

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY
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Member of the Associated Press

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Straus Under Attack

While congress at the special session made heavy supplemental appropriations for reclamation projects it did so in spite of rather than because of the leadership in the bureau. A close fight is developing against Michael Straus, director of the bureau, and even extends up to J. A. Krug, secretary of the interior. The drive against Straus is based in part on distrust of his management of the bureau, such as was expressed in accusations that he expedited spending of appropriations instead of spreading expenditures over the fiscal year.

The attack on Straus comes not only from conservative republicans but also from some reclamationists who collided with him on the question of the interest component on power projects. Now a frontal attack on Straus and the bureau has been launched by Senator Downey of California. Downey was elected as a new dealer, but his first loyalty is to California and he bitterly opposes the bureau's support of the 160-acre limitation for watering lands under the Central Valley project. He has written and published a book "They Would Rule the Valley," in which he charges the bureau with spending public money in "corrupt propaganda." He made a further attack on the bureau in a speech before the Commonwealth club in San Francisco, accusing it of playing politics with Central Valley funds.

Straus is a new deal favorite who was not a career man in the reclamation bureau, and as he was sympathetic with the "power" politics of Ickes and Abe Fortas he has incurred heavy opposition. In the case of the Central Valley project the big landowners want the 160-acre limitation lifted, but so far have not been able to get congress to enact the legislation. Straus isn't the only one who stands by the principle of acreage limitation. The Statesman has felt it would be better for California to have the huge land holdings broken up, but recognizes that application of the limit there runs into very serious difficulties.

With Downey and a lot of others gunning for Straus the latter may be in for a difficult time to hold his job; and if Krug resigns as he is said to be considering, Straus would hardly tarry long with the bureau.

Anderson Asks for Meat Controls

What worries Washington politicians isn't so much money as meat. They are afraid of times this year when meat counters will be almost bare of fresh meat, as they were many times during the war. The reason is that the pressure for saving grain for export rather than feeding it to livestock, plus the attractive price for hogs and cattle prompted early marketing of meat animals. Fewer hogs will be shipped to market this spring and they will be lighter in weight. Cattle too will not be finished off in feedlots in the cornbelt as is customary and there are fewer cattle on the farms. Government officials are concerned over public reaction if meat becomes very scarce and very dear.

This is the reason that Secretary Anderson of the department of agriculture asks for power to control the wholesale price of meat and authority to impose meat rationing. Senator Flinders who sits on the republican side of the senate has a bill which would permit the setting up of machinery for rationing but would require additional legislation to put it into effect.

Anderson believes that control of retail prices would not be necessary if the price at wholesale could be regulated. In this he is far too optimistic, unless rationing goes in at the same time. Otherwise with short supply the retailer will be able to charge what the public is willing to pay.

The attitude of congress is hostile to controls and rationing. Senators and congressmen from livestock producing states are for the most part strongly opposed—even Senator Morse protests meat rationing if no bribe is put on distribution of industrial goods like steel. At present the outlook is for the issue to be sidestepped by congress, leaving the country to muddle through. But bare counters in meat stalls can touch off a housewives' agitation that may force rationing later on.

Munitions to Palestine

Authorities on the east coast have seized quantities of TNT and other munitions of war which were being shipped to Palestine, presumably for the arming of the Jews. Some of the material had come from our own government war surplus. Just what laws are being violated we do not know. TNT is bad stuff to be shipped around without proper identification, and perhaps the manner rather than the fact of shipping drew the heavy hand of the law.

A lot of shooting and bombing is going on in Palestine, with both Jews and Arabs shooting and being shot. A theoretical solution might be to shut off the flow of munitions but practically that is impossible. As soon as the country is partitioned and new governments set up, each state as a sovereign will be privileged to buy and import war supplies. The situation there is deplorable, and about the first thing the UN special commission should do is to call on the security council for a detail of troops to keep order. Lacking that Palestine will be a running wound for years.

Ocean Barge Hauls Oil

Barge shipment of petroleum products from California to Coos Bay was undertaken last week successfully. A barge, 195 ft. long, with 40 ft. beam hauled 500,000 gallons of oil and gasoline up the coast, propelled by a 1200 h.p. tugboat. The run was experimental, to see if barge transportation on the ocean was practical. Success of the trial may lead to development of this means of hauling petroleum products, which is common on inland waters.

Tankers are usually employed for ocean shipments of oil and gasoline, but the barge deal is far more economical both in the original investment and in operating costs. There is always the danger however of running into a storm and having the barge break loose from its tugboat. If further trials prove satisfactory we may have a shift to barge movement along the coast.

Editorial Comment

From Our Contemporaries

SNOWBIRD

Just why the Snowbird should be called a Junco nobody seems to know; but Junco is the scientific name and is more and more used as the common name. Even the ornithologists hesitate before they say that the Latin word for "snow" is "junco"; the Snowbird eats quantities of weed seed, therefore Junco is a logical name.

Anyway, there is the Snowbird, or Junco, in dark gray full dress and white bosom, his tails neatly piped in white. He is beautiful against a snowy background, and while one hesitates to suggest that his esthetic sense dominates his habits, he certainly thrives in snow country. Sometimes it seems that it takes a snowstorm to bring the Snowbirds, for they come wheeling in flocks as a storm approaches. Give them any encouragement in the form of grain or crumbs, and they will remain, almost as tame as the chickadees.

Technically, they are of the same family as the sparrows. This is easy to believe when one sees and recognizes the young Snowbirds, for they are dressed in juvenile plumage that looks, at a glance, like that of the adult song sparrow, streaked and speckled. And the adults have a little song that reminds one of the more melodious of the sparrows, the trill a good deal like that of the chipping sparrow. Never is it a loud song, and sometimes it is elaborated into a soft warble that has echoes of the song sparrow's best melody.

It would be all very well to call the Snowbird a Junco in summer. But in winter the name has no color at all, no matter what its derivation. In winter it is a Snowbird, and that's all there is to it.—New York Times.

State Holstein Association to Meet in Salem

Oregon Holstein breeders and dairymen will meet Thursday at Salem for the annual session of the Oregon State Holstein association. On hand for the one-day event will be Glen M. Householder, Brattleboro, Vt., director of extension for the Holstein-Friesian association of America. This will be his first appearance at an annual state meeting in Oregon.

R. E. Everett, Seattle livestock exporter, will discuss with breeders the possibility for a Holstein consignment sale at Portland, possibly early in April. Other program speakers will include H. Allen Shumate, an association fieldman from Helena, Mont., Iver Youngquist, national director, Bow, Wash., and representatives of the OSC dairy department.

A program to be adopted for the coming year is expected to include publication of a breeders' directory, group herd classification, state association membership and support of a junior dairy program.

Election of officers and nomination of national convention delegates will complete the session. Persons interested in Holstein cattle are being invited to attend, says Randall E. Grimes, Harrisburg, secretary. A. W. Lindow, Portland, will be the chairman.

Dairymen Told Buffer Zones Check Disease

ASTORIA, Jan. 13.—(AP)—The American dairy animals are in no immediate danger of "hoof and mouth" infection from Mexican sources, Dr. B. T. Simms, U. S. department of agriculture spokesman, told the 34th convention of the Oregon Dairymen's association here today.

Dr. Simms said the Mexican government has successfully eradicated the disease from the northern provinces bordering the U. S. and that a buffer zone has been established through central Mexico. All cattle found infected in the zone are immediately slaughtered, he said.

President W. O. Christensen urged the delegates to formulate a positive control program against Bang's disease. He said there was evidence that some reactors tested prior to the November deadline have not been disposed of by Oregon dairymen as required.

The association leader suggested farmers must find ways of making farm life more attractive to children. He said the farm youth programs, extensively developed in Oregon, are wasted if the parents do not also encourage their children to remain on the farm.

Advice Flows At Tax Office

Federal tax collectors are rushed this week at Salem post office, with farmers filing their returns or estimates and other taxpayers filing estimates required by law.

Paul Lynch, deputy collector in charge of the internal revenue office here, said Tuesday the reduction of his office staff by three men has made it necessary to limit time spent with individuals in some cases, but that his remaining staff is on hand to advise taxpayers as much as possible.

The office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., including noon hour, today and tomorrow, when the farm taxpaying deadline falls.

PUC Hearing on Suburban Routes Scheduled Today

The state public utilities commission will conduct a public hearing on suburban bus routes of Oregon Motor Stages at 9:30 a.m. today in Salem Chamber of Commerce rooms.

Since Salem Suburban Bus Lines went out of business at the close of the year, Oregon Motor Stages has extended its routes but encountered several protests at changes it made in the previous bus schedules of the other lines in eastern and southern suburban districts.

The PUC hearings was called, however, to bring under state PUC jurisdiction the bus routes within three miles of a city, as prescribed in a 1947 state law, effective Jan. 1, 1948.

High Court Backs Linn County Ruling

The state supreme court Tuesday upheld a Linn county case in which Ralph Smith was convicted and fined \$100 on a charge of preventing Mike Rose, a logger, from carrying on his work. Smith was accused of using threats to prevent Rose from working. Court attaches said Smith's defense was that Rose was trying to log on Smith's property.

The only question for the supreme court was to decide whether the indictment charged a crime.

WHEAT HOLDINGS LOW

PORTLAND, Jan. 13.—(P)—Wheat holdings on Oregon farms and ranches January 1 was reported today by the U. S. agriculture department at 2,594,000 bushels, half the amount on hand a year ago and 45 per cent under the ten-year average.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"Would you mind giving us your list of grievances before we hire you—it'll save time..."

MATTER OF FACT

New Inner Conflicts Seen As Result When Stalin Dies

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—Rumors of the impending death of Generalissimo Josef Stalin are an annual crop, and the present heavy harvest has produced a number of interesting reactions among the American ex-pats. They will believe the story when it has been officially announced. Nevertheless, since the expectation that Stalin must some day die is an important point of American foreign policy, it seems worthwhile to set down the known facts.

In the first place, those Americans who have the best means of forming a judgment consider that Stalin has been far from completely well for some years. At one of the war-time conferences, he actually confessed to President Roosevelt that he had trouble with both his heart and lungs. After Tehran his plane was unexpectedly grounded at Baku, whence he returned by rail to Moscow. The reason for this, and his subsequent refusal to travel anywhere by air, is thought to have been the sharp effect on his lungs of flying at altitude.

Taking Good Care. In the second place, however, the same men admit that Stalin may last a long while yet. As his frequent trips to Sochi indicate, he has been taking excellent care of himself until the end of the war. His holidays invigorate him greatly—when Secretary of Commerce Averell Harriman visited Sochi during the greatest of all outbreaks of "Stalin is dying" talk, he found the Russian dictator looking better than he had for years. And every one who has ever seen Stalin regards him as one of the toughest specimens of the tough Georgian race.

Thus there is no telling whether this crop of rumors, or the next one, or the one after that, may be right or wrong. Meanwhile, whatever reliable facts can be obtained on Stalin's health have an interest far greater than mere gossip. Stalin's death is in fact considered likely to produce changes in Soviet policy. The argument for this view is as follows:

After Stalin is removed from the world scene, the experts expect the control of the Soviet union to pass to a sort of inner committee of the politburo. According to this theory, Molotov will be Stalin's official heir, inheriting the outward trappings of leadership of the Soviet state. Beria, meanwhile, will control the MVD—the changed but unchanging secret police; the Russian communist party will be headed by Zhdanov, hero of the Cominform organizing meeting; and to Bulganin will go the leadership of the Russian military forces. In other words, while Molotov will get the trappings of power, the fundamental levers of command will be held by his three juniors among the politburo inner group.

History teaches, and the experts believe, that there can be no stability in this quadripartite division of the power of an autocratic state. What is anticipated was suggested by George Kennan, state department planner, in his famous "Mr. X" article. There will be a conflict, paralleling the conflict that convulsed Rome after the death of Augustus. Then the Roman imperial house, the senatorial plutocracy, the state bureaucracy and the legions fought it out together until only the legions survived to rule the empire.

The inevitable similarities of the situation that will obtain in Moscow after Stalin's death are strikingly obvious. Moreover, in this modern case, the conflict should be all the more embittered by each of the different forms of state power being personified in a single individual. The prediction is that this inner conflict will rage in the Kremlin from the day of Stalin's funeral for an indeterminate but probably considerable period. There will probably be several permutations and combinations—first three against one, then two against two, and so on. And at last another sole ruler will be chosen for the Soviet union by the ruthless law of the survival of the fittest.

What interests the experts about these struggles is, of course, their probable effect upon the Soviet state and power. The best prediction is that the form of the Soviet state will remain always outwardly unaltered, whatever dark melodrama may be enacted within the Kremlin's guarded walls.

But in such struggles, the starting points, at least ostensibly, are always disputes over policy. In the similar contest which took place after the death of Lenin, both the Soviet bureaucracy, and the communist parties at home and abroad were constantly rent and driven by policy disputes. These were chiefly mere outer manifestations of the Stalin-Trotsky rivalry. Yet the end result was the temporary crippling of the communist parties outside the Soviet union, and a drastic change in the Soviet union's foreign policy. The Stalin theory of "Socialism in one country" was officially adopted, while the NKVD hounded all dissenters to the fitting end of heretics.

No wonder Stalin's health is now a subject of such intense interest; for his death is also considered likely to result in another great change in the direction of Soviet policy. No one is predicting whether the change will be for better or for worse, but all are hoping for the best.

Some 300 farmers of the Willamette valley and nearby coastal area will meet at Legion hall in Salem Thursday morning for the annual stockholders' session for Willamette Production Credit association.

The meeting opens at 11 a.m. and women of Ankeny Grange will serve lunch at 11:30. Membership will elect three directors to fill the expiring terms of E. A. McCormack, Eugene, E. W. McMinder, Astoria, and Claude Buchanan, Corvallis. George H. Fullenwider, Carlton, and John W. Ramager, Woodburn, are hold-over directors.

The local agricultural credit cooperative, organized under the farm credit act of 1933, has loaned over \$16,000,000 for production purposes.

Dr. D. Curtis Mumford of Oregon State college, who recently returned from England, will keynote the meeting with a talk on "Food and the Future" at 8 p.m. Friday in Waller hall.

At the opening business session in Waller hall at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dean Lawrence Riggs of Willamette will welcome the academy to the campus, in the absence of President G. Herbert Smith. Dr. Warren D. Smith, professor emeritus of geology at the University of Oregon, will give his inaugural address as president-elect of the academy.

Under the direction of Dr. Cecil R. Monk of Willamette, sectional meetings in Collins hall will follow at 11 a.m. Sections are being organized in biology, chemistry, geography, geology and mathematics.

All meetings of the academy, general and sectional, are open to the public.

Ford Trucks To Be Shown

The first public showing in Salem of the new 1948 model Ford trucks will take place Friday, January 16, at an "open house" to be conducted by the Valley Motor company which will welcome the public to its showrooms, service parts and accessory and used vehicles departments.

"Open house" will be in effect starting at 8 a.m. and the sales room will remain open until 8 p.m.

Paul B. Wallace, Valley Motor operator, said the "open house" was arranged "because we feel this is the most important new truck showing in Ford history. We are entering the greatest truck market of all time with the widest range of models and capacities Ford has ever produced. We expect to receive trucks during the coming months in quantities increased sufficiently to permit us to meet the heavy demand."

Jaycees Hear Robert Jones

Drawing upon a background of world travel, Robert L. Jones, assistant publisher of the Capital Journal, advised the Junior Chamber of Commerce at its Tuesday luncheon "the only way we in the U.S. can maintain our civilization is to have an aggressive foreign policy."

Jones recalled his travels through Europe and Asia following his graduation from Stanford university in 1936. "After viewing the remains of the great civilizations of the past," he continued, "I'm drawn to the conclusion that once a nation starts pulling in its horns it is through."

Jones emphasized that he is a "great booster for the Marshall plan."

Scout Official to Conduct Conclave

Mart P. Bushnell, national Boy Scout training service representative from Los Angeles, Calif., will conduct the Cascade council area trainers' conference at Silver Falls camp on February 13 to 15.

Bushnell, in Salem this week, led discussion at the annual meeting of the Cascade area council training committee Monday in the Willamette university law school building. A group of 25 adult leaders from the council's five districts will attend the February conference and later will conduct training meets on district levels.

Town Meeting to Ask 'Is Living in Salem Fun?'

Salem's first town meeting program this year will open at 8:30 p.m. Thursday in Waller hall on the Willamette university campus, on the question, "Is It Fun to Live in Salem?"

Sponsored by the Salem YMCA and League of Women Voters and open to the public, the forum will have as moderator Joy Hills, Leslie junior high school principal. It will be broadcast over KOCO.

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Hi-Y Clubs to Hold Father-Son Dinner

Annual father-son banquet of the three Salem Hi-Y clubs will be held at 6 o'clock this evening at Salem high school cafeteria, with John Lewis, Willamette university basketball coach, as principal speaker.

According to Jim Williams, Hi-Y council president, the program will include a violin solo by Ken Adams, trumpet solo by Roger Middleton and songs led by Bob Seamer.

Donald Riley Joins Marines

First U. S. marine corps enlistment in Salem since the end of the late war fell to Donald E. Riley, 710 Hollywood ave., who enlisted Tuesday for four years, according to M. Sgt. Louis Painter, chief of the marine recruiters here.

Riley, who spent four years in the army in the Pacific area during the last war, left for San Diego, Calif., "boot camp" this morning.

The recently-reopened marine

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recruiting office at the corner of Liberty and Ferry streets is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Sgt. Painter said.

SEARS CATALOGUE OUT
CHICAGO, Jan. 13.—(AP)—Sears, Roebuck and Company, retail and mail order merchandisers, today issued its spring and summer general catalogue with the observation that prices averaged 2.8 per cent higher than in the comparable book a year ago.

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