

The News-Review

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KEEP AN EYE ON 1956

Charles V. Stanton

The Old Farmer's Almanac advises us to "Keep a Sharp Eye on 1956."

Next year promises to be an exciting one. It will be filled with politics, will see a revolutionary change in labor activities, is expected to continue economic gains and, according to predictions, will probably see a tightening of international tensions.

As we look forward to the new year one of our first concerns is political.

Will Ike run again?

Most objective observers believe Eisenhower will win if he seeks reelection. If he declines to run it should be a close race with odds at this time favoring a change in party administration.

The Republican party, putting too much reliance on Eisenhower as a repeat candidate in 1956, has failed to build any of its stalwarts to the stature needed by a candidate. While the party has many suitable men, none has been promoted as a possible substitute. The Eisenhower endorsement and support would be a strong factor on behalf of a G.O.P. candidate, but a most vigorous campaign would be required, I believe, to bring about another Republican win.

Demagogic Attacks

Eisenhower undoubtedly is the most universally loved president the United States has ever had. We have had some great presidents. But each of our great presidents has had his personal and political enemies.

Although Eisenhower has political opposition, he commands the love, respect and confidence even of those of opposing political faiths.

Even the most ardent of Democratic campaigners have avoided personal attacks upon Ike. They know that any attempt to discredit Eisenhower himself would alienate more votes than it would make. So, the campaign to date has centered in attacks upon Eisenhower's family of advisers and appointees. Yet we find that the President has surrounded himself with experts in every field to help him with his work and his decisions.

William Hard, reporting in the current edition of *Reader's Digest*, says of the President's official family that "they come from many fields of broad experience, commercial, financial, legal, political. They are welded together into a team which illustrates the best both of business practice and military precision." He voices the opinion that "No former President ever had such comprehensive assistance in reaching basic policy decisions."

One of Eisenhower's greatest talents, as exhibited by his military career, is that of selecting a staff of able assistants and building them into an effective organization. This talent has been demonstrated in the formation of a cabinet and in his selection of deputy, special and administrative advisers and helpers. Attacks upon these members of the official family, it seems to me, can be described only as the rankest form of demagoguery.

Health Prime Factor

Eisenhower's health is the controlling factor in the political situation. Some specialists insist that his heart condition will not prevent him from becoming a candidate. Some contend it would be in the best interest of his health for him to continue in office.

On the other hand, many people although ardent admirers of Eisenhower, doubtless would hesitate to vote for him, unless thoroughly convinced that reelection would not be injurious to his health.

While the Republicans still are uncertain as to their candidate, and have little time to build up a substitute in the event Ike doesn't run, the Democrats are gaining much publicity with three major candidates, each capable of making a strong race against anyone other than Eisenhower, and even against Ike unless the public is reasonably sure his life will not be shortened by reelection.

Altogether, it appears that the 1956 presidential election, will be the most absorbing issue of the year, with an accompanying battle in many states over congressional and local candidates and issues.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP)—Things a columnist might never know if he didn't open his morning mail:

That some 75 million neckties were sold during the Christmas season—and 85 per cent were bought by women.

That neckties run from 47 to 54 inches long, but the average is 50 inches.

That a survey estimated U.S. men lose \$48,000,000 from their pockets each year—including \$6,000,000 in taxes. (But no one knows the staggering amount that wives take out of those same pockets overnight.)

That—here's a holiday warning—that 78 per cent of all highway accidents occur in clear weather, and 20 per cent of the nation's drivers cause 80 per cent of the accidents.

That school children are getting stronger, to be sure a new-type school desk would stand up under juvenile squirming. It was tested by being hit 20,000 times with a 40-pound sandbag.

That there are about 250,000 vice presidents in U.S. industries (is that all? Why they don't even outnumber bird watchers!), and the Bank of America is the corporate leader with 145.

That a majority of pipe smokers honestly believe that most "sensible women" find them more attractive than men who don't smoke a pipe. (But whatever happens to all the girls who took up the smoking of pipes a year ago?)

That a million cigars are puffed every business hour during the year in this country.

That much of the bad temper in business offices results from "visual commutitis," a term the National Assn. for the Prevention of

Small Talk



Reader Opinions

Opposition Expressed To Sales Tax Proposal

MYRTLE CREEK — Please give me space in your valuable paper to express my views on a sales tax.

It seems to me that our taxes are too high; that our wealthy legislators are afraid the wealthy people will go broke if they do not pass laws that will force the poor people to help pay the taxes. It seems to me that the legislature should quit appropriating so much money and cut down expenses. The state has money to buy long term bonds, so why do we need a sales tax?

Of course, we all know that the more money the legislators can lay their hands on the more they will spend. I talked with business men in California and they advised that we should not have a sales tax in Oregon. The people here do not want it. Our stores keepers already have to do too much bookkeeping. A sales tax makes more expense, therefore more taxes. It puts more people on the relief rolls. We should vote against a sales tax in any form.

Once we get a sales tax, the legislature can add other things. And it can keep raising the rate.

I see to the papers that the Oregon legislators are so determined to get a sales tax that they are going to have a bill on the ballot which will allow them to pass tax laws with the emergency clause attached, thereby violating the rights of the people to a referendum. In other words, it will give the legislators the right to raise their own salaries, also to pass a sales tax knowing full well that the majority of people do not want it, and have voted it down several times.

E. M. (Cap) Morgan
Myrtle Creek, Ore.

Aided Person Expresses Thanks For Assistance

PORTLAND — I would like to use this means of expressing my most sincere thanks to all those who aided me after my accident south of Anlauf, especially the person who came into the water and helped me out. This service of help and aid was a trouble to make as much money as you think you should have you are a good candidate for a nice complex.

That if you make good grades in school, but later in life failed to make as much money as you think you should have you are a good candidate for a nice complex.

That seniors in engineering schools now receive an average of four to five job offers before they receive their diplomas.

That in New Guinea bachelors still pursue a bride with human heads. (Other people's heads that is. Only in America does a man lose both his heart and his own head in marriage.)

That a recent poll showed nearly 4 out of every 5 men over 20 fear they are getting a receding hair line.

That only 8 per cent of bald men believe baldness is a sign of greater intelligence. (All I can say about the other 92 per cent is they either are more modest than I am or they don't know the facts.)

That turkey, once known as "the Sick Man of Europe," now is the world's fourth largest wheat exporter.

That Andy Jackson was the first

Bruce Blossat

The Russian policy of trying to take off all Germany is as changeless in its basic elements as are the general Soviet aims of world conquest. But, as so often happens, they have once again put a new face on that purpose.

The Kremlin always has proposed German unity on terms that would have required West Germany's severance from the Western alliance. With the firm support of West German Chancellor Adenauer, the West has steadily rejected this plan as an obvious step toward Soviet control of Germany.

Having failed once more on this score at the second Geneva conference, the Russian leaders are now trying to achieve the same goal by another means. They are trying to force West Germany to deal directly with Communist East Germany on a practical, everyday level. From these enforced contacts, they believe a working German unity may arise that will favor the Soviet Union.

SOME MONTHS AGO, of course, the Russians granted "sovereignty" to the East Germans. Recently it declared Berlin the capital of East Germany. Now East German soldiers have taken over from Soviet soldiers as border patrol along the partition line. And the East German government has been given control of Berlin's vital barge canals.

The objective is plain. Russia evidently will no longer accept responsibility for 2½ border incidents, but demands that they be taken up by the East Germans.

In the same way, all matters involving West Berlin's heavy traffic on the barge canals will be referred by the Russians to the East German government.

The Russians probably have no

'Smile On Kid's Face The Same In Any Language'

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—"A smile on a kid's face is the same in any language."

One GI summed it up that way Saturday as American servicemen from the Atlantic to the Iron Curtain took time out from their Christmas celebrations to brighten the holiday for thousands of orphaned, needy children and refugees. Virtually every U.S. unit stationed in Europe gave a party for children or help of some kind to the poor.

In Germany, where the bulk of the 200,000 U.S. servicemen on the continent are stationed, the Army estimated 70,000 German children were entertained at pre-Christmas festivities.

One of the warmest gestures was "Operation Candy Drop," under a section of the Iron Curtain. The 15th Armored Regiment sent out motorized Santa Claus patrols to four West German villages bordering the Communist frontier and deliver candy to children. As the patrols entered each village, the GI Santa called the kids to him by loudspeaker.

Eisenhower, Santa arrived by jeep, by "aid" built over leaps and by helicopter, the outfit in Germany dropped toys to children by small parachutes.

Increased Payroll Taxes May Stop Drain Of Fund

SALFEM (AP)—Increased payroll taxes on employers promptly will stop the drain on the unemployment trust fund, out of which benefits are paid, the Unemployment Compensation Commission predicted.

Only once in the past eight years has the commission's income exceeded its outgo, causing the trust fund to drop from \$6 million dollars in 1948 to \$1 million now.

The increased payroll taxes are effective Jan.

During 1955 the commission took in 12 millions in payroll taxes, and paid out 10 millions in benefits. The commission also reported that average earnings of Oregon's production workers in November were \$57.67 a week, compared with \$56.64 a year ago.

illusions they can budge Adenauer by these or any other pressures. But they know there are strong forces in West Germany favoring direct negotiations with the East Germans. And they imagine their hands will be strengthened if there is a record of successful daily dealings to point to.

THEY WOULD IN FACT like to bring matters to the stage where they can some day say to the West and to some successor of Adenauer:

"Look, what is the point of arguing further? East and West Germany are for all practical purposes unified and you might as well recognize the fact."

Naturally the West is resisting this new Soviet campaign, and is insisting on dealing with Russia itself on border issues and all matters relating to the life of Berlin, such as barge traffic. It is our purpose that Berlin is still managed by the Big Four powers and no one else.

Nevertheless the Kremlin effort to elevate East Germany in power and prestige and compel Bonn to deal with it could have far-reaching impact in the unending struggle for the German prize. It is nothing for us to view complacently.

In The Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

says he will regard a five billion dollar foreign aid request with a "jaundiced" eye.

Let's take a look at Senator Potter. He enlisted in the army in 1912 as a private, rose to the rank of major, was critically wounded in action in 1915, resulting in the loss of both of his legs. He didn't let that discourage him, and has gone on to live an active and useful life in public service. He is a thoughtful conservative.

Like Senator Potter, I'm inclined to look upon INCREASED foreign aid spending with a jaundiced eye. It is designed to buy good will for us. I wonder if it does. AMERICANS ARE THE MOST PROSPEROUS PEOPLE IN THE WORLD. Very well-to-do people are seldom popular.

Witness: "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God." (Matthew XIX 24)

Straw No. 2: Congressional APPROVAL (the dispatches say) is foreseen for a farm program containing the administration's "soil bank" plan for taking surplus cropland out of production. GOP Representative Clifford Hope of Kansas says: "There will be a farm bill at the closing session of congress, and the soil bank will be an essential part of it."

Democrats, even left-wing Democrats, are speaking with less fervor of returning to guaranteed high prices for basic crops and are refraining from speaking with severe disapproval of the soil bank plan.

The soil bank plan is beginning to look to BOTH SIDES like a good way out of the farm problem political dilemma.

What of this soil bank business? It's good POLITICS. I doubt if it's good agriculture. About the best that can be said of it is that it is better than the present subsidy system which is building up huge surpluses to hang like a dark thundercloud over the markets of the future.

The West, in particular, needs to study the soil bank proposal carefully.

It could result in a big temporary boom in the market for grass seeds, of which the West is a heavy producer.

But it could also result in a huge expansion of grasslands and GRAZING, thus bringing heavy added competition in the West's great livestock industry.

CC Questions Prudence Of Curb Of Its Powers

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) said here it "seriously questions the prudence" of proposed curtailments of its powers to regulate rates in the transportation field.

In its first public comment on the report of President Eisenhower's Cabinet Committee on Transportation, released by the White House last April, the ICC asserted:

"Resort to the laws of the jungle with competition in full play will not produce the desired transportation system."

In general, the Cabinet Committee recommended less ICC regulation of rates and more ICC regulation of segments of the transportation picture not now subject to its supervision—among them barge movements of bulk commodities, private motor freight carriers, and contract freight truckers.

The committee listed as its No. 1 objective "increased reliance on competitive forces of transportation in rate making."

Among other things, the ICC would be permitted to fix only maximum and minimum rates.

PORTLAND (AP)—Food prices dropped slightly in Portland last month, but still were 1.3 per cent higher than a year ago, the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics said here.

The drop from mid-October to mid-November was six tenths of a per cent with meat and eggs leading the decline.

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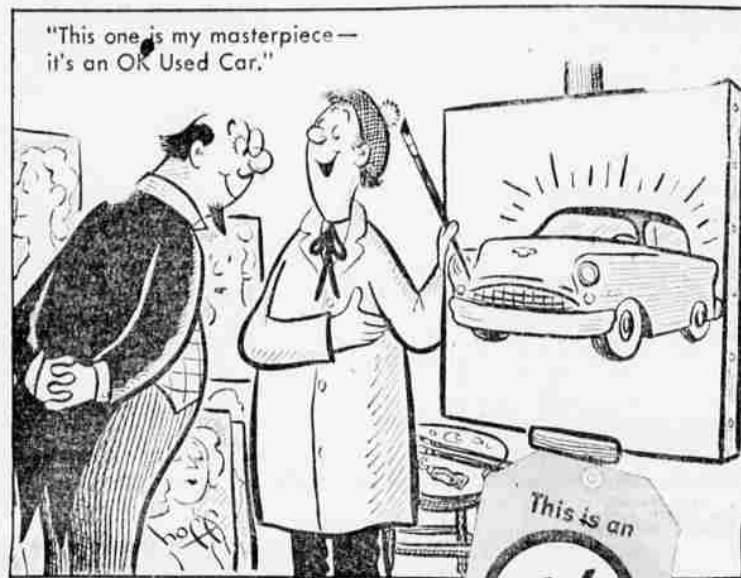
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