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O & C RULES CHANGED

Charles V. Stanton

New policies announced last week for future administration of Oregon and California grant land timber doubtless will be most pleasing to the timber industry. The new program will ease marketing restrictions on salvage timber, increase the allowable annual cut, speed access road construction and improve conservation practices.

Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay is reported as saying that "these new, forward looking stipulations will eventually increase the volume of O & C timber annually available for mills in western Oregon. They will pay for themselves many times over in assuring the continued economic advancement of many Oregon communities, as well as in providing increased revenues for federal, state, and local treasuries."

But before we generate too much enthusiasm for policy alterations, most of which have been sought by the industry for a number of years, we also should observe that some dangers are involved.

The timber industry throughout most of Oregon is having difficulty obtaining logs. Even here in Douglas County some of our mills are beginning to feel the pinch.

When the log supply grows tight, the industry looks with longing eyes upon the vast body of publicly owned timber. It demands an increase in allowable cut. Heavy pressures are exerted to force a larger harvest from the public domain.

Present Inventory Low

Timber from the public domain is being harvested on a sustained yield program. This program may be explained in theory as a plan whereby timber is cut only as fast as it grows. The allowable cut is the volume of timber which may be harvested to match the rate of new growth. This is, of course, an oversimplification of the sustained yield practice, but it serves to define the purpose.

To determine the allowable cut, an inventory was made of the timber supply. This inventory was published in 1939. Since that date a few areas have had a recheck but, for the most part, the allowable cut still is based on the old figures.

Modern usage, however, is far different than in 1939. Mills are using more of the log. They are utilizing timber that wouldn't have been brought out of the woods in 1939. Consequently, the allowable cut figured on the old inventory is far too low on the basis of present usage.

Industry has been trying to boost the allowable cut as a means of supplying more logs to hungry mills. The new regulations yield to this demand, granting an increased cut from O & C lands, pending completion of a new basic inventory. But, if administrative agencies continue yielding to pressure, the sustained yield program may as well be forgotten.

The industry deserves the maximum cut permissible under an accurate inventory based on modern methods of usage — and no more.

Smith River Area Opened

A serious danger to Douglas County also exists in the Smith River area, opened by the new regulations for emergency salvage harvest. Lane County mills, starving for logs, seek timber from the Smith River marketing area. The need to remove salvage timber, while values remain, justifies the relaxation of barriers. But, after the salvage is gone, Lane County mills may be expected to continue their demands for logs from the Smith River drainage. The Douglas County court agreed to relaxing the barrier only for the period of the emergency. But we can anticipate that during the five years the salvage harvest is expected to run, heavy pressure will be exerted to modify the marketing area restrictions and Lane County mills will do everything possible to continue their operations in Smith River timber.

The Bureau of Land Management, which administers O & C lands, proposes, under the new order, to use 25 per cent of receipts, instead of 15 per cent, to speed up the badly needed access road program. It also plans to practice better forestry, through planting and seeding non-productive land and utilize thinnings and prunings from existing forests, where facilities for utilization exists. These are excellent conservation projects. But Douglas County, where approximately 25 per cent of the O & C grant is located, can't join in the thinning and pruning program until pulp facilities are installed to provide outlet for the raw material.

Modification of O & C restrictions are to be commended, but extreme care should be taken to assure that relaxation will not be carried too far, and that local economies be given continued protection.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (CP) — Curbstone comments by a pavement

Plato: This has been called the century of the common man, but it is more truly the "century of the fringe people."

Are you one? The fringe folk are the product of a civilization that tends to put everything in containers. It looks for health in a vitamin capsule and entertainment in canned laughter.

A fringe man is one who dwells on the edges of real knowledge. He knows a little bit about everything, and not very much about anything.

He skims the surface of life. He wears the kind of suit he has been told makes him look "sincere." He is most popular among his neighbors.

If he visits New York, he only wants to see the hit Broadway shows. If he reads a book it has to be on the best seller list, and it has to be in digest form. He only watches television shows that have a high rating, and he attends only those movies he has been told are good. He won't attend a concert by a young unknown artist. The artist must already be famous.

The fringe man's biggest goal in life is to be popular, but he wants to be popular with everybody. So he tries to please and please everybody; to do this he naturally has to reduce his own personality

"Be yourself" is an old and



Stevenson Cites U. S. Canadian Cooperation

KINGSTON, Ontario (AP) — Adlai Stevenson told a Canadian university audience Saturday that economic cooperation between Canada and the United States "has increased Canadian self-confidence."

He said the example set by Canada and the United States is the best answer to underdeveloped countries who fear "the economic giant next door may overlay their economic independence."

In Canada "economic cooperation with a powerful neighbor has brought no lessening of political independence," the 1952 Democratic presidential candidate said.

"On the contrary, the prosperity it has helped to foster has increased Canadian self-confidence."

Stevenson spoke in acceptance of an honorary degree conferred by Queen's University.

"There is no trace here of the 'imperialism' the underdeveloped areas of the world regard with such infinite distaste," he said.

Stevenson said that in these facts "some clue can be found to the international good life in an atomic world."

Stevenson said "there is reason to believe little has changed" in the attitude of the Russians since the Geneva conference.

"Hope must not become, in the free world, a substitute for proof; we must our faith outstrip their (the Russians) works."

Politics being what it is, speculation over whether President Eisenhower will run again is bound to go on. Some of it is foolish and even unseemly, but evidently there is no help for that.

We will not here join in the game, except to consider one important phrase of the problem which will face the Republicans running the President decide against running.

The first necessity, obviously, would be to find another candidate. The second would be to find means of bringing Mr. Eisenhower's great political magic into effective play in behalf of that candidate. This is the aspect we shall look into now.

Let us suppose for a starter that the President, having determined at some point not to run, would exert strong influence on selection of a possible successor, that his choice would win the nomination and go into the 1956 campaign with his fullest blessing.

There is utterly no proof that the magic would rub off on the new nominee. One of the most hazardous maneuvers in politics is the attempt to transfer strength from one man to another. It seldom if ever works in national conventions. And our history offers no clear-cut instance of it working with the electorate.

Not that it might not happen. In comfortable saying.

It is sound advice, too, mentally and physically. But the current runs the other way today. We seem caught in a pattern of social conformity, and fearful of breaking out of it.

"Be like the other fellow" more nearly describes our aim—or perhaps, "Be like you think the other fellow expects you to be."

Such an aim is self-defeating, because it cannot be self-satisfying, and can only turn a man into an uneasy smirking eld.

The fringe people seek always to be in the swim and they end up drowning in their own cultural ignorance. They pretend to be cultured, and they have no culture.

It is better to write one poor poem than to memorize Shakespeare. It is better to play a musical saw yourself than merely be able to identify every melody in Beethoven. To even the smallest talent is greater than to be a cultural hanger-on.

America is producing too many half-enlightened innocent bystanders in every field, and too few doers.

What the century of the common man needs is more men who dare to be uncommon.

Hoffman Accuses Chudoff Of Trying To Embarrass Eisenhower Administration

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Hoffman (R-Mich.) accused Democrats on a House investigating committee Friday of digging up "real or fancied grievances" to embarrass the Eisenhower administration. He said they also are seeking "special favors" for rural electric co-operators.

Hoffman, peppery 80-year-old Michigan Republican, let loose with his blast as members of a House government operations subcommittee took a breather until next Tuesday from their hearings on administration power policies.

Hoffman aimed his criticism at chairman Chudoff (D-Pa.) and his subcommittee staff.

He asserted in a statement that James L. Austin, a former Interior Department attorney "not adverse to creating a situation 'which will reflect on the integrity' of department officials."

Hoffman also said associate counsel H. Vance Austin was a "hired lobbyist" for Colorado rural electric co-ops, who "has more than once been a Democratic candidate for public office."

Austin is on leave of absence from his job as manager of the Colorado Assn. of Rural Electric Co-operators.

Hoffman said Austin and others on the committee "are attempting to discredit the Department of Interior, and to secure for Mr. Austin's employers special considerations, special favors, to which under the law they are not entitled."

The Interior Department administers the government's power program.

Hoffman's statement was just the latest in a series from both committee Democrats and Republicans on what shaped up as a warm 1956 election campaign issue.

Chudoff, meanwhile, awaited some reply to a request sent Thursday to presidential aide Sherman Adams for details on "several" White House conferences involving proposals to sell public power from the Clark Hill, Ga., hydroelectric project to the Georgia Power Co.

The idea was that the utility would transmit the power over its lines, and sell it to rural co-operators which had no transmission lines of their own. The company at first refused, but has since tentatively agreed, to transport the power without taking title to it, in return for a fee and a share of the power output.

How about acreage reduction to hold down the surplus?

That is an interesting subject in itself. Under this year's program, cotton acreage was reduced to the smallest level in more than 75 years. The permitted acreage this year was 14 per cent under the permitted acreage last year.

But—The department of agriculture's estimate indicates—in spite of the 14 per cent reduction in acreage—that this year's harvested cotton crop will be two per cent ABOVE last year's harvested crop.

How come? The answer lies in increased efficiency on the part of the cotton growers. This year's estimate indicates an average yield per acre of 405 pounds. Last year's cotton crop averaged 341 pounds per acre, and it broke all previous records. Cotton growers have been pouring on the fertilizer. They have been using better insect control methods.

The result of all this has been an average increase in production per acre that more than offsets the 14 per cent reduction in cotton acreage. The NET result of it has been another huge addition to the cotton surplus.

Where is all this new cotton coming from? Is it coming from the Old South? The answer, by the large, is NO. A lot of it is coming from new cotton lands in western Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. Most of this new cotton land is IRRIGATED. It is irrigated largely from wells. These wells are drawing on UNDERGROUND water storage, which has been accumulating for centuries.

This water to irrigate cotton is being pumped out faster than the underground reservoirs are being replenished.

That is so: When it goes on, the time will come when the underground reservoirs will be drained and when water is no longer available for them the land that has no other source of water than wells that tap the underground reservoirs will go back to desert.

All to produce a crop that is being grown for sale to the government at guaranteed high prices IN THE FACE OF A STEADILY ACCUMULATING SURPLUS.

The big question: When will it all end? And what will happen when it does end?

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Medical Lake School District has been required to hire a Negro teacher for the 1955-56 school year and pay her back salary from the start of the term.

The consent decree agreement to hire Mrs. Lily M. Root was approved Thursday by the Washington State Board Against Discrimination in Employment, which had acted against the Medical Lake board upon complaint of Mrs. Root.

The teacher reported she had answered an advertisement in a Spokane newspaper but was told the Medical Lake community was not ready to accept a Negro teacher.

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