

The Oregon Statesman

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

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Qualifications for School Elections

Any registered voter is entitled to vote at elections where matters relating to state, county or city bond issues or tax levies are up for decision.

In school elections, only property taxpayers are privileged to vote on bond and tax questions.

To erase this discrimination a constitutional amendment has been initiated and will be voted on at the November election.

It is possible to argue that only those who own property and pay taxes thereon should be permitted to vote on bond issues or to impose extra tax levies. But if that is the proper rule, it should apply to all elections and not be restricted to school elections.

Moreover, the test no longer fits realities. For about 40 per cent of school support comes from state income and excise taxes. But the individual who pays an income tax but no property tax still is denied the voting privilege at these school elections.

In our complex society it is hard to say who is or is not a taxpayer. The owner of a house pays taxes, to be sure; but the tenant also pays taxes indirectly, for his rental is fixed at a rate to cover taxes and upkeep and provide a return to the landlord.

Since schools are so intimately a part of the lives of people, it seems that the rule of universal suffrage should extend to such important matters as provision of schoolhouses, suitable support for school budgets. Heads of families, regardless of their financial status, should have a voice in determining what kind of schools the community will have.

Truthfully, we do not believe the extension of the voting privilege to non-taxpayers will have much effect on results of school elections on financial questions. Bond issues depend for their support on the community leaders, and they are in all probability property owners and taxpayers.

In actual practice the present restriction is hard to enforce because rosters of taxpayers are usually not available, nor lists of stockholders in corporations paying local taxes. The amendment restricts the voting to those regularly registered, which in itself will standardize voting procedure.

Objection might be raised to the submission of a constitutional amendment rather than a statutory amendment; but that objection is not sufficient to recommend rejection.

The Statesman is ready to give its hearty endorsement to this amendment and recommends voting 308 X Yes.

Churchill on Russia

In his book "The Gathering Storm" Winston Churchill devotes much of the earlier chapters to quotations from his speeches in the period between the wars. He was warning Britain against a rearmament Germany, expressing fears over the intentions of Hitler, the corporal adventurer, urging rearmament in the face of the growing menace in central Europe.

Perhaps Churchill is speaking again for history. In an address in Wales Saturday before the annual conference of the conservative party

Churchill, elaborating on his address of two years ago at Fulton, Mo., blamed Russia with putting the world in peril and urging the western powers to "bring matters to a head and make a final settlement" before Russia is armed with atomic weapons.

Well, if war comes Churchill can write another book and print more quotations that might be headed "I told you so." And in his present position he has considerable support on both sides of the Atlantic. The Oregonian for instance, pessimistic over avoiding war, talks in terms of "getting it over with."

Were Churchill in power however we doubt if he would speak in such threatening language. It is different when the responsibility for war rests on one's shoulders. The hazards of war are so terrifying both in victory and defeat that only one with icewater in the veins would actually move to precipitate it.

Perhaps we run grave risks by temporizing; but we do thereby retain a moral integrity which we are not ready to sacrifice.

Goal to Make

It is always a tense moment in a football game when a team advances the ball within striking distance of the goal. When the announcer sings out "second down, goal to make," spectators really get excited as they watch for the next plays.

Well, that is the score today in Salem's annual Community Chest campaign. With over \$70,000 out of the \$110,000 budget now reported pledged, three days remain in the campaign to "make the goal." Given the proper effort by campaign workers and response by the public, the Friday luncheon should be a victory luncheon with the "goal made."

Salem must not fall down short of its goal. The agencies which depend on the Chest agree to refrain from separate campaigns for meeting their operating expenses. Thus it becomes a community obligation to supply them with funds they require. The Chest is the accepted method of raising money for welfare activities. Let everyone help to score the touchdown Friday.

Czechoslovakia is busy jumping through the red hoop. A law has been passed providing punishment or making statements against the nation. Also a new five-year plan will have forced labor camps. Bohemians are tough, however, and their concepts of liberty will survive their present scourge.

A news item says that farmers are buying more bathtubs than ever before. That is doubtless true, principally for the reason they weren't able to afford them before. The bulge in farm income is permitting farmers to catch up with their city cousins on conveniences of living.

The principle news over a major holiday seems to be the number of deaths. Likewise for the deer season. Press services post scoreboards of fatalities. What doesn't get in the news is the fact that several hundred thousand men and some women get a real tonic out of a deer hunt — and some bring back venison.

Demos Have Material for Re-building

CHICAGO, Oct. 12 — When the republicans were beaten in 1932, it was six years before the dead stump of the party began putting out such vigorous new shoots as Thomas E. Dewey, Harold Stassen and Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. It was 16 years before the new growth pretty well covered the party's Harding-Coolidge-Hoover era deadwood. And it is precisely this obliteration of the old-style republicanism that now virtually assures Dewey's election to the presidency.

If the situation here in Illinois is any test, the democrats will not have so long to wait for their comeback. Even now, in their moment of disaster they have found new men with new ideas. Adlai Stevenson and Paul Douglas, to nominate for the governorship and senatorship. Stevenson and Douglas may well be beaten. Yet they constitute a startling contrast, none-the-less, to the tired old party hacks the republicans kept on trotting out for so long after the Hoover debacle in 1932.

It is further interesting to note that while Paul Douglas' work in Illinois established his claim to the senatorial nomination, the selection of Stevenson for the governorship was suggested from Washington, by the most eminent of the surviving new dealers. Ed Kelly, the retired seaman of the Cook county democratic machine, has long admired Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas. And it can now be disclosed that Justice Douglas proposed the nomination of Stevenson, whom he had come to know and like during

Stevenson's service in Washington. All this is a pretty far cry from the behavior of the great democratic city machines in the past. Even as recently as 1944, Ed Kelly himself was one of the northern bosses who blocked his friend, Justice Douglas, for the vice presidency and forced the choice of Harry S. Truman because he was politically regular. If you talk to Jake Arvey, Kelly's successor as Cook county leader, the apparent anomaly is rapidly explained. Arvey is no political goo-goo, but he is an intelligent, energetic and capable organization man. And he is trying to rebuild the old Cook county machine, from foundation upward, on an entirely new pattern.

In the old pattern, before the 1930s, the great urban democratic machines voted their masses of untutored immigrants like sheep, securing their loyalty by little favors, Christmas baskets and the like. Then during the 1930s and early 1940s, Franklin Delano Roosevelt served as the "best precinct captain" of the urban organizations, as Arvey puts it.

Now, however, the city machines have to deal with a much better educated, more independent second generation in all the great racial communities of their cities. And this second generation has moreover been taught by Roosevelt to expect all sorts of service and assistance from the government.

In other words, the city machines have got to offer good, progressive government in order to retain their hold on the urban voting masses. In Chicago, Arvey and his lieutenants buy up to this necessity some time ago, when they chose Martin Kennelly, an upright, able, independent Irish civic leader, for the mayoralty. Kennelly has perhaps empha-

sized "clean government" too strongly, at the expense of the parks, playgrounds, new schools and such like, that contribute directly to the voters' better welfare. He fits a little more into the old reform pattern and a little less into the new social-welfare-government pattern, than his comparable colleague, Mayor O'Dwyer in New York. None the less, his thorough clean-up in Chicago has won Kennelly a strong position and saved the city for the democrats.

This does not mean that the transition to the new pattern is not very difficult for the extremely old-fashioned democratic city machine here. Kennelly's rigid enforcement of the civil service and other laws has cruelly cut into the machine's patronage. Although Kennelly appoints organization democrats whenever possible, the old-line ward leaders hate the inevitable reduction of their pickings.

The Illinois republican organization, which has certainly not been subjected to any clean-up, has even been able to buy up a number of Arvey's precinct captains for the present election. Yet in the long run, Arvey feels very confident of the success of a smaller, more streamlined democratic organization, assisted by the appeal of the good government it offers. That is what he is aiming for.

The same transformation is occurring in several of the other great northern urban organizations of the democratic party. The northern bosses are becoming new dealers now. This is likely to mean a lot to the republicans in 1950. And even before 1950, this process will provide a strong new force to counterbalance the inevitable efforts of the Dixiecrat-Southerners to capture control of the democratic party's remains. (Copyright, 1948, New York Herald Tribune, Inc.)

Oregon Politics

State to Elect 12 Officials at General Vote

(Editor's note—The initial story of this series detailed the political results of last fall's plane crash which killed three top state officials. Today's, designed primarily for our thousands of new residents, explains the duties of these and other officers, and gives an outline of the Oregon governmental set-up. This is one of a series of articles on personalities to be voted on November 2.)

By Wendell Webb
Managing Editor, The Statesman

OREGON'S GOVERNMENT

Oregon elects 19 of its major officials — governor, secretary of state, state treasurer (these three comprising the board of control); attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, labor commissioner, two U. S. senators, four U. S. representatives and seven supreme court justices.

Twelve of these are to be chosen at the general election next month — governor, secretary of state, state treasurer, attorney general, one U. S. senator, four U. S. representatives and three supreme court justices. The others do not expire this year.

All but the U. S. representatives are elected by the state-at-large. The state is divided into four congressional districts — Portland, northwestern Oregon, southwestern Oregon and eastern Oregon. Salem and Marion counties are in the first district, as are Polk, Yamhill, Benton, Clackamas and five other counties. Each district votes on but one representative.

As for the supreme court justices, the incumbents are unopposed for another six-year term. That leaves but six state offices in question in each of the congressional districts. And so heavily have republicans figured in the state's recent leadership that the odds are they will continue to fill all such offices. But with democratic registration also at a new high, an upset in at least one instance is possible.

Duties of a U. S. senator and representatives are universally the same. Duties of the other four contested offices, so far as Oregon is concerned, may be briefed as follows:

The governor is chairman of the board of control; commander-in-chief of military and naval forces of the state; chairman of the state land board, reclamation commission and a member of several other boards. He has authority to call special legislative sessions and to veto bills; directly supervises preparation of the state budget; makes appointments to fill vacancies and has appointive powers over most of the state commissioners. The secretary of state is chief clerical and fiscal officer of the board of control, state land board, state banking board, state printing board, board of education, state reclamation board and others. He is in charge of the state elections bureau, custodian of state buildings, auditor of public accounts, and in charge of motor vehicle and operator licensing.

The state treasurer is custodian of all state funds, except those of the state land board. He pays warrants authorized by law; is responsible for state funds deposited; keeps statistics of state indebtedness; enforces inheritance and gift tax laws. He is a member of the state board of control, land board, banking board, bond commission, reclamation commission and other boards.

The attorney general heads the state department of justice as chief legal officer of the state, and has charge of all state business requiring legal counsel. He may require the aid of district attorneys, and advise with them; prepares documents for any state department; appears for the state in all supreme court cases involving it, and when directed by the governor may take full charge of any investigation or prosecution within the jurisdiction of the circuit court.

In addition to elective officials, there are around 80 appointive officers, boards or commissions including agriculture, conservation, health, higher education, liquor, police, utilities, welfare and tax. The power held by the governor over many of these appointments, as well as his status as chairman of the control board, has made the state particularly chary regarding this office.

At county levels, there are to be chosen this year 18 state senators (the other 12 are holdovers); 60 representatives (all are elected biennially and 38 are seeking new terms); 14 circuit judges (out of the state's 30), and 24 district attorneys (out of 36—one for each county).

Many candidates for these offices already are virtually elected, having no opposition. But there are enough contests remaining to give the counting boards a lively time when the polls close at 8 p.m. Tuesday, November 2.

(Tomorrow—About the Candidates)

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"Before we begin our first Autumn meeting there will be a short pause while everybody looks at everybody else's hat..."

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

of this funny-money business, a delusion which arises whenever people get in financial distress and want to escape their obligations. That little pamphlet, widely circulated, exerted a tremendous influence on the election, converting many a doubter to the virtues of an honest currency and the gold standard.

As for Roberts, he was appointed director of the mint holding that office under three republican presidents. Then he went into banking and in 1914 joined the staff of the National City Bank of New York. There he became author of the bank's monthly letter on business and finance. By this means he continued to expound the fundamentals of economics in a style singularly lucid and forceful. The bank's Monthly Letter became a valuable textbook in economics, instructing the multitude on principles that govern economic relationships.

Mr. Roberts retired a few years ago and passed away last June. The bank, in recognition of his long and valuable service, has issued a memorial book with extracts from some of his writings. The material contains elementary lessons which deserve the widest publicity, especially in these times of inflation and postwar difficulties.

For example, at the time of the Russian revolution Roberts pointed out that the value of property depends not on who owns them but on what they produce. "It is the steady and always-increasing flow of consumable goods which is of concern to the public. All of the benefits from these properties come out in the flow. The industries are not producing for the owners but for the consuming public. The farmer is not raising grain for himself but for the bread-eaters, and upon the intelligence and industry with which the farms are tilled depends the welfare of the consumers. Any scheme for changing the management of the properties which reduces the output or increases the cost of the output is harmful to the community."

Russia has proved the preachment but evidently not learned the lesson, as the depressing conditions in east Germany prove.

This 1922 paragraph on inflation has present significance: "A great rise of prices that has been caused by inflation must be supported by more inflation or it will collapse. The market must keep on rising or they will go back, and when a great body of indebtedness has been created, upon margins which grow narrower, the longer the rise continues, the longer the decline, when it begins, is likely to be precipitate."

In 1919, the bank letter pointed out the need of a change in our tariff policy because of our transition from a debtor to a creditor nation. Discussing the economic restoration of Germany after the first world war, it said bluntly that unless the German people got sufficient reward they would not work, and commented: "Slavery never has paid as a business proposition." Too bad Henry Morgenthau didn't re-read this before framing his plan for a pastoral Germany.

The Monthly Letter continues in publication and seems to be in competent hands. It still seeks to apply fundamental truths to the problems of the times; and its editors must find in the issues prepared by Mr. Roberts a library, valuable for reference and for guidance.

Your City Government

(Editor's note—Mayor Robert L. Elstrom of Salem, in a move to stress on all residents that "the city is a municipal corporation, your corporation, and you are its stockholders," recently prepared a series of articles on its government. Excerpts from the articles will appear from time to time as a matter of public information.)

Salem has seven parks, including Bush's Pasture, which is now under development. The park system is under the city manager, but it is the direct responsibility of a park superintendent. Salem does not have a park commissioner, but we do have an advisory board, composed of civic-minded citizens who work with city officials.

It is felt by many citizens that parks were long neglected, but the work of their care and development has been reactivated during the past two years. We have budgeted \$23,551 for park development and maintenance this year. Another \$13,313 was appropriated for playgrounds. The playgrounds are maintained the year-round and expense is shared by the city on a 50-50 basis with the school board.

The major park development now is that of 100-acre Bush's Pasture. The work on this project was started last year. A large portion will be seeded this year. By spring part of it will accommodate the public on a limited scale.

On this project, your city manager and the park advisory board are working jointly with the long range planning commission. The program calls for installation of almost every type of recreational facility. It is our aim to make it particularly attractive to Salem's youngsters. Plans include picnic grounds and athletic fields. Too, we are planning a number of features for adults, such as space to plant flower gardens.

The city also maintains Willson park, west of the cottage building to North Cottage street, where in summer the band concerts are held. This is no small job, especially with so many species of trees. No matter from what part of the U.S. you came, you can no doubt find at least one tree there that was native to your state.

Parks comprise a department expenditure from which there is no revenue. But it is one of the civic assets all civilized centers have and we feel that the money is well spent.

ASKS BIDS REJECTED
PORTLAND, Oct. 12 (AP)—Col. O. E. Walsh, Portland district engineer, has asked for permission to reject all bids and construct by hired labor a materials laboratory at McNary dam. The engineers' estimated cost was \$22,770, and the lowest of three bids was \$28,950, submitted by Hansen & Parr, Spokane.

City Manager Plan Opposed

(Editor's note—A group known as the Citizens' Better Government committee has asked for space to tell why they favor a commission form of city government. The following was over the signature of L. L. Smith, secretary.)

There are a number of cities having the manager form which function satisfactorily; the same can be said about the commission form. There are numerous types of manager form; very few are identical. We know of none that are identical with ours. Even the backers of our present plan admitted when it went to a vote the last time that it was far from the best plan that could be offered.

We who oppose the manager plan feel that a much better plan can be put into effect at considerable saving to the taxpayer. Our present plan has been in effect practically two years which is ample time for it to prove its worth. In all this time there has not been a single outstanding accomplishment that can rightfully be credited to the manager form. Certainly claims can be made of huge savings made in purchasing but in every instance it can be shown that as great or greater saving would have been made under commission form. A commissioner who would be the city engineer would have planned and superintended the alteration of city hall.

To substantiate our statement we cite the fine jobs that were done before we had a city manager—namely—Disposing of de-

linquent tax property by our city treasurer—acquiring and developing our fine airport—the excellent job done in organizing our civilian defense, purchasing the equipment, etc. with approximately only \$5,000 spent. The national government made an inspection and gave us an A1 rating. It was done without a city manager.

The Safety Valve

Freedom and License
To the Editor:

I read your column concerning the bill proposed by Senator Lynch to eliminate bad comic books — and I disagree with your viewpoint.

You are getting "Freedom" mixed up with "license." Would you give men "license" to sell poison to children — labeled "candy"? That is just what some of these comic books are—mental and spiritual poison in the hands of impressionable young people.

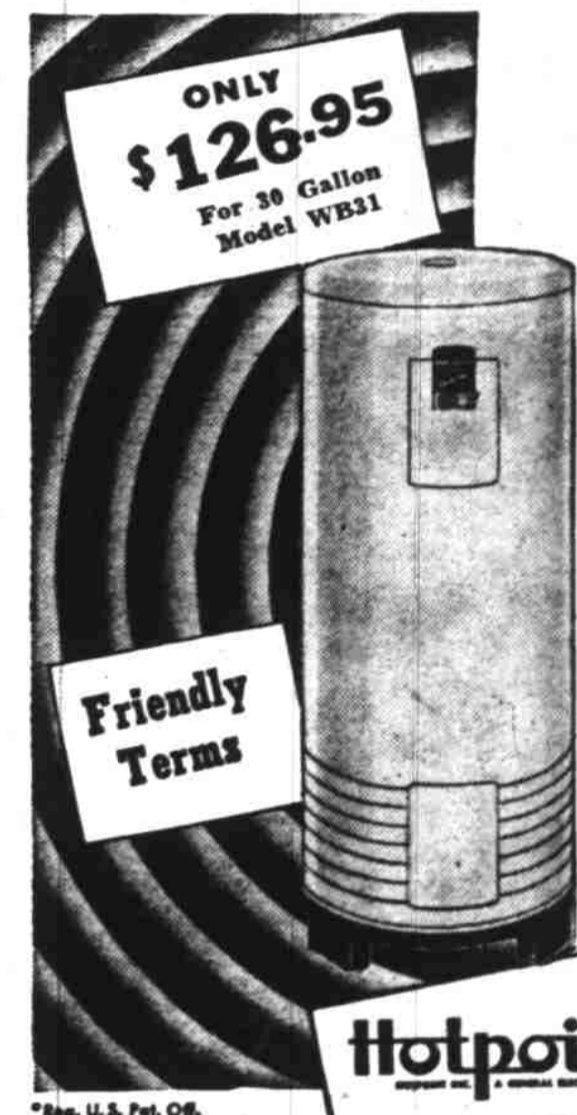
Mrs. Bindel
Rt. 1, Aumsville.
Editor's Note — In literature one man's poison may be another man's meat.

A grown plains buffalo weighs about 2,000 pounds and stands five and a half or six feet at the hump. Both sexes have permanent horns.

Polar bears use only their forelegs while swimming. The only wild boars found in America are in North Carolina and east Tennessee. These animals should not be confused with razor-backs.

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