

The News-Review

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Member of the Associated Press, Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, the Audit Bureau of Circulations

NEWS-REVIEW COMPANY, INC.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES—IN Oregon—By Mail—Per Year, \$12.00; six months, \$7.50; three months, \$4.50. Outside Oregon—By Mail—Per Year, \$14.00; six months, \$8.00; three months, \$4.50.

By News-Review Carrier—Per Year, \$12.00 (in advance), less than one year per month, \$1.50.

Counter and Roseburg P. O. Boxes
1 Month \$1.50—4 Mos. \$5.00—1 Year \$12.00—Per Single Copy 5c

Mail Subscriptions Must Be Paid In Advance
Entered as second class matter May 7, 1956, at the post office at Roseburg, Oregon, under act of March 3, 1955.

PHENOMENON OF APATHY

By George Castillo

Apparently a majority of Oregon citizens with voting rights doesn't care how much government costs.

This point was emphasized strongly this week by William R. Bader, manager of Oregon Tax Research, a state taxpayers' group.

Actually, the majority of Oregon voters is not exactly disinterested. They just remain potential voters too long and never get around to action until it is too late.

They are classic examples of talk without action. Most sit back complacently while a few others go to the polls to approve or turn down a million or so dollars in local property taxes. Later they get their tax statements and turn the air blue with unhappy cries of how they have been misused.

Let's take a look at this modern "phenomenon," the Oregon voter.

He's intelligent, enlightened and strongly individualistic. He thinks he knows his rights and is willing to go to war over them. He's ready to fight if someone says he's not a 100 per cent, red-blooded American.

He demands the right to determine his own fate through the powerful weapon of the vote. But he apparently wants the vote only for possession's sake. He seldom uses it.

He's A Talker

He talks more about taxes than probably any other subject. At the same time, he can't spare the time to find out what a proposed tax is about or the few minutes to record that knowledge on a ballot. He talks but doesn't act.

Bader pointed out that Oregon has one of the best systems for giving the individual voter a chance to control expenditures. It's something to be proud of.

Under the system, he personally has the final say-so on bond issues and amounts in taxing district budgets outside 6 per cent above the tax base. He determines when or if new taxing districts shall be formed. Through candidates he elects and measures he approves, he is a guiding force in determining the kinds and amounts of services he will receive.

He has the tools practically no other people in the world have to determine his own fate. But he refuses to use them.

Here are some examples of his failure to act:

At the last school budget election, a total 1,200 of a possible 11,000 voters turned out. Thus, slightly over 10 per cent of the voters acted on more than a million dollars outside the limitation.

This year, a countywide vote on three-quarter million dollars outside the limitation in the rural school budget brought out 3,534 votes of a possible 30,000-plus.

These examples are disturbing monuments to voter apathy.

Fault Misplaced

Then, after the tax statements arrive and the apathy is replaced by indignation, the voter looks for a scapegoat. He doesn't recognize his rising tax bill as his own fault. Rather, the accusing finger is pointed at the sheriff, whose name appears on the property tax statements; the assessor, who merely figures out the taxation necessary to cover what the voter has requested in the line of services, and often the state Tax Commission.

The crux of the matter is that if the taxpayer doesn't want higher property taxes, he should use his vote as a weapon to cut back expenditures where they will not hurt efficient operation of government.

This is a point which is made regularly in the two reports already finished on the state's tax situation by tax expert Dr. John Sly. He indicates that if it is the wish of the taxpayer that his taxes be smaller, the need isn't to find a new source of taxes to spread out the burden. Instead, it's to find ways of cutting back non-vital expenditures.

— Hal Cooper —

LONDON (AP) — It is the day of the season's biggest international soccer game, between England and the Soviet Union.

The typical British fan, who digs ditches for the Borough Council, has no ticket. If he is going to go, he will have to get one from a scalper at Wembley Stadium. The fan has assured himself he can afford neither a ticket nor the loss of a day's work. He will not go.

But shortly after noon he crams himself into a subway train along with hundreds of his peers, Wembley bound.

Along the parade way leading from the subway station to the stadium a religious organization has posted several signs. They read, in order: "Sin Is a Reproach To Any People," "All Have Sinned," "The Coming of the Lord Draweth Nigh," and "Prepare To Meet Thy God."

By the time he gets to the stadium the fan is in starting condition for a disaster.

He approaches a ticket scalper who demands 10 shillings—\$1.40—for a three-shilling sixpence—50 cents—ticket to standing room in Section D, far behind one of the goals.

The fan ripostes with an offer of seven shillings sixpence—\$1.05—which is refused with hauteur. The fan forks over 10 shillings and wends his way to Section D.

By game time the concrete terraces of Section D are so crammed with people the fan would be unable to fall down if he fainted. He is screened from the playing field by a phalanx of men seven feet tall.

Roar From Crowd

From time to time there is a roar from the crowd. The fan assumes something is happening but

Reader Opinions

Assessor Not To Blame For November Tax Bills

Many of us seldom, if ever, have the occasion to visit the county assessor's office, to observe its operations and study its many duties, services and functions. However, scarcely any of us escape the annual reminder that the office does exist. It so happens that about this time each year, we receive an innocent looking envelope containing the unpopular notice that our real estate taxes are again due and payable.

Since our county assessor and his staff are charged with the duty of appraising and assessing the property values that determine our pro-rata share of tax burden, we frequently, consciously or otherwise, number him among the less popular people we know. Quite frequently, due to our displeasure of having to pay out our hard earned dollars in real estate taxes, we find reasons for condemning him even though he may be performing his duties exactly as we as a group, have by law directed him.

Well, the undersigned by the very nature of our business do have frequent occasions to observe the operation of the assessor's office. Many times we refer to, check and compare the assessed valuation records, and we wish to exercise our cherished privilege to publicly give credit where credit is due. It is our sincere opinion that the Douglas County assessor's office is one of the most completely staffed and administered in the state of Oregon.

During the past few years, it has been gratifying to observe the outstanding progress being made toward improved current records, the simplified index of ownerships, the complete accurate and up-to-date maps maintained, to say nothing of the tremendous stride made in improved methods of appraising which result in more equitable assessed values.

Though we may be counted among the grumbling taxpayers come November 15, we tip our hat to Morris Bowker and his staff for the outstanding manner in which they conduct our affairs in the assessor's office.

Roy O. Young, Realtor
Lena C. Young
Earl Wiley, Realtor
Gladys Wiley
J. M. Bevans, Realtor
R. B. Springer
Kenneth Dresser
L. G. Jones, Realtor
John Fleck
H. J. Winter, Realtor
L. P. McAnaney, Realtor
Lloyd Wilson, Realtor
Joe W. Dent, Realtor
Pete Serafin

'Intimate Theater' Art Defended By Local Man

In Friday's Reader Opinions I was most interested in a letter which excoriated the management of our local theater for booking certain movies, described by the writer by such phrases as "lurid ads," "filthy pictures," "these awful films" etcetera. The letter goes on to say that these pictures "make light of the sacred... relations between a man and his wife."

I hasten to suggest to Mr. Hemmilla, the theater owner, that he enlarge his theater to absorb the crowds who, having had their curiosity aroused by this critique, will undoubtedly flock in to catch the next such picture. I am afraid the writer has defeated her purpose.

As a moviegoer over the last 40-odd years, I have seen all kinds of films, but can categorically state that even in the so-called "Intimate Theater" type of films the positive moral lesson prevails, if you will recognize it. In other words, while showing life as it frequently exists, the producers still take the side of morality in the over-all impact of the film. Way back when they were showing "Lost Week End" there was a lot of whiskey consumed by the leading man, but the entire picture was an indictment of alcoholism. And when we saw "Baby Doll" not long ago it was good entertainment, but we did not assume that the producers, much less the exhibitors, advocated that way of life.

It may well be that the motion picture industry came near to losing its market by making too many pictures depicting life in the near-ideal state; people finally may have decided that they wanted to see life depicted more accurately, even if it hurt.

The writer of Friday's letter is obviously sincere in her remarks, and there can be no doubt of her high ideals. However, it may be that her conclusions are open to doubt. The little battle between heresy and high tax burden, it seems even more serious, however, when he deliberately attempts to misrepresent this record to voters of his district, by claiming positions and votes which, on the record, are the opposite of the truth.

I think the attention of the public should be called to this matter.

Glen W. Johnson
Azalea River Ranch
Azalea, Ore.

Cong. Porter Disputed On Farm Issue Votes

It has been called my attention that Congressman Charles O. Porter is attempting what appears to me to be a deliberate attempt to deceive the people of this Congressional District concerning his position and his votes on important farm legislation.

I have carefully checked Mr. Porter's record. Certain statements credited to him concerning his voting record and his position on farm matters are false.

On October 8, the Eugene Register-Guard quoted him as saying, in regard to the so-called "omnibus farm bill" that "I voted only for consideration of the farm bill and when it came up for a vote, I voted against it." This is untrue. Wiser Democrats and Republicans killed this bill in June, 1958, when it came up for a vote to debate it, so Mr. Porter would have had no other opportunity to vote for or against it.

In a letter to the Medford Mail Tribune on October 19, he did "correction" of the same erroneous statement which had been made almost three weeks earlier in Medford. He made this "correction" only after he was confronted with his own record. In the same letter, however, he stated "My position has always been against price supports for so-called basic crops." This, also, is untrue. He voted for the continuation of high parity payments in March, 1958. He voted for the Agricultural Act of 1958 in August, 1958. I fail to find in his record even one vote against high price supports. I also fail to find that he ever corrected the false statement made in Eugene.

It seems to me to be a serious matter when a Congressman from the Fourth District of Oregon supports costly, wasteful legislation which would help no farmers or ranchers in this district, but which would help increase our cost of living and which would affect our already high tax burden. It seems even more serious, however, when he deliberately attempts to misrepresent this record to voters of his district, by claiming positions and votes which, on the record, are the opposite of the truth.

I think the attention of the public should be called to this matter.

Glen W. Johnson
Azalea River Ranch
Azalea, Ore.

'Intimate Art' Movie Criticism Gets Backing

I just finished reading Mrs. Lester Gale's letter in the Oct. 24 issue of The News-Review. It is very critical of the "intimate art" movies the Indian Theater has shown. I agree with her whole heartedly.

I came from a very large city in California, where these movies were shown in several sections of the city. I was glad to see Roseburg was free from this trash. There are so many good movies to be shown.

I'm surprised the Indian Theater thought it necessary to resort to this type of film.

Mrs. Lester Pierce
Rt. 1, Box 1134
Roseburg, Ore.

Blue Star Mothers Express Thanks For Aid

The Blue Star Mothers of America, Chapter No. 4, Roseburg, wish to extend thanks to all whose services were given during our recent dairy sale. We are particularly grateful to those people who gave special services, including members of the city police department.

Mrs. LaVon Long, President
Blue Star Mothers of America
Roseburg, Ore.

IN THE DAY'S NEWS

By FRANK JENKINS

(Continued From Page One)

upon the welfare of ALL the people. Instead, in practice, it reserves all the good things of life for a little group of big shots at the top.

It pretends to be pure democracy. In practice, it amounts to unlimited despotism. Communism is everything it pretends not to be.

live with communism if communism turns out to be something that can be lived with. We must always be willing to talk, but we must be ready to SHOOT if and when shooting is the only way out. Above all else, we must STAY STRONG.

The BIG question:
What shall we do about it?

Here's a thought:
We must never permit ourselves to believe what the Communists say. A basic tenet of communism is to SAY what at the moment seems most likely to advance the interests of communism and to ACT at any moment in whatever manner seems most likely to benefit communism.

We must keep so strong that at any moment we can destroy red China or red Russia if we have to. Superior force is the only thing that the Communists respect.

But—
We mustn't be too picayunish about details. We mustn't give the impression that our No. 1 objective is to destroy communism—at whatever cost. We must learn to

Thinking It Over

By Robert L. Diefenbacher, D.D.

(Written for NEA Service)

When anger is met with anger the results can be nothing but temper. It is natural for us to meet ire with ire, yet it is more satisfying to meet chaos with calm.

The Master of mankind did not lose his self-control when faced with opposition. Somehow He met hate with love. "But," you say, "He was the Son of God. He had supernatural powers."

You, too, have a touch of the supernatural. All that one has to do is to reach his hand and heart toward God. Everyone can learn to love his enemies if he will only accept the love of the Father which is freely given to all who seek it.

Not only does love satisfy one's self, but also it raises the thoughts and reactions of others. The influence of love is lasting, whereas the influence of hatred shortens life.

How To Hold FALSE TEETH More Firmly In Place

Do your false teeth annoy and embarrass by slipping, dropping or wobbling when you eat, laugh or talk? Just sprinkle a little FASTEETH on your plates. This alkaline (non-acid) powder holds false teeth more firmly and more comfortably. No gummy, gooey, paste taste or feeling. Does not sour, check, "plate odor," denture breath. Get FASTEETH today at any drug counter.

REVIVAL MEETINGS

October 26 thru November 2

7:30 P. M. Each Evening

Evangelist, Verl Nafziger, Lebanon, Ore.
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Ady. Bowker For Assessor Comm., D. M. Geddes, Chairman, Roseburg, Ore.

Sen. Neuberger Claims Hatfield Irresponsible

TIGARD (AP)—Sen. Neuberger (D-Ore) this week accused Secretary of State Mark Hatfield, the Republican nominee for governor, of political irresponsibility.

He told Washington County people promises of lower taxes and more financial aid to education "is an illusory and impossible approach to government, and every informed citizen realizes it."

Neuberger referred to a full page advertisement inserted in newspapers by Hatfield, declaring:

"It is easy to put together a self-styled program of 20 or more promises, if you do not care whether these promises are mutually consistent or contradictory—or whether they mean anything at all, when one reads the fine print."

The senator said Hatfield's "fiscal irresponsibility" for political campaign purposes "will make harder the job of the governor and the 1959 Legislature."

"The whole question of state revenues," Neuberger added, "has become a political football for which Mr. Hatfield must shoulder the major share of the blame today."

Small Business Session Slated On UO Campus

EUGENE — Regional authorities on legislation and practices affecting small businesses will be featured in a small business conference on the University of Oregon campus here Nov.

Businessmen will hear explanations of legislation affecting small business, the Small Business Acts of 1958 and financing of a small business.

The university School of Business Administration is sponsoring the conference in co-operation with the Oregon Chamber Executives, Portland Chamber of Commerce, Oregon Department of Planning and Development and Associated Oregon Industries.