

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Equalizing Rainfall

The Astorian-Budget takes notes of the passage-at-telegrams of Mr. Gus Blackman, secretary of the Salt Lake City chamber of commerce, and Mr. E. H. Walker, secretary of the Reno, Nevada, chamber. Blackman wired Walker: "Kindly stop milking our clouds," in protest against artificial rain-making in Nevada; and Walker retorted by telling Blackman to go jump in his lake. This is where the A-B comes in with an offer to supply plenty of clouds both for Reno and Salt Lake City. All that is needed, says the Astoria paper, is for "some smart scientist to figure out a way of deversing this dry ice-precipitation idea, so that regions blessed with abundant precipitation could send the clouds on to regions where a little more rain would be appreciated."

And this Willamette valley, having been drenched for days from low-rolling clouds, is ready to supplement the Astoria offer and subsidize the inventor.

Geologists tell us that once the region behind the Cascades was well watered, and the Great Salt Lake was once far more extensive than it is now. Then came the uplift of the mountain ranges whose altitude chilled the clouds and forced them to unload their rain chiefly on the western slopes. Obviously one remedy would be to saw off the tops of the mountains, but not even Paul Bunyan with an atomic razor would attempt such a big job. What is required is some chemical dosage that will give clouds greater carrying capacity at low temperatures. If we can only get them over the humps of the mountains both sides will be benefitted and Salt Lake City will not have to seek its threatened injunction against Reno.

If dry ice condenses the vapors and precipitates rain perhaps the 1948 political hot air, deflected upward would expand them and equalize the rainfall on both sides of the ranges.

Congress and ERP

Senator Vandenberg fortunately succeeded in inducing the administration to withdraw its demand that congress commit itself to a 17 billion, four-year program for European recovery. He pointed out that changing conditions might alter the amounts required, and that one congress could not well bind a succeeding congress. Senator Vandenberg said he would approve authorizing a plan for four years leaving each congress to determine the amount to be expended.

This agreement will remove one objection that has been raised in congress and out. It will leave congress free to make annual decisions which would be governed by Europe's showing of need, response to previous grants, and our own domestic situation.

The immediate questions before congress are authorization of a program of aid to extend over four years, and appropriation of money for the first year. The administration is asking for \$6.8 billion, but this sum is meeting with protests from economy-minded republicans. Vandenberg has reserved his decision until the evidence is in. Full hearings are promised so that congress and the general public may be fully informed.

Certain complications threaten. Congressman Herter wants to tie in aid to China with the Marshall plan. Others want to require Europe to ship us essential materials for stockpiling. Others want to tie strings in the way of conditions foreign governments must meet. There is debate also over who shall administer the program and how it shall be handled.

In the end congress will approve the plan — it has too much weight both of authority and of public support to be rejected — and the real fight will arise over the provisions cited above. It would be a mistake to compromise the plan with amendments humiliating to other governments or crippling to its efficient operation. Probably most of these attempts will be beaten off, but not without a fight. It is too much to expect the present congress to adopt the plan without squawking and haggling.

Fund Campaigns in Offices, Schools

The state board of control has limited general solicitation of state employees to two campaigns, the American Red Cross and the Community Chest. This ruling is made in full recognition of the fact that other causes are worthy, but is justified because too many campaigns disorganize the work of departments. The two approved are the two general campaigns of widest public interest and support.

In the past this paper has had complaints of campaigns within the schools, with criticism that pressures were applied or discrimination made against those who gave little or nothing. This surely is not in the spirit of the charities which are sponsored. Giving among students should be voluntary not forced. And there too the school authorities must limit the appeals that may be made, the two approved by the state board of control certainly being made eligible for school recognition.

There is real educational value in these solicitations within the schools, acquainting youngsters with the needs of others and with the duty of sharing to meet those needs. They thus are educated to the working of community organization for community objectives. And the schools get to feel themselves a part of community life as they participate. However the campaigns should be free from pressures and restricted in number, and certainly no child failing to contribute should be put to any shame.

It Should Be Honorably Buried

If Oregon isn't ready to put up \$50 to \$100 million dollars, it might as well quite yapping about our revered battleship. Certainly we'd like to have it back. It was part of our state lore, from the battle of Santiago to World War II. But we have no reason to doubt Rep. Angell's word that its reconditioning would cost more than a new vessel.

Also, the navy says it is not practicable to bring the hull to Portland from Guam. And as far as we are concerned, we would prefer not to have it back if we couldn't restore it to its former glory.

The Battleship Oregon was completely dismantled for scrap iron early in World War II, so far as its superstructure and equipment were concerned. The bare hull was towed to Guam for emergency efforts to block harbors which Japanese might seek to enter. But it never was needed. Now, its usefulness gone, it lies rusting on a faraway beach.

Rather than attempt the hopeless — its restoration and return — we'd like to see it towed to sea, if only a few hundred yards, where it could sink beneath the waves about which it once towered so majestically. It deserves a better fate, by far, than the junk-yard of derelicts. Let's ask the navy to bury it with ceremonies befitting a beloved.

All this furore about the poor homeless Portland baseball team is a pain in the clavicle. Vaughn street park was condemned and so what? So it'll either be repaired or a new one built or both. Portland won't do without its baseball under any circumstances — but if the Beavers don't give better breaks to their Salem offspring in the Western International League than they did at times last year, we won't care what happens to the down-river club owners.

Anyway, we don't have to wait for spring for that flowers-tra-la song.

Petitions Ask Roads Oiled in South Marion

Petitions asking that 18 roads in southern Marion county be oiled next summer were aired before Marion county court members here Wednesday while roads near Salem will be considered today by the court.

The approximately 200 petitioners who appeared Wednesday were not as numerous as the 300 who came Tuesday, but the court expects the final session today to attract another large crowd.

Roads within a two-mile radius of the Salem city limits will take the spotlight this morning in the courthouse as petitioners seek to place them on the county's road oiling program next summer. Petitions now total nearly 300 miles of road, while Marion County Judge Grant Murphy warned that the county could oil only about 25 miles of road this summer.

Petitioner's arguments Wednesday ran about the same as in preceding hearings. All who appeared agreed that their particular roads need oiling above all others. Some even pointed out, at in the case of county road 808 (Crosian road) that the school buses refused to travel on them, while others, including the Lardon road mentioned that many families worked elsewhere and thus created a traffic problem.

An unexpected petition was heard when petitioners seeking improvements for the Turner-Aumsville paved road presented their arguments to the court, which took them under advisement.

Delmer Earl Barham of Aumsville, spokesman for the petitioners, noted that the road served between 500 and 1,000 families and included two milk routes, two rural mail routes and three schools. In asking that the road be widened by at least four feet and straightened in certain spots, Barham said that by next school year five school buses would be using the road.

Elkhorn Area Bailey Bridge Open to Traffic

The mountain country near Elkhorn is open to traffic again following completion of a new span at the Lunker bridge, crossing of the Little North Fork of the Santiam Wednesday.

A 140-foot steel Bailey bridge, borrowed from the state, was assembled by a county crew in emergency time after the old wooden bridge crashed beneath a log truck a week ago Tuesday.

The new bridge, however, is open to auto and light truck travel only and heavier vehicles are barred until a load limit can be ascertained. Ted Kuenzi, county bridge foreman, who directed the assembling of the new bridge, said Wednesday night.

One-way traffic only is permitted by the bridge which is only 10 feet 9 inches wide at road level. The county will construct its own new bridge around the temporary structure. The state bridge can be used by the county until April.

State Employees Protest Ruling On Insurance

The Oregon State Employees association, through Forrest Stuart, secretary, announced Wednesday it would file a protest against action of the state highway commission at its December meeting refusing to make payroll deductions for the association's group life insurance program.

Association officials said the commission's action would deprive highway department employees of low cost insurance protection for their families.

"The association does not believe there was any intent on the part of the commission to injure its employees," Stuart said, "and we will ask that it reconsider its decision at a future meeting."

Further charge was made in a statement released by Stuart that the commission, at the same meeting, refused to consider a recommended increase of 6 cents an hour for hourly paid employees. The association contends the present wage scale for hourly workers is below that paid in private industry.

Men Confess Brooks Theft

Burglary of the Ramp and White store at Brooks on the night of December 28 has been solved with the recent arrest of two men in Port Angeles, Wash. Marion County Sheriff Denver Young reported Wednesday.

The Port Angeles sheriff told Young that William Kirkham and Arthur Rhodes confessed to the Brooks burglary of several pounds of meat, a case of butter, two cases of beer and a market basket.

He declared that a charge of burglary will be filed here against the men and detainer placed on them in Washington. The pair were traced to Washington when Sheriff Young learned they had sold a chain drag saw to a Woodburn implement dealer last month. Upon apprehension by Port Angeles authorities the men confessed to stealing the saw there, Sheriff Young said.



'Box Cars!'

Jews Hurl Bombs at Crowded Jerusalem Jaffa Gate; 18 Killed

JERUSALEM, Jan. 7.—(AP)—Jews disguised in blue caps of the Palestine police and driving a stolen armored car hurled two bombs today into Arab crowds at ancient Jaffa gate and a nearby street intersection.

Eighteen persons were killed. Fourteen Arabs died at the gate and three Jews and one Arab were killed at the street intersection.

Two of the Jewish bombers were slain by British police bullets as they sought to escape over the stone wall of an old Moslem cemetery after the second bomb explosion.

The bomb attacks and other violence brought to 622 the number of deaths since the November 29 decision by the United Nations to partition Palestine.

It was the third time in four weeks that the Jews have bombed the Arab-guarded gates of the old walled city in Jerusalem, where 1,500 orthodox Jews, cut off from the rest of their kinsmen, have been waging snipers' duels with Arab riflemen.

In a statement tonight Irqun Zvi Leumi, Jewish extremist underground organization, said the bomb was hurled at the Jaffa gate today in an effort to smash the guard and get additional supplies to the Jews.

The two previous attacks occurred at Damascus gate, one of the northern entrances to the Walled city. Jaffa gate is on the west.

Two British policemen were wounded by machine gun fire from the armored car as the Jews raced through the crowded Arab quarter to the corner of Mamilla and Julian Way, about a fourth-mile west of Jaffa gate, in their attempt to escape.

Many injured. An official announcement said that in addition to those killed, 42 other persons were injured from the bombs and gunfire. One of the Arab dead was a policeman who had been decorated by the British.

The roar of the double explosion and the rising column of smoke from the gate zone touched off a half hour of sporadic firing between the old city and the modern city, from Montefiore ghetto district.

GRIN AND BEAR IT By Lichty



'I say it's high time they reduced taxes, Snodgrass — why, half the time we're slaving for the government!'

Group to Hear New Willamette Valley Project

The modified program for multiple development of the authorized Willamette valley project will be discussed at 10 a. m. today in Salem Chamber of Commerce rooms before a meeting of the Columbia Basin Inter-Agency committee.

Representatives of the corps of engineers will explain provisions of the review report in which Colonel Theron D. Weaver, North Pacific division engineer, disclosed a plan Tuesday for expanding the project to \$406,598,000 system of flood control and related facilities.

In developing plans for water use in the Pacific Northwest, the Inter-Agency committee is providing means for effective compliance with provisions of the 1944 flood control act and 1945 harbor act, Colonel Weaver explained. The acts require participation of the affected states of their region in development of plans for multiple-purpose water-use projects. Member states include, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah and Nevada.

6 Per Cent of Workers in State Jobless

Six per cent of Oregon workers covered by unemployment compensation are now without jobs, but this seasonal high rate is expected to drop to 2 per cent by summer, it was estimated Wednesday by unemployment compensation commission representatives in Salem.

Although nine local employment offices including Salem, Dallas and Albany, paid more jobless benefits during 1947 than in 1946, the state totals show a decline from \$16,969,748 paid in 1946 (when many former shipyard workers received benefits) to \$7,752,525 last year. Shortened cannery seasons accounted for the local increase.

Completed figures show that while the \$1,035,370 total of unemployment compensation paid to Marion county's jobless during 1947 was 5 per cent higher than for 1946, nevertheless veterans' benefit payments were down 20 per cent.

The state unemployment compensation commission, in reporting the annual statistics Wednesday, said that of the 1947 total unemployment payments, \$424,815 was for veterans' readjustment allowances while \$610,755 went to civilians. In 1946 the total civilian load amounted to 35 per cent less. Of last year's veterans' payments, \$229,982 was paid in the first three months while \$40,071 were paid in December as compared with \$39,568 for December of 1946. The \$102,266 civilian load for last month was over four times more than the \$25,258 paid out in December of 1946.

333 Enrolled at Klamath School

KLAMATH FALLS, Jan. 7.—(AP)—Enrollment at the new Oregon vocational school here is 333, with 63 newcomers on the books at resumption of classes after the holidays.

Newcomers were reported arriving regularly and inquiries are heavy.

Clock and watchmaking and medical technology, new classes, are popular, with a waiting list established for the clock and watchmaking course. Classes were resumed Monday.

MATTER OF FACT Marshall, Vandenberg May Employ 'Virtuous Blackmail' to Pass ERP

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop
WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—At the commencement of the most important congressional session in history, two men seem somehow larger than any others in the rather stunted throng. George C. Marshall and Arthur H. Vandenberg stand out, for the simple reason that the secretary of state and the Michigan senator now stand above politics.

On them, in a quite liberal sense, depends the future of the European recovery program, and therefore the future of this country and of the free world.

In the gloomy, gressional forecasts of con- on the European recovery program, one major point has been overlooked. A public man who stands above politics enjoys a quite unusual power of what may be called virtuous blackmail over his colleagues down in the political mire. Two public men, both standing above politics, and acting together, can wield persuasions strong enough to re-

duce all the Speaker Martins, Representative Browns and Senator Wherrys to a condition of happy pliability. Disinterestedness is so rare a quality that it justly has its special perquisites.

The real question is not whether Marshall and Vandenberg (who must be the protagonists) are able to get the European recovery program through congress. The question is, rather, whether they are prepared to employ these strong persuasions, which must be their chief weapon in dealing with those who will not listen to reason. The signs suggest that they are so prepared.

Regards Fight as Showdown From those close to Secretary Marshall, authoritative word has come that he regards the fight ahead as the final showdown. If the European recovery program is even dangerously reduced or restricted, he has privately said that he would not be responsible for the consequences. The indications are that he means to tell the senators and representatives as such, and couch the information in the bluntest language. There is even a chance that this public warning will be unconventionally supplemented in a private manner.

It is Secretary Marshall's known conviction that a reduced or restricted ERP will defeat the aims of American foreign policy, and bring disaster to the world. There is no reason why he should remain silently in office, presiding over a disaster against which he has warned. And there is equally no reason why these rather pertinent facts should not be made to penetrate even the most impenetrable congressional skulls.

The effect of such a move can be easily imagined. Perhaps Henry Agard Wallace, mooning among his fellow travellers, and the song-bird Sen. Glenn Taylor of Idaho may be exceptions. But there are no other American politicians, even among the most extreme isolationists, who would care to have Secretary Marshall pin upon them and their friends the public responsibility for disaster to the United States. If they fear any such result as that, they are likely to come around.

Vandenberg Position Complex As for Senator Vandenberg, his position is more complex: Today, he stands above politics. But he is still, by origin and training, a leader of the republican party. His isolationist republican colleagues are hard at work to make this conflict within Vandenberg operate in their favor. Not long ago, a semi-formal deputation of several senators waited upon him for this purpose, headed by Senator C. Wayland Brooks of Illinois. It must have amused Vandenberg to have Col. Robert R. McCormick's peculiar protege asking him for terms, considering that Brooks' master long ago relegated Vandenberg in the rather numerous and distinguished Benedict Arnold class.

Vandenberg made no terms with Brooks. But neither did he give him the rude answer he deserved. The reason was the special, and extremely astute, strategy.

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gy Vandenberg has adopted for the big fight. On the one hand, in accordance with this strategy he will retain his independence of the administration in order to retain his authority in his party. But on the other hand, he will not yield on matters of substantive principle.

This is the explanation of his reference of the ERP administrative problem to the Brookings Institution. This also explains his shrewd change in the language of the bill, so that a continuing ERP is authorized without specifying the sum of \$17 billions for four years, which may be more or less than enough. These are sound moves, and indicative of independence as well. By such careful planning, Vandenberg hopes to secure another unanimous report of his committee; and then, on the senate floor, will come the time to be unyielding.

Both Men Resolved If he is firm, his strength will be hardly less than Secretary Marshall's. He too believes that the future of the country and the world depends upon the outcome; he can hardly be less than firm, considering his character.

Firmness may probably be required. There is every indication that Sen. Robert A. Taft, of Ohio, will at last come to an open breach with his co-leader on this great issue, which has stirred a renewed surge of the old isolationism in the Taft bosom. A great many republicans would like to follow Taft. But the rank and file are beginning to feel healthy doubts about the election outcome. They will hardly dare to flock to the Taft standard if this means a great fight within the party, and acceptance of the isolationist tag from Vandenberg's own hands. If this occurs, it will not be the first time the world has had reason to be grateful for the blackmail of virtue upon one.

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County Current Assets High

Marion county's current assets are now over the \$3,000,000 mark — highest in the county's history — County Treasurer S. J. Butler said Wednesday.

Although assets as reported for the month ending December 31 amounted to only \$2,796,268 (about \$1,000 less than for December, 1946) Butler said that asset turnovers boosted the assets account to its present peak.

Butler's report for the end of the year showed \$266,685 in the courthouse construction fund, \$508,181 in the county general fund and \$335,409 in the general fund.

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