

The News-Review

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CULT OF GLUMNESS

Eugene Register-Guard

It may or may not be true that Adlai Stevenson has been advised to "make at least one grammatical error a day." But it does seem to us that "the new Adlai" is a more solemn man than the Illinois governor who earned a reputation as a wit in 1952. If Mr. Stevenson should win the Democratic nomination again, we hope he will not listen too closely to advisors who insist that the candidate conform to the American tradition of solemnity. A dash of humor, a wry quip, placed in just the right spot, does not indicate that the public figure regards national problems lightly. Rather, we think, it shows perspective, an understanding that this moment in history is just that—a moment in history.

Yet the tradition persists. Who ever saw a smiling picture of George Washington? And the years after the Civil War saw a generation of solemn presidents—or so they seemed, although they could have been grinning like Cheshire cats behind the facial brush that was popular in that era. William Howard Taft, a jolly fat man, was dead serious in his speeches. And Wilson, an egghead who set the Stevenson pattern of eggheadery, once said of the presidency, "The office is much greater than (its occupant) can ever be, and about the most he can do is to look grave and selfpossessed enough to seem to fill it."

FDR Spoke With Solemnity

Even FDR, noted for his gaiety, tried to be solemn in his speeches. Nonetheless his two most successful political speeches were those in which he chided Republicans for "attacking my little dog Fala," and in which he linked the names of "Martin, Barton and Fish."

All these men, President Eisenhower included, are following the advice given a young man by Sen. Thomas Corwin, a former governor of Ohio and secretary of the treasury. He told this young man, "If you would succeed in life you must be solemn—solemn as an ass. All the great monuments are built over solemn asses." The young man was James A. Garfield, the most solemn of the solemn, and he rose to be President. Monuments have been erected to him.

Abe Lincoln was fond of a good story and told many although he usually kept them out of his public speeches. The story is told about two women traveling in a railway coach during the Civil War. One declared she feared the South would win the war "because Jefferson Davis is a praying man." But, her companion told her, "Abraham Lincoln is a praying man, too." "Ah yes," said the first, "But the Lord will think Abraham is joking."

Yet how wonderful it is that Mr. Stevenson, a few days after his defeat in 1952, could begin a speech by saying, "The other day a funny thing happened to me on my way to the White House."

Abe Could Crack Jokes

And Abe Lincoln, stung by Stephen A. Douglas' reminder that he had once tended bar, could retort, "Yes, but what the judge didn't mention is that while I quit my side of the bar, the judge has remained on his." And there is Harold Leikes saying that "Dewey has thrown his diaper into the ring," and Alice Roosevelt Longworth saying that "Ike has thrown his halo into the ring."

Once a Washington gossip columnist "reported" that Al Smith had packed his bags and was leaving for the Vatican where he was to be FDR's personal representative. The story was not true. The President wired Al Smith simply, "Unpack."

If it is true that great political leaders have been, for the most part, humorless creatures, it is just as true that some of the worst of the world's leaders have been as humorless—Hitler, Mussolini, Robespierre, Cromwell. The tradition of solemnity may be laid no more at the feet of George Washington than at the feet of Oliver Cromwell.

The witty aside, the humorous view of a solemn problem, is offensive to those who regard humor as mere joke telling. These people, humorless themselves for the most part, fail to understand that humor is not only a means of making people laugh; it is also an unsurpassed means of making them understand.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (P)—A London author writing a play about Jesus Christ recently wanted to find out on what day of the week the Savior had been born.

He turned for help to Hugo Dunn-Meynell, known as Britain's "Mr. Knowledge."

Dunn-Meynell is managing director of an unusual firm called "Finders Ltd." which for a fee will ferret out information for a client or perform any odd job so long "as it is legal and moral."

He and his 25 assistants pored over hundreds of volumes of Biblical scholarship before coming up with this answer:

"Jesus probably was born either at Wednesday or Thursday mid-night, but we can't go beyond that. Infernal evidence within the Bible itself makes it unlikely he could have been born on any other day of the week."

This has been the most interesting of the queries that pour into his firm at the rate of about 200 a week, but there have been many strange ones.

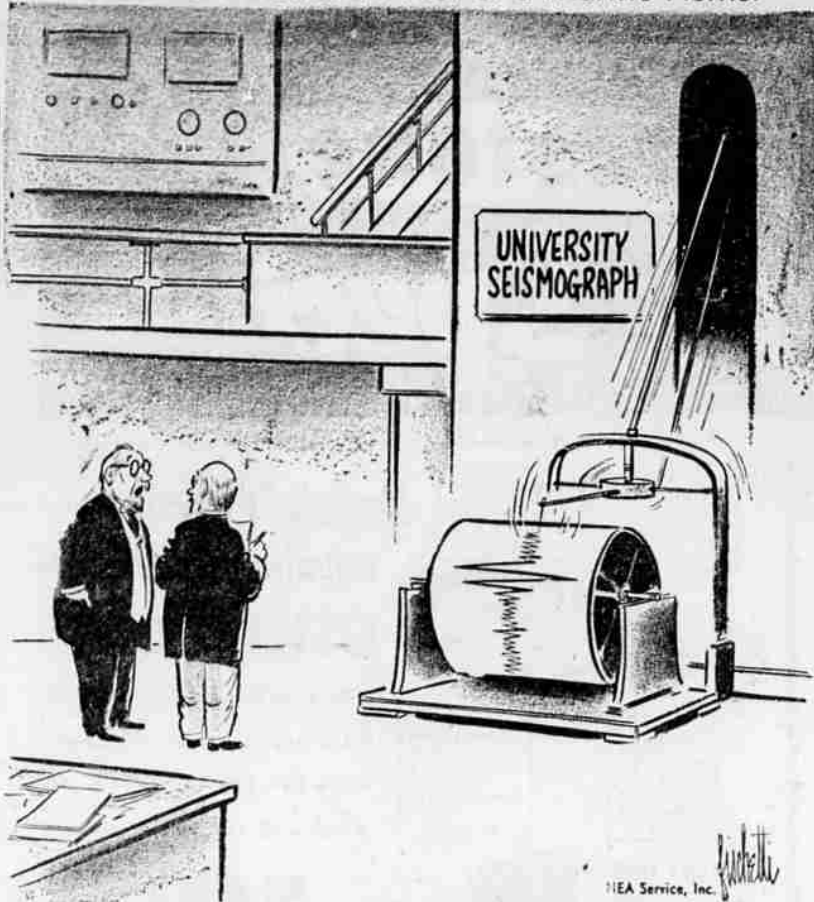
Hotel Sends Bed
An American, for example, wrote and asked that a hotel bed he had slept in during a stay in London be sent to him.

"It was extremely comfortable," he explained. Finders Ltd. went to the hotel, bought the bed, and shipped it over.

Dunn-Meynell, who is 30, slender and wears a ginger coat, served in the Royal Navy and studied law before launching his unique career. It has taken him to most parts of the world, and he is now making a 13,000-mile trip around America.

His organization is geared for emergencies. Once it had to charter a car and race 35 miles to deliver a pair of forgotten false teeth to a British lady executive

"It's Either Another H-Test or a Mantle Homer"



HEA Service, Inc.

Stress On Ike's Record Planned In Keynote Talk

NEWARK, N.J. (P)—Gov. Arthur B. Langlie of Washington said Saturday he deems it a high honor to be selected as keynote speaker for the August Republican National Convention.

Speaking to newsmen before leaving to preside over the National Governor's Conference in Atlantic City, opening Monday, the Washington governor said his talk will focus on President Eisenhower's record in office for the past 3½ years.

Langlie said he would contrast the situation when Eisenhower came into office with what it is today. "The controls we had then compared to free enterprise now."

The first he knew of his selection to give the main convention talk in San Francisco Aug. 29, Langlie said, was when he was awakened at 1 a.m. Saturday by a phone call from an unidentified friend from Spokane.

He pointed out he is normally an "off-the-cuff" speaker but may use notes for the important talk.

Langlie said his talk may also deal extensively with President Eisenhower's health, adding that a man who has had a heart attack knows his limitations.

The 35-year-old attorney, Minnesota-born son of Norwegian immigrants, admitted that his fight for reelection against Democratic U.S. Sen. Warren G. Magnuson will be "close."

Accompanied by his wife, Evelyn Baker Langlie, and his daughter, Carrie Ellen, 21, the GOP governor has been at Llewellyn Park, N.J., for the past two days as a member of the National Committee for Development of Scientists and Engineers.

A State Police escort accompanied his car to Atlantic City.

Legion District To Meet Sunday

Delegates from District 14 of the American Legion will convene in Oakland Sunday to elect a new district commander and vice commander.

The Sutherland Sun reports the meeting will be held in Veteran's Memorial hall at 2 p.m.

Mel Davis of Oakland is present district commander and Wendell Truitt, also of Oakland, is district vice commander.

Portland Bomb Threat Just Another Hoax

PORTLAND (P)—An anonymous bomb threat, the latest in a series extending back more than a year, caused bus company inspectors to check all busses on the city lines Friday.

A telephone caller said a bomb had been left on one of the busses. It took a search of 125 busses and about two hours to determine it was another hoax. It was the first time the bus company had been checked all busses on the city lines.

STUDENTS TAKE TRIP

The Farmers Creamery of Eugene was host to six students from Yoncalla who have completed one year in dairy projects recently. Those taking the trip from Douglas County were all members of Yoncalla livestock club.

The youngsters left Eugene on the Shasta Limited for San Francisco, where they spent three days. Those going were Jean Mill, Wilson Allen, Francis and Bill Allen, Roger Russel and Jerry Reeves.

In backtracking their ancestors, Dunn-Meynell particularly enjoys these searches, for he has an impressive ancestry himself. He is "Lord of the Manor" of Yarm, a village in Yorkshire, where his family has had a large estate since 1580.

The prerogatives of his position don't worry him much. "The Lord of the Manor" is entitled to open the local fair," he said, smiling, "and to greet royalty—if they should ever happen by."

Most Americans are interested in backtracking their ancestors.

Sec. Seaton Now Wrestling Problem Of Reorganizing Fish And Wildlife Service

By A. ROBERT SMITH
News Review Correspondent

WASHINGTON (P)—Secretary of Interior Fred A. Seaton is now wrestling with his first major controversial decision—another one of the many in the resource development field on which private interests and conservationists are split.

This is whether the Eisenhower administration should go through with a scheduled reorganization of the Fish and Wildlife Service, dividing it into two agencies, one for commercial fisheries and the other for sport fishing and wildlife.

Conservationists have not joined forces to fight the proposal, claiming the proposed new Bureau of Fisheries would be dominated by commercial fishing interests who want to control fishing regulations along coastal waters and in Alaska.

Seaton has given both them and the supporters of the move separate hearings during the past week to become familiar with their respective arguments. Unless he takes action to stop or postpone it, the reorganization will take effect July 1.

The unusual feature of this dispute is that it has political implications that appear to cut across party lines in Congress. Sens. Warren G. Magnuson (D-Wash.) and Thomas Kuchel (R-Calif.) have jointly sponsored a bill to do substantially what the administration says it will do in creating a fisheries bureau. The Senate passed the bill, before conservationists' protest to sound the alarm, but it has not acted on it as yet.

Representatives of the fisheries and canneries say they have told Seaton the entire commercial fishing industry is back of the reshuffle of agencies. Conservationists say this would be a backward step, reversing the consolidation of fisheries brought to the Commerce Department and the old Bureau of

Biological Survey into one new agency, Fish and Wildlife Service. Conservationists contend that the administration came up with its plan to take the play away from Magnuson, who is running for reelection. In a bulletin issued by nine conservation groups, they declared:

"The commercial fisheries have a long record of self-destruction through over-exploitation. Even today conservation is resorted to only after the fact of depletion, not in an effort at advance planning and control for sustained yields. This is well illustrated by the history of depletion of the West Coast halibut since 1900. More recent, despite ample and vociferous warning from informed conservationists, the sardine fleets off California continued to catch more and more until the once-great, rich sardine industry suffered complete collapse a couple of years ago. It has not yet come back."

"But for the powerful commercial lobby, over-fishing in Alaska salmon would have been stopped years ago. The Alaska salmon catch is now down to its lowest point in forty years. More recent, despite ample and vociferous warning from informed conservationists, the sardine fleets off California continued to catch more and more until the once-great, rich sardine industry suffered complete collapse a couple of years ago. It has not yet come back."

"Groups signing the above critical statement were Wildlife Management Institute, Wilderness Society, Sport Fishing Institute, Outdoor Writers Association of America, National Wildlife Federation, National Parks Association, Forest Conservation Society of America, Public Affairs Institute and Citizens Committee on Natural Resources."

Less than a month in office, Seaton is finding himself on the hot seat.

hand, would be a severe repudiation of the Eisenhower-McKay electric power and water resource policies. For Sen. Morse has been a leading advocate of public power development. He has supported the Hells Canyon high dam project for federal power development, and he has opposed the low dams which Idaho Power Co. has been authorized to construct on the Snake River.

THE LATE SEN. Alben Barkley (D-Ky.) is the best recent example of a politician who hit the comeback trail and came through successfully. He was elected to the Senate in 1954, two years after leaving the vice presidency.

This is such a risky business, however, that John Sherman Cooper, Kentucky's former GOP governor and senator, twice defeated GOP presidential candidate.

There has been speculation that ex-Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York might be the Republican candidate against the incumbent Democratic Sen. Herbert Lehman, who is up for reelection. That would be considerable of a comeback for Dewey, twice defeated GOP presidential candidate.

Martin Bros. Co. Buys Barrel Plant Assets
Machinery from the California Barrel Co., San Francisco, is due to be shipped to the Martin Bros. Box Co. plant at Oakland, according to the Daily Journal of Commerce, Portland.

The Roddis Plywood Corp. recently purchased timber holdings and plants of the barrel company, and Martin Bros. purchased the assets of the barrel plant.

TAKE OREGON. Ex-Gov. Douglas McKay resigned his job as Secretary of Interior in the Eisenhower cabinet to run against the incumbent, now-Democratic Sen. Wayne Morse.

If McKay wins, it will be an endorsement of Eisenhower administration "partnership" power policies.

A Morse victory, on the other

In The Day's News

(Continued From Page One)

take the NEXT THREE YEARS to get the new farm civil bank into full operation. In his grave, sincere way, he sought to establish the fact that the new soil bank program won't be any quick scheme that its purpose is to get American agriculture back onto a basis of balanced supply and demand.

He concluded his explanation of the soil bank with this statement: "We have measured your farm policies on the basis of WHAT IS GOOD FOR THE FARMER AND THE NATION—not on the political applause meter."

Senator Kefauver said: "The lack of leadership which the (Eisenhower) administration has so deplorably demonstrated in meeting the farm crisis is again being mirrored in the timid and reluctant manner in which the new 1956 farm act (including the soil bank) is being administered. 'Reliable' calculations indicate that as much as a BILLION eight hundred million dollars of additional farm income THIS YEAR could result from proper administration of the farm bill. Farmers will not get this aid (this year) if the delay in hanging policies of the administration continue."

Let's put it this way: Secretary Benson knows that if we are to SOLVE the farm problem we must quit subsidizing surplus to hang over the markets of the future like a dark thundercloud. He knows that if American agriculture is to be saved it must be got back to the point where supply and demand are in a reasonable state of balance.

He knows that will take time. Senator Kefauver wants EVERY POSSIBLE DOLLAR POURED IN TO THE FARMER'S LAP THIS YEAR, so that in gratitude for the handout the farmer will VOTE DEMOCRATIC in November.

That is putting it pretty ruggedly, but it is about the essence of the big political debate in Eldorado.

In conclusion, let's quote a paragraph from the business news of today:

"The automobile industry is reported to be working its way out of a hole. The industry, which has faced since before World War II. Estimates from Detroit are that the inventory (surplus) of new cars in dealers' hands will be down 700,000 by July 1. In March, the industry had an inventory of more than 900,000 cars."

Give this a thought: Suppose that in March the government had stepped in and BOUGHT UP AND STORED the surplus of automobiles. In that event, where would the automobile industry be now?

The answer is short, but not sweet: It would be IN A PICKLE.

Tribute Planned For Retiring City Boss Of Corvallis

CORVALLIS (P)—Public officials from throughout Northwest Oregon will gather here June 29 to pay tribute to James O. Conville, Corvallis city manager, who will retire from a life of public work June 30.

Douglas McKay, Gov. Elmo Smith, Portland Mayor Fred Peterson, Astoria Mayor Pete Cosovich, State Highway Engineer R. H. Baldock, Oregon State College President A. L. Strand and others plan to attend the dinner in honor of Conville, who is compelled by law to retire. He soon will be 72.

Conville has been city manager here seven years. Prior to coming here he was city manager of Astoria for 15 years, with time out to serve in active duty during World War II.

He also was commissioner of the Port of Astoria, superintendent of parks at Portland, and managed the first veterans commission in Oregon. He has served on the League of Oregon Cities board of directors for many years and until recently was treasurer of that organization.

Even before entering public work he had gained fame as a football player at Purdue University about the turn of the century. He was known as "Dad" Conville. Later he played with the Portland Athletic Club at Portland.

Conville's retirement becomes effective July 1. He said he has no immediate plans for the future. He owns a large farm near Forest Grove.

John F. Porter, former city manager at Grants Pass, will take over as Corvallis city manager.

Washington GOP Raps Hells Canyon Measure

SPOKANE (P)—The Washington State Republican Central Committee Friday called the Hells Canyon bill pending in Congress "trick" legislation and urged congressional support of the administration's partnership power policy.

A resolution said the Hells Canyon bill, voted out by a Senate committee this week, "will not provide more power development, but . . . will block and delay development."

The bill would authorize construction of a federal high dam in a section of the Snake River where Idaho Power Co. is licensed to build three new dams.

Oregon Delegation Of Demos To Organize

SALEM (P)—The Oregon delegation to the national Democratic convention in Chicago will hold its organization meeting at the Marion County courthouse here July 7.

Roy Hewitt, Salem, elected a delegate from the First Congressional district in the May election, will be temporary chairman of the meeting.

U. S. Sen. Richard L. Neuberger, who polled the most votes for delegate-at-large, is expected to be named chairman of the Oregon delegation.

Defense Secretary Wilson Claims Misquoting In Use Of Word 'Phony' In Debate

By ELTON C. FAY

QUANTICO, Va. (P)—Secretary of Defense Wilson said Saturday he was either "partly misquoted" or misunderstood at a news conference Thursday in which he used the word "phony" in discussing Senate debate on defense funds.

Wilson had been quoted as putting the "phony" label on efforts to boost Air Force funds. The remark as attributed touched off an uproar in the Senate and came up for discussion at President Eisenhower's hospital quarters Saturday.

Some senators demanded that Wilson step out as defense chief. Wilson, unsmiling and grim, was asked by reporters if the word "phony" applied "to any maneuvers in the Senate."

"No I didn't intend it that way," the secretary exclaimed.

Wilson suggested at one point that he may have contributed to what he called misunderstanding "by some carelessness."

He said there are "no grounds whatsoever" for the protest of some senators that Wilson had insulted them.

Air Force Fund Adequate
Wilson continued to hold the position that funds provided for the Air Force in the administration budget are adequate. The Democratic-controlled Senate Appropriations Committee had voted an additional \$1,160,000,000.

When asked if the Republican compromise proposal by Sen. Bridges (R-NH) for half billion dollar addition to funds is approved would Wilson spend it, the secretary replied:

"I didn't say that. I said I would just put it in the bank and take a look at it."

After Wilson had said the extra money was not needed, a newsman commented that Prime Minister Anthony Eden had announced plans to cut military spending. The questions and answers then went as follows:

Quotation Says 'Phony'
Wilson — "Well, I have great sympathy for Prime Minister Eden. I don't believe his problems are too different from mine."

Reporter — "Yours are how to save off more money, aren't they?"
Wilson — "I think that's a phony."

Reporter — "Do you?"
Wilson — "Yes, I do."
Reporter — "What does that mean, sir?"

The issue Wilson raised Saturday about partial misquote or misunderstanding revolved around a question that came up repeatedly in the Thursday news conference. The Defense Department's transcript of the conference was made available to reporters.

Wilson — "Well, maybe I shouldn't have said it, but the people of our country quite properly want to make sure that we have a strong defense and we are taking care of the security of the nation, but when it comes to paying the taxes to do it, some people take a little different slant on that, and I would just like to see the people take the record, that vote for expenditures, that vote for taxes to produce the money to pay for it — the same people — stand up and be counted."

Use Of Word Explained
Why did he use the word "phony" newsmen asked.

"I called it a phony because your question was a phony," Wilson answered. "The reason was the conception that I didn't have to think about the cost and the money."

Referring to the sharp denunciations from some senators Friday Wilson said "I get a blast that I insulted our fellow citizens and I know you know I wouldn't do that."

Then came a question about the word "phony" in the news conference.

"I hoped you would drop that," he told the reporters who covered the Thursday conference.

Did the word apply in any maneuvers in the Senate?

"No, no, I didn't intend it that way."

Why didn't he say so when he talked to reporters Friday, a day after his news conference?

"I didn't realize it was such a blow. I thought it would die out."

Congregationalists Vote In Favor Of Merger After Tedious Nine-Hour Spell

OMAHA (P)—Congregational Christians, after an extraordinary all-night session, took the first step Saturday in approving a historic merger with the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

The vote was 134 in favor of the action and 101 against.

The test came on the first section of a two-part resolution tracing the steps leading toward the merger.

The section said it constituted the "report of approval" by the church's General Council of the proposed merger.

However, another enabling section of the resolution still was to be acted on.

Delegates, apparently undaunted by a grueling session of more than nine hours devoted to reading of records throughout the night, engaged in a spirited two-hour discussion before the showdown came.

OMAHA (P)—An amazing display of church candor—and fortitude—ended Saturday after a grueling 9 hours and 36 minutes. All night, Congregational Christian representatives sat through a prodigious, word-by-word recitation of executive committee minutes covering a two-year period.

The reading stemmed from a demand by foes of a proposed merger with the Evangelical and Reformed Church. They spoke of a lawsuit if it weren't done. They cited a constitutional provision requiring full information on committee proceedings.

"It's remarkable how they (the weary delegates) stood by (the Rev. Albert Buckner Coe of Boston, the church moderator, who was forced into it. It's been a tremendous testimony, a sort of benediction."

Humor and drama marked the strange night-long grind. Sleepy delegates slumped in their chairs, a few slumbering, their legs stretched out and heads lolling. Wives leaned on husbands' shoulders. Many read books or newspapers. Occasionally delegates rose to ask about dates or for repeat of paragraphs.

At one point when committee minutes lavished praise on Dr. Douglas Horton, former moderator and now Harvard Divinity School dean, loud applause broke out.

Horton, opening his eyes sleepily, began applauding, too, until his wife nudged him.

When the minutes listed some 17th century Congregational literature with titles like "Toleration of Differing Opinion" and "The Character of an Independent," the audience roared with laughter.

Overseas Bases' Loss Threat Faced By U. S.
WASHINGTON (P)—Sen. Jackson (D-Wash.) said today possible closure of overseas air bases by this country is an important reason for the Senate to approve a billion-dollar increase in Air Force funds.

"The truth is that our overseas bases are becoming less and less reliable to support our air-military power. . . . From Iceland to Okinawa, the key strategic bases are now under political attack," Jackson said in a speech prepared for Senate delivery.

Jackson contended that if the overseas bases are lost, more B-52 long-range bombers capable of operating from this country will be needed to deter the increasing Soviet strategic air power.

The principal issue, as the Senate debated the big Defense Department appropriations bill, was whether—and how much—to increase the funds President Eisenhower asked for the Air Force.

Watkins was a bitter political foe of then President Harry S. Truman. He wanted to go to the convention, he said, to try to keep Truman off the ballot.

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