

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Stays Us, No Fear Shall Awe"  
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## Avoid Taking as Well as Giving Offense

Minority groups have suffered so long it is easy to understand how they are sensitive to discrimination. Sometimes they appear super-sensitive, magnifying untoward incidents or taking offense where none was intended.

A few weeks ago an instance of this occurred in a Portland high school. A chorus was singing the very familiar song in which the line appears: "Whoever said a nigger won't steal..." At that moment a group of negroes got up and walked out. They took umbrage at the use of the word "nigger", regarding it as a term of derision.

That is true, but the word goes with the rest of the song. How silly it would be to say "Whoever said a negro won't steal..." But then offense might be taken that a negro was linked with the crime of stealing. So the only apparent solution would be not to sing the song. And that solution is silly too, for it is part of our folk-song literature, too good to be discarded.

Another incident is reported from Berlin where angry Polish Jews rioted before a movie theatre that was showing an English film "Oliver Twist" in which the character Fagin, who teaches boys to steal was depicted as a Jew. Undoubtedly the Polish Jews are very sensitive for they have suffered so much their hearts must be lacerated. But a single characterization should not be interpreted as a degradation of a whole group. After all the vast majority of criminal roles are carried by non-Jews, without complaint from Gentiles that they are held up to scorn. How many times have the Irish and the Scotch and the English been made the butt of American humor?

Charles Dickens drew a Jew as Fagin in his novel; and he may have reflected prejudice of the time when he did so; but if the story is to be reproduced with fidelity the movie-maker cannot alter the Dickens characterization. What needs to be understood is that such a depiction carries no slur against a group.

This is Brotherhood week, with pleas made for tolerance. This means we should avoid unfair discrimination and avoid offering offense to other groups. It means also that in the give and take of life persons should be a bit lenient and not look for slights where none is intended.

## Heading in Two Directions

The house committee on taxation has approved a joint resolution for a constitutional amendment to forbid the levy of taxes on property for state purposes, save as may be necessary to service general obligation indebtedness.

The house committee on education voted finally six to five to give a favorable report on the bill which also would go to the people, calling for an increase from \$50 to \$95 per census child in the basic state school support fund. This imposes a state property tax which would be extinguished to the extent that income tax revenues were available for the purpose.

These measures head in different directions.

## Berlin is 'Last Chink in Iron Curtain'

By Joseph Alsop

BERLIN, Feb. 23—Berliners nowadays talk about the airlift as people elsewhere talk about the weather. On a fine morning they will say, "what a beautiful day," but, "there will be many planes today." Yet this perpetual consciousness of the roar of the big C-54s overhead is actually the only abnormal note in the life of the city. The world still thinks of the Berlin situation as dangerous and critical. In fact, it has become an uneventful stalemate.

There is not the slightest danger, moreover, that the stalemate will be broken, either by Russian aggression or by the failure of the airlift to do its job. This spring, as the weather improves, airlift input will increase to about 8,000 tons a day. General Lucius D. Clay already has plans to increase the airlift this summer to a year-round average of 10,000 tons a day. And if the Russians fail to lift their blockade this spring, Clay's plans will be put into effect.

With 10,000 tons a day, the western sectors of Berlin can live a perfectly normal life. Even now, with much lower tonnages, the people of west Berlin are eating a little better and finding consumer goods a little more available than before the blockade. As for their spirit, it has already been tested.

The Berliners showed their spirit when 86 per cent of them defied the soviets by going to the polls and choosing as their mayor, with a huge majority, the veteran anti-communist socialist, Ernst Reuter. Reuter was an old bolshevik, and can tell you of the early days after the Russian revolution, when his friend Lenin named him president of the Volga republic of the Soviet union. His disillusionment with communism has left him deeply cynical about everything except the value of free soil. Yet there

can be few more stout-hearted leaders than this big, wise, sad old man. He is the symbol of the Berliners' will to resist.

These facts have vastly more than local significance, for the simple reason that the Kremlin's program for Germany has been knocked into a cocked hat by their failure to capture Berlin. As every one acknowledges, the German problem is central Europe. And any analysis of the German problem must begin with the fact that the Kremlin program for Germany has already been frustrated.

The Soviet policy makers have vaguely hoped they could use the Berlin blockade as blackmail to disrupt the reconstruction of Western Germany and to get their hands on the Ruhr. But their practical, immediate aim was that disclosed in a remarkable speech by Karl Maron, one of their chief political stooges in Germany.

"So long as the forces of reaction can maintain their established positions in Berlin," said Maron, "they will be able to carry out successfully their acts of sabotage. Thus the reconstruction of the western zone will be hampered from the outset."

What Maron meant is perfectly clear despite the double talk. So long as Berlin remains a huge chink in the iron curtain, it will continue to be impossible to organize the Soviet zone of Germany as a full-fledged Kremlin satellite, and to incorporate this new satellite in the Kremlin's new east European empire. The failure of the Berlin blockade has prevented the establishment of an east German state on these lines.

All the preparations for such a state began to be made long before the blockade itself was declared. An embryonic east German government was organized in the form of the People's Congress.

A new east German police force was recruited, with from thirty to forty thousand of its hundred thousand members formed into para-military units commanded by former Wehrmacht generals -- the obvious nucleus of a new

One puts up a bar on a state property tax; the other adds a fresh burden for property to bear if income tax receipts are inadequate.

A different drive is behind each measure. Owners of property who see costs of government mounting and see the prospect of safeguards chiseled away (through diversion of corporate excise tax to general spending) are fearful lest the mounting burden of state government and school support fall on them. They want no repetition of delinquencies and foreclosures such as prevailed in the 1930's and so seek this barrier for their protection.

The school lobby which is one of the most active, most high-pressured and most demanding of any operating at the state house, drives for the increase in the basic state school support fund. Headed by the Oregon Education association, it has enlisted the school board association. Their combined efforts obtained a shift to give a favorable instead of an unfavorable committee report; and the shower of letters and telegrams on house members is designed to get favorable action in the house.

The Statesman looks on both these measures with disfavor. It is opposed to putting more negatives in the state constitution on the subject of taxation. The constitution bristles with them now: 6 per cent limitation, no emergency clause on tax bills, no diversion of motor vehicle revenues—"No, No, No"; you can't do this, you can't do that. Small wonder we're in a tax jam much of the time.

As for the increase of \$48 per census child, that is a big jump. The measure carries no assurance that the increase in state aid would reduce local property taxes; and so pressing are the demands for salary and other increases that local budgets might go up by as much as the anticipated increase in state aid.

A safer plan would be to submit a measure granting a specific sum by way of increase in state school support, to be taken out of income tax surplus, over the biennium.

In any event the legislature ought not to submit these two measures whose import is contradictory.

Nylons on the gals in Jacksonville, Fla. started running en masse a few days ago. A DuPont technical engineer says they have had that trouble before and it is due to acid-laden soot particles which lodge on the stockings. That may explain, but what the wearers want is hostility not susceptible to wholesale runs. How can they tell when soot will be flying?

We have been asked if the pressmen's strike in Portland would affect Salem publications. The answer is "no". Salem papers renewed their contracts, granting wage increases, to the three unions they deal with, typographers, stereotypers and pressmen, effective through 1949.

## Homecoming Feast at Mt. Angel Now Annual Treat for Solons

With Watson at the Legislature

By Ralph Watson

One day, away back, a lonesome but a friendly boy in whose veins ran the transplanted blood of Poland came from Astoria by the sea to Mt. Angel there to learn what the kindly Fathers at the College would teach him.

Tradition has it that he was full of fun and frolicsome as a celt in the meadow but those who were in charge of the college put their gentle bridle on him and guided him along the pathway of knowledge until he had run out their course. And in that time he had become beloved of the Fathers, of his fellow students and of all the folk in and around the town who came to know him. Then at last he left the quietude of Mt. Angel's cloisters for a distant and a larger school which taught him the fundamentals of the law. Finally, finished there he came again back to the home town nestling beside the Columbia where its mighty waters first welcomed the ships which come weary from their long journey across the sea.



Ralph Watson

And there in the practice of his chosen profession he still was kind and fair and frank, and the counsel he gave those who sought him was just and honest and his advice was sound. He prospered and his fellow townsmen trusted him so they chose him to be their spokesman—and that is how Francis Franciscovich came to Salem 18 years ago to be the senator from Clatsop county in the session of 1931.

Back to Mt. Angel And when he came again so close to the college sitting on the hill the new senator remembered those who had guided his steps as a youth, and he remembered the town folk whom he had known, for he was not one to forget a favor or a friend. So he went back to Mt. Angel for a night and a reunion and here is where this story really begins.

Out at Mt. Angel there used to be a group of friendly men who

now and then would meet when the tasks of the day were done in a little cabin by the side of the road where they would cook themselves such a feast as they alone could do, while they talked of crops, and cows, and cheese and other homely things.

Now what they cooked was food that the Jovian chefs on High Olympus never knew. It was not godlike nectar. It was food; an offering to make King and Courtier above the salt and all the peasants grouped below drool in happy anticipation, then eat, and eat and eat. It has no Olympian label but does it call for more? In common language it is frankfurters and sauerkraut. But wait! Not what you get when you go to the market. It has meat in it, and spices and the kraut comes golden and steaming from the kettle. It is something, once taken must be taken again, and again—and again if fortune is kind.

First Feast in 1931 And so, Frank went to feast in the cabin in 1931, and he went again in 1933. And in 1935 he sent out word that he was bringing three friends. And when the four reached the cabin they found waiting, not what their mouths had been watering for, but turkey, and dressing with all the sauces, and the fixings. The three visitors took what was offered, as polite visitors should. But Franciscovich? He howled his disappointment until his hosts cooked up a batch to keep him quiet.

In 1937 the feast had outgrown the cabin and was moved up town into a larger hall. In 1941 it was larger still. In 1943 Frank did not join the feast, the unkind hand of Death suddenly had touched him and called him away, and those who did attend stood in silent tribute with tears in their hearts for their absent friend.

So, last night, a still growing cavalcade went out to Mt. Angel where the townfolk held welcoming hands out to them to come in, strangers without the gates, again to feast on that which Mt. Angel alone knows how to produce and having feasted to depart—strangers no longer but neighbors and friends.

## Salem Electric Elects Olson

Dr. O. A. Olson was elected president of Salem Electric, local electric power cooperative, at an organization meeting of the board of directors this week. Other officers for this year are Max Gehlhar, vice president, and Glen Hogg, secretary.

## Firm's Ex-Vice President Guilty of Embezzlement

PORTLAND, Feb. 23—(AP)—A former vice president of a corporation here was sentenced to four years imprisonment today after pleading guilty to embezzlement. Robert W. Fredericks, former vice president of the Accela corporation, was charged with taking about \$5,800 of the firm's funds. He was arrested last month in Petersburg, Va., after a nationwide search.

## 4-H Club Leaders Receive 5-Year Pins



KEIZER, Feb. 23—Five 4-H club leaders smile after receiving their five-year pins at the Marion county 4-H club leaders banquet here last Thursday night. They are Ralph Nelson and Mrs. H. S. Dixon, Keizer; Mrs. Arvilla Adkinson, Lake Labbish; Mrs. John Cage, Middle Grove; Elmer Jenkey, Astora.



KEIZER, Feb. 23—Mrs. W. O. Found, (left) chairman of Keizer Home Economics club, and Mrs. William Eiser, vice chairman, sit down to figure up how club came out on the 4-H leaders banquet it served last Thursday night.

## Public Records

MUNICIPAL COURT Bertil Ljung, Spokane, Wash., charged with selling magazine with no permit, posted \$50 bail.

CIRCUIT COURT Edith Huddleston vs. Loren Huddleston: Decree of divorce restores plaintiff's maiden name of Edith Stiltner.

Keith Brown Lumber Yard vs. Joe L. Shaw: Order confirms sale of real property interests.

Woodburn Fruit Growers' Cooperative Association vs. United Growers, Inc.: Suit seeks to collect \$48,200 allegedly due from sale of berries to defendant in 1947.

PROBATE COURT Clayton Ross Hammond estate: Order authorizes distribution of personal property.

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## Telephone Call Helps Police Arrest Suspect

Efforts of a meat market clerk and a Salem city police officer enabled Yamhill county authorities Wednesday to arrest Jack C. Davis at Willamina.

The young man is wanted in Salem on a charge of passing bad checks. Bail has been set at \$1,000. He was being questioned Wednesday by McMinnville authorities who were holding him without a warrant.

Salem Detective Wayne Parker, who located Davis, said he also is wanted in Coos Bay and in Washington. Although Davis used a U.S. identification card when he passed checks, Parker said he did not believe Davis was in the navy. Davis is charged with passing two bad checks here on February 15—one for \$10 at the Midget Market and the other for \$8.89 at Howard Corset shop.

A clerk at the market jotted down the telephone number of a call Davis made at the market. Parker traced the number, found where the phone was located, learned from the residents there of the whereabouts of Davis and informed Yamhill officers.

## Judge, Engineers To Inspect Flood Threat on Santiam

Marion County Judge Grant Murphy and army engineers will today inspect lands threatened with flooding from the North Santiam river near North Santiam station.

The area lies in a bend of the river where at the beginning of the century, a flood washed away a railroad bridge and several county road bridges. Residents on about 1,000 acres of land there reported their fears of another flood to army engineers recently.

County Commissioners Roy Rice and Ed Rogers and County Road Foreman Frank Woeckel plan to attend a two-day conference on road building in Corvallis beginning today.

## Pearson States New Tax Only Alternative to Use of Surpluses

New taxes are the only alternative to Oregon's use of personal income tax and corporate excise tax receipts for general fund expenses, State Treasurer Walter Pearson told Salem Exchange club members at the Wednesday luncheon.

Pearson said he favors putting all receipts into the state's general fund, with the distribution to be determined by the legislature for all departments.

Revisions of the state tax set-up as suggested by the treasurer, to overcome the income tax surplus existing along with a general fund deficit, include:

1. Repeal of the state power to tax property, since the income tax provides a broader base than a property levy. He asserted that large property owners have always been able to beat proposals to transfer income tax receipts to the general fund because they were afraid a property levy might be assessed, as none has for nine years.

2. Enabling the tax commission to increase collections—"If we ever start collecting taxes from all who owe them, we'll really have a surplus." He noted that no real effort at collection was made until 1940 and that the department's 70 employees compare with the U. S. internal revenue department's 1,500 in the state.

Revision of Tax Rate 3. Revision of the income tax rate, which he said is the highest in the United States because only Oregon allows deduction of federal tax payments. This practice, Pearson noted, makes the rate about 6 per cent, when it is actually only about 3 per cent on total income, resulting in poor publicity for Oregon.

The treasurer declared himself in opposition to a sales tax, because "it eliminates too many items" from coverage. Club committee chairmen announced by President Peery Burden are Kenneth Potts, public affairs; Wayne Hadley, publicity; Alfred Loucks, finance; Dr. Pat Campbell, inter-club relations; William H. Petre, auditing; Ed Frank, membership; Irvin Bryan, education; William Loop, attendance.

## Bible Expert Talks Tonight

Dr. John Trever of Chicago, an authority on the Bible, will speak at 7:30 tonight in First Christian church at a public meeting sponsored by Salem Ministerial association.

Dr. Trever is one of the principal speakers at this week's Oregon Council of Churches convention in Portland.

"The Bible Comes Alive" will be the subject of Trever, who is director of English Bible for the International Council of Religious Education. He is the discoverer of the oldest known manuscript of the book of Isaiah, written about 100 B.C.

He will confer with Salem ministers at 4:30 this afternoon in the First Christian church study.

## Bad Check Artist Given 18 Months

Karl C. Coonrad was sentenced to 18 months in Oregon state prison Wednesday morning by Marion County Circuit Judge George Duncan on a charge of passing a false \$27.50 check here last December 31.

Coonrad pleaded guilty and waived grand jury hearing on a charge of obtaining money by false pretenses. According to the complaint the check was passed at the Keizer super market. Deputy District Attorney Sam Harbison told the court that 12 other counties want "to question" Coonrad concerning bad checks recently.

## Federal and State Taxes

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