

The News-Review

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NEW CAR MODELS

By Charles V. Stanton

Our automobile dealers are coming into a new model season with a great deal of confidence.

The past year hasn't been so good. The 1958 models haven't moved as rapidly as dealers and manufacturers had hoped. Now the dealers have many bargains. They are trying to clean up the 1958 models on hand and, at the same time, empty some of their used car lots. They will need show space and lots for 1959 cars, and, simultaneously, will need room on their lots for the vehicles they will be required to take in trade. If ever there was a time for good automotive bargains, now is that time.

But dealers are reporting a peculiar circumstance. Despite the fact they are selling off 1958 new cars at the lowest possible price and are putting out bargains on their used car lots, consumers are waiting to see the new models. In fact, a good many new cars have been purchased in advance simply because new models are being placed on the market. The sale of new cars, 1959 models, already appears to be much greater than in 1958. People are showing an interest in the new cars, with their new engineering and new devices, and are awaiting the new models, or are looking over the new cars already announced, with more enthusiasm than for a long time.

Good Indication

Many observers are looking at this somewhat peculiar situation as a good indication that our days of recession are over and that prosperity lies ahead. They also are warning against the danger of inflation and are pointing out that federal agencies have taken steps against an inflationary trend.

The situation, I have said, is "peculiar." I can't think of a better word. Some people are buying 1958 models as dealers try to clear their sales rooms and lots. Others are getting in on offers coming from used car lots. At the same time a bigger number than usual are showing a remarkable interest in the new models.

There is every indication that the new models will have many features American buyers want. It appears consumers will not hesitate to put out money to buy a 1959 car. The new cars are powerful. They have improved motor and body engineering. They are longer, roomier, and have luxurious appearance. All that appeals to the buyer.

It has been interesting to note that while there has been considerable interest shown in the small foreign cars, which advertise economy and space, a lot of these cars are being used for "seconds," and have had but little effect on the domestic market.

People Have Money

A large part of our so-called "recession" was caused by the fact that we were putting our financial house in order. Many people became frightened by the political talk. The "recession" had its political angles—angles still being used. As a result many people were frightened.

Here in Oregon our economy was affected. It was affected, I believe, more than necessary because of the introduction of politics and because of "bear" stories.

Although we now have a serious unemployment problem, and employers with a good employment record are being stuck the maximum rate, we have more people at work than before. Our school enrollment here in Douglas County indicates that we have a bigger population than in previous years. Although some people didn't have jobs, those who did have jobs were almost as numerous and, because of wage increases, they actually made more money than in our most prosperous years. All that, I say, is "peculiar."

But statistics show that people were frightened into recession. Instead of circulating money they saved it. They paid off indebtedness. They retired installment contracts—many ahead of date. They put money in savings accounts. They bought stocks and bonds.

People have money—more money than in some of our best years—but they haven't been spending it.

Every indication now is that they are gaining confidence, that money is going back into circulation, and that one of the first buys for a good many families will be one of the new model automobiles.

—Hal Boyle—

ABOARD THE S.S. BRASIL AT SEA (P)—Anyone who wants to enjoy eating with a clear conscience can do no better today than to go to sea.

Ashore it is getting so a man is afraid to show any pleasure in food. If he eats more than five peanuts at a cocktail party, he winds up with a sense of guilt. His worries: "Am I shortening my life?"

Food is no longer food but a form of medical food measured in calories which one does out of oneself as if he were an engine instead of a human being. As a matter of fact, many people feed their motor cars better than they do themselves.

But at sea, this attitude disappears. Food is recognized again for what it really is—one of mankind's greatest blessings. Good eating regains its true stature as one of civilization's finest arts.

My wife, Frances, and our daughter, Tracy Ann and I are embarked on a 31-day voyage to the South America. It is the maiden voyage of the beautiful new Moore-McCormack liner Brasil, the largest passenger liner ever built in Dixie.

So far I have been gaining weight at the rate of half a pound a day, and loving every ounce of it. No one has mentioned about the word calorie.

If you put an extra pat of butter on your baked potato, no one thinks it is in compensation for table to snack on and keep from mother love you missed in childhood. If you essay the salmon steak before wading into the rock Cornish hen and wild rice, no one suggests: "You're eating to hide a secret anxiety."

Dining is no longer an exercise

BALLOT MEASURE

Capital Punishment Bill Would Put Murder Penalty In Hands Of Legislature

By CHARLES V. STANTON
News-Review Editor

Editor's Note — This is another in the series of articles on measures to appear on the forthcoming election ballot. It is suggested that information contained herein be clipped and saved for study in preparation for the election. Recommendations express only the opinions of the writer—CVS.

Proposition No. 4—CAPITAL PUNISHMENT BILL
PURPOSE — To eliminate from Oregon Constitution present provision for death penalty for first degree murder. Allow Legislature to fix penalty.

EXPLANATION—A vote favoring this bill would remove the death penalty from the Constitution. It could, however, be authorized by the Legislature. The Legislature in 1957 moved toward repeal of the constitutional provision by passing a law that a person convicted of first degree murder must serve 15 years before being eligible for parole and then shall be paroled only upon unanimous vote. Definitions also were provided for other degrees of murder, together with penalties, retaining the death penalty for treason or for murder while under life sentence.

Oregon changed from public to private executions in 1903. It abolished the death penalty in 1915 but reinstated it in 1920. Six states do not have the death penalty. Two retain capital punishment under certain conditions.

FOR—Statistics show that the death penalty is no deterrent to crime. Penologists frequently say that the people who suffer the death penalty are the penniless people, while the rich escape. Modern principles are that punishment is provided for reformation and is not based on vindictiveness. History shows that innocent people have been executed or threatened with execution for crimes they did not commit. The death penalty is inflicted so seldom that it should be discontinued.

AGAINST—Despite argument to the contrary, capital punishment is a deterrent against brutal and premeditated crime. Crime of passion is not normally prosecuted as first degree murder. A murderer has forfeited his right to mingle with society and society should not be put to the expense of life imprisonment. Paroles are too quickly and easily obtained. One reason that capital punishment is not more of a deterrent to crime currently is found in the long court delays and long lapse of time between crime and punishment. Quicker court action would make punishment a more effective deterrent to crime.

RECOMMENDATION — Under existing laws, all departments of government are called into play in cases involving capital punishment. Under our system of government, laws are made by the legislative branch of government. Those laws are interpreted and enforced by the judicial branch. They are executed by the executive branch. Capital punishment laws have been made by the people. We propose to transfer that power by delegation to the Legislature, an agency of the people. The law is enforced by the court, the judicial branch. Under our present system the governor, chief of the executive branch, has the power of veto over both the legislative and judicial branches of our government. He can commute a death sentence to life imprisonment or can even grant a full pardon. The proposed new law would eliminate the executive branch from the law, except as a purely mechanical agency. Capital punishment and the death penalty should have every safeguard. It would seem that the various branches of government should have some measure of correlation, rather than acting independently. Oregon has been quite careful to execute no one who didn't deserve it. It seems that the proposed law hasn't been too well prepared. The recommendation for a "No" vote is based on the need for better presentation of the issue. It is doubted that any death penalty will be imposed before next election upon any person who isn't deserving of that punishment.

—Warren Rogers Jr.—

WASHINGTON (AP)—The State Department is cautiously setting up a new organizational scheme aimed at coping better with what Secretary Dulles calls international communism.

Officials freely concede they might find their experiment is a bust. But they are going to try it anyway. Congress, willing in hopes of more diplomatic efficiency.

The problem is that Communist activity—military, economic, subversive and what-have-you—throws a tremendous administrative burden on the State Department. Even though Dulles is pretty much a vest-pocket operator on major policy, the day-to-day operation requires an enormous amount of leg work and desk work.

Keeping an eye on the Soviet bloc and figuring out U.S. counter moves is primarily the responsibility of the State Department's Office of Eastern Affairs, headed by Asst. Secretary C. Burke Elbrick.

Worldwide and Growing — But Communist activity is worldwide and growing. Besides being overworked, the present office is finding itself involved in matters outside its geographical scope—Egypt, the Formosa Strait, North Africa, Latin America. Lately, Red China has been assuming more importance in the Sino-Soviet bloc.

Somebody came up with the idea of a superoffice which eventually would grow into a bureau with an assistant secretary of its own. This outfit would tackle all Sino-Soviet bloc matters, leaving the Office of Eastern European Affairs to deal strictly with that area on issues unrelated to the international aspects of communism.

A start already has been made in staffing the superoffice with top-flight career men. In six or eight months officials hope to go to Congress with a completed blueprint and the name of a veteran diplomat to run a new Bureau of Sino-Soviet Bloc Affairs as an assistant secretary.

Fighting A Phantom — The great danger is that the State Department might find itself fighting a phantom, like Don Quixote in search of a mighty deed to do.

The first step in solving a problem is to define it. George Kennan, former U.S. ambassador to Moscow, performed such a service after World War II when he defined the Soviet Union as an enemy of the West.

Editorial Comment

From The Oregon Press

WHICH ROAD TO SOCIALISM? Grants Pass Courier

Which road to socialism is the fastest?

Ask this question of the average citizen and he would likely respond with a bewildered, almost incredulous stare, as much as to say: "What do you mean?"

For persons who have grown up during the New Deal years of Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Square Deal regime of President Harry Truman, and now the New Republicanism of Dwight D. Eisenhower, everything appears to be normal. They never have known anything else but a so-called "liberal" form of government, in which a benign and paternalistic administration has sought to substitute regimentation for private initiative.

The farmers since the days of FDR have had price supports in one form or another. The government has been in the hydro-electric power business in a big way, starting with the TVA and extending to numerous other dams and generating projects. The government tells people how many hours they can work each week; even fought a war with a 40-hour week on the home front, in fact! Minimum wages are set by law. Labor unions are encouraged and protected. A managed currency is substituted for the gold standard, in order that politicians can manipulate it more easily.

Private enterprise, while receiving lip service, actually is under heavy attack. Taxes are such that they discourage initiative. Deficit spending boosts the national debt to astronomical heights, partly because of national defense needs but also because even a little deflation cannot be countenanced. Everything, including wages and prices, must go up and up, until finally the tired old American dollar gives up the ghost.

National leaders of the Republican party, deploring the refusal of big contributors to open their purse strings this election year, point to the millions that COPE and other organized labor fronts will be spending to elect Democratic candidates. Victories by the Democrats this year and in 1960 will mean policies and legislation even farther to the left than that approved by Congress during the Roosevelt and Truman administrations, is contended.

All too true. But what has "modern Republicanism" done to check this drift? Instead of reducing taxes, retaining a balanced budget, unleashing business from repressive restrictions and taking a strong stand for control of union labor excesses, the policy appears to have been further "borrowing from the political armory."

Pope's Last Words Were Peace Plea; Text Released

VATICAN CITY (AP)—The last public words that Pope Pius XII spoke were a plea for peace. Thus in his last days the "Pope of Peace" returned to the theme with which he launched his reign. The Vatican today released the text of his last speech, made Oct. 5, the day before he suffered his first cerebral stroke and only four days before he died.

Despite the hiccup he was suffering the day he received 2,000 delegates to the international Congress of Latin Notaries, the pontiff spoke to them in French for about 20 minutes.

Concluding his address, he urged them to dedicate their efforts to a consolidation of the European Common Market and to the cause of peace, which he said "is desired by all men of good will."

It was Aug. 24, 1939, a few months after his election as pontiff and when the world was on the verge of war, that he said that "nothing is lost with peace. Everything may be with war. Let men return to understanding. Let negotiations begin."

The Vatican's L'Osservatore Romano, commenting upon the final speech, said that at its conclusion and after he had talked to many of the delegates individually, he raised his hands in his usual gesture of greeting.

But the Vatican newspaper said he was unable to wave his hands as he usually did and so chose to bid farewell to the delegates by raising his hands as though in premonition. The words, spoken in Italian were "A Dio," to God—distinctly and separately pronounced.

Douglas Residents Buy More Savings Bonds

Douglas County residents still are running ahead of their quota of purchases of United States savings bonds after the first three quarters of the year, according to the Treasury Department.

Sales of bonds in the county through September totaled \$772,394, or 77 1/2 per cent of the year's quota. The total during the first nine months of 1957 was \$735,273.

Sold in September were \$84,754 worth of bonds compared to \$82,411 in September 1957.

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