

The Oregon Statesman

FOUNDED 1851

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
From First Statesman, March 23, 1851

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State School Fund and Property Tax

A farmer who is interested in school taxes called the other day and disclosed his favorable interest in HB 193 which would increase the basic state school support fund by \$45 per census child. He thought that if the state provided more money than the heavy property tax could be reduced. It might work that way; but that hasn't been true of the 1946 basic state school support fund of \$50 per child. Under pressure for additional funds school districts have levied the maximum under the 6 per cent limitation and quite generally have voted extra levies.

There is a real possibility that all or part of this increase in state school support would be rolled back onto property. The bill imposes a continuing levy on property with provision that funds may be taken from income tax receipts instead. If these are insufficient a state property tax levy is mandatory.

Administrators of the state school system have a very serious financial problem and this is their appeal as a means for its solution. The property taxpayer would get relief only to the extent that local board reduced their levies which is not guaranteed. And there is the continuing prospect of a rollback in the form of a state property tax to raise the \$95 per school child that would be required under the present law and the proposed increase.

Both legislators and the public and the school people should keep these facts clearly in mind as they study HB 193.

Retirement at State Colleges

Considerable dissatisfaction is felt in the state system of higher education over the retirement system in its effect on older staff members. Retirement is compulsory at age 65 unless the governing board requests and the retirement board approves of extension. The state board has refused to request any extension of time; and those who retire receive only a comparatively small annuity.

Washington State college has what appears to be a pretty good plan. The retirement age has been set as follows:

1. Age 65—Minimum retirement age under the law.
2. Age 67—Normal retirement age for biennial 1947-49, (beginning April 1, 1949, this will be 66, beginning April 1, 1951, this will be 65.)
3. Age 65-70—Eligible for year-to-year employment, full-time or part-time.

Age 70—Compulsory retirement.
The University of Washington makes 70 the age for compulsory retirement. Retirement between ages of 65 and 70 may be requested by either the employe or the administration.

Effort is being made at this session to have the state provide more liberally for those retiring who have not been able to build up much

annuity. Certainly worthy of consideration is such a plan as WSC has.

As the average age level increases it may be highly desirable to continue in useful employment if they are physically and mentally fit those who have passed age 65. The arbitrary rule is working a hardship now both on teachers and on the state.

U.P. Bears Winter Brunt

The Union Pacific railroad has been hard hit this winter. The snowstorms seem to have been concentrated in its territory along its lines in Wyoming and Nebraska and Colorado. Both in January and February its traffic was paralyzed. Last week slides on its Oregon lines added to its troubles.

In the latest blizzards trains piled up at Green River, Wyo. To wait out the storms, with 10 to 14 trains stalled there last week end. The railroad fed its passengers in the diners, serving up to 5,000 meals per day, and for free. Not much was available for entertainment with only one movie house in the town.

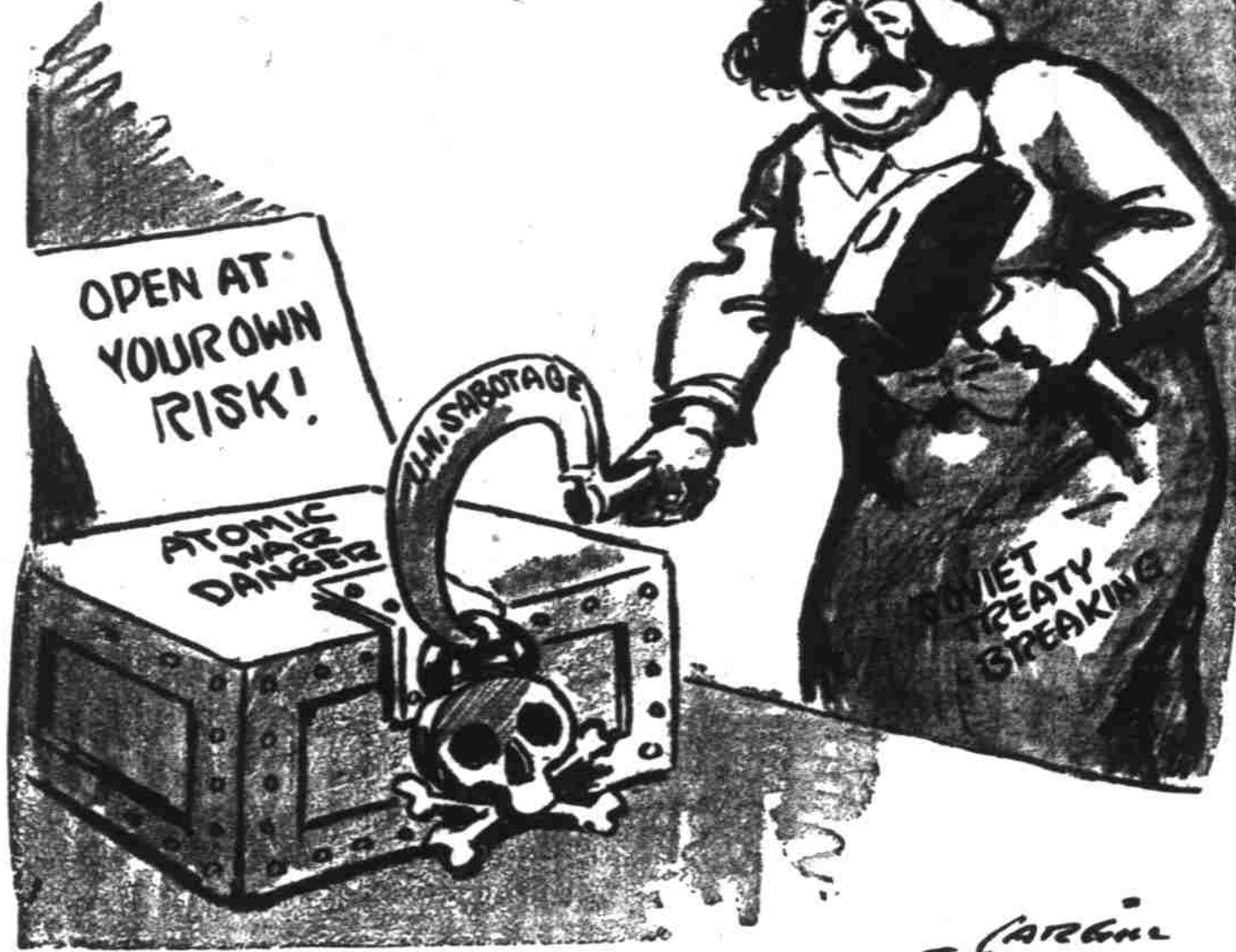
They say this was the worst winter ever in the high plains and mountain states, worse than the famous blizzard of 1888. The UP hopes that its like will not come for at least another 60 years. It can take satisfaction though in providing comfortable security for its customers during a dangerous period, even though the cost and loss were terrific.

Strike Shuts Down Portland Dailies

The strike of pressmen on the two Portland dailies puts 2,000 persons out of work, makes idle plants representing the investment of millions of dollars, and deprives several hundred thousand persons of their daily newspaper. The strike came about when proprietors refused to meet the exorbitant demands of the pressmen and no agreement on arbitration could be reached. Just why workers would walk off of jobs paying high wages, with ideal working conditions at a time when the level of living costs is declining is more than most other persons, including many good union men, can understand.

While the number of persons involved in the strike and resulting layoffs is not large the consequences of depriving a metropolitan city of its daily newspapers are serious. The strike action was taken after prolonged negotiations and so was deliberate; hence it is likely to be of long duration. The managers however may undertake to resume publication though that is not easy because the crafts in the printing trades are tightly organized.

A New York wife has hired guards to keep her millionaire husband out of her apartment. What about all those recent stories of gals willing to take just about anyone for a mere \$10,000?



Literary Guidepost

By W. G. Rogers
MORE WORK FOR THE UNDERTAKER. (By Margery Allingham (Doubleday; \$2.50)
The peculiar Palindodes, all elegance, learning and no money at all, are five in number, two of them dead and three living but evidently not sure how long they can keep it up, when Scotland Yard calls in Campion to run down the poisoner before he passes out any more deadly brews.

IT SEEMS TO ME
(Continued from page 1)

him as King of the Jews. And when Pilate put the question to him about his claim to kingship the answer "Thou sayest" could be taken as a confession. So on a retrial Jesus might be convicted of "subversive activities" and punished or deported.

Of course that would not occur. Modern Jews see Jesus Christ in a different light than did the priests and rulers of Jerusalem 20 centuries ago. They see him as a great religious teacher. If they do not worship him as the Divine Messiah they regard his teaching as the quintessence of the Jewish religion in its ethical implications.

The great miscarriage of justice which resulted in the crucifixion of Jesus Christ has stood as a warning to courts through the years. It is disturbing in these times when men are on trial for thoughts as well as deeds, with the line between sometimes shadowy. A communist government tries a Catholic cardinal in Hungary. A board of regents "tries" college professors in Seattle. Nazis are tried in Germany and fascists in Italy and warlords and politicians in Japan. The question can't help arising: What will the verdict of history be a thousand years hence?

Well, one generation makes the history; later generations write it and evaluate events and characters in it. We in our generation can merely do the best we can to apply justice tempered with mercy. We cannot shrink from our judgments out of fear of making a mistake for history. It is not the example of judicial error by the ancient Sanhedrin or Pontius Pilate which should be our guide, but the standards of justice which have been infused with the teachings of Jesus Christ.

There are many stories, none authentic, of Pilate's latter days. Anatole France has drawn on his imagination to write a sketch quite a variance with the tales of dire fates that befall the Roman procurator. He is described in his retirement as being wheeled about in a chair at a Roman watering-place. A comrade comes and talks to him of the old days in Judea, and inquires particularly about the case of Jesus. But Pilate has forgotten it entirely: "Jesus?" he murmurs, "Jesus—of Nazareth? I cannot call him to mind."

The poison was made famous by old Dr. Crippen himself, the medical examiners discover, but it takes the sleuths quite a few days, and you a very exciting evening, to find out who administered it. There is a list of suspects: a Scotland Yard long, Jas. Bowles and son, the undertaker; Capt. Seton, Clytie White, the chemist, the Palindodes themselves, of course, Jessica who can do crossword puzzles in Latin, Lawrence who makes up crossword puzzles, and Evadne, and quite a few others.

The center of operations is Apron street, scene of the vanished Palindode splendor, and the whole neighborhood, from caller to attic, from barroom peepholes to the old family's musty chambers to the Bowles' shop where coffins move in and coffins move out mysteriously, is involved in the investigation. "Don't go up Apron street," the fearful underworld warning, is explained only when all London police cars are alerted for the final chase and they catch their quarry all trussed up and practically handcuffed, theirs for the asking.

So on a retrial Jesus might be convicted of "subversive activities" and punished or deported.

The Safety Valve

Likes Church Chimes
To the Editor:
Speaking as a stranger in your city, may we tell you what impresses us most as we walk on your streets? First, as we have noted before in "passing through" the lovely wide streets, the trees, many trees, shrubs and lawns—truly a beautiful setting for the capitol building of the state of Oregon. A city is a true reflection of its citizenry, and Salem impresses on the visitor its culture and good fellowship. We wonder how many listen to the chimes that fill the air every evening. "Blest Be the Tie that Binds" and "Sweet Hour of Prayer." How perfectly entrancing! We stood still and listened. Mayhap some do not hear the lovely melody for the sound of the chimes—as the man who did not see the forest for the trees.

You will be interested to know that the national president of the National Federation of Music Clubs, Mrs. Royden Keith, of Chicago, during her administration, is stressing the singing and playing of our wonderful old hymns which our mothers and fathers sang; also more congregational singing of all hymns. We sponsor a hymn contest during the Spring Music Festival. In this way we hope to create in the minds of our young children an appreciation of the history and performance of hymns. How far the spiritualizing force of music extends in our lives is reflected in the reaction of our young people to our efforts.

Christian church must stir in all hearts a great thankfulness for our blessings, the many good things in life we enjoy in the environment of a thriving city, and a great outlook on life. Congratulations.

Sincerely,
Mae Ross Walker,
President Oregon Federation of Music Clubs.
February 9, 1949
302 North Winter Street, Salem,
2006 N.E. 46th Avenue, Portland.

OUR NEW BRIDGE

To the Editor:
I wish to express appreciation for Mr. H. G. Damon's article—"Looking at the Record" of street traffic and bridges in Portland and Salem. And am also convinced "Another two lane bridge would be outmoded within twenty years."

However, instead of a new four lane bridge as he advised, a new six lane bridge would prove much the wiser in the end. And after this is completed we could then close the present bridge long enough to thoroughly reinforce and widen it for four lane traffic.

The San Francisco-Oakland bridge is a six lane double deck bridge, and ten years ago we thought it capable of handling all traffic for many years to come. Now it is so congested that traffic is greatly retarded.

When our present bridge was finished we were driving a horse and buggy and we were sure it would serve this community for generations. Now it is a hazardous bottle neck to perhaps the fastest growing business and residential district in the Nation, and with proper traffic facilities business possibilities will be still greater.

By building this new bridge high enough for an over-pass diagonally across the intersection at Front and Union streets we entirely eliminate interference of constant switching on two busy railroad lines and can easily reach the street level at Commercial and Marion. And this approach through Marion Square if properly engineered and lighted will be a permanent asset and the most beautiful gateway into any city between Nome, Alaska, and San Jose.

I am sure our engineers, as well as us taxpayers, want to do a good job.
Let us build for the future.
T. J. Shipley
Route 8

Would Outlaw Comintern

To the Editor:
What a contrast in two different items appearing in the Statesman of February 9, 1949. One is our arbitrary conviction of the tortured Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty. The other is the letter defending the comintern now on trial in New York for alleged treasonable activities against the United States.

Communists, as they have presented themselves to us and the world are making a supreme effort to destroy all religion and staple governments in the world, as anyone can understand who will use his head for thinking purposes, instead of merely a wedge to keep his ears apart. To my mind, if those now on trial in New York are found guilty as accused, an appropriate sentence by the court would be a free passport and ticket to Moscow, where no doubt they would be engulfed by the tender mercy of Stalin's thugs. There they would probably be given a nice, cool summer home in Siberia or a nice private room under six feet of Soviet soil, if they began preaching the overthrow of the "democracy" of the MKVD.

the United States from being sucked into an ever widening and wildly swirling tyrannical and dictatorial maelstrom.
Any compromise with a "scum-munist" is an invitation for a shot or a stab in the back. By comparison Nero was a Boy Scout.
J. L. Prange.

Hootin' and Hollerin'
To the Editor:
Who wants to stop progress? No Salem business man wants to stop progress! But they don't want it at the expense of having their business diverted to some other district through the medium of one way streets and bridges that will be obsolete by 1970. I note that the Oregon Electric R. R. manage to do their switching at what have you? about the time people are going to and from work across the bridge at Front and Center streets. It appears to me that this doesn't help the situation any. Anyway the business men are entitled, as Bruce Williams said at the ball park; to a little Hootin' and Hollerin' "2 way streets" and "4 lane bridges" are OK by us.
H. G. Damon
891 N. Com'l. St.

Apartment Court Theft Total Reduced

The burglary count at the Royal Court apartments was back to three Saturday after Mrs. Iva Whiting discovered three dresses she had reported stolen Friday.

Mrs. Whiting found the dresses had been overlooked in a closet of her apartment. City police had assumed the dresses were part of the loot taken from the apartment house by burglars earlier in the week.

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