

The News-Review

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VOTE EXPLAINED

By Charles V. Stanton

From Senator Richard Neuberger *The News-Review* has received a letter which bears upon the statement made recently in this column that Democratic liberals are spraining their arms patting themselves on the back for their support of Eisenhower policies.

Sen. Neuberger points out that the Senate voted 61 to 15 to cut the budget of the U.S. Information Agency from \$106 million to \$90 million and that he was one of the 15 who supported President Eisenhower's request to have the U.S.I.A. budget restored.

It will be "significant to await the reaction in our state to the fact that a Democratic Senator is willing to back the President on this kind of an issue, in contrast to the attacks which the President is experiencing from members of his own party," says the Senator, pointing out that he has been experiencing considerable criticism because of his defense of the President's budget.

In fairness to Senator Neuberger, his position, I believe, should be accurately quoted, so the following is taken from his letter:

You may remember that, during the 1954 Senatorial campaign, I pledged that I would back President Eisenhower's legislative requests when I thought he was right. On this occasion, I voted with those supporting the President's request, not because he made it, but because I believe that we are already in serious danger of losing the vital struggle against Soviet propaganda. We cannot afford to take further risks in this arena of non-believable competition in which the future of our world position may well be decided, to save a few million dollars on weapons of world-destroying combat which we hope we shall never use.

Muddled Propaganda

As pointed out previously in this column, a great deal of political jockeying is going on as the Republicans seek to organize new leadership for coming elections. Democrats endeavor to annex President Ike's popularity, which the Republicans didn't find too helpful and party leaders pour out propaganda statements for the press.

Senator Neuberger has used a good deal of time and effort hopping first on and then off the administration wagon. Crediting him with honest conviction in his frequent switches, and commending an attitude which judges legislation by its merit rather than party influence, it nevertheless is obvious that the senator never permits his frequent sashays into the administration fold to pass unnoticed.

On the other hand, Oregon's other Senator is very consistent in his attitude. To him, the Eisenhower administration can do nothing that is right. Everything is wrong. Thus the propaganda emanating from our two Oregon senators becomes somewhat muddled at times.

Senator Neuberger has, quite frequently been friendly with the Eisenhower effort. Morse, however, can't stomach anything Ike cooks up.

From the fact that administration recommendations for project appropriations benefiting Oregon appear to be considerably reduced in comparison with previous years, it would appear that the Morse position is a definite injury to Oregon which Neuberger's friendliness can't overcome.

GOOD APPOINTMENT REFUSED

The Oregon Senate in a very infrequent action rejected an appointment by the Governor.

Governor Holmes nominated Rollin E. Bowles, a Democrat, Portland attorney, past president of the Oregon Izaak Walton League, to be a member of the State Water Resources Board to fill the vacancy created by the recent death of H. E. Maxey of Springfield.

Bowles is a vigorous and able conservationist. He spearheaded opposition to Pelton Dam on the Deschutes River and fought the case all the way to the U. S. Supreme Court, insisting on preserving the right of the State of Oregon to manage the water within its own boundaries. The U. S. Supreme Court decided that because both ends of the dam were on land controlled by the federal government, a state veto of the project could not be sustained.

Bowles spared no one's feelings. He is a fighter—a hard fighter—when he believes he is right. As a result he made some enemies and those enemies succeeded in preventing his nomination from getting the two-thirds vote needed for Senate approval.

This act of revenge upon a man with courage to fight for his convictions does not reflect creditably upon those who, for the satisfaction of personal vengeance, deny to the State of Oregon the services of a person most exceptionally qualified for an exceedingly important and valuable contribution to state welfare.

Former Convict Admits Murder Of Two Girls

BRISTOL, Conn. — Bristol Police Chief Thomas V. McCarthy said Wednesday that 33-year-old George Davies, who confessed Monday to the sex-slaying of a 9-year-old girl, Wednesday confessed he also killed a 17-year-old French Canadian girl whose body was found in Waterbury Tuesday night.

Davies, who served time in prison for molesting two little girls, confessed Monday that he strangled Brenda Jane Doucette last week. He said he seized her on her way to school, and killed her when she resisted his advances on a lonely road.

The body of Gaetane Douvin, who had been missing almost two weeks, was found in the woods on the outskirts of Waterbury. She had advertised for work as a housekeeper listing herself as a "French girl."

Chief McCarthy said Davies confessed he used the "same tactics" in killing Gaetane.

Her body was found only four miles from the place where Brenda's body was found. Brenda had been stabbed 22 times with a screwdriver, but police said she had not been attacked sexually. Ore.

Britain Building Glass Cage To Harness H-Bomb

LONDON — Britain's Atomic Energy Authority disclosed last night it is building a giant glass cage in which it hopes to channel the power of the hydrogen bomb into the generation of electricity.

The cage is being built at Harwell, the main government center for nuclear research. It is expected to be ready for experiments by the end of the year.

The News Chronicle said the apparatus in essence would be a huge bottle containing the fusionable materials and surrounded by electro-magnets that would create electrical fields which will keep the intensely hot gases from touching the sides of the bottle and melting it.

SUBMITS LOW BID

PORTLAND — The Army Engineers Wednesday said R & P Contractors, Shelton, Wash., submitted the apparent low bid of \$137,450 for clearing 475 acres of a reservoir site near Oakridge, Ore.



Nine-Member Emergency Board Is Designated

SALEM — The nine-member state Emergency Board was appointed Tuesday night by Senate President Boyd Overhulse and Speaker Pat Dooley.

The board will have \$1,500,000 to spend on emergencies that arise between now and the 1958 legislative session and will spend another 9 million dollars on salary increases for state employees.

Overhulse and Sen. Alfred H. Corbett (D), Portland, chairman of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, are put on the board by law. Overhulse appointed Sens. Walter J. Ponsford (D), Portland, chairman of the Senate Taxation Committee; and Francis W. Ziegler (R), Corvallis, member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Dooley automatically becomes a member. So does Rep. R. E. Scheden (D), Gresham, who replaced Rep. Robert J. Steward (D), Baker County, as chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee Monday. Steward resigned to become state director of agriculture.

Dooley made these appointments to the board: Reps. Glen Stadler (D), Eugene; Charles Allen Tom (R), Rufus; and Robert B. Duncan (D), Medford. All three are on the House Ways and Means Committee.

London Paper Criticizes U. S. Guided Missile

LONDON — The military expert of The London News Chronicle Wednesday ridiculed America's "Corporal" guided missile as a cumbersome weapon whose use in any future war is "highly improbable."

David Willis drew that conclusion after seeing the missile, made available to Britain by the United States, unveiled at the British army's artillery school Tuesday.

The missile, which has a range of 50 miles and cost Britain \$84,000 each, figure in Britain's program for cutting and streamlining its armed forces.

The "Corporal," a surface-to-surface guided missile which can carry either atomic or conventional warheads, was described by Willis as the "most cumbersome, most expensive, easiest identified target with which any army has ever been equipped."

Willis said he counted no fewer than 15 wheeled vehicles in the five-ton missile's train.

It almost any one of the 11 transports and 4 trailers was disabled by gunfire or low-flying aircraft, this fantastic device would be as useless as a dud bullet," he said.

Alfalfa Markets Said Virtually Inactive

PORTLAND — Alfalfa markets here are virtually inactive as most buyers await new crop deliveries, expected early in June, the U. S. Department of Agriculture said Wednesday.

Harvesting has started in a few areas of the state, the department's weekly report said, but widespread rains have hampered most cutting operations.

The report noted almost no demand for old crop alfalfa, despite some price drops of as much as \$1 in the past week.

Good quality old crop alfalfa, comparable to U. S. No. 2 green, was quoted nominally at \$29 to \$30 in Portland.

Madras area producers, the report said, are asking \$18 to \$23 a ton. Trading, however, is practically at a standstill.

FIRE FLARES BRIEFLY

EUGENE — A fire flared briefly Tuesday in the Erb Memorial Union Building at the University of Oregon, and caused about \$500 damage before it was extinguished.

A university spokesman said the blaze apparently was caused by a spark from a cutting torch as workmen were installing automatic gun setting machines.

Modern Wise Men

SALEM — The Oregon Legislature passed some 700 new laws in its record 123-day session, with most of its problems centering about the interrelated issues of finance and schools.

A record number of 1,336 bills were introduced, and Gov. Holmes already has signed 338 and vetoed two.

There were some other records, too. The session was the most expensive, costing \$1,100,000. It was the first time since 1878 that a Democrat presided over the Senate, and it was the first time in 20 years that the Democrats controlled the House.

Consequently, at times partisanship flared, and will continue to do so right through the next election campaign.

The hottest issue was taxation, but when the final returns were in, there wasn't much change. The Legislature appropriated 272 million dollars for the two years beginning July 1. Revenues, including a 36 million dollar surplus now on hand, are estimated at 279 millions.

That is skating on thin ice, particularly if the economy should falter and result in reduced revenues.

Here is a summary of the work done by the 49th Legislature:

Finance and Taxation
The 45 per cent income surtax was abolished but it was incorporated into the permanent tax structure. Personal exemptions were increased from \$500 to \$600, and the 2 per cent withholding tax was revised so that virtually all of the income tax will be withheld from salaries.

The effective average rate of the corporation excise tax was boosted from 5.2 to 6 per cent on net income. But rates on manufacturing industries remained at about 4 per cent. Banks were increased from 8 to 9 per cent, and utilities from 2.2 to 7 per cent.

Local governments will be allowed to change their tax bases only at statewide general or primary elections. Fraternities and sororities are exempted from personal property taxes. House trailers will be assessed annually at 2 per cent of their market value, and city-owned power systems will be permitted to pay taxes to school districts outside the city.

A memorial asking Congress to prosecute tax violators who move to other states was passed, and another interim tax study was authorized.

Salary increases were granted to all classes of state officials and employees.

Education
The basic school support fund of \$80 per child per year was increased to \$95, with a third of the increase to relieve property taxes. The distribution of this fund to local districts, now on a basis of 96 per cent flat grants per child and 4 per cent equalization, was changed to an 80-20 ratio. Some small school districts will be forced to consolidate with larger districts.

A 7 million dollar higher education building program was voted, and higher education faculty members will get salary increases of 25 per cent. Student fees are increased, too, and by increasing the bonding limit, 1.6 million dollars worth of new college and university dormitories were made possible.

The Legislature banned higher education institutions from penalizing students who can't attend classes at certain times for religious reasons, and voted \$90,000 to aid junior colleges which are operated by school districts.

The Board of Education was given broad powers over Oregon Technical Institute and an OPI advisory committee was created to interchange of higher education faculty members with those of institutions in other states or countries was authorized.

A start on educational television was authorized, with stations in Portland and Corvallis.

Teachers in public schools got their minimum salaries increased \$400. Schools are compelled to teach the effects of alcohol and narcotics. Textbooks are guaranteed to all elementary schools, even if they can't meet physical plant standards.

Special education for gifted children was authorized, and the program for retarded children was increased. Persons convicted of sex crimes and use of narcotics were banned from teaching.

An interim committee was authorized to study all phases of education, including the future of Oregon Technical Institute.

Highways and Motor Vehicles
Eight million dollars in highway bonds were approved in order that Oregon can get its full share of federal funds for the interstate highway program. Another 12.6 million dollars of bonds were voted to reconstruct the Oregon Coast Highway in Curry County.

Planning of a highway bridge over the Columbia River was authorized, and Congress was asked to put U. S. 30 between Portland and Astoria on the interstate system.

State aid for schools which have driver training was approved. It will be financed by a \$1 increase in the cost of drivers licenses. It will be illegal to drive so slow as to impede traffic, and speed limits for smaller trucks were increased from 43 to 50 miles an hour.

No longer will a driver who kills a person be convicted of homicide just for simple negligence. The Legislature changed it to require gross negligence.

Wildlife Refuge
A highway interim committee was created to look into such things as the new federal program and policies in acquiring rights of way.

Labor-Management
Maximum weekly unemployment compensation benefits were increased from \$35 to \$40 and the employers' payroll tax was boosted from 17 million dollars a year to 24 millions.

Industrial accident benefits were raised 20 per cent, and employers probably will have to pay more. But employers who have good safety records were given savings as much as 60 per cent. The law-makers also removed the requirement that compensable accidents must be caused by "violent and external means."

A state conciliation service was created within the Bureau of Labor to help mediate labor disputes.

Welfare and Institutions
The public welfare budget was increased 5 million dollars, and a 5 million dollar building program for state institutions was approved.

Payments required under the relative responsibility law were greatly reduced. Treatment of the mentally ill was greatly expanded, and the new state hospital to be built at Wilsonville was named after the late state Rep. F. H. Dammasch.

One-third time off on sentences for good behavior was restored to penitentiary inmates.

Interim committees were created to study Indian problems and mental retardation, and a state council was set up to study problems of aged persons.

Re-organization
A state Department of Development and Planning was created to attract new industry. The Battleship Oregon Commission was abolished, and interim committees were created to study which boards and commissions can be eliminated or consolidated, and to study the judicial system.

Local Government
The Legislature placed on the ballot a proposed constitutional amendment to permit counties to have home rule. Another amendment would let counties issue general purpose bonds.

Another nearly annexed to cities would be permitted to pay reduced city taxes for 10 years, if the city agreed. Counties were given the power to engage in flood control and water conservation.

The cities' 5 per cent share of liquor profits was doubled, and civil service was extended to firemen in cities of more than 5,000 persons, provided there are five or more firemen in the department.

Power
A proposed constitutional amendment was adopted to permit the state, now restricted to hydroelectric power production, to also produce power from coal and atomic energy.

Memorials were passed asking Congress to build John Day and Green Peter dams, and to stop such fast tax write-offs as was given to Idaho Power Co. for its three Snake River dams.

Elections
The election laws were given their first overhauling in more than 40 years, with control centered in the secretary of state.

Utilities
The public utilities commissioner was given authority to prevent railroads from reducing their passenger service, and he was given some authority to look into utility employee pension funds.

Other Legislation
The civil rights law got more teeth, with the labor commissioner and attorney general designated to enforce it. Discrimination will be prohibited in any place giving personal service, accommodations, entertainment, recreation or amusement.

Interest rates on purchase of automobiles will be restricted to 8 per cent a year for new cars, 10 per cent for cars less than two years old, and 12 per cent for others.

The people will vote next year on removing the death penalty from the constitution.

The Legislature appropriated \$830,000 to finance a state centennial celebration in Portland in 1959.

Other new measures would do these things:

Strengthen the law against narcotics.

Increase the \$600 annual legislators' pay to \$1,200 if the voters approve.

Provide for compulsory state meat inspection.

Study the proposed Columbia Basin compact two more years.

To speed up the brucellosis program in an attempt to wipe out the disease in two years.

Control ragweed in western Oregon.

Make milk dealers keep records for the benefit of producers.

Fix a definite boundary along the Columbia River.

Give the Civil Service Commission power to re-instate a dismissed employee.

Provide a 60-day cooling off period between the filing of a divorce suit and the hearing on it.

Prohibit switch blades, a popular juvenile weapon.

Extend the state civil defense law two more years.

License funeral homes.

Set up a Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation in the State Police Department, and make local officers file criminal data with it.

Set up safety regulations for small boats.

Create a Radiation Advisory Council in the state Board of Health.

Make a water use survey of the Rogue River Basin.

Provide rigid regulations for safety in nursing homes.

Make it a crime to refuse to pay a taxi driver his fare.

Require the Census Board to make annual population estimates for counties.

Legislature Passes 700 New Laws in Long, Costly Meet

By PAUL W. HARVEY Jr.

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