

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles S. Sprague

Political gossip is as wild and as reckless as any other brand. For some weeks there had been quite a buzz in political circles to the effect that Sen. Guy Cordon might resign or not seek reelection in 1948 and that Gov. Snell would succeed him. The gossip was speeded with the setup of Marshall Cornett for president pro tem. In that office he is next in line for the governorship in event of a vacancy, and since Cornett had managed Cordon's campaign, it was easy to conceive a Cordon-to-Snell-to-Cornett play.

The governor punctured the gossip with a brief statement to the effect that there was no such deal, and that he expected Cordon to be a candidate for the senate again in 1948. Cordon also made it clear he had no commitment, that he had made no decision as to his own plans for 1948.

These statements should be taken at full value. Both are men of integrity and good enough politicians to know that political "deals" do not prosper in the climate of Oregon.

There will be strong pressure on Cordon to run again. Business interests depend on him greatly for representation in Washington, and his familiarity with the warrens of federal bureaucracy make his experience of great value. Working in pretty close alignment with the conservative organization, headed by Senator Taft, his influence is greater than may be measured by the publicity he gets. At the same time he may prefer to retire from office to the more lucrative pursuit of law and the representation of private clients.

In the event Cordon did decide not to run again he may be expected that Gov. Snell would seek the office. He has long entertained that ambition, and both his office and his popularity would give him a big headstart. (Continued on Editorial page)

Guns Barred From Georgia Statehouse



TROOPS TURN ARNALL AWAY—ATLANTA, Ga., Jan. 16.—Ellis Arnall (center), claimant to the governorship of Georgia, is turned away from the door of the executive mansion in Atlanta by Sgt. J. Frank Davis and Trooper J. T. Jones of the highway patrol as Arnall sought to enter.—(AP Wirephoto to The Statesman).

Firecracker Explosion Above Arnall's Desk Causes Turmoil

ATLANTA, Jan. 16.—(AP)—Ellis Arnall's contest for the Georgia governorship tonight appeared certain of being prolonged at least until Monday, although the rival claimant, Herman Talmadge, held possession of the gubernatorial chambers at the capitol and the executive mansion in fashionable Ansley park.

Sources close to Lieutenant Governor-Elect M. E. Thompson said Thompson would take the oath of office at 11 a. m. Monday, thus qualifying to succeed Arnall under the latter's resignation filed with Georgia's secretary of state last weekend.

The resignation was to become effective "immediately on qualification of the lieutenant governor." As the dual state administrations neared the close of their second business day, the capitol was thrown briefly into turmoil by the explosion of a firecracker high up in the rotunda above the spot where Arnall established his temporary "office" this morning.

Apparently tossed from an upper floor, the firecracker burst with a terrific report that reverberated through the dome and sent capitol workers scurrying into the corridors. Arnall had just left his desk. No one was injured. An odor of burned powder lingered for some time on the upper floors, but there was no indication who had thrown the firecracker.

Shortly after this incident the Talmadge-appointed adjutant general, Marvin Griffin, issued an order that state guardsmen should not bring rifles into the capitol.

To Break Gun Stocks
I will bust the stock on every gun brought into the statehouse, Griffin declared.

Arnall's move into the rotunda today followed early morning seizure of the executive chambers by Talmadge and his adherents.

Arnall described the tactics there and that the mansion where he later was denied entrance by state patrolmen as "the perfect panzer movement" which gave control to "storm troops." Talmadge declined comment on this reference to his backers.

EXPLOSIONS IN PALESTINE
JERUSALEM, Jan. 16.—(AP)—Several explosions were heard near Hedera in the Palestine coastal plain tonight. There were reports that the military underground telephone cable had been cut, but there was no confirmation and no immediate explanation of the explosions.

Mother of 12 Offers to Sell Eye To Top Bidder to Buy Food

EDINBORO, Pa., Jan. 16.—(AP)—An impoverished 51-year-old mother of 12 children hopefully offered today to sell one of her eyes "to the highest bidder" so she could give her youngsters "proper food and a good home." To complete the bargain, said grey-haired Mrs. Marie Didion, she would give the "buyer" her other eye at her death "in return for future security."

She explained she is concerned over her younger children, four of whom are between seven and 15. The others are grown, but since they also have large families they are unable to assist her.

Mrs. Didion's husband, William, a carpenter, suffers from asthma and bronchitis and cannot work steadily. She said her only other income is an allotment from a son in the navy. Following a recent operation she

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Bill for Schools Entered

Moves to apportion school support funds and tighten laws governing drivers' licenses topped introductions in the house Thursday, while the tax front was enlivened by a statement from Gov. Earl Snell that if the legislature didn't like his fund-transfer plan it could either find other revenue sources or cut the budget.

The governor's statement—which followed vocal objections to his program of placing corporate excise taxes in the general fund—preceded comparatively quiet sessions of both the senate and house. The latter, after voting to ask congress not to increase Bonneville power rates, congratulating Rep. Lyle Thomas on his birthday and taking 11 new measures under consideration, promptly adjourned until 11 a. m. Monday.

The senate, which spent most of its short sessions Thursday on minor proposals, was given bills to amend the apprenticeship council, amend insurance laws, provide for seizure of insecticides and give the supreme court powers over lower tribunals made up of most of the senate's new introductions.

The house, suspending rules to speed several new measures into committees, also was given a joint resolution (HJR 3) by Rep. Manlet Wilson providing that a two-thirds vote in both the house and senate (instead of a mere majority) would be necessary for passage of any legislation carrying an emergency clause (making it effective immediately). The resolution, if passed, will be subject to referendum.

More Funds Sought
The restoration fund, under HB 8 would be augmented by \$100,000 annually, instead of \$50,000, until a reserve of \$1,000,000 is reached. Sponsors said the \$50,000 was insufficient for proper state protection.

Other new introductions in the house Thursday provided: That county courts may not fill vacancies in the legislature if there is an election between the time the vacancy occurs and the next legislative session. (Sponsors said that being able to write "incumbent" on the ballot gave an unfair advantage to appointees who had not yet served.)

That physicians report cases of epilepsy or similar ailment to the secretary of state for consideration in issuing drivers' licenses.

That the secretary of state may cancel driving licenses of persons who give incorrect information on their applications or otherwise perpetrate fraud.

Emergency Recognized
Provisions to take care of such conditions as pertained when the Salem school district took in several score pupils from the farm labor camp were contained in the school apportionment bill introduced in the house.

The bill, drawn from the committee on education, provides that any participating district may apply for part of a \$400,000 emergency fund to care for the education of children not within the district's jurisdiction.

The bill also provides for \$100,000 a year administration, \$450 per teacher, 10c a day for resident pupils (or 5c a day if attendance falls below 2800 days annually for each teacher employed), 10c a day per pupil for whom non-participating districts pay tuition, 1c a mile for pupil transportation.

Standards Necessary
In lump sums, sponsors said the bill provided for \$7,000,000 on a teacher-pupil basis, \$6,000,000 on basis of need, and \$1,000,000 for transportation.

Requirements for district participation include maintaining standards and a combined school tax levy equivalent of at least 7 mills.

In his statement on his budget program, Gov. Snell declared it was proper to transfer corporate excise taxes to the general fund, and that:

"The whole question hinges on whether we to balance the budget or do not have one. Shall we use these revenues now and balance the budget? Or is it the legislature's desire to proceed with a deficit and use the \$6,000,000 later. . . . As mentioned in my message, additional revenues for the future obviously will be necessary if we are to meet the increasing demands, but such procedure does not balance the budget now."

Sessions to Start at 11
The senate will take up at 9 a. m. today, but starting next day, both houses will meet daily at 11.

Rep. John Hall of Portland, speaker of the house, said Thursday he did not anticipate a long session nor as many bills as were introduced two years ago. Senate President Marshall Cornett, however, foresaw no decrease in measures to be considered. (Additional stories on page 8)

Army, Navy Back Modified Plan for Military Merger

Socialist President Of France

By Robert C. Wilson
PARIS, Jan. 16.—(AP)—Socialist Vincent Auriol was elected first president of the new-born fourth republic at Versailles today by an almost exclusively communist and socialist vote. He was escorted to Paris with all the fanfare of pre-war France, watched in silence by thousands along the Champs Elysees.

The 62-year-old "peacemaker" of French politics was elected with 452 ballots, 10 more than the required absolute majority of the 883 votes cast by the combined houses of parliament. The margin was provided by 10 socialist and communist delegates who arrived in Paris from French West Africa only a few hours before.

Aides of short, bespectacled Auriol, who rode into French politics on a bicycle in 1914, predicted that a cabinet would be set up "within the next three days." He scheduled conferences with Communist Leaders Jacques Duclos and Maurice Thorez for tomorrow morning.

His first task is to nominate a premier to form a cabinet, and the aides said his choice will probably be his close friend, the veteran Socialist Leon Blum, who submitted his resignation to Auriol as president-premier of the interim government.

There were three other candidates. They were the centrist Catholic M. R. August Champetier de Ribes, who polled 242 votes; Jules Gasser of the radical-socialists who received 122, and Michel Clemenceau, of the rightist PRL, who got 60. There were an additional seven scattered ballots.

C. W. Chambers Appointed Tax Commissioner

County Judge Carl W. Chambers of Umatilla county was appointed state tax commissioner Thursday to succeed the late C. A. A. Hanna. His term expires in four years. The governor, secretary of state and state treasurer made the appointment.

Chambers will head the utilities division of the three-man tax commission. He is chairman of the state tax study commission, has been a county judge since 1938, and has served as president of the Association of Oregon Counties.

Living Costs Take Tumble

By the Associated Press
Increasing supplies of foods and other essential commodities, backed by mounting consumer resistance, dragged the high-cost-of-living balloon closer to earth yesterday.

Lower prices for wheat, cotton, oats, cattle, butter, eggs and poultry accented a downturn for food prices under way for more than a month.

Industrial raw materials also developed, including silver, hides and wools.

New York City A & P food stores reduced butter one cent a pound. The wholesale market dropped 2 to 2½ cents a pound, piling up losses for the last three weeks to around 20 cents and for this week alone 8 to 9 cents.

Some grades of poultry again declined at New York, putting losses for the last months at from 15 to 20 cents a pound. Eggs also slipped.

British Strike Crisis Solved
LONDON, Jan. 16.—(AP)—Leaders of Britain's unauthorized truck strike called off the walkout amid indications of a major victory for their followers today, ending on its 11th day the country's most serious domestic crisis since labor came to power.

Philippine Volcano Erupts



MANILA, Jan. 16.—Smoke pours from the crater of Mount Mayon near Legaspi in the Philippine's southern Luzon. The day after this aerial picture was made, the top blew off the peak. (AP Wirephoto to The Statesman).

Mayon Volcano Renews Activity

MANILA, Friday, Jan. 17.—(AP)—The steamer Fairland, radioed today that Mayon volcano was in "violent eruption" and hurling lava and rock thousands of feet into the air.

The Fairland, anchored at Legaspi eight miles from the huge volcano, said a giant smoke column extended miles above the peak and gusts of gas and smoke issued from the summit every few seconds.

The steamer's message reported the flying rock and lava "naked plainly visible with the bare eye from our berth."

Silverton Phone Rate Increase Granted by Flag

An increase of rates for the Interurban Telephone company of Silverton was authorized by the Public Utilities Commissioner George H. Flagg Thursday.

The approved new rates permit an increase in telephone rates for primary station service at \$1.50 per month on business phones and \$1 per month on residence telephones, an adjustment in rates for telephones and an adjustment in rates for supplementary services.

The company's petition for the rate increase stated that its operating expenses had climbed recently due to wage adjustments for employees.

Weather

	Max.	Min.	Precip.
Salem	43	21	.00
Portland	41	21	.00
San Francisco	53	34	.00
Chicago	32	24	trace
New York	48	28	.11

Willamette river 1 foot
FORECAST (from U.S. weather bureau)
Clear, with occasional light clouds today with occasional light rain. High temperature today 44. Lowest tonight 34.

Planners Ask Right-of-Way on Fairgrounds Road Widened

By Ed Lewis
Staff Writer, The Statesman
Extending setback lines on Fairgrounds road from the present 60 to 100 feet was considered along with rezoning petitions, new Salem subdivisions and requests to change the names of streets by the city planning and zoning commission at last night's meeting.

Recommendation by the chamber of commerce long range planning commission to extend the Fairgrounds road right-of-way was tabled until the city commission's chairman, Hedda Swart, also a member of the long range, can confer with the chamber of commerce body on proposed means of establishing the setback lines.

An application by Walter Stevens for rezoning to locate a trailer camp on Leslie street, between 12th and 13th, was sent to the city council with the commission's recommendation for approval. Stevens said he planned to begin construction in the spring. Tentative approval was given and public hearings were set for 7:30 p. m. February 11 in the city recorder's office for requests for rezoning to allow Dwight I. George to construct a machine shop at the southwest corner of 13th and Oxford streets and to allow Charles Sanders to construct a self-service laundry at the northwest corner of Liberty and Jefferson streets.

George said that he planned to have his shop and equipment, valued at approximately \$20,000, complete in about three months. The commission recommended the city council deny a petition by Joe E. DeWitt to construct a delicatessen at Capitol and Nebraska streets. A petition was presented with signatures of numerous property owners in the area who protested the zone change. (Additional details on page 2.)

Proposes Separate Air Force

By William R. Spear
WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—(AP)—A compromise plan designed to unify the armed services while retaining their separate administration and military leadership was announced tonight by President Truman with the blessing of both the army and navy.

It would create a separate air force and place a new secretary of national defense in over-all charge of it, the army and navy. Each of the three services would have secretaries, too, who may be cabinet members.

Merger in Brief

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—(AP)—The new administration plan for unifying the army and navy provides for:

- A separate air force, on an equal footing with the army and navy.
- A new "secretary of national defense" in the cabinet with over-all charge of the three services.
- Separate departments of the army, navy and air force. Each would be headed by a secretary having direct access to the president. These secretaries also may be cabinet members.
- The navy keeps its marine corps and its own aviation, but must coordinate its air operations with the separate air force.
- Each of three services will have its own military chief. No provision is made for an overall military chief. These three, plus the president's chief of staff when he has one, will comprise the joint chiefs of staff.

ices and programs for the three arms. But each department would be administered as a unit.

Moreover each service would have its own military chief, with no over-all secretary of defense as proposed in previous merger plans. The navy would keep its marine corps and its land-based aviation, both fighting and transport. Other concessions to the navy also are contained in the plan.

Congressmen and senators of both parties immediately applauded it. The republican chairmen of the senate and house armed forces committees predicted early passage of the necessary law.

Some legislators warily said they wanted to see details before committing themselves and one—Senator Robertson—(R-Wyo) said some parts of the plan seemed "loosely drawn."

Secretary Status Vague

The matter of cabinet status for the three secretaries of army, navy and air was left up in the air in the White House announcement. Senators Robertson (R-Wyo) and Russell (D-Ga.), who received an outline of the plan in advance, got the impression that the three would be cabinet officers along with the secretary of defense.

The president had urged unification in his state of the union message as an economy measure, but he made no mention of economy in a letter to Secretary of War Forrestal and Secretary of the Navy Forrestal congratulating them upon their agreement.

Additional details will be made available by army and navy officials at a news conference at the White House tomorrow morning.

Wary Legislators Buy Escape Rope

Sale of rope in Salem streets has taken a sudden upward trend. Several legislators and lobbyists occupying upstairs rooms in Salem hotels, rooming houses and private dwellings during the current legislative session, were reported to have purchased quantities of rope for use as improvised fire escapes.

The Oregon Budget And How It Is Made

For a simple analysis of the state budget and the problems that arise in bringing revenues into balance with appropriations, see the editorial on page 4 of today's Statesman.

Weatherman States Freeze To End Today

The big freeze is over, McNary field weather station forecasts. A 34 degree minimum temperature is forecast for tonight and today's high is to be 44 degrees.

Little change in temperatures are predicted for western sections of Oregon, while the eastern part of the state grows warmer with Salem.

The thermometer began crawling upward yesterday, with the lowest reading in the state below one below zero. The other minimums were higher than the preceding day, though still well below freezing: Baker 6, Meacham 11, Pendleton 22, Eugene and Portland 22, Medford 18, Roseburg 25, North Bend and Newport 32.

The state highway commission yesterday reported icy or snow-packed roads over many parts of Oregon.

Thursday's road report: Government Camp — 21 degrees, overcast. 30 inches road-side snow. Packed snow throughout district, roads being sanded.

Odell Lake, Willamette highway — 12 degrees, clear. Packed snow throughout, has been sanded.

Oregon Coast highway — One-way traffic because of slides near Florence, Manzanita, Gardiner and Yachats.

West Salem Residents Asked to Detain Vandals

Because of recent complaints of damage and nuisances caused by juvenile vandals in West Salem, Police Chief W. H. Porter issued an order Thursday urging citizens to catch and hold for police anyone caught destroying property or creating a disturbance.

Animal Crackers



"Lefty got a parole."