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A BIRD IN THE HAND

Charles V. Stanton

The series of debates held by Senator Neuberger and Representative Sam Coon, relative to the public power controversy, created widespread attention. Even here in Southern Oregon, where our power development must come from private rather than public development, the debates were followed with considerable interest.

As predicted earlier in this column, public attention was focused on the novelty of the act rather than on the arguments themselves. People were more interested in the sideshow than in the circus. In fact, the debaters brought forth few issues which hadn't been hashed over time and again in the past. It is questionable whether preconceived opinions of listeners were changed. Those favoring public power probably still favor public power, while those who went to the debates believing in development of power by private enterprise are still of the same mind.

The arguments may be resolved, I believe, into a simple statement that Coon believes in the old adage that a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush, while Neuberger prefers to gamble on baiting the two elusive birds.

Coon argued that private enterprise is prepared to finance construction of John Day dam in return for power distribution rights for 50 years. Neuberger argued that only the government can furnish cheap power and that only cheap power will attract industry.

Cheap Power Fallacy

Coon, in my opinion, failed to spike this argument as well as should have been done. While he refuted it capably, he didn't give his side of the argument as much emphasis as it deserved, I believe. If he did stress the point, he was not adequately quoted in press reports.

Neuberger kept harping on the low cost power from Bonneville and presented the argument that the 2-plus mills of federal power cost would provide attractive bait to industry and that the state needs industry. On the other hand, he claimed, private companies would sell the power for 8-plus mills, and that this high cost would keep industry out.

Bonneville can sell power at low cost partly because it was built during depression years and with depression labor. It would cost many times as much to build today and would require a rate at least double the present charge to retire investment. Furthermore, Bonneville wholesales most of its power. The rate quoted by Neuberger does not include cost of transmission to farms and homes, the cost of maintaining other than main transmission lines, nor the cost of operating billing and collection offices, service departments, etc., required of private companies in retail power distribution.

Bonneville power is sold to Douglas County consumers by the REA. REA shoulders distribution and service costs. If 30 per cent or more were to be added to REA rates, to offset taxes charged to private companies, Bonneville power would have little, if any, advantage in Douglas County.

Neuberger kept repeating the statement that private companies would reap some \$5-billion in profits, but his figures were based on wholesale and not retail costs. Power rates are regulated by the Public Utilities Commission, thus precluding excess profits. Had retail and service charges been taken into account, together with taxes, the \$5-billion figure would have been shown to be ridiculous.

Power To Be Issue

Senators Morse and Neuberger have indicated that they intend to make public power the chief issue in the forthcoming election campaign. They are dangling before Oregon voters the bait of something-for-nothing. The federal government, they assure us, will take care of our power needs. Our water resources, they declare, belong to the people and should not be exploited by private industry, although they do not mention the fact that other resources, soil and forests, are left to private development.

It is an attractive proposal, of course, that money will be taken from other states and brought into the Pacific Northwest to develop an industrial empire to compete with the industrial areas from which the money is taken. But there seems to be a growing reluctance on the part of those states and their representatives in Congress to continue this drain of money to build competition.

It is my opinion that if the Pacific Northwest wants to build its industrial empire, we should use the opportunities at hand and immediately available, rather than wait for the hope that a handout eventually will be forthcoming from a tax-ridden, debt-ridden federal government. I believe the old adage of a bird in the hand still contains a more practical formula for our needs than socialistic bait on the tails of the two birds in the bush.

Hal Boyle

LANCASTER, Pa. — If the eagle would only get bald sooner in life, he'd have a better chance of survival.

Herbert H. Beck, an expert who believes this feathered emblem of American might is facing possible extinction within the next 70 years, explained:

"The eagles don't develop their distinctive white head plumage until the fourth year. Before that can happen farmers and hunters often mistake them for large brown hawks and shoot them down."

Beck, a retired chemistry professor, holds the melancholy distinction of being custodian of an eagle sanctuary that no longer has an eagle in it.

The sanctuary, believed the only eagle refuge in the world, was established on Mt. Johnson Island in the Susquehanna River near here in 1926 by the Audubon Assn. Never more than one family of eagles nested on the 21-acre island at a time, for the bald eagle sets up his own kind of feathered economic cartel.

"Bald eagles are highly individualistic," said Beck. "They never travel in flocks. They set up their own territories and fight off any encroachment by other eagles."

The big untidy, 6-foot-wide nest atop an 85-foot tall red oak tree

on the island has been only intermittently occupied since 1948.

"If the male is killed there will be a replacement," Beck said. "But if the female is killed, there won't be."

Beck feels that many farmers, despite a \$500 fine for destroying a bald eagle, often shoot down the fierce-looking birds in the false belief they are major barnyard raiders.

The fact is that examination of their stomachs shows that 95 per cent of their food is fish," he said.

The bald eagle ranges along large lakes, rivers, and bays in Alaska, Canada, and the eastern half of the United States south into Florida.

How deeply has civilization cut



Nuclear Uses Will Remain On High Level, Says AEC Chairman At Conference

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP) — The time is near when America's warplanes and naval craft will be nuclear powered, the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission said Wednesday.

Sen. Clinton P. Anderson (D-NM) in a speech prepared for the American Mining Congress, said no one knows the variety of military uses to which nuclear energy will be put. Nor did he set a specific timetable for atomic air and surface ships.

"For instance, he pointed out, 'we are developing atomic warheads specifically designed to destroy enemy planes in the air.'"

"My own guess, furthermore," he added, "is that we are now overlooking the tremendous market for atomic materials which may develop in the field of radiation as an industrial process."

"It ranges from the use of radiation as a catalyst to radio-sterilization of food."

He said he was trying to answer the concern of uranium prospectors that demands for nuclear materials may decline sharply after the present government guaranteed buying program ends in 1962.

"I believe that our output of nuclear weapons may remain on a high level for an indefinite period to come," he declared, "chiefly because we steadily find new military applications and hence design and build new devices."

He predicted that by the end of the century "perhaps 90 per cent of the new central station power generating capacity installed each year will run on atomic power."

He discussed another worry of the uranium mining industry—the possibility of building hydrogen power reactors which might outmode uranium reactors.

He said a hydrogen reactor, if one could be built, might run on deuterium, a cheap material found in huge quantities in the sea.

Predicting that thermonuclear reactors will be built, he added, however, "progress will be slow; it will be geared to the eventual depletion of the fossil fuels (coal and oil) and uranium and thorium deposits, perhaps a matter of 100 years or more."

He said a thermonuclear plant may be extremely large, heavy and expensive, because of the extreme temperatures and radiation involved.

In such case, Anderson reasoned,

down the eagle, a bird which has no real natural enemy."

"They are still plentiful in Alaska," said Beck, "but I doubt there are more than 8,000 left in the United States east of the Mississippi River. There used to be hundreds of thousands."

In one area in which I counted 150 occupied nests 25 years ago there are now only 25 to 30."

Beck, nearly 80, has been a lifelong naturalist as his father was before him. Having seen the passing of the passenger pigeon, once probably the most plentiful bird in America, he fears that even strict conservation measures will come too late to save the bald eagle from the same fate.

"In 1846," he recalled, "my father saw a flight of passenger pigeons that took four hours to pass. He estimated the flock contained two billion birds and covered 240 square miles of sky."

"On Sept. 1, 1888, just 42 years later, I saw a flock of 150 to 175 passenger pigeons and tried unsuccessfully to stalk them. I am the only living member of the American Ornithologists' Union who ever saw a flock even that large."

The last passenger pigeon, Martha, died in the Cincinnati Zoo on Sept. 8, 1914. These birds which, pioneers reported, once darkened the skies, were gone from the sight of man forever.

It distresses Beck to think that some child born today may, before his life is today, have to turn to the back of a dollar bill if he wants to see the rugged winged symbol of American power.

a hydrogen reactor "could never take the place of a compact fission power plant for mobile use and never could be used in the propulsion field."

In The Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

tent workers. But I can't help wondering about older people and handicapped people. If they could supplement their pensions and their social security with a reasonable amount of work at moderate wages it seems probable they would be happier and better off and would live longer.

Speaking of old men, there is Chancellor Adenauer of Germany, who is going on 80. He is one of the world's great statesmen. He had an attack of bacterial pneumonia the other day that scared the free nations out of their boots and filled the Kremlin bosses with rosy hope.

I'm glad Adenauer is able to go on working and I'm happy to learn this morning that he appears to be recovering from his illness.

Bouncing back from old age to youth, you've probably noted that a large share of Southern Oregon's United Fund money will be expended for the support of youth training and character building agencies.

You may ask (particularly if you have no young children): "Why should I put up money for the support of youth training and character building agencies?"

This is the best answer I can think of:

It is the proud boast of the Boy Scouts that an Eagle Scout (Eagle Scout is the highest rank in Scouting) has ever been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude.

Character building like THAT PAYS OFF. It pays off for EVERYBODY.

From the Eugene Register-Guard:

When France walked out of the United Nations in a fit of pique, this newspaper said France "picked up its doll bags and went home." Leaving through the exchanges, we note that the Coos Bay Times, same day, said France "picked up its doll bags and went home."

Well, if United Nations had voted to consider whether or not Alaska and Hawaii belong to the United States, or should be set up by UN as SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT Nations, we'd have picked up our tools and walked off the job.

Let's add that phrase to the others.

Algeria is a part of the French Republic. It is as much a part of France as Alaska and Hawaii are of the United States. It sends representatives to the French assembly, just as Alaska and Hawaii send representatives to the U. S. congress.

No American can blame France for walking out when United Nations (with all the communist members supporting the motion) voted to consider whether or not Algeria should be divorced from the French Republic.

PLUNGES TO DEATH

DALLAS, Tex. (AP) — A high school girl was plunged to her death here yesterday at the State Fair of Texas when a pivot on a 90-foot high Ferris wheel broke and dropped her seat to the ground.

Conitia Combest, 17, a member of the Memphis, Tex., high school band, was dead on arrival at Baylor Hospital. Two companions in the seat with her—Kay Leslie, 13, and Barbara Allen, 14 — were critically injured.

Demos, McKay Exchange Jibes Over Policies

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Democratic National Committee, through its magazine Democratic Digest, and Secretary of the Interior McKay exchanged political jibes Tuesday.

The magazine characterized McKay as "the giveaway king," accused him of following policies of "favoritism to business and industry," and said that under his stewardship the public power program had been brought to "a virtual standstill."

McKay said this all was "a typical example of a misguided missile powered with hot air."

He added in a statement issued through the Republican National Committee:

"The Democrat gadflies are unable to identify even one missing national asset to support their old and discredited 'giveaway' gag."

"However, I can point to something which has been thrown away and which the New Deal eggheads don't like to mention. That is the theory that national prosperity can come only from an unrestrained outpouring of federal tax funds and a state of perpetual war."

"That idea went out with the milk coat, deep freeze and 5 per cent influence peddlers. The disciples of the gimmick school of politics are behind the 'giveaway' smokescreen. They are experienced masters of this kind of camouflage."

More Children On Eligible List

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government Wednesday acted to put additional children and pregnant women in the top priority group to receive Salk antipolio vaccine.

A flexible program announced by Secretary of Welfare Folsom allows each state to broaden the priority group by not more than five additional years of age within a range from birth through 14 years of age. Oregon did that Tuesday.

Heretofore, the top priority group under the voluntary control plan has consisted of children aged 5 through 9. Folsom said some states might utilize the five additional years of age by extending their priorities downward to include children from birth to age 10.

Others, he said, may extend the limits upward to include children 5 through 14. That was the decision in Oregon.

With the broadening of the priority group, the allocation of vaccine among the states will be based on their need to complete the vaccination of children under 15 and pregnant women.

British Naval Guns Boom As Russian Ships Visit

PORTSMOUTH, England (AP) — Naval guns boomed in dense fog off the Isle of Wight Wednesday as six Russian fighting ships steamed cautiously up the English Channel to make a social call on Britain.

It was the first visit by Russian warships in squadron strength since the naval review during the coronation of King George VI in 1937.

Salutes were exchanged between the cruiser Sverdlov, which led two Russian cruisers and four destroyers, and the British destroyer Vige. Shore batteries joined in the cannonading.

Sec. Dulles Gives Nixon, Others, Report On Meet

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Dulles Wednesday gave Vice President Nixon and other top officials a report on his talks with President Eisenhower in Denver.

Dulles met at the White House for an hour with Nixon, Atty Gen. Brownell, Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey and presidential staff members.

"I just reported on my trip," Dulles told reporters after the meeting, and declined further comment. Other participants also declined to give any details.

GAO Advises Against Quick Settlement Signing Away Right To Dixon-Yates Test

WASHINGTON (AP) — The General Accounting Office, Congress' watchdog on spending, disclosed Wednesday it has advised against any quick settlement that would sign away the government's right to a court test on whether the Dixon-Yates contract is "void or voidable."

It appears certain the recommendation played a part in the decision by the Atomic Energy Commission to hold up action pending the AEC.

The AEC stand came to light Monday in a letter from Lewis L. Strauss, AEC chairman, to Sen. Anderson (D-NM), chairman of the Senate-Atomic Energy Committee.

Robert F. Keller, assistant to Comptroller General Joseph Campbell who heads the GAO, told Wednesday of that agency's part in the matter in response to a reporter's queries. He said there had been two "slow letters," both answering AEC inquiries about the long disputed, now dead contract.

Keller said AEC first asked for advice soon after President Eisenhower directed last July 11 that the contract be canceled.

Later the commission sought clarification of GAO's position and a second letter was sent Oct. 3. Strauss' letter to Anderson was dated Oct. 7.

The purport of both GAO letters

was the same. The agency advised AEC that it believed the contract was valid to the extent that the requirements to make it effective had been met. Some congressional critics of the contract disputed this.

But GAO said the congressional investigation of the contract, conducted by an antimonopoly subcommittee under chairmanship of Sen. Kefauver (D-Tenn) had raised a question of whether the contract was "contrary to public policy."

If this were held to be the case legally, the government would not have to pay any settlement costs, running probably to several million dollars.

Kefauver has contended his subcommittee uncovered a "conflict of interest" law violation in connection with the contract, and has asked the Justice Department to study this.

The alleged violation chiefly concerned the role of Adolph H. Wenzell, former vice president of the First Boston Corp., New York investment banking firm.

Wenzell served the Budget Bureau as a consultant on the Tennessee Valley Authority while still working for First Boston, and wrote a report which Kefauver says led to the Dixon-Yates contract. First Boston later became financial agent for the Dixon-Yates private power group.

Britain's Unions Threaten Fight With Bevanites

By TOM OCHILTREE

MARGATE, England (AP) — Britain's powerful trade union leaders Wednesday threatened the leftwing Bevanites with a fight to the finish unless they quit trying "to divide the Labor Party."

Charles Geddes, president of the giant Trades Union Congress, delivered this blunt union warning to the Labor Party's annual conference:

"An attack on the voting system of this party conference has now developed into an attack on the whole trades union movement," he said. "The trade unions know how to fight. It would be a tragedy if they had to direct their force against the new enemy."

Geddes did not mention left wing leader Aneurin Bevan by name. He did not need to. Every one of the 1,500 persons in the Congress Hall knew to whom he was referring.

Bevan angered union bosses at a closed conference session Tuesday when he said the forces that sought his expulsion from the Labor Party bore some responsibility for the party's defeat by the Conservatives in the national elections last May.

That broke the uneasy armistice between the party moderates backed by the union leaders and the left-wingers whose strength comes from local party branches.

Derelict Barge Towed Into Port

ASTORIA (AP) — The Coast Guard cutter Yeocoma towed a derelict barge into port here Tuesday night.

The cutter picked up the 75-foot barge in the ocean some 40 miles off Coos Bay Monday morning. The barge had broken loose from the motorship Tanginn in heavy seas Sunday. The tug Salt Air, also abandoned by the Tanginn Saturday, was towed here Tuesday night.

The cutter continued its voyage to San Diego. All three craft are owned by Sea Tankers Inc., with offices in San Francisco. The barge, built this year in Japan, had a partial lumber cargo.

The tug developed pump trouble in a storm. The next day the line on which the Tanginn was towing the barge snapped.

A plane from the Port Angeles, Wash., Coast Guard station spotted the barge and guided the Yeocoma to it. The cutter tried to take it to Coos Bay but could not cross the rough bar and proceeded here.

The motorship, the tug and the barge were en route from Vancouver, B. C., to San Diego when the tug developed pump trouble in a storm. The next day the line on which the Tanginn was towing the barge snapped.

They believe time and circumstance are on their side. Having established diplomatic relations with the Bonn government of Chancellor Adenauer, they think they can deal directly on the unity issue without the intervention of the West.

They do not expect the crusty old chancellor to buckle and give

them the kind of unification the Communists want. But they know he must die some time, and they figure his successor might not resist so well the pressures within West Germany for restoration of the full nation.

Perhaps they imagine that even he will find his purpose eroded by time, that he will one day make a deal with the East German Red regime because he has at last realized unity any other way is impossible.

However that may be, the immediate prospect for settlement of the question at Geneva is dark indeed.

The Geneva agenda does have two other major items, disarmament and the improvement of East-West contacts.

Progress of the disarmament efforts recently made under UN auspices does not augur well for this item. Perhaps the foreign ministers can find some way to break the log jam, but it would be a surprise if they did.

East-West contacts already have shown some betterment in the months before and after the "summit" meeting at Geneva. Further improvement surely would be welcomed. But it is exceedingly doubtful that this alone would be enough to allow the world to halt the foreign ministers meeting as a great triumph.

Once Oct. 27 arrives and the diplomats of East and West get down to cases, they will find themselves hard pressed to keep the heralded "spirit of Geneva" from flagging.



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