

The News-Review

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EDITORIAL PAGE

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THE RIGHT TO KNOW

By Charles V. Stanton

The Oregon Legislature has before it a bill to eliminate the requirement that proceedings of the county court and the bills paid by the various departments must be published.

The present law says that there shall be published in selected newspapers of general circulation "a concise statement of the proceedings of the governing body in the transaction of county business entered of record during the previous month." The legal order also makes it necessary for the county court to have published each month the list of all the bills it has ordered paid, thus letting the taxpayer know what is happening to his money.

Repeal of the law is advocated by the Association of Oregon Counties, an organization which includes the judges and commissioners of county courts.

I hesitate to say that the reason they don't want the information published is that they're trying to hide what they are doing. It would be my opinion that we have few county judges and few commissioners who would seek to hide their actions. I feel, too, that we have few crooks in public office. But, trustful as we may be of our county officials, we must never relax vigilance. If we do not maintain laws for protection, we're apt to find crooks creeping in through the holes we leave.

Arguments Unreasonable

The Association of Oregon Counties offers as reasons for repeal of the existing law claims that the cost "is an unnecessary burden." Also that the public records are open to anyone who desires to inspect them and that because of the opportunity for public inspection there is no reason the synopsis of the records should be published.

Without attempting to question motives, it is my opinion that the reasons and arguments offered by the association are totally inaccurate and unreasonable.

What does it cost the county to publish each month its report on activities and bills? The cost to the average taxpayer is less than one cup of coffee. Is that excessive? Isn't that tiny sum well spent as a measure of protection?

Someone will say that we don't need protection against honest public officials. That's true. Neither do we need policemen to protect us against honest citizens, but we do need policemen to protect us against the possibility of crime creeping in. And crime will creep in whenever our protection isn't adequate.

But, getting back to the matter of cost, and coupling that with the argument that the records are open for anyone to see.

Let's just suppose for a moment that we repeal the law. People will have an opportunity personally to inspect the records. To do so they must go to the courthouse. The expense of that trip, if they go by automobile, will be more than a person pays for publication. Then an individual must have the time of a clerk to collect the records for him. The time the clerk would use in finding the record would be far more expensive than the taxpayer's cost of publication.

Time Required

If a hundred or more persons were to demand to see the county court journal, and to require the county clerk to produce record of payment on the hundreds of bills paid each month, the clerical time involved would be enormous. The cost would be far more than is paid for publication in the two newspapers named each year as official county newspapers.

Then the argument is advanced that people don't read the bills. That argument, too, is incorrect. Studies show that the reports are "scanned" by a majority of readers while some 28 per cent have been listed in readership studies.

But we all know that some people—people often called "watchdogs of the treasury"—read every word. They study and analyze. They're interested in keeping the use of taxpayer money at the lowest level. They spread information on any irregularity.

If you think the reports aren't read, attend a meeting of your county taxpayer league sometime!

It is my opinion that the "spotlight of publicity" is an important protection to every taxpayer. The people's "right to know" is one of the bulwarks of our freedom. To eliminate that right is to open the door to corruption, something of which Oregon has been singularly free.

I question that Oregon has any fewer people seeking possibility for graft than we find in other states. But Oregon has put into its laws measures of protection. Publicity is a deterrent to crooks seeking office. As a result we have honest men in high positions.

Let's keep it that way!

Men At Top Not Necessarily Heart Ailment Candidates

CHICAGO (AP)—A three-year study of heart attacks among a wide range of personnel in a large industrial operation challenges the common belief that men at the top have the most to fear.

Actually, the worker down to the bottom of the income scale is the most likely prey for heart trouble, say doctors Sidney Pelt and C. A. D'Alonzo of Wilmington, Del.

In the current issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association, released today, they report the findings of a study covering 89,089 employees of E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co. The group, ranging in age from 17 through 64, resided principally in the Middle Atlantic and Southeastern states. It included 75,301 men and 13,788 women.

Many factors reflecting the incidence of heart disease are covered. One of the principal areas of examination is economic and job status.

Dividing the employees into five economic-job responsibility groups, the doctors found the lowest incidence of heart attacks—2 per 1,000—among those in the highest bracket.

Except for the lowest bracket, each descent in the income scale

brought greater incidence of attacks.

"Our data," they wrote, "are inconsistent with the idea that the increased responsibility of men at the upper levels of management increases their susceptibility to coronary heart disease."

"Although stress may be an important factor in the development of the disease, the level of job responsibility is not necessarily an indicator of the degree of stress to which an individual is subjected."

In this connection, they said that persons in managerial positions "may derive a great deal of satisfaction" from their jobs, while those drawing less pay for less responsibility "may suffer from feelings of resentment and frustration."

No Fire Order Issued

TAIPEI, Formosa (AP)—Chinese Nationalist defenders on the Quemoy Islands have been ordered not to fire on the Communist mainland during the Chinese lunar new year holiday Feb. 14-16 unless fired upon. The Communists customarily do not fire during the holiday.

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

As this is written, U. S. electrical manufacturing companies found guilty of violating federal antitrust laws have been fined about two million dollars. In addition, seven executives of these concerns have been sentenced to jail terms. There can be no appeal from the fines and jail sentences, since all the convicted corporations and men had pleaded guilty.

All the defendants were charged with price-fixing and bid-rigging in the sale of electrical equipment for generating, transmitting and distributing electrical power.

It is inexcusable, of course. Deliberate violation of the law is NEVER excusable.

But—
Let's look at the whole picture. If asked why they did it, these representatives of one of America's largest industries might say something like this:

"In employing labor, which represents one of the largest items in our production costs, we are faced by a giant monopoly. We can't deal with individuals on the basis of what each individual asks in the way of wages. We must deal with giant unions that have MONOPOLY POWER to enforce their demands.

"If we are to make a profit, un-

der such restrictions, we must get HIGHER PRICES. If we are to get prices high enough to yield a profit on our investment, we must ELIMINATE COMPETITION AMONG OURSELVES.

"That is about the only recourse left to us.

It isn't an adequate answer, of course.

But, inadequate though it is, it poses this searching question:

If we are to forbid combinations in restraint of trade, including agreements on prices to be charged, among those who represent industry, must we not eventually forbid similar combinations among those who represent LABOR?

Sooner or later, we must find an answer to that question.

Or—
Sooner or later—
WE WILL FIND OURSELVES PRICED OUT OF WORLD MARKETS.

That raises another question: If we are priced out of world markets, how are we going to FIND EMPLOYMENT for all of our people who must have jobs if they are to survive?

The problems raised by these antitrust convictions call for a lot of serious thought.

James Marlow

JFK Spent The Weekend On Smith's Home Ground

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Kennedy and his wife spent the weekend in Virginia's hunt country—the home territory of Howard W. Smith, a sharp-eyed banker and one of the shrewdest men in Congress.

Just two weeks ago Kennedy was barely able to chase Smith up a congressional tree.

Smith, a House member for 30 years and set in his ways, represents a district which includes Middleburg, where the Kennedys leased a 400-acre estate for weekend getaways, 45 miles from Washington.

Middleburg, also set in its ways and with a large distaste for being disturbed, is in an area said to contain more millionaires than any section of the country.

Kennedy is a millionaire, too, but a lot of his neighbors are Republicans.

Before the Kennedys settled down in Middleburg the President's press secretary, Pierre Salinger, confided to newsmen: "I think the important thing we want to keep in mind here is the real desire of the President and Mrs. Kennedy to preserve the character of this particular area of Virginia so that life can continue in its own unhurried way."

Things got a little hurried, though, when the Kennedys' telephone and telegraph lines and more than a score of newsmen, photographers and Kennedy staffs taking up all the room in the two small hotels.

Kennedy's real reason for taking out after Smith was a case of Smith's chairman of the House Rules Committee which, through a combination of Southern Democrats (headed by Smith) and conservative Republicans, in the past could kill legislation that conservatives disliked by bottling it up.

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Reader Opinions

Mrs. Reader Puzzled About School Census

To The Editor:
Dr. Boyd writes with such courtesy that it becomes a pleasure even to learn that he disagrees with one.

Your second correspondent is less understanding. Even allowing his premise of total church and state separation, aid to a child can only indirectly be considered as benefiting an institution. Perhaps this same gentleman, however, can explain something which has long puzzled me.

Every year we second-class citizens are subjected to an unnecessary invasion of our privacy when the school census-takers come around. It seems to me that when children are to be ignored in the distribution of educational aid, consistency alone would demand that the miscarriage be complete, and that these children remain uncounted. I am contemplating seeking legal advice as to the possible consequences if one refused to divulge this personal information as irrelevant to one's particular circumstances.

In the meantime, I should like to thank Mr. Stanton for so generously allowing space in his newspaper for reader participation. In closing, let me offer a quotation from Abraham Lincoln whose remarks are often so very timely.

"Our progress in degeneracy appears to me to be pretty rapid. As a nation we began declaring that 'all men are created equal.' We now practically read it 'all men are created equal, except negroes.' When the Know-Nothings get control, it will read 'all men are created equal, except negroes, and foreigners, and Catholics.' When it comes to this I should prefer emigrating to some country where they make no pretense of loving liberty."

Gretchen Reader
624 N.E. Chestnut
Roseburg, Ore.

Izaak Walton League Opposes Hatfield's Plan

To The Editor:
The Jackson County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League adopted a resolution after careful investigation and consideration of the problems involved.

We oppose inclusion of the Fish and Game Commissions in a department of natural resources. Senate Bill No. 3 provides for such inclusion.

Our opposition is based on the following reasons:

1. The director of natural resources would hold his office at the pleasure of the Governor and therefore, could be removed without reason or cause and without a hearing.

2. The administrator of the fish and game board (present director) would serve at the pleasure of the Governor and would be removable under the same conditions.

3. This plan of organization will place the management of fish and game under the influence of all types of political pressures.

4. The inclusion of fish and game management in a department of natural resources would depress the importance of fish and game in departmental considerations.

5. Ira N. Gabrielson, President of Wildlife Management Institute, says: "Those states which have usually had the best administration of the wildlife resources are those which are the furthest removed from the governor's control."

We urge everyone to contact State Representatives and Senators and state opposition to SB No. 3 and SB No. 225 at once.

Jack Hanel, President
200 Erie Street
Medford, Oregon

Recognition Of Good Teenagers Advocated

To The Editor:
Daurice Pyle recently wrote a quite lengthy letter for the Reader Opinions column of The News-Review concerning the problem

of teenagers and their search for something with which to occupy their time.

I think this writer is to be commended. Many of us oldsters would do well to follow the advice, especially that to be found in the last part of the letter.

I believe in upholding our young people in their efforts to do the right thing. They should be praised when praise is due, counseled when in need.

They are the coming leaders of our church and of our government. There is a story in our Bible of the ten virgins. Five were wise, five foolish. The five wise ones were ready when the bridegroom arrived, the five foolish ones were not. So the door was closed on them forever. Staggering thought, isn't it?

We know not the day or the hour when the Bridegroom comes. We should be ready!

Grace Wren
Rt. 1, Box 205
Myrtle Creek, Ore.

Prevention Of School Failures Aim Of Bill

To The Editor:
While House Bill 1097, which would raise the entrance age of school children, has already been tabled, and thus a recent writer to your column and others who opposed the change have won their point, I should like to say that the merit of the bill lies in the prevention of school failures, based on research.

It is true that we need a flexible law which would allow children to start school when they are ready and not at a set chronological age. Educational research shows that average children are most ready to learn to read at 6 1/2 years. Since reading is generally regarded as the criteria of success and the basis of promotion, it would seem expedient and wise to make success more than a chance risk when a child begins his school life.

Yet, under the present law the five-year-old may be placed alongside a child who is almost seven. In many, many cases it is the immature child who succeeds and the problems and frustrations which could have been avoided by simply staying at home another year.

I know that there are many qualifications and exceptions as to when a child is ready to start school, but I do not think this justifies overlooking the basic guiding facts of research. With the money the educators and the public could save by preventing failures, a program of readiness testing could be adopted or even the establishment of kindergartens.

Mrs. James W. Foss
Rt. 1, Box 220
Myrtle Creek Oregon

Writer Says Complaint Is "Jumping The Gun"

To The Editor:
In answer to the short item in your paper concerning bank closing on Saturdays and its effect on business, I would like to ask Mr. Leiken and his associate if, perhaps he isn't jumping the gun by blaming the Saturday closing on the lack of business downtown, especially here in Roseburg.

Wouldn't it be much better for him to wait for a period of time and see if business doesn't increase on Saturdays when employment increases?

At this moment Roseburg is faced with a terrific unemployment problem and has even been put on the list for Federal aid, due to conditions in the main industry, lumber.

Wouldn't it be better for Mr. Leiken to try to bring more varied types of industry to our area and to the State, concentrate on better tax laws and on a way to reduce power rates for larger companies?

Very few states in the United States have their banks opened on Saturdays and Oregon is one of the last to close.

I come from an area that has had this closing for years and it hasn't hurt business one bit. It does take time getting used to but after a while people will forget that the banks were ever opened on Saturday and will adjust.

Let's try to do something about the unemployment and get more money into the hands of the wage earners and see if business doesn't pick up.

Mrs. David Pratt
1420 S. E. Jackson
Roseburg, Ore.

Government Given Financial Thanks

TACOMA (AP)—Peter Hantz, American-born of German descent, learned from his immigrant parents that the United States was a land of opportunity.

He worked hard, saved with a passion and in his old age lived on government social security payments.

His will revealed Friday that he had bequeathed \$40,000 to the government to be used to pay future social security recipients.

This was the bulk of approximately \$48,000 Hantz had saved in U. S. savings bonds over the years.

To his three sisters, one in Montana and two in Kansas, he left one dollar apiece.

Four thousand dollars went to an old acquaintance, Grace Wacker, now living in Alhambra, Calif.

Hantz, 86, died Jan. 17 after a stroke.

Publicity Doesn't Pay

BRISTOL, England (AP)—The sign outside a lemonade factory in suburban Kingswood read: "Notice to intending intruders. Do not waste your time and energy breaking into these premises. We bank all cash daily. No cash is left on the premises overnight."

Friday night a gang broke into the factory and drove away with a safe containing 10 pounds (\$196) in cash.

Hal Boyle

Finicky Eaters Neurotic Psychologists Report

NEW YORK (AP)—Things a columnist might never know if he didn't open his mail:

If you are too finicky about what you eat, it may be a sign you're neurotic. Psychologists say normal people have fewer food dislikes than the emotionally disturbed.

The country isn't going to the dogs—it's going to the horses. The population grew only 18 per cent in the last decade, but attendance at thoroughbred race tracks leaped more than 55 per cent. In 1960 some 35,537,786 track visitors bet \$2,507,061,567.

Try To Keep Up
Even doctors are finding it difficult to keep up with all the new "wonder drugs." In the last 20 years more new specific drugs have been developed than in all previous medical history.

Good advice: Don't feel downhearted if you strike out when attempting to do something. Babe Ruth struck out 1,330 times in his career, but that isn't what he's best remembered for.

Juvenile puffers: A survey showed some British parents pack cigarettes in their children's school lunch boxes. A fourth of 2,500 young smokers (age 9 to 17) said they did so with full parental knowledge.

Our quotable notables: "All the discontented people I know," said David Grayson, "are trying sedulously to be something they are not, to do something they cannot do."

Don't Neglect Will
Have you made out your will yet? Two of every five adult Americans haven't. One big reason: Many have a foolish superstition it will bring bad luck. (But the only bad luck it brings is to their survivors.)

Latin isn't as dead a language as you may think. In New England a monthly magazine, printed entirely in Latin, has 30,000 subscribers around the globe.

Zoo facts: The ancients thought the leopard was a cross between a lion and a panther. This explains its name—leo for lion, and pard for panther.

Red-faced apology: Recently we said anyone wanting to give his girl an unusual valentine could surprise her with a mile of pennies for only \$220. Well, lovers, our arithmetic couldn't have been worse. At least 999 readers have written in to point out that there are 16 pennies in a foot, and a mile of pennies would therefore cost \$844.80. (So give her a box of candy. No girl is worth \$844.80.)

Religion important:
Turning to another kind of dough, did you know the average U. S. family eats 245 pounds of bread a year?

Worst pun of the week: Singer Enzo Stuart says he knows a musician's daughter who has boy friends by the score!

Religion adds measurably to your personal happiness. Researchers at the University of Michigan found that people whose religion was important to them had fewer personality conflicts than those to whom God remains largely only a three-letter word.

Best highway safety slogan of the year: "Courtesy, caution, common sense can curtail car casualties."

Here's a tipoff on why so many of us have money troubles: Only four out of 10 U. S. families even try to operate on a budget. A third of these families confess they can't make their budget work.

It was G. W. Lyon who observed: "Worry is the interest paid by those who borrow trouble."

Christmas Spirit
Dickson, a grocer who delivers telegrams, admitted he asked about the mistletoe.

"I said 'no' and when I handed him the receipt he grabbed me by the waist and attempted to kiss me on the mouth. I pushed him toward the door. He went out and said 'Merry Christmas' and I slammed the door and chain on it." Mrs. Hubbard said.

She testified she was upset for weeks and "I lost patience with my husband and my children."

Mistletoe Fan
The attractive woman said the weather was cold and she invited Dickson inside while she signed for the message and he asked: "Don't you have mistletoe?"

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