The Oregon Statesman

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"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Communist Professors and Academic Freedom

How far may academic freedom be stretched?

The ousted professors at the University of Washington assert their dismissal is a violation of their freedom of opinion and of civil liberties. Their offense, which brought the regents to the point of discharging them, was membership in or close association with the communist party. The extent of their participation in the party's affairs is not reported, or whether they instructed students in the cause of communism; but their cases were explored thoroughly by a faculty committee, by the president of the university and by the regents. The faculty committee itself recommended one dismissal.

It is not illegal to be a communist in this country. But the federal government denies employment in federal positions to communists on the basis that the communist party has as an objective the overthrow of this government by force.

In view of the revolutionary character of communism, and its ready resort to violence to attain its ends, a government which is based on the principles of democracy certainly is justified in keeping out of important positions and offices those who affiliate with organizations planning the overthrow of that kind of government and substituting a dictatorship. And the position of member of a faculty in a government - supported university is certainly a key position, giving opportunity as it does for the instruction of youth in the tenets of the communist party.

It is conceivable of course that one may be an "academic" communist, one who believes that the socialist state is desirable and that the only practicable means of getting it is by revolution, including a massacre of privileged classes; but who would do nothing to propagate such belief or to aid in a revolution. It is hard, in these tense times to draw the line between mere personal belief and joining in a communist conspiracy. To protect itself government must draw a line somewhere; and in this case the line is drawn to bar from teaching positions in a state university those associating with a party of revolution. Unless a government is willing to permit revolution to thrive it is hard to see how it can do otherwise.

Take Care of Dumb Animals

There have been numerous admonitions about feeding the birds this cold weather, and organized effort has been made to feed ducks along the river.

But what about other dumb animals? A subscriber phoned to report that many pets are suffering, and even horses are left standing in the cold without sufficient feed.

Salem has no branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, so an appeal is broadcast in this wise for people to look after their pets or domestic animals; and for those who see animals suffering, if they can't take care of them directly they should call city or county authorities.

Most people who have pets — dogs, cats, ponies—take good care of them. Others are neglectful — go away on trips and let animals fend for themselves. In weather like the present extra care should be given the four-footed animals as well as the birds.

New Liquor Commission

With the appointment of an entirely new commission by Governor Douglas McKay the state's liquor administration is off to a new start. A Salem man, Carl W. Hogg, is to be chairman. His name and high repute will promptly give standing to the commission. We are not acqainted with the other appointees but are sure that Governor McKay has used extreme care in sifting names.

In recent administrations the liquor board has been under criticism (it always is and probably always will be), but the clash between Governor Hall and Commissioner Joe Freck, his own appointee, created a situation which called for reorganization. Admiral Tom Gatch who served as a balance-wheel in recent months declined to continue on the commission.

With the legislature in session liquor control bills are sure to be bobbing up. The tavern-owners' association proposes a full-time, salaried commission, an idea which merits consideration. It also revives the old appeal bill, which commissions and governors have resisted from the origin of the present system. This would work to hold up penalties on licensees pending appeals to court, and in the opinion of those responsible seriously impair enforcement of control laws.

This session may pass the bill to put liquor revenues into the general fund, without tagging them directly for public welfare—a wholesome change.

What is needed in the state is not so much new liquor laws as fair and efficient enforcement of those we have. There is no disposition on the part of the people to change the method of dispensing liquors in Oregon; but vigilance will be required not to weaken the statutes set up to control a business which has a natural inclination to put profits above public morals.

Landlords who come under the limitation of a 15 per cent increase in rentals if the tenant assents, assert they are the "forgotten man." They are wrong. They are the only ones the government "remembered" when price controls went off.

DIAMONDS ON THE DOORSTEP

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

used against labor practices termed unfair. Complaint of discrimination may be filed with a commission (five members appointed by the governor) which makes an investigation. Prohibition against discrimination applies to employers of five persons or more, employment agencies and labor organizations. If the commission finds any of these is practicing discrimination it cites him or it for a hearing. If the charges are sustained it then issues an order requiring compliance with the law. Court action, with penalties, may be resorted to if the commission's order is not complied with.

It is hard to see how anyone who believes in toleration could vote against this bill. The fact of discrimination is apparent and the gross injustice that it inflicts is likewise clear. Moreover the report from the states which have this legislation indicates that it is having beneficial effect, more by educating employers and worker groups than by application of fines and prison terms.

At the same time it must be recognized that this legislation ought to be quite unnecessary; that in America every man ought to have a fair chance at a job and at rising in his occupation. It must be recognized too that discrimination is based to large degree on feelings for which the cure is education rather than the compulsions of law. The law toe trespasses on what has been considered an ancient right of the employer to hire whom he wanted (a right badly crippled under hiring hall practices and largely fiction in mass production industries).

If I were a member of the legislature I would vote for this bill—my heart would constrain me to. My head would entertain misgivings as to the method, but the hope of doing justice to groups now suffering unfair discrimination justifies the attempt. One wonders though if there is not simpler solution than to copy the machinery of the state of New York and apply to Oregon with its small and rather homogeneous population.

The Safety Valve

The Snake and the Frog
(An Allegory)

To the Editor:

When I was a small boy on a Michigan farm, I once found a snake about 18 inches long holding a frog by one hind foot. The frog was struggling and croaking shrilly. The frog's body was fully twice as wide as the snake's mouth. I thought it impossible that the snake could shallow it, so I decided to wait and see. (I had several times before rescued frogs by killing the snake which held them.) The frog struggled vigorously, croaking loudly all the time. The snake just held on and gradually took more of the frog's leg into his mouth, and soon the frog, in pushing to try and get free, got his other hind foot into the snake's mouth. Now, with only his two short front legs able to pull, the frog slowly but surely began to disappear into his enemy's mouth, which seemed capable of distending indefinitely. (I have since learned that a snake's jaws unninge to enable him to swallow a large prey.) I watched until the snake's mouth was nearly to the frog's front legs then struck the snake across the back. The released frog hopped away in great leaps. I then killed the snake.

In recalling this incident—one which my grandchildren love to hear, I was struck by its similarity to the world and communism today. The world represented by the frog and Russia by the snake. (Incidentally, I think that a snake is the proper national emblem for Russia instead of the honest bear.)

The Communists are only a small minority of the population of any nation, even Russia, yet they are out to swallow the world and are gradually and steadily doing so. When and where they are unable to gain, they lie quietly, as did the snake. When resistance is less they gradually increase their hold, just as the snake would have swallowed the frog had I not killed it. The Communists took over Russia, then one at a time, state after state adjoining her; always against the will of the people—by intimidation, treachery, force, and murder.

They always make numerous fair promises to bring peace, freedom, equality, etc. etc., but as soon as they get their "strangle hold", the supposedly governing "Proletariat" are merely automatons, moved by a few ruthless leaders. All, including the leaders, are in constant fear of their lives. This is all kept from their propaganda until the "iron curtain" shuts the victim nation in.

J. E. Putnam.

Townsend the Winner

To the Editor:

In a recent contest to determine the Greatest Living Man in the world today eighty years old or over, conducted on the popular radio show "Life Begins at Eighty", over Mutual network, Dr. Francis E. Townsend was adjudged the winner over such popular old men as George Bernard Shaw, Connie Mack and others. Since the poll was taken of listeners, and the show originates in New York, we imagine all of the U. S. was represented and possibly some more of the world. It would be interesting to know.

O. H. Spillcke
2670 S. Summer.

Committee Plans 'Kitty' For Spuds

By Ralph Watson

The house committee on agriculture has come all out for the lowly spud. It has written a bill to that effect.

Ralph Watson

It is a measure of high literary grade and, if passed by both houses, will make it the law of the state that "it is in the interest of the people of the state that the soil resources be developed to the fullest extent consistent with available outlets for the products of the soil."

The bill — HB 113 — also enacts that it is "in the interest of all the people that consumers be provided with an abundant supply of food of the best quality and that prices be reasonable." It enacts that spuds "make up a large part of the total diet of virtually every consumer" and hence is of the utmost importance to both farmers and consumers.

Having established these basic facts in legal form the measure then moves on to set up machinery by which everybody shall be supplied with all the starch his system can absorb. To do that it reverts to the old and well tried system of one more new commission: The Oregon Potato Commission of nine members, appointed by the governor for terms of five years each.

This commission is to be a select body of men, not just nine guys picked at random by the governor from here and there. They are to come from lists furnished by the potato growers themselves and shall hail two from Malheur county; two from central Oregon; two from the Klamath-Lake district; one from the Blue Mountain area; one from Multnomah and one at large. The director of the department of agriculture, the dean of agriculture of Oregon State will be allowed to sit in as ex-officio members but without the right to vote.

Members of the commission must be citizens, bona fide residents of Oregon, over 25 years of age, and actively engaged in growing spuds for at least five years and have received a substantial part of their income by selling them.

• • •

The commission is to set up shop wherever it is most convenient for the majority of the members and shall appoint an administrator who is to be paid "not more than $8,000 per year."

The commission is to conduct advertising and publicity campaigns in this and other states to promote the use of potatoes; to educate consumers how to eat them; find and open new markets; to establish and maintain facilities for housing seasonal labor, to recruit it and administer the distribution of labor among the growers; to stabilize and protect the potato industry and safeguard the interests of potato consumers. It also can make grants to research agencies for financing special studies or building greenhouses, laboratories or other facilities; and can employ agents, including agricultural or publicity agents, and fix their salaries.

Now, believe it or not, all of this is not going to cost the innocent taxpayer a red nickel. It is all going to be paid for by the growers of the spuds. They are going to pay 1½ cents for every 100 pounds of spuds they sell, which touch is to be held out of the purchase price by the "first customer" and every man who grows more than one acre of potatoes is to put up his share of the kitty.

• • •

It will be a pretty fat kitty at that, according to the figures given by the state department of agriculture. Oregon's latest potato crop grossed 11,488,000 bushels, which totes up to 689,280,000 pounds. That in turn shrinks to 6,892,000 hundred weight and that provides annually $103,392 for the kitty, according to current figures. It will be more when the boys really get to going on their promotion job of teaching everybody not of Irish ancestry just how good Oregon spuds are to eat and how to eat them.

But how about the innocent consumer? Well, he can plant just a little less than one acre and let the kitty starve.

Literary Guidepost

IF I WERE YOU, by Julian Green, translated by J. H. F. McEwen (Harper; $3)

Some aspect of the supernatural seems to be a postwar preoccupation of foreign authors, or at least of their American publishers, as we have seen in novels by Charles Williams, Jean-Paul Sartre and Thomas Mann. Now we may add to that list the name of Green, born in Paris of American parents but customarily writing in French and living in France.

The scene of "If I Were You" is both a little village in northern France, and out of this world. Fabian Especel, an impoverished clerk in the offices of M. Poujars, suffers from a weak heart, a desire to write a novel, and a dissatisfaction with his lot. Why could not God have given him other rows to hoe, or set him down in greener pastures on the other side of the fence? The amorous success of his father and his friend Blutaud contrast with his failures; he rebels against his doctor's orders and his mother's injunctions about Mass and confession.

As both writer and malcontent, he wants to be in someone else's shoes, and to his amazement he is offered a chance to by a strange M. Brittomart. Professing an interest in souls, the Mephistophelean Brittomart tells the Faustian Fabian that if he whispers a certain magic formula in the ear of any person he wishes, he will move over, soul and all, into that person. Reassured about Brittomart's powers by a rendezvous magically arranged for him, he starts on a dizzy journey through the hearts and minds of his fellowmen.

Green's writings, as always, is mature and confident. Though Part II seems, for some pages, to be getting off the track, the sense of mystery and eerieness persists, sharp and troubling, to the last; and in places the inexplicable and unbelievable become so real, so actual, that for reassurance you want to look over your shoulder or pinch yourself.

Green points, I think, a moral less accepted now than it used to be, that knowledge is evil. He urges us to be content with what God made us . . . though God doesn't just naturally make good writers without a lot of effort on their part, as Green must know.

GRIN AND BEAR IT — By Lichty

"We will send Congress a sealed bid, showing we can run the country cheaper . . . it should appeal to their spirit of free enterprise, Comrades . . ."

Plan to Probe Housing Status Gets Approval

The senate resolutions committee Monday passed out a house resolution calling for a joint five-man interim committee to investigate the state-wide housing shortage.

At the same time the committee refused to amend the bill to specifically direct the committee to investigate the Portland housing authority. The stipulation was requested by democratic senators last week.

The committee also tabled a separate bill by Sen. Richard Neuberger asking for a joint interim committee to investigate the Portland housing authority.

House Votes Probe of Vet Housing Need

The house passed by voice vote Monday a concurrent resolution for an interim committee to study the feasibility of providing low-cost housing for veterans of the Spanish-American war and World Wars I and II.

Rep. C. L. (Buck) Lieuallen, sponsor of the resolution, said it was the consensus of American Legionnaires he had contacted that such a program was more to be desired than a bonus—which is expected to be sought in a bill to be introduced next week.

Lieuallen said the housing would be for those "who by reason of physical infirmity or lack of finances no longer were able to earn a living."

Spanish-American war veterans were included on motion of Rep. Harvey Wells.

The resolution now goes to the senate.

Legislature Gets Proposal for Gas Tax Alterations

A proposal to finance Oregon's new highway building program by a one-cent-a-gallon gasoline tax increase and excise levies on oil, grease, new autos and parts was turned over to the legislature Monday by Secretary of State Earl T. Newbry.

The legislative highway interim committee has requested the gas tax boost, plus doubling the annual $5 auto license fee to raise money for the proposed 15-year program.

The excise taxes are similar to those now levied by the federal government. Newbry has also proposed the federal government drop its excise taxes and leave that source for the state.

Mile of Dimes Plans Outlined For Woodburn

WOODBURN, Jan. 24 — Boy Scouts and cub scouts of Woodburn will hold their second annual "mile of Dimes" contest Saturday, January 29 at 10 o'clock on Front street, between Grant and Hayes streets.

Cub scouts won the contest this year and a total of $213.20 was contributed for the "march of dimes" polio campaign. The competition between the Scouts and Cubs is to see which group will first have solicited coins which laid side by side will cover one block in the main business district. The money is solicited from passersby.

Other local groups actively soliciting for the polio contributions include the Camp Fire Girls at booths, Rainbow Girls at the theatre, William Merriott is Woodburn "march of dimes" chairman.

WIRELESS WORKERS QUIT

NEW YORK, Jan. 24—(AP)— One hundred and twenty employes of Globe Wireless, Ltd., establishments in New York City, San Francisco and Woodcliff, N. J., have walked off their jobs, a union spokesman announced.

State Baptist Meet to Open This Morning

Sessions of the Oregon Conservative Baptist church conference will open at 9 o'clock this morning in First Baptist church here. The opening sermon, at 11:30, is to be given by Dr. John Turnbull of Salem, replacing Dr. Edward B. Hart of Corvallis, who is ill.

First business session will be at 10:30 this morning, including committee appointments and election of a nomination committee. The Rev. Kenneth Tobias of Bend will preside, and the Rev. Lloyd T. Anderson, host pastor, will welcome the delegates.

At 2 p. m. will be a forum on "What Shall Be Our Organizational procedure?" At 6 p. m. will be separate men's and women's banquets, addressed by Mrs. Alfred Danielson of San Francisco and Dr. John Houser of Lebanon, respectively.

The evening session will be at 7:30, with special music by Salem College and Academy and message by Dr. Gabriel Guedj of Fresno, Calif.

The conference will continue through Wednesday evening.

Cherry Industry United in Stand To Keep Tariffs

A united front to hold the present tariff on imports of brined cherries was presented to government authorities considering a reciprocal trade agreement with Italy. This is the report brought by Robert E. Shinn, manager of Willamette Cherry Growers association, who has returned to Salem after spending some time in the east.

Appearing at the hearings to protest tariff cuts were representatives of cherry growers, cherry packers, cannery workers and manufacturers of maraschino cherries. Shinn as president and Frank Steindorf of the Santa Clara valley, California, as grower and trustee represented the Cherry Growers and Industries foundation at the hearings held by the committee for reciprocity information and the U. S. tariff commission.

Others who gave testimony in support of the present tariff included Fred Tobin of the teamsters union with which the cannery workers' union is affiliated. The Northwest Horticultural council filed a statement supporting the Cherry Foundation's opposition to tariff cut on brined cherries.

"What the outcome of the hearings will be," said Shinn, "will not be known until after the negotiations foor the trade treaty with Italy have been completed at Geneva, Switzerland, next April. However we feel that the united stand of growers, workers employed in processing and the manufacturing and distributing interests should bear a great deal of weight, and hope that the cherry industry will not be sacrificed in these negotiations."

Action Delayed On Two Bills

Final action on two house bills was delayed Monday by requests that they be re-referred for the study of other committees. One would provide that all county surveyors be registered engineers or surveyors. The other would increase the salary of the state director of apprenticeship.

Diary of A Sidewalk Superintendent

January 25th — I've done it! Job's Over!

Today I told the fellows to pull down the scaffolding . . . let my friends see what a work of art the new new Stevens and Son Jewelry Emporium is. Though it spoils MY view . . . Sid Stevens compliments will well repay the loss of the best job I ever had.

Personal LOANS
YOUR WAY and FAST
YES MAN says "YES" to 4 out of 5
Get cash from Personal to pay what you owe . . . buy what you need. Phone or visit the YES MAN at Personal today.
HOW TO REDUCE PAYMENTS
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