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INEQUALITY IN SCHOOLS

Charles V. Stanton

The hearing being held today on the petition of the Sutherlin School District, seeking a slice off the Glide district, serves to point up one of the critical problems connected with our school system.

There is a wide variation in school district valuations. Some have enough valuation that a moderate tax will meet all administrative needs. An adjoining district may be levying a confiscatory tax and still lack money to operate adequate schools.

Too, we have districts (and Riddle may be cited as an example) where some economic change suddenly brings an unexpected demand. In such districts there is a lack of required facilities. The necessity for capital investment, plus operating costs, can boost taxes until the community's business and economic growth is throttled, for business and industry will avoid such an unhealthy tax atmosphere.

Oregon taxpayers have been heavily burdened by mounting school taxes. Yet Oregon people have shown a remarkably tolerant and patriotic spirit in providing for their schools despite the tremendous sacrifices involved.

But we have been doing little to correct the wide disparities, aside from an occasional patch on the old cloth.

Equalization Desirable

Equalization of district valuations is a desirable objective. In the situation before the District Boundary Board today Sutherlin, a "poor" district, is endeavoring to get a slice of valuation off Glide, a "rich" district.

The Glide district reached out a few years ago and embraced the Copco Toketee development. This brought in a large valuation with but little additional administrative cost. Glide district is probably better situated financially than any district in the county. But Sutherlin, an abutting district, is one of those suffering from rapid growth and inadequate valuation.

The problem is not to be solved, in my opinion, by one district hijacking another's valuation. While it might work in one instance, it would create complete confusion if every "poor" district started raiding every "rich" district.

There is a serious question concerning the present controversy, inasmuch as the Glide district has outstanding bonds secured by existing valuations. If we start a raiding situation in the county, it probably would become a difficult process to find a buyer for school bonds.

Yet the wide disparity in valuation, as compared with need for school facilities, makes some readjustment necessary.

New Plan Proposed

Two counties, Lincoln and Crook, met the situation by adopting the county unit plan. Under this plan the whole county becomes a single school district. A county board of education, aided by sub-district advisory boards, handles all policy through an appointed county superintendent. This plan has its disadvantages as it eliminates local autonomy. It also has a handicap in the matter of communications. Josephine, Hood River and Klamath Counties have adopted the county unit system in part, but in each one or more large districts are outside the county unit.

At the last session of the legislature the Association of County School Superintendents submitted a bill which probably will be introduced again.

It would set up a countywide school taxing district from which no district would be exempt. Each school district would retain its autonomy, would have budget-making and tax-levying powers. But from the central fund money would be appropriated to equalize variations in valuations and costs.

The bill obviously is not the full answer. We would still have rich and poor districts. We possibly would approach a better equality in taxation. But we can never have a complete answer until someone comes up with an idea by which all districts can share alike in available valuation and taxes, with flexible controls to meet emergency situations.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK — A human skull rolled out on the table, and the duchess cried, "Take your hands off me!"

Least any mystery arise from the foregoing sentence, let me hasten to explain. I wrote it only to please two of my oldest critics.

A dozen years ago I took up that odd kind of mental carpentering called newspaper columning.

Over all those years a news friend has told me perhaps a thousand times, "The only way to interest readers is to startle them at the start. You should begin every column with the sentence, 'A human skull rolled out on the table'—and then go on and write about whatever else you have in mind."

Another news friend has agreed with him in principle, but has held out for this opening sentence, "Take your hands off me," the duchess cried.

"It has the three things that interest people most—sex, money and high society," he claims. "You could use that sentence day after day and your readers would never tire of it."

Maybe they wouldn't but I would. And so let us say goodbye forever to the rolling skull and the crying duchess.

For some reason many readers are interested in the behind-the-scenes trials and tribulations of writing a daily newspaper column. Today I'd like to answer some of the questions most often asked me during my 12 years of buried life.

Q. Do you own a yacht?
A. "No!" (Editor's note: He says, "no!")

Q. Is it hard getting a new idea every day?
A. No harder than it would be to give blood every day.

Q. My son, who is in the 6th

grade and says the cutest things, wants to be a columnist. What should I do?

A. Hold his head under cold water; repeat whenever necessary.

Q. What really is the best training for a columnist?

A. Ditch digging, flagpole sitting and strip-teasing.

Q. How does a columnist really get most of his ideas?

A. Crying himself to sleep.

Q. Columnists are always crusading to change the world. Which of your crusades are you proudest of?

A. My lifelong attempt to gain more recognition each year for the second robin of spring.

Q. Does a columnist need a good memory?

A. No. He needs a bad memory. Otherwise he couldn't write the same idea 10 times over and still keep a clear conscience.

Q. Do columnists like each other?

A. Sure, the same way women like each other.

Q. Why are columnists always setting up straw dummies and knocking them over?

A. They have found that if they hit real people, the real people hit back—and that hurts.

Q. Do most columnists write from an inner need? If so, what is it?

A. Hunger.

Q. What is the greatest problem

Arms and the Man



Bruce Bissat

In The Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

It was inevitable that great attention would be paid to the released German war prisoners who could give the first eyewitness accounts of Adolf Hitler's last days in Berlin.

The men who have been freed, one of them Hitler's body servant and another his personal pilot, agree that their leader committed suicide with his longtime friend, Eva Braun. Both say the bodies of the two were burned to ashes outside the bombproof bunker in the German chancellery grounds, where Hitler had frantically directed the Nazi war effort in its last phase.

The effect of this firsthand testimony is to confirm one of the most remarkable intelligence performances recorded in World War II. A British intelligence officer H. R. Trevor-Roper, painstakingly dug out the final chapter of the Hitler story from captured documents, testimony of such witnesses as were in Allied hands, and the physical evidence in and around the bunker.

As a matter of fact, Heinz Linge, the Hitler body servant now freed, was one of Trevor Roper's sources. His detailed diary was left behind and came into British possession.

In spite of this generally very convincing report, the legend persisted from the outset that Hitler had not died but somehow had made his way out of Germany to a hiding place abroad, Lisbon or Buenos Aires or some such spot. There was no shred of evidence to support this notion.

The chief reason it did not perish was most likely the wish of many Nazi devotees to believe that Hitler still lived. They could cling to only one fact that utterly no trace was found of Hitler's body—

Gambling Resort Gets Publicity; Cost Plenty High

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — This gambling resort loves publicity. When a couple of characters like Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis come to town, it would be a sad day indeed if the local press agents failed to capitalize on them.

Take Wednesday night, for instance. There was Dean and Jerry, lounging around the Sands Hotel, waiting for a plane to return them to Hollywood after a brief vacation.

According to the hotel's publicity man, this is what happened: The comics sat down at a black-jack table and began playing—and cutting up. In no time at all they had edged out dealer Abe Finkel of Newark, N.J., and were passing out cards, advice and money to patrons.

More than 100 people gathered. And no wonder. The boys were paying off double, triple and then some. They peeked at players' hole cards, gave them better ones and at those that rejected advice.

The press agent quailed manager Jack Entratter as saying the shenanigans cost the hotel \$74,895 before the funnymen left after half an hour, although how so precise a figure was arrived at was not explained.

But the loss, said Entratter, was nothing compared to the two million dollar loss in goodwill. . . with the public.

Weight No Object, Says Wife In Divorce Action

CHICAGO — An attempt to reconcile a wife with a husband who contends she's too fat failed Tuesday. Trial of their divorce suit was set for Dec. 8.

Mrs. Lillian Korzen, 44, refused to report her weight as of Thursday to Judge Charles S. Dougherty of Circuit Court.

"Weight has nothing to do with this," she declared. On learning efforts to bring peace between her and her husband, Michael, 42, had failed, Judge Dougherty set the trial date.

The judge had ordered Mrs. Korzen last May, at the time Korzen sued for divorce, to slim down from 190 pounds to her wedding day weight of 127 to see if a reconciliation could be worked out.

for a set of dentures, and so on. The best dentist in the kingdom gets no more for each specific case of tooth treatment than the merest tyro.

The result, he concludes, is that the practice of dentistry is reduced to a monotonous routine with no rewards for skill, competence, learning or experience.

That's socialism for you. It seems to be working out no better in modern Britain than in the early colonial days of the Atlantic seaboard of raw and new America, where the colonists tried it out as a way of life, and didn't care much for it.

They pooled their efforts and put everything into a common pot, out of which everyone shared alike.

The industrious character who arose at the crack of dawn and labored in the fields until darkness drove him home got no more in the final divide-up than the lazybones who lay in bed until mid-morning and called it a day when the sun was still high in the west.

So, in the course of time, in Plymouth and in Jamestown, they tossed out socialism and went back to free enterprise.

So much for the British and their dental problem.

We have our problems. One of them has to do with all the automobiles we are able to make and buy. This problem is becoming acute in the Bay area of California, which is now growing even more rapidly than Los Angeles.

A good example of it is to be found in Marin county, which is growing like a weed. Only a few years ago two traffic lanes were sufficient to handle the situation on Highway 101, northward from the Golden Gate bridge. But the cars got too thick, and they built a four-laner. Now the four-laner is worse congested than the old two-laner used to be. So they're building an eight-laner.

In almost no time at all, the eight-laner will be worse congested than the four-laner now is. Downtown San Francisco has reached the peak of its retail trade capacity for the simple reason that there is no longer a place to park any more cars. If you can't find a place to park any more cars, it is obvious that the stores can't get any more customers.

That is going on in all the Big Towns all over our country.

What to do about it? I wouldn't know.

But here's one possible solution. More people may have to live in the smaller towns instead of everybody ganging up in the BIG TOWNS.

Austria Will Protest Hungarian Violations

VIENNA, Austria — The Austrian Cabinet voted Thursday to make an energetic protest to Hungary against violation of Austrian territory Tuesday by armed Hungarian Communist police.

The Cabinet took action after hearing from Interior Minister Oskar Helmer that 18 Hungarian border guards held Austrian women at gunpoint in crossing a quarter mile into Austrian territory. The Communists said they were hunting a refugee.

WANT BABY COBRA? CHICAGO — If anybody wants a hooded cobra from India the Lincoln Park Zoo has more than it wants. Eight 9-inch cobras were hatched last week. They are worth \$30 to \$40 each. The zoo maintains a permanent cobra population of six. The extra ones probably will be traded to other zoos.

More Votes For Northwest States On Columbia Pact Laid Before Commission

SEATTLE — A recommendation that the proposed compact among Columbia River watershed states be reopened to give more representation to Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana was laid before the Columbia Interstate Compact Commission Thursday.

Each of the four states should be given three votes, instead of two, a permanent organization committee suggested. Single votes would be allowed Wyoming, Utah and Nevada.

Jack V. Rogers, Wenatchee, chairman of the Washington compact group, and Ofell Johnson, representing the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, said the planned small representation had been a major influence in preventing the Washington Legislature from ratifying the pact.

Ratification has been voted by Utah, Nevada and Idaho.

Numerous other points which may require amendment of the proposed compact came before the all-day meeting. Johnson said that U.S. Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell is studying the water provisions to determine if they would interfere with federal water rights. The proposed agreement gives upstream states preferential rights on the use of water.

Jack D. Stevens, Seattle consulting engineer of the Puget Sound Utilities Council, questioned whether the compact should go into the power question. In its present form, it provides that the commission may recommend that a share of the power in downstream plants be allocated to upstream states on the basis of the storage they provide.

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Morse Names Mrs. Lewis To Manage Campaign

PORTLAND — Sen. Wayne Morse said this week his 1956 campaign will be managed by Mrs. Jean L. Lewis.

She is currently manager of his Portland office. Mrs. Lewis is an attorney and a member of the state Legislature.

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- '51 WILLYS Station Wagon: 4-wheel drive with 3 seats and windows all around. \$1095
- '53 CHEVROLET 1/2 Ton: 4-speed, deluxe, good tires and sound. \$1195

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- '51 WILLYS 1/4 Ton: 4x4 with mud tires all around. Heater and ready for off-the-high-way work. \$945
- '51 WILLYS Station Wagon: 4-wheel drive with 3 seats and windows all around. \$1095
- '53 CHEVROLET 1/2 Ton: 4-speed, deluxe, good tires and sound. \$1195

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