

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor and Publisher
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Murray Indictment a Test Case

The indictment of Philip Murray, president of the CIO, and of the CIO itself provides a test case which will not stand up in court any longer than it takes legal procedures to unwind. The so-called violation of the Taft-Hartley law was deliberate: Murray wrote an article and the CIO News published it, endorsing a candidate for congress. The indictment asserts that spending this money, estimated at \$1000, violated the law forbidding corporations and labor unions from spending money in behalf of candidates. Since the CIO News is a regularly published paper, the defense will assert the constitutional right of freedom of the press—and win.

Even Senator Taft questions the validity of this indictment. And Murray contends that if he and the CIO are guilty, then no corporation publishing a newspaper can let the paper endorse a candidate. What the law probably was aiming at was to keep labor unions and corporations from using their treasuries to influence politics. In the past there were certain bans against corporation contributions to political campaigns, but unions could pungle up money to get their friends elected and their enemies defeated, even though individual members of the union didn't approve. The United Mine Workers threw a lot of money into Roosevelt's 1938 campaign and loaned the democratic committee a lot more. To stop this practice was the object of the law.

We can't see how the prohibition can be stretched to prevent regular periodicals of unions or corporations from expressing opinions; and haven't any doubt that if the case gets to the U.S. supreme court, justices like Frank Murphy, Bill Douglas, Hugo Black and others will kick it whirling down the front steps.

MacArthur and Newsmen

Newsmen do not care much for General MacArthur and his recent orders have gotten those assigned to Tokyo greatly stirred up. First, his general in charge of press relations ordered that newsmen assigned to Japan couldn't cover other parts of the orient and retain living quarters in Tokyo. This was modified by the war department to a 30-day limit, which isn't enough. Next, the MacArthur office refused to admit a correspondent for Newsweek after his visit back home on the ground that the reporter had shown "marked antipathy" toward American policy, which of course stirs resentment among reporters who want full freedom in reporting. The general exposes himself to publicity that really will be critical of him and his administrative policies in Japan.

Olympic Games Victor

The northwest—the whole country in fact—can feel proud of the performance of Mrs. Gretchen Fraser who won first in the slalom in the skiing contest in the international Olympic winter sports contest at St. Moritz, Switzerland, and second in one other event. She is the first American woman to win in a ski event.

The games were not run off without friction however, to which rival American groups contributed their full share. This takes the edge of public interest in the competition, making it appear too tense and robbing it of its real sporting character. With Mrs. Fraser however there were no controversies over her participation and victory, and she will receive a royal welcome when she returns to her Vancouver home.

The Oregon City Enterprise takes issue with us and invites the questioning of the supreme court about what to do with the corporation tax surplus. In fact, it calls for an answer in "black and white." We still think the question is elementary, that the existing surplus must be used for the purpose for which it was levied, but the legislature or the people may amend the law and direct other use of the proceeds of the tax in the usual manner of amending laws. After all, both the corporate tax and the income tax laws have been amended many times heretofore. And just how does the OCE propose that we phrase the question for the court to answer—in black and white?

E. T. Maynard, the Chicago speculator who is said to have cleaned up anywhere from \$200,000 to a million in a week's trading, is very modest about his acumen. Like Will Rogers he says all he knows he got out of the papers, and that "it was obvious" that prices would go down. Yes, but to the traders in the next block who read the same papers, "it was obvious" that prices would go up. This difference of opinion is what makes the board of trade an interesting and at times exciting place. And Maynard himself admits that sometimes he has lost in backing his judgment in the market.

Europe will do a better job in growing stuff to feed its people this year. There has been no repetition of last year's severe winter in England and on the continent. Weather conditions have been favorable, with ample rains falling, though central Europe's moisture has been deficient. Wheat plantings are up, in France alone over a million acres. Russia has exported some grain to satellite states and may ship some wheat to Britain. These favorable conditions will relieve drain on the western hemisphere.

Senator Leverett Saltonstall of Massachusetts made a strong plea for support of the European recovery plan in a Lincoln day address in Portland Wednesday night. Saltonstall has been a leader for a foreign policy which recognizes our international obligations since he was serving as governor of his state. The far west and New England are more internationally-minded than other sections, notably the midwest.

One has to rub his eyes to believe the figures about Los Angeles. Building permit total for January in LA were \$28 million, over twice what they were a year ago, and up \$3 million from December. Then comes a big drop to Seattle with \$5,408,000 and San Francisco with \$4,500,000. Portland is fourth with \$4,278,000. The figures support the prediction that Los Angeles will become the largest city in the country before many years—but what will the people have to drink?

"Decadent bourgeois culture" is a familiar phrase in Russian criticism. Used against their own writers and artists it is damning. Latest to get the whiplash of this phrase are a group of Soviet composers one of whom, Dimitri Shostakovich, has gained international fame. The communist party central committee accuses them of "distorting" music to the offense of communist ideology. When politicians pass on art, beauty is apt to be crucified.

Police authorities in Umatilla county did a quick job of tracing the loot and making an arrest in the Athena bank robbery case. Maybe yeggs will earn that crime (robbing a bank) doesn't pay in these parts. All of the late robberies have been solved and considerable of the stolen cash recovered.

An increase in price of woolen goods brings prediction of an increase of \$5 in men's suits for the spring season. That's one cloud without a silver lining.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

ment basis, over the period of 60 to 100 years. The consequence is that cutover lands pass into hands of big corporations, like Crown Williams in Clatsop county, or into the hand of the state or federal government. And inevitably many of the small mills now operating will go out of business for lack of timber. The cut in Linn county last year was said to have been 800 million feet, against an annual growth of 400 million feet. Most of the mills operate on a life expectancy of the amount of timber they have available. The owners have to make their profit and amortize their investment in that period. Neither government nor nature can grow trees over night to replace the ones cut down.

Actually, all this hullabaloo is of no value unless it helps the department of the interior solve the problem of bringing its own lands under sustained yield and bringing as much private land under the same program as is possible. That is what is best for the communities in the long run. To attempt to parcel out remaining timber stands among all the existing mills would be foolish, because there isn't enough to go around.

The monopoly cry is mostly noise because without some such program the timberland will gravitate into a very few strong hands. The plan contemplates taking about 60 per cent of the O & C timber and erecting many integrated units, providing an economic base for continued operation.

The public should not be swept off its feet by oratory but try to get at the facts. I am sure that Mr. Davidson, assistant secretary of the interior, is conscientious in wanting to work out the best solution possible and he will welcome constructive ideas, not just protest resolutions promoted by those with special interests at stake.

Department Store To Get 'New Look' As Sewing Center

Greenbaum's department store, virtually unchanged since it was built during the "gay 90's," will soon have that "new look."

Adolph Greenbaum, store owner, announced this week that the store, located at 240 N. Commercial will be completely remodeled and enter into a new phase of merchandising as Greenbaum's Sewing Center.

The new store will feature yard and piece goods for women sewers, specializing in materials, patterns and trimmings. Greenbaum said Wednesday that it would be the only establishment of its kind in the Willamette valley.

The business was founded more than 50 years ago by the late Isadore Greenbaum and later became the firm of Rostein & Greenbaum. Greenbaum's son Adolph bought out Rostein's interest and later inherited his father's half.

Births

KRAUGER—To Mr. and Mrs. Krauger, Independence route 1, a son, born Thursday, February 12, at Salem Memorial hospital.

HOWLAND—To Mr. and Mrs. Lee Howland, Detroit, a daughter, born Thursday, February 12, at Salem Memorial hospital.

DUNN—To Mr. and Mrs. James W. Dunn, Independence, a daughter, born Thursday, February 12, at Salem Memorial hospital.

HARBROUGH—To Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Harbrough, 1032 Eighth st., West Salem, a son, born Thursday, February 12, at Salem Memorial hospital.

WAGNER—To Mr. and Mrs. Monty Wagner, 1374 N. Commercial st., a son, born Thursday, February 12, at Salem Memorial hospital.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"Of course, my opponent can point with pride to his record— He's never held public office!"



Petrillo, Jr.

The Safety Valve

LETTERS FROM STATESMAN READERS

"Too Many Politicians" To the Editor:

The performance of our political aspirant, congress and in fact our whole national political machine is so disgusting that I am moved to express myself in print. I have often said in the past, and reiterate here on paper, that the trouble with our national picture is that "we have too many politicians and not enough statesmen." I believe that I am right in drawing this conclusion. By a statesman I refer to the man in public life who will and does put the national welfare above party lines and the interests of the political party to which he may belong.

It is a crying disgrace to see the political picture, which is deteriorating into an unsavory mess. We, a free(?) people, allowing politics to run our freedom. And to conclude this and offer a solution, I would respectfully request every man and woman of legal age to register and vote. The biggest squawk about conditions is usually heard from the ones who take no interest in politics other than to stand back and criticize. Ask a majority of them the question, "Did you vote?" and so many times we find the answer to be, "No, I wasn't registered." As long as this condition of lethargy and indifference exists we will have to contend with politicians instead of statesmen in our public offices.

Our national government is held up to the world as the ultimate in free peoples choice. What a mess these politicians are making of this opportunity to put democracy over, to make it what it was intended to be. Instead of enhancing its virtue, they smear the picture with dirty political smudge and blot out the bright hope we might hold out to the world. It is your fault and mine. Register, vote and do it intelligently. J. E. Griven Rickreall.

Why Not a "Peace Day" To the Editor: During one of the "Pastor's Call" talks on the radio a short time ago the speaker made men-

tion of the fact that we had set apart certain days to commemorate such as birthdays, special events and for the religious observants, and that it seemed there should be one day for the observance of PEACE.

That remark has stuck with me. I have thought a lot about it. We are trying so hard to forget it and live for the tomorrow. There is an uplift in the feeling of forgiveness, and supreme contentment in peace.

But on December 7 we live over again the events of Pearl Harbor. We are reminded of it again and again over the radio and through newspapers. If we want peace, we should try to forget it and live for the tomorrow. There is an uplift in the feeling of forgiveness, and supreme contentment in peace.

Would it not be another means of showing to the world our sincere desire for peace if we should designate December 7 as PEACE DAY rather than as a day of vindication? What better place to start such an action than in Salem, the City of Peace?

What do you think?
Ora McIntyre Hutchison
1065 S. Liberty St.

Vets to Receive Preference in Farm Project

Veterans of American wars will receive preference in the U. S. bureau of reclamation's sale of 4,940 acres on the Gila project near Yuma, Ariz., H. C. (Hub) Saalfeld, Marion county veterans service officer, announced yesterday.

Saalfeld said veterans' applications will be accepted until 2 p.m. March 29, 1948. If applicants exceed the number of available units the land will be awarded by a drawing.

To qualify, a veteran must have at least two years of farming experience, \$1,500 in cash and another \$1,500 in other assets to get a farm in production, Saalfeld said. Two types of units are available. They are those of 40 to 70 acres, suitable for farming citrus fruits and vegetables, and those of 80 acres which are adequate for general crop raising.

Applicants must obtain filing papers from the bureau of reclamation, Yuma, Ariz., but information and assistance will be furnished by Saalfeld.

Baxter Dorm Independents Elect Officers

Baxter hall's non-fraternity men residents are organized as a new campus group today, as a result of elections which placed Harry Mason, Salem Junior, as president of the organization comparable with other organized residents' groups in campus affairs.

The Baxter hall men also heard Mason explain the regulations which the Willamette student affairs committee has set for the dormitory which opened last weekend. The organization meeting was held Wednesday night in the dormitory.

Other officers elected are Will Henderson, Empire, vice president in charge of social functions; John Searles, Ann Arbor, Mich., treasurer; Tom Nakagawa, Ontario, secretary and historian.

Rules governing the behavior of the men in the hall specify that no liquor should be brought into the dormitory and require the wearing of ties and coats at the evening meal.

Study hours are to be observed Sunday through Tuesday at all times, and Wednesday from 8:30 to 10 p.m. Quiet hours begin at 10:30 every night. No curfew rules were imposed.

The rules set down by the student affairs committee also apply to the four fraternity groups housed in the dormitory.

Limit for Filing of Briefs on Timber Project Extended
Time limit for submission of briefs on the proposed creation of the Mohawk river sustained yield forest unit under the department of the interior has been extended from February 15 to March 6, according to announce-

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ment of Interior Secretary J. A. Davidson, assistant secretary—No Krug.
A two-day hearing on the question was held in Eugene in January, presided over by C. Girard decision will be made until after the material submitted is studied, with March 6 the closing date for briefs for or against the proposal.

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