

### POOR PUBLIC RELATIONS

By Charles V. Stanton

The battle between the Southern Pacific and the Santa Fe over control of the Western Pacific railroad has resulted in a number of railroad officials visiting this area during the past few days.

The Santa Fe proposes to take over Western Pacific in an end-to-end expansion. The SP, on the other hand, is seeking side-by-side control of a competing operation.

Representatives from the three, and other interested rail lines, have visited recently with local shippers. A "debate" in which both sides were ably presented, was held in Roseburg Monday before members of the Chamber of Commerce.

#### Why should the Roseburg area be interested?

Roseburg is in an area over which the Southern Pacific holds monopolistic control. One of the greatest blocks to industrial expansion in the Roseburg area is a lack of competition in the field of transportation.

Industries and business locate in areas where competition exists between transportation concerns. Perhaps the competition is between rail and water. Maybe it's between rail lines, but the only industrial operation Roseburg gets is that industry depending upon our great natural resource. That industry can't go elsewhere.

#### Monopoly To Remain

There isn't much possibility of any relief from this rail monopoly. At Monday's "debate" a representative of Western Pacific introduced quotes from a high official of the SP at a hearing before the Interstate Commerce Commission in which we were said to be "happy" with monopoly. Privately he offered to back up his quotes with a tape recording. The SP's opposition wants us to convince the ICC we aren't "happy."

But, even if Santa Fe is successful in getting control of Western Pacific, SP's monopoly into southwestern Oregon won't be broken. We'll still be in a monopoly area. Why then should we be wooed so desperately?

It is pointed out that the fight for control will be carried before the Interstate Commerce Commission. The Commission will be influenced in large measure by public opinion as indicated by expressions of that opinion. Therefore, both sides want favorable opinion from southwestern Oregon, particularly the Roseburg area where the Southern Pacific gets almost a quarter of its business.

The Southern Pacific tells us how good it has been to us. It also uses "scare" technique. Railroads are "pricing themselves out of business." The only way they can stay in business is to cut down operational costs. SP could save some five and one-half million dollars by control of WP. It would be in a position to pass some of this saving on to the shippers through rate reductions. The intimation is that there can't be any rate improvement if the SP's aims are not achieved.

#### Discrimination Charged

But, on the other side, representatives of WP and the Santa Fe say that the SP has discriminated against southwestern Oregon, has had annual car shortages (which the SP says could have been averted with cooperation and which could be stopped by control over WP), that we'd be naive to believe in any possibility of voluntary rate reductions, etc. But the strong argument is that, while we would remain in a monopoly area, the fact that the "gateway" would remain at Bieber would pose a continued competitive threat and would reduce the SP's monopolistic hold on the area.

I admit I'm at a loss to know which of the two projects has the best long-range advantage for this area.

I do know, however, that the SP has two strikes on it when it comes to wooing anyone in this territory. It has been "booting" Roseburg and southwestern Oregon "in the pants" for a good many years. Competitive points have passenger train service. That's something the "Friendly" SP killed off here. Much new industry has settled in competitive points nearby, but not in Roseburg. Other places got cars in time of car shortage when we couldn't get them until we put on pressure. Now, the "Friendly" SP comes around and wants our help. We're told what a good railroad it's been and how much it has done for us. We're expected to let bygones be bygones.

Perhaps the SP is correct in its contentions. Possibly we would fare better by endorsing SP control over Western Pacific rather than favoring the Santa Fe. I don't know.

But I rather imagine the SP's lousy public relations and its go-to-hell attitude of late years will come back to haunt it.

#### Hal Boyle

### Remarks Many Housewife Grow Weary Of Hearing

NEW YORK (AP) — Remarks that housewives get tired of hearing: "What in the world do wives do with all their spare time?" "Hey, Mom, where is my blue sweater? I know I left it right here on this chair only two days ago." "Gee, Mom, I'm already late, and if you don't drive me to school, I'll be marked tardy and—"

"This is Mrs. Chumley of the P.T.A. I wonder if you could help us address and mail a few letters? It will only take four or five hours." "What do you need a new dress for? Didn't you buy one last year?" "I'll bet as soon as I head out that door for work you'll hop right back in bed for a two-hour nap. All wives do that." "Why should I help you do the dishes? That's woman's work." "Hello, Hello, Marge? I missed the 5:36 train home. Jumped into Joe Burch and we stopped off for a couple. I'll catch the 6:48 or maybe the 7:14, or the 8:12 at the very latest."

## In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

From Washington: Evidence that Russia has tripled its arms lift to Laos caused growing concern here this week that the Kremlin may be stalling on a cease fire in order to BUILD UP COMMUNIST FORCES there. Reliable diplomatic sources reported that the Soviet military airlift to Laotian communists has been three times its normal size in the last day or so.

There was speculation that Russia has been rushing in supplies in advance of the Monsoon season, which is due in the next few weeks. (The point is that the heavy Monsoon rains would hamper supply activities. If the truce ends in a shooting racket, and if Russia well supplied in Laos with arms and ammunition and we aren't... POOF! In that event, it would be just too bad for us.)

Along the same line—Admiral Arleigh A. Burke, U. S. chief of naval operations, said in Chicago this morning that totalitarian communism MIGHT conquer the world because of what he termed Yankee optimism. He added: "Americans often indulge in wishful thinking." Admiral Burke obviously fears that we may be putting too much faith in this Laotian truce business.

#### James Marlow

### United States Isn't Quite An Innocent Party In Laos

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Kennedy has avoided shrill notes ever since his show of toughness last month when he indicated this country would act if the Communists didn't stop trying to gobble up Laos.

He used a soft-pedal again Wednesday. This may displease those who want him to get tougher with Russia. But the fact is he's up against a tough situation and he is a realist.

Since last month, when he called on the Soviet-backed Reds in Laos to agree to a cease-fire, he's been waiting for the Russians, who pull the strings, to let the Communist rebel attacks on the American-backed Laotian government.

Two days ago a State Department spokesman said the United States now is concerned about a step-up in Soviet arms deliveries to the rebels and about any further delay in a cease-fire.

This was tougher than Kennedy wanted to sound. At his news conference Wednesday he threw cold water on it. He said there hasn't been a marked increase in Soviet supplies and expressed hope for a cease-fire answer this week.

These are some reasons that can explain Kennedy's non-belligerent attitude:

In the first place, the United States is not quite an innocent party in Laos. In a fashion it has been doing on one side what the Russians have been doing on the other.

In a land where a majority of the people reportedly are neutral and apathetic about who wins, this country has been backing and supplying the right-wing government.

Russia has been doing the same for the Communist-led rebels trying to overthrow the government. The rest of the world knows this and the United States has made no secret of it.

If the United States persuaded its Southeast Asian allies to go in and fight the rebels—perhaps with direct American participation in some form—Red China and North Viet Nam Communists next door might move in.

This could become another Korea, but under even worse conditions because of the jungle-mountain terrain. In short, the United States might well wind up embroiled in Asia.

This could have two effects, neither of them good for the United States:

1. With the United States up to its neck in a Laotian fight, the Russians and Red Chinese might

lie seems to be warning us to LOOK OUT.

To back up Admiral Burke, let's quote another authority—Rudyard Kipling in his The Truce of the Bear: "Make ye no truce with Adam-zad— The bear that walks like a man."

A thought: Let's hope we don't get so excited about the current Russian feat into space with a manned satellite that we send an American astronaut into the mysterious yonder TOO SOON.

That could be rough. It would also be inexcusable.

For example: There is the case of our Discoverer rocket that failed to detach its capsule in such a way that it would come back to earth to be picked up somewhere in the ocean, as the others have been. Instead, it TOOK OFF INTO ORBIT AROUND THE EARTH—or at least that was so reported in the news. Suppose one of our astronauts had been inside the capsule! Going into space with a man wouldn't be worth a tragedy of that magnitude.

Further, if the United States did get embroiled, some of the Western allies, particularly the French might stand aloof.

Any weakening in the Western alliance would be so much gravy for the Communists who have been trying for years to shake and wreck the alliance.

Still further, if there is a cease-fire and the West seeks to create a single government for all of Laos, the Communists, who hold half the country anyway, will almost certainly insist on being part of it.

This would open the door to continued, even though peaceful, Red pressure from the inside and perhaps their eventual take-over of all Laos anyway. It's not a pretty prospect for this country.

But the only alternative to it—short of continued fighting—would seem to be a splitting in half of Laos, with the Communists holding the northern half, a neutral or American-backed government in the south.

That wouldn't solve anything. The United States doesn't want communism to get another inch of real estate in Southeast Asia.

Before Kennedy gets tough—unless he wants to risk getting this country up to its neck in a war in Asia—he has to try for some other, more peaceful way of ending the fighting. That's what he seems to be doing.

### Tougher 'Krush' Seen By Officials

WASHINGTON (AP) — The latest space achievement by the Soviet Union is expected to harden the diplomacy of Soviet Premier Khrushchev and make him a more difficult man for President Kennedy to deal with.

U.S. officials have agreed privately that the launching and recovery of a man-carrying space vehicle is not only an historic feat but one which is certain to strengthen Khrushchev's determination to get his own way more and more on outstanding issues.

Already the lines of a diplomatic conflict are sharply drawn at many points. Examples include Laos, Berlin, disarmament and the United Nations.

### BILL OPPOSED Grants Pass Courier

The Industrial Forestry Association, composed of lumber companies in Washington and Oregon, doesn't favor the Wilderness Bill, claiming it isn't necessary.

Action by the state legislature, in House and Senate Joint Measure No. 12 asks the Congress not to pass the proposal as of now. Great recreation areas are already established and, in the opinion of backers of the joint measure and the Industrial Forestry Association it isn't necessary to do anything about the Wilderness Bill for at least the present.

The Association contends that in set aside some 20 years ago for study later, what is the rush in getting the Wilderness Bill into law? It is now in formative state in a Congressional committee. If it comes out of committee, the prediction is being made rather freely the proposal will become a law.

Great forces are aligned against each other in the issue here concerned. The plea of proponents of the bill-in-committee is that the nation needs to protect vast acreages now in the raw or natural state from development. The present civilization from a recreational standpoint. In other words, those favoring the proposal find it a way to save our natural resources in their original state for posterity on down through generations as they come into the heritage of things historical. It is the contention of backers of the Wilderness Bill plan that the people of America need the vast areas

### Reader Opinions

#### Post Office Criticism Said Pure 'Poppycock'

To The Editor: Several letters have appeared in The News-Review again in the past week relative to the local postmaster appointment. These letters seem to concentrate on the personal feelings rather than plain common sense. The reasons given for the severe criticism is nothing more than pure "poppycock," in my opinion.

It is certainly hard for me to believe that Dr. Mooers is unaware that the postmaster appointments have been "political plums" for as far back as we care to remember. When he shouts "political corruption," he should remember that his own party is equally guilty, as both parties have taken full advantage of an accepted custom for years.

The two ladies take their own party to task for what they call "a very bad appointment." Their prime criticism is lack of experience on the part of the appointee. If they would put aside their personal feelings for a moment, they could easily find out that only one Roseburg postmaster appointed in more than forty years had any prior postal experience. Also for their information, Mr. Snider was not just a "log truck driver." Rather he was a contract log hauler, a small business man, and one of the more successful ones in this area. It would therefore appear that he would be quite capable of handling the duties of the postmaster just as successfully.

It is my sincere opinion that the local postoffice staff, many of whom I know well, is "big" enough to ignore any suggestion that they go on a "strike" by not cooperating with Mr. Snider.

Wouldn't it be far better to let Mr. Snider prove that he is incapable of his appointment, rather than impeach him before we actually know? Incidentally, Mr. Editor, I have always voted Republican and don't even have a "kissin' cousin" who is a Democrat.

Dwayne Ruell  
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## Editorial Comment

of untouched forests, mountainous areas, valleys in the mountains and the streams that course through them protected from being other than they are now. It harks back to the days when pioneers struggled to reach areas where the Indians had been manifest for a long time in a drive to wrest lands in the raw from the red men to develop them (the lands) and turn them to a means of livelihood for the white man. It was therefore a sort of fulfillment of the law of supply and demand, a little far-fetched, for the original inhabitants supplied the natural resources they had been holding and

the pioneers demanded them, and developed some of them. On the other hand we have the opponents to the bill who contend a rush to keep timbering interests out of the forests is ill-advised. They contend, too, that a wilderness area would be denied use by things modern, such as automobiles, boats, mining activities, grazing rights, etc., unless permission is obtained for such activities from either the secretary of agriculture or the president himself, and who would be able to reach those dignitaries except over a long waiting period with a lot of red tape involved?

Our national park lands as of now, opponents of the bill explain, contain continuous acres in plots of 5,000 or more in an undeveloped state, and they want to know if that isn't sufficient for the ven to go into the inaccessible places which are already wilderness areas? So the Wilderness Bill becomes, as is ever the case when two sides are presented, an issue whose merits only time will be able to work out to a decision. So the Wilderness Bill becomes, as is ever the case when two sides are presented, an issue whose merits only time will be able to work out to a decision.

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