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TRUTH IN THE NEWS

Charles V. Stanton

Editors throughout the nation, together with radio and television news directors, are greatly concerned over recent orders in Washington, D. C. limiting release of news to the press. Particularly disturbing is Secretary Wilson's order to the Defense Department that speeches and press releases must be reviewed and cleared to determine whether they "constitute a constructive contribution" to the defense effort. This statement immediately was attacked as an act of censorship, indicating that only favorable news would be passed on to the press. The press insists that all news, both good and bad, be made available to the public.

Another disturbing factor has been the growing practice of congressmen, military men and others, particularly retired generals and admirals, writing for magazines and releasing news previously withheld from the general press. Especially criticized were articles, appearing recently in popular magazines, about the atom-powered submarine Nautilus, written by officers serving on that vessel, and the release of news on the Navy's "flying saucer" to a magazine in advance of notification to the press.

Obviously, no federal officer, either elected or appointed, should have the privilege of making personal gain from information to which he has exclusive access. It is his duty, as a public officer and servant, to make his report to the people through the press services, and without special remuneration.

Truth Desired

Although I do not expect all my fellow editors to agree with me, I believe a "gag order" on some of the stuff being dished out to us as news, is well justified.

I'm getting tired of having an admiral tell us one day that war is going to break out on the umpteenth of the month in China, while a general says all is peace and harmony and that there is no immediate prospect of shooting. It's rather disgusting to have a military expert tell us that our air power is such that no enemy planes could ever pass through our defenses to reach our industrial centers, while Army officials scurry in and out of our communities, scaring the living daylights out of us, recruiting watchers for ground observation posts.

The American public can absorb bad news. We are entitled to know the truth—all the truth. But who is capable of determining the truth from the mass of conflicting "expert" opinion dished out to us by headline-hungry generals and admirals, both active and retired, politicians, under-secretaries and secretaries under under-secretaries.

The Open Mouth Policy

I'm ready to admit that there seems no prospect of controlling the utterances of some of our politicians, who, as was our senior senator from Oregon at the recent election, may be described as "approaching every problem with an open mouth."

The publication policies today are tailor-made for the mouthy politician who knows he will get his name in headlines if he can only make contact with a news reporter. Untrammelled flow of news and information is essential to public welfare. Expression of opinion should not be restricted, if the opinion is sincere and from qualified source. There should be no restraint on argument. But the public should have some protection against misinformation and specious opinion and argument.

No private employer would tolerate his employees criticizing and disputing his policies in public, writing letters to the editor knocking the employer's ideas and practices, etc. Yet we find that very situation in Washington, where lesser officials are constantly sounding-off against policies of their superiors, and then crying bitterly about injustice if they are fired.

Secretary Wilson has indicated that a new policy for handling news from the Defense Department is being formulated. He has declared his concurrence with editorial opinion that the public is entitled to all news and information that can be released without endangering national security.

He has my sympathy in trying to clean up the news mess in his own department. If he succeeds in shutting up the publicity seekers, while, at the same time, making available all legitimate news, I believe he is deserving of a pat on the back.

If he can also devise some means of halting the brayings of a certain gentleman from Oregon, he'll have my everlasting gratitude.

Hal Boyle

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (AP) — "I love to sleep in a tent when it's raining," said the lady carnival barker. "I feel secure then even if I don't have a dime."

"I couldn't live in a house. I never really had a home — and I don't want one now. You have to make your own way in this world. I've been doing it since I was 6 years old, when I started pat dancing on the back of an elephant."

"I'm a carnal at heart. I may die poor but I'll die a carnal. There are no present signs of poverty about Evelyn Currie, a blue-eyed strawberry blonde with a bonfire figure and a mind like a bear trap. She is one of the few boss-lady barker in the picturesque carnival industry, a rough field dominated by some pretty rugged men."

Evelyn, who at 13 became the nation's youngest carnival barker some 20 years ago, now has 25 male barker on her staff. She lives in a \$10,000 trailer, has a nice collection of diamonds and owns a raft of mink furs.

"What I've got depends on how many shows were rained out the year before," she said. "Some years it's nothing but steaks, Cadillac, diamonds and mink."

"Other years you draw nothing but rain and blanks and cockshack."

"The big thing they taught me was to be a barker."

"I never went to school in my life. Circus kids do now, but many didn't at that time. I haven't any book education, but the circus and carnival people taught me a lot. They were good about that, particularly the freaks. They are very kind."

"I can be happy. I don't fit into that bridge circle, sewing circle routine."

Her present trailer has a telephone and hot and cold running water. But she is dreaming of getting a new one — "a split-level trailer, with a bedroom and bath on each floor."

In The Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

vide a continuing large market for automobiles.

There is always something, of course, to worry about.

As of now, there are some 50 million passenger cars and about ten million trucks and buses in our most fortunate of all countries. If the number keeps on growing, as this two car trend suggests, where are we going to find space to park 'em all?

Not to mention roads to drive 'em on.

Is anyone in the State of Jefferson old enough to remember when the politicians were basing their campaigns on the slogan: "A CHICKEN IN EVERY POT?"

The position promptly went from one better and promised TWO chickens in every pot.

Now we're talking of two cars in every garage.

The world moves.

Timely thought: More or less everywhere in the world, except in the United States, the trend is toward socialism in a greater or less degree.

But—Only in the United States is anyone worrying about WHERE TO PUT THE AUTOMOBILES THAT THE PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO BUY.

That brings up another thought: The politicians strive unceasingly to make us believe that THEY are responsible for all the prosperity that comes to the people.

They aren't. Cyrus McCormick, who invented the first successful mechanical reaper and thus started American agriculture on the road to MECHANIZATION, did more for the American farmer than all the politicians who have beaten the brush for votes in the century since McCormick was born.

The politicians' job is to PROVIDE A CLIMATE THAT IS FAVORABLE TO PRODUCTION. If they will do that job honestly and well, the native intelligence of the people will take care of the rest.

It is production that counts. You can't divide what isn't produced.

Four Secondary Polio Cases Now Reported In Idaho

BOISE — The State Health Department Monday reported four new "secondary" polio cases—one of them the mother of a vaccinated child—and a new one among Idaho children who received antipolio. They made 37 cases in the state this year—17 among vaccinated children, eight among persons closely associated with them and 12 having no apparent connection with the now-halted mass immunization program.

Dr. Stahley J. Leland, state director of preventive medicine, said in answer to a question, that it was not advisable now to consider further vaccinations as a possible means of preventing the spread of the disease.

"It is not advisable at this time to consider further polio vaccination in the face of a rising number of cases," he said. "It is also not advisable for children to take other shots because it has been deemed to be a conservative policy that when polio cases are on the increase, inoculation might predispose paralytic involvement."

That means, he said, that if a child did get polio, the chances of its being paralytic are greater if he has a "shot."

Meanwhile, another polio patient, 16-year-old Christine DeLagan, was admitted to a Lewiston hospital.

Doctors said she had not received the vaccine and had had no apparent contact with any vaccinated child. Her condition was described as satisfactory.

As how to count money."

At 13 Evelyn was an acrobatic dancer getting \$16 to \$18 a week. "I decided nobody could get ahead in life on a salary," she recalled. So I went into business on my own."

Her first venture, in which she acted as her own barker, was a small "slum joint," a carnival tent for a rigged game of chance in which suckers could win only the cheapest kind of small merchandise.

"No matter how much a guy won, I still made nine cents on his dime," Evelyn said. "The big prize was a teddy bear. But those teddy bears cost money. The only time I ever lost a teddy bear in those early days was when one fell out of my truck."

She has reformed now, she says, and operates what is known as "barker pinks with push." These are games in which the patrons (they no longer call them suckers) have a real chance to win a fairly valuable prize.

Evelyn, wearing a mink coat that may have nothing under it but a bathing suit, still likes to go out to her booths and bark up some business with her chanting cry:

"Hey, hey, it's over here! This is it! Hi! My Diddy! Hey you with the kadoodle (hat)! Come in, Willie, and win your lady a great big doll!"

Evelyn says she lived in a house once for three months in Hollywood, but —

"Never again! It made me nervous. I couldn't move it down the road. Every time I left it I felt like part of me was staying behind. You don't feel that way with a trailer."

"Wherever my trailer rolls, I can be happy. I don't fit into that bridge circle, sewing circle routine."

Her present trailer has a telephone and hot and cold running water. But she is dreaming of getting a new one — "a split-level trailer, with a bedroom and bath on each floor."

Examiner's Hells Canyon Decision Proved Surprise To Opponents, Proponents

By A. ROBERT SMITH
News-Review Correspondent

WASHINGTON (Special) — The Hells Canyon decision of Examiner William J. Costello came as a stunning surprise to both sides that have made the controversy over a high federal dam vs. three low private dams a hot political issue here and in the Pacific Northwest.

Costello's written opinion, 79 pages of fine print based on his summation of the facts presented in the case during the FPC hearings that began nearly two years ago, contained two fundamental and distinctive findings:

1. An engineering finding that the high dam offers a superior plan for development of the water resources of the middle Snake River.

2. A political finding that the high dam, if built, is the foreseeable future due to heavy political opposition within Congress and the Eisenhower administration.

Costello concluded from these findings that Idaho Power Co. should be given a license for one dam without prejudice to later approval of the other two projects.

This surprised Idaho Power officials who were confident of winning but expected to get licenses for all three dams instead of just the Brownlee project. It was equally surprising to National Hells Canyon Association, which had assumed that if Costello agreed with their contention that the high dam was superior, he would reject the private utility plan and recommend the federal dam to Congress.

Costello reached his engineering finding after 55 pages devoted to analyzing both schemes as to cost of power, power benefits, effect on irrigation, flood control and navigation — in short, all the technical aspects of the two plans that have been so bewildering to the layman, if not to the politician.

In the process, Costello demolished favorite arguments of Idaho Power backers about the high dam. These arguments and Costello's findings were:

Argument No. 1: There isn't enough water in the Snake to fill the high dam reservoir and allow for future irrigation needs in southern Idaho.

Costello's finding: "With ample allowance for all foreseeable upstream irrigation water uses, a dependable water supply can reasonably be expected for the efficient and economic operation of the high dam project during its (50 year) payout period."

Argument No. 2: The high dam would be so expensive that Bonneville power rates would be forced up or the federal investment in Hells Canyon could never be repaid.

Costello's finding: "For the high dam project, the unit cost per kilowatt of salable firm power would be approximately \$23.80. This cost would not result in affecting the current Bonneville rate of \$17.50, since all revenue and costs of the project would be pooled with the revenues and costs of the existing BPA system."

Argument No. 3: Because Idaho Power's dams could be built faster, they would supply a large block of surplus power to the power-starved states of Oregon and Washington.

Costello's finding: "The prospects, as reflected in this record, for the sale in the Northwest of the large amounts of excess power that would be available from the three projects at rates which would equal the cost of the power (6.6 mills) are so feeble as to be worthy of no consideration." (It was for this reason that Costello ordered only one dam built at a time, as its power output could be consumed in Idaho where power rates are higher than in the Bonneville-served area.)

Argument No. 4: The high dam would be a "monument to government stupidity," as Washington Gov. Arthur B. Langlie once put it, conceived by an empire-building bureaucracy.

Costello's finding: "The high dam project would stimulate throughout the Pacific Northwest (a) power-load development, (b) greater utilization of power in industry, agriculture, commerce and community and service activities,

(c) new business and employment opportunities, (d) expansion of production and productivity, (e) development of minerals and other materials important to the regional and national economy and to national security, (f) strengthening of the regional and national economy."

Having weighed each scheme to make his engineering finding, Costello reached the vital point of decision — whether to recommend the high dam to Congress and reject the Idaho Power application, or to grant a license to the company and thereby preclude federal construction of the high dam. He declared:

"I do not feel that this is a proper instance. . . (for recommending federal development to Congress) even though the facts seem to point to the inescapable conclusion that with the marked and substantial advantage of the government's plan, the high dam would be dollar for dollar the better investment and the more nearly ideal development of the middle Snake."

Why not?

Costello gave as his main reason the Roanoke Rapids case, a federal vs. private power dispute in Virginia in which the FPC granted a license a grounds there was little or no prospect of federal development of the river. The Supreme Court upheld it.

Costello said the "similarity lies in the lack of likelihood of any foreseeable action by Congress on the high dam proposal within any foreseeable time as demonstrated by the withering of the (Hells Canyon dam) proposals in the previous session of Congress, even when sponsored and rigorously promoted by the then secretary of the Interior, in a political climate more favorable to acceptance of such proposals."

To support his evaluation of the current "political climate" which he implied is unfavorable to federal power development, Costello cited the Eisenhower administration's insistence on the Dixon-Yates contract for private rather than federal development of additional power in the TVA area. (Other factors contributing to this climate are Secretary of Interior Douglas McKay's expressed opposition to the high dam and the possibility of a presidential veto of high dam legislation if Congress should pass it.)

Costello concluded that it would be a "useless action" to recommend the high dam, even though engineering-wise he found it superior, for in this "political climate" the recommendation "would serve only to freeze the middle Snake River for hydroelectric development for an indeterminate period in the future."

Since it would not be in the public interest to "freeze" the Snake in view of Idaho Power's need for more kilowatts, the examiner arrived at his decision to grant a license to the utility. He added — in what appeared to be an oblique challenge to congressional proposals of the high dam — that if Congress wishes to insist on federal development of the Snake, it has the power to suspend the FPC's authority to issue a license to Idaho Power. Costello said this has happened twice before in history, in 1921 and 1928.

Any change in the "political climate" as result of Costello's engineering finding that the high dam is superior is considered doubtful, unless the four Pacific Northwest Democratic senators are successful in pushing their high dam authorization bill through the Senate before Congress adjourns for the summer.

Meanwhile, the five-man Federal Power Commission will decide whether to uphold or change its examiner's opinion. Its final decision in the long case is expected by August. Backers of the high dam say they will take the case to court if the FPC approves a license for the power company.

Either way, it looks now like the Hells canyon dispute will continue in Congress, in the federal courts or on the political stump in the Pacific Northwest for many months to come, all of which would at least "freeze" the middle Snake River for hydroelectric development for an indeterminate period in the future."

Major Legislation Takes Shape With Late Actions

WASHINGTON (AP) — The status of major legislation Saturday:

Foreign Affairs: The President has signed a resolution underscoring his authority to commit U. S. troops to the defense of the Formosa area. The Senate has ratified treaties bringing West German manpower into the North Atlantic defense setup and a mutual assistance pact with Formosa.

Military: A bill raising the pay of military personnel has become law. The House has passed and sent to the Senate bills extending the draft law four years, authorizing a \$1,300,000,000 shipbuilding program, and appropriating \$1 1/2 billion dollars to the defense department.

Veterans: The President has signed a bill continuing eligibility of veterans for government service benefits, if they were in service by Jan. 31, 1955.

Reciprocal Trade: Both branches have passed bills continuing the reciprocal trade program three years and allowing the President to cut tariffs. A Senate-House committee is working on differences in the two measures.

School Construction: Legislation to provide federal aid for school construction is pending in the Senate and House Education and Labor committees.

Statehood: The House has killed a bill to admit both Alaska and Hawaii to statehood. There has been no Senate action.

Pay Rates: The President has signed a bill raising the pay of congressmen and federal judges, the increase for congressmen being \$7,500 a year. A bill providing an 8.8 per cent raise for postal

employees is on the President's desk. The Senate has voted for a 10 per cent raise for other federal workers.

Postal Rates: Legislation to increase postal rates, including a one-cent boost in letter-mailing costs, is pending in the House Postoffice Committee.

Wages: Bills to boost the minimum wage from 75 to 90 cents or more are pending in Senate and House Labor committees.

Farm Prices: The House has sent to the Senate a bill to restore farm price props to 90 per cent of parity.

Taxes: The President has signed a bill continuing present corporate and excise tax rates beyond April 1.

Appropriations: The House has passed and sent to the Senate bills financing for fiscal year 1956 the Defense, Treasury, Postoffice, Agriculture, Welfare, Interior, State, Justice and Labor departments, and 18 independent agencies. Three of the House bills have been passed by the Senate and are in conference committee.

Miscellaneous: A bill extending for two years and two months, until June 1, 1957, the President's authority to reorganize executive agencies has been enacted into law.

TO TAK CHURCH
BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — A bill to tax property of the Roman Catholic Church was before the Argentine Senate here. Considered certain of approval, it was the latest move by President Juan Peron in his six-month fight with the church.

Peter Edson

WASHINGTON — (NEA) — The most important background fact on President Eisenhower's latest request to Congress for aid to low-income farmers is where they are and what's wrong.

The President's special message gave only the round total that one-fourth of America's farm families have cash incomes of less than \$1000 a year. A special study submitted by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson spelled this out in more specific terms.

The figures are taken from the 1950 census of agriculture and are already five years out of date. But of 5,379,000 farm families, 1,513,000 have cash income of less than \$1000.

They are mostly concentrated in about 1900 of the 3050 U. S. counties where more than half of the farmers are dependent on the income from small, poor farms.

THIS MAKES THE FIRST approach a regional matter in these areas:

The Cascade and Rocky Mountain areas of western Washington, Oregon and Montana.

The mountainous, Indian country of northwest New Mexico.

Cutover timberland of northern Michigan and Minnesota.

The Appalachian areas of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and the hill country of southern Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

Then broadly the entire southeastern United States, stretching from eastern Oklahoma, Texas and southern Missouri to the Atlantic coast, taking in southern and western North Carolina and northern Florida.

One-fourth of the farmers in these areas are nonwhite. The average education is less than seven years and only one out of ten is a high school graduate.

THE AVERAGE FARM in these problem areas is only 40 acres, compared to the 120 average elsewhere in the nation. Only one farm in three has a tractor. Eighty per cent of the sharecroppers are in these areas.

Nine-tenths of the farms in these low-income areas have sales of less than \$2500 a year and the average value of land and buildings is less than \$5000.

Except in the Mississippi delta and the Piedmont coastal plains, most of the land is hilly, eroded and poor.

The is, of course, no new problem. From the days of the depression through World War II, the old Resettlement and Farm Security Administrations tackled it. When they were damned out of existence as "red," FIA—Farm Home Administration took over.

During the past 20 years, the three agencies have lent over 500 million dollars to help 80,000 small farmers buy or improve family-sized farms. About half has been repaid.

Since 1946, FIA has lent about 750 million dollars to some 500,000 small farmers for equipment, livestock, feed and operating expenses. Two-thirds of this has been repaid.

SO FAR THIS YEAR, FIA has lent 126 million dollars to 65,000 farmers for operating expenses. FIA has also lent or insured 27 million dollars to 3600 small farmers for land purchase. Approximately 125,000 small farmers now use its credit.

These figures indicate that there has been some improvement in the low-income situation. In 1930 it was estimated that about a third of the 6,289,000 U. S. farm families, or 2,100,000 of them, had income below \$1000.

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