

+ EMERALD EDITORIALS +

Labor's Discredit

If organized labor in Oregon intends to discredit Governor Elmo Smith in the upcoming governor's race, it certainly will have to do better than it did in the recent picket-crossing episode.

Gov. Smith was said to be guilty of walking past a picket outside the Bend Bulletin newspaper office in order to buy a paper. For this he has been severely reprimanded by labor officials. William Way, president of the Portland Central Labor Council, said the governor violated the basic reason for which the picket line was established—that is, to prevent the use of the goods or services of the struck organization.

This may be so in the case of a department store, but hardly seems applicable to a newspaper office. The Bend Bulletin, or any other newspaper, seldom sells any great number of papers in its office. If the picket wanted to prevent sales, he should have been around the newsstands or the paperboys.

It would be interesting to see if labor leaders would scream as loud if the governor purchased a newspaper in a downtown hotel? For that matter, how many labor officials in Bend read the Bulletin themselves? After all, the Bulletin is the only daily paper published in the city.

By castigating the governor for his probably inadvertent stroll across the line, Oregon labor has done little to help its prestige among responsible citizens. And it probably hasn't deprived Gov. Smith of many votes, either.—(J.C.R.)

AAU's Outdated Iron Rule

The Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) has ruled amateur athletics in the United States with an iron hand for 68 years. In the light of recent actions it seems as if the rules of the organization haven't been revised since it was founded.

The event that touched off the present furor regarding the AAU, of course, was its lifetime ban on miler Wes Santee, America's best hope to break the four-minute mile.

Santee was accused of accepting excessive expense money for running in AAU-approved meets in California. There is no question that he broke the rules, but other factors involved in the case make the punishment unreasonable and unjust.

First, the AAU limit on expense money is a relic from the horse-and-buggy days. Hayes Alan Jenkins, the men's world figure skating champion, has estimated that it cost his parents \$25,000 for him to become a world's champion. Not many athletes have that kind of money to spend.

Secondly, several high AAU officials in California were responsible for approving the excess money for Santee. If the AAU's officers can't interpret their own rules, or misinterpret them deliberately, it is unjust to slap an arbitrary lifetime ban on the athlete involved.

Furthermore, a lifetime ban, on any athlete for any first offense is unfair. It seems obvious that Santee was the victim of some power-happy AAU officials who wanted to make an example out of him for personal reasons.

The Santee case is insignificant, however, when compared to the latest AAU action. This time the AAU banned six basketball players, without warning, from participating in the recent Shrine East-West basketball game for charity. The reason? The players had announced their intentions of making a professional tour with the Harlem Globetrotters after the Shrine game.

This venture into thought-control by the AAU came entirely without warning and reversed completely the previous policy. Until this year, the makeup of the professional group had always been announced in advance and had never endangered the amateurism of the players.

In fact, in 1952, another Olympic year,

the AAU even sanctioned a charity game between Seattle university and the Globetrotters to raise money for the Olympic funds.

The absurdity of the AAU's ruling was demonstrated when Julius McCoy of Michigan State convinced the AAU that he did not intend to make the tour with the "Trotters." He was allowed to play in the Shrine game, then "changed his mind" a few hours later and joined the professionals.

This attempt to legislate clean thoughts should prove once and for all that a housecleaning is in order. By its recent actions the AAU has demonstrated that it no longer deserves the respect or support of anyone.

Its outdated rules on expense money, combined with its arbitrary and unpredictable changing of rules in the middle of the game, make it a detriment to sports in its present condition.

Dances Without Zest

From the North Carolina Daily Tar Heel:

The Greensboro Daily News has alertly beat us to the twirl.

"What," it asks, "ever happened to the old fashioned stag line that made... college dances so much fun a generation ago? Has it gone completely out of date, along with the front porch rocker, the covered bridge and the wood stove?"

Those were the days when pretty teenagers and college prom trotters came to the dance bedecked in taffeta and satin and tulle. They were pretty girls. They looked it and they knew it. And they laughed and flirted and twirled their way through the evening, dancing with dozens of different boys. A girl's popularity and the success of her evening were gauged by the length of the stag line of eager males waiting to break.

But today? A girl dances all evening with the boy who brought her, the boy she "goes steady" with from the age of 15 on. Or else the girls eschew the evening dresses and the dance, don old skirts and sweaters or Bermuda shorts and tie themselves off to what might be termed an "informal" cabin party.

The gentlemen at Greensboro are quite right. A disastrous change has come to dance customs, such in fact, that dances as institutions are tottering more than waltzing along. Nowadays, many big dances are bores.

The boredom starts with the couple who find it hard to make original conversation through the long hours of a big dance, probably dance together often enough to consider their mutual fortes on the floor unpeppery, and are frustrated by the fact that one can mambo and one can charleston but neither can do both.

After 38 straight dances with the same person, who isn't ready to flee to the more abandoned and relaxed party and swear off dances?

Nor is their much commonsense in modern day stags. Every dance has them, but disorder and informality force them to bunch herdlike into loose groups at the sides where they talk and pay the dance no mind, or in the smack middle of the dance floor where they promptly trip over someone and, while bowing backwards in apology, step on the lace train of Sally Subletoe's taffeta and rip it to the point of shocking revelation.

Stags, there's no doubt about it, are the bugaboos of dancing. The result is either ennui or chaos, and dances in general have lost their olden zest.

Footnotes

Senators just don't turnover like they used to. The two Senate vacancies are the first to be filled by that august body this year, as compared with five last year and seven the year before.

Office Hours



INTERPRETING THE NEWS

London Developments Lead to Wonderments

By J. M. Roberts
AP News Analyst

Developments at the London disarmament conference inevitably lead to wonderment whether Soviet Russia has swallowed her own line that Western prosperity is based on a war economy and will crumble without it.

Her latest proposals, if read against the background of her appeals for cooperation from the world's Socialists, represent a new frontal assault on Western theories of collective security through strength.

Russia is proposing manpower and other arms reductions which go far beyond what the West considers either wise or attainable at this time.

She is forcing Communist parties throughout the world to accept the Kremlin edict that Stalin and his methods were bad. The British Reds have just done so, on oblique and strained fashion, by expressing confidence in the Russian party. They are willing to help the British Labor party oust the Conservatives in the belief that they can then swallow labor. They are encouraged in this by the trouble the Labor party is having with its own extreme left wing.

With Socialists in power in more Western countries, the Reds believe they can greatly interfere with the Allied defense program even where they cannot take direct power themselves.

This would have two purposes. One would be to recreate a situation in which Russia could, if it seemed profitable, renew her program of coercion through the display of military strength.

The other would be to make a new assault on Western economic systems tied in with the indirect campaign which has been going on for several years to cut the West off from its sources of raw materials in what the Communists continue to call "colonial" areas.

Russia's continuing faith in an eventual collapse of Western economy, permitting Communist infiltration, seems now to be largely wishful thinking. The depression for which the Reds have been hoping was prevented after World War II, and was escaped by the United States after the Korean War.

They are in a position to keep testing and pushing, however, even on the off chances.

The Reds are operating much more smartly than they did under Stalin. In making economic advances to underdeveloped countries they are taking a page from the Allied book. In propaganda they are showing a great deal better understanding of Western attitudes.

By these tokens they have become infinitely more dangerous, and every move they make must be studied against the background of their one great objective—world domination.



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