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GRASS ROOTS COMMITTEE

Charles V. Stanton

A flexible organization to aid in Douglas County's water resource study was initiated Monday on a temporary basis.

Responding to an invitation from the County Court, civic leaders from all parts of the county met to consider proposals for organization of a countywide water resources advisory committee.

The plan suggested and adopted divides the county into six districts, each with generally uniform problems. Each district is to have a chairman. The six district chairmen will constitute the advisory board. Each of the six district chairmen will appoint sub-chairmen to represent various interests affected by water, such as agriculture, industry, municipal and domestic, recreation, or others. Each sub-chairman, in turn, will name a committee composed of representatives from the specific interest he represents.

Ideas for water development, conservation, control and usage will be generated in these group committees. Recommendations will go to the sub-chairman. The several district sub-chairmen, meeting under the supervision of the district chairman, and constituting a district committee, will review ideas and recommendations from each of the interest groups. The district chairman will then carry the final decisions or opinions of his district committee to the county board for further analysis.

Get Grass Roots Opinions

The plan is devised to get grass roots opinions on the problem of water resources. I have no doubt many screwball ideas will be developed. However, by the time they are cleared through the district and county committees, most of the unworkable ideas will be eliminated. On the other hand there doubtless will be a large number of very constructive ideas. One great advantage in the form of organization adopted at Monday's meeting is that many corrections of a minor nature will be worked out at the local level and, although they may be of minor character separately, they will, taken as a whole, be valuable contributions to the resource and conservation scheme.

For example, there may be a spot where the taking of gravel is causing a change in the river channel and producing dangerous erosion problems. Or there may be a place where clearing the stream channel would reduce the peak of flood waters. Or it might be found that a certain location is contributing large volumes of silt during the wet season. Few of these specific projects perhaps would be attacked by an over-all study, but local committees will locate them in a hurry. Many such corrections perhaps can be made through cooperative labor by the communities in which need exists without ever going to the top.

With committees formed by areas and by interests throughout the entire county, every phase of the water resource program should receive careful study and development.

Assistance Available

The most important responsibility of the county organization, however, will be that of assisting in the surveys and studies to be made by the county, state and federal agencies. The organizational plan provides a large group of people in every part of the county to participate in the gathering of information, weighing proposals, aiding in the definition of interests, and otherwise cooperating in the water resource project.

The Oregon Water Resources Board is the first official organization of its kind to be formed in the United States. The board has selected the Umpqua drainage system for its first survey. Thus the Umpqua is the first river system in the country to serve as a laboratory for water resource development.

The State Water Board has no precedent upon which to base its program. It must proceed with great caution. It is seeking help from the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation. Now, through the County Water Resource Advisory Board it also will have the assistance of the people to be served.

Heretofore water development projects have been handed down from the top. But the Umpqua survey will offer opportunity for projects to develop from the bottom in a truly democratic manner.

Every step in the Oregon program will be closely watched throughout the nation. Thus the county committee, which will play an important part in the planning, has a great responsibility in keeping policies and activities in line with true conservation practices.

Hal Boyle

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

That it costs a family with an annual income of \$6,500 about \$800 to bring a baby into the world, including the cigars the proud papa smokes around.

That it costs—according to a Redbook magazine survey—\$2,000 merely to feed a child during its first 18 years. (What do kids eat today—any—orens?)

That in 1952 the Polish Olympic team ran up the 1950 steps in the 192-floor Empire State building in 25 minutes flat. Russia, of course, will beat the record—just as soon as it builds a skyscraper (it will).

That the number of air "officer boys" has tripled since 1930.

That while industry prefers women office workers, men still hold 354,000 of the 500,000 federal government's clerical posts as recently as 1950.

That Britain has lost its beef-eating tradition to America, where the average citizen ate 160 pounds during 1955.

That it took an industrial worker 49 minutes to earn the price of a pound of round steak here in 1929. Today he does it in half an hour. (But don't let your butcher know this—you have enough trouble with him already.)

That despite all the new labor-saving business machines that

Charter Subscriber



Peter Edson

WASHINGTON (NEA) — All economic gobbledygook aside—the real test of the new Eisenhower soil bank plan is whether it will buy the farm vote for the Republican party in November.

To get the answer, it's necessary to check up on the work of the nearly 95,000 state, county and community Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Program committees.

There isn't any use being coy about this. The Democrats used this machinery to hold the farm vote in the 1930's and '40's. Now it's the Republicans' turn. That's politics.

Top responsibility for running the machine is given by law to Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson. Actually in charge is Earl M. Hughes, Commodity Stabilization Service administrator for the past year. He is a Woodstock, Ill., farmer, farm management and marketing expert.

He works directly with the state A and C committees. There have been three in all states except Texas and California, which have five. All state committees are appointed and fired by the secretary of agriculture.

SINCE JANUARY, 1953, when the GOP came to town, there has been an almost 100 per cent turnover of state committees. This gives one clue to the political possibilities.

Need For More Research On Water Resources Told

PORTLAND (AP) — There is need for more research on water resources, Len Jordan told the annual Oregon and Washington Chamber of Commerce managers' conference here this week.

Jordan, chairman of the U. S. section of the International Joint Commission on Water Resources and a former Idaho governor, proposed doubling federal expenditures for this purpose from the present 40 million to 80 million dollars annually for the next five years.

He predicted that by 1975 the demand for water will have doubled.

Jordan touched on high points of a report prepared by a presidential committee on water resources. And he praised the Eisenhower administration's local-federal partnership program for power development.

The chamber executives were to wind up their meeting Tuesday.

Editorial Comment

From The Oregon Press

FEDERAL AID AGAINST "VARMINTS"

Oregon Statesman

The Marion County Pomona Grange at its meeting in Woodburn adopted a resolution asking for federal assistance in predatory control. The grangers are not quite as self-reliant as their forbears. Protection from "varmints" was one institution of government in the Oregon country. The grangers of government here was to set up procedure for probate of Ewing Young's estate. The second move was to provide some protection for the killing of cattle by wolves and wildcats.

At a settlers' meeting Feb. 2, 1843 a committee of six was named to call a general meeting of just before going out to face a new audience.

That while more men than women suffer from heart attacks, fewer men are hospitalized for mental disorders.

That few people can name off-hand the only one of New York City's five boroughs that is actually on the mainland of the United States. (It's the Bronx.)

That a feeble-minded person can become insane, but a normal adult person, though his mental condition may deteriorate, never actually becomes a feeble-minded.

Rep. Norblad's Proposal For Legal Auto Speed Limit Meeting Strong Approval

By A. ROBERT SMITH News-Review Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Citizens by the hundreds are encouraging Rep. Walter Norblad (R-Ore.) to go through with his proposal to legally limit the speed potential of automobiles to 70 MPH in the name of highway safety.

In the two weeks since the Oregon lawmaker announced his idea, letters have been pouring into his office from all over the country. The Norblad bill has been favorably put through mechanical governors on cars to hold them under a national speed limit.

Most of those who have written the congressman are distressed by the high death toll on American highways today, especially the record number of fatalities over the recent Christmas holiday weekend.

The idea is catching on with other lawmakers who have been keeping in touch with Norblad's office to see what the public reaction has been. Norblad has actually introduced a bill on the issue as yet, but one is in the drafting stage. It would exclude such vehicles as ambulances and fire and police cars.

A North Carolina resident called it "one of the finest pieces of legislation to come out of Washington in many moons." A New Jersey man predicted its adoption would "cut the appalling death toll in half."

Some Opposition Voiced

When a Terre Haute, Ind., elicits teacher mentioned it, claret students pulled out their note pads and dashed off letters of encouragement to Norblad. But from a Missouri high school came one of the few objections — on grounds that extra power is needed to pull out of tight spots and avoid collisions.

"I would be dead if your law was in effect," wrote the student, relating that his family had avoided a crash by turning on the added power at a vital moment.

An update New Yorker told of two boys in her neighborhood who take pride in racing their cars every Saturday night on a nearby country road, the one claiming he regularly hit 115 MPH in his Ford.

A Massachusetts man responded to Norblad's complaint against the current emphasis on high powered cars. He wrote: "You read such advertising slogans as 'The most powerful car at the price,' and 'Winner of the stock car races,' or 'A gasoline to put 90 per cent more power into your old engine' etc. The auto industry is practically daring the average driver to open up and see what she'll do. And too many drivers can't take a dare!"

Too Fast, Too Speedy

A traveling salesman from Oklahoma reported that in 45 years on the road he had driven over a million miles without an accident of any kind — and he always stayed under the prevailing speed limit. He said:

"All new cars are too fast and have too much power. It seems that many people lose all sense of courtesy and decency when they get behind a wheel. They must be taught!"

Tillamook Man Elected Chamber Executive Head

PORTLAND (AP) — Verne H. Turner, manager of the Tillamook Chamber of Commerce, Monday was elected president of the Oregon Chamber of Commerce executives' association.

He succeeded Charles DeFoe, Astoria.

Stanley Grove, Salem manager, and Einar V. Gustina, Eugene president, were named vice presidents of the state organization. District officers are Fred Scheper, La Grande; G. Ira Moore, Lakewood; Allen Allison, Pendleton; David C. Duncan, Portland; and George F. Kildus, Hillsboro.

It. Frank Tucker, Klamath County chamber manager, was elected secretary to succeed Ken Reckard, Springfield, who died while attending the chamber conference here.

Antitrust Suit Against Hilton Called Victory

CHICAGO (AP) — Settlement of a government civil antitrust suit against the Hilton Hotel chain was described as "essentially a victory" by the organization's president, Conrad N. Hilton.

Hilton told a reporter it was a "fine settlement" because it let the chain keep the 19 Statler group hotels it acquired for 111 million dollars in 1954.

The agreement, in a consent decree filed in U.S. District Court, ended a civil antitrust suit filed in April 1955 against Hilton Hotels Corp. and Statler Hotels Delaware Corp., a Hilton subsidiary.

The decree requires Hilton to dispose of the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, either the New York or the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City, and the Jefferson Hotel in St. Louis. The Jefferson was sold last month in a 7½-million-dollar deal.

It also restricted further Hilton expansion in four cities. The decree provided that the Hilton-Statler group, the world's largest hotel chain, may not acquire any other hotels on a list of 39 in New York, Washington, St. Louis and the Los Angeles-Beverly Hills area before Jan. 1, 1961—if the acquisition would give Hilton control of more than four hotels in New York and one each in the other areas.

'Scroll Of Patriarchs' Contents Are Disclosed

JERUSALEM, Israel Sector (AP) — Part of the contents of the "Scroll of Patriarchs"—the seventh Dead Sea scroll dating before Christ that was found in 1947—was disclosed for the first time Tuesday.

No Sign Of Big Scale Fight For Formosa Seen In Near Future Despite Smokescreen

By JOHN RODERICK

HONG KONG (AP) — Peering through the smokescreen of words laid down by leaders of the two Chinas, a correspondent in this sensitive observation post can see no signs of any big battle for Formosa on the Chinese mainland very soon.

Chou En-lai spoke last Monday of war if necessary to "liberate" Formosa. Earlier, Chiang Kai-shek asserted restrictions imposed by his allies were the only obstacles to his return to China.

In Hong Kong, these pronouncements from Peking and Taipei seem much like the ferocious barking of dogs secured by the same chain—the U. S. 7th Fleet. Those ships tend to prevent a crossing of Formosa Strait by either side.

Then why all the ominous words? Probably both sides are trying to pressure the United States into making up its mind whether to defend the offshore island—Quemoy and the Matsu—now held by the Nationalists.

Such pressure has been applied before, but the United States has steadfastly rebuffed efforts to force a decision.

It is possible—perhaps even likely—that the Reds may probe fur-

Mansure Quits General Service Chief Position

WASHINGTON (AP) — Edmund F. Mansure has quit as general services chief in the midst of congressional and administration investigations of his official conduct.

Mansure's resignation—effective on or about next Friday—was announced by the White House.

To replace Mansure, President Eisenhower appointed Franklin G. Floete as acting general services administrator pending Floete's formal nomination to head the government's vast housekeeping operations.

The 60-year-old Floete, a resident of Des Moines, Iowa, now is assistant secretary of defense in charge of properties and installations.

Student Killed Tuesday In Cyprus Street Riot

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — An 18-year-old student was killed Tuesday in the second day of street battling between pro-Greek students and British security forces in the east coast port of Famagusta.

Troops fired warning shots during rioting Monday but no one was hurt.

The youths are protesting the prison sentence given a student last week for possessing a length of fuse.

All Famagusta shops put up their shutters and closed their doors following the shooting.

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