

Editorial Page

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1963

Democratic Tradition High In Oregon

The state, with the recent referendum vote, experienced one of the most effective of the democratic processes in the United States.

Coupled with the initiative, the people of Oregon have the right to make or reject their own laws on the state level. If this isn't keeping government close to the people, nothing is.

And Oregon can take particular pride in this right because it was this state which started it all. That was in 1902, when a constitutional amendment allowing the people to start legislation themselves or to refer laws passed by the legislature was approved.

Then in 1910, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that the initiative and referendum were constitutional. The leaders of the movement saw it with almost utopian promise. It has never achieved that status, but it has remained as a successful venture in the highest tradition of democratic government.

Since then, the "Oregon system" has been adopted by 19 other states. The latest was Alaska which adopted the initiative and referendum when it came into the Union in 1958.

It hasn't made government in Oregon easier. No legislature can be certain any of its bills will go unchallenged. As a result, the orderly process of government is often interrupted, as is occurring at this moment.

But the benefits far outweigh such shakeups. This is government of the people and by the people. That is reason enough for its existence.

In addition, probably no other tools could be more effective in assuring clean and honest government, because the 90 members of the legislature and the governor know their

word is not necessarily the final word.

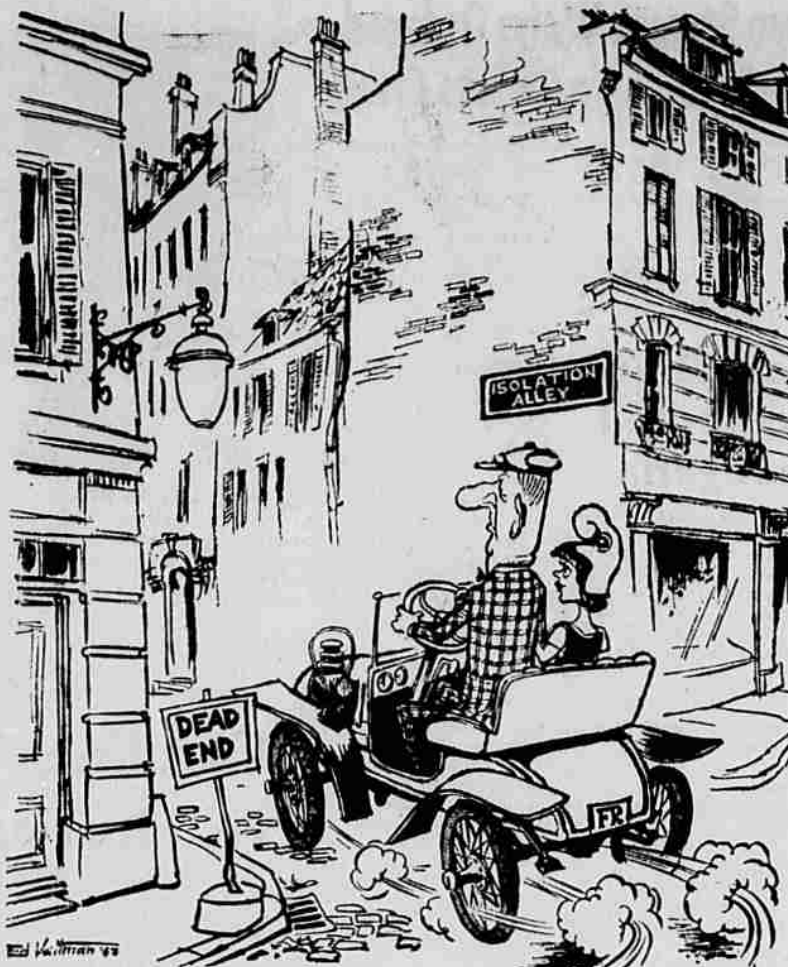
Oregon is proof of the effectiveness of the system. If the people don't like a law, they can take steps to change it (They did Oct. 15.) If they feel another law is needed, they can bypass the legislature and make their own law. An example of this bypass method appears to be pending at this moment. Some people feel the legislature was remiss in not bringing a streamlined constitutional overhaul before the people. They are making plans to take the bull by the horns and get it on the ballot by initiative. If the committee succeeds, an embarrassed legislature will have nothing to say about it. Another movement is in the works to allow the people to decide on a salary cutback for legislators.

Despite the obvious benefits of the system, it has its objectors. Some say the business of government is becoming so complex that direct public participation isn't the best way to determine public policy. Others say not enough people turn out at elections, so public participation isn't representative.

An objection such as the one on complexity deserves little consideration. Pushed to its ultimate conclusion, government officials could make any capricious legislation and refuse to allow a public decision because the matter was "too complex."

The second objection was disproved Oct. 15. More than 464,000 of the 750,000 registered voters turned out for the referendum vote. This was about 60 per cent—a percentage figure few could discount as being too small.

We think it a good system—probably best in the imperfect, but free, democratic society.



Opinions From Readers

Concert Presentation Praised By Yoncallan

To The Editor:

Did you attend the Portland symphony concert at the Roseburg Senior High School auditorium Oct. 15? If not, you missed the very best in entertainment. The large audience was held spellbound by the dynamic personality of Jacques Singer, music director and conductor. The gusto with which orchestra responded to their director brought forth two rousing, standing ovations.

I found myself rising and applauding without looking to see if I might be alone. For once everyone was with me. I, as just one of the audience, would have been glad to stand alone to show my appreciation of this beautiful concert. It took me back to the Minneapolis symphony concerts, yet the music of Handel, Britten and Tchaikovsky never sounded more beautiful than on the evening of Oct. 15 at Roseburg.

You could understand why Jacques Singer, a talented musician at the age of 13 years and a member of the Philadelphia orchestra, became the director of the Dallas symphony orchestra, the Vancouver, B.C., symphony the Buenos Aires Philharmonic orchestra and the Portland symphony. This son of Poland accomplished all this because of unusual talent, sincerity, modesty and hard work.

Musicians like Jacques Singer should be the peacekeepers of the world, because all nations can understand them. I am so grateful to the Roseburg symphony board and all the citizens of Roseburg who made this concert possible.

El Camino Motel
Yoncalla, Ore.

Opposition Expressed To Welfare Program

To The Editor:

I see where that whopping big voters "No" is causing our poor governor to shed crocodile tears over welfare. "I will not be a party to moving the aged and infirm and such into the streets," he cries. I wonder now if they were put onto the streets, roads, land and forests.

The Almanac

By United Press International
Today is Friday, Oct. 25, the 298th day of 1963 with 67 to follow.

The moon is at first quarter. The morning star is Jupiter. The evening stars are Jupiter and Saturn.

On this day in history:
In 1923, the Teapot Dome scandals began to unfold as Sen. Thomas Walsh of Montana demanded a public hearing on the Department of Interior's leasing of two naval oil reserves to private corporations.

In 1936, the Fascist governments of Germany and Italy formed the "Rome-Berlin axis," providing for common opposition to communism and mutual assistance in case of war.

In 1962, the United States, blockading arms shipments to Cuba, stopped a Soviet vessel containing oil but let it continue to Cuba.

A thought for the day — The German poet, Johann Goethe said: "He only earns his freedom and existence who daily conquers them anew."

left the bottle alone and got some healthy exercise along with getting back their self respect, maybe there wouldn't be so many aged, infirm and sick.

I wonder how many there are of who, past 60, still put in each day a good shift and a half on farms or small businesses, who also have aches and pains and pay their own doctor bills. And who these politicians are asking to dig deeper and ever deeper for funds to keep these aristocratic paupers living in the style they are now used to, can't tell me what one man could do better than the other.

Why is it that our politicians are so fond of this class? Could it be that those on welfare have sense enough not to bite the hands that feed them? Comes election day they all turn out to vote for the guy who sends the checks. Hasn't that long been the dream of the wily politician. Put one-third on relief, another third on the government payroll, and let the other third pay the bills. With two-thirds of the voters on their side, this dynasty is assured.

Maybe I'm an old meanie for I do not believe in relief in any shape or form, be that welfare, organized charity, subsidies, or feather-bedding. Next to war the dole has been our most costly mistake not only in dollars but in ruined lives. We have as much right morally to take the life of a human being as we have to rob them of their dignity and self-respect.

In a country as rich as this one there should be a job at decent wages for everyone willing to work. If they won't work — well, this is a free country, isn't it? Let them starve. But you cry: "Those poor women and children."

There was a time when a woman who had a man bring home the bacon could get a woman or girl to help in her home or a man to spade the garden or mend the fence. Now she must get an outside job to help her man pay the taxes. If her garden is spaded or the fence mended or house scrubbed she or he does it after a hard day's work.

Why should we who work and try to save be asked to give and give and give, making a virtue of a mockery and idleness old saying: "Saving for a rainy day."

If we could take these millions now wasted on relief, add to it the millions lost yearly on floods, forest fires and lack of good roads, add to that some of the millions honest toil could save us from our crime bill, wouldn't we have plenty to furnish useful work to all who need it and give us those badly needed funds to help the handicapped help themselves? In fact, that should be the only way our relief should take. Not one penny for alms but unlimited funds to help those who need help to help themselves. "God helps those and only those who help themselves." Are we wiser than our Creator?

As for the handicapped, we all know in nearly every community badly handicapped persons who with heroic discipline have made for themselves a self-respected and self-supporting place, asking no one for help and least of all for sympathy, wanting only to be left alone to live their lives as normally as possible. On the other hand, nearly every community now has seemingly able-bodied men and women in whom relief has placed mental blocks and loss of self respect. These have become far more handicapped than their crippled neighbors.

As for subsidies, if a business or farmer needs help let

them go to the bank for a loan that they will have to pay back with interest, and won't have these funds to lobby for extra privileges.

For the sake of the future of this great republic let's take that senile old Uncle of ours out of business. If he makes the mess out of it he has of this welfare, may God have mercy on our fate.

As to feather-bedding you can't tell me that five men do anything what one man could do better than the other. Let our charity be a hand held out to our brother or sister who are down, pull them back up on their feet, but see to it that they walk away on their own two feet and not crawl upon our backs and become a burden to us ever after. That's welfare today and many backs are weary of their burden. Let's dump it.

A. M. Cooper
Coopers Gardens
Star Route
Canyonville, Ore.

In Days Gone By

Taken from the files of the News-Review

40 YEARS AGO

Oct. 25, 1923

The 28th annual convention of the Douglas County W.C.T.U. which was held on Wednesday Oct. 24, at the Presbyterian Church in Oakland was undoubtedly one of the most successful both from the standpoint of work accomplished and resulting good that has ever been held, in the opinion of the majority of the members. The record of work for the past year shows a united, sustained effort on the part of every member of the county organization and the interest and enthusiasm evidenced at the convention points to an even better year to come.

Mrs. A. C. Marster, president of the county association, presided at the session.

25 YEARS AGO

Oct. 25, 1938

The 4-H local leaders of Days Creek had a meeting Oct. 20 at the home of Mrs. C. C. Hill. Most of the leaders were present. They made plans for organizing the clubs and for the work of the following year.

The Douglas County Budget will be increased approximately \$25,000, raising the levy about 1 mill, if recommendations of the budget committee are approved, County Clerk Roy Agee reported today. The principal increase proposed is in the relief department, which is placed more than \$9,000 higher than last year.

10 YEARS AGO

Oct. 25, 1953

Roseburg's surprising Indians earned the plaudits of all the onlookers Friday night, in staying off the powerful North Bend Bulldogs before succumbing to a 27-12 decision to the state's top team.



The Editor's Corner

By Charles V. Stanton

Court Exceeds Authority In School Prayer Ruling

The preamble to the constitution of the American Legion begins: "For God and Country we associate ourselves together."

Everyone knows the dedication of the American Legion to country. No organization, at least in my opinion, is more sincere in its demand for patriotic devotion to the welfare and security of the United States as a Nation.

But, while being consecrated to the service of "country," the American Legion, at its recent national convention in Miami, demonstrated the "For God" side of its national dedication.

Apparently disturbed by recent rulings surrounding the controversial issue of religion in our public schools, the American Legion asked the Congress to initiate an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to clarify the matter and to make religious observance possible in schools with "voluntary" participation on the part of students.

It would seem from the proposal made by the American Legion that it shares in the view that religion in the schools is a matter for decision by the respective states.

That is the theory to which I have held personally.

I do not intend to express disagreement with the Supreme Court's ruling on the matter. It is my belief that the United States Supreme Court has absolutely no right to even consider the controversy. I believe the U.S. Constitution holds clearly that the federal government shall keep its hands strictly off all matters pertaining to religion. This theory, in my opinion, is most definitely indicated by the history which forced upon the framers of our Constitution the idea of religious freedom and resulted in the first item of our Bill of Rights that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

While we hear supporters of the Supreme Court's ruling frequently calling our attention to the fact that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion," we seldom hear the other half of the restriction: "or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

It, therefore, is my contention that it was the purpose of the framers of our Constitution that the federal government should keep out of the controversy. Many people, I know, disagree with this opinion.

In our form of government, Congress makes the laws. It is the purpose of the Supreme Court to interpret those laws and to ascertain that they do not conflict with provisions of our Constitution. I am of the opinion that it is not the duty of the Supreme Court to legislate by saying what the law ought to be.

It would seem that this is, in effect, what the American Legion proposes in seeking another amendment to the Constitution.

The amendment approved by the national convention would by affirmative language take the federal government out of this controversial matter.

It would say:

Special Events Set At Elkton

Several community events are on tap for Elkton residents in the near future. Mrs. C. W. Henderson reports.

The Elkton Farm Bureau will hold its annual turkey and ham dinner Monday, Oct. 28, at 6:30 p.m. at the grade school for all members and invited guests. A special program has been planned.

Cub Scouts will hold their monthly pack night on Thursday evening, Oct. 31, also at the grade school. This will be a Halloween party and those attending are to wear costumes.

The entire community is invited to a dance Saturday, Nov. 9, at Kellogg Grange Hall. Music will be furnished by the "Elkton Killjoys."

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News Analysis



Lord Home Has Big Job Cut Out

By PHIL NEWSOM

Last April, with one eye on steady expansion, the British voter and the other on Britain's dwindling economy of grain have sent freight rates Prime Minister Harold Macmillan skyrocketing, and long-depressed government cut taxes and ended shipping firms now are earning fat profits.

From an economic standpoint, the program has lived up to the hopes of its planners.

Last week Britain's industrial production index hit a new high, eased credit restrictions to per- and UPI's London financial editor Harry Hobbs, reported British money to be made avail-

able to industrial and individual borrowers.

The stock market, which had hesitated as Conservative party leaders squabbled over the selection of a man to fill the prime minister's post left vacant by the ailing Macmillan, resumed its advance and closed last week at a new high for the year.

Exports were continuing their steady rise.

A further sign of economic health was the fact the government permitted several million pounds sterling to leave the country for investment in a new nylon plant in West Germany.

This was a direct reversal of previous policy, which had limited British industrial investment to the sterling area unless it could be shown profits would start coming back within 18 months.

Throughout the country, unemployment which had been a cause of mounting concern only six months ago, was declining steadily.

All of this was good news for Britain, and under other circumstances the Conservatives logically might well expect some rewards from the voters.

But the trials which have beset the Conservatives for many months, including a string of losses in by-elections for seats in parliament, continue to plague them.

President Charles de Gaulle's brusque veto of British membership in the European Common Market dealt a heavy blow to the Macmillan government's prestige. The Profumo sex scandal and the attendant overtones of potential danger to national security further undermined confidence.

Macmillan's illness and the ensuing scramble for power within the party created a picture of disunity which bodes further ill for attempts to convince British voters that the Conservatives should remain in power.

The reaction to the selection of tall, gaunt, 60-year-old Lord Home to become Macmillan's successor had a familiar ring.

Even among Conservatives it was that he was a nonentity, a pleasant fellow who could not stand up to the hurly burly of the prime minister's job, a man of no popular appeal. The same reaction had greeted his appointment as foreign minister in 1960.

In that post, Lord Home fooled all but his admirers, he included Macmillan. As a negotiator with the Russians he proved tough and able. As a member of the British cabinet he has gained increasing respect.

But if that job was tough, it was nothing compared to the one he has now.

THE LIGHTER SIDE:



Secret Hangover Cure Revealed

By DICK WEST

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Despite its remarkable advancements in recent years, medical science has as yet been unable to find a sure-fire cure for hangovers.

Persons suffering from this widespread malady are still largely dependent on home remedies, based mainly on superstition and old wives' tales. None is guaranteed effective.

The other day, however, I heard about a new type of treatment that may be the answer. It was described to me by a New York advertising man I met at a luncheon here.

This chap has been working on an ad campaign for the Bulova Watch Co. and last summer his duties took him to Las Vegas, Nev., to obtain a group photograph of 107 cowboys.

Perhaps you're wondering, as I did, what they wanted with a picture like that. Well, it was to illustrate, ad-wise, that the company sells 107 different types of waterproof watches.

It was no simple job to round up 107 cowboys in Las Vegas, but the adman did it. They were instructed to rendezvous out on the prairie early one morning in picturesque costumes.

The adman, however, made the mistake of celebrating the accomplishment prematurely. When he awoke that morning he had the worse case of after-effects he had ever experienced. His head felt like it might have belonged to Wal Whitman.

About the last thing he wanted to do was rendezvous on the prairie with 107 cowboys. But by then it was too late to make other arrangements.

For about an hour the an-

