

EDITORIAL PAGE

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Discovered at Last—Perpetual Motion



EVENING OBSERVER'S PROGRESS PROGRAM

IRRIGATION—Complete the Grande Ronde Valley irrigation project.
LA GRANDE — A city of 10,000 — Extend the city limits.

State Building Program Vitrally Needed

Oregon voters have an opportunity to do a good job toward providing state institutions with necessary finances to assure progressive development during the special election set for June 22.

We in eastern Oregon are particularly interested because on the passage of the referendum authorizing a tax levy for state building funds may depend in great measure the future welfare of Eastern Oregon college.

The proposed legislation will levy a tax for two years, outside the six per cent limitation fixed by law, of five million dollars yearly and will create a state building fund of 10 million dollars.

Six million dollars of this amount will be used for buildings under the jurisdiction of the state board of control and four million dollars will be used for institutions administered by the state board of higher education.

It should be clearly understood by all voters that, although in form the tax is levied against property, actually this is a mechanical device which was made necessary by state law in order to bring the matter before the people.

Robert Farrell, jr., secretary of state, pointed this out clearly in a statement made this week. Actually, he said, "all the voters are asked to do is approve a mechanical device so the money can be spent."

The property tax will never be levied

because it is provided in the referendum that the tax be offset by surplus income tax collections.

And, he pointed out, although it was thought at the time of the creation of the legislation that these surplus tax funds would be collected in the future, the situation now is that there is already enough surplus money on hand to more than offset the tax immediately.

In other words, the money is already collected. What the voters will do in effect on June 22 is to appropriate it for use in the erection, maintenance and equipment of state buildings and institutions.

Farrell's statement declared that the state tax commission will have a surplus of \$15,625,221.51 on June 30, more than enough to "completely offset the five-million, two-year property tax provided in the proposed measure."

There are two reasons for submitting this proposal to the people. These are as follows: the legislature was prohibited by law from exceeding the six per cent limitation in appropriation of funds; the state constitution provides that income tax surplus moneys must be used for offsetting property taxes.

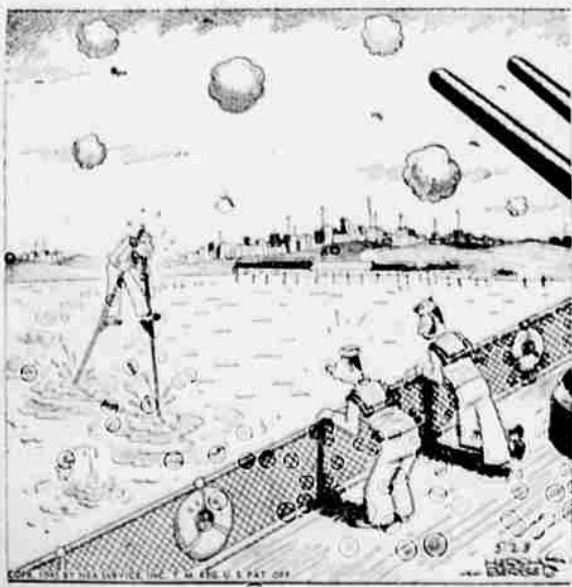
The situation before the voters at this time is this: State buildings and institutions desperately require assistance. We in eastern Oregon are acutely aware of this because of the present needs of Eastern Oregon college and the largely increased needs anticipated with the conclusion of war.

If these needs are ignored now, they will have to be met in the future when there may be no surplus tax money available.

The money is already collected in a surplus fund and is idle. If not appropriated now for this purpose, it may be dissipated.

Every voter should ballot on this important measure June 22.

Funny Business



"Here comes Joe—he's late again from shore leave!"

SO THEY SAY

The collapse of the Hitler regime in Europe has not brought to an end the hatred and prejudice imbedded in the European continent against the Jews by intensive Nazi propaganda.

—Rabbi James G. Heller, chairman, United Palestine Appeal.

Unless the American people can be brought to see that the threat of inflation did not end when the shooting stopped in Europe, we are in for mighty rough weather.

—Chester Bowles, OPA director.

The Americans are employing a new tactic (General Pershing) against which no available fire power is effective.

—Col. Joseph M. Cobby, Detroit Ordnance department office.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—Most important lesson to be learned from the dynamite-laden Trieste controversy is that we should have begun three years ago when first proposed by Under Secretary of State Sumner Welles to build the peace machinery to handle these disputes.

Welles hammered this home incessantly to both Hull and Roosevelt but it was only last summer that Secretary Hull finally acted on Welles' ideas and called the Dumbarton Oaks meeting finally leading to the present San Francisco conference.

Power politics began as early as two years ago to be the root of the trouble now blossoming at Trieste. It was two years ago at Tehran that Stalin and Churchill batted their heads together with Roosevelt sitting in as mediator regarding rival spheres of influence in the Balkans.

Churchill had wanted the allies to start their second front through the Balkans partly to keep the Russians out. Stalin probably with his eye on the Balkans argued that the quickest road to Berlin was across the English channel and France. American military strategists concerned only with winning the war quickly not with spheres of influence agreed with him.

Dividing the Balkans After that was settled and it was agreed that allied armies would not invade the Balkans Churchill and Stalin got down to dividing up this area into spheres of influence.

Stalin pointed out that the British sphere of influence in Yugoslavia was Croatian and Dalmatian yet Churchill was working with a Serb, General Mihailovitch. The Serbs and the Croats hated each other. Stalin reminded Churchill. Therefore, he said, he would be glad to instruct his man Tito to cooperate with the British.

This was agreed. And that marked the sudden switch of U. S. lend-lease to Tito. Churchill sent a British brigadier plus his own son Col. Randolph Churchill to cooperate with Tito. Thereafter Mihailovitch the one-time British favorite was left high and dry.

Tito Smells Plot However, Tito's relations with the British began to cool shortly thereafter and reached a climax last summer under mysterious circumstances. An airborne Nazi division staged a surprise raid on Tito's headquarters and he escaped within an inch of his life.

Tito suspected the British of having tipped off the Nazis regarding the whereabouts of his headquarters and of collaborating in the raid.

After that his distrust of the British knew no bounds. And shortly thereafter when he

landed in Bari, Italy which served as refugee Yugoslav headquarters, his plane was immediately surrounded by several hundred Yugoslav partisans armed with tommy guns who would allow no British official to get anywhere near their chief.

On his last night in Bari, Tito was invited to dine with General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, British commander in the Mediterranean. And, much to Wilson's amazement, Tito turned up with two dozen husky partisan guards, carrying tommy guns, who lined up on both sides of the dining room.

"I say, Marshal," remarked General Wilson, "isn't this a most unusual procedure?" To which Tito replied: "This, general, is a most unusual war."

Tito Bolts to Russians Next day, Tito flew to Bucharest, conferred with Russian officials, and then returned to Yugoslavia. His cooperation with the British was completely dead. Later, the British planned a commando raid on Split, an important seaport on the Dalmatian coast, in order to head off the German army then fleeing from Greece. But the minute the commandos set foot on Yugoslav soil, they were met by Tito's partisans, disarmed, and sent back to Italy.

Since then, relations with Tito have been at swords point. He has become increasingly anti-British, considering them responsible for subsidizing a strong anti-Tito movement among the Croats. He has also blamed the British for taking several thousand fascist Croats, many of them Nazi collaborators, out of Yugoslavia, equipping them with new clothes and plenty of money, and sending them back to work against Tito at the coming elections.

It was definitely agreed at Yalta, however, that the British were to occupy two provinces of Austria and were to invade Austria through Trieste.

However, British troops were slow in reaching that key city at the head of the Adriatic, so their old friend and enemy got there first. And in the rough code of the Yugoslav mountaineers, possession is nine-tenths of the law.

How much Stalin had to do with Tito's actual occupation of Trieste is anybody's guess. Unquestionably he is the general mainspring behind Tito. However, it doesn't necessarily hold that Stalin ever ordered Tito into Trieste, if for no other reason, because he didn't need to. Anyone who has been in Trieste and lived among the Yugoslavs, as this writer has, knows that they have been itching for 26 long years to take over an area which they consider should justly have been theirs after the last war.

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

The housewife said, "I don't blame Mrs. Truman for deciding not to hold regular press conferences. It must be an awful strain to have to face a roomful of reporters, all asking all sorts of questions."

Well, maybe. But handling reporters is a knack that ought to be easy for a woman to acquire.

For the average woman—though she may never be questioned by a reporter in her life—grows up with the idea that anything she says may be quoted, and perhaps held against her.

Furthermore, she is always being questioned by the town's busybodies, who in their determination to satisfy their curiosity

without seeming to be really inquisitive, can phrase questions as subtly as any veteran reporter.

Any smart wife knows well enough the importance of being careful about what she says about her husband's business affairs, and "Harry never tells me a thing about his business," has come to be a stock answer of clever wives.

So the average woman, just through her associations with other women, ought to be well-equipped to handle a press-conference. That is, if she can hold her own at a bridge party, telling only so much of herself and her affairs as she thinks is suitable for town publication.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

SAN FRANCISCO — An international shipping war to capture Pacific ocean trade formerly carried by the Japanese merchant marine is now being planned in west coast ports.

Best estimates are that of the pre-war Pacific tonnage in and out of American ports, U. S. ships carried 25 percent, the Japs 40 to 45 percent, British, Dutch, Norwegian and other European flag ships dividing the remaining 30 to 35 percent.

When the war is over, Japan isn't going to have any merchant marine left, thanks to American submarines and bombers. And if west coast shipping men have anything to say in the matter, the Japs won't ever again be allowed to build up their fleet to become a maritime power.

This offers U. S. shipping a golden opportunity. European countries have their old trade routes to reestablish and their fleets to build up. China and Soviet Russia may have some ambitions to build ocean-going fleets. But whether any of these nations will be interested or able to take care of anything beyond their own immediate and most pressing domestic needs is a great question.

Japan's cheap labor, cheap ship construction and operating costs, plus ample government subsidies for all merchant marine sailings under the Japanese flag resulted in freight and passenger rates so low that no other nations could compete in the pre-war Pacific. But with the Japs now out of the competitive picture, the hopes that American ship operators can capture a large part of this Pacific trade are definitely bright, according to such men as Hugh Gallagher of the Matson lines, Russell Lutz of the American President lines, and John E. Cushing of the War Shipping Administration.

To keep the American flag on the Pacific will take some form of subsidy, they and all other shipping men seem to agree. But they emphasize that this question of shipping subsidies is pretty generally misunderstood and in any case the amount of subsidies paid

out will always be less than the cost of having to build up a new merchant marine from scratch, as this country has had to do in two world wars.

Cost of the War I fleet was \$4,000,000,000. That fleet was scrapped when congress and American public opinion as a whole refused to support a U. S. merchant marine. The cost of the War II fleet will be between \$2 and \$15,000,000,000. If this modern fleet is allowed to go to the scrap heap, it will only mean that U. S. foreign trade will again have to be dependent on ships of other nations.

The argument is sometimes made that the United States should allow other nations to carry American imports and exports, first because their lower wage standards permit other seafaring nations like the British and Norwegians to do this hauling cheaper, second because this permits these other countries to acquire dollars with which they can buy American exports. If U. S. foreign trade policy is laid out along these lines, it can only mean another life loss for the American merchant ship cat, which can't be expected to come back every time it is killed off.

Subsidies to keep U. S. ships afloat after the war can be applied in several ways. First as a ship construction subsidy, which is really a subsidy to U. S. shipbuilding labor. U. S. law does not permit any U. S. shipping line to operate a vessel built in a foreign country, where costs of construction are much lower. Therefore, if a U. S.-built ship costs \$10,000,000 dollars and the same ship could be built abroad for \$8,000,000, the U. S. ship operator to make a profit must show profits on a far greater initial investment, which is a terrible handicap.

This being the situation, it is argued that American built ships should be sold to private operators at costs equivalent to foreign construction costs, the government paying the subsidy. U. S. and foreign shipping lines would then have an even start and could compete on more equal terms through shipping conference agreements on equal rates.

Side Glances



"I'm sending some pictures of those movie dancers that were here, and I'll tell her they're native girls—I don't want her to get the idea this is a deserted island!"

McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WM. E. MCKENNEY, America's Card Authority

SETS UP A FINESSE BY GIVING UP LEAD

(This is one of a series of hands from the recent world's championship masters' individual tournament.)

Charles Goren, who won the world championship individual by half a point this year, gave me today's hand as one of his most interesting in the tournament. Charlie made six no trump

rounds of trump, dropping the queen and jack. She led another heart and then ruffed a heart.

Her next play was the king of clubs. She now led a small club and won in dummy with the ace. The ten of clubs threw North in the lead and if he returned a club, she would be able to ruff and discard a spade from dummy.

He elected to return a spade and she let it ride to dummy's queen, thus making six odd.

♠ K J 10 7 4	♠ A 8 5
♥ 4 3	♥ 10 2
♦ 7 3	♦ A 9 4 2
♣ Q J 3 2	♣ K 8 6

Dealer East

♠ 6 3 2	♠ Q J
♥ Q J 9 8 6	♥ 9 5 4
♦ Q J	♦ 9 5 4
♣ 9 5 4	♣ 9 5 4

Duplicate—Neither vul

East	South	West	North
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 N T	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 N T	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
5 ♠	Pass	6 ♣	Pass

Opening—♥ Q 28

IN FORMER YEARS

30 Years Ago

Miss Ruth Russell, one of La Grande's foremost equestrians, was appointed to represent La Grande in a convoy of girls to greet Governor Withycombe at the Union stock show. Each town in eastern Oregon was invited to send a girl and her mount to the stock show to act in the capacity of cordon of honor for the governor.

Ray Alstott, Earnest Waldan and Fred Read left for San Francisco to attend the fair.

15 Years Ago

Walter S. Price, George Anderson and Mr. and Mrs. Wayman Scott drove to Baker on a business trip.

A total of 3,600 poppies were sold in La Grande by the American Legion auxiliary and a corps of boys and girls.

The Rev. and Mrs. Lester Carlson and children, of the Gospel mission, went to Seattle on a vacation.

10 Years Ago

The La Grande city tennis team won its opening intercity contest of the season at Pendleton, 7 to 6. The team from La Grande included Dudley Starr, Jean Taylor, Bob Osterling, Burke Inlow, Norman Stang, Lyle and Olive Wilson, Mary Frees, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Fox, Mrs. Leona Chausse, Marion Chausse, Burnett Chausse, Betty Bohnenkamp and Helen Melville.

Miss Margaret Milne, a teacher in the Huntington schools, returned to her home in La Grande after finishing the school, planning to spend the summer with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Milne.

This Curious World



Quoting Odds
"GOLD CASH SOMETIMES BURNS POCKETS," SAID VICTOR BERGE, New York, New York.

BANK

IN LONDON DURING THE BLITZ BOMBING, THERE WERE MORE CASES OF HYSTERIA AMONG MEN THAN WOMEN.

NEXT: The first set of gears.