

The News-Review

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Member of the Associated Press, Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, the Audit Bureau of Circulations
Represented by WEST-HOLLIDAY CO., INC., offices in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Portland, Denver

Published Daily Except Sunday by the
News-Review Company, Inc.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES—In Oregon—By Mail—Per Year, \$12.00; six months, \$6.00; three months, \$3.50. Outside Oregon—By Mail—Per Year, \$13.00; six months, \$7.00; three months, \$4.00.
By News-Review Carrier—Per Year, \$12.00 (in advance), less than one year, per month, \$1.25.
Entered as second class matter May 7, 1920, at the post office at Roseburg, Oregon, under act of March 3, 1879.

PORTER IN TROUBLE

By Charles V. Stanton

Charles O. Porter, congressman from Oregon's Fourth District, is under blistering fire in Washington because of his recent trips to Costa Rica, Colombia and Puerto Rico, where he criticized U.S. foreign policy, as it relates to Central and South American countries.

Porter is urging that the United States refuse financial aid to dictator-controlled governments of Latin America; that we show special friendliness to democracies and unfriendliness to dictators. Because of his expressions of criticism, he was invited to visit Costa Rica and Colombia where, to use his own words, he "found it necessary to assure our friends that the American people have not abandoned their belief in democracy and justice under law—that the American people stand as firmly as ever for the moral traditions that make us a great nation worthy of respect."

The Oregon congressman is being accused of fostering revolution, of aiding and abetting Communist agitators, of interfering in the affairs of neighboring countries. Porter, on the other hand, insists the United States should have the courage of its convictions and display the cold shoulder to countries governed by dictators.

Powers Usurped

In the entire controversy, which has raged through many pages of *Congressional Record*, has received widespread attention in Congress and has been aired on radio and television, it seems to me that the principal issue has been overlooked.

Porter made a trip to Latin American countries ostensibly as an official of the United States government. He admittedly spoke in criticism of U.S. policy and expressed to the people of those countries his views on what U.S. policy should be.

My question is, by what authority does he speak outside the boundaries of the United States on the subject of foreign policy, either in favor or in criticism?

As I interpret the Constitution of the United States, the creation and execution of foreign policy is the responsibility of the Executive branch of government. The Executive branch works through the State Department. Only State Department officials, or persons authorized by the administration are privileged to speak on matters of policy outside the continental and territorial boundaries.

If we are to permit each and every U.S. congressman to go around the world sounding off concerning his own particular theories and prejudices, we will soon have a far greater state of confusion than this troubled world has ever known.

Porter contends that the countries he visited have government organization similar to our own and that the people understood he spoke as a legislator and not as an executive official. There is reason to doubt that the ordinary listener would make that distinction. In a memorandum to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs he points out the enthusiasm with which he and his remarks were received. But such condition does not rule out the possibility that at least some of the applause may have been generated by Communist claqueurs.

Authority Exceeded

Porter, having been elected to the Legislative branch of government, exceeded his authority when he assumed for himself privileges which the Constitution vests only in the administration.

As a member of the Legislative Department he has, in my opinion, the right to criticize and assail the acts of the administration and the State Department so long as he remains within the United States. It is his privilege to endeavor, in Congress and at any place or by any means within the boundaries of this nation, to secure adoption of the policies he believes best for the United States.

While I may disagree entirely with the congressman's views and opinions, I contend he has every right to fight for his convictions, so long as he confines his efforts to the halls of Congress and the press of this country. But the moment he puts his foot outside the country and attempts to be a spokesman for the people of the United States, he exceeds the authority to which he was elected.

The President of the United States was chosen by the people to head the administration. He and his appointed agents are the only spokesmen who can rightfully speak for the country as a whole.

The fact that Porter is expressing the opinions of a great many people, which he asserts is indicated by the vast volume of mail he has received, or the fact that he believes our friends in Latin America should be encouraged, does not, in my opinion, justify him in violating the authorities established by the Constitution, even though he might be sufficiently expert to meddle safely with the tangled and explosive politics of our Central and South American neighbors, which I doubt.

The voters in Oregon's Fourth District, I believe, elected Porter to help with problems closer home (and where, incidentally, he is showing some good prospects for success) rather than to serve as the political "messiah" for Latin American peoples.

Shorter Work Week Proposed

KIAMATH FALLS — A shorter work week was proposed to the state labor council convention as a possible solution to the growing unemployment problem in the lumber industry.

A. F. Hartung, president of the International Woodworkers of America, said Tuesday lumber employment is down 10 per cent from last year yet production has declined only 1.6 per cent. This is the result of automation and higher production per worker, he said.

Hartung said the answer to the problem may be a 30 or 35 hour work week.

In another convention report, Mark A. Smith, administrator of the State Labor Bureau's anti-discrimination division, said some union locals have barred members of minority groups.

This situation prevailed, he said, despite efforts of state labor leaders "to abolish discrimination within its ranks."

Tom Current, assistant state labor commissioner, told delegates that the four major 1954 election campaign goals of Norman Nilsen, labor commissioner, had been achieved.

He listed them as authorization of a state reconciliation service; creation of a legislative interim committee to study problems of migrant agricultural workers; a program to try to help older workers find jobs; provision of funds for labor bureau research to assist both labor and industry.

J. T. Marr, executive secretary-treasurer of the labor council and president of the National Hills Canyon Assn., reported the Hills Canyon Dam issue is not dead, despite setbacks in Congress.

Retread



Hal Boyle

NEW YORK — Tales and tidbits:

The U. S. housewife is becoming more and more electric—or at least electricity-minded.

Did you know that about one out of every 10 American women now uses an electric shaver?

This electrifying nugget of knowledge was disclosed in a survey which also found that 96.2 per cent of modern homes (those with wires) now have radios and 81 per cent have television sets.

In most families, however, father still has to mix his drinks and do the dishes by hand. Some 94.3 per cent of our homes are without blenders and 94.3 per cent have no automatic dishwashers.

Is it true that "an elephant never forgets?"

A German zoologist set out with typical Teutonic thoroughness to get the scientific answer. He found out that the elephant, which has a 13-pound brain (slightly larger than that of the average Harvard freshman) does forget—but, by and large, appears to have a pretty fair memory.

He found, for example, that one lady elephant, when presented again with 13 pairs of cards she had learned before but hadn't viewed for a full year, had a recognition rating ranging from 73 to 100 per cent in 500 trials. The zoologist thought that was pretty good.

But wouldn't you like to get a rich lady elephant into a sky-scraper limit poker game, with all face cards wild?

Crusade for Freedom relays the story of the Romanian Communist who died and went to Hell. When he arrived at the entrance, he was surprised to find two doors.

On one door was the notice,

Bruce Bioassat

Almost every time new figures are printed showing increases in juvenile crime, somebody hastens to point out that most young Americans are okay.

Of course there isn't any doubt at this at all. Those who feel it necessary to re-emphasize this fact constantly are evidently convinced that the crime statistics paint too black a picture.

Perhaps they do. But it is also possible that the steady stress on the normal behavior of most U.S. youngsters tends to lull people into a mood of complacency which ill suits the seriousness of the juvenile crime problem.

The fact is that youthful crime has been on the sharp upgrade for a long time. Leading law enforcement authorities, including FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, have declared flatly that offenses committed by young persons actually constitute THE major crime problem in America today.

In the face of this, it does not mean a great deal to repeat periodically that most kids don't commit crimes. Neither do most adults. Gains in the adult crime rate could hardly be passed off as not of notable consequence.

Most experts believe there has already been altogether too much general indifference toward the matter, and don't wish to see more. What is needed is action—action that goes beyond treating surface evidences and searches out the deep causes of juvenile misbehavior.

The scientists are coming to believe that they lie well below such levels as the "broken home," that they are to be found in the whole baffling complexity of our life today. Its mobility, thinning veneer of social disciplines, shifting standards, urban crowding and tense competition for space and for money as the key to material things.

WE must examine intently what kind of world we are building. Economically it is astonishing. But

Eisenhower Names Neil H. McElroy Defense Secretary

WASHINGTON — President Eisenhower named Neil H. McElroy, president of Procter & Gamble, to be secretary of defense.

The nomination went to the Senate before the resignation of Secretary Charles E. Wilson reached the White House.

Presidential press secretary James C. Hagerty said the idea is that McElroy will work with Wilson for the remainder of this month "to get acquainted with his job."

McElroy can not take over in any event until his nomination is approved by the Senate. To give their approval, the senators may insist that the industrialist dispose of some of his stockholdings.

In addition to being president of Procter & Gamble, McElroy is a director of General Electric Co. and the Chrysler Corp.—posts which suggest he has some holdings in these two big defense contractors.

McElroy's formal nomination came less than six hours after the President told a news conference he was giving every earnest consideration to the Cincinnati industrialist for the post but could not announce a decision until the required investigations of McElroy were completed.

Asked if the nomination meant that the investigations, required of all appointees, had been completed during the day, Presidential press secretary James C. Hagerty said yes and indicated he saw nothing unusual in the speed with which the inquiries had been completed.

"That's the way those things happen," Hagerty said.

House Approves Military Funds; Chapel Included

WASHINGTON — The House passed and sent to the Senate Wednesday a \$1,581,590,387 money bill carrying funds for military construction and a few miscellaneous purposes.

The rollcall vote was 330-75. Included in the bill were funds to begin work on two projects which stirred some controversy: A chapel of modernistic design at the New Air Force academy and a new airport here.

No attempt was made to change the \$1,521,500,000 earmarked for military public works construction. The Appropriations Committee had reduced this allotment from \$1,764,700,000 before the bill reached the House floor, its total cuts being \$279,138,380 from the \$1,860,748,967 requested by the President.

Most of the disagreement during two days of debate was over the airport and the 19-speed chapel planned for the Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colo.

The House tentatively decided 162-33 Tuesday to withhold funds for the chapel, estimated to cost three million dollars, but Wednesday by standing vote of 147-83 it changed its mind and approved the money.

Before sending the bill to the Senate, the House also beat by rollcall vote of 244-138 a motion by Rep. Taber (R-N.Y.) to cut \$9,784,000 from the Tennessee Valley Authority's \$12,317,000 allotment. Most of the reduction would have been in funds earmarked for continued work on a new lock at Wilson Dam on the Tennessee River.

TO VISIT U.S.

BRUSSELS — Former King Leopold, father of Belgium's reigning King Baudouin, will visit the United States, the Belgian court announced Wednesday. He will "fulfill an information mission of a scientific nature," the statement said. It gave no date for the trip.

BURGLAR HAS FIELD DAY

SPOKANE — A burglar had a field day inside a downtown variety store, looting 33 cash registers of an estimated \$600. police reported Wednesday. They said he apparently hid inside at closing time Tuesday night.

Liability Insurance, Tough Policy For Drivers Needed, States Vehicle Director

By PAUL W. HARVEY Jr.

SALEM — If James Johnson, Oregon's new motor vehicle director, has his way, every Oregon motor vehicle owner would be required to have liability insurance and every unsafe driver would be ruled off the highways.

Six months of work for the new Democratic state administration has convinced Johnson that these major changes in state policy are needed.

Oregon law now requires that after one accident, an automobile owner must either be insured or put up a bond. But Johnson believes this does not give the public enough protection.

"A large percentage of drivers involved in accidents have no insurance," Johnson said. "The result is that many people have accidents but can't collect, because the other driver is uninsured."

Johnson is keeping a record of all serious uninsured accidents. He'll give the information to Sen. Dan Dimick (D), Roseburg, who will make a new try next session to get compulsory insurance.

Johnson said Massachusetts, New York and North Carolina, and the Canadian province of Saskatchewan, have compulsory insurance. Johnson is studying these systems.

He doesn't care whether the compulsory insurance is made obtainable through insurance companies, or through the state. All that matters to him is that it be made compulsory.

Oregon's driver improvement program is in its infancy, but Johnson plans to expand it to get unsafe drivers off the roads.

"When a driver has several accidents or traffic violations," he explained, "we call him in and try to change his habits. Often we are successful."

"But if he then has more accidents or violations, we suspend his license. Our staff now is so small we can't do an effective job, but we will expand it so we can do much better."

"In this program lies the best hope of reducing the terrific accident toll which cost Oregon motorists 50 million dollars last year."

Johnson has been under fire from Republicans who have accused him of violating the principles of the civil service law. They point out that he has removed several key administrators who are under civil service.

The department was under the secretary of state until a year ago, and the Legislature permitted removal of civil service personnel.

so that the department could be reorganized.

Johnson, a Democrat, says he has fired five key people, while three others left for better jobs, and two more were eliminated by the Legislature.

And, he adds, he has filled these vacancies with more Republicans than Democrats.

"I believe," he said, "in promoting people up from the ranks, and this is what I have done. My employees tell me that department morale is better than it ever has been. There are a lot of good people among the 563 employees of my department."

30 DIE ON HIGHWAYS

SALEM — Thirty persons died in traffic accidents in Oregon during July, six fewer than in July, 1956, the Oregon Traffic Safety Commission reported Tuesday.

The year's toll up to Aug. 1 was 229, compared with 232 in the similar period of last year.

Asked about policy changes, Johnson said:

"We are changing procedures in order to serve the public more quickly and more cheaply, and to provide more safeguards in handling the 8 million dollars that comes into this office each year."

"We expect to adopt modern business machines to provide faster service, but this won't save the state any money."

"This department has been rated one of the four best in the country. That was before I took office. But we think we can make some improvements."

"When Gov. Holmes appointed me, his only instructions were to do what is right for the people of Oregon. We are trying to do just that."

Oregon's motor vehicle license plates are issued for five years, and new plates are due in 1960. Johnson doesn't see any need to change the color and style of the plates, so chances are that the new ones will look just like the present ones.

He is, however, thinking about issuing plates to the owners of cars, rather than having plates remain with the cars when they are sold.

Johnson doesn't pretend to be a professional government administrator. He came here from Coos Bay, where he owned a lumber business and served on the Coos Bay Port Commission.

But, he says, he's learning fast and thinks he can do a job.

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

(Continued From Page One)

prompts our intense interest. It is deep and abiding affection. Mamie Eisenhower is more than respected. She is BELOVED.

It's a strange-world note: In the heart of Miami, one of the nation's great metropolitan cities, a father saved his small son's life by wrenching a savage ocelot (an ocelot is a member of the jaguar family) off the child's back and wounding the big cat with a rifle.

The father found his 18-month-old son sprawled on his face in their back yard with the big South American jungle cat on the boy's back. He tore the cat loose with his bare hands, carried his son to safety, and chased the cat to the bank of a nearby canal. He shot at it and beat it with a pick ax and it fell dead in the canal.

The authorities said the ocelot wore a collar and apparently was a pet. The police were unable to locate its owner.

It's a weird story. What isn't weird is the quality of this 34-year-old father's courage. IT is the stuff that MEN are made of.

Sad note in the news: The defense department reported in Washington that more than 1800 servicemen were killed in auto accidents last year.

The department's report to a house appropriations subcommittee added that more than 17,800 other servicemen were injured in highway accidents during 1956.

We can say with the Judge, in the poem Maud Muller:

"Of all sad words
"Of tongue or pen,
"The saddest are these:
"It might have been."

If more of the operators of America's automobiles had been BETTER DRIVERS, most of these young men might still be alive and whole.

Morgan Now Uncertain Over Gas Price Raise

SALEM — Oregon Public Utilities Commissioner Howard Morgan said he could not tell immediately whether he would oppose a proposed 17 per cent gas rate increase by the Pacific Northwest Pipeline Corp.

Morgan said, however, he would ask the Federal Power Commission to suspend the proposed new tariff schedule until a study of it can be made.

The commissioner said he wants to find out what customers would be affected by any increase.

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