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IT'S UP TO CONGRESS

By Charles V. Stanton

Senate and House sub-committees, which held hearings on federal timber management policies in the Pacific Northwest several months ago, have recommended that all timber management be consolidated in the U.S. Forest Service. The Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Indian Service, which now handle timber sales on lands within their respective jurisdictions, would retain all present functions except timber management, which they would surrender to the Forest Service.

This is not a new proposal, except in form. It has been advanced many times. It was recommended by one division of the Hoover Commission. Another recommendation, which would, in effect, have achieved the same purpose, was the Hoover Commission suggestion that there be created a new department on natural resources.

Thus the proposal has been hashed over a number of times in recent years. But when it comes down to a decision it is found that good argument exists on both sides, resulting in the issue being dropped without action.

In favor of the consolidation it may be pointed out that there exists much duplication of effort, considerable overlapping and varying methods and procedures between agencies. It also is difficult for prospective buyers to deal with three groups, each with different rules, regulations, requirements and policies. Under one management, work could be done with less personnel, expense and waste.

Competition Is Factor

But, in rebuttal, we find that federal bureaus, without competition, frequently become "stuffy" and autocratic. That charge has been leveled at the Forest Service many times in the past. I believe that competition between the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management in handling timber sales, building roads, etc., in Douglas County has a stimulating effect that might possibly be lacking if we had only one agency.

Yet, here in Douglas County, had our timber sales been under one agency, we perhaps would have had better management in the removal program, through an improved balance between cutting of face timber, largely handled by BLM, and high timber, controlled by the Forest Service.

The committees propose increased emphasis on building access roads and obtaining rights of way to reach and develop federal timber; more small and medium sized timber sales; increased salvage of dead and dying timber; improved timber inventories and increased development of new timber species.

To accomplish these results, the committees contend, the Forest Service is the best equipped agency from the standpoint of personnel, technical facilities and experience.

All these are fine recommendations, but they too are old. They are recommendations timber management agencies have been making for years. Unless Congress takes a more realistic attitude toward forest management, the Forest Service will be virtually stymied in trying to put these recommendations into effect.

Key Held By Congress

The committees want more access roads, and at the same time they want smaller timber sales. But the Forest Service, forced to go far back in the mountains for timber, has been unable to get access road money from Congress. It has had to build most of its roads through timber sales and buyers who agree in purchase contracts to build necessary roads, with credit for the cost in the sales price. Thus, because sales have had to pay the cost of road building, they have had to be big enough to meet the road expense, causing the Forest Service to gain the reputation of catering to the big operators. Had Congress appropriated enough access road money to permit the Forest Service to build its needed arterials, a policy for which the service has been pleading for years, it would have been possible to conduct more small sales.

To improve timber inventories, conduct research into practicability of new species, handle more sales, and otherwise execute the program as recommended, would require much larger personnel than currently combined in the three agencies. These agencies even now have much trouble keeping trained personnel under the existing salary schedule. Recommendations have been made time and again for more personnel and better salaries. If those recommendations were met, either the three agencies or a single agency, handling a consolidated program, could carry out the suggested program. In fact, the major features of the program would have been in effect long ago had sufficient funds been made available.

If Congress wants a better degree of forest management it should have no trouble getting it, either by one agency or three, provided it supplies an adequate budget. But without an adequate budget it can expect little improvement, consolidation or no consolidation.

It's up to Congress.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP)—Politicians today are divided on the importance of "whistle stop" tours in an election campaign. It is important, of course, for a candidate to "get out and meet the folks." But just how important is it in an age when the candidates, via television, can come into three out of every four American living rooms?

Political leaders of both parties may be missing a bet in not reviving the old-fashioned front porch campaign. It has been notably successful in the past in electing presidents—particularly distinguished looking Republican candidates whose names were prosperity.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer recently recalled the famous front porch victories won by William McKinley and Warren G. Harding.

In 1896 McKinley conducted a front porch campaign from his Canton, O., home on the advice of his mentor, Mark Hanna. Hanna (whom Democrats of the day referred to as "Boss" Hanna) helped organize delegations of distinguished visitors to the distinguished candidate, with the Republican Party picking up the tab for many of their fares.

While resting his feet, McKinley

ANY STEEL PRICE INCREASE

Gov. Smith Again Invites Langley To Grand Jury

SALEM (AP)—Gov. Elmo Smith Tuesday again invited Multnomah County Dist. Atty. William M. Langley to appear before the Multnomah County grand jury.

The governor's statement was in response to a letter in which Langley challenged the manner in which Atty. Gen. Robert Y. Thornton is conducting the grand jury investigation.

The governor's statement said in part:

"The attorney general has had the fullest and most complete power and authority possible in this investigation. He has had the complete cooperation of the personnel and facilities of the Oregon State Police."

"Attorney General Thornton publicly demanded that he be placed in charge of the investigation. Mr. Langley also demanded that Mr. Thornton supersede him."

"Mr. Langley has been invited to appear before the grand jury. As of this date he has not appeared."

"In response to the letter Mr. Langley wrote to me detailing charges against the manner in which the attorney general is conducting the investigation, I am advising him to place any and all information he has on the matter before the grand jury."

Meier & Frank Replaces Allied Stores In Center

PORTLAND (AP)—Meier & Frank Co. of Portland and Salem will replace Allied Stores as the major department store in the proposed 20-million-dollar Lloyd shopping center on Portland's East Side.

Announcement of the change was made jointly by Aaron M. Frank, president and general manager of Meier & Frank, and Richard Von Hagen, Beverly Hills, Calif., president of the Lloyd Corp.

When plans for the development were announced two years ago, Allied Stores was announced as the key business in a 120-store center. A conditional lease indicated Allied would take space on six levels at a cost of about \$14 million dollars for building, fixtures and stock. Allied has a store in Eugene.

The announcement Saturday said Meier & Frank has leased 300,000 square feet for floor space covering about 7½ average Portland city blocks.

Von Hagen said remaining old residences in the development area will be cleared soon and actual ground work on the huge center started immediately.

Frank said the additional space "is required for operations in the Portland area to keep pace with the company's growth in the expanded Portland metropolitan area."

win today? The growth of mass communications would seem to make it simpler than ever for a candidate to sit at home, sip lemonade and roll up a tidal wave of ballots.

He could, under the eye of the TV cameras, add such folksy touches—such as strolling out to the barbecue grill in his yard and showing the nation's housewives his skill.

The front porch technique offers one big advantage to the Democrats. It would save them the expense of renting a campaign train.

The most famous porch in the nation is the controversial one on the White House, built on order of ex-President Truman himself after a bitter controversy.

It would be an odd political irony if President Eisenhower, switching to the tradition of McKinley and Harding, should use that porch as a platform for a successful second term.

Actually, the porch is on the rear of the White House, but who'd care about that?

And Away We Go



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Peter Edson

WASHINGTON (AP)—(NEA)—Democratic presidential candidate Adlai Stevenson was criticized in the 1952 campaign for too many wisecracks. He has curbed his sense of humor somewhat this year. But he still can't resist the temptation to throw in a fast line here and there.

Some of his gaffes of 1956 are: "The steady worsening of our world position from Iceland to Japan is not concealed by all the frantic trips of our misguided missile, the secretary of state."

"Secretary Dulles apparently has nothing to offer (Latin America) except, perhaps, a visit."

"Although the President's admiration for him is boundless, it is rumored, I hear, that for some reason he is going to dump his beloved vice president who has been captain of the team—at least the offensive team."

"It takes more than golf scores to inspire peoples with a common will. The struggle for a better, safer world."

WHATEVER the end result of Harold E. Stassen's "Stop Nixon" statement, it is recognized that it took political nerve to make it.

Though presidential press secretary Jim Hagerly said later that Stassen had been told he could not make his statement as a member of the President's official family, he made it in his conference room in the Executive Office building—a stone's throw from the White House—and he made it on government time.

There was sharp questioning on whether Stassen felt he was a renegade, whether he felt he had compromised his position as presidential assistant for disarmament, and whether he felt he was still on the team. Stassen gave no indication that he would resign or would be asked to resign.

THERE is a possibility that five ex-Cabinet members might be serving in the U.S. Senate next year. Today there are only two:

Engineer Says Private Dams Can Be Built More Cheaply

WASHINGTON (AP)—An engineering consultant backing a proposal by Pacific Northwest Power Co. (PNP) to build two new dams on the Snake River said projects cheaper for private construction than for the government.

John R. Kiely, vice president of Bechtel Corp., San Francisco engineering firm, gave this opinion during hearings at a Federal Power Commission (FPC) hearing on PNP's request to build Mountain Sheep and Pleasant Valley dams on the Snake below Hells Canyon on the Idaho-Oregon border.

The point was raised by Joe Sharlitt, attorney for the National Hells Canyon Assn., which is opposing issuance of construction permits to PNP on the same grounds that it opposes construction of Hells Canyon area dams by Idaho Power Co. It holds the federal government should build the projects.

Sharlitt noted that the Reclamation Bureau had proposed a dam at Mountain Sheep of approximately the same size as the 25-foot high dam PNP proposes, but estimated the dam PNP proposes to cost \$10 million dollars PNP says its dam would cost.

Asked to explain the difference, since his concern had been hired by PNP to plan Mountain Sheep Dam, Kiely said the federal dam would require much more excavation and cement work.

He estimated construction of the

EMPLOYMENT SOARS

SALEM (AP)—Employment in the four-county Portland-Vancouver area soared to 236,500 persons in June, the Oregon Unemployment Compensation Commission reported Tuesday.

That was a gain of 6,700 over the May figure, and was 12,000 more than in June, 1955.

The average weekly wage was \$86.14, or \$4.77 more than a year earlier.

Reader Opinions

Yield Type Tax Method Advocated For Timber

On Thursday, July 12, a front page article in The News-Review announced a tax base cut for utility companies by the State Tax Commission. This was accompanied with an increase in the tax rates for real and personal property owners, especially private owners of timber. The Tax Commission explained the action as part of a program to bring utility taxes into line with other property taxes. Another such action is contemplated again next year. Admittedly the valuation of private timber in Douglas County is very low, but will this be a wise move in the long run?

The implications of this so-called shift in tax burdens is vitally important to the future of Douglas County and all its citizens. It seems quite obvious that the present action was initiated or lobbied by powerful utility interests to increase the profits of these operations. One should not be too hopeful for a future decrease in utility rates.

Many of us believe the basic future industry in Douglas County to be lumber, timber, wood fiber, pulp and paper. Most of Douglas County is timber-growing land. A certain amount of farming and ranching always will be done in valleys and on suitable hill lands, but the hill country is suited best for timber growing, for the most part. Of this timber land, more than two-thirds is owned by the state or federal government, one-third by private industry or individuals.

For the complete basic picture, we find much agitation and concern over the tendency of private owners to "cut out and get out," while public owners operate on a sustained yield program.

But we must consider the plight of the owner of private timber. He does not. His land and timber are taxed each year. The only way to escape that tax load is to cut the timber and desert the land.

If our private timber owners are to go on a sustained yield program, like the public owned lands, they must cut timber at a rate which will extend over a period of years so that new growth will replace the volume of that cut each year. This would mean a stable economy for our region. Yet private timber tends to be taxed on its present cutting value, whether it is to be cut or not. The public lands pay their owners when the timber is cut. The contention of this letter is that private owners should also pay a yield type of tax when the timber is cut. On the other hand, by increasing taxes the state and county encourage our private timber owners to cut as quickly as possible, because taxes will eat into any future profits the timber might yield. A yield tax would encourage private owners to cut timber more slowly.

A state law exists which allows a land owner to place cut-over lands on a tax basis whereby one pays the major part of his taxes when the timber is cut. This is a good policy, but it is inadequate because it does not apply to old-growth stands. What is needed is a law designed to cover all timber and where taxes are paid only when the timber is cut. A severance tax is the technical term. This is the major obstacle to our sustained yield forestry, future yearly taxation, would be eliminated.

The alternative is an increasing drought of private timber because, as the supply grows shorter, taxes are raised on what is left. The end result is complete only with a total absence of private timber.

In Douglas County the federal government eventually will direct the economy of the area through an allowable cut determined by Washington. The only possible junction with this the only people able to buy the government timber will be large corporations controlled by outside interests, with large amounts of money or capital available to purchase the timber. Local interests will pass out of the picture.

The time to act is now. We still have a good supply of private timber in this county. "The power to tax is the power to destroy." Let's not destroy private forestry in Douglas County.

John A. Davenport
815 N. E. Alameda Ave.
Roseburg, Ore.

Long-Time Republican Hits Nixon's Opponents

It is with considerable annoyance and resentment that I, and many more of the older members of the Republican Party, note the persistent efforts of a certain element of the party ranks to elect Vice President Richard Nixon and replace him by someone of their own choosing. Is it not about time that the party organizations repudiate the frantic efforts of this rather discredited so-called liberal wing? Certainly there is no reason for their political maneuvering except their animosities toward Mr. Nixon, due to his unrelenting efforts to bring to justice the subversive elements in public and private life. They resent the success he had in these efforts.

There are a great many members of the committee, including myself, who encouraged Mr. Nixon to run for Congress from the 12th District of California and who worked for his election in 1946 and 1948. Some of us have since retired from business and professional life and now live in Southwest Oregon. We do not intend to let him be smeared out of public office without a fight.

I honestly believe there is no surer way to bring about the defeat of the Republican Party than to dump Mr. Nixon. I have voted the Republican ticket for 30 years, but if this is permitted to take place I will not vote at all. I have heard the same thoughts expressed by many others. Certain-

ly the voters of California, who gave Dick Nixon the greatest vote ever polled for United States Senator in 1950 and the nomination of both parties, are not going to take very kindly to the idea. It could easily lose California to the Democrats next November.

The Republican Party leaders had better stop and heed the results of the unsolicited write-ins of the late primaries, of which Oregon was a sample, and take warning thereof. Mr. Nixon is by far the most able vice-president, and the best presidential timber, since Teddy Roosevelt.

Otto H. Stanton
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Roseburg, Ore.

IN THE DAY'S NEWS

By FRANK JENKINS

(Continued From Page One)

troverly kicked up by Stassen shows a DEEP CLEAVAGE among Republican leaders.

Certainly there is a deep cleavage in the Republican party. Everyone with a grain of perception knows that. There is an equally deep cleavage in the Democratic party.

Both are held together by only one force—the desire to WIN.

Personally, I think it will be better for our country when our two major parties divide sharply on issues that people generally either believe in strongly or are bitterly opposed to.

It will then be possible to write party platforms that will be something more than pious platitudes put out to catch votes.

Farm economics note:

The U. S. department of agriculture forecasts this year's calf crop at 43,272,000—head, the largest calf crop on record and one per cent more than last year's crop of 43,001,000 calves.

This is the SEVENTH successive year in which the calf crop has exceeded the calf crop of the previous year.

That recalls Pharaoh's dream of the seven lean cattle that swallowed up the seven fat cattle—

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