

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Slays Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
From First Statesman, March 26, 1851

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY
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Salaries for State Engineers

Engineers in the employ of the State of Oregon have an organization. Its committee has made a study of engineers' salaries and embodied its findings in a report. The summary is that these salaries are below those of other public bodies on this coast and below sums needed to equal the increase in living costs or to attract qualified men to state employment. Graduates of our own OSC engineering school are leaving the state in large numbers because of more attractive openings elsewhere.

The present wage for engineer's aide is \$200 to \$245 a month. Recommended in this report is starting \$235-\$259 with salary for final grade in this classification \$264 to \$288. For civil engineer, first grade, the present salary is \$270 to \$340. Recommended is \$329-\$355, advancing to \$318-\$355. For top grade of engineer the present salary is \$520-\$620 per month. Recommended is \$650-\$715 for starting, advancing to \$752-\$889. Increase in the salary of the chief engineer of the highway department from \$8400 a year to \$12,000 also is recommended.

It is not enough to point out that Oregon salaries are lower than those in Washington and California. That situation prevails in virtually all professions and in many crafts. On the other hand, living costs are lower here than in both other states AND Oregon imposes no sales tax.

Nevertheless, Oregon must advance its salaries for trained engineers, and doubtless the new budget makes such provision. They carry a great responsibility and deserve good compensation. For years we have underpaid our top engineers and executives. That they have stayed on is due to their great interest in their work and loyalty to the state.

In the case of the highway department particularly poor talent can be very costly. It is the end cost of our bridges and highways that counts, not the fraction represented by salaries of engineers. To attract and hold able men the state must make its salary offers adequate.

How Much Parity?

Eastern Oregon wheatgrowers want parity maintained at the legal 90 per cent parity. They got a lift when Fred Entermille, assistant director of the department of agriculture grain branch, said the administration intends to ask for "high loan rates" and government assistance in providing storage facilities. Inference drawn from his address at the Condon meeting of the E. O. Wheat league is that the administration would seek to retain the 90 per cent level.

That would be a change from the position taken by President Truman and Secretary Brannan. In the last congress they favored a sliding scale of price support: As surpluses increased the price guarantee would decline. This was embodied in the present agricultural act, to become effective after 1949. Already there is a drive to restore the full 90 per cent guarantee, but that was started by members of the congress anxious to reward the democratic trend in the rural midwest. This is the first intimation the administration was shifting its position.

The parity measure is an antiquated device

for maintaining farm prosperity. It relates to an arbitrary period (1910-1914) base for computation. It gives no account to technological improvements in farming—power machinery, improved seed strains, use of fertilizer, weedkiller, etc. Thus, the measure is too rigid and unrealistic.

Again it encourages an unbalanced farm production. Not all crops get government support. With this guarantee the farmer is inclined to grow all the wheat he can instead of some other crop which may be needed more but has no price insurance. The sliding scale was devised to put brakes on overproduction. The only other alternative is acreage control, which is not very satisfactory.

To criticize the old parity law is not to invite or to welcome farm depression. The national grange favors flexible supports. Actually, of course, the wheatgrowers of eastern Oregon have enjoyed wonderful prosperity for many years and are well able to stand a lower price. If they still insist on government price props they ought to permit the old formula to be revised in the light of present conditions.

Status of Test-tube Babies

The status of babies conceived by artificial means has arisen in English courts of law. It also will create a problem for ecclesiastics to resolve. Legislative bodies may be asked to pass laws to define such status. In fact two measures are up for consideration in the British commons. Here, indeed, is something not envisioned in the old mores.

In the case lately decided in an English court, a woman was granted a divorce from her husband on the ground that her husband was incapable of normal sexual relations. She had borne him a child by means of artificial insemination, her husband being the donor of the sperm. The court referred to the child as illegitimate, much to the surprise of many legal and other authorities.

Presumably, test-tube babies would fall into four groups: Offspring of a couple lawfully married; offspring of a married woman and a man not her husband, where the latter assented to the insemination; offspring of a married woman and a man not her husband, the latter ignorant of or not assenting to the insemination; offspring of an unmarried woman and a man. Laws eventually will have to be passed fixing the legitimacy and inheritance rights of these groups.

So far as is known, no court cases regarding test-tube babies have come up in this country; but they probably will arise because women are resorting to this new means of conception out of a deep desire for motherhood. Both lawmaking bodies and courts will have to exercise enlightenment in dealing with the problems created by this venture in modern science.

None of the big graders of football teams put Oregon ahead of California, so perhaps there wasn't dirty work at the crossroads after all.

The list of candidates for the state senatorship forms a Q. The name of the appointee is still X.

U.N. Control Over Berlin Considered

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop
WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—It is just possible that a last, desperate attempt to find a settlement of the ever-threatening Berlin crisis will be made by the Western powers. What is being discussed is a proposal that all four powers, including the Soviets, leave Berlin and that a neutral commission appointed by the United Nations be substituted as the governing authority.

It is by no means certain, or even likely, that such a radical new approach to the Berlin question will be adopted. Yet the following facts are interesting. The idea has been proposed to, and considered by, French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman. It has not been adopted as official French policy, but it has been informally proposed to top British officials by ranking French diplomat.

Moreover, policy makers of the state department have independently conceived and considered the same idea as, at a maximum, a way out of the Berlin impasse, and, at a minimum, a method of seizing the initiative in the Berlin crisis. And it can be stated on excellent authority that certain influential American policy makers enthusiastically favor some such move.

The reason for this rather fantastic search for a new approach to the Berlin crisis is perfectly simple. Dr. Juan Braguera's committee of currency

experts will no doubt now go through the motions of trying to find an agreed method of introducing the Soviet mark into Berlin as a basis of settlement. But an agreement on currency can no longer form a basis of settlement. Indeed, the fact might as well be faced that there is obviously no real possibility of any effective four-power settlement at all.

A settlement, whether on currency or any other issue, clearly requires an agreed, joint four-power control of the city, as optimistically envisaged at Potsdam. Four-power control, of course broke down in all but name a long time ago, because of endless Russian obstruction. The Russians have now thrown away the last pretense of four-power control by refusing to allow in their zone the elections to which they agreed at Potsdam, and by promoting a rump communist city government. Without real four-power control, there can be no settlement, while the four powers remain in Berlin.

In these circumstances, the temptation for the Russians to renew their tactics of bullying and intimidation would be all but irresistible. Any manufacturer

ed incident could be used as a pretext for again closing the Berlin supply lines, which would have the immediate result of starving the city into submission. In short, the motive of the French proposal is obviously to achieve what the French have always wanted—a way to retire from the Berlin impasse "with head high," and without any loss of face.

On the other hand, if the plan were offered, and rejected by Moscow, Soviet policy would be left without a leg to stand on. If the Russians agreed to the plan, simultaneous withdrawal from Austria might also be arranged, thus solving another, almost forgotten but extremely acute problem. And the danger of a Russian attack on Berlin's independence might be considerably reduced by Anglo-French-American guarantees that any invasion of Berlin or re-establishment of the blockade would be regarded as a caused belli.

There would always be doubt, nonetheless, whether these guarantees would be lived up to.

The new proposal, in truth, is a measure of the pessimism of the Western policy makers. Even two months ago, such a plan would not have been seriously considered, either in Washington or London. Now it is being seriously discussed because there is no other way out of the Berlin impasse except to continue the air lift indefinitely or to send an ultimatum to Moscow, with attendant heavy risk of immediate war.

In the end, continuation of the air lift will probably be the course chosen. If it is costly in money to us, its political cost to the Soviet Union is almost incalculable. But the fact will still remain that the best informed, most responsible officials on both sides of the Atlantic are intensely gloomy about the world outlook.

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GRIN AND BEAR IT



"The Senator is very busy... he's thinking up some mandates the voters gave him election day..."

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

is, indeed, startling, though virtually all of the disclosures lately made relate to a time ten years ago when the commies were hobnobbing with new dealers. However, Americans may as well know the facts of life and understand that trading in documents is a very old and not uncommon business. How do you suppose Washington correspondents get so much inside information—often being able to quote verbatim from confidential documents? They have a plant on the inside, or someone comes along and tells them a copy, for a consideration. Foreign agents operate similarly; and our agents try to get as much inside information from other countries as they can. All this is the business of an international underworld.

The value of many of these confidential documents is doubtful. After all, our government has relatively few vital secrets. We publish the size of our army and navy, give full information about our financial budget, report progress in military inventions. As far as policies go they are quite fluid. Roosevelt said once our foreign policy was on a 24-hour basis and that condition has prevailed under Truman. A document on policy valid today may be waste paper tomorrow.

Nevertheless, any sign of leakage in the state department calls for renewed vigilance. We do not want any of our departments holed by foreign spies. That isn't healthy; it breeds corruption; it may cause serious damage to our position in world affairs. But before we get all excited over the microfilm in the Whitaker Chambers pumpkin-shell let us have the mystery of microfilms in a pumpkin-shell cleared up. Did they keep as well there as did Mrs. Peter Pumpkin-eater?

Editor's Note—The federal government shares in the cost of the Washington old age assistance program which it would not do under the Dunes bill as written. Also, the latter declared eligible women at age 60, while the Washington law conforms to the federal standard of age 65.

The Safety Valve

Crime to Runaway Girls?
To the Editor:
Shades of Hitler.

Three girl inmates ages 16 years old escaped from one of our houses of correction for girls. After a wild chase by our women they were captured, their hands placed in handcuffs, their legs put in chains and returned to the home, one by one. I suppose for safety's sake. If that same justice is handed out to them at the home, no wonder they tried to get away.

What a wonderful lesson these children were taught, crime does not pay. In the name of heaven, what more serious crime could these children have committed, than was done to them, and by the very people that are paid to help them. As a taxpayer, I would not mind some of my tax money being spent for a (look see). What about the rest of you people that have children, who might at some time come in for some of this same justice?

E. S. Van Antwerp
885 South 12th St.
Salem, Oregon.

To the Editor
I wish to present some actual figures on the cost of pensions of \$50 per month for the old people of Oregon.

First, I would suggest to the Pendleton East Oregonian that people are not necessarily swayed by newspaper opinions. Only statements of facts sway us. The newspapers have stated opinions and they are only opinions — that the proposed pension would require a fund of \$50,000,000 per year.

I have before me a statement of actual expenditures by the state welfare department at Olympia, Wash. for the month of September, 1948. The number of persons receiving old age assistance in the state of Washington is very constant month by month and it has actually very little change. The average payment per person was \$57.47.

By Lighty Head-on Clash

Expected in China Fighting

NANKING, Dec. 4.—(AP)—Official attention riveted today on an impending collision south of Suchow by major communist and nationalist forces which may determine the immediate future of the Chinese government.

Chinese official circles displayed considerable optimism that a head-on clash would at least temporarily stabilize the situation. Well informed foreign military quarters expressed belief that even a partial success would give the government 80 to 90 days respite. Arrival of 35,000 reinforcements in Nanking from Hankow was another cause for easing the recent black gloom of Chinese officials. This brought to some 75,000 the number of effectives holding the Yangtze river defenses before the capital.

Red Gen. Chen Yi was reported moving an estimated 125,000 troops into position to block the southward march of three government army groups that evacuated Suchow Wednesday.

The former Suchow garrison, with some 110,000 effective combat troops among its 250,000 men, was reported attacking towards the south. The first army group was on the west flank, the second army group on the east, with the 13th army group holding the rear guard.

Illegal Liquor Sales in Detroit Hotel Charged

Burdette Young, Detroit hotel operator, and two hotel employees were arraigned in Marion county district court Saturday on charges of selling liquor at the hotel without a permit.

The three were arrested Friday night by state liquor inspectors who said they purchased a bottle from the trio. Charged besides Young are Margaret Haich and Joe L. Cotton. Each of the accused posted \$250 bail, and all were given until December 10 to enter pleas.

It was Young's second encounter with the law within the past month. He was arrested by Marion County Sheriff Denver Young on a charge of assault with intent to kill following a fight in the Detroit hotel November 13. Friday an attempt to oust Young from the hotel property was made in legal action instituted in Marion county circuit court in Salem. A suit seeking possession of the hotel premises was filed by Mrs. Hilma E. Dickie, owner of the building.

Size of Berlin Vote Today to Signify Trend

BERLIN, Dec. 4.—(AP)—Nearly 2,000,000 Germans, blockaded 100 miles behind the iron curtain, were urged tonight to vote "for freedom and against communism" in tomorrow's city election.

What ordinarily would be a local contest between rival political parties has been magnified by the east-west struggle into a giant straw in the wind indicating which conqueror the Germans prefer.

Communists are boycotting the election and are not on the ballot. The result, therefore, will be judged on the relative size of the vote and the stay-at-home element.

If more than 80 per cent of the eligible voters come out, the western powers will hail it as a vindication of their fight to stay and prevent the sovietization of Berlin.

If voting is relatively light, the communists will claim German endorsement of their efforts to drive out the western powers.

Clear weather favors a heavy vote, and also the airlift which flew in 4,754 tons of food and fuel today.

Wall Street Gains Ground

NEW YORK, Dec. 4.—(AP)—Wall Street had its December rally rolling at the weekend.

In today's short session gains of fractions to around 3 points were added to the advances of the previous three sessions.

The market still has a long way to go to recoup its post-election losses but at least a stab in that direction has been made.

Volume expanded on the way up. Turnover of 510,000 shares compared with 340,000 a week ago and was the largest for a two-hour session in the last month.

The Associated Press average of 60 stocks advanced 4.1 of one point to 64.4. The average was back to where it was on Nov. 23.

Of the 791 issues traded 461 advanced and 125 declined.

Station grade school by prying DeWall stated. The same school off two door hasps but apparently was burglarized November 23 and gained nothing for their efforts, \$50 was reported missing.

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Burglars Work in Aumsville, Stayton
Marion county sheriff's deputies Saturday were seeking to identify burglars who netted \$9 in lootings at Aumsville and Stayton Friday night.

At Aumsville, the thieves took the cash register from a service station owned by V. L. Roberts. The register contained the \$9, according to Deputy Sheriff William DeWall.

The thieves also entered the