

The News-Review

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COST OF JUNK MAIL

By Charles V. Stanton

Is the U.S. Post Office Department a business, or is it a service? Perhaps if Congress would settle that question we would be spared these perennial squabbles over postal budgets.

If the Post Office Department is a service and is to be operated partly at public expense, should taxpayers be expected to pay for the handling of unwanted mail? If, on the other hand, the department is to be operated as a business, should not the various classifications of mail be required to pay postage in proportion to handling costs?

It would seem that postage charged for the various classifications of mail at present has no relation to costs involved in handling. Nor does there appear to be any rhyme or reason involved in the rate-making process.

The Post Office Department does not have authority to establish its own rates. It can recommend a rate structure to Congress, whereupon Congress promptly picks up the recommendation as a political football and starts kicking it around.

Then we have such a situation as was recently experienced wherein the Postmaster General, unable to get funds to operate his department after appeals to the Budget Board and to Congress, curtailed service. By so doing he incurred the wrath of some congressmen who have engineered a deep cut into the budget for the future, knowing full well that the amount will have to be made up by emergency appropriations later.

Should Set Policy

The "post" originally was handled as a private enterprise, but soon was taken over as a public service. While the Post Office Department theoretically at least continues as a public service, it is becoming treated more and more as a business, expected to pay its own way.

Probably the most practical solution is to adopt a formula of half-and-half, recognizing that some functions must remain a public service while others are performed as a business. If this were done, and the specific public service features enumerated, Congress could then subsidize those services while placing others on a strict business basis.

It would seem to me that the ordinary letter mail—letters of communication between people, or letters involving legitimate business transactions—should be carried largely as a public service. They are essential to social and economic welfare.

This type of mail now is labelled as "first-class" and bears the highest rate. Yet, it seems to me, if any class of mail should be subsidized it should be this first-class mail. It provides the largest number of single pieces but, because of uniformity in size and distribution procedure, it is not the most expensive, proportionately, in handling expense. First-class mail carries a rate of 3 cents, which it now is proposed to raise to 4 cents.

"Unwanted" Mail Costly

Each day there appears on my desk a pile of what I refer to as "junk mail." It consists in part of speeches by congressmen, industrialists, cranks, and others, together with announcements of appointments of business representatives, articles of so-called news which actually are attempts to chisel free advertising, solicitations for all kinds of causes, foundations, monuments and what-have-you.

This is known to the post office as "third-class" mail. From the standpoint of quality it should be much further down the scale. You, as a householder are familiar with it as a solicitation from an insurance company, a begging letter from some society or organization, a coupon offer, a magazine subscription solicitation, or some other such piece of direct mail advertising. You usually toss most of it into the waste basket unopened, growling about the "mess" it makes.

This third-class mail is identical with much of the first-class mail in size and shape. It is more difficult to handle because it is inadequately addressed (usually to "Occupant") and the addresses are not kept up to date. This mail will probably make up at least one-third of the volume of "letter" mail. And, although it is fully as difficult and expensive to handle as first-class mail, it carries only one-cent postage, if sent out by a non-profit organization, or one and one-half cent, if from other than a non-profit concern.

Why should this unwanted junk mail be handled at one-third the cost of first-class mail, which is the lifeblood of the country, when it actually costs more to process?

If Congress is to insist that the Post Office Department be handled as a business, as it appears to be doing, then it should permit some business methods to be introduced.

Diplomats Probe Report 2 U. S. Students Defect

VIENNA (AP)—U. S. diplomats Friday sought to confirm reports that two 20-year-old American college students, posing as spies for excitement, had vanished across the frontier into Communist Hungary last Sunday.

American officials said if they could substantiate the reports of the disappearance of Mike A. Gilbert of Wallingford, S. C., and Warren William Hain of North Augusta, S. C., they would ask the U. S. Legation in Budapest to ask the Hungarian government about them.

The youths, students at the University of South Carolina, had been on a hitch-hiking tour of Western Europe. An Austrian passportman at the Eisenstadt frontier station said he saw Hungarian militiamen escort two persons he believed were the Americans from the frontier barbed wire barrier at Margarethen Sunday night.

An Australian girl acquaintance, Janice De Pedro, 22, said the two boys took along a camera, political publications and other objects "for excitement" to make the Hungarian Communist authorities refused.

Japan Warns Britain Against Trade Decision

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's Cabinet warned Friday that Britain's break with the United States on China trade threatens free world cooperation. It offered to help mediate the question.

The Cabinet—worried about a possible division among the Western powers and the threat of bold new competition from Britain in Japan's historic China market—decided Japan should offer to mediate in the interest of a common front. Touring Prime Minister Kishi will take up the matter in Washington next month, if necessary.

They think they were American spies. Miss De Pedro, who accompanied the Americans on part of their trip, raised an alarm after Hain and Gilbert failed to return. She said they left their Austrian youth hostel at the village of Rust, on Lake Neusiedler a few miles from the border, saying they would cross into Hungary and sleep there for a night "just to see what it's like."

She said the boys wanted to be able to say "they had been there" on their return to college. They asked her to come along but she refused.

Reader Opinions

Legal Status Of Old Library Property Told

Apparently the writer of a letter which appeared in this column on May 27 relative to the possible use of the City Library property for historical museum purposes and relative to the condition of the title to that property, has been misinformed as to the facts. I therefore, take this opportunity to advise her and your readers as to certain public records which reveal the situation in its true light.

There is no flaw in the title to the property but there is a limitation on the purposes for which the property can be used. On October 20, 1924, a deed to the property was given to the City by a man and his wife who no longer are living but who were public spirited and well esteemed "old time" citizens of our community. This deed is recorded in Volume 86 at Page 389 of the Deed Records of Douglas County. It was given with a limitation upon the purposes for which the property could be used, in the following language: "To Have and To Hold the above granted premises unto the City of Roseburg for public library and public park purposes forever."

No person now connected with the City administration had knowledge of this limitation until last year when abandonment of the City library was contemplated with the establishment of the community library. As a matter of routine, the title to the property was checked and the limitation was discovered. The City had contemplated the temporary use of the library building for city office purposes until such time as it might be possible to build a new city hall with the use of sinking funds authorized by the vote of the people last year. Because of the limitation, the only way this could be done was with the consent of the only now living heir of the people who deeded the property to the City.

At about the same time the Historical Society desired permission to move the Lillie Moore house to the library property. This also was impossible without the consent of the heir because the limitation cannot be eliminated excepting by him. Accordingly, the heir above mentioned came to Roseburg from his home outside the state and discussed the matter both with members of the Historical Society and City officials. He was most cooperative with both groups. He was willing that the library

Paul E. Geddes
Roseburg City Attorney

Bruce Bioassat

Another school year has about run its course and a fresh crop of college graduates soon will undertake the business of making their way in the America of 1957 and beyond.

The world they will walk out into is, of course, the same turbulent place it has been for nearly three decades marked by the Great Depression, World War II, the Korean War and the titanic struggle between East and West on a plane suspended between peace and war.

Yet there are mounting indications that neither the United States nor the Soviet Union, the two great powers standing opposite each other in the struggle, can indefinitely bear the tensions it has produced.

Here at home the President's record peace-time budget is a central issue. But most of the attacks direct their fire at the flanks.

Senate Probers Recommend Law For Lobbying

By JOHN CHADWICK

WASHINGTON (AP)—A special Senate investigating committee recommended new laws Friday "to cure the evils and mischief found to exist" in lobbying and campaign financing.

Greater public disclosure of activities in both fields was the key feature of the committee's legislative proposals, in the stated belief that sunlight, as the late Justice Brandeis once said, is "the best of disinfectants."

The eight-member committee, composed equally of Democrats and Republicans, unanimously recommended a bill to shed more light on direct lobbying and on indirect lobbying aimed at putting pressure on Congress members. It would provide criminal penalties in some cases for failing to file certain statements or reports, or for filing false documents.

The committee, under the chairmanship of Sen. McClellan (D-Ark.) did not reach full agreement on a measure to regulate contributions and expenditures in election campaigns for President and other federal officers.

The proposed measure would do away with any limitation on receipts or expenditures in presidential and vice presidential campaigns, and raise the spending ceiling for Senate and House races. But it would require fuller reporting of campaign financing and limit annual contributions by any individual to \$15,000.

The committee divided 4-4 on the question of whether election reform legislation should apply to primaries as well as general elections—a vote point that has proved a stumbling block to such bills in the past.

McClellan told newsmen in advance of submitting the committee's report to the Senate, that he would introduce the lobbying bill. He said he would attempt to push it to passage at this session of Congress.

The special committee said in its report that "one of the striking circumstances" of its investigation was the lack of specific complaints or information "concerning attempts to influence any member of the Senate improperly or illegally."

The core of the difficulty—massive defense programs—largely baffles lawmakers in both our major parties.

In the Soviet Union the strain of the arms race with America, plus the continuing effort to catch up with our remarkably productive industrial economy, has led to political and economic problems of a high magnitude. Changes are in prospect which could threaten the very system they seek to spread across the globe.

IN CONSEQUENCE there seems a real disposition against war and toward a softening of attitudes that might bring it on. That does not mean Russia intends to yield its dreams of conquest. The Communists simply are looking to other avenues to pursue their course.

So the world faced by 1957's graduates still contains the long range menace of an ambitious tyranny. But it is a bit more stable in the sense that the prospect of ruinous nuclear warfare seems lessened.

Within our borders, opportunity beckons the newcomers as never before. Business scouts comb the campuses for anybody with half a talent or more. The nation's economy goes on growing in pace with the country itself.

AS THE POLITICIANS back and fill in generally futile efforts to alter the blunt facts of the East-West power struggle, eager and imaginative men respond to the challenge presented by an economy that almost daily makes exciting strides forward into new areas.

Yesterday's miracles of science become tomorrow's commonplace on the factory line. And as they do, they make a story so fascinating that many a youngster fresh from school will grasp at the chance to play a part.

No doubt about it, 1957 is a good year for freshmen citizens to hit the trail.



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Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP)—"The greatest hazard in creative work is success," said Robert Rossen, one of Hollywood's few top triple threat men.

"Once a man wins success he wants to hold on to it too much. He becomes afraid to take chances and do risky things. He becomes cautious and repetitious."

"I believe there's a lot of sense in the old dice table saying: 'get a hunch—bet a bunch.'"

"I don't feel so afraid of success, or afraid of losing it. I've had a couple of failures and learned to bounce back from them."

Rossen, who recently directed Darryl F. Zanuck's production of "Island in the Sun," is a chunky former East Side kid who first punched his way to the top with his typewriter.

Now he ranks with a few other film colony all around stars (such as John Huston, Billy Wilder and Nunnally Johnson) who can write, direct, or produce a picture.

Two films in which Rossen performed all three chores were his Academy Award winning "All the King's Men" and "Alexander the Great."

Acting simultaneously as writer-director-producer, he feels, has both defects and advantages.

"The biggest advantage is that you get a unified look, an individual interpretation," he said. "When you're right, you're very right."

But the disadvantage is that sometimes, in doing three jobs on a film, you lose objectivity, because you don't have time to reflect. You lack the corrective benefit of varying points of view—and when you're wrong then, you can be awfully far wrong."

Perhaps because of his own rugged lower East Side upbringing, Rossen's favorite film theme is the individual's own struggle within himself and against his environment, a theme dramatically presented in one of his finest pictures, "The Brave Bulls."

"I think environment plays a more important place in our lives than most of us realize," he remarked.

At this point in his career Rossen says he no longer would let one of his own screen plays be directed by another man.

"It would be a schizophrenic thing to do," he said. "I feel now I could develop the script's film values better myself, rather than have them filtered through another mind."

Then he added, smiling, "but don't get the idea I think of myself as a genius, or want anybody else to. Being a genius is too much trouble."

Rossen prefers, whenever possible, to shoot a film in its natural location, feeling it stimulates him as well as the actors to do better work.

"I don't go to many movies, particularly if I have one in the works," he said. "I'm afraid it might make me unconsciously imitative."

A perfectionist himself, Bob is a frank admirer of the camera wizardry of fellow director George Stevens. He rates Jimmy Cagney as one of the finest actors he has ever known.

It is always interesting to an outsider to discover which pic-

Vancouver Papers Pool Resources

VANCOUVER, B.C. (AP)—The Province announced Friday it will move into the morning newspaper field June 17 with "at least six editions."

The Province joined Thursday with its afternoon competitor, The Sun, in announcing they have formed a new company, Pacific Press Ltd., to pool their publishing resources while maintaining editorial, advertising and circulation autonomy.

The announcement said The Province would become a morning daily and The Sun would remain in the evening field.

The Province's first morning edition will come just two days after The Vancouver Herald ceases publication. The Herald, the only morning paper now published in the city, will close June 14.

HOSTESS DIES
EUGENE (AP)—"Aunt Alchile" Bryant, who devoted her life to being a hostess to thousands of university students and townspeople, died here Friday. She was 74.

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- 19th—Dormeyer Electric Skillet.
- 20th—22nd—Dormeyer Combination AM-FM Table Model Radio.
- 23rd—30th—100-pound bags of U and I Sugar.
- 31st—39th—50-pound bags of U and I Sugar.
- 40th—74th—25 pound bags of U and I Sugar.
- 75th—125th—10-pound bags of U and I Sugar.



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