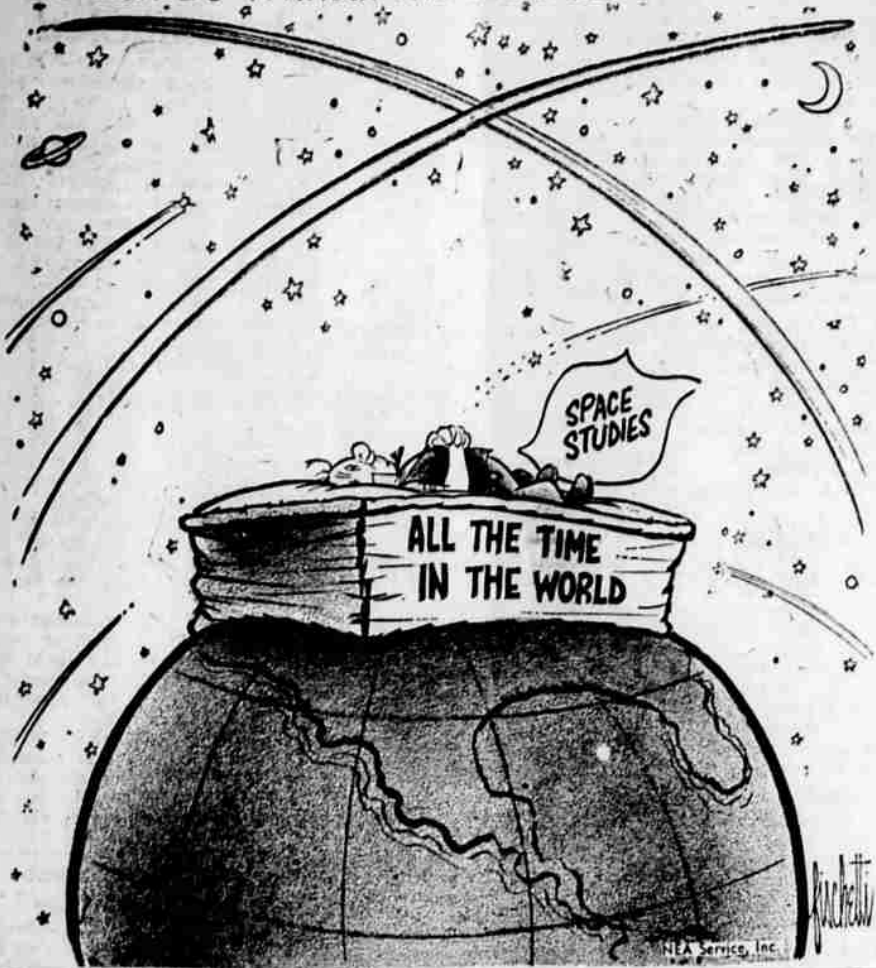


We Can Do Without the Mattress



Friday, April 10, 1959

EDITORIAL PAGE

La Grande Observer

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Lung Cancer, Too, Is Essential

The office mail yesterday contained a publication of the tobacco industry which was headlined in big, black type "TOBACCO ESSENTIAL TO ECONOMY OF NATION."

Tobacco, the smoking kind, is responsible for the income of 17,000,000 Americans, or one in every ten, the publication said.

We submit that lung cancer, caused by tobacco smoking, is a bigger industry even than tobacco itself. This is a figure the tobacco hucksters have left out of their calculations, for obvious reasons.

But if those who owe their income in whole or in part to lung cancer were added to the spurious 17,000,000 of the tobacco boys, it is obvious that tobacco and its side-effect would be responsible for the livings of most of us.

(This business of figuring out how many people live off you is becoming a favorite of industry. Each one tries to outdo the other in pointing out how important it is. And as the competition gets tougher, the figures get phonier.)

But, back to tobacco and lung cancer.

First we start with the 17,000,000 figures of the tobacco industry. Then we add 2,000,000 cancer quacks. Employees and families of these phonies total another 9,000,000. There are 1,000,000 doctors. Add the 11,000,000 members of their families and employees.

A total of 3,000,000 people work in hospitals. They have 12,000,000 relatives. Add the ones who sell groceries, raise the produce, generate the electricity and mine the coal, etc., etc., and the members of their families and you have another 51,000,000, all just hoping a few more lung cancers will develop.

Even without getting into the real refinements of the statistical method in these cases, it is easy to see that tobacco and the resulting lung cancer are responsible for the jobs and livelihoods of some 106,000,000 Americans, or about six out of ten.

This is really impressive, much more so than the picayunish figures worked up by the tobacco hucksters.

Help yourselves to the idea boys, it's not patented.

Did The Billboard Lobby Goof?

Oregon's powerful billboard lobby, aided and abetted by some members of the state legislature, has been successful in burying in legislative committees the proposal to control billboards along such interstate routes as highways 99 and 30.

First the lobby worked on the interim committee which studied the problem prior to the opening of this legislative session. As a result the committee came up with a report which said the problem needed "more study."

It's been studied for years, and it was obvious that more study was solely for the purpose of killing any control measure.

Then the legislature went into session. Into the hopper went a measure designed to provide minimum controls, under federal standards, of the billboards along scenic routes.

A Senate committee killed the measure the other day. Only Sens. Yturri of On-

tario and Boivin of Klamath Falls voted against the big billboard industry. The rest of the members of the committee fell quietly into line.

Organizations favoring control represented many thousands of Oregonians. Those opposing it were not nearly so strong, excepting financially.

As a result an initiative proposal is being readied. An attempt—almost sure to be successful—will be made to place it on the 1960 ballot. And the initiative will not be nearly so palatable to the billboard industry and its friends as was the bill before the legislature this year.

Before the whole thing is finished the billboard lobby will probably realize it goofed.

Billboards would have been much better off with the bill before the legislature than they will with the one which will— we predict—be passed by the voters 18 months from now.

Heaven Help Us

One church was jumping in Connecticut last Sunday when jazzed up religious music was tried out as an experiment. The intent was to make church services more appealing and to show young people that religion is not "fuddy duddy" or out of date.

We asked some La Grande high school students the other day what they thought of jazzing up church services in this way. They didn't think much of it. A few thought the innovation had some merits, but if given a choice they would

not prefer it. Certainly most people would have the same feeling. Hymns have been "swung" before by evangelists looking for ways to bring in crowds. The shouting and the contortions that characterize certain kinds of tent show revivals aren't inspired by quiet organ music but by the stimulating kind of music that makes people want to stomp their feet and clap their hands. A steady diet of this is offered on the airways. Heaven help us if we couldn't get away from it in church.

Frank Wright's Body Going To Wisconsin

PHOENIX, Ariz. (UPI) — The body of Frank Lloyd Wright will be returned Saturday to the Wisconsin hilly farm country where the world-famed architect was born 89 years ago.

Wright, the storm-center and guiding light of modern architecture, died in the pre-dawn hours Thursday at St. Joseph's Hospital where he had undergone abdominal surgery Monday.

A few friends and members of the family joined with the famed architect's widow, Olgivanna, his third wife, Thursday night to pay last respects at Taliesin West on the outskirts of Phoenix

Iraq Oil Is The Big Question

American Business Being Frozen Out

By PHIL NEWSOM

As Communism tightens its grip on Iraq, one of the most pressing world questions is, what happens now to Iraq's oil?

It is an important question because Iraq sits in the middle of the great Middle Eastern oil pool and, by itself, is the world's sixth largest oil producing country.

This correspondent, on a recent visit to Baghdad, put that question directly to Dr. Hashim Jawad, Iraq's urbane and sophisticated foreign minister. His reply was:

"Iraq's ties are with the West. Most of our income comes from oil and our oil goes entirely to the West. Our pipelines are directed toward the West."

At this moment, no one can predict the future course of the Iraq government.

American news correspondents and American business alike are being frozen out of Iraq and Western prospects there now appear dim indeed.

But, so far as oil is concerned, there are three elements which today force Iraq to maintain its ties with the Western nations.

One is the oil pipelines. The pipelines handling Iraqi oil run from Iraq to Syria and thence to Mediterranean outlets in Syria and Lebanon. There is no connection with Russia or any of its satellites except via Basra and the Persian Gulf.

A second, and impelling one, is the fact that Russia at this moment has no particular use for the Iraqi oil. Russia is itself an oil exporting nation and has immense and still untapped oil reserves of its own.

And a third is that presently it would be almost impossible for Iraq to nationalize its oil and seek its own oil markets.

A sad example is Iraq's oil-rich neighbor, Iran.

In 1951, under then-Premier Mohammed Mossadegh, Iran nationalized its oil and repudiated its contract with the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company of Britain. Iran soon found it had neither the technicians to draw out the oil nor the facilities to market it.

By 1954, and with U.S. aid, the dispute finally was settled. But by that time, Iran practically was bankrupt and the world had managed splendidly without the oil on which Iran's economy depended.

Under its 50-50 deal with British, American and other oil companies, Iran today takes in well over 200 million dollars annually in oil revenues. By law, 70 per cent of these revenues must be diverted to national development projects. As a result, income taxes in Iraq are almost non-existent.

The pipelines through Syria provide an interesting sidelight to the Iraq oil question.

So long as relations between Iraq and the United Arab Republic remain in their strained state, Iraq must always have the nagging worry that the Syrians might some day cut the lines. They did that during the Suez crisis and the cost to Iraq ran to about \$700,000 per day.

If this should happen again, it will be to the West and not to Russia that Iraq looks for aid. In

PEPPERY CRITIC GIVES VIEWS

American Schools Are Living In Past

By LOUIS CASSELS

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (UPI) — The trouble with America's schools, according to a distinguished British observer, is that they are living in the past.

This critique may surprise Americans who are accustomed to blaming "progressive" modern methods for all of the ills of U.S. education. It is, however, the considered view of Prof. Denis W. Brogan of Cambridge University, a peppery and perceptive critic of American life who is sometimes called "the foreigner who knows America best."

Brogan is on his 31st or 32nd visit to America (he has lost count of the exact number). He is delivering a series of lectures at Rutgers University here on "The American Crisis."

Part of that education crisis, he believes, lies in the failure of U.S. schools to respond to the new challenge that now confronts them.

From here on it will be Brogan talking:

In the past, the primary job of American schools was producing "good, loyal American citizens," and equipping them to earn a good living.

This dedication to the school system to social and economic goals was not a new idea cooked up by modern advocates of "life adjustment education." It was the dominant philosophy of American education from the time the first colonial schools were established.

These early schools "aimed at producing a bible-reading society, a society with common ethical standards, with a common attachment to American political institutions."

"The 'democratizing' function of American schools became ever more important as waves of immigrants poured into the country. The schools deserve great credit for the outstandingly successful job they did in 'making Americans out of millions of the children of immigrants who had come to the golden shore with inadequate preparation for a way of life so different from what they had known in Europe.'"

What is unfortunate is that American schools today are still concentrating on their original function, and have failed so far to rise to an urgent new challenge that confronts them.

"The United States is now rich enough, unified enough and mature enough to ask its schools to lay less stress on making good Americans and more on making critical, technically competent citizens."

"The United States is living in a new, dangerous, unpleasant world, and its educational system is involved in a competition with the Soviet Union."

Jawad grimly told this correspondent:

"We should regard such an event as serious indeed. But, in this case, it would not be Iraq and the U.A.R. alone. The big powers would be involved."

There seems ample reason to believe that Iraq even now may be attempting to increase either its income or its oil output at the expense of the Western companies. But, for now, it seems certain Iraqi oil will continue to flow to the West.

A possibility for the distant future is that some day it might be useful to Red China. In that case, the flow might be reversed.

tion that ultimately has life-or-death significance for the nation. If the present school system is not producing an adequate supply of first rate scientists and technicians, it is by that fact condemned. This may be a new job for the schools, but it is assuredly one that must be tackled soon if the United States is to survive."

The most conspicuous short-coming of U. S. education is that "the boy and girl at the high school stage is not stretched enough." Even if all of the curriculum reforms proposed by Dr. James B. Conant in his recent report on high schools were put into effect tomorrow, "the pupil in the American high school is not going to be overworked."

Really bright boys and girls are the principal victims of a school system that subjects all students alike to "the lockstep of promotion by age and the temptation of snap courses." For their benefit and for the future of the nation, high schools must begin to bear in mind that "hard work and great effort are not un-American."

"To be brief and frank, much of higher education in America is designed to soothe envy, to gratify social ambition, to train manipulators of not very difficult techniques."

There has been a notable indifference in American education to the achievement of "true excellence, as contrasted with mere competence." National pride has

Quotes From The News

United Press International

WASHINGTON — A National Aeronautics and Space Administration official, on why only married men were chosen for the first jaunt into space:

"Medical statistics prove that married men live longer than bachelors."

LAS VEGAS — Singer Eddie Fisher, on fiancée Elizabeth Taylor's plans to enter a hospital next week for treatment of a chronic throat infection: "I don't want the slightest thing to happen to my baby."

NEW YORK — The National Mother-in-law Day Committee, Mother-in-law Day Committee pointin' out one of the purposes next April 19: of National Mother-in-law Day combating the use of mothers-in-law as targets for sarcastic humor.

HOLLYWOOD — Eva Gabor, expressing sorrow at the reported suicide of model Venita Radcliffe allegedly because her boyfriend visited Miss Gabor in Madrid recently:

"I am not the kind of a woman who would ever take away another woman's love."

tended to hide the results of this attitude. Few Americans realize "how comparatively little the United States has contributed to the basic scientific ideas of the world."

Brogan concludes that American schools, in order to do the new kind of job that now confronts them, must overcome a distinctive American aversion for recognizing "there is such a thing as 'undemocratic' superiority in mental equipment."

"Some people simply have more brains than others, and a nation that expects to survive in this competitive world had better be prepared to give exceptional people exceptional educational treatment. If that be treason, make the most of it."

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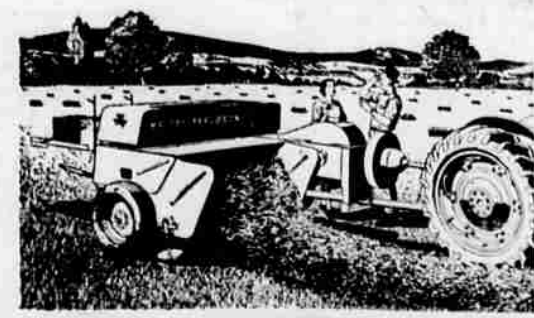
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