

The Oregon Statesman

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

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor and Publisher

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Call for Extra Helping

Oregon's congressional delegation is exerting efforts to get increases over budget allotments for flood control and power development in the northwest. Senator Morse and Congressman Ellsworth for example seek an increase of \$8,000,000 to a total of \$15,000,000 for work on Meridian dam in the Willamette valley project. From both Washington and Oregon come pleas for more money for power development, Congressman Angell urging additional funds to move completion of McNary dam ahead one year.

All of these are approved projects, yet the northwest cannot be too greedy in its demands. Crowding the work in the present inflationary conditions will result in waste of public funds. And the federal budget has its limits, even for worthy causes. We can't demand increased appropriations and reduced taxes very well at the same time.

Of greater importance to the west are the changes made in the Rockwell bill which will impede the long-time development of the west by shortening the period of amortization of power plant investments and thus reducing the sums that might be diverted for helping finance irrigation projects.

The low-cost projects for irrigation have been constructed. Most of the remaining projects will call for subsidy, since the farmers will not be able to bear the full burden of construction cost. However power plant revenues can be made available which would carry part of the burden and make the projects feasible. It is of greater long-time importance to the west to get the senate to restore the Rockwell bill to its original form than to press for supplementary appropriations for particular projects.

In the matter of flood control we note that Congressman Ellsworth uses an argument similar to that used by the Portland Journal: the late floods took five lives and did \$11,800,000 in property damage. We have previously commented on this loose report. None of the lives would have been saved if all the projected dams had been built, and the estimate of damage is not based on accurate survey, and in our own judgment cannot be supported by evidence.

The west needs to be both honest and fair in presenting its case to the congress. As a matter of fact it has been dealt with quite generously in appropriations for flood control, navigation, reclamation, power development. Our needs must be related to the resources and the requirements of the nation as a whole.

Education for Leadership

With great building and physical expansion programs under way and teachers' salaries generally higher, critics of the nation's school system have begun to examine what is probably most important in the evaluation of education—curricula and the philosophy by which training is administered.

In a sharply critical article, typical of the new trend, for the New York Times, Bernard I. Bell blames education for the lack of outstanding leadership in this country. He blames schools which "do not train for thinking that relatively small section of the community which is competent to think, that minority from whom interpretive leadership must come."

The intelligent, those with "ability to discriminate," must be discovered and trained for leadership, Bell affirms. Instead, "we have sought to make out of our more able children merely more efficient hewers of wood and drawers of water." He continues:

"The multitudes which overflow (the nation's schools and colleges) could never be made into persons competent to lead anyone, even themselves... no matter what was done to, for, or with them... but the American educational machine... still pursues its ponderous cultivation of that mediocrity which, though it calls itself 'democratic,' is a large factor... in making our democracy ineffective."

In Bell's opinion the century of the common man would be a fiasco because only the uncommon man is able to lead, to discriminate, to think independently and constructively. What Bell proposes is similar to Plato's plan for the ideal republic in which the intellectual aristocrats or intelligentsia were the ruling class and everyone else performed whatever jobs each was best fitted to handle.

Not only would this be utopian, it would be decried as "un-American." For an educational system dedicated to developing a minority group—the intelligent children—would eventually make our semi-classless society into a nation based on an intellectual caste-system.

The drawbacks in the present educational system become especially apparent in times of crisis when the blundering, self-centered masses run everywhere into blank walls. But, in the long run (if we value our present system) we will probably find that events in history tend to produce or evoke the necessary leadership. Systems, like monarchies, which trained a ruling class have found that men seldom "make history" and eventually the "mediocrity" takes over the reins of government anyway.

Political Realism

The political realists are pressing hard to set new directions in American foreign policy. Everything is pointed against Russia in the present "cold war" and the moves are designed to improve our position diplomatically or militarily for a possible "hot war."

For example, the realists are urging the United States to drop the whole business of partition in Palestine. Why? Because it jeopardizes us with the Arab peoples and threatens our chances to get off from the middle east. Support for this viewpoint may be read in the anti-British riots in Iraq, and rejection of the Anglo-Iraq treaty, and this in spite of the fact that the British have refused to have anything to do with partition.

Another place where the realists are at work is our Spanish policy. They favor a cuddling up to Franco, as has been done with Peron in Argentina. The argument is that Spain should be preserved as a stronghold against communism, so the Mediterranean will be secure. The objectives are to keep Russia out of a foothold on the Mediterranean and to keep our oil pipeline to the middle east open.

Some realists go so far as to favor putting American troops in Greece to clean out the so-called guerrillas who are given bases and supplies in the neighboring communist states.

If becoming a world power means we must abandon principle and chart our course strictly on lines of immediate self-interest we have lost our war to begin with; and may expect the ultimate fate of nations whose god was power.

There are too many republicans with a "Yes... but" attitude toward the Marshall plan. If sincere advocates of ERP do not look out, these "friends" will amend it so its value and effectiveness will be lost—which may be just what they want. The plan can be wrecked by hamstringing its administration, slashing the appropriations or attaching bad conditions to the aid extended. We put our faith in Sen. Vandenberg, and hope the congress follows his leadership in this delicate business.

SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

for state purposes, both within and without the 6 per cent limitation, including the basic state school support fund.

2. To maintain a reserve fund of \$5,000,000.

3. To absorb the county school fund requirement of \$10 per census child.

There is a provision in the law for a discount to taxpayers in event of surplus, but this is suspended for the years 1947 and 1948. The permitted 75 per cent discount in one year during the war and a 30 per cent discount the following year. Had this provision not been suspended the surplus would not have been accumulated.

Under existing law the only way the surplus revenues of the income tax can be tapped is by levying a special property tax, which then can be absorbed by such surplus. Thus in 1945 the voters authorized a property tax levy of \$10,000,000 for state building purposes. It may be that the voters will be asked to authorize another special levy next November to meet an anticipated deficit in the state general fund which again would be absorbed by this income tax surplus.

With the defeat of the proposed sales tax the issue has been discussed of removing the "Property Tax Relief" tag from the income tax law, which would make the revenues available for direct appropriation by the legislature. This would require action by the legislature or by the people. Governor Snell recommended that the corporation excise tax no longer be restricted to property tax relief, but the legislature refused to follow his recommendation.

It probably would be unconstitutional to make a direct appropriation from the existing income and corporate excise tax surplus because of the provision which says that "every law imposing a tax shall state distinctly the object of the same to which only it shall be applied." Future revenues collected could be made available for direct appropriation by reenacting the laws and specifying that the proceeds go into the state general fund.

The income and excise property tax laws have given genuine relief to property owners in the years since they were enacted. The reason property taxes have increased in late years is due solely to the increased demands of the local taxing units: county, city, school district, which still are dependent on property taxes, the first two entirely, and the school districts still in large degree.

If as seems probable we shall have to depend on these taxes for general support of state government the surplus may soon be absorbed. In view of the serious complications in our tax situation the best course seems to be to leave the problem up to the legislature, hoping it will do a better job than did the 1947 session.

Convalescence Delays Bus Driver Case

G. W. Jones of Eugene, Greyhound bus driver who a Marion county coroner's jury said was responsible for the death of an Oregon Journal delivery truck driver near Jefferson last November 3, will not appear before the county grand jury for at least six months, it was learned here Saturday.

District Attorney Miller B. Hayden said that Jones, who is convalescing at the Southern Pacific hospital in San Francisco from broken legs suffered in the bus-truck collision which took the life of Donald Wilbur Billings, Portland, has suffered a relapse.

Jones' bus collided head-on with the truck driven by Billings at Midway. The coroner's jury later reported that Jones was guilty of negligence. Mrs. Maude Mawhinney, 68, Portland, a passenger in the bus, died later in a Salem hospital of injuries received in the crash.

Attorney Hayden said Jones had been scheduled to appear before the Marion county grand jury this month but the driver's condition suddenly became aggravated again.

The Safety Valve

LETTERS FROM STATESMAN READERS

COMMENT ON READ CASE

To the Editor:

I just read the article entitled "Jury Frees Harry Read in City Ordinance Case." I guess there are a few people who would like to make Salem an up and coming city after all. But I wonder about that jury and Judge McKimney. The judge could have given instructions that would at least have delayed a verdict for some time. Then for the jury to bring in a verdict in 15 minutes that virtually calls the czar a you say it. Perhaps now the judge and jury will be up for "Les Majeste." The "czar" won't take it lying down. He is a fighter if he can do it at other people's expense. And that might cut off some of his revenue too.

D. A. Fish
1488 So. Commercial.

A child usually is able to draw a circle before he can draw a square.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"Why, Oh!—I didn't know the news commentators were so entertaining—they're almost as miserable as the daytime serials!"

MATTER OF FACT

Devaluation of Franc Compared to Distant Thunder Preceding Storm

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop
WASHINGTON, Jan. 31 — To any sensible American, the devaluation of the French franc must seem as remote as the moon.

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trois, however strict, can prevent flights from the currencies which are endangered. Furthermore, a trader can buy goods in London with his cheap French pounds and sell the same goods in New York for dollars, with a clear profit of over 50 per cent. This kind of unhealthy trading will naturally tend to replace normal commerce, since it will offer a safer, quicker return. And thus the kind of situation may arise which led to the great crisis of the early thirties, that drove the British to take sterling off gold, and was the real cause of putting Hitler in the reich chancellery.

These are the reasons, we crudely stated, why both competitive devaluation and a breakdown of normal trade are feared in Europe. These are the reasons, also why the experts of the International Monetary Fund, and the representatives of the British and American treasuries, have pleaded with the French during recent days at least to abandon the free market feature of their devaluation plan.

Under the circumstances, it is pertinent to note that American leadership has retroactively failed in this vital matter. The French hinted to Secretary of the Treasury John Snyder as long ago as last September that they had something of the sort in mind. They officially informed our treasury of their intentions more than a fortnight ago, long before they let the British in on the secret.

Either the significance of what was afoot was not understood by the American experts, or the Americans simply failed to make their minds at any rate, the American intervention to persuade the French to change their plan materialized only at the very last minute. A strong American protest a fortnight ago would almost certainly have been effective. When the protest was made, the French were committed, and it was too late.

The worst of it is that this tardiness and indecision probably foreshadow the Washington reaction to the trouble which may well be ahead. Except for the French experts, no one seems to expect what has been done to benefit France in the long run. If the bottom drops out of the value of the franc in the free Paris market, France too will suffer. Meanwhile, a European monetary crisis may well occur, may spread outward into the rest of the world, and may become a general economic crisis. Yet with these storms quite possible ahead, and certain, if they come, to rock and batter us as well as every one else, the hatches of our own ship are not battened down and the lifeboats have not been provisioned for months.

New York Herald Tribune, Inc.

Bridge Association To Meet on Tuesday

Regular meeting of the Greater Oregon Bridge association is slated for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Salem Chamber of Commerce rooms. Charles A. Sprague, publisher of The Statesman and member of the Salem long range planning commission, will be the principal speaker, according to President Walter Musgrave.

Salem Schools

By Denise Cox

LESIE JUNIOR HIGH

Vote Monday
Leslie students will cast ballots in their first period classes Monday to select student body officers for the spring semester. The final campaign speeches of the two candidates for each office will be delivered in the auditorium just prior to the voting.

Candidates for president are Dean Grimm, who has served as student body sergeant at arms during the fall semester, president of the Projection club, a member of the stage crew, and a member of the Lettermen's club; and Sharon Brown, who has been activity chairman of the Girls' league and a member of the ASB council. Running for vice-president are David Blackmer and Helen Cadd; secretary, Carolyn Beaman and Judy Wood; treasurer, Faye Clark and Norma Hamilton; sergeant at arms, Ronnie Lethin and Bob McNamara; song queen, Berniece DaMoude and Joyce; and yell king, Ray Cook and Elmer Winegar.

The election committee that checked the original petitions for office, counted the ballots in the primary election, and will do the tallying Monday, is composed of Shirley Blank, seventh grade; Jack Cobb, eighth; Beaman and Waldo Willache, ninth grade.

New Editor

Bob Holden, who has been assistant sports editor on the staff of the Leslie Broadcaster during the first semester, will edit the weekly lithographed publication during the spring term. It was announced in Friday's issue. Holden will succeed Margaret Miller.

The remainder of the spring staff, made up of students from a journalism class taught by Vice-Principal R. E. Kuecher, will be sports editor, Don Huff; assistants, Bill Hess and Ray Braaten; features, Margaret Miller, Monte Dabbs and Harriet Just; office, student council and library, Norma Hamilton; girls' activities, Berniece DaMoude; boys' activities, Dick Adams; social activities, Helen Cadd; home room period activities, Arlene Dutoit; assemblies and programs, Doreen Cavender; art, music and pictures, Jean Blackwell.

Officers Installed
Newly elected officers of the Girls' league at Leslie, installed last week, were president, Margaret Miller; vice-president, Carolyn Beaman; secretary, Dorothy Swigart; treasurer, Carolyn Park; sergeant at arms, Valerie Dunn; yell leader, Val Jean Gosnell; song leader, Greta Ann Schrecongost. Mrs. Madeline Hanna is advisor.

Party Planned
The next all-school party on the mini-month program at Leslie school is planned for February 12 and will be in the nature of a Valentine party. The newly elected vice-president of the student body will be in charge, assisted by the first semester vice-president, Harriet Just.

Operate Canteen
Monta Dabbs, Jacqueline Baldwin, Shirley Bingenheimer and Janie Lambert are the students in charge of the new after-school canteen at Leslie. Installed principally for the use of the bus students who must wait 15 or 20 minutes for their buses after school is out, the canteen is proving popular to the whole student body and members of the faculty. Ice cream bars, candy, hot dogs, fruit and cokes are offered for sale with profit going to the student body treasury.

Parkinson Coming
Sgt. Ted Parkinson, who spent two years with the armed forces in India and Burma, will present a National Assemblies company program at Leslie Tuesday at 11 a.m. Parkinson will discuss customs and characteristics of the people of those two countries and show items that he brought back. Three other assemblies are slated for the month of February—an award installation program for February 13, a Washington's birthday program on February 20, and another National Assemblies feature on February 28 built around a demonstration of liquid air.

Michaela Elected
Earl Michaela has been elected president of the Leslie band and Jean Small named to a similar position with the school orchestra. Other officers include: Band vice-president, Hjalmer Davis; secretary, Sandra Nordyke; treasurer, Leon DuBois; historian, Max Morris; sergeant at arms, Charles Bales; orchestra vice-president, Maureen Gustafson; secretary, Wally Carson; historian, Waldo Willecke; treasurer, Jim Verdieck; sergeant at arms, Earl Michaela.

The basketball team from the sixth period ninth grade gym class leads the second half race in the Leslie noon hoop league with three wins and a loss after having finished in a tie with the faculty five for last place in the first half. Winners of the first half, the eighth grade all stars, are in second place this time with two wins and a loss, the faculty is third with a win and a loss and the third period ninth graders have just all three starts.

Marion County Tax Collection Over \$21½ Million

Collections on Marion county's record 1947-48 tax roll of \$2,967,903 reached the \$2,526,912 mark Saturday, Harold Domogalla, chief tax deputy, reported.

All collections which were mailed into the office during the "rush days" prior to the November 15 discount deadline have been taken care of and receipted, Domogalla said.

Although the county's tax rolls continue to increased and his office staff is faced with more work, Domogalla said Saturday the percentage of tax payments received this year to date approximately equals those for the 1946-47 tax roll.

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