical bills

Monument Recently Unveiled by Hoover Commission



Peter Edson

WASHINGTON (NEA) — It may be weeks before Washington knows the real answers on what happened at the Bandung, Indonesia, conference of 29 Afro-Asian nations.

First reaction was that this conference was a great and unexpected victory for the West. This is now giving way to a sober second look.

It is now seen that it will take a completely changed way of life and an awful lot of good deeds for the Chinese Communists to live up to the pious resolutions they agreed to at Bandung.

In this respect, the Bandung conference may be a good bit like the Yalta agreement. If the Russian Communists had lived up to their Yalta promises, Chiang Kai-shek might still head the Chinese mainland government.

SOME OF THE IDEALISM of the United Nations charter was written into this conference.

It is in the Declaration of Promotion of World Peace and Cooperation that the greatest challenge to Communist doctrines is found. This is in the seventh and final section of the Bandung conference. It is stated in ten points:

1. Respect for fundamental human rights and for the purposes and principles of the U.N. charter.

Red China has never recognized such rights even for its own people and has openly defied the U.N. authority.

2. Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations.

RED CHINA HAS NOT RESPECTED this in Korea, Tibet, Indo-China. It does not recognize sovereignty for Formosa.

3. Recognition of the equality of all races and the equality of all nations, large and small.

The first part of that may be aimed at the white nations and at

the old colonial powers. The latter part applies equally to the new Communist colonialism.

4. Absentment from intervention or interference in the internal affairs of another country.

Again, look at the Red record in Korea and Indo-China.

5. Respect for the right of each nation to defend itself singly or collectively in conformity with the U.N. charter.

This would seem to sanction collective defense arrangements like SEATO — the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization. But this is omitted in part by the next section.

6. Absentment from the use of collective arrangements to serve the interests of a big power... or to exert pressure on another country.

If SEATO could be charged with serving the interests of Britain, France and the United States, it would be open to censure. On the other hand, the Russia-Red China alliance certainly exerted its pressure against Korea.

7. Refraining from aggression against the territorial integrity or political independence of any country.

Once again—Korea, Tibet and Indo-China.

8. Settlement of international disputes by peaceful means... in conformity with the U.N. Charter.

The test of this will be in the Formosa issue.

9. Promotion of mutual interest and cooperation.

Taken literally, that would mean lowering of the Iron and Bamboo Curtains, which no one expects to happen.

10. Respect for justice and international obligations.

No Communist country has in the past ever shown such respect either inside the U.N. or out.

IN THE DAY'S NEWS

By FRANK JENKIN

(Continued from Page One)

sentatives in passing a bill that has no chance of becoming a law this year?

The answer is rather simple.

It might result in winning over the big wheat states to the Democrats next year. As you may have heard, there will be another Presidential election in 1956.

In the interest of fairness and accuracy, I'm obliged to add that in a similar situation the Republicans might act in exactly the same way. I can't help wishing we had more statesmen and fewer politicians in Congress.

Speaking of surpluses, here is the wheat situation in a nutshell: In mid-1952, the wheat surplus

have been more than \$50 all told since we were married, not counting the cost of getting the boys born.

"If they get a cold I just mix up some hog lard, turpentine and kerosene, rub it on their chest — then turn 'em off barefooted. We don't pay no attention to 'em not wearing shoes."

One Tuesday last October a fire destroyed their home. For the first time in his life Harrison felt completely down at heart. But the next Sunday the congregations of 12 nearby churches pitched in with money, materials and labor and built the family a larger, better home.

Mrs. Harrison nodded quietly. Harrison said he hoped to use the cash money the family won on television to give his boys as much schooling as possible.

"If I give them an education I know it's the one thing nobody'll be able to take away from them later on," he said. "I'll help 'em go farther than their daddy."

More on the atom bomb tests and the weather:

Dr. Oppenheimer, lecturing in Portland, says he doesn't think the atomic bomb tests that are being held in Nevada have anything to do with the kind of weather we have been having.

The atomic bomb is impressive, but it is peanuts as compared with the forces unleashed by a hurricane or a typhoon. The weather does appear to be changing, but there is no reason to link the changes to A-bomb tests.

Well, that's that.

A lot of us who know nothing whatever about nuclear physics will snort scornfully at this opinion from one of the foremost authorities in the world, citing the fact that we are having rotten weather and at the same time we are having atom bomb tests on a big scale down in the Nevada desert.

So, we will contend, the bomb tests just HAVE to have something to do with it.

That's all right, and I'm glad that's that. If the time ever comes when we Americans accept obediently the WORD OF AUTHORITY and have no opinions of our own, this will no longer be America.

Director Baffled At Disappearance Of Salk Vaccine

NEW YORK (AP) — Dr. Hart Van Riper, medical director of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, said Wednesday he is "baffled" by reports that 10 million shots of Salk polio vaccine apparently disappeared.

The Washington report published by the Scripps-Howard newspapers pointed out that the "vaccine may be lost only on paper."

Dr. Van Riper said that at the April 22 meeting of the Department of Health, Welfare and Education with officials of the producing companies and the drug industry, it was stated that 17,200,000 cubic centimeters of the vaccine would be produced by May 1. He emphasized that these "were not firm figures; they were only estimates."

He said that the foundation has distributed approximately six million shots of the vaccine, and has 1,200,000 shots in reserve.

The difference between the production estimates made at the Washington meeting and the amount the foundation received led to the reports that 10 million shots of the vaccine had disappeared.

Dr. Van Riper said he is confident that the foundation is getting all of the vaccine produced and approved for use.

Education

Minimum salaries for teachers were increased to \$3,000 for those without degrees, \$3,300 for those with bachelor degrees, and \$3,600 for those with masters degrees.

The law requiring physical education courses was wiped off the books.

Portland State College won its independence, school teachers carried from teaching, and residents of any city were made eligible for appointment to the Board of Higher Education.

A \$5,000 appropriation to study educational television was made, in contrast to the defeated measure to erect two state-owned educational TV stations.

Bill defeated would have given building aid to distressed school districts, changed the basic school distribution formula to help needy districts, given state aid for junior colleges, and put driver training courses in the schools.

The Legislature appropriated \$75,000 to begin a pilot meat inspection program in areas to be chosen by the Department of Agriculture.

A market development department in the Agriculture Department was created; creation of a grasshopper control districts was approved; and the Board of Control was permitted to abolish the state flax industry at the penitentiary.

Grade B milk will have to conform with Grade A bacteria standards.

More than six inches of snow and about one-tenth of an inch of rain fell.

The heavy snow toppled power lines and telephone poles. All forms of transportation in and out of the city were also stopped for a time during the night. The city was covered with broken trees.

Amateur radio operators in Edmonston and Winnipeg were trying to make contact with Prince Albert.

Most of Saskatoon was without electricity early Wednesday.

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Oregon Legislature Ends Session; Bills Summarized

The following is a summary of actions taken by the Oregon State Legislature, which concluded its record-breaking session Thursday night. (See story page 1):

Finance and Taxes

The 60 per cent income tax increase was done by reducing the \$500 personal exemptions to \$500 and by adding a 45 per cent surtax. It will produce \$41,200,000 in the biennium, and the cigarette tax will raise \$8,800,000.

The 1 per cent withholding tax was doubled to make it easier to pay the higher income levy. The 2 per cent tax on insurance premiums was raised to 2 1/2 per cent. Liquor prices went up about 5 per cent, and the corporation excise tax was extended to utilities and large building rental companies.

A series of property tax assessment bills were passed, including one to have reappraisals made every six years by certified appraisers.

A proposed constitutional amendment, to let the Legislature put emergency clauses on tax bills, was referred to the 1956 general election.

Gov. Paul L. Patterson vetoed the bill to prevent cities from levying income taxes.

While the House wanted to give the people a choice between a 3 per cent sales tax and the income levy boost, the Senate didn't, beating the sales tax.

Labor

Besides increasing the unemployment compensation benefits and payroll taxes, the Legislature also boosted industrial accident benefits about 15 per cent.

It voted that women must receive men's pay for equal work, and abolished the governor's advisory committee on fair employment practices.

Measures which failed to pass include those which would have repealed the anti-picketing law, let workmen arbitrate industrial accident claims, and set up a conciliation service under the governor.

Government Organization

The transfer of the Motor Vehicle Department to the governor was effective July 1, 1956.

A State Judicial Council, consisting of all judges, was created to facilitate work of the courts.

Multnomah County was subordinated for election of state representatives, and a bill to do the same for Marion County was referred to the people of that county.

The Lane County subdistricting bill was defeated.

A commission was created to help plan a celebration of Oregon's 100th anniversary of statehood in 1959.

Measures defeated include Gov. Patterson's request for a convention to write a new Constitution, and a proposal to have one senator from each county.

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