

# The News-Review

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## LET VOTERS DECIDE

Charles V. Stanton

Announcement by County Judge Carl C. Hill and Commissioner Frank Ashley that they have decided to postpone an appointment to fill the existing vacancy on the court comes as no surprise. The suggestion that naming of a successor to Commissioner Elmer Metzger, who resigned late in the year, be left until after the May primaries has been heard frequently.

Doubtless the two members of the court will be roundly criticized from some sources, but will gain applause from others.

The delay might be less excusable if it were not for such a startling list of aspirants. Some 24 candidates have entered the field. About 15 have built up their followings. Factions have developed all over the county. Every day's delay has added to heat and friction. No action the court could take now would meet majority favor, so thoroughly has opinion been split. Therefore, the court apparently believes the best solution is to wait and let the Republican voters decide.

The appointment must come from Republican voters, because Metzger's successor must be a Republican, according to law. Consequently, the court promises to name the winner of the Republican primary election to the vacancy. He will, of course, be forced to contest for the post with the Democratic candidate at the November general election.

### Deadlock Suspected

I suspect that a political deadlock is one of the principal factors motivating the court's decision to delay the appointment.

County Judge Hill is a Republican, Commissioner Ashley is a Democrat. Ashley, undoubtedly, has been under pressure from the Democratic side to refuse approval of any candidate nominated by the Republican Central Committee, which presented three names to the court. Judge Hill, on the other hand, is duty bound to go along with the committee's recommendation.

It will be recalled that the Republican Central Committee's recommendation for filling the vacancy in the sheriff's office was rebuffed several months ago. Judge Hill voted at that time to sustain the committee's nomination, but a deadlock forced a compromise. Democratic strategy naturally would call for handing the Republican Central Committee another slap in the face, which would be the case if Hill went outside the nominees proposed. Ashley doubtless would come in for much criticism from his own party if he endorsed any one of the three men proposed by the Republicans. So, the case is one of political check-mate.

The two members of the court, I imagine, will deny any political motivation in their postponement action, but I can't avoid looking upon the situation with suspicion that the political factors, particularly in an election year, are very much present.

### Will Not Affect Policy

The court points out that county administration will be but little affected by the proposed delay. It may be necessary to postpone any policy decisions of a controversial nature. However, on a three-man court, agreement between two members is sufficient to establish policy. Where Hill and Ashley can agree, either the absence or presence of a third member would make no difference. The court announced in its statement that members of the budget committee would be called in to assist in policy matters.

There is no law I know of authorizing any such procedure. There is a question whether any policy made by a two-man court is legal. The court's plan, however, does provide that the public interest is to have the utmost protection during the interim.

The court's statement lists the fact that this is the slack period of the year in administrative activity. County business from January to May, it is stated, is largely of routine character. In the road department work is confined chiefly to repair and maintenance. No new construction can be undertaken until late spring or early summer. By that time the third member of the court can be installed.

Considering the heavy criticism the court has received following Metzger's resignation, the wide separation of opinion throughout the county concerning his successor, the rivalry between sections of the county for representation, the political implications involved in the appointment and the stated lull in administrative activity, the court's decision on postponement has much to recommend it.

And, besides, we'll be saving the cost of a commissioner's salary for five months!

## Bruce Blossat

President Eisenhower, who has managed some impressive political successes by breaking the standard political rules, now flaunts the one that says you've got to offer the voters a tax cut in an election year.

It would have been quite easy for the President, in his State of the Union message, to have held out some hope of a cut by talking in cheerfully vague generalities. This he declined to do.

In effect he went over the heads of lawmakers who may soon be pressing for some sort of tax reduction, appealing to the good sense of the American people as he explained why he felt a cut was inadvisable at this time.

TO BEGIN WITH, Eisenhower obviously believes that if the country can't balance its federal budget in a time of such high prosperity it probably never will. He wants the budget balanced.

Originally, hopes of a tax slash were higher because federal expenses for the coming year were expected to be lower. But upward revisions in defense and foreign aid items altered the picture.

Similarly, the President thinks prosperous times are right for making at least a small dent in the huge national debt. If not then, when?

"Under conditions of high peacetime prosperity, such as now exist," said the President, "we can never justify going further into debt to give ourselves a tax cut at the expense of our children."

Eisenhower would be happy, of course, to see a tax cut if the preconditions of a balanced budget and reduced federal debt could be met this year. But the likelihood of that isn't too strong.

IN ADDITION TO heavier foreign aid and defense commitments, he wants Congress to approve some ambitious plans for improving the farmer's lot and expanding and updating the nation's school and highway systems. These programs, some of which he will outline in more detail later, will cost a good deal.

Some reaction in Congress suggests the pressure for a tax cut may surmount the President's resistance.

Even faithful GOP leaders like Rep. Joseph W. Martin of Massachusetts think he may have left the door open to reduction later. In a sense he did, but only in the sense that he would favor it if his conditions were fulfilled.

Congress might not be so fussy, however, if it has voted or permitted tax cuts before when the budget was unbalanced. It could again

"Who Put the Lights Out?"



## Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP) — Ladies, if you want a real belly laugh, I know how you can get it.

Men's clothing stores across the country now are featuring their semi-annual sales. Go to a few. They hold more real comedy than any show in town.

You don't have to buy anything. Just stand around and watch.

For generations the conduct of women at department store sales has been a stock joke in America. They are supposed to be as unreasoning as a herd of cattle in stampede. But today the shoe is on the other foot. If the woman bargain hunter is a scream, the male bargain hunter is an absolute panic.

And the American man is more bargain-minded now than ever before in history.

"Frankly, men act much crazier than women during a big sale," an elderly salesman said. "They are newer at the game and don't know the rules. A lot of them would be ashamed to have their psychiatrists see the way they behave."

Any lady who takes up watching men's clothing sales as a spectator sport should remember to keep a safe distance away. A tug-of-war for a prized shirt between two maddened bucks can be physically dangerous to any bystander, however innocent.

The male bargain hunter breaks down into several common types, and here are a few:

1. The pirate raider—he is ruled by the philosophy that "whatever Lola wants, Lola gets." He waits until another customer picks out a good-looking necktie, then grabs it from his hand, throws down his cash and races for the elevator.

2. The lost soul—he never bought anything before in his life without the advice and consent of his mother, his father, his wife or his lawyer. He stands alone, his eyes crying help, while the big bullies shove him out of the way. He ends up buying an overcoat the color of a mildewed fried egg (two sizes too large for him) and goes out the door muttering to himself, "but all I wanted was a pair of knitted gloves."

3. The wandering destroyer—he paws through and wrecks eight shelves of shirts, paws a dozen neckties off the rack and onto the floor, paws half a dozen sport coats on and off. Then, without purchasing anything, he wanders out of the wreckage waving a merry paw in goodbye. He enjoys himself more than anybody.

4. The cautious investor—he begins by fingering the \$200 cashmere polo coats marked down to \$149. He wants to know the name of the manufacturer and what country the cloth came from and the condition of its economy. He finally offers \$99.50 for the coat, and when that offer is refused buys a four-bit handkerchief and leaves, blowing his nose in indignation.

5. The lord of the manor—this crisp fellow snaps his fingers imperiously at the salesman, demands the best of service—and for some reason gets it. Awed members of the herd stand aside as he tries on half a dozen suits, intently critiquing the cut, color and cloth of each. He winds up by taking a 55-cent pair of socks and walks out with the lordly air of a man who has just bought a yacht.

6. The gay spendthrift—this cheerful mailman seems to be the salesman's best friend, but actually is his worst enemy. He likes anything and everything he sees. He selects a dozen shirts, three suits, two sport jackets, a couple of topcoats, and several pairs of shoes. The bill doesn't worry him. Why should it? Next Monday his wife will send every single thing back to the store.

Girls, don't miss the chance to

Furthermore, the lawmakers might well decide to deny the President some of the funds he seeks, particularly for foreign aid and similar bulky items. That way the budget might be brought into balance at a lower level.

In any event, the President has faced the fiscal issue squarely. Now we'll see how Congress faces it.

## Magnuson Says Actions Deferred On Nominations

WASHINGTON (AP) — Chairman Magnuson (D-Wash.) said Wednesday the Senate Commerce Committee has deferred action on nominations for two top aviation posts until an investigation into the firing of Frederick B. Lee is complete.

One of the nominations is that of Charles J. Lowen Jr., to succeed Lee as head of the Civil Aeronautics Administration. The other is that of Joseph Minetti for a six-year term on the Civil Aeronautics Board, succeeding Joseph Lee.

Minetti now is a member of the Federal Maritime Board, while Lowen is serving under a temporary appointment as head of the CAA. He was Lee's deputy.

Lee's ouster is being investigated by a Commerce subcommittee headed by Sen. Monroney (D-Okla.). Monroney said Wednesday Lee has effectively answered what he called "planted stories" that Lee dragged his feet on needed improvements in the nation's airways.

## Eastern Colorado Dry Powder Keg, Ready To Blow

DENVER (AP) — Much of Eastern Colorado, gripped by drought, is a "powder keg" ready to blow into dust storms if high winds should rip the section.

This view was expressed Tuesday by several Eastern Colorado legislators, here for the meeting of the state's General Assembly. Many of them are farmers and ranchers in private life.

The "powder keg" description was given by Rep. Ray Ballard (D-Cheyenne Wells), who represents one of the driest areas in the state—Cheyenne and Lincoln counties.

Numerous other lawmakers agreed with his view. All declared, however, that timely rain or snow could save the situation.

"Give us two windy days and the wheat is gone," Ballard said. He added that the north edge of Cheyenne County had "two little rains" last October, and nothing since. Some other parts of his district, Ballard added, didn't get that much.

DALLAS, Tex. (AP) — Texas farmers and ranchers are faced with the worst drought and wind erosion threat of recent years.

"We're really ripe for it and we're going to get it," state soil conservationist H. N. (Red) Smith of Temple told the Associated Press.

Reports from over the state substantiated the drought expert's prediction.

"There had been practically no effective rainfall since the first of December and the entire state is very dry at the present time. There is less green in the way of vegetation than at any period in recent years."

## British Colonel Killed, By Rioting Arabs

LONDON (AP) — The War Office said Wednesday a British colonel was shot and killed by rioting Arabs during the weekend at Zerqa, headquarters of the Arab Legion in Jordan.

The dead Briton was identified as Lt. Col. Patrick Lloyd, 42, commanding the 4th Light Antiaircraft Regiment.

Lloyd, who was assigned from the British army to serve in the Arab Legion a year ago, was killed Jan. 8. He was a bachelor.

The shooting apparently took place when he and other Britons at the Arab Legion headquarters sought to disperse a group of rioters demonstrating against the British-backed Baghdad Alliance.

Britain finances the Arab Legion and about 60 British officers hold key posts in the legion.

## Bonneville Is Hopeful Of Adequate Power

PORTLAND (AP) — The Bonneville Power Administration reported Wednesday that if weather continues at a normal level, there should be enough hydroelectric power to meet all firm and interruptible needs of the Northwest through the rest of the winter.

The report, based on conditions as of Jan. 8, said a sharp freeze might change this picture by reducing stream flow, but that the situation right now looks good.

All streams are well above the median levels the report noted, with water spilling over the region's dams.

## Senate Group Making Study Of Newsprint

WASHINGTON (AP) — Chairman Magnuson (D-Wash.) said Wednesday the Senate Commerce Committee is making a study of the newsprint situation in an effort to find a way "to relieve the present shortage and high prices."

With Canadians holding "a virtual monopoly on supplying newsprint to American newspapers," he said, he hoped ways could be found to increase production in the United States.

Magnuson said he had been informed one cause of the pulp shortage was refusal of the Agriculture Department to permit the shipment of pulp wood logs from Alaska to the United States.

He said he believed the department's action was aimed at trying to promote construction of paper mills in Alaska, but he said it does permit pulp to be shipped from a plant near Ketchikan to Japan for use in textile manufactures.

"At present," Magnuson said in a statement, "our newspapers seem to be at the mercy of the Canadians, and we want to see if there is a way in which that can be avoided."

Earlier there were indications a House subcommittee studying the newsprint supply problem may call in some publishers to hear "their side of the story."

### MAKE PERFECT GRADES

Two Douglas County students earned straight A's fall term at Oregon State College. They are: Albert A. Vandune, Glendale, and Kay M. Season, Riddle.

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## Douglas County Taxpayer's League

2:00 P. M.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 1956

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T. H. Pargeter, Secretary, Douglas County Taxpayers League



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