

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles F. Sprague

Two members of the police force face loss of jobs because they are said to have engaged actively in politics, in support of a measure to establish a commission form of government. That may be the law and dismissal may be their fate; but the punishment seems pretty severe. Presumably the men supported the commission form thinking either their individual lot would be improved or that of the department. But businessmen, workers, farmers, housewives also engage in a lot of politicking in their own interest. I have never been quite reconciled to the idea that just because a person held public office he should be barred from taking part in politics. The object of the civil service law probably is to prevent public officials from using their offices as political machines; but the law extends to individual political activity which cramps one's freedom.

If policemen are to be fired for supporting the proposed charter change for a commission form of government, what about the firemen who supported actively the charter change for reducing their hours of labor? Or did not firemen thus busy themselves?

I am not protesting action under the law so much as raising questions — as this paper has before with regard to the Hatch act — of the wisdom of the provisions of the civil service statutes and ordinances which seal the mouths of public employees in matters of politics. The larger the rolls of public employees the greater the extent of the muzzling. I just don't like the idea of making every public employee under civil service a political enunch.

Correction—In yesterday's column the name of Dr. Daniel Goldy was, through linotype's error, printed as Dr. Samuel Goldy.

Crew of Lost B-29 Sighted On Pacific Atoll

SPOKANE, Nov. 12 (AP) — The crew of a B-29 bomber reported missing early today has been sighted beside the crash, the Spokane air force base commander said today.

Col. James E. Briggs said he had learned in a telephone conversation with air force officials in Japan that the crew of the missing bomber was sighted from the air and that a navy destroyer is steaming toward the island.

Members of the crew were seen walking near the wrecked bomber, but it was not determined if any of the men were injured, Col. Briggs said.

The plane, one from the 98th bomb group on temporary duty from its Spokane base was declared missing while searching for another B-29 in the area of Guam.

The Spokane base commander said the site of the crash was reported to be 130 miles east of Yap Island.

Added Power Cuts Possible

PORTLAND, Ore., Nov. 12 (AP) — Pacific northwest power officials today considered making further industrial power cuts because of the regional power shortage.

No drastic action, however, was planned.

The officials intended to ask heavy industry to co-operate in a voluntary conservation plan to reduce the electrical load.

Cliff Erdahl, Tacoma, chairman of the Pacific Northwest Conference committee, said store owners might be asked to turn off big electric signs voluntarily, but no official action was planned.

Because of the shortage, the Bonneville administration already has ordered 82,000 kilowatts of power to be taken from four aluminum plants, beginning Sunday.

Animal Crackers

By WARREN GOODRICH



"Looks like their forward line outweighs us a bit."

Veterans Affairs Bureau May Buy Own Bond Issue

PORTLAND, Nov. 12 (AP) — Its financial situation still muddled, the State of Oregon today laid plans to buy up some of its own bonds, if necessary.

The State Department of Veterans Affairs said it would sell \$2,000,000 in Federal Treasury Notes and use the money to buy \$2,000,000 of its bonds if no bids for them are made in a projected sale.

2 Police Fired for 'Politics'

Two Salem policemen were fired tonight Friday on charges that they "campaign" for the city commission form of government, defeated at the November 2 election, in violation of civil service rules.

Both said they would appeal to the civil service commission, scheduled to meet next Thursday. They are Hobart Kiggins, detective and one-time head of the plain - clothes detail, and Leland D. Weaver, patrolman and motorcycle officer.

City Manager J. L. Franzen said Friday, "Something else might show up, but we are not considering any other discharges at this time."

Notices Are Served

The written notices of dismissal were given Kiggins and Weaver by Chief of Police Frank Minto. The chief was quoted by Kiggins as saying he had been ordered to tender them. They were served after a conference between Minto and Franzen.

Mayor Robert L. Elstrom said there had been "too much factionalism" in the police department, and that "in order to have a successful department there must be a unity — we can't have one faction trying to out another."

Both Kiggins and Weaver denied "campaigning" for the city commission form of government, even though they were "in favor" of it, and told reporters they had "only exercised the right of free speech."

Awful Formal Request

The men turned in their badges Friday 24 hours after such action had been verbally requested of them by Chief Minto. They said Minto had told them they had been taking part in "too much political activity." Neither resigned, however, until they received formal written requests.

Kiggins, a Salem resident for 28 years, joined the police force more than a decade ago. He resigned last January 17, after a police reorganization in which he was taken from the plain - clothes detail and made a plain, with a statement that there had been an (a department) "undermining" of Chief Minto, whom he termed "one of the finest and squarest men I have ever had the opportunity to work for."

Kiggins rejoined the department as a detective a month later.

Weaver has been on the Salem force for seven years and said Friday "the chief, himself, admitted there was nothing against my record."

Charges Are Filed

The written notice given Kiggins and Weaver was as follows: "It becomes my unpleasant duty to inform you that you have been and hereby are discharged from your present position as an officer of the police department of the city of Salem, Oregon, effective this date, being hereby discharged for the following causes:

"(1) Wilful failure on your part to properly conduct yourself as a police officer when you are engaged in political activities while a police officer; (2) Wilful violation of the rules and regulations adopted by the civil service commission in that you took part in political affairs of the city in campaigning for a measure to abolish the present form of government, contrary to the rules of such commission; (3) Prejudicial conduct on your part by fomenting dissension and disunity within the police department of the city of Salem; and (4) By the acts aforesaid injuring the public service.

"You will please turn in to this office your official badges and property belonging to the city.

"Your very truly,
"Frank A. Minto."

15 Nazi Prison Guards Hanged

MUNICH, Germany, Nov. 12 (AP) — Fifteen former guards at the Mauthausen concentration camp were hanged at Landsberg prison today.

An American war crimes court had convicted them of slaying more than 4,600 wartime inmates of the camp, including 47 American and British airmen.

The executions raised to 58 the number of convicted German war criminals hanged at Landsberg in the past month. Still facing execution are 81 of an original list of 139.

Housing Sought For Legislators

The secretary of state's office has started listing rooms, apartments and houses available to legislators and legislative help during the 1949 legislature which meets here early in January.

Several legislators here this week in search of housing facilities during the session said they had received little encouragement.

Chinese Claim 'Major Victory' Over Commies

NANKING, Nov. 12 (AP) — Pro-government newspapers proclaimed in extra today a "major victory" over nine Chinese communist columns along the grand canal 160 miles northwest of Nanking.

(The communist radio, heard in Peking and San Francisco, made similar victory claims over government forces. The communists said they were within six miles north of Suichow, last main base guarding Nanking.)

The officially-sanctioned Nanking reports said national troops savagely attacked and hurled back General Chen Yi's troops who were trying to cross the historic canal.

The reports said the communists suffered 37,000 casualties and fled in disorder in a battle that began Wednesday night and lasted through Friday morning.

Government claims of victory and of enemy casualties usually are greatly exaggerated, but it was the consensus of observers in this capital that the main communist drive against Suichow had been stopped, at least temporarily.

Gen. Huang Pia-Chao's nationalist ground troops were supported in the grand canal battle by the navy's heavy concentration of air power ever assembled by the government in three years of civil war. (No estimate of numbers of planes is available.)

The government has threatened post-publication punishment for any one disseminating such military information.)

Milk Grade Rule Applies To Producers

Attorney General George Neuner, in an advisory opinion Friday, held that a fluid milk grade under Oregon law must be assigned to every producer and shipper and not only to distributors.

Such grade, Neuner said, should be determined by the health of the shipper's herd, the physical facilities and standards of sanitation of his dairy and the quality and condition of the milk produced.

The opinion was requested by the dairy division of the state department of agriculture.

In other opinions Neuner held that absentee ballots are not permitted in school district elections and that the Hood River county court has power to levy a tax upon all taxable property in the county to provide for the construction and maintenance of a county hospital.

Telephone Call from New York May Mean Trip for Salem Girl Musician

By Maxine Buren
Music Editor, The Statesman

Ann Gibbens was a pretty excited girl Friday morning when she received a call at the Salem high school office from New York.

Her long distance call was the result of sending an application form to the New York Philharmonic Society's "Week end with Music," a Sunday radio feature for which she was declared a "finalist."

The high school musician's application, along with letters from musicians who recommended Ann's ability, was airmailed only Wednesday from Salem. Her conversation on the phone consisted of answering questions as to whether she would like to go to New York during Christmas

holidays, her preference as to air or rail travel and what musical events she'd like to hear in the metropolis.

Although the voice from New York only called her a "finalist" she's pretty well convinced it's going to mean something big by way of travel and musical adventure. The youth-in-music program, sponsored by Standard Oil of New Jersey, brings three or four high school age musicians to New York each week end to attend concerts and meet other high school contests this past season in both piano and oboe and was awarded a scholarship to University of Oregon last summer. Vernon Wisconsin was her oboe teacher, and Victor Palmason is instructing her in instrumental music now.

Mrs. David Eason, but she also plays oboe, English horn and piccolo in the school orchestra and band and has a pretty good singing voice.

She's the school's most popular choice as a school pianist for other musicians, and is currently practicing for her part as "Aunt Jenny" in the Snikpook club's play "I Remember Mamma." In her spare time she does her daily stint of from 20 minutes to four hours at the piano.

Ann took first in state and regional high school contests this past season in both piano and oboe and was awarded a scholarship to University of Oregon last summer. Vernon Wisconsin was her oboe teacher, and Victor Palmason is instructing her in instrumental music now.

Ann is an all-around musician, according to her mother, Mrs. Harvey Gibbens, 1990 Saginaw st., who is herself a piano teacher. Ann's greatest love is the piano which she studies under

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Late Polk Tax Roll Cuts Rebate Period

Discount Deadline Monday

DALLAS, Ore., Nov. 12 — Polk county taxpayers will be hard put to save a nickel on this year's taxes.

Although deadline for early-paying rebates is Monday, first tax statements are not being mailed until Saturday, no thanks to circumstances adding up to a month-late tax roll.

Sheriff T. B. Hooker, who is charged with collection of the tax, said he did not receive the roll until late Wednesday from the county's assessor's office.

Even Blank Checks

Hooker advises taxpayers to pay by check, postmarked in the mail prior to Monday midnight—even if they haven't received statements. He said he would accept checks large enough to cover the tax (and would make refunds where necessary) or blank checks, signed, for his office to write in proper amount.

In either case, the payer is to specify whether he is paying for the full year or for one quarter only. Rebate is 3 per cent for a full year's taxes.

A last-minute effort to obtain state tax commission authorization for extending the deadline was to no avail, as this county was advised that the deadline date, established by the legislature, could not be changed. Tax Commission Attorney Nathan L. Cohen noted that statements sent by the sheriff's office amount to a courtesy, and the burden for determining the tax owed falls on the individual taxpayers.

Not Mandatory

Although the state law calls for tax rolls to be in the sheriff's hands by October 15, this provision is directive, not mandatory, it was said.

Assessor E. C. Dunn said the delay was due to illness on his staff and machine trouble and that employees have put in extra hours during recent weeks to catch up as rapidly as possible.

Polk county's \$1,080,000 tax roll is largest in its history—over the million dollar mark for the first time. Some increase is due to the county's growth, some to the resale by the government of former Camp Adair lands.

Ethyl Gas to Return Soon

PORTLAND, Nov. 12 (AP) — Ethyl gasoline will return to the Willamette valley by next week, industry groups predicted today.

A tanker laden with Ethyl docked here yesterday, and two more came in tonight. Ethyl gasoline will be distributed first to Portland stations, next to such nearby cities as Salem, Corvallis and Eugene.

Meanwhile the Portland Gasoline Dealers association president proposed that regular gasoline be increased 7 cents a gallon and premium gas to 29.

4-Car Wreck Blocks 99-E

A West Salem couple received injuries in a four-car pile up which blocked traffic along the Pacific highway at Canby Friday night.

The nine persons injured in the crash included Mr. and Mrs. John H. Bueening, 1067 Elm st., West Salem. Bueening suffered broken ribs and his wife, cuts and bruises.

Traffic was rerouted through Canby while the accident scene was cleared.

Dock Strike Blocks Eastern Ports

Pact Ends Long Rail Strike Threat

10-Cent Raise Ends Dispute With 3 Unions

CHICAGO, Nov. 12 (AP) — Three railroad unions whose strike threat last May was blocked by a last minute federal court injunction reached a wage settlement with the railroads today.

They accepted a 10 cents hourly wage boost, retroactive to October 16.

The settlement, covering 250,000 engineers, firemen and switchmen, completed the third round wage increases for five unions whose 350,000 members operate the nation's trains.

Still unsettled, however, are the wage and working conditions demands of some 1,000,000 members of 16 non-operating unions whose members are telegraphers, yardmen, and others not actually engaged in operating the trains.

A similar 10 cents hourly wage increase was accepted October 4 by two unions representing conductors and trainmen.

The engineers, firemen and switchmen had demanded a boost of 18 per cent this time. This represented the difference between the 30 per cent wage increase they demanded September 30, 1947 and the 15 1/2 cents boost they accepted in July, at the recommendation of a presidential fact-finding board.

Early this year they rejected the fact-finding board's suggestion and called a strike for May 10. President Truman then turned the railroad over to the army and the government got a court order barring the strike. The three unions bowed to the injunction and cancelled the scheduled walkout.

Gasoline Price Rise Effective Here Monday

One major oil distributor began charging more for its gasoline Friday and another announced its products will cost more beginning Monday morning.

Other firms were expected to match the pace soon as they have in most past price changes, but none had received such word Friday.

The price rise for both Standard and Union Oil companies is two-tenths of a cent per gallon of gasoline, four-tenths of a cent for stove and diesel oil, and 10 cents a barrel for fuel oil.

This price boost would bring general price level on regular grade of gasoline in Salem up to 25.9 cents per gallon.

Standard also announced it was discontinuing its policy of establishing retail prices at a uniform differential over the posted tank truck prices, with the result that prices may show some variance in different localities due to local competitive conditions.

Snow Forecast For Cascades

New snow falls on Cascade mountain passes were predicted for the week end in the daily road report released by R. H. Baldock, state highway engineer, Friday.

Six inches of fresh snow was expected to add to the driving conditions already hazardous because of fog in western Oregon.

A trace of rain fell in the Willamette valley Friday night clearing much of the three-day fog siege, but weathermen forecast more fog for Saturday night.

Airlines resumed near normal operation Friday night after all flights had been cancelled at McNary field Thursday and Friday.

RED ARMY SWITCH MADE

MOSCOW, Saturday, Nov. 13 (AP) — Gen. Sergei M. Shtememko was promoted to chief of staff of the Russian army. He replaces Marshal Alexander M. Vasilievsky who was relieved of his duties because of the burden of too much work.

Paints, Sketches Without Arms



Despite useless arms paralyzed since birth, Mrs. Viola Henne, 1105 S. 12th st., has developed her talent for drawing to the extent that she uses all mediums to produce portraits and landscapes. Mrs. Henne will demonstrate how she holds a water color brush to paint at the Salem Chin-Up club store, 1275 N. Church st., today. She has been married four years, the mother of a husky nine months old son. (Photo by Don Dill, Statesman staff photographer.)

Sec. Marshall Rips Veil From Russ Propaganda

PARIS, Nov. 12 (AP) — Secretary of State George C. Marshall declared today Russia is waging a propaganda peace offensive with the real aim of wrecking the world position of the United States.

Russia's action in spreading a report of a suggested Truman-Stalin meeting is part of this propaganda drive, Marshall said. He gave his views at an extraordinary news conference.

Court Upholds Repurchase Auto Contracts

PORTLAND, Nov. 12 (AP) — "Repurchase contracts" used by automobile dealers in an attempt to keep the price of used cars below the price of new ones, were upheld today in a court decision.

District Judge Fred L. Olson awarded \$300 damages to the George B. Wallace company in what is believed the first such case in the state.

The company had sued John W. ng, charging it bought a car from the firm April 27, signing a repurchase agreement, but sold the car to a used car dealer May 1.

"Repurchase agreements" provide that buyers, if they decide to sell a car within a year, must give the seller first opportunity to purchase it.

Wong said he would appeal the decision to circuit court.

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FIRST PLANE ON WAY HOME

WASHINGTON, Nov. 12 (AP) — The U.S. aircraft carrier Palau will bring the Wright Brothers' historic airplane "Kitty Hawk" on the last sea leg of its voyage home from England.

HAWAIIANS ASK OUSTER

HONOLULU, Nov. 12 (AP) — Hawaiian democratic leader tonight asked President Truman to remove Gov. Ingram M. Stainback immediately for favoring republicans and ignoring the party.

Two Coasts Closed; Tie-up Halts ERP Aid

NEW YORK, Nov. 13 (Saturday) — (AP) — A longshoremen's strike expected to tie up docks from Maine to Virginia became effective at 12:01 a.m. today.

The walkout threatens to paralyze a large segment of the nation's multi-million-dollar shipping industry. But effects were not expected to be widespread until Monday because of a normal week-end lull in ship-loading activities.

South Atlantic and gulf ports apparently will not be immediately affected by the walkout.

Strike Will Not Spread

Joseph P. Ryan, president of the union, who ordered the east coast strike, said he didn't intend to call out the south and gulf port workers now.

He added, however, that "they'll come out if we need them. So far there's no need of help from that source, and there's no use involving anyone else in our troubles."

No Marshall Aid

He also said the east coast strikers would assist only in the movement of army shipments, not including Marshall plan aid as was previously announced.

"As long as we're having a strike, let's have a strike," he said without further comment or explanation.

Navy Verifies Report of Sub Near Hawaii

PEARL HARBOR, Nov. 12 (AP) — An unofficial naval source said today an unidentified submarine positively had been detected Wednesday operating in waters just outside this vital naval base.

The source declared destroyer escorts had tracked the mysterious submarine until 8 p. m. Wednesday, when the underwater craft eluded sound detection equipment.

Asked to comment, Pacific fleet headquarters said the destroyers escort Raby "thought it had evidence of a possible submarine contact." Headquarters declined to say anything more.

A Navy spokesman brushed aside all other questions with the remark that "details of tracking are considered classified information (secret)."

Round-World Flyer Lands

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, Nov. 13 (AP) — Mrs. Richard Morrow-Tait, British round - the - world flyer, landed safely tonight at Elmendorf field despite fog and failure of the lights at the field.

She and her navigator, with their single-engine plane running low on gas, made one pass at the field and missed it. At the time, they had five minutes supply of gasoline left. They made the landing on the second try with the aid of lights from cars which were sent out to line the field.

The army also had been trying to bring the plane in through use of ground-control - approach system (GCA).

Blinding Fog Covers Airlift

WIESBADEN, Germany, Nov. 12 (AP) — November weather — Germany's worst for flying — was beginning to tell on Berlin airlift operations today as volunteer American pilots battled blinding fogs to keep the shuttle service moving.

A dense "pans - souper" had smothered two American airlift bases, Rhine - Main near Frankfurt and Wiesbaden, important supply centers, since Wednesday.

The fog also cut down Soviet air activity, reducing the likelihood of a test of the new Soviet policy of forcing down any planes straying from the air lanes.

Weather

	Max.	Min.	Precip.
Salem	45	34	trace
Portland	46	36	.01
San Francisco	67	44	.09
Chicago	52	36	.09
New York	57	47	.00
Willamette river	-1.5		

FORECAST (from U.S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem): Considerable cloudiness with a few light showers this morning, becoming partly cloudy with local valley fog by night. Cooler tonight. High today near 50. Low tonight near 32.

SALEM PRECIPITATION

	(Sept. 1 to Nov. 13)
This Year	1.51
Last Year	13.93
Average	6.70