

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"

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THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

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Reciprocal Trade Treaty Law

Coming up in congress is the bill to extend the life of the reciprocal trade treaty program. The present law expires June 30th next. Treaties now in effect of course will continue for their life. Extension of the law would not affect them but would give the state department continued power to negotiate trade agreements and the president to proclaim them.

Republicans traditionally have been high tariff folk, so there is considerable opposition to renewing the law, although the last two republican nominees for the presidency, Willkie and Dewey, approved the principle of reciprocal agreements for the purpose of promoting trade. Gov. Dewey said this week he favored extension of the law but was looked to favor giving congress the power of veto on agreements negotiated.

From the standpoint of general economics there is little room for argument. If we are going to have foreign trade we must import to export. We can temporarily give credits or make grants as in lend-lease and the Marshall plan, but under normal conditions trade must flow in both directions. If we will not accept goods from other countries they will not be able long to purchase from us.

It is when the treaties get down to specific items that the pinch comes. Here producers feel it on filberts and hops especially and fear it on cherries. The importation of Mediterranean filberts after the war brought on a slump in domestic prices though that was due to a trade agreement. Hopgrowers fear injury from imports of hops from Czechoslovakia under a late trade agreement. Thus the fine theory runs into local headaches — no group wants to be sacrificed for the good of the country as a whole.

We are confronted with this problem: how to expand our foreign trade without injuring domestic producers. Unless we permit imports we shall wallow in our own surpluses. The high Smoot-Hawley tariff did not give protection against low prices. Right now stimulation of foreign production is needed to spare us the burden of direct relief. To open our doors to imports by means of general tariff reduction would result in congressional logrolling in which the most skillful lobbyists would win.

The wise solution therefore may well be to continue the program of reciprocal agreements under proper safeguards, and then work for the best type of administration of the act, one which increases foreign trade and still not put particular groups in the poorhouse.

'Letters to Italy'

Eyes of people in the other 47 states and the District of Columbia are on Oregon. In fact our presidential primaries seem to have become the successor to the Italian election, not only in interest but also in at least one of the techniques. That is in letter-writing. Partisans of Dewey and of Stassen are writing friends and acquaintances and sending literature in behalf of the one whose cause they champion.

The letters are not as numerous as those that filled the mailbags on steamships and airplanes bound for Italy; but they carry personal appeals and personal endorsements.

The Oregon voter is being wooed as never before, with the champs themselves active in the local arena and their friends and supporters in their home states urging their cause. He should be calm under fire, scratch his head as he meditates and then make up his mind which of the two he believes would make the better president.

The west coast is coming into prominence as an automobile manufacturing region. Many of the big companies have assembly plants on this coast — the Dodge division of Chrysler corporation is just opening one at San Fernando, Cal. Los Angeles is rated as the biggest producer of automobiles outside of Detroit. While so far the western plants are chiefly assembly plants only, efforts are made, particularly by Ford to decentralize parts manufacture. Population growth provides markets for manufactures and expansion of industry employs a larger population, so the cycle of growth becomes continuous.

Dan B. Jarman

We note with sincere regret the passing of Dan B. Jarman, long one of Salem's prominent businessmen. One of the early store managers in the J. C. Penney organization he prospered with its development. After his retirement from retail business he was active in the field of investments and maintained his interest in Salem and Salem institutions although he spent considerable periods each year in California. Mr. Jarman lived quietly and temperately cherished his home and valued friendship highly. Sympathies are extended to his family.

King Abdullah of Trans-Jordan warns the United Nations that dire calamities will befall in Palestine after May 15th unless action is taken to prevent them. The Jewish Agency appeals to the U. N. for action to avert civil war when the British pull out of Palestine. But neither Arabs nor Jews will agree to a truce and the two are still far apart on an agreement for a permanent settlement. So the one thing which all deplore seems to be the only thing that is bound to happen.

The new boost in ceilings for on-the-job training under the GI bill will serve to help the veteran keep the wolf rather than the government off his door-step and maybe his wife out of his pants pocket.

Editorial Comment

THEY'RE SLIPPING IN HESSE

There are increasing evidences that the purely ideological phase of the Soviet advance in Europe has been slowed to a walk. Two weeks ago the Communists were trounced in the Italian elections, more soundly than the severest critics had thought possible. Now come the returns of municipal and county elections in Hesse, in the American zone of Germany, in which the same trend is apparent.

In spite of a substantial increase in the number of voters, the Communists this year polled 147,000 votes as compared with 171,000 two years ago. This year's Communist vote was 7.9 per cent of the total, compared with 9.3 per cent two years ago. Leading the field this year were the Social Democrats with 658,000, followed by the Christian Democrats with 549,000 and the Liberal Democrats with 389,000.

The relatively poor showing of the Liberal Democrats, who despite their designation are as far right as the Communists are left, should kill off in advance any Communist charge that the elections reflected strong American pressure. As a matter of fact, the Social Democrats, who won, are considerably left of center by our standards.

The trend, which will bear the closest attention over the next year seems to bear out again the fact that Communism is its own worst salesman, and for success requires the baldest kind of pump-priming by its militant advocates. At the same time, the Hesse result provides another demonstration of what has become increasingly clear throughout Western Europe since the war — that some degree of collectivism is regarded as essential under the economic circumstances. The important thing, to us, is that when left free to vote as they will, the people of Western Europe invariably elect a kind of collectivism that undertakes to guarantee the maximum civil rights. — San Francisco Chronicle.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

senate and as acting governor at times when the governor was out of the state. His experience in the legislature has given him a good understanding of the state and its problems. He is a man of high character with a full sense of an official's responsibility to his trust.

Sigfrid Unander represents the younger element in the republican party—the men under 40 who did most of the fighting in the late war and who now must assume rapidly the burdens of business and politics. He comes of a distinguished Oregon family; his grandfather, Simon Benson, was an early-day logger who served on one of the first state highway commissions and was one of Portland's leading philanthropists. Sigfrid has extensive property interests of his own which he manages with care and success. He looks on politics however as an opportunity for real public service. I found him wise beyond his years, careful to get the facts and mature in his judgment on public questions. His record as an officer in the war is studied with decorations for distinguished service. As one with responsibility for the handling of real public service, he would be extremely cautious, and his connections with men of affairs would prove an asset. In selecting him as the party nominee for treasurer the republicans would not only name one fully competent but they would give recognition to the rising generation who are already proving an important and valuable segment of the party.

The Safety Valve

LETTERS FROM STATESMAN READERS

Thanks From Chin Up Club To the Editor:

The Chin Up club of Oregon, wishes to thank the newspapers and radio stations that publicized their benefit dance, which was held April 9, 1948, at Crystal Gardens ballroom, Salem; they also extend a thank-you to The Oregon Statesman, for contributing 2,000 printed benefit dance tickets; to all their friends, who contributed their time in selling tickets for the club, and those who bought the tickets.

Total gross received from benefit dance tickets \$218, total expense \$209.06, total net profit from expenses \$8.94. The net profit has been put in the club's "Oregon Beacon" fund to help finance their monthly paper.

Again the Chin Uppers say "thank-you" to all their considerate friends.

Politics on Parade...

(Editor's note: Comments in this series are made by or for the candidates without restriction, and may or may not reflect the policy of this newspaper.)

Today's subject: Robert L. Elfstrom (r) Candidate for National Delegate

Robert L. Elfstrom heads the company bearing his name and is mayor of Salem. He is unopposed on the ballot for a second term as mayor. As president of the League of Oregon Cities

he has been in close contact with our citizens over the entire state. A progressive, successful business executive, a hard working civic and state leader, Elfstrom has a proved record of accomplishments. R. L. Elfstrom in his middle forties, he is married and the father of two children. His many important offices include: trustee of Willamette university, director of Salem Chamber of Commerce, trustee of Westminster foundation, director of Salem Y. M. C. A., Community Chest and Salem General Hospital. His fraternal memberships include the Masons, Shrine, Elks, Rotary and Phi Delta Theta.

Mr. Elfstrom is a young, progressive republican and sees a great post-war opportunity and responsibility for the party. He is pledged to support the state's choice for president as long as there is a reasonable chance of nomination. In seeking the nomination of national delegate he is actuated solely in the interests of our free form of government. He believes full production can be maintained by dealing honestly and straightforward with labor, agriculture and industry alike. With the strong candidate the convention will surely nominate, the republican party will rise to new greatness in America and in world affairs.

(Eight of the nine candidates for national republican delegate from the first congressional district now have appeared in the Political Parade. Since J. R. Latourette has not accepted the invitation to be included, the series will turn to the first-district democratic candidates for delegate.) Tomorrow: Kenneth Bayne.

Todd Heads Parents of Salem High Musicians

Roy Todd headed the association of parents of Salem high band and orchestra members today, by virtue of an election Tuesday night. E. R. Owen was chosen vice president, Mrs. W. S. Bartlett secretary and Mrs. M. Govig treasurer. Parents of Parrish and Leslie Junior high music students were guests.

GRIN AND BEAR IT By Lichty



"You're wearing that 'High cost of living' excuse pretty thin, Fibbee — That's been your reason the last three times I refused you a raise —"

MATTER OF FACT

Ever-Increasing Italian Population To Prove Handicap to Marshall Plan

By Stewart Alsop

ROME, May 5.—Will the European recovery program make possible a real recovery in Italy, or can a free Italy survive only as a permanent pensioner of the United States? As the political placards are torn down, as the excitement of the election fades into memory, that remains the great conundrum, not only for Italy but for every nation of non-soviet Europe. Moreover, with the communists increasingly isolated, with a stable government at last in prospect, the European recovery program should have a fair test here.

Especially among Italian conservatives and nationalists, there are those who predict flatly (and with an odd lugubrious pleasure) that the test is bound to fail. These gloomy prophets are by no means fools, and their reasoning is worth a hearing. Its key is a word which the reporter in Italy always sooner or later hears in every conversation with an Italian, whether Premier Alcide de Gasperi or a chance acquaintance in a lobby. The word is "emigration." For as one observer rather brutally put it, "the Italians must export to live, and most of what they must export is Italians."

The facts are simple. There is a net yearly population increase of between 400,000 and 500,000 on this crowded peninsula. Except by emigration (or by those traditional methods, famine and war) there is no way in which this constant increase can be controlled, first because this is a Catholic country, and second because the Italian peasant or worker has always regarded a large family as a form of old-age insurance.

Hopes to Find Home Premier de Gasperi hopes to find living space abroad for 200,000 Italians every year. Yet even if this hope is fulfilled, the pessimists point out, the Italian population will still shoot up by a million every four years. And how can this poor country, they ask, a country almost without natural resources, hope to feed and clothe and shelter these people? Even now there are almost 2,000,000 unemployed, and agricultural workers live little better than animals, and millions of industrial laborers work only part time, 20 or 24 hours a week.

The central and eastern European markets for Italy's delicious fruits and vegetables are largely cut off. The world's rich, squeezed by taxation even in the rich United States, no longer buy Italy's fine silk and Carrara marble and specially built luxury cars. Without native raw materials, Italy cannot hope to compete in world markets in heavy machinery. And above all, everywhere in the world the doors are closed or closing on Italy's teeming population excess. Italy could survive in the old world of open borders and open markets, but not today. Thus the European Recovery Program is no more than a means of postponing, for four short years, the inevitable catastrophe.

Thus argue the pessimists, in this immoderately cheerful country there is a certain grim logic in their reasoning. Yet it is interesting that not one of the hard-hearted American experts here subscribes to this reasoning. The experts do not maintain that Italy is certain to recover. But they are unanimous in maintaining that Italy can recover.

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France and all the western European nations can only recover permanently as integral parts of a politically and economically unified western Europe. The more far-seeing go further, predicting that the recovery of Europe, even after unification, will depend upon the political and economic organization of the whole non-soviet world. Only thus, it must be admitted, can fundamental solutions be found for such problems as the Italian population surplus.

These ideas have already found preliminary expression in the Western Union, which Italy may soon be invited to join. Yet the Western Union is no more than a start. Italian Foreign Minister Carlo Sforza has remarked half-jokingly that he expects Europe to be united, but "in about 80 years," some 70-odd years too late. Certainly there are immense obstacles to real western European unity. Yet the ruthless policy of the Soviet Union will continue to act as a lash driving the western European nations to unite. And the United States, in the European Recovery Program, has provided the means. Thus it is at last possible to hope that is at least something of which Americans may be proud.

Bressler Plans Apartments

Harry Bressler will erect five apartments and a garage at 323 N. 14th st., at an estimated \$10,000, it was disclosed Wednesday in a building permit issued to him by the city engineer's office.

Other permits authorize R. Glen Savage to alter a house at 2445 N. Church st., at \$175; William Kingston, to build a garage, 940 S. 21st st., \$300, and E. B. Taylor, to alter house, 338 S. 14th st., \$300.

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Salem Schools

By Donna Carr

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Barnes Chosen Presy Suzanne Barnes was chosen 1948-49 president of the Girls league in balloting Wednesday morning at Salem high school. Other officers: Catherine Person, vice president; Betty Cooley, secretary; Joanne Hendrie, treasurer, and Joanne Jaqua, song leader.

An exact tie between Joanne Bunnell and Sharon Plunkett, the two candidates running for sergeant-at-arms, resulted in a provision to let them both serve in that position.

HIGHLAND SCHOOL

An operetta, "The Magic Feather of Mother Goose," will be given by Highland school pupils at 7:45 tonight in the school auditorium.

The cast includes: Little Jack Horner, Kenneth Wiedmann; The "Cat," Sara Magers; Old King Cole, Barry Drake; Little Polly Plinders, Dixie Ames; The Pie Man, David Bancroft; Little Bo-Peep, Nancy Painter; Little Boy Blue, Michael Patton; The Queen of Hearts, Darlene Olson; Mother Goose, Janice Rowell.

"The unwelcome guests" will be Linda Ertsgaard, Esther Beebe, Gerald Hilderbrand, Michael Youngquist, Paul Machay, David Clatterbuck, Linda Emmerton, Gail Desart, Susan Roberts, Sharon Boggs, Dennis Brown, Susan

Willard, Annabelle Hart, Martin Bowes, Deanna Parsons, Garry Allison, Patsy Glenn, Earl Beckett, Robert DeWense, Gary Bixler and Becky Jo Baker.

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