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EDITORIAL PAGE

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POLITICAL TACTICS

By Charles V. Stanton

An interesting aspect of activities in Congress, as well as in the state Legislature, is found in the fact that both bodies are used as political amplifiers and loud speakers.

In both Congress and in the Oregon Legislature (every other legislature I presume) a great deal of proposed legislation, flag-waving, argumentation, speeches, etc., has as a purpose the spreading of political propaganda.

The existing session of Congress, for example, hasn't done a thing from the legislative standpoint. A few routine matters have come up for consideration, but, for the most part, national politicians are "viewing with alarm" and "waving the flag."

National politicians apparently have set a record in the number of pages devoted to Congressional Record and other such publications and journals, but have done practically nothing with regard to actual legislation.

Politicians spout hundreds of thousands of words about aid to schools, international affairs, exports and imports, pensions, labor, monopoly, inflation, and scores of other topics, each designed as a vehicle to carry political philosophy and opinion. But, with all its talk Congress hasn't acted on any legislation.

Controversy Bypassed

Next year will be presidential election year. Neither side wants to get itself engaged in a controversy that might cost votes. So both sides love everybody. There is apt to be little legislation restrictive on either labor or management. There will be stern talk relative to controlling inflation, but little will be done to control inflation because lots of people like inflation. Congressmen will wax eloquent on subjects of civil rights, integration and other such subjects, but don't hold your breath until corrective legislation is forthcoming.

At the same time, there'll be a lot of talk about public power, federal aid to schools, enlarged unemployment benefits, easier money, higher hourly wages, broadened welfare, aid to small business, and many other ideas that will tickle the ears of voters. Politicians will fill us full of promises and implied promises, but legislation may be expected to be along very careful lines. Promises will remain promises.

Every day, as you pick up your newspaper, you read the proposals of congressmen who offer to give us something with our own money. They hold out all kinds of sops and baubles, but, behind it all, is the need to raise more money by taxation to pay for the project.

State Uses Same Tactics

We are made to believe that we're to be packed in cotton from the cradle to the grave; that we'll have perpetual security and freedom from worry. If we'd use our heads, we'd know that such promises are a bunch of hooey.

But the American people fall for that type of propaganda, apparently, and it is now being spread with wide strokes.

We find the current session of our Legislature engaged in much the same process. A Democratic Legislature is doing all it can to embarrass and hobble a Republican governor. It is listening to signals from the sideline in an effort to keep Hatfield out of the political arena in 1960. At the same time it is holding public hearings on public power, daylight savings, tax ratios, labor relations, unemployment compensation, school support and numerous other items affording legislators opportunity to sound off regarding their pet political philosophies and hobbies, and, at the same time, get in plugs for party politics.

If Congress and the Legislature could be persuaded to cut out the politics and get down to the business of legislating for the benefit of state and nation, eliminating those bills and proposals introduced for propaganda purposes only and slated to die in committee after affording opportunity for political spouting, the taxpayer could be saved a huge sum of money and most of us would feel a lot easier.

Reader Opinions

Union Agent Replies To Welfare Editorials

The Editor: LSWU Local 2814 would appreciate for the benefit of the public your printing our statement in reply to your recent editorial about organized labor, the Welfare Commission and Martin Box.

The Douglas County Welfare Commission's threat to deprive our members of benefits was a severe blow to us. About 600 of us Douglas County residents have been working without a dispute at the Martin plants for seven years. We have paid our share of taxes to the county and state. The cities of Oakland and Sutherlin are largely dependent upon the money we spend and we contribute substantially to Roseburg and other areas. Our dispute with the Martin company was genuine and was legal. We are no better and no worse than all the other law abiding citizens of Douglas County. We have never done anything to the Welfare Commission. Why should it single out our members for discrimination? We were locked out of our jobs by the Martin company and were thereby rendered unemployed.

The Martin company advertised locally and elsewhere for workmen. Why didn't the Welfare Commission refuse welfare assistance to all its other recipients for their refusal to go out and work for Martin? Why pay out welfare benefits to anyone until the Martin company obtained a full crew? Why not starve everyone until all employers have all the workmen they want under any terms the employer demands?

Your editorial speaks of Chairman Charles Lynch as being the labor representative on the Welfare Commission. There is no provision for a labor representative on the commission. It is true that Mr. Lynch happens to be an officer of a union. He is from the union which is our competitive rival. We have asked no favors from him or the commission, have received none, do not expect any and are not

entitled to any. We ask only that to which we are entitled under the law. We do appreciate Mr. Lynch's efforts to see that we receive equal treatment. He has not sought to discriminate against us as have other members of the commission. We were pleasantly surprised by the Democratic Party resolution. None of our officers or members are on the Democratic executive board. None of us solicited the resolution or asked for their help. Our first knowledge of it was from The News-Review.

We agree with the resolution and appreciate the fact that the Democratic Party has demonstrated that it puts principle above politics in the interest of good government. It took rare courage for the Democrats to repudiate the conduct of their office holders elected on the Democratic ticket. Our union is neither Democratic nor Republican. We support individuals in both political parties. We will leave it up to the editor and his readers to visualize some of the prospective candidates we may not support in 1960, no matter which political party they embrace.

The editor suggests that the Democratic Party is the Labor Party. The Republicans normally do not leave a working man any other choice. Does he honestly think we would support V. T. Jackson if he ran again as a Democrat? Jackson's action against us now by trying to deprive our families of welfare assistance is in retaliation for our refusal to support him in 1956. In any event our action has been proven right.

Again, we wish to thank Welfare Commission Chairman Charles Lynch and the entire Democratic Party — not for favoritism — but for honesty and integrity in government.

Edward Clark
Business Agent
L. & S.W. Union
Local No. 2814
Oakland, Ore.

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

In New York — on the CBS program entitled "The Great Challenge"—a panel of five distinguished Americans questioned whether the great volume of news presented by newspapers, radio and television is providing the American public with the information it needs to understand these complex times.

The panel's members were Presidential Press Secretary James Hagerty; Charles A. Sprague, editor of the Salem (Oregon) Statesman and a former governor of Oregon; Robert D. Sweeney, executive vice-president of WDSU Broadcasting Corporation of New Orleans; James Reston, Washington correspondent of the New York Times; and Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., author and professor of history at Harvard University.

Of the five — all of them distinguished leaders in the field of information — only Mr. Sprague gave an unqualified affirmative to the question as to whether the public is getting enough information. The others dissented to a greater or less degree.

Mr. Sprague (Charley, to his co-workers out here in the West) said flatly he thinks the information the public is getting is GREATER IN QUANTITY and BETTER IN QUALITY than ever before.

I quite agree with him. But I go a little farther. I think what the American public GREATLY needs is more and better information on HOW TO READ AND LISTEN TO THE NEWS. How to APPRAISE it. What to pay careful attention to. What to DISCOUNT — and why.

We need especially, it seems to me, to learn to differentiate between factual news and what I choose to call JAWBONE news. It's the jawbone news that is dangerous. It's the jawbone news that

needs more careful and discerning readership on the part of the public. It's the jawbone news that needs to be questioned penetratingly by readers and listeners as to its motives and its purposes.

It's the jawbone news to which readers would apply the acid test of WHY DID HE SAY THAT? What is he trying to make us believe?

Jawbone news is the chip that needs to be constantly turned over to see what is under it. It's the jawbone news that needs more honest and thoughtful interpretation by what we call the press.

Then—

Of course—

There's the scandal and the dirt. We can't ignore it—when it is factual and not just gossiped up to sell more copies and get more listeners. We can't bury our heads in the sand — as the ostrich is alleged to do — and IGNORE all such things.

But we should pay less attention to it. And MUCH MORE attention to the informative and constructive news that really dominates our newspapers and our responsible broadcasts. The not-too-well-known fact is that three-quarters of all the news in every copy of every newspaper worthy of the name is informative and constructive rather than merely salacious.

If any reader contends that any responsible newspaper in America is dominated by the salacious and the sensational, it amounts to nothing more than a confession on his part that it is the salacious and the sensational that he selects for his own reading.

I'd like to commend as strongly as I know how what was said in New York the other day by my colleague and close personal friend, Charley Sprague.

He is a THOUGHTFUL editor—the kind we need more of.

Hal Boyle

'Fascination Girl' Big Spender On Club Shows

NEW YORK (AP)—Jane Morgan, who has 300 hys and spends up to \$2,500 for a single gown, was paid \$25 a week for singing in a ballroom here in 1946.

Right now Jane, known as "the Fascination Girl," is spending actively one thousand times that to create a new night club act.

"You don't just get up and sing a few songs," she said. "You have to put on a small revue. A new act costs \$25,000—enough to produce an off-Broadway drama.

"But that kind of show has angels to back it. A night club performer has to put up his own dough."

This interesting behind-the-scenes peek at show world finance was given by Miss Morgan over a steak sandwich luncheon. Blonde, blue-eyed and beautiful, she showed up wearing a striking Christian Dior suit the color of mellow old money.

Where will her \$25,000 go? "Half of it will go for getting the material for the show," she said. "I have six writers working on it."

"The other half will go for the wardrobe. Sometimes I envy movie stars. The studio supplies their gowns. We have to buy our own."

In addition to the six writers, Jane's 45-minute act will require the services of a producer, a musical director, a choreographer, a dress maker, a lighting expert, two song and dance lads and 10 fiddle players. Then, of course, there are also her personal manager and her maid-secretary.

All this money and talent is being spent for a four-week engagement beginning late this month in the Hotel Plaza's Persian Room, a top showcase for the national supper club circuit.

"You hope you can make it back on the road," said Jane a bit grimly, "but if the reviews are bad, there may be no road."

"You never really know."

It is unlikely Miss Morgan will meet with this particular disaster. She is a top star in one of the most elite circles in show business. It is made up of fewer than a dozen girls who can average \$3,000 a week in swank supper clubs across the country.

But her \$25,000 investment is good only for about a year. Last year's night club act is as dead as yesterday's newspaper.

Jane shows no sign of strain, however. She worked 52 weeks last year. Besides her supper club warbling she is also a popular recording artist and one of the busiest guest stars on television.

She turned down an offer to have her own TV network show this summer.

"It sounded wonderful," she said. "But what happens to these summer replacement shows, no matter how much the public likes them. As soon as the first cold wind blows they disappear and are forgotten."

Jane comes from a musical family. Her father was a symphony orchestra cellist, her mother a concert pianist and singer.

Recently she bought a 40-acre farm, "Blueberry Hill," near Kennebunkport, Me., and likes to act in a Maine summer playhouse operated by her brother.

"Sometime I want to do a real Broadway musical," she said. "And I want to work in the theater. That is my real interest."

"I hate night clubs!"

Yep, in spite of those 300 hats, those \$2,500 gowns and that \$3,000 a week salary.

Editorial Comment

BAD PRECEDENT

Medford Mail-Tribune

The Legislature is trying to decide whether to approve a bond issue of \$60 million to pay for a new bridge across the Columbia at Astoria, and for improvement of Highway 42, from Roseburg to Coquille.

Proponents of these two projects point out that they are badly needed. And they are.

But we object to the legislature constituting itself into a sort of gigantic highway commission, and deciding on its own, hastily and while under political pressure, which routes should be improved.

Our objections would be less if they approved a bond issue for highway construction and then turned it over to the highway commission to spend. Otherwise, why have a highway commission?

Oregon's highway department is one of the best in the nation. It has done wonders with amounts of money far less in proportion than that available to some other states. It has looked at the state as a whole, balancing the needs of one area against the needs of the rest of the state.

And it has come up with a remarkably good, well-rounded and fair distribution of highway construction according to the needs of the state as a whole.

This pattern will be upset if the legislature tells the highway department what routes to build.

We know for a fact that the commission is aware of the call for the Columbia river bridge, and for the improvement of Highway 42. But it has looked at them in the light of equal or more serious needs in other parts of the state. First things first has been its operating policy.

Precedent for bonding action for one segment of highway was set two years ago, when some \$12 million was allocated to rebuild Highway 101 in Coos and Curry counties, a badly needed project. But that was "sold" to the legislature as a one-time-only proposition.

If the policy is again abrogated, the highway commission's orderly plan of development is apt to go by the boards.

The commission has made its mistakes, all right. But it is right in opposing this infringement on its authority and its duty to plan Oregon's highways for orderly development for the benefit of the whole state, not just a part of it. —E.A.

Fulton Lewis Asks Libel Award Upset

WASHINGTON (AP)—A motion by a radio commentator, Fulton Lewis Jr., to upset a \$145,000 libel verdict award to Mrs. Pearl A. Wanamaker was taken under advisement here by U. S. District Judge George L. Hart Jr.

Hart indicated he would make a direct ruling later on Lewis' motions for a new trial.

A federal court jury sitting in Hart's court had awarded the former Washington state superintendent of public instruction the damages for statements made by Lewis in a network broadcast in 1956. She charged he used her name in speaking of a woman whose brother, he said, had gone behind the iron curtain and renounced his U. S. citizenship.

Lewis later acknowledged on the air the mixup in names and offered Mrs. Wanamaker time to reply, but she refused and later filed suit.

In arguing for a new trial, counsel for Lewis called the verdict "grotesque . . . most shocking injustice."

Mrs. Wanamaker's lawyers said the award was wholly justified and asked that it stand.

James Marlow

Missiles Under Handicap Because Of Radar Tricks

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a world where death and devastation could strike in a few minutes, you might like to see what stands between you and possible annihilation by the Soviets.

The following picture was outlined by Gen. Thomas S. Power, who talks with the detachment of a surgeon explaining how to open an avenue into the heart.

Power is chief of the Strategic Air Command whose long-range bombers and nuclear bombs, at bases here and abroad, have a double mission: to discourage an attack or, if the Soviets try it, to eliminate them.

The general emphasized the importance of an early warning of a Soviet attack to a congressional committee with this little clinical example about his bomber base at Thule, in northern Greenland. "I like to tell the commander at Thule that he will probably be one of the first to go if we get into a war but that there is one thing I would like to know from him, and that is when he went. This might be vital intelligence."

ICBMs Handicap

Power commands not only the strategic bombers but the intercontinental ballistic missiles that this country will produce. For some time American ICBMs will be under a handicap.

They will be liquid fueled, need large crews, and have to be anchored in one place. Once the Soviets know where they are, and war starts, they could be destroyed before they get off the ground.

Power's solution: bury the missiles deep in the ground in concrete shelters which would resist everything except a direct hit.

Power sounded happier talking about the more distant future and the solid-fueled ICBM, the Minuteman, which needs only a small crew, could be mass-produced, and can be moved around. It doesn't have to be anchored.

The general envisioned the day when the Minutemen, in bunches, could be shipped around on trains, moving constantly, so the Soviets could never know where to shoot at them.

U.S. Relies On Radar

He emphasized two things: that this country right now must depend on radar for its early warning and on its six-jet B47 bombers to discourage a Soviet attack and

hit back if one comes. Later there will be the ICBMs, too.

But Power cannot be described as completely happy about radar. "Radar," he said, "is a fine device. The only trouble with it is that it sees too well. It sees things that are not there."

This raises a problem. Whether or not what the radar sees is real, a man in command of bombers must assume they are real. He gave an example of what he meant.

Suppose the radar men called him and said their screens had picked up 1,000 objects heading for the United States and that they were missiles. Instantly, he could wave his planes into the air and away.

Between the time they took off and were getting near their target he would have perhaps one hour and a half to learn for sure whether those blips on the radar screen were really Soviet missiles.

If it turned out radar had seen something else besides Soviet bombers or missiles, Power would still have time to call back his bombers. They wouldn't attack unless he said so.

But suppose radar picked up those 1,000 objects which were thought to be Soviet missiles and the general wanted to hit back with American missiles. He couldn't push the button sending them on their way.

The reason: once on their way, they couldn't be called back. He would have to refrain from turning the American missiles loose until he knew for sure this country was under attack.

Six Medford Area Districts Consolidate

MEDFORD (AP)—Medford and five surrounding school districts have voted to consolidate. The vote was 1,246-548.

The other districts are Lane, Pine, Griffin Creek, Rich, Howard and Jacksonville.

Jacksonville and Medford were the only districts with high schools. The plan is for closure of Jacksonville High, the students to come to Medford. The Jacksonville building will be used in an expanded grade school program.

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