Port Orford News

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Dellenback Reports

by Rep. John Dellenback

Klamath Indian Lands Need Saving

The "crunch point" is rapidly approaching for the Klamath Indian Lands. The entire Oregon Congressional delegation in Washington has been working to change the Executive Department's mind on this matter, but all our efforts thus far have been met with a "we've-made-up-our-minds" response.

Since 1959 the 135,000 acre Klamath Indian Forest has been managed as a trust by the U.S. National Bank of Oregon. In May, 1969, the remaining beneficiaries of the trust voted to terminate the management trust--and the forest land's value has since been appraised at nearly $52 million. If sold at that price, it would mean about $42,000 for each member of the tribe.

The federal government must exercise its option to purchase the lands by June 30 or the lands may be sold to private investors. But if that happens I fear the people of Oregon, the Federal government and the nation as a whole stand to suffer a tremendous loss.

Our goal should be to guarantee maximum long-run utilization of this resource -- 135,000 acres of pine forest. The price of $52 million makes it practically impossible economically for any private owner to operate on a long-term, sustained-yield basis. The tremendous investment involved would force a private purchaser into rapid liquidation, into a "cut-and-sell" operation which would enable it to recover a substantial portion of its capital outlay quickly.

Once the timber is cut, there is the possibility that instead of sound, immediate and complete reforestation, some other use would be made of the area. Subdividing the area for residential housing is a possibility.

Only management of this timberland on a long-term, sustained-yield basis by the Forest Service will assure responsible use of all the resources involved. Such action would guarantee long term production of forest products and would continue to provide jobs for future generations. It would also mean that recreational and other multiple use values would be protected.

Another significant factor in this proposed transaction that cannot be overlooked is the impact that private ownership could have on the log export situation. There are reports that Japanese interests are taking a long, hard look at this tract as a potential source of a large and much needed soft wood supply.

It is certainly possible that a Japanese concern would attempt to purchase the land outright, or enter into an agreement with a private, domestic corporation requiring a rapid cut, with subsequent sale of the harvest to Japan. In any case, the stability of employment in the local processing plants would suffer immeasurably.

Along with the other members of the Oregon Congressional delegation, I have sponsored legislation which would direct the Secretary of Agriculture to buy the Klamath Indian Lands. I have personally testified before a Senate subcommittee on the subject and I have been working on several other fronts in an attempt to save this resource for Oregon.

Time and hope for legislation has about run out as I write this, so the focus is clearly on the decision-makers in the White House and in the Office of Management and Budget. Unless a favorable decision is made by Friday, June 30, the land will go on the market. There is a slight chance that potential buyers will think the price is too high and refuse to put up the asking price. But that is a gamble our government should not be willing to take.

Salem Scene

by Jack Zimmerman

'Grading' Lawmakers Difficult In Both Legislature, Congress

One sure way of starting an argument is to ask someone how best to measure the effectiveness of a legislator.

There are easily as many ideas as there are segments of society. And the lawmaker being measured can fall from favor with one segment and rise in the estimation of another as simply as voting yea or nay.

Some constituents take the trouble to constantly study the performance of the Congressman, for instance, noting the number of votes he casts, whether he votes for or against appropriations, social measures and so on. Others go so far as to monitor committee hearings and the proceedings of various subcommittees.

But these people represent an extremely small minority. To most constituents the deliverations of Congress and the Oregon Legislature are a mystery and they're likely to form their opinion of a lawmaker on the basis of a single performance--especially if it involves a pet interest of theirs.

Other people rely on organizations to rate the lawmakers for them. Nationally there are several such organizations and in Oregon during the 1971 legislative session consumer protection advocates and some environmentalists kept records of voting on issues they favored or opposed. Oregon labor--through its COPE & Committee on Political Education) organization--at one time rated State Legislators on a regular basis. The AFL-CIO in this state now offers its members a more sophisticated analysis of lawmaker activity.

Associated Oregon Industries, a statewide employer organization, urges its members to maintain personal knowledge of all activities by members of the Legislature and Congress and assists them in the task.

Many such associations, in fact, believe there has yet to be devised an adequate system of rating a lawmaker's effectiveness. And those who work closest with the men and women who enact legislation put little faith in any system that would typecast a lawmaker.

The issues, according to Salem-watchers, are just too complex and vary too much from one session to the next to expect most lawmakers to perform consistently -- even when it comes to adhering to the party line.

There's politics. And there's horse trading. And many times any given lawmaker may find himself voting on the floor for a measure he moved heaven and earth to defeat in committee.

Nonetheless, the national Chamber of Commerce regularly publishes the results of three organizations which attempt to measure the effectiveness of members of Congress. They are the ACA (Americans for Constitutional Action -- conservative), the ADA (Americans for Democratic Action -- liberal) and labor's national COPE organization.

Each "grades" Congressmen on the basis of the manner in which they vote on selected measures. A rating of 100 would mean voting 100% "right" on the selected issues. Lesser ratings mean varying degrees of "wrong" votes.

Current ratings, or grades, reflect data collected during the 1971 session of the 92nd Congress and, in the Oregon delegation's case, each member's cumulative standing.

Here, according to ACA, ADA and COPE, is a "report card" on Oregon's six members of Congress:

Sen. Mark Hatfield (R), who went to Congress in 1966, owns a 51.8 per cent voting record on the selected measures of the three organizations. The conservative ACA gave him a score of 20 for 1971 and a cumulative rating of 32. Liberal ADA gave him a score of 74 during 1971 (it does not maintain a cumulative rating). Labor's COPE gave the Oregon Senior Senator a score of only 33 last year -- against a cumulative total of 70.

Sen. Bob Packwood (R), who went to Washington in 1968, owns a 50.2 per cent voting record. Conservative ACA gave him a score of 60 in 1971, against a cumulative 48. Liberal ADA ranked him with a 30 in 1971. Labor's COPE gave Packwood a 20 last year -- against a cumulative total of 48.

On the House side, First District Rep. Wendell Wyatt (R) owns a 72 per cent voting record while serving his fourth term. Conservative ACA gave him a score of 75 in 1971 and a cumulative rating of 69. Liberal ADA gave him a 16 during 1971. Labor's COPE gave Wyatt a 36 last year -- against a cumulative 31.

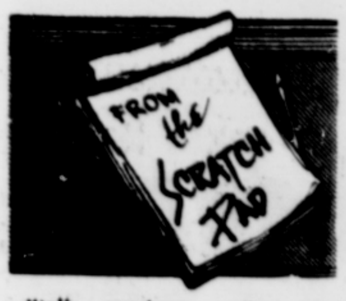
Second Dist. Rep. Al Ullman (D) has a 71 per cent voting record while serving his eighth term. Conservative ACA gave him a score of 28 last year and a cumulative total of 14. Liberal ADA gave him a 49 in 1971. And labor's COPE gave Ullman a 75 last year -- against a cumulative grade of 86.

Third Dist. Rep. Edith Green (D) owns a 73 per cent voting record while serving her ninth term. Conservative ACA gave her a score of 48 in 1971 and a cumulative rating of 18. Liberal ADA gave her a 38 during 1971. Labor's COPE gave Mrs. Green a 55 last year -- against a cumulative 81.

Fourth Dist. Rep. John Dellenback (R) owns a 59 per cent voting record while serving his third term. Conservative ACA gave him a score of 57 in 1971 and a cumulative rating of 56. Liberal ADA gave him a 43 in 1971. Labor's COPE gave Dellenback a 25 in 1971 -- against a cumulative 35.

Although the ratings make interesting reading, the comparisons between "performance" in a given year and the cumulative ratings tend to point up further the difficulty of casting lawmakers according to their voting records. Senator Hatfield's grade of 33 last year by COPE, for instance, might hurt him in the eyes of some labor rank-and-filers if they weren't aware of his cumulative grade of 70. Other labor-oriented constituents, on the other hand, might tend to suspect the Senior Senator of back-sliding in their behalf by comparing the two and wonder if he is changing his philosophy. Some of Mrs. Green's constituents might wonder the same type of thing regarding her voting record in 1971, compared with the cumulative total during her 18 years in the House of Representatives.

Clearly the best method an Oregon voter has of grading his Legislators and Congressmen is to first understand the system and then get to know the people well enough to trust them to vote their consciences in the best interests of a basic philosophy -- most of the time.



Well, pardner . . . the Big Jubilee is only four days off, counting today. Are you ready? Got them western duds laid out yet? The fancy shirts . . . the ten-gallon hats . . . bright neckerchiefs and all. And how about that Jubilee button that pins to the left front shirt pocket . . . or wherever.

Hear the Lions Club will have their paddy wagon roaming the streets on the 4th to catch those persons out of uniform. So why not be ready . . . you no doubt will enjoy the celebration a whole lot more if you join in with the theme and spirit of the occassion. The whole passle of events have been planned for only one primary purpose . . . to have a big time in Port Orford over the 4th. And there's been a mighty amount of labor put into the Jubilee for your benefit . . . so plan to enjoy it.

And along with our invitation to enjoy the Jubilee goes just a wee word of caution. As with all events designed to attract crowds, there is an added chance for accidents . . . from increased traffic, and horses, and people, and fireworks, and such. A happy Jubilee will be a safe Jubilee. Do your part, ya'hear!

-P-

Here's another plea . . . if you are planning to enter the parade, flea market, exhibits or have a concession . . . please get your entry blank in as soon as possible (there's one on this page). It'll sure make things run smoother for the Jubilee committee. And at this point they need all the cooperation they can get.

-P-

I was saddened this week with word that Cliff Winningham has passed away at his home in Noti . . . Sunday night.

We join with the rest of his friends here in expressing our deepest sympathies to the family.

LETTERS to the Editor

To the Editor:

Advocates of gun control have attracted a fair amount of attention for their concern in behalf of about 20,000 U. S. civilians killed each year by guns. That's about 55 per day. A better case for all gun control might exist, though, when combat deaths are considered too. If all wars and military engagements this country ever has participated in were going on today, the total daily U. S. combat deaths, together with current civilian gun deaths, would amount to 467 killed per day. One might think the end had come.

However, when this figure is compared with the greatest killer of all -- alcoholism -- one wonders why there isn't any concern about the 400,000 Americans that die annually from this sickness. That's more than 1,100 per day.

Why? Probably because the "powers that be" don't want information put out that might disturb the "system". And when you question a tremendous source of revenue for government and business you'll find many deaf ears in Congress. Alcohol consumption likely will not be outlawed, but a substantial amount can be replaced by something less harmful than smoking cigarettes. Tobacco is addictive; marijuana is not.

If we're concerned about youth, look in any bar on Saturday night and it probably will be packed with young men and women -- future acoholics if they aren't already. If public awareness of the damage by alcohol, by far the greatest killer of all, causes the subsequent legalization of marijuana as a substitute, then this country will have done more for the people on a scale that this or any other country ever has done before.

The Oregon Legislature will consider changes in the law on marijuana in the next session. The question is -- will they deal with it in light of the needs of the people, or the needs of the "system"?

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