

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
From First Statesman, March 23, 1851

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY
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Threat of Coastwise Strike

The outlook for shipping on this coast isn't good. After making concessions as to hiring hall control as were made on the east coast and on wages the employers thought the dispute with longshoremen was on the way to a solution. But the Harry Bridges outfit upsets the applecart so unless last minute negotiations produce agreement the workers will go on strike September 2.

Then at Coos Bay another outbreak of jurisdictional trouble between the CIO and AFL has shut down the port and one sawmill and threatens to spread to San Francisco. The CIO longshoremen refuse to work the cargo on a ship with an AFL crew, claiming the below-decks crew should be CIO. They posted pickets about the dock and the mill and tied things up.

It is recalled that Coos Bay was caught in a similar squeeze a year or two ago that paralyzed operations there for a long time. Since the mills there depend so much on the water haul, this inter-union fight may force curtailment of their operations on the harbor.

A strike or a tieup because of union controversy on this coast would be damaging. It would cripple lumber mills and interrupt the export of wheat. The huge crop in the interior should be moved out rapidly to have room at country elevators for grain now piled outdoors. If no ships call the big export flow will stop, backing up grain clear to the country elevators. The interior suffers when shipping is tied up.

The coastwise and intercoastal shipping business has had tough going since the war. The heavy increase in expenses has made the business unprofitable except to lines fortunately situated. Joe Carson, member of the maritime commission, was on the coast recently looking into shipping conditions to see what needed to be done to revive use of this form of transportation. Heavier costs now will add to the difficulty in restoring ocean shipping to prewar proportions.

One may wonder whether Bridges really wants a settlement. He was irked at the injunction under the Taft-Hartley law which held up their strike. His union refuses to vote at NLRB direction on proposals for a new contract. Maybe Bridges doesn't want to have his men loading goods for Europe under the Marshall plan. A few years ago he announced a platform of no more strikes, but that isn't his tune today.

On the east coast a settlement was arrived at which continues the union control of the hiring hall pending a supreme court decision. So the shipping business there will continue. Bridges runs his own show out here however and may put the freeze on west coast shipping, come Thursday.

White State Cars

Announcement by Secretary of State Newbry that cars of his department will hereafter be painted white revives memories of the time when the state highway patrol was under the jurisdiction of the state department. Secretary Hal Hoss had them painted white. When the patrol was merged into the new state police system set up under Gov. Julius Meier they were put back in conventional dark colors.

Editor Green of the Ashland Tidings, commenting on the late announcement, expresses his hope that the state police cars again be painted white. He says their distinctive color had an immediate effect in controlling speed on highways—motorists watched for the white cars and watched their pace when one was in sight. The reasoning probably works in reverse: when no white car was in sight the motorists proceeded to burn up the road.

The white coloring of the state department cars now will have a soothing effect: no arrests are in sight. We wonder though if these distinctively painted vehicles will, like all the literature emanating from the office carry the name of the secretary of state. What a billboard a white car would make.

Bringing Home Not Bacon But a Trophy

What's going on here? Last Wednesday Gardner Knapp at Rotary club held up a trophy showing what passed for a gold-plated salmon leaping out of the water. He said it was provided by the Salem chamber of commerce for the mayors' fishing derby at Ilwaco; and made some uncomplimentary remarks about Mayor Bob Elfstrom's fishing ability.

Now comes the report that Mayor Elfstrom caught the biggest salmon at the Ilwaco derby and won the trophy. He caught a 38½ lb. fish while the Longview mayor got a 37-pounder. With the modesty of the perfect host Mayor Howerton of Ilwaco caught none.

Knapp will insist, we are sure, that Elfstrom's salmon was tied to a stake. Knowing both we will not know whose fish story to believe.

Anyhow it is something that the trophy comes back to Salem.

Some Always Unhappy

Oregon City is governed by a city commission composed of a mayor and two commissioners, who employ a city manager to serve as the active executive. The Enterprise reports that petitions are being circulated to submit to voters a proposed change in the city charter to provide for a board of aldermen of six members to be elected from the several wards of the city. The office of manager would be retained.

Singular, isn't it, that just when Salem is asked to vote on a proposal to change from a system of mayor and seven councilmen to a commission form with three members, Oregon City is considering just the reverse. The similarity ends in this, however, that the Salem proposal would presumably abolish the office manager while that in Oregon City provides for its continuance.

Perhaps it sums up to this: some people are never satisfied.

Wrong Place for Pickets

Admittedly it is anti-climax for men to be registering again for the draft. The emotional stimulus that attended registration in 1940 is lacking. We thought we had done the job thoroughly and folk have no taste for another war.

But the picketing by "Young Progressives" of registration offices is not to be condoned. The law stands. It was adopted only after prolonged and serious consideration by congress. Agitating against its operation is a defiance of the authority of the government.

If the "Young Progressives" and their older brothers could persuade their friends in Moscow to try to live as decent neighbors in the world the draft could be called off tomorrow. They are venting their spleen in the wrong direction.

Where Short Corn Grows?

A plant geneticist says he has succeeded in breeding a type of corn whose height is cut from 14 feet to 6 feet. This will be quite an advantage in the growing of hybrid corn where part of the stalks are detasseled. The scientist says that his short corn will produce as much corn on the cob as the taller variety. Maybe the ears will be longer as the stalk is shorter.

But what will happen to Iowa, "where the tall corns grow," if this dwarf plant come into style?

Korean Policy Called Palsied West Failure

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop
WASHINGTON, Aug. 30.—The early evacuation of the American zone of Korea was quietly voted by the national security council about a month ago. The more honest state and defense department policy makers frankly admit that the decision's ultimate effect will be to throw all of Korea into the expanding soviet empire. Under the circumstances, this remarkable decision, taken without any public discussion of the grave issues involved and only now disclosed, deserves rather careful study.

Superficially, the decision is in order. Under the U. N. settlement, the United States and the Soviet Union are to withdraw their troops from their Korean zones within ninety days of the establishment of governing governments in each zone. But in fact, both the recent decision of the national security council, and the American management of the Korean problem in the U. N. were the result of a debate among the strategists and planners over whether Korea was worth holding at all.

Three Bases
The conclusion that Korea was not worth holding was reached on three grounds. The occupation costs in the American zone of Korea amount to between \$200 and \$300 million a year. The army can ill afford the 24,000 troops now on garrison duty in Korea. And from the standpoint of straight military strategy, Okinawa and the Japanese islands are positions of equal, if not greater value.

These are practical considerations of high importance. They are not very frankly admitted, however. A good many of the responsible policy makers even speciously argue that the South Korean regime, Dr. Syngman Rhee will be able to maintain its independence after all. Certain measures to this end are being taken. Before the final evacuation, for example, the American garrison will recruit and train a South Korean constabulary of 40,000 men or more. When the American garrison departs, it will leave its arms behind. And the South Koreans may perhaps be assisted by an American military mission.

Mere Gestures
But the facts show that these measures are mere gestures, which one suspects are primarily designed to save face. The South Korean government is relatively feeble and troubled by a serious problem of communist infiltration. In north Korea the Soviets have set up an efficient puppet regime. This regime has at its disposal no mere constabulary, but a full dress army variously estimated to number from 60,000 to 250,000. The best guess is that the north Korean forces actually total 125,000.

Furthermore, as the expense of our occupation indicates, south Korea is not economically self-sustaining. The south Koreans cannot hope to feed themselves. With the exception of one small power plant, their entire power supply comes from north Korea. Obviously no government can sustain itself against a strong rival government which controls the main food resources, owns the power plants, and possesses three times more military force. After the American evacuation, the Kremlin can take South Korea if and when it chooses, without moving a single Russian soldier.

Political Effect
Then if one digs deeper into the background of the Korean decision, another significant group of facts emerges. The American abandonment of Korea will have

Up a Tree

an immediate, disastrous psychological and political effect on all the forces of resistance to communist expansion throughout Asia. Particularly, this will be true in adjacent China, where the national government of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek is perilously close to collapse. Yet this politico-psychological factor was only slightly weighed in the Korean decision, and for a very simple cause.

Not in Korea only, but in China, Burma, Malaya, Siam, Indo-China, the Netherlands Indies and the Philippines, the local communist parties are hard at work in the open. Their armed efforts in China, Burma and Indo-China, at a minimum, seem quite likely to be successful unless counter-pressure is soon to be applied.

Palsied Policy
But palsied impotence marks the present approach of the American policy makers to this whole huge Asiatic problem, mainly because of the hang-over from the petty vanity, political folly and crass disregard for obvious American interests, which characterized American Asiatic policy in wartime. The main objection to the Korean decision is simply that the issue, whether policy is our only possible Asiatic policy, is going to bulk large in the coming political campaign. The republicans, who are so obviously likely to win, at least want to try to do something about Asia. Perhaps they may fail. Perhaps the evacuation of Korea might even be included in a constructive program. But it seems outrageous to take this crucial decision now, in the prevailing atmosphere of dank defeatism, when such decisions are quite likely to prejudice any future attempt to turn the tide in Asia.

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WU President Chosen

To Head Fraternity
MACKINAC ISLAND, Mich., Aug. 30.—(P)—Dr. G. Herbert Smith, president of Williamette university, Salem, Ore., was reelected president of Beta Theta Pi fraternity at the finish of the group's 109th convention here.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"You see how the capitalist bosses trick you out of your wages... look at those incredible '48 models they've put on the market..."



Up a Tree

Turner-Aumsville School Vote Delayed—Pending Court Ruling

A \$500,000 bond issue election scheduled for September 3 in the Turner-Aumsville union high school district 8 has been postponed, the school board reported Monday.

Because of validation proceedings now going on in Marion county circuit court, the board ordered the election notices already posted to be disregarded. Plans for the bond issue, which would be used to build a new union high school, have been delayed until after the litigation is settled.

Attorneys' final arguments will be held before Circuit Judge E. M. Page Wednesday at 10 a.m. on a petition seeking to validate an election by which the union high school district was created last December.

The district has petitioned for a declaratory decree legalizing the election. A number of residents in the seven merged school districts involved have contended the election is invalid because the voting procedure was illegal.

A number of witnesses consisting mostly of district clerks and school board members were called by attorneys last week in an attempt to determine whether the election of last December was carried out under proper procedure. Districts in the merger are those of Turner, Aumsville, Marion, North Santiam, West Stayton, Crawford and Cloverdale. The group voted on August 2 to build the new high school at the site of the present Crawford school on the Turner-Marion road about three miles southeast of Turner.

The evils he found were extravagances of management, excessive salaries of officers and perquisites of their favorites, excessive commissions, expenditures for campaign funds and lobbying, running syndicates in financing, allowing officers to profit on investment of insurance funds.

Under the fierce blaze of this publicity John A. McClall of Hughes as president of New York Life, James W. Alexander, president of the Equitable, went on travels and stayed out of the country till 1909 and his former ward James Hazen Hyde went to France where he lived until 1941. Officers of Mutual Life resigned.

Laws were passed restricting investment and use of insurance company funds, banning contributions, and facilitating the shift of the big companies to mutual ownership.

The work of Hughes set a standard of excellence which in later years has seldom been attained. He was thorough but he was also fair. As McClure remarked:

"A striking feature of the inquiry has been Mr. Hughes' fairness. He has not gone on the theory that the examiner is an inquisitor and that he is free to bully, to confuse and to sneer at witnesses."

Congressional committees in later years have not been so decent.

Few men in public life have been of such great intellectual capacity, possessed such high moral standards and labored so successfully in many fields of government as Charles Evans Hughes. The universal respect in which he was held is the best tribute to his memory. Certainly nearly every holder of a life insurance policy still remains in his debt.

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'Needs' of City Police Cited In Controversy

(Story also on page 1)

Vernard Schmidt, 24-year-old army aviator and member of the Salem police force for the last two years, said Monday he was appealing his case to the civil service commission in the hope that "a lot of things will crop up at the hearing that may do some of the boys some good."

Schmidt resigned or was fired Monday (he says he was fired: Chief of Police Frank Minto said he wouldn't know which to call it) after being reprimanded for not showing up for work Sunday night. He had just been transferred from a patrol car to walking a beat, and declared he had informed headquarters that he did not intend to walk a beat Sunday night because he had been given no reason for the "demotion."

Schmidt blamed his transfer on a Hollywood district burglary which happened on a night when he said he had the responsibility of policing the entire city north of Marion street. Chief Minto said that had nothing to do with the change.

Regarding the department as a whole, Schmidt, 24, who served four years in the army prior to joining the Salem force two years ago, said "we haven't near enough men or cars to do a proper job of policing Salem. That is not Chief Minto's fault."

"But what is his fault is his continued failure to back his men; his continual pecking at them for things beyond their control; his siding with complainants against them without giving them a chance to face the complainant in the chief's presence, and his allowing of personal grudges, favoritism and backbiting to give him an excuse to bounce them around."

Concerning the shortage of manpower and equipment, Schmidt said that at one time recently "there wasn't a single store checked the entire night north of State street because one patrol car was down for repairs and the other two were immobilized for such work because their personnel was busy chasing a stolen car, trying to find two persons wanted on felony warrants and scouring a city block for three boys who rifled an automobile."

Schmidt, who said he liked police work immensely, declared that "by far the majority of uniformed men in the Salem police department are fine officers and deserve a better deal than they have been getting."

CIO Leaders Delay Action On Endorsing

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30.—(P)—The CIO's 51-member executive board today approved an anti-inflation program and renewed support of its legislative aims. It delayed action on endorsing a presidential candidate.

The executive board will resume meeting tomorrow and President Philip Murray told a news conference he "assumed" that the board would endorse a presidential candidate at that time.

There was little doubt among the board members or observers that the board would formally endorse President Truman at the Tuesday meeting.

All action of the board today was unanimous, Murray said. That meant that the legislative and anti-inflation programs, most of which correspond with the Truman proposals to congress very closely, had been approved by the anti-Truman members of the executive board.

The CIO's anti-inflation program calls for: (1) Enactment of excess profits tax legislation; (2) price control of basic commodities; (3) authority to allocate and ration commodities in short supply; (4) control of bank and consumer credits.

Children Watch Circus Trapeze Artist Take Fall

VANCOUVER, B. C., Aug. 30.—(P)—Six thousand horrified children today watched an aerial trapeze artist plunge 50 feet to a plank platform as he opened his act at the Shrine circus at the Pacific National exhibition.

Don Dorsey, billed as "the world's greatest" was rushed to a hospital with what appeared to be serious back injuries, and possibly a broken pelvis.

At first his audience thought it was part of the act when the aerialist, after a few preliminary swings on the high bar, lost his grip and fell.

Eye-witnesses said there was no safety net.

AN OPEN LETTER

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Sewer Contract For West Salem Project Awarded

WEST SALEM, Aug. 30.—(Special)—Salem Sand and Gravel company was awarded the contract for installation of 985 feet of sewer line along Murlark street in a special city council session here tonight.

The gravel company's bid was \$5,221.75, as compared with a lower bid of \$5,207.75 by Boatwright and Cater company of Salem. The council, after a lengthy debate, voted to award to contract to the highest bidder after several members pointed out that Boatwright and Cater company has served as the city's engineering department for several months.

The council agreed, however, to award the contract for inspection of the work to Boatwright. The project, to be completed by October 15, includes installation of a sewer extension from Bassett street north to 7th street along Murlark street, a distance of two blocks.

Silverton Man Ends Own Life With Pistol

Chester Maulding, 41, Silverton Hills logging contractor, committed suicide Monday afternoon by shooting himself through the head with a .22 caliber pistol near his Drake's Crossing home, Marion County Sheriff Denver Young reported.

Young, who investigated, said Maulding's body was discovered in the woods about 5:30 p. m. by a neighbor, Bruce Alexander. The widow told the sheriff that her husband left the house carrying a shotgun and the pistol about 1:30, saying he was going hunting. She said he had been in ill health for several months, Young stated.

The body was taken to Ekman's Memorial chapel in Silverton.

Boeing Employee, Wife Missing on Flight to Seattle

SEATTLE, Aug. 30.—(P)—A Boeing airplane company employee and his wife were reported by the CAA tonight as missing for six days on a flight from Cle Elum to Seattle in a small single-engine plane.

Aboard the silver monoplane, an Ercopter with the license number NC-9872, were Mr. and Mrs. Truman F. Taylor of suburban Bellevue, the CAA said.

State patrol, coast guard and McChord field search units were alerted immediately in an attempt to find the plane, believed to be down somewhere in the Cascades.

The CAA said Taylor was last reported at Cle Elum where he took off at 4 p.m. Aug. 24 for Seattle despite warnings of bad weather over the mountains.

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