

The News-Review

Entered as second class matter May 7, 1926, at the post office at Roseburg, Oregon under act of March 2, 1912.

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Member of the Associated Press, Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

Represented by WEST-HOLLIDAY CO. INC., offices in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Portland, Denver.

Published Daily Except Sunday by the News-Review Company, Inc.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES—In Oregon—By Mail—Per Year, \$12.00; six months, \$6.50; three months, \$3.50. Outside Oregon—By Mail—Per Year, \$13.50; six months, \$7.50; three months, \$4.00. By News-Review Carrier—Per Year, \$13.00 (in advance, less than one year, per month, \$1.75).

STUDY IN CONTRASTS

By Charles V. Stanton

West Coast Airlines has announced a new central valley schedule in Western Oregon, starting June 4. This flight will eliminate the dogleg to Coos Bay-North Bend, thus saving considerable time between Medford, Roseburg, Eugene, Corvallis and Portland. Direct flights from Coos Bay-North Bend also are being initiated.

West Coast Airlines recently announced purchase orders on a new type of plane, powered with turbo-jet engines. These planes are expected to give quieter and more comfortable operation.

These activities by West Coast Airlines are mentioned by way of contrast with the failures of another transportation utility, the "Friendly" Southern Pacific.

West Coast is confronted with the fact that highway improvements in Western Oregon have reduced the time advantage previously held by the airline. Flying time from Roseburg to Portland by way of Coos Bay-North Bend now is two hours and ten minutes. It takes approximately a half hour to get from the airport to downtown Portland. So the elapsed time to a downtown hotel is around two hours and forty minutes. Direct flights will cut this time by at least forty-five minutes.

With existing highway improvements, a fairly fast driver can make the distance from Roseburg to downtown Portland in from three and one-half to four hours. When new sections of the reconstructed highway are finished this fall, the time will be cut by fifteen minutes to a half hour.

Airline Bettors Service

Confronted with this competition in travel time, West Coast Airlines is arranging to give faster schedules. At the same time it is preparing to invest many millions of dollars in speedier, quieter and more comfortable equipment.

West Coast Airlines, providing a local service, serves in Southern Oregon the same area as the "Friendly" Southern Pacific.

But contrast West Coast's attitude with that of the railroad company!

Rather than meet the time competition provided by improved highways and, instead of improving schedules and equipment, the "Friendly" Southern Pacific set about deliberately to kill off its passenger service on the Siskiyou line.

It cried piteously about the decline in patronage, while utilizing every opportunity for making the service as unsatisfactory and inconvenient as possible. Then, after succeeding in reducing patronage to a minimum, it discontinued passenger trains, in defiance of orders from the Public Utilities Commissioner, on the plea of deficit operation.

Hearings recently have been held by the Public Utilities Commissioner to determine the need for rail passenger service in the area. Although need clearly has been demonstrated in appearances on behalf of the general public, the railroad's case, yet to be heard, will undoubtedly show heavy financial losses.

Competitive Spirit Lacking

But would the "Friendly" Southern Pacific be sustaining heavy operating losses if it had the same competitive spirit shown by West Coast Airlines? If the "Friendly" Southern Pacific tried to meet competition by improving schedules and equipment, would it be losing so much money that it couldn't afford passenger service to the area that represents such a large proportion of its total revenue?

Personally, I like to travel by air. Not only do I enjoy the sensation of flying, but, when weather is good, I take pleasure in the view, despite the frequency with which I see it, and I more particularly enjoy the rest and relaxation while getting to my destination. I arrive refreshed, rather than exhausted.

But many people prefer ground transportation. This is evident by the crowded buses and crowded highways. Unquestionably there is plenty of patronage for the railroad, provided the railroad offered a decent service.

But the "Friendly" Southern Pacific isn't interested in giving a service in which it might incur a deficit or even a short profit, though it takes millions of dollars in long profits from the area.

On the other hand, West Coast Airlines is ready and willing to fight for patronage and risks millions of dollars of capital investment to be in a better position to serve public demand. It is deserving of commendation for its spirit.

Peter Edson

WASHINGTON — (NEA) — Subversive Activities Control Board hearings on six "front organizations" have been brought to a full stop by the U. S. Supreme Court's decision to send the U. S. Communist party case back to SACB for re-examination.

The Supreme Court's 6-3 decision was based on the Communist party's claim that three of the government's informer witnesses against it were perjurers — Paul Crouch, Harvey Matusow and Manning Johnson.

SACB first ordered the U. S. Communist party to register and disclose membership in April, 1953. SACB declared at the time that the testimony of Crouch, Matusow and Johnson could be totally ignored. The testimony of 18 other witnesses would prove that the party was a Communist organization.

U. S. COURT OF APPEALS confirmed this finding but the Communist party appealed to the Supreme Court in April, 1955. Now the case is sent back to SACB to do all over again.

This puts SACB Chairman Thomas J. Herbert and his four board members on the spot. Herbert has served three terms as state attorney general and one term as governor of Ohio. He is a candidate for the Ohio Supreme Court this year. He has sympathy for the court's position. But he has the SACB position to vindicate.

SACB has two choices. It can throw out its old record and start fresh as on a new case. Or it can re-examine its record and confirm or upset its previous finding.

The effect either way is to delay for at least a year getting the Communist party case back to the Supreme Court to decide whether the McCarran Internal Security Act of 1950 — which set up SACB procedure — is constitutional.

WHY THE SUPREME COURT took this delaying action is a question for much speculation among Washington legal lights.

The most rational explanation offered is that the Supreme Court may be trying gradually to bring some order out of the hodgepodge of federal and state security laws. Under the Smith Act, which makes it a crime to advocate overthrow of the U. S. government, 139 U. S. Communist leaders have been indicted on conspiracy charges. To date, 102 have been convicted, seven are on trial, 16 are awaiting trial, nine have been acquitted and five cases have been dropped because of death or ill health.

Fourteen of the convicted U. S. Communist leaders have served their time. Three have been deported. Six are now back running the party while the second stringers serve their sentences. What this may demonstrate is that Smith Act convictions are not effective in ending the U. S. Communist conspiracy.

THE OTHER FIVE of the convicted and freed top party leaders are awaiting new trials as members of organizations advocating overthrow of the U. S. government. The case of Claude Lightfoot of Chicago, first Communist leader to be sentenced under this membership section of the Smith Act, is now on appeal to the Supreme Court. A second case involving Julius Seales of North Carolina is headed there.

Under the McCarran Act, a waver membership in the Communist party is not a crime. The McCarran Act merely requires that members register. It specifies that no information on registration can be used as evidence in criminal prosecution.

This creates the conflict with the Smith Act membership clause.

Down on the Farm



Hal Boyle

Reader Opinions

Meaning Of Symbols On Dollar Bill Told

ROSEBURG — A leaflet came in my mail the other day which contained interesting information about the U. S. dollar bill. It stated that only one American in 100 knows what the symbols on the back of it stand for, and I admit that I was one of the 99 who didn't. But since both sides of the Great Seal of the United States are on the dollar bill, it does seem that every citizen should learn what is symbolized:

The pyramid denotes "strength and duration." The eye above it represents the eye of Providence watching over us and is intended to remind us that we ought to keep spiritual things above material prosperity: the Latin words above it, "Annuit Coepit," may be translated as "He has favored our undertakings." While the words beneath the pyramid, "Novus Ordo Seclorum," mean "A new order of ages," and the MDCCCLXXVI on base of pyramid are the Roman numerals for 1776, the beginning of our independence.

The right-hand circle contains:

(1) the eagle, which has been our emblem since 1782 and denotes "strength and victory;" (2) a shield with 13 stripes on it indicating that each state, altho having its own rights, should do its part to protect the liberty of all the states; (3) a bar on the upper part of the shield represents Congress; (4) a branch of 13 olive leaves held in the right foot of the eagle, symbolizing the duty of the 13 states to work for peace and against war; (5) a ring of light surrounding a cluster of 13 stars—symbolic of "a new State taking its place and rank among other sovereign powers."

I wonder if the above is taught in the schools. I would suggest that if it isn't, it ought to be.

Evelyn Bowen
Roseburg, Ore.

Skunk Discriminates In Choice Of Chickens

ROSEBURG — Did you ever have your chicken coop raided by a skunk and loose 15 nice fryers ranging from 2½ to 3½ pounds each, all on the same night? Two were found dead on the place. One partially eaten and the other with its back broken and large teeth marks on the back. The other 16 completely vanished.

If what I have been told is true, skunks around here grow to quite some size, even weigh as much as 15 to 20 pounds. Douglas County can no doubt beat Texas when it comes to growing skunks. It is quite evident that their I. Q. is very high also. Otherwise why would they wait till the chickens were just the right size to fry? A skunk could easily have gotten into the pen at any time.

Skunks are known to be fond of chicken and this one was also a good judge of chicken flesh. It picked out all of the largest birds and left only 4 of the smallest ones. Maybe he just wasn't as energetic, as he was large and smart and got tired after making off with 16 of the best.

A skunk? Maybe, but not of the usual variety. It stinks!

Mrs. H. J. Baker
Roseburg, Ore.

Cougar Dam Project Initial Contract Let

PORTLAND — Army Engineers announced award Saturday of a \$571,836 contract for the first construction work on Cougar Dam on the south fork of the McKenzie River.

Northwood, Inc., Portland, won the contract for construction of a diversion tunnel and clearing 34 acres of land at the damsite, seven miles upstream from the community of Blue River. Completion date is March 1, 1957.

TO STUDY SALES TAX

SALEM — The Legislative Interim Tax Committee will meet here Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The committee, which is recommending that the 1957 Legislature pass a sales tax, will study sales tax proposals Friday.

Funds Withheld From Treasury Draws Criticism

WASHINGTON — Comptroller General Joseph Campbell said Monday the Pentagon is holding on to at least 460 million dollars in foreign aid funds that under the law should have been returned to the Treasury.

Testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Campbell contended that foreign aid planning in general has been "over-optimistic" and has called

for more money than could actually be spent.

"At least 400 million dollars of military assistance appropriations, representing unpaid obligations, overstated at June 30, 1954, has been retained by the Department of Defense in violation of the provisions of the Mutual Security Act of 1954," he said.

Campbell said the Pentagon has offered a technical explanation for holding on to the funds — but not, in his opinion, a valid one. The comptroller general appeared in connection with the committee's study of an administration proposal to change the

system of foreign aid appropriations so as to eliminate large carryovers of unspent funds from one fiscal year to another.

Exams Dated For Naval Academy Candidates

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Representative Harris Ellsworth announced today that he has arranged with the Civil Service Commission to hold on Monday, July 9, 1956, a preliminary qualifying examination to determine the eligible candidates for appointment in 1957 to the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.; the U. S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.; and the Air Force Academy, Denver, Colo.

Candidates for admission to the Academies must be not less than seventeen years of age nor more than twenty-two years of age on July 1, 1957.

Candidates for these Academies must be actual residents of the Fourth Oregon District, which embraces Linn, Lane, Douglas, Coos, Josephine, Jackson and Curry Counties.

Applicants must notify Congressman Harris Ellsworth, 1130 House Office Building, Washington 25, D.C., in writing not later than June 5, 1956, of their desire to participate in the examination. Appointment of principals and alternates is based on grades achieved in the examination.

Neuberger Asks Billion Fund To Fight Diseases

NEW YORK — A billion dollar federal fund "to combat the diseases plaguing mankind" was suggested Monday by Sen. Richard L. Neuberger (D-Ore.).

In a speech for the convention of the National Tuberculosis Assn., the legislator said such an appropriation should be spent for health care, medical education and research.

Neuberger was unable to attend the convention and his address was read by his wife, Maurine.

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