

A Sad Solution

You may not like Senator Wayne L. Morse. You may class him an unqualified opportunist, a headline seeker or a man who doesn't know his own mind. You may think he's giving the state a very black eye, caterwauling in the senate day after day.

There are times when we wonder about the man, too, though perhaps it's still a bit early to pass judgment. But on one point there should be no confusion.

It's up to the voters—all of them—to make the final decision on Morse, not the Republican-dominated Oregon State legislature. That's why we find the bill introduced in the legislature Friday, one which might defeat the senator's bid for re-election in 1956 by denying many of his supporters the chance to vote for him, so damnably objectionable.

The gist of the proposal is this: that a political party or group of electors cannot nominate a man for political office who, in the preceding election, gained that office as the candidate of another party.

It means that the senator would have to fight it out in the state's Republican primary, probably the one place where the GOP feels it has the best chance to beat him. (Morse has already declared that he'll run for re-election as an independent in '56).

Technically, the bill may be perfect. But in spirit, it is an obvious negation of the fact that the people alone elect their United States senators. And it's even more disgusting when one remembers that it was the State of Oregon that championed the idea of direct election of senators.

That was in 1904. Previous to that time, senators were selected indirectly by state legislatures. The Oregon plan, which was widely copied, changed things—by making candidates for the legislature say beforehand whether or not they would support the senatorial candidates picked by popular vote in a preference primary.

To some degree, then, you can say we started things, an idea which was culminated in 1913 when the 17th amendment became official. It made popular election mandatory.

As we said, the Morse proposal apparently doesn't interfere technically. It doesn't block Morse's candidacy—he can still run as a Republican (though he certainly isn't one). But we wonder how the senator would fare in such a primary, with most or all of the state's big GOP guns trained on him and with no help available from independents or Democrats where, for all know, his main strength may now lie.

It seems to us therefore, that the eight state senators and 24 representatives sponsoring this measure have resurrected archaic and near-undemocratic methods to put an end to this "experience Morse." It makes one wonder if their fear or hate of him hasn't lead them into shallow and dangerous waters.

If the senator, despite his demise from the Republican ranks, still has the votes, then they're interfering with the process of democracy whereby a man can choose (or change) his political affiliations and keep his political principles. Again we say, the legislature has no business denying us, the voters, the chance to make the decision.

We realize there are precious few rules of the game in politics, the opponent being fair game any time, anywhere. But in this case, we think the proponents of this Republican roadblock, if they'd think about it, would realize they were doing as much harm to their cause as to the senator's.

For if the bill passes, it is, to us, an admission that the state GOP is afraid it can't lick Morse, an independent (or perhaps by then a Democrat), in a fair fight. It makes Oregon's Republican party look very sad indeed.

Lobbyist to Talk On Legislature

Raymond Colter, lobbyist for the League of Oregon Cities, will speak on "The State Legislature, Its Problems and Procedures" in the Osburn hotel Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Followed by a question and answer period, Colter's talk is sponsored by the University of Oregon Young Republicans.

Its purpose, according to Bruce Holt, club president, is to provide a constructive program for study of the state legislature.

All students and townspeople are invited to the meeting. Holt said.

Pictures to Be Taken

The ASUO cabinet and traffic court will have Oregon group pictures taken at 12:30 p.m. today in the Student Union.

Members of the ASUO cabinet who should be present are Pat Dignan, Helen Jackson-Frye, Sarah Turnbull, Elaine Hartung, John Talbot, Jim Livesay, Jim Haycox, Larry Hobart and Merle Davis.

Fred Turner, Carl Weber, Sally Haseltine, Don Rotenberg and Malcolm Montague.

First Place Won By Forensic Squad

The University forensic squad won the Northwest Regional championship in men's tyro debate and took first place in discussion and a second place in women's interpretative reading at the annual tyro tournament held at the College of Puget Sound in Tacoma last week-end.

Don Mickelwait, sophomore in pre-law, and Phil Cass, freshman in pre-law, defeated a Seattle Pacific team in the semi-finals and went on to take Willamette university in the finals to win the first place trophy. The team won five out of six, defeating two teams from OSC, in the preliminary debates.

Paul Ward, freshman in political science, took first place in men's discussion. Ward was 20 points ahead of his nearest competitor in winning the trophy awarded on the basis of numerical rankings compiled in three rounds of discussion. Ward also made the finals in extemporaneous speaking

but failed to place.

Second place in women's interpretative reading went to Loretta Mason, freshman in speech.

The second University tyro men's team, Ward and Bruce Holt, freshman in pre-law, broke even in the preliminary rounds of debate, winning three and losing three. The women's team of Miss Mason and Elsie Schiller, junior in journalism, made a good showing against strong competition in senior division which includes speakers having more than two years of collegiate debating experience. The women faced men's teams in all six rounds of preliminary debates, including a Willamette team who went to West Point last season and the team from St. Martins college in Olympia which won the regional Pi Kappa Delta championship at Pullman earlier in the year.

Holt rated high in extemporaneous speaking and Miss Schiller missed the finals in senior division oratory by one decision.

Herman Cohen, director of forensics, and Robert Kully, debate coach, who accompanied the team, said the squad had made an excellent showing against the best competition in the Pacific Northwest.

Sweepstakes

Pacific university won the sweepstakes trophy offered in the tyro division and Willamette was a close second. Senior division competition did not go towards winning the trophy.

Fifteen schools from four states—Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana—attended the tournament. There were 30 debate teams entered in the tyro division and 12 in the upper division competition.

The Northwest champions have won 14 out of 20 debates in the three tournaments attended this year. The entire squad has a record of 60 percent wins, having won 26 out of 43 debates in competition.

The squad will continue practice debates and preparatory work to enter one of the largest collegiate tournaments in the nation to be held at Linfield college, March 5, 6 and 7. Teams will be competing for titles for the far west at Linfield with entries expected from eight states.



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Oregon Daily EMERALD

The OREGON DAILY EMERALD published Monday through Friday during the college year except Jan. 5; Mar. 9, 10 and 11; Mar. 13 through 30; June 1, 2 and 3 by the Student Publications Board of the University of Oregon. Entered as second class matter at the post office, Eugene, Oregon. Subscription rates: \$5 per school year; \$2 per term.

Opinions expressed on the editorial page are those of the writer and do not pretend to represent the opinions of the ASUO or of the University. Editorials are written by the editor and the members of the editorial staff.

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