

BROOKINGS HARBOR PILOT

THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR CIRCULATION

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Political Pressure Not Needed

HERBERT R. DEWART has submitted his resignation as District Attorney of Curry County. The fact of Mr. Dewart's resignation is a matter of news interest to us.

What has happened, in political circles, since Mr. Dewart's resignation became public, presents a challenge to the citizens of Curry County.

For some years the office of District Attorney of this County has not been noted for its attention to the county's business. In many respects it has been a do nothing office. At times it has been hinted that the office was under the control of one man who exercised his dictatorship through a small political clique. The effect of all of this has not been in the best interests of Curry County.

Recently a murder case was tried in Circuit Court at Gold Beach. The County Court, which has control of the purse strings, went outside the County and employed a special prosecutor. Our County Court authorized the payment of approximately \$2,000.00 of the taxpayer's money to this special prosecutor. It is not here asserted that this special prosecutor was not worth his fee. But why should the taxpayers of this County be compelled to pay such a fee on one hand, while on the other they are paying their District Attorney to do this work?

We understand that a clique of Gold Beach politicians have now blustered into the picture with a candidate to be appointed in the stead of Mr. Dewart. They are busily beating the political bushes, pulling strings and beseeching citizens to endorse this candidate.

The Pilot asks, "Why the great rush?" "What is the reason for this stampede?" "Why cannot the citizens of Curry County be permitted to calmly make up their own minds?" "Why should our judgment be jammed up with a lot of political hocus pokus?"

It is our opinion that any Curry County Attorney who is willing to accept the position of District Attorney should be permitted, without political interference, to make such fact known to the Governor. When the complete list of such attorneys are before the Governor he should be permitted, without political interference, to choose the attorney who, in his opinion, would best serve us in this position. Irrespective of what we say here or what any political clique attempts to do here, we are quite confident that Governor Patterson shall insist upon this or similar procedure.

We do not believe that any person or political clique is going to fool the Governor very much in this matter. After all the governor is an attorney himself, a lawyer of high repute and a recognized leader in his profession. If anyone knows the qualifications of a good District Attorney he does. He should be given a free rein in his appointment and not pestered by a horde of politicians who, by their frenzy, lend the impression that they may possess some selfish interest in the appointment of our District Attorney.

We do not know Governor Patterson personally. We do know of his record since he succeeded Governor McKay. He has made a fine record in his office. He has become one of the outstanding governors of Oregon.

In all kindness to any and all attorneys who are willing to accept this position we suggest that they immediately pull off their enthusiastic friends who are attempting to make a political football out of the office of District Attorney of Curry County. Let all aspirants to this office plead their cause themselves before the Governor. If any attorney is so constituted that he can not so plead his cause what assurance do we have that he could plead the cause of the people if selected as our District Attorney? The appointment of a District Attorney is not a popularity contest. It is a serious matter to all of us. We should choose the best qualified attorney for this position.

Governor Patterson shall name our new District Attorney and we shall have confidence in his choice and shall accept his appointee.

The Pilot has no choice for this office. We merely desire that the best qualified attorney be appointed. However, if we did have a choice we would not attempt to put political pressure upon the Governor for the purpose of having our man appointed. We here hazard the guess that Governor Patterson shall not respond kindly to any political pressure put upon him in this matter. There may be some doubters at this point but the future will probably clear up their doubts.

Local News

Miss Lucille Smythe of Starbrook, Wash., returned to her home on Monday after a two-week visit with her cousin Mrs. Ellis Garcia. Miss Smythe is an employee of the Union Pacific railroad.

A new piece of equipment not

often seen in this country, a hay baler, was sold to Russell White lately by Davis Truck and Tractor. A second machine was sold on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Roy Rouse of Coos Bay visited over the week end with Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Foster at their home on the north bank of the Chetco.

Letter From Washington

By HARRIS ELLSWORTH, M.C.

Figures I have just received, after the passage by the House of all regular appropriations bills except for defense and mutual security, indicate a reduction from the Truman budget by House action of more than 25 per cent. Money requested in the bills acted upon by the House totalled \$19 billion. The House knocked off \$5 billion. If the House does not reduce further the Eisenhower budget figures for mutual security (foreign aid) and for defense, the reduction in those two bills will total another \$7 billion. I would consider it certain that the House will not increase those items.

On the basis of these figures, the original Truman budget will be cut at least 10 billion and possibly as much as 12. It seems that the Congressional objective of balancing appropriations for fiscal year 1954 with estimated income for that year is in sight. I understand, however, that even if Congress does reach this goal there will still be a deficit because actual expenditures previously obligated will run somewhat higher than estimated income.

For several weeks all members of Congress have been receiving vigorous protests from veterans all over the country who anticipated that drastic cuts would be made in appropriations for the Veterans administration. The interest of veterans naturally centered upon the question of money available for medical treatment and hospitalization. Some premature predictions regarding what the Appropriations committee was going to recommend proved to be very inaccurate. The complete and simple truth is that the House passed the bill as reported by the committee — without any material amendments. That bill had the complete endorsement of all of the big veterans organizations. The bill provides for the maintenance of more hospital beds in Veterans administration hospitals than have ever been appropriated before.

The action taken by Justice Douglas of the Supreme Court toward staying the execution of the Rosenbergs created quite a stir

on Capitol Hill. At least one House member, Wheeler of Georgia, felt so deeply about it that he introduced a resolution to impeach Justice Douglas. Several bitterly critical speeches were made on the floor of the House regarding the Douglas action. It is not at all likely, however, that any serious attention will be given the idea of impeachment. After all, Justice Douglas certainly committed no "high crimes or treason" in doing what he did. Then as good lawyers declare his decision to be, it was, nevertheless, within his rights to make it.

The Rosenbergs were convicted under the Espionage Act of 1917 because they betrayed — or at least were found guilty of betraying — atom bomb secrets to Russia in 1944 and 1945. Douglas based his action on a question as to whether or not they should have been tried and sentenced as required in the Atomic Energy


act which was not passed until 1946. Even though I am not a lawyer, it is easy for me to understand that a person cannot be tried for the violation of a law which was not in existence when the alleged crime was committed.

Log Hauling Ban Lift Sat., 27, P.M.


The ban on log hauling for Saturday afternoons is to be lifted this Saturday for the summer.

Many mills are short of logs because of the wet spring and this will enable them to increase their log supply.

For many years, log trucks have been banned from the highways Saturday afternoons and Sundays. The Sunday ban will remain in effect. Both state and county will work together, according to Justice of the Peace Charles Schaal of Harbor.




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