

The News-Review

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FLUORIDATION VOTE

By Charles V. Stanton

A special city ballot at the forthcoming primary election will call for decision by voters on two issues. One issue is that of establishing a new tax base and the other is on the question of fluoridation of the city water supply.

The issue on fluoridation is recommendatory only. It is expressly stated that the city council shall not be bound by the decision. It is hardly to be expected that the council would authorize fluoridation in the face of an adverse vote. It is, however, prepared to give the "Go Ahead" signal to the water company if the vote is favorable.

Perhaps no issue has aroused more controversy than that of fluoridation. The fight against fluoridation, however, is usually more emotional than factual.

It is unfortunate that the act of fluoridation contravenes some religious beliefs, as well as the tenets of some health and diet cults. I use the word "unfortunate" because it is this situation which introduces the emotional element as opposed to practical scientific consideration.

Scare Arguments Promoted

Because of the violence of opposition, we hear many "scare" arguments, particularly that fluorides are poison.

Doctors point out, however, that, while fluorines in excessive amounts would be poisonous, that the minute amounts introduced into the water supply are harmless to general health but beneficial in reducing the rate of tooth decay. The consensus of medical opinion also is that fluorides do not accumulate in the system, as often is claimed by opponents.

The medical and dental professions, almost unanimous in support of fluoridation of water supplies, point out that unless our systems were supplied with certain poisons we would soon die. We must have minute quantities of mercury, phosphorus, iodine, etc., in our diets. Yet each of these is a deadly poison if taken in excessive amounts.

We purify our water supply with a deadly poison, chlorine, yet the purification system prevents epidemics which could virtually wipe out our population.

The exceedingly small amount of fluoride used in the water supply is in no way dangerous to general health but very beneficial to preservation of teeth, we are told by majority opinion of doctors and dentists.

Nor, it is pointed out, is fluoridation any longer an experiment. It has been tested sufficiently to permit measurement of results, which are claimed to be beneficial.

Additives Questioned

On the other side of the argument, in addition to the "scare" technique, we hear expression of fear that permitting fluoridation will open the way to general tampering with the water supply and that other additives may be expected. Why not, say opponents, add iodine, calcium and even aspirin? I even heard one guy suggesting a liberal percentage of bourbon.

We also hear the claim that fluoridation is promoted by the aluminum industry as a means of disposing profitably of a byproduct. This is a prejudicial argument which, in my opinion, is of little bearing, provided fluoridation is beneficial.

It is to be expected that the advisory vote on fluoridation will be determined very largely by emotion, sentiment and prejudice rather than by scientific and health factors.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (U) — Are American kids softies?

There is evidence they are less physically fit than European children.

In one scientific study 57.6 per cent of American youngsters failed one or more of six tests for muscular strength and flexibility. The failure rate of European children in the same tests — only 8.3 per cent.

Startling statistics such as these led President Eisenhower to launch his national physical fitness program last year.

But it wasn't a statistic that got businessman Ed Kottie interested in the subject. It was a problem in his own home.

He had a son, Richie, 12. He was a good boy and never got into any trouble. But he was plump and soft, and took more than his fair share of lickings in fights with the neighborhood kids. The only fatherly advice Kottie, a time-honored ball player and former semi-professional baseball star, could think of to give him was:

"Don't let those guys keep beating you up. Give it back to them." Then one day Kottie realized the real trouble. Richie had the courage—but he didn't have the know-how.

"It was my fault — not my boy's," said Kottie, who operates a printing and advertising company.

A member of the New York Athletic Club, Kottie immediately set out to remedy the situation. He trained the boy systematically, worked the fat off him and put on muscle, taught him how to box. Soon Richie was in shape, and self-confident about his ability to take care of himself. He quit coming home with black eyes. The neighborhood kids had to find another punching bag.

Proud of his success with his own son, Kottie brooded over the fact there must be millions of other Richies in America — but with no one to turn to for help.

He decided to do something about it. He organized the National Sports Council to help just such youngsters. The council is made up of businessmen, sportsmen and athletes. Among them are heavyweight champion Joe Louis; catcher Yogi Berra; Bob Cousy of the Boston Celtics basketball team; and Doak Walker, All-America football star.

Sidetracking his business temporarily, Kottie with the help of these men and other sports champions wrote a physical condition-

ing course designed to enable any kid to develop his body and learn self-defense. The council printed and distributed thousands of low-cost pamphlets on the health secrets and hygiene habits of famous athletes.

The inspirational pamphlets now draw letters from kids all over the world. So far Kottie has poured \$100,000 of his own funds into the council's program.

The conditioning course is sold at a price within a kid's reach. The council plans to use the profits—if any ever materialize—to open a series of gymnasiums across the country, manned by former sports stars and dedicated solely to putting youngsters in physical shape to stand up to the strains of later life.

"If an ordinary father tells his son he ought to get more sleep, the kid doesn't pay much attention to him," explained Kottie. "But when a fighter like Joe Louis says it's important to get 10 hours sleep, when a football player like Doak Walker tells why it isn't smart for a guy to go around dressed sloppily—well, the kids sit up and listen."

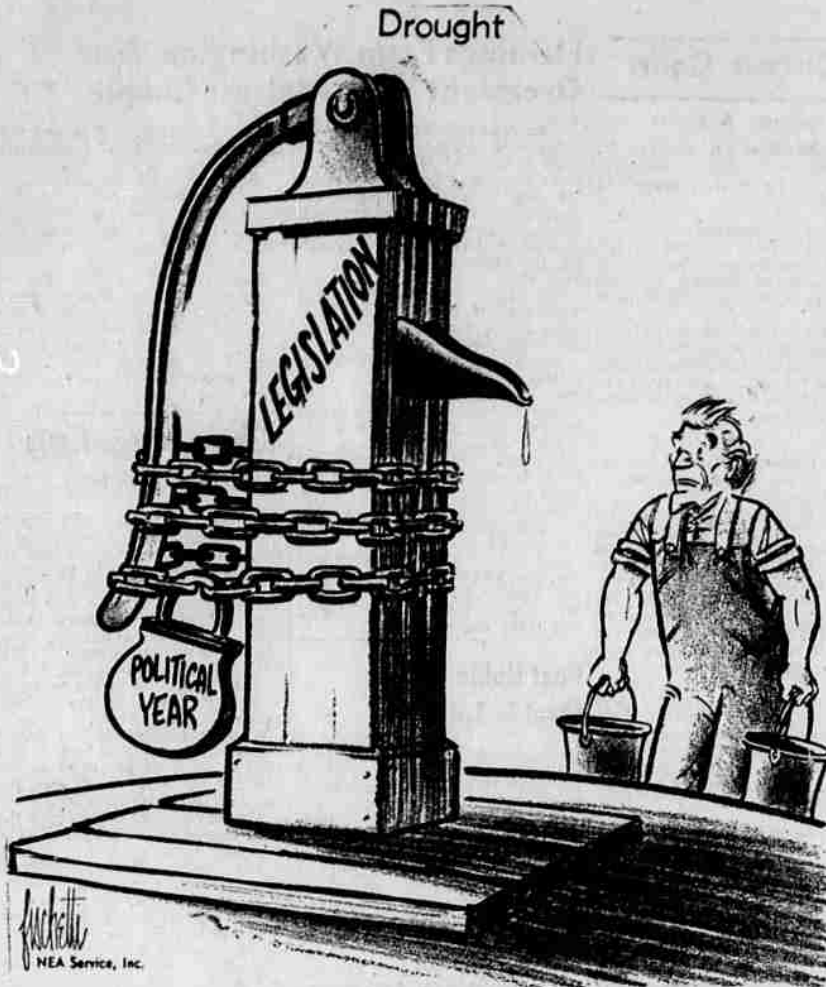
"They'll take the word of a champion."

Forestry Board Looking For Firm To Make Wax

CORVALLIS (U) — The state Board of Forestry is looking for some firm to use the Kurler extraction process to get wax, tannins and chemicals from tree bark.

The M. W. Kellogg Co. of New York took an option on the process developed in the Oregon Forestry Products Laboratory by E. F. Kurler. But, after some time, it decided against commercial production of wax from the bark and gave up the option.

The state Board of Forestry now is trying to interest other firms in using the process.



Congress Chat

By HARRIS ELLSWORTH, M. C. 4th Oregon District

In my letter two weeks ago I told the story of the Farm Bill. At that time the last desperate move of the President's opposition had been made in an effort to salvage something from the wreck of their earlier political scheme to embarrass the President by sending him a farm bill which he had to veto. This last effort was a 55 word bill to appropriate \$1.2 billion, turn it over to the Secretary of Agriculture and let him write his own soil bank legislation.

Thoughtful Members of Congress in both parties realized at once that Congress should take no such irresponsible action. The 12-man Rules Committee, of which I am a member, heard several hours of testimony and discussion of that blank check appropriation bill. It was clear to us that such an appropriation should not be approved until a law was enacted which spelled out the soil bank plan and stated how the money is to be expended. We refused to grant a rule to send the appropriation bill to the floor. The Committee on Agriculture then approved a farm bill containing the necessary legal authority for setting up the President's soil bank plan. The Rules Committee promptly sent that bill to the floor where it was approved by a vote of 314 to 78. The appropriation necessary for financing the plan will now be included in the regular Departmental Appropriation Bill.

The soil bank plan, very briefly stated, will take back out of production vast acres of land forced into cultivation by the requirements of our last two wars—World War II and Korea. Farm income is geared to price supports. The price support program has built up heavy surpluses which in turn depress prices. Furthermore, the cost of storing the surplus is staggering—something close to a million dollars a day, they tell me.

Since farm income represents nearly one-seventh of our national income the sharp curtailment of support prices would have a disastrous effect on everybody. Buying and storing surplus products costs too much money and adds to the problem instead of solving it. The soil bank plan will likewise cost a lot of money but it will take unneeded acres out of production, surpluses will be reduced, and in the long run the soil bank plan could bring about a balance between the production and demand for farm products.

Hearings are now being held by the House Committee on Public Works on what is called the "Omnibus Rivers and Harbors and Flood Control Bill." Such a bill is usually passed near the end of each Congress. Included in it are the numerous bills introduced for the authorization of public works projects in all parts of the country. I will soon appear before the committee to urge that my bill to authorize a comprehensive survey of the Rogue River basin be included in the omnibus bill. I shall make the same request for the bill which I have just introduced to clarify local responsibility for bank protection and reclamation works.

I will make an appointment to the Military Academy at West Point and one to the Naval Academy at Annapolis for next year. Also, I shall nominate 10 candidates to compete for the 3 Oregon appointments to the Air Force Academy. Every boy who is interested in getting such an appointment has an equal opportunity. My selections are made on the basis of grades earned in a competitive examination conducted by the U. S. Civil Service Commission. The next examination will be held July 9 at several places in our Congressional District. Young men who want to take this examination should write to me now giving me their date of birth and stating which appointment they seek.

In The Day's News

(Continued From Page One)

must claim, in order to get back in that the ins are leading us into disaster.

Let's keep the record straight. If the Democrats were in and the Republicans were out, the GOP would be claiming what the Democrats are claiming now. That is inherent in our political system.

Speaking further of campaign year politics, the Democrats, who are out and want back in, are insisting that under the Eisenhower administration Big Business is in the saddle and is riding high wide and handsome, using its spurs, and the little man is getting it where the chicken got the ax.

Let's take a look at the facts. According to the Office of Business Economics of the U. S. Department of Commerce, our nation's working men and women received 69 PER CENT of our national income during the Eisenhower years from 1953 to 1955 whereas during the Truman years from 1953 to 1952 they received only 65.7 per cent.

And—Looking at the other side—During the Truman years from 1953 to 1952 corporation profits after taxes amounted to SEVEN per cent of the national income, whereas during the Eisenhower years from 1953 to 1955 they amounted to only SIX per cent.

Politics is a strange trade. Let's turn now to the weather. On this 8th day of May, the temperature in New York City is only 35 above. There is snow in Maine and Vermont. At the summit of Mount Washington in New Hampshire (a mere molehill, according to Western ideas of a mountain) the temperature this morning was one degree below zero.

Why bring that up? It always makes us feel better to hear that somebody else is having it worse than we are.

Grant Co. PUD Discusses Power Purchase Terms

EPHRATA, Wash. (U) — Grant County Public Utility District commissioners Wednesday discussed power purchases with 12 prospective buyers, including Washington and Oregon power firms and cities.

The meeting is expected to end Thursday with detailed tentative agreements with each representative.

At the meet were representatives of Puget Sound Power & Light, Pacific Power & Light Co., Washington Water Power Co., Seattle and Tacoma municipal power systems and four Oregon cities, Eugene, Forest Grove, McMinnville and Milton-Freewater.

The Grant County PUD previously announced the following power allocations from the Priest Rapids project:

Oregon utilities will receive 31 per cent, Montana and Idaho will receive 4 per cent with the balance sold within Washington. Individual allocations have not been announced yet.

In terms of kilowatts, the PUD said earlier, out-of-state purchasers will receive 220,000; Washington utilities, 180,000, and Grant County, 230,000.

CAB Recommend Separate Hearings

WASHINGTON (U) — Examiner F. Merritt Ruhlman of the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) said Wednesday he would recommend two separate hearings on proposed changes in local air routes in the West.

He said after a conference with attorneys for airlines seeking to extend service in the Pacific Northwest and neighboring states he would recommend that the CAB set up two route license application cases.

One would involve applications for routes in Oregon, Washington and Northern California; the other those in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah and Colorado.

More than a dozen lawyers, concerned with applications which would make sweeping changes in the air service pattern of the West, discussed with Ruhlman a proposed consolidation of issues.

Among firms applying for route changes are Frontier, West Coast, Western, Southwest, United, Northwest and Bonanza Airlines.

Truman Lends Advice On Birthday Observance

INDIANAPOLIS (U) — Harry S. Truman, had this word of advice: "Have so much work to do you don't have any chance for devilment and then you will be all right."

The former President, en route by train to New York and a forthcoming European tour, side-stepped newsmen's questions yesterday on his advice for a long life by remarking he was only 72.

Asked how he felt on his anniversary, Truman posed his own question: "Well, how do I look?" He looked fine.

Truman limited his answers on political questions to the prediction that the Democrats will win the 1956 elections. He said he would announce at the Democratic National Convention, and not before, his candidate for the nomination for president.

Heltzel Slates Hearings On Gas Safety Rules

SALEM (U) — Public Utilities Commissioner Charles H. Heltzel announced Wednesday he will hold a hearing here May 24 on proposed safety rules and regulations covering gas pipeline construction and distribution.

The proposed standards are those that were adopted a year ago by a committee of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

The proposed regulations also deal with quality control of gas, metering, customer relations, extensions of service, and system operation and records.

Bruce Blossat

No doubt the Soviet Union hoped to grab a little propaganda glory from its announced decision to disband the Cominform. Timing the move on the eve of the Bulgarian-Khrushchev visit to Britain probably was no accident.

At first glance the action looks pretty much like a restatement of the obvious. Yet underneath it is more.

The Cominform was set up by Josef Stalin in 1947 as a kind of information clearing house for the Red satellites then backing the Marshall Plan. It was a limited substitute for the old Comintern, agency of international communism, which the Reds scuttled in World War II as a gesture toward their Western allies.

But by their own present admission, the Russians have not found the Cominform of much recent use. Events have outdistated it. Everyone is aware it has not been active, so on the surface the announcement sounds like a report that the Kremlin has decided to bury it dead.

IT IS NOT QUITE that. The Cominform, active or otherwise, was a symbol of warfare between East and West. Such trappings the Kremlin wants shoved in the closet today. For this is the era of "co-operation."

Again by their own testimony, the Russians see the disbanded organization as a handicap in a time when they are preaching "popular front" as they did in the late 1930's. Their game now is to weasel their way into operating where they can, with other less radical leftist elements.

The true significance of the official interment of the Cominform is that it is just one more act in the elaborate, slickly conceived "cover plan" for the Kremlin's present-day operations.

THOSE operations involve a tremendous effort to win the world by economic and political warfare, abetted by psychological devices. The goal, clearly, is the same as when the Soviet leaders were pressing their friends and puppets to employ guns. Only the weapons and the tactics are different.

To pursue today's tactics the Kremlin needs no Cominform or even a Comintern. The means of communication and collaboration between the world's Communist

parties have long since been refined to a point where formal structures standing high above the surface are superfluous.

When Moscow eliminates an agency like the Cominform, it is simply chopping off the top of the iceberg. The great bulk of it always did lie beneath the water. Only fools would imagine that because less and less of it is visible the menace is smaller. Obviously the reverse is true—the peril is vastly heightened.

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