

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Swoys Us, No Fear Shall Ave"
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THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY
CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor and Publisher

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Progressive Retrogression

The Henry A. Wallace Progressive party which started out with concessions of from five to seven million votes from political commentators, whose estimates were reduced down to around two and one-half in the closing period of the campaign, shrunk to something over a million votes.

What wrecked it was its three-legged character; one foot at the start free (liberal), the other bound to the communist party line. Americans refused to go along with a party into which communist fellow travelers had infiltrated heavily. The communist attempt to make headway under a false front was rejected wholly and utterly.

Despite Wallace's brave words of hope for the future, the party's prospect seems dim. Had there been a republican landslide the progressives might have moved into a position as a successor to the democratic party. Now it will have to try for a place to the left of the democratic party but separate from the socialist party. This leaves it right on the communist doorstep again.

All Gideon's band has left are its broken pitchers.

Wreck Ahead for State Finances

Oregon voters pretty well succeeded in wrecking the state's finances in their votes on measures. They voted for a weird old age pension bill which may cost the state up to \$50,000,000 a year, added another state institution (boys' camp) to be supported by the state. Then they voted to reduce state income by raising income tax exemptions; and refused to meet their obligations by authorizing a levy to be met by proceeds of the income tax.

What the state government faces is this situation:

1. A deficit for the current biennium of around \$6,400,000.
2. A large excess of income tax receipts unavailable for general spending.
3. A regular state budget which the budget director describes as "terrific" because it far overruns previous budgets.
4. A new burden in the form of this old age pension of \$50 a month for every man of 65 or woman of 60 who has an income of less than \$50 now, with no specific means provided for financing the cost.
5. The new pension law may be declared out of conformity with federal legislation, costing the state the federal grants.

This old age pension law is a dinger. It orders the legislature to do something and tries to make the supreme court stand aside. For all its positiveness the language is so vague that it will take court decisions to interpret its meaning or its validity.

The act established as the "people's will" and "public policy" to properly feed, clothe and house, provide hospital and medical care, medicines, crutches, teeth, glasses and a "decent burial" to the needy old. It is to go into effect immediately on passage and the state board of control is directed to provide the funds until the legislature does—despite the fact that the board

of control has no money and appropriating power.

The legislature is commanded to provide the money necessary and it "may transfer funds from any other fund, issue certificates of indebtedness, or take such other action as may be necessary."

Interim administration is vested in the state public welfare commission, but the governor is to appoint a one man commissioner to administer the act, with expenses limited to one per cent of the commission's income.

Come December 2nd, when the election returns are announced and the oldsters will be rapping at the door to get their names on the list; and they won't take "no" or "wait a while" for an answer.

The governor, the board of control, the budget director, the legislature will no doubt join in a chorus: "Why did this have to happen to Oregon?"

What About the Poll-Takers?

Yes, what about the poll-takers? Will Elmo Roper and George Gallup take a powder? Will they fade into the exits, like the Literary Digest, now that their predictions are uniformly discredited by results?

No, indeed. They will come up with explanations, talk about "margin of error," and the swing of the undecided.

What seems to have happened is that in the closing two weeks of the elections voters switched to Truman. Roper's count stopped way back in September. Other probably were not recent enough to catch the swing.

The election merely proves that what counts are the votes in the ballot box on election day, not the guesstimating before elections.

It was time for pollsters to fall flat. This experience will teach those in politics to keep working up 'til election day.

Strong State Administration

Oregon alone on the west coast held fast to its republican moorings in Tuesday's election. Here all the state elective officials, except those chosen on nonpartisan ballot, continue to be drawn from republican ranks. Douglas McKay won handily for governor; Earl Newbery had a wide margin for secretary of state; Howard Belton retained a comfortable lead for state treasurer; and George Neuner got a decisive vote for attorney general, over well-financed, active opposition.

This assures the people of Oregon a strong, honest and capable administration. The board of control will be in dependable hands. The public trust will be faithfully discharged, public interest will be paramount.

The administration will be clean and will work to make Oregon clean. Efforts to sap the foundations of morality were thrust aside. This administration will, we feel sure, be one of character and conscience.

West Salem cut most of the political didoes in the late campaign. At least they proved diverting to Salem voters bereft of any local stir.

The Safety Valve

To the Editor:
As one who has been interested in the young people of Salem and Oregon, I have followed with interest your paper's stand concerning proposed legislation to censor literature (and comic books) in Oregon. I thoroughly agree with your position, that such legislation is both dangerous and unnecessary.

But—last Saturday's copy of the Statesman reached me today and, while looking through it, I found a perfect example of the very thing which, if not corrected by the dealers themselves, is going to result in the passage of the half-baked legislation which you so logically refuted. On page 7, of the Saturday issue for Oct. 16, is carried the heading "The Nation's Top Comics." The second strip, under the heading is entitled "Dick Tracy." I haven't been able to follow the story, but for this day's action the title should be "How to develop youthful murderers and fascist material in America."

A character (not named), who is apparently from the underworld, pursues another character named Bright Eyes, who seems to have offended the gangster element by inventing a television burglar alarm. He not only destroys the one who represents "Law and Order," but he does it in a way that is revolting, to any American possessing a sense of decency and fair-play, by shooting him in the back.

The fact that the victim is a blind boy is only incidental to such a perverted type of comic (?) strip. Don't the publishers get to preview the material they use in their comic sections, or did they think the example mentioned above was actually comical.

While attending Union Theological seminary here in New York City, I am spending 8 to 12 hours per week doing field work in a Presbyterian church down in Harlem. I wish all the publishers running such strips (as your Oct. 16 example) could hear the play-chatter that I hear as I walk through teeming crowds of Negro, Italian, or Puerto Rican boys and girls. No longer do they imitate "Pioneers and Indians" or "G-Men," but the names one hears them screaming at each other are, more often than not, names from comic strips which have come alive for them in their imaginations.

How in God's name are educators and religious leaders going to be expected to inculcate into youthful minds a final pattern of honesty, justice, and fair-play, when for every boy or girl they are able to touch, there are a thousand whose final pattern is gained from daily, weekly, and yearly reading, (with breathless excitement) of such heroes as the characters of the featured in your October 16 sheet!

Donald Douris
600 W. 122nd
New York 27, N.Y.

(Editor's note: The above letter is being forwarded to Chester Gould, artist who produces Dick Tracy, and to the syndicate which distributes it. The Statesman is keenly interested in the subject at hand and will insist that its panels and strips be maintained in good taste.)



"Coffin Corner"

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

plutocracy on republicans evoked a response which was not revealed until the votes were counted.

Dewey, on the other hand, coasted. Confident of victory he refused to get down in the ring and punch. His generalities failed to generate enthusiasm, his repetitions of unity and brotherhood became a cloying cliché. The people turned to the one who was putting up a lone fight, seemingly in their own behalf.

So much for the principals. Now for another analysis.

The 80th congress proved an albatross around Dewey's neck. He couldn't well abjure it; he couldn't successfully carry it. The hardshell leadership of men like Taber and Knutson and Joe

Literary Guidepost

DOCTOR FAUSTUS (translated by H. T. Lowe-Porter (Knopf); \$3.50)

Written in German and first published in Switzerland, now a dual Book-of-the-Month selection, this 500-page novel is subtitled "the life of the German composer Adrian Leverkühn as told by a friend."

Serenus Zeitblom, the friend, is not, he says, "writing a novel." He is describing, explaining or philosophizing about a man, born in 1885, with whom he

Martin and Wherry—wrong! In so many instances—was too great a liability for one of Dewey's moderate liberalism to overcome. Labor martialed its votes against republicans because of the Taft-Hartley law. Housewives, rightly or wrongly, blamed the 80th congress for price increases. Veterans were resentful of defeat of the housing bill.

The real surprise however came in the Midwest. There states which had been among the first to revolt from new dealism, swung back into the democratic column: Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota. This was the arch of republican confidence. It caved in utterly.

The reason? Too much corn. With a huge crop, prices kept sagging. Farmers who had prospered beyond their dreams commenced grasping for price supports. Parity became a word to conjure with. Memories of former surpluses and low prices haunted them. Truman and then Barkley came along to remind them of past hard times and of the new deal largess. Stassen, replying to Truman, in a speech that had been passed on at Dewey headquarters, was rather vague about price support. The midwest farmers then deserted their normal republican allegiance to protect their self-interest.

Thus the alliance which Franklin Roosevelt had held together—workers in cities and farmers in the country—joined again to elect Harry Truman.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

S. F. L.: What is buritis? Is it curable?

Answer: A bursa is a sac containing fluid and located near a joint. Buritis refers to inflammation of the bursa.

This disorder usually can be cleared up completely.

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Your Health

Written by Dr. Herman N. Bundensen, M.D.

Some diseases can be prevented by such simple means that it is a pity if anyone ever becomes afflicted with them. Simple goiter falls into this category; that is, we have the knowledge and the method for warding it off if only we would take the trouble to do so.

The thyroid gland forms a secretion which is necessary for regulating the speed at which the body's basic activities proceed. This secretion contains iodine and if enough iodine is not furnished the body, the thyroid gland tends to enlarge. This condition is known as simple goiter. It is most likely to develop during periods of strain, such as the adolescent or maturing period. Moreover, studies have been made which show that the disorder occurs in areas where the drinking water contains little iodine.

Thus, since we know the cause of simple goiter, the time of life and the geographic areas in which the hazard is greatest, its prevention can be readily achieved merely through the routine use of iodized salt. Certainly, this usage should be encouraged, at least by young children and adolescents, particularly those living in so-called goiter belts. In addition, it is suggested that expectant mothers who make frequent use of preparations containing vitamins A and D have potassium iodide added to the capsules of these vitamins.

To make prevention doubly sure, routine examinations of school children should include examination of the thyroid gland to determine whether it is enlarged.

Recently such a survey was made in England of almost 2,000 children between the ages of 11 and 15. The children were located in four areas where the iodine content of the water varied greatly.

Doctors were instructed to determine the state of the thyroid gland, according to the following tests: whether or not it was visible, whether it was visible but soft and smooth, or visible and hard, containing lumps.

It was found that in those areas where the iodine content of the water was high, thyroid enlargement was rare. There would also seem to be some relationship between the hardness of water and the development of goiter. If the water is hard, even though it contains iodine, goiters still may occur.

Red Escapees' Information Untapped

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop
WASHINGTON, Nov. 3 — A remarkably interesting project has been proposed and studied at a high level in the state department. This project is to create and support an "Institute of Russian Studies." The personnel of this organization would be carefully selected from the tens of thousands of Americans who have escaped from the Soviet Union — high army officers, scientists, civil servants, communist party officials, specialists and intellectuals of all kinds.

The proposal has been seriously considered. Yet it has nearly died in the pre-election doldrums — it is no doubt too dangerously unorthodox an idea for official Washington in an election year. But one reason why serious interest in the proposal should be taken is suggested by the story of the Soviet topographer.

He was the chief Soviet map specialist in Moscow before the war. After the war, he was ordered to the Soviet zone of Germany. Soon after he arrived, he risked his life to escape to the American zone.

No doubt he assumed that freedom, and a chance to do his work unmolested, lay with the Americans. But for more than two years the topographer has languished in a small town in the American zone of Germany, living from hand to mouth with

a few other escaped Russians. Some of his essential needs have been cared for by an American refugee organization, the International Rescue and Relief Committee. But otherwise his existence has been totally disregarded by the Americans, including the American intelligence services.

What gives the dreary experience of the Soviet topographer a disturbing meaning is the following series of facts. In the last war, with mass bombing by thousands of tons of bombs, a wide margin of bombing error could be tolerated. But in any future war, the American strategic advantage will rest very largely on the ability to drop very few bombs—atomic bombs—on each target. For this the greatest possible accuracy is clearly essential. Yet the alarming fact is that the United States now has no maps of the Soviet Union sufficiently dependable for accurate bombing by radar.

The implications are clear enough. Under the circumstances, it seems incredible that a man who was the Soviet Union's top map expert should have been totally disregarded. But the fact is that his experience is wholly typical.

No one knows just how many Soviet citizens have fled from the harsh grip of the Soviet system since the war. Estimates range up to 100,000. To these must be added at least 150,000 Russians who were taken to Germany as slave laborers or for other purposes during the war, and have since successfully evaded repatriation to the Socialist paradise.

cret police officials; and writers and intellectuals who found the drab, brutally enforced conformity of Soviet life unendurable.

The tight control over all aspects of life in the Soviet Union makes it a far more difficult intelligence objective than Nazi Germany even at the height of the war, according to experienced intelligence men. Yet these tens of thousands of Soviet citizens outside the Soviet Union constitute a gold mine of information. And the fact is that the gold mine has hardly been worked at all. Some few escaped Soviet or satellite military men and a few specialists have been interrogated. But they are the exceptions. The neglected topographer is the rule.

This is not really the fault of the intelligence services. To locate the informed among the scattered masses of escaped Russians, to screen out the M. V. D. agents, to interrogate the specialists, and to compile the resulting information is a job which the intelligence services are simply not equipped to do.

Yet it is certainly a job worth doing. The best way to do it, according to those who have studied the matter, including the state department planners, is to establish, in the United States, the proposed "Institute of Russian Studies," rather than to attempt a futile peaceable interrogation. Vital strategic information would be an important by-product of such a project. But more important would be the insight into the ponderous, mysterious workings of the Soviet state which would then become available to the makers of foreign policy. American policy toward the Soviet Union could then be based on fact, rather than on intelligent guesswork.

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GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"Comrade spy report U.S. sabotage proceeding according to plan... stuffing employee suggestion boxes with 'drop dead, Capitalists' suggestions..."



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