

# The News-Review Editorial Page

14 The News-Review, Roseburg, Ore.—

THURSDAY JULY 18, 1963

## Keep Fire Away From Utility Poles

Bonneville Power Administration has issued a bulletin urging all landowners conducting field burning operations to take every precaution to prevent their fires from igniting poles carrying high-voltage lines.

This is an excellent piece of advice and warning. It concerns not only the Bonneville lines but all utility poles.

The cost to utility companies of poles lost through careless burning each year is enormous in the Pacific Northwest.

Bonneville estimates expense associated with the replacement of a single pole at approximately \$1,000. This is moderate, it would seem, when one considers the cost of the pole, loading at the storage dock, hauling, expense of linemen to clear the old pole, installation of cross-arms, replacement of pole and rewiring.

Many of our utilities have their poles situated adjacent to roads. Often they are located in sites surrounded with tall grass or bushes. The location follows roadways because roads make possible the movement of equipment and supplies. Some of our major power lines, however, take a cross-country route, which adds to the cost of replacement. Such lines, though, usually are hung on high towers and are not as subject to burning as are the poles carrying the feeder lines in the rural district.

Bonneville's bulletin urges an adequate firebreak around the base of each pole before a landowner starts burning pasture or brush land. It also is recommended that the lower part of a pole be thoroughly wetted down before and after burning.

Pole fires, it is stated, can be started by direct flame contact or by sparks lodging in cracks in the poles. Poles will vary greatly as to their ignition point and flammability depending on age, specie of wood, preservative treatment, moisture content and the weather.

A safety precaution is added: "Any person attempting to extinguish a fire on a power pole should be extremely careful to avoid using any spray or high pressure of water within 15 feet of any conductor or power line. There is danger that the water stream might contact the high-voltage line and allow the electric current to be conducted to the person holding the hose."

It is recommended that the rural fire department or some protective organization be called to assist in extinguishing the blaze.

With the great number of wooden towers, power and telephone poles scattered throughout all of Douglas County, the Bonneville bulletin carries a message of particular importance to local residents.

## War Waged Against Quackery

Why are people so vulnerable to quackery when it comes to health matters?

That's what the Second National Congress on Medical Quackery will seek to determine when it meets in Washington Oct. 25-26, under sponsorship of the Food and Drug Administration and the American Medical Assn.

What follows naturally is the second goal for the meetings: to determine what is needed in health education to help the public protect itself against charlatans who prey on the ailing.

In 1961, the First National Congress on

Medical Quackery sparked action at state and community levels to move against the unscrupulous who fatten their purses at the expense of those pitifully eager to grasp at any straw to regain health.

Newspapers have been in the forefront of those spreading light for their readers on the subject of medical quackery, and various government departments and health agencies have long been waging the war against the quacks.

Whatever the forthcoming meetings produce in the way of weaponry against the charlatan is all to the good.

## Day's News

By  
Frank Jenkins

The big news?

As this is written, it seems still to be the alleged split between the Russians and the Red Chinese. At the moment, there appears to have been a definite and wide split—and the Russians appear to be relieved and relaxed by what has happened. The Red Chinese appear to be glum and angry.

These dispatches say:

"Joking and bubbling with enthusiasm, Premier Nikita Khrushchev launched the Kremlin talks on a nuclear test ban agreement yesterday in a three and a half hour conference with special U.S. and British envoys. He jovially suggested signing the agreement right away."

"Red China, whose feud with Khrushchev has reached the point of a split, took angry note of the talks. A Peking broadcast charged that the negotiations were based on what it called the 'utter hypocrisy' of President Kennedy's strategy for peace."

Not only was Khrushchev in a jovial mood. The Moscow dispatches add:

"Newsman saw E. H. Harriman (U.S. negotiator) and Lord Hailsham (British negotiator) come out of the Kremlin in apparent good spirits. Leaving in separate cars, both were laughing and smiling as they talked with their associates."

Question: Can there be a SAFE agreement with Russia?

Well, some pretty good people have thought so. John Foster Dulles, who in his way was a pretty good man, said many years ago:

"The time may come — I believe it will come — when Russians of stature will patriotically put first their national security and the security of their people. They will be unwilling to have that security and that welfare subordinated to the worldwide ambitions of International Communism."

"If their point of view should prevail, then indeed there could be a basis for worthwhile negotiation and practical agreement between the United States and the new Russia."

One more question: If there should be a World War III, would it be possible to wage it without using nuclear bombs?

That's a difficult question. But we have to judge the future by the past.

The Germans introduced the use of poison gas when they sent clouds of chlorine gas against the allied forces at Ypres. It wasn't too successful then. The wind changed and blew the gas back into the German ranks.

But poison gas was perfected. Ways were found to make it more dependable as a killer to be used with relative safety against an enemy.

There came then World War II. The warring countries stockpiled gas masks and manufactured vast quantities of highly perfected poison gas. No one knows how close the Germans (led at that time by a MADMAN) came to using it. The Allied high command was prepared to FIGHT BACK WITH POISON GAS.

But even Madman Hitler never used it.

Maybe it will be possible to ban the use of nuclear weapons in any future war.

Who knows? At any rate, it may be worth a trial.

## Mined Waters



## THE LIGHTER SIDE:



## Analogies Helpful In Money Measure

By DICK WEST

WASHINGTON (UPI) — It seems like only yesterday, or maybe last Tuesday, that kindly statisticians were trying to help us understand a million dollars.

It was commonly supposed that a million dollars was too large a sum for us to comprehend all by ourselves, so these statisticians would undertake to explain it in terms we could grasp.

I don't recall the exact dimensions of a million dollars, but the analogies they used went something like this:

A million dollars laid end to end would reach from Hominy Falls, W.Va., to Grit, Tex., or if placed one on top of the other would form a stack five miles higher than a giraffe on tiptoes. I'm sure they meant well, but, frankly, these comparisons were never of much help to me in comprehending a million bucks.

Whenever I tried to get a mental picture of dollar bills stretched out from Hominy Falls to Grit, my mind would take a wrong turn on the outskirts of Chili, Wis.

Perhaps if they had used \$5 bills, or had placed the dollar bills side by side rather than end to end, I could have grasped it. But I doubt it.

At any rate, I have gone through life without having a very firm concept of a million dollars. And now I learn that I am hopelessly behind the times.

In a press release issued this week, Rep. Thomas M. Pelly, a Washington Republican and statistician, endeavors to help us understand a billion dollars.

Apparently someone raised the ante while I was trying to find my way back from Hominy Falls.

Pelly wrote that no one "is capable of conveying in ordinary, simple and understandable and graphic words just how im-

mense, how almost unmeasurably vast is a billion dollars."

Nevertheless, this did not deter him from giving it a go.

As one illustration, Pelly noted that "with one billion dollars you could buy 500,000 new automobiles each costing \$2,000."

Maybe so, but you would need an awfully big garage.

"Placed bumper to bumper these cars would extend 1,562 miles, about the distance from Cleveland, Ohio, to Salt Lake City, Utah," Pelly continued.

On that point, at least, he speaks my language. I can readily visualize a traffic jam stretching from Ohio to Utah even if I can't envision a million dollars end to end.

"One billion dollars in dollar bills would cover a building lot that is 51 feet wide and 219 feet long — a little more than a quarter acre — to a depth of 3 feet 7 inches," Pelly added.

That might not be a bad idea. We could use it as a parking lot for some of those 500,000 cars.

## Flegel Will Head State Committee

SALEM (UPI)—Sen. Al Flegel, D-Roseburg, was named chairman of the Legislative Interim Committee on Education which held its organizational meeting here today.

Selected vice chairman was Rep. Edward Branchfield, R-Medford.

Flegel said the major job of the committee would be a "look-see" at the State Department of Education. He noted there has been confusion over the department's work in vocational education and rehabilitation.

The committee also plans to look into the state's community college program and the reconfiguration of the state's school laws.

## WASHINGTON WINDOW

# Public Needs More Facts On Nuclear Tests Issue

By LYLE C. WILSON

United Press International  
The American people urgently need to know more of the official facts and opinions about the proposed ban on nuclear weapons tests.

It is the American people who must make the final judgment whether a test ban on the basis now proposed would be in their interest or against them. They dare not make a mistake.

Several members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff appeared early this year before the Senate Armed Services Committee. More than a fortnight ago, the joint chiefs presented to the Senate preparedness subcommittee a report on the proposed test ban treaty. They are against it.

That much has been leaked. But why they are opposed and all of the questions thereby related are facts being withheld from the American people. Some of the top brass have testified before Senate groups. Their testimony likewise is secret.

Perhaps Too Generous  
Perhaps President Kennedy is being too generous in making concessions to the Soviet Union. If

so, who has a better right to know about that than the American people? Three Democratic senators, all members of the armed services committee, wrote to President Kennedy earlier this year warning in substance that further test ban concessions would be unacceptable to the U.S. Senate. The text of that letter also is a state secret too. The senators were Chairman Richard B. Russell, Ga., Stuart Symington, Mo., and Henry M. Jackson, Wash.

When such members of the President's own party become uneasy about concessions to the Soviet Union, the average American reasonably might also become uneasy. The average American citizen has been showered with massive propaganda in behalf of a nuclear test ban.

Good Book  
If citizens would care to inform themselves of the arguments against a test ban on the basis now proposed, there is a good book available. Intelligent citizens will want to read this book whether they are for or against a quickie test ban.

The title is "Nuclear Ambush," by Earl Voss, published by Henry Regnery Co. of Chicago, at \$6.50. A bargain. Voss is a veteran Washington newsman. Dr. Willard Libby, University of California, in an introduction wrote:

"Mr. Voss tells the story of the Soviet arrestation of our nuclear arms development program for three whole years—and our consequent gift of an opportunity to catch up, which they have accepted."

The nuclear test ban is a good example of Soviet tactical operations and "Nuclear Ambush" is a very good description of how they have succeeded in this activity."

Pros and Cons  
Voss explores the weight of the fall-out argument against the weight of the argument that a

test-ban is, in fact, a Soviet ambush. He recalls Dr. Edward Teller's statement of Feb. 1, 1963 that a test ban:

"Would prevent vital improvement in U.S. atomic explosives. —Would not interfere with Soviet Union atomic progress. —Might endanger the NATO alliance."

Teller said the Chinese would not be restrained even though the Soviet Union signed an absolute test ban. But, the United States would be expected to persuade France to accept the ban.

"The Russians may desire a ban for that very reason," Teller wrote. "They are supported by widespread public (U.S.) clamor. I hope that patriotic congressmen of both parties will resist the pressure of a public frightened by crises and misled by the mirage of peace."

## WHITE HOUSE NOT SURE

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The White House says it is not sure whether President Kennedy will be in town Aug. 28, when a Negro-sponsored civil rights march of 100,000 persons is planned.

There have been reports Kennedy will be in Texas the day before to speak at a Democratic fund-raising birthday dinner for Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson.

## GOOD INTENTIONS

WICHITA, Kan. (UPI) — Mr. and Mrs. Sam Springer moved to their son-in-law's home while he was on vacation "so it wouldn't be robbed."

Shortly after they moved in, according to police, burglars slipped in and made off with an estimated \$65,000 worth of Mrs. Springer's jewelry.

# In Days Gone By

Taken from the files of The News-Review

## 40 YEARS AGO

July 18, 1923

Science has found a way of utilizing all corn cobs, short or long, in the manufacture of various chemicals. As the cob consists of cellulose which is valuable for making paper, it is considered desirable to save the substance of the cob. The furfural, therefore, is taken from the extract which is obtained by boiling the cob in water and the cellulose can be thus kept for other purposes in industrial chemistry, and can be so treated that it will yield a bright green dye.

## 25 YEARS AGO

July 18, 1938

A grass fire which started near the highway north of Sutherlin at noon today had by 2 o'clock endan-

gered the entire residential district of the north end of the city. Fighters set out back fires along the ridge east of the city hoping to check the sweep of the blaze at that point.

## 10 YEARS AGO

July 18, 1953

A little girl, one among a multitude of boys, climbed into her brother's racer and sped down the ramp to become one of the heat winners in today's Apple Box Derby event. Nancy Stacey, the only girl in the annual race, was sitting for her brother Jimmy, who had to choose between entering the Apple Box Race and attending the National Scout Jamboree. Since there are no rules against girls entering the race, Nancy said she'd give it a try.

## The Almanac

By United Press International  
Today is Thursday, July 18, the 196th day of 1963 with 166 to follow.

The moon is approaching its new phase.

The morning stars are Jupiter and Saturn.

The evening star is Mars.

On this day in history: In 1914, the United States Army created an aviation section within the Signal Corps.

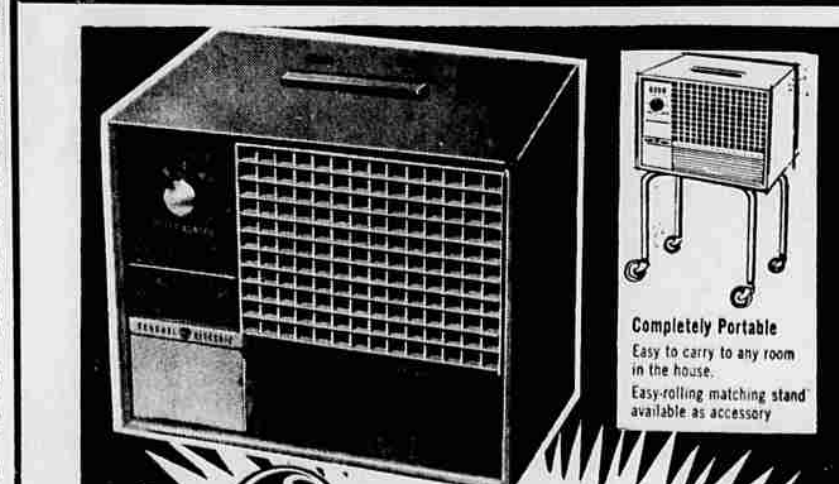
In 1932, the United States and Canada signed a treaty to develop the St. Lawrence River into an ocean lane.

In 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was unanimously nominated for a third term by the Democratic Convention meeting in Chicago.

A thought for the day—Greek philosopher Plato said: "Of all the animals, the boy is the most unmanageable."

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