

The News-Review

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PRISON STATISTICS

By Charles V. Stanton

Politicians have recently been using our educational system as a whipping boy because the Russians, with a crash program, were first to put a satellite into space. The United States, our politicians waited, has been lagging in educating scientists and engineers.

With our usual proneness to gallop off in all directions at once, we're now on the verge of upsetting our whole educational system to concentrate on science and engineering, neglecting other departments of education.

While we're considering education in the light of defense needs, we might also do some mighty serious thinking about the facts reported by Paul W. Harvey Jr., Associated Press correspondent at Salem.

Harvey, reporting on statistics gathered at the state penitentiary, says that approximately one-half the prisoners have never been educated beyond the 8th grade. Only 85 out of 1,400 prisoners have completed a high school education, while 103 are illiterates.

At the same time 640 prisoners rated normal intelligence quotient, with 573 below average, but still above the moron classification. Thirty-six were rated above average in intelligence, balancing off 37 in the very low bracket.

These figures would tend to show that the delinquency rate drops in proportion to the degree of education. Thus, if we can persuade more of our people to gain even a high school education, we will greatly reduce the rate of crime and the cost of maintaining penal institutions.

School Costs Justified

Harvey's statistics, of course, leave much to be assumed. Many other factors doubtless must be written into the equations. Yet it would seem that the proportion of prisoners compares too closely with the degree of education to rule out a conclusion that more education would lower the crime rate.

The burden of law enforcement, courts, institutions of correction and penalty, and other costs involved in protection of society against crime, rests heavily on the shoulders of taxpayers. So does the cost of education. Few of us, however, would object to a transfer of expense of law enforcement to the educational system if we could save more of our young people from lives of crime. Harvey's report would indicate that a measure of relief from juvenile and adult delinquency lies in that direction.

It is obvious that putting emphasis on science and engineering in our high schools is not apt to do much for the group of men in the below average intelligence levels.

Probably the major part of the prison inmates in this below average classification quit school because courses of study were found uninteresting and difficult. Unable to keep pace with their fellows, a great many students drop out of school at the earliest opportunity. Even those going through to 8th grade or even into high school, being uninterested in the subject matter, gain little real education.

New Courses Needed

We clamor for a return to "readin', writin', and 'rithmetic," but even the basic studies will not suffice for a limited percentage of students.

Our educators are seeking various solutions to the problem raised by learning capacity of students. It is recognized that some students learn faster than others; that some can never be expected to achieve normal progress in liberal arts courses. Our present system of passing students by grades holds back the bright student and crowds the dull.

More and more it is being advocated that the slower, duller students be diverted into courses dealing with subjects they are able to absorb and which will enable them to earn a living — studies in manual arts, limited skills, etc., thus giving them the maximum education they can absorb, while removing the pressures and discouragements they face in trying to progress in our schools as now constituted.

If by some reorganization of the school system we can reduce the population of our penitentiaries by half, or more, as prison statistics would seem to indicate, the methods of achieving that result, even though adding to school expense, are deserving of most serious study.

—Bruce Bioassat—

He Knew Adversity Too!



Reader Opinions

Oregon Said Suffering From 'Politicitus'

For some time now it has been evident that Oregon is suffering from "Politicitus," (too much blab and too few brains), as illustrated by Rep. C. A. Barton of Coos County, whose panacea or cure-all for the high cost of school buildings is the registration of the many by the few. And who could possibly benefit from such a program? Not the taxpayer, to be sure, but the politician eager to organize more and more pressure groups for his political chess game of pitting one group against another and thus always having available a "whipping boy" or someone to blame for the ills of the times. What he doesn't realize is that after while, this becomes not only obvious to voters, but somewhat obvious.

With reference to The News-Review, February 2nd edition, let's analyze his speech to the National Farm Loan Association Stockholders, Para. 3, where are the monuments he refers to and how many will you find in Douglas County? Is he specific? Does he mention any by name? To which school board or boards is he referring?

In Paragraph 4, he suggests that state architects supply standard plans for schools to save money. Does he really think that would re-

sult in any substantial savings, or is it a means of bringing political pressure to bear on still another group? If it's economy he's after, he's going about it the same way Jack of the Beanstalk would, if in an attempt to do away with the giant he would chop off the giant's big toe, since comparatively speaking, the architect's fee is a very small percentage of the cost of any building. Why not carry this scheme further and appoint realtors to sell all the real estate to schools and state contractors to do all the building? That would be an ideal set-up for a certain type of politician.

Getting back to Mr. Barton's "standard plans" business, does he really think various communities and school boards would like to have rubber-stamped, "look-alike" schools? I think standard planning works fine for filling stations as a trade mark for ready recognition of a product, but would people like this in their community building?

And does Mr. B. realize that in many cases it would be as expensive to adapt a "standard plan" to certain sites as it would be to have a fresh, new design reflecting the community and its people? Does he think "state" architects would work for nothing? Would he eliminate school boards, or would he simply render them ineffective by "riding herd" on them until they were not making their own decisions or using their own good judgment for which they are elected?

And lastly, does Mr. B. realize that many of us are beginning to think that what is really needed is less "organizing" and more effort on the part of each and every one of us as thinking and responsible individuals not to be stamped into herds or groups to be motivated by selfish interests and thus be used as pawns in a sordid political chess game?

Alice M. Glenn
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Thinking It Over

By Robert L. Diefenbacher, D.D.

(Written for NEA Service)

Some folks always seem to know the right thing to do. They know what is good for them and what is good for others. They are not busybodies who try to run our lives. They do not proffer advice as if it were from some superior ego. They quietly touch some of our wounds and heal the wounds of the mind and spirit.

When we become acquainted with these folk we find that they are not clairvoyant. They are not merely lucky. Nor do they use hypnotic spells to force our actions.

They have found a simple faith in God. They plan with HIM. They pause before they start their busy days, and talk things over with a Guide whose mind is greater than theirs. They begin their days in quiet seclusion, determined to find and do God's will.

Labor Council Reports Perfect Voting Records

PORTLAND — The Oregon State Labor Council said Thursday that five state representatives and six state senators had perfect voting records in the Legislature on measures favored by the AFL-CIO.

The House members, all Democrats, are Reps. Ed Benedict, Vernon Cook, and W. A. Grenfell Jr., all of Portland; Glen Stadler, Springfield; and Guy Jones, Salem.

The upper chamber members, also all Democrats, are Sens. Phil Brady, Alfred H. Corbett, G. D. Gleason and Jean Lewis, all of Portland; Monroe Sweetland, Milwaukie; and Dan Dimick, Roseburg.

King Of Sweden Tells Engagement Of Princess

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — King Gustaf was reported Friday to have drafted a royal communique announcing the engagement of Princess Margaretha to Robin Douglas-Home, sometime London jazz pianist who now is going into the more sedate printing business.

The engagement, which was announced immediately by the President Adams and two by the destroyer escort Lester about 4 p.m. Wednesday.

The Lester arrived at Norfolk Friday with the two survivors and seven bodies. The destroyer escort Harley brought in seven bodies.

The survivors, Chief Officer Aldo Cardillo, 31, of Trieste, and machinist Giuseppe Valenti, 35, of Mola di Bari, told reporters they could not talk during their 16-hour ordeal on the overturned lifeboat because if they had opened their mouths, they would have been choked by water from the rough seas.

He quit the advertising business and got a job as managing director of a firm that prints industrial literature.

Agriculture Dept. Will Send Experts To Russia In Spring

WASHINGTON — The Agriculture Department is proceeding with plans to send a delegation of agricultural technical experts to Russia in the spring under a recently signed cultural and scientific exchange agreement.

An equal number of Russian experts in similar agricultural fields will come to this country.

The experts to be sent abroad will be taken principally from the staff of the department and from the land-grant agricultural colleges.

No definite decisions have been made yet, but between 40 and 50 Americans will be in the mission to Russia. The date may be early in June.

Agricultural fields to be covered by the delegation to Russia will include farm mechanization, animal husbandry, veterinary science, mixed foods, cotton growing, agricultural construction and electrification, horticulture, irrigation, reclamation, forestry and lumbering.

Whiskey, Narcotics Said Bought At Reformatory

SEATTLE — A former State Reformatory inmate testified Friday that narcotics and whiskey could be purchased at the institution and that 10 or 12 inmates were "doped up" during a 1953 riot.

Thomas Albert King, 24, told this to Superior Judge James W. Hodson when King appeared for sentencing for automobile theft. King's attorney, Milton Heiman, said he had notified Gov. Rosellini of King's statements and that the governor plans an investigation to see if such a situation exists.

King told the judge he never used narcotics or hard liquor until he went to the reformatory in 1952. He said both narcotics and liquor were sold to him by other inmates and guards.

Referring to inmates using narcotics at the time of the 1953 disturbance, King said "that's what caused the riot."

TWO MEMBERS ADDED

SALEM — Gov. Robert D. Holmes added two members to the state committee on services to the Aging Friday.

They are H. P. Oldham, Portland, retired railway worker, and Benjamin L. Simmons, Salem, curriculum supervisor of the state Department of Public Instruction.

He named Fred Guyton, Tillamook, to the Oregon Centennial Advisory Committee.

Mrs. Mary Goodwin, Portland, was appointed to the state Advisory Council for Practical Nurses.

House Committee OKs Supplemental Federal Budget

WASHINGTON — The House Appropriations Committee approved Thursday \$2,837,882,907 in additional money to run the government for the remainder of the fiscal year ending June 30 but said the main effect is to make next year's Eisenhower budget look better.

A committee majority said 78 per cent of the added money represents requests which normally would have come to Congress next year.

It asserted the result is "a favorable looking but misleading reduction" in 1959 budget totals as compared with 1958, and added: "Had the President handled these items in the normal manner in the 1959 budget, the result would reflect a recommended increase in new obligating authority in 1959, not a decrease."

"And this would comport more realistically with the actual expenditure side of the President's budget which shows a continuing increase."

The biggest part of the supplemental appropriations for this year is \$2,235,131,868 to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for funds expended on agriculture and farm price support programs.

Ship Survivors Tell Of 16 Hours In Stormy Sea

NORFOLK, Va. — Two survivors of the sunken Italian freighter Bonitas said Friday they rode the keel of a capsized lifeboat like horseback 16 hours in the stormy Atlantic before they were rescued.

Both men appeared to be in good physical condition. They left their rescue ship afloat and were taken to a hospital for observation.

Twenty-two members of the Bonitas' crew perished when the lifeboat in which they had abandoned their ship off the North Carolina coast Tuesday night was smashed against the side of the freighter President Adams. Five crewmen survived. Three were rescued immediately by the President Adams and two by the destroyer escort Lester about 4 p.m. Wednesday.

The Lester arrived at Norfolk Friday with the two survivors and seven bodies. The destroyer escort Harley brought in seven bodies.

The survivors, Chief Officer Aldo Cardillo, 31, of Trieste, and machinist Giuseppe Valenti, 35, of Mola di Bari, told reporters they could not talk during their 16-hour ordeal on the overturned lifeboat because if they had opened their mouths, they would have been choked by water from the rough seas.

French Trying To Soothe Hurt Prince Rainier

PARIS — The French government took steps today to soothe any hurt feelings that a Paris magazine article may have caused Monaco's Prince Rainier III.

At the request of the Monaco minister in Paris, the police opened an investigation to determine who was responsible for the article.

The article implied that the Prince, married to Grace Kelly of Philadelphia and Hollywood, was as rich as shipowner Aristotle Onassis. It said the Prince might even be short of ready cash.

The Monaco minister told the French Foreign Ministry the article constituted an attack on Rainier's dignity.

Rainier has been reported touchy about Onassis since the fabulously wealthy oil shipper bought control of the Monaco gambling casino, established his headquarters in the principality and anchored in its harbor his personal yacht, larger and more sumptuous than the Prince's yacht.

Progressive Party Candidates Lead

INDIANAPOLIS — Progressive party candidates are holding their lead in nominating endorsements for the May 21 International Typographical Union election.

ITU headquarters reported Friday that with half of the local endorsements in, Elmer Brown of New York, nominee for president, had endorsements of 355 locals. Howard Murray of Richmond, Va., head of the Independent Party ticket, had 103. Deadline for endorsements is March 8.

The winner will succeed Woodruff Randolph, head of the Progressive Party, who is stepping out after 14 years as ITU president.

Don Hurd of Oakland, Calif., secretary-treasurer since 1946 and candidate for re-election on the Progressive ticket, held a 351-4 lead over independent candidate, Francis E. Doherty of Providence, R.I.

Progressive candidates for three vice presidencies held comparable leads.

McElroy, Advisers Leave Friday For Puerto Rico

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Defense McElroy and his reorganization advisers left Friday for Puerto Rico to "sort out the best from the good" among proposals for reorganizing the department.

McElroy, in thus summing up the agenda for a weekend of seclusion at Ramey Air Force Base, told newsmen the group has "spent a good three weeks of interviewing well qualified people to advise on how the Department of Defense might be organized on an improved basis."

He said that "we certainly are striving to make our final considerations come to the next few weeks."

Sonic Booms Rock Bay Area Friday

HAMILTON AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — Intentional sonic booms rocked the northern San Francisco Bay area Friday in a demonstration by the new Air Force F104 Starfighter, fastest, highest flying operational U.S. fighter.

Six of the 1,500 miles an hour jet fighters took part in the show, cracking the sonic barrier at 5,000, 10,000 and 35,000 feet.

Brig. Gen. Curtis Low, commander of the 28th Air Division, contends that sonic booms from upper altitudes are not very awesome or dangerous. That was the reason for the demonstration.

The boom from 5,000 feet sounded like a bomb had been dropped on the runway and reportedly broke two windows of a store in nearby Novato. The higher booms were not so noticeable.

The needle-nosed, stubby winged "missile with a man in it" carries Sidewinder air-to-air guided missiles and will use a cannon firing up to 6,000 rounds a minute.

OPERA CLOSED

PARIS — The French Education Ministry ordered the closing of the Opera and Opera Comique Theaters Friday "until further notice" because of strikes. The Ministry announced the firing of all stage hands and other technicians who took part in the strikes.

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