

The News-Review

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RETURN OF FEAR

By Charles V. Stanton

An article by Larry Smyth in the *Oregon Journal*, Portland, Monday stating that Governor Holmes was expected to apply the boot to H. G. (Fod) Maison, superintendent of the Oregon State Police, aroused the populace of the state as nothing has done in recent years. Protests were heard on every hand. Telegrams and telephone calls started pouring in at Salem, according to reports. Organized remonstrance followed immediately and has since grown in strength and area.

Smyth indicated that he had reliable information concerning the action contemplated by the governor. Time for the announcement was set for 2 p.m. Tuesday. But at that hour Governor Holmes had "no comment" on the Smyth story nor did he announce the firing of Maison. There is possibility that publication of the news resulted in such a vigorous protest before 2 p.m. Tuesday that the governor decided it best to reconsider.

Regardless of whether the governor did or did not intend to oust Maison, the reaction throughout the state, I believe, was extremely healthy, particularly as it was non-partisan. The protest came equally from Democrats and Republicans.

Police State Not Wanted

At the time the Oregon State Police Department was formed there was widespread objection. The world had the example of the German gestapo. Many people feared that creation of a state police department would lead to a police state. They wanted none of that.

The fear was heightened by the fact that the department was to be set up on semi-military lines; that it was to be uniformed in semi-military garb, that its officers were to bear military titles. Formation of the state police department was accomplished only after overcoming strong opposition resulting from fear.

That fear remains. We have too many examples even today of the activities of secret police in police states in Europe. The bitter hatred against secret police is to be seen in all its horror in pictures shown in the special "Hungary Fights For Freedom" issue by *Life*, which is donating sale proceeds to Hungarian relief.

There is little danger that any such thing would happen in Oregon, yet we find in some of our southern states current examples of political control over police forces. In too many places state policemen are being restrained by politics from strict and impartial enforcement of law.

Oregon people have shown stern evidence that they want no such opportunities or practices in this state.

Police Have Earned Confidence

Although the people of Oregon accepted a state police department reluctantly and with fear and trembling, they look upon that department today with great pride. They have confidence that, as presently constituted, the department is free from political domination. They look upon it as an organization striving to give honest and efficient law enforcement without fear or favor.

We now have evidence that the people want the department left free from political influence. They object to making the superintendency a political plum. They realize that if command of the department becomes a political favor to be bestowed for political effort, the department can become an armed political agency. We certainly do not want that to happen in Oregon.

Some of "Fod" Maison's acts and policies may have aroused controversy from time to time. He and the department, however, have not participated, as an organization, in any political action but, on the other hand, have been strictly neutral in politics.

The department has been efficiently managed and conducted. It is highly respected by the people of Oregon, who once feared it. It has won that respect by impartial conduct. To change that condition would be most dangerous.

It would be difficult, in my opinion, to replace Maison with a more competent man. Yet it is entirely possible that Governor Holmes has in mind for the job of superintendent of the state police a man equal, or even superior, to Maison. To establish a precedent, however, that an incoming governor can make the top job of the state police department a political pie to be handed to one of his friends or financial backers, is extremely dangerous and can lead eventually to public distrust and a return of the fear with which the creation of the department was surrounded.

Scheduled Land Drawings On Columbia Postponed

EPHRAATA, Wash. — The Bureau of Reclamation said Wednesday scheduled land drawings at Mesa and Connell this month for Columbia Basin farm units have been postponed indefinitely.

Drawings for 131 units ranging in size from 63 to 140 acres were set for Mesa Wednesday and Connell Jan. 23.

They were postponed by order of Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton to give the department time to study testimony given at the land limitations hearings in the basin earlier this month, the bureau said.

Almost all the witnesses at the hearings said land limitations on the irrigation project should be eased. The law now prohibits ownership by a family of more than one unit. The units average about 75 acres.

Roseburg Student Joins Air Society At OSC

William Fred Forrest, son of Mr. and Mrs. William F. Forrest of 1817 SE Kane St., a freshman majoring in business administration at Oregon State College, has been selected for membership in the OSC chapter of Silver Wings.

Silver Wings is an Air Force ROTC honor drill society. Selection for membership in the organization is based on drill proficiency and military bearing.

Water-Deposited Minerals May Prove Valuable

WASHINGTON — Water-deposited minerals in the Pacific Northwest, many of them regarded as "nuances" by the early-day placer miners seeking gold, are contributing sharply to the country's supply of strategic materials.

Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton reported that Tuesday in releasing a Bureau of Mines survey.

Oregon alluvial deposits are yielding chromite, while in Idaho mining is going on for columbite, tantalite and radioactive blacks. These last three are used to describe dark sand containing columbium, tantalum, uranium, thorium and certain rare earths.

Chromite production in Oregon is active but the General Services Administration purchasing depot at Grants Pass, under the present program, is scheduled to stop buying on June 30, 1957 or when 200 long tons have been received, whichever is earlier.

Thorium, once sought chiefly for gaslight mantles, now has interest for its capabilities as a source of nuclear energy.

The report says that concentrates of zirconium and titanium have trouble finding a market in the East because of shipping costs.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK — Typewriter tattle:

A wise mother will teach her boy to fish right now — that is, if she hopes later in life he'll angle for an address at the White House, Washington, D. C.

The odds are heavy against the lad who hasn't at least learned to dangle a worm in water at the end of a pole.

The latest issue of "The Fisherman," a magazine, cites statistics:

A majority of U. S. presidents, from Dwight Eisenhower right on back to George Washington, member of the first sport fishing club formed in North America, have been more or less ardent followers of Isaac Walton.

The voters elected 14 consecutive fishing presidents, but never have elected three non-fishermen in a row.

Calvin Coolidge bowed to tradition and apparently became a fisherman after his election.

Grover Cleveland, one of a number of presidents criticized for spending too much time fishing, replied:

"Every patriotic, thoughtful citizen, whether he fishes or not, should lament that we have not among our countrymen more fishermen."

Commented President Herbert Hoover:

"The American people have respect for privacy only on two occasions: one of them is praying and the other is fishing, and the latter is more common."

Reader Opinions

High Liability Insurance Blamed On Jury Decision

A recent newspaper article telling of a fifteen per cent increase in automobile liability insurance rates will probably be overlooked by most automobile owners, but this raise in rates will be brought forcibly to their attention when they receive their next bill for their annual premium on such liability insurance. Many automobile owners will not know the reason for this increase. As I understand it, it is brought about largely by careless and unthinking jurors in damage actions for personal injury caused by automobile accidents. Many jurors do not realize that the automobile owners who pay the premiums for liability insurance, and not the insurance companies, are the persons who in the last analysis pay all verdicts rendered by jurors in such actions.

The insurance companies fix the rates so as to collect from the automobile owners in premiums enough money to pay all claims, plus the cost of doing business and a profit to the stockholders.

An article in a November, 1956, issue of *Time* magazine tells of losses to insurance companies by reason of exorbitant verdicts in personal injury actions and predicted this recent rise in premium rates. According to this article, awards of damages in personal injury actions increased from an average of \$3490 in 1940 to an average of \$11,576 in 1955. This is an increase of 231 per cent. When some soft-hearted juror suggests giving a plaintiff a generous award because the insurance company is rich and pays the bill, he should be reminded that he, and not the insurance company, is paying the judgment based on such a verdict.

It is my understanding that personal injury cases are handled by attorneys on a contingent basis of one-third of the amount of the verdict. The attorney is naturally interested in obtaining as large a verdict as possible. Another factor overlooked by many jurors is the cost to the taxpayer of trying these personal injury damage actions.

The cost to the taxpayers of the county is, as I understand, approximately \$200 a day.

It is high time that jurors in this class of cases carefully scrutinize the evidence before returning a verdict in favor of a plaintiff and that they then only return such a verdict as is warranted by the evidence, eliminating any award on account of sympathy.

Let us all give this matter our careful consideration, as it is not the desire of any of us having liability insurance to pay larger premiums on such insurance.

Dr. B. R. Shoemaker
Roseburg, Ore.

Salvation Army Thanks Those Who Offered Aid

We take this medium to say "Thank you" to the many hundreds of you who so generously supported the Christmas program of the local Salvation Army.

It was through your generosity that we were able to bring the real spirit of Christmas to 163 families through the Christmas basket. This included 722 individuals of which there were 263 children given toys.

199 other persons were brought cheer through the public program and hospital visitation.

To each of you, those who gave so generously financially, in food stuff, and in toys we say thank you. We would not forget the thoughtful citizens who gave up their time to help deliver some of these baskets on Christmas Eve.

We would like to express our appreciation also to the News-Review for generous support of The Salvation Army Christmas program in the Roseburg area. We feel that it was through the generous publicity given that this year's program was the success that it was. We wish to say a special thank you for the many news items shown us regarding this project and for the wonderful picture and coverage given on the day the Rotary Club manned the Christmas Kettles.

Thank you and God bless you each one may this new year be a blessed one to all.

Dr. B. R. Shoemaker
Roseburg, Ore.

Nuclear And Missile Program Strengthened

WASHINGTON — A \$3 billion dollar military budget sent by President Eisenhower to Congress Wednesday would boost the nation's nuclear and missile striking power but trim two Army divisions and five air wings from present forces.

Total manpower levels would remain virtually unchanged at 2,500,000, including a million-man Army.

The Navy plans procurement of about 1,250 planes, and a ship-building program calling for 19 new ships and 12 conversions.

The new ships include the beginning of the atomic powered carrier, a huge 80,000-ton craft estimated to cost 310 million dollars not including the cost of its eight nuclear reactors; four more nuclear powered submarines; and 13 new destroyer-type ships for firing guided missiles.

INVESTIGATION ORDERED
PORTLAND — Circuit Judge Paul Harris has ordered a presentence investigation of a Casper, Wyo., man who has pleaded guilty to a charge of unlawful sale of unregistered securities.

Deputy Dist. Atty. Donald Layman said Jack C. Kilian, 35, admitted selling about \$11,000 worth of securities in a business meeting op-

Sen. Morse Declines Boost Toward Presidential Post

By A. ROBERT SMITH

News-Review Correspondent

WASHINGTON — There is an old saying among practical politicians which goes: I can take care of my enemies, but save me from my friends.

Sen. Wayne Morse says he is suffering from the meaning of this old political expression because of the presidential campaign launched in his behalf unbeknownst to him by Sen. Richard L. Neuberger.

Neuberger 10 days ago announced formation of a "National Friends of Wayne Morse" group to get a spot on the Democratic ticket in 1960 for that "outstanding leader of American liberalism"—Wayne Morse.

Since then, letters have been coming into Neuberger's office on the third floor of the Senate Office Building from around the country, responding favorably to the idea.

But the dark-browed senior senator, up on the fourth floor, was feeling uneasy about the whole affair. He didn't consult Morse before organizing his committee.

"You just don't discuss it with the man you are promoting," he said. "I certainly never wanted to embarrass him by making him a party to it."

"I've been getting letters from all over the country approving of Wayne Morse," Neuberger went on. "And I think that the Democratic party must have a liberal candidate. I believe Wayne Morse could defeat Richard Nixon or anyone else the Republicans put up."

Morse said he unburdened himself of his embarrassment over the whole affair but told Neuberger he was "one of the most cherished treasures a person can have, a biased friend."

Afterward, Morse said he thought he would gently repudiate the purpose of his "biased friend's" campaign. He said he would prepare a carefully worded statement to that end.

Neuberger said Morse didn't reprove him for his efforts.

"I never expected him to say he approved of it," said Neuberger, "for one just doesn't do those things."

"He recalled that the late Sen. Charles McNary (R-Ore.) told him that he had never given his blessing to efforts made in his behalf to gain a place for him on the Republican ticket in 1940, the year he was nominated as vice presidential candidate with Wendell Wilkie. Nor did they consult McNary, which is why Neuberger said he didn't consult Morse before organizing his committee."

So down to the third floor went Wayne Morse this past week for a private pow-wow with his junior colleague, friend and promoter. A transcript of their conversation was not taken.

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Did Morse tell him to cease his promotional efforts?

"He did not," declared Neuberger emphatically. "He said, and I think these were his words, 'I think it is highly unlikely — even fantastic — that I would ever be nominated. But I personally think that Senator Morse is a definite possibility for the nomination.'"

Neuberger said ever since he first mentioned Morse for president on Nov. 14 in a speech at San Francisco, he has been getting "excellent reaction" from farm, labor and minority groups.

Saturday, Wayne Morse made his first formal statement on the whole affair, reiterating that he hadn't been consulted and saying he "would be less than human" if he didn't appreciate the "sincere intentions" of the Neuberger committee.

"However, I have no illusions as to my position in American politics," Morse went on. "As a constitutional liberal, my role is and should be to work hard in the Senate of the United States for the advancement and passage of general welfare legislation that will protect and promote the public interest. I have neither the desire nor the ambition to serve the people of my state and country in any other position than that of United States Senator. I feel that the opportunities for public service in the Senate are so challenging that I owe it to the people of the state of Oregon to continue to dedicate all

my time and energy to my senatorial duties so long as I am privileged to serve the wonderful people of my state in the Senate."

Will he be a presidential aspirant when convention time 1960 rolls around?

Like the girl in the old popular song, he didn't say "yes" and he didn't say "no."

British Cordon Off Greek Section Of Nicosia

NICOSIA, Cyprus — British authorities cordoned off the Greek section of Nicosia Tuesday and made a house-to-house search for five gunmen believed responsible for attacks on British civilians.

More than 3,000 British troops, plus police contingents, participated in the manhunt. All male inhabitants between 14 and 40 were herded into pens for screening by special police officers.

A curfew was clamped on the Greek quarter — the first there in 191 days.

POPE RECEIVES POLES

VATICAN CITY — For the first time since Poland went behind the Iron Curtain, Pope Pius XII Wednesday received Polish tourists in general audience. A Vatican informant explained the Pope thus "showed his benevolence" toward the nation which recently freed Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski.

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