

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sweeps Us; No Fear Shall Ave"
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Poetry and Power and Politics

There is a fascination about great rivers that is equaled only by their utility. The thunder of mighty torrents down rocky mountain sides, the dreamy pools in quiet forest glens, the silvery highways of water across the plains have all been celebrated in literature, art and music. And recently people have become more concerned about such things as the power potential of rivers.

Thus it has been with the northwest's Columbia and Richard Neuberger describes it vividly in an article for the June Holiday magazine.

He charts the river's course from the Finnish fisheries at Astoria past log rafts and millponds to Portland, Oregon's staid metropolis which "wonders if it can ever snuggle back into its cozy prewar shell as comfortably as before."

"In the past 'the cloudy domes of Rainier, Adams, St. Helens and Hood (which) squat on the horizon like hooded goblins at a council fire,' and waterfalls tumbling 'in slender white Cortina columns from Oregon crags,' to where 'the river becomes a wide green belly of water beyond Celilo' and where

Above the Grand Coulee dam and the broad river spray hangs in the air like a cloud. Through the misty plumes, sheep often plod across the high concrete arches on the long dusty trek to distant mountain pastures. A herder in greasy denim pants, his shirt open at the throat, looks up at the transmission towers that stretch like a metallic centipede of toward Hanford. In him the simpler ways of the frontier abide along the Columbia, whether its waters split the stem or dwarf Niagara. Here progress and the primitive dwell side by side.

The burgeoning new civilization on the banks of the great Columbia is not without its newly begotten problems: however, so Neuberger mentions the decrease in salmon, water pollution, slum-like housing, race prejudices, potential relief rosters.

But he looks ahead, too, to the "most spectacular of the Columbia's blessings" when mammoth storage tanks, pumped full of the Columbia's copious supply pour their contents across the giant mesas of the Big Bend country, irrigating a million acres of wasteland and making the desert to bloom with 17,000 productive farms.

As this issue of Holiday hints, the story of the Pacific northwest and the saga of the Columbia is just in the opening chapters. No man can say what the climax will be but there is no doubt that the Columbia has already joined the historic rivers of the world, as an inspiration to poets, a challenge to builders, and a prize for politicians.

Women Must Work Also

In times of recession there are always those who come up with a ready answer to the growing unemployment rolls: put the women back in the home (where they belong). Men must work they say and women can live off their husbands.

That this facile solution is obsolete is shown by the recent rise in men's unemployment while the number of women looking for work has remained about the same as last year. Women today are not working for pin money; nine out of ten of whom are self-supporting, according to the women's bureau of the department of labor, and they are just as eager to keep their jobs as the men who don't want to subsist on unemployment compensation checks.

Nearly 18,000,000 women are working outside the home today—2,000,000 more than at the beginning of 1942, and the number is increasing. The all-time peak in the number of women workers was in 1944 when 20,000,000, more than

a third of all the women in the country, were in the labor force.

Today about half the working women are married, 35 per cent are single, and the rest are divorced or widowed; before the war half the women's labor force was made up of single women.

These statistics don't mean that the nation's families are being neglected. The phenomenal birth-rate of the war and post-war years shows that women continue having babies even though they hold down a job on the side. Further, the biggest increase in the number of working women comes from the ranks of wives and mothers whose child-rearing years are over: About the same number of women under 35 are working today as in 1940 whereas there are 1,000,000 more women in the labor force between 35 and 45 and almost 2,000,000 more who are over 45.

There have been changes, too, in the kinds of jobs women hold down. In 1940, 13.2 per cent of all working women were in the professional and semi-professional category, 17.7 per cent were in domestic service.

The high pay, novelty and patriotic aura of war work drew millions of women into industrial jobs. Rosie the Riveter in the shipyard or plane factory was often an ex-teacher or former housemaid, and when the war ended she was reluctant to return to the wages and restricted living of the schoolmarm or the low wages and social stigma of the servant. If she could, she joined the clerical, operative or service (not domestic) force. So, today only 9.2 per cent of working women are in the professional class and only 8.5 per cent are domestics. More than half the nation's office workers are women, more than half the service workers are women, and almost half the professional and semi-professional workers are women, too.

These ladies will be hard to dislodge, no matter how unemployment among male industrial workers increases. They will argue, and with experience, ability, training and necessary are experience, ability, training and necessary are the fair determiners of who should work.

Club Would Oust State Milk Price Board

The Portland City club has adopted a resolution favoring dropping of state control of milk prices and turning over the job to the federal department of agriculture's milk marketing division. This division functions where milksheds are interstate, so it could operate in Portland. Whether it could or would set up shop for the interior of the state we do not know. The federal plan only goes so far as to fix prices for producers and relates the price for fluid milk chiefly on the price factories pay for milk for butter, cheese, ice cream.

Milk price control, like Banquo's ghost, refuses to stay buried. The legislature kicked the authority around again, this time transferring it to an administrator to be appointed by the state board of agriculture. That doesn't become effective until July. Meantime, Director Peterson, who continues boss of milk prices until then, has scheduled a hearing in Portland to review the price structure.

It's hard to keep 'em all happy in price-fixing.

They used to say that nothing was sure but death and taxes; but the former seems to be "slipping." A business paper reports the recession has hit oasket-makers. Deaths were down two per cent in the first four months of the year, and funeral directors are overstocked with coffins.

Queer Tangle Hampers Labor Issues

By Joseph Alsop

WASHINGTON, May 21.—In the queer tangle of labor policy, one fact stands out: President Truman still has an excellent chance of victory over the supporters of the Taft-Hartley act. But he is gravely imperiling this chance of victory in order to preserve his odd position as a personal politician—Executive—Exhibiting—Consensus—Restitution.

Nothing quite like this performance has been seen since Wilson helped the Lodge-Bryan-Brandee Junta to beat the League of Nations, by refusing to have any dealings with the mild reservationists.

In view of the drudgery of ordinary propaganda, it is not to be often repeated that the underlying congressional situation is highly unfavorable to the Taft-Hartley act's defenders. Senator Robert A. Taft himself has already made the most extensive concessions in his substitute measure. With wise presidential leadership, the senate and house would go far beyond Taft's concessions, expanding the Taft-Hartley act from the state books and retaining only about 20 per cent of its provisions. The result would be sound, impartial labor legislation.

Symptomatic of the way the courts are running, are important recent behind-the-scenes developments in the senate. The able trio of republican progressives, Ives of New York, Morse of Oregon and Aiken of Vermont, have always been firm and dealing with Taft. For several weeks they have also desired to see such progressive democrats as Hill of Alabama, Douglas of

Illinois and Humphrey of Minnesota, in preparing their own bi-partisan substitute for Taft-Hartley.

Their motive is simple. The presidentially-sponsored Thomas-Lesinski bill has no chance of passing either house of congress. It has no chance because it fails to recognize the general desire for some sort of moderate regulatory labor legislation.

On the other hand, a Hill-Morse-Douglas-Aiken-Humphrey measure, providing for mild and reasonable labor regulation, would have the best possible chance of carrying the senate. These progressive democrats and republicans were in broad agreement on principles. There seemed to be no reason why they should not cooperate constructively to pass a sound labor bill.

There has been, and is no earthly reason except the president's attitude. When Morse and Aiken first approached Hill and Douglas, any cooperative effort was directly discouraged at a meeting of the senate labor committee's democratic members, by the committee chairman, Senator Thomas of Utah. Senator Thomas, speaking for the president, insisted on standing pat on the hopeless Thomas-Lesinski bill. "No compromise" was the watchword offered.

Since that time, fortunately, Hill, Douglas, and Humphrey have decided to ignore the White House. They have agreed to try to get together with Morse and Aiken (Ives being omitted because he is not a labor committee member). The chances are good that these five will now agree on a program. But again, their agreement will be fruitless, if the president commands his small but faithful senatorial back-such men as Thomas and Claude Pepper, of Florida—to vote against any compromise whatever. The victory will then go, by default, to Senator Taft.

This sorry comedy, of giving the opposition the victory by default, has already been played out in the house. Some days before the house voted on labor legislation, Speaker Rayburn and other house leaders went to the president to promise passage of a reasonable compromise. The president told them they could offer a compromise if they chose, that he would not veto, it but that he would still denounce it from his high, if impotent moral pinnacle.

As a result, no compromise bill was properly sponsored in the house until the right-wing republican-southern democratic Wood bill had actually passed. Rayburn then hastily promised compromise, and succeeded in having the whole problem sent back to the house labor committee. But in the committee a minority of 100 per cent like Representatives Wier and Burke are now preventing action by the committee's pro-labor majority. These men will not budge because of the president's no-compromise stand and the intransigence of John L. Lewis. This situation in the house committee actually makes it conceivable that there will be no labor legislation at all at this session.

Judging from all this, the president obviously believes that the posture of Saint Sebastian is good politics. The extraordinary Whitney letter tells the story: "Bring on your slings and arrows; I am in the right," is the Truman line. But wiser politicians know that the voters have rather different tastes in saints. This includes the labor voters, the majority of whose union leaders strongly approve the Morse-Aiken-Hill-Humphrey-Douglas line of action. The constructive action of a Saint Benedict or a Saint Jerome is on the whole preferred to the beautiful but fruitless poses of conscious martyrdom.

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IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

various federal agencies which would still function in this area. One defect of the Davidson draft of a CVA is that it has not solved the problem of relationship with other federal bureaus, though as all are under federal control the possibility of harmony is much greater than if the CVA were an interstate agency.

Congressman Horan of Washington tried to preserve local control with his bill for a commission of seven, one each to be appointed by the governors of the four northwest states. But this is a political mongrel. Governors might name a quarter hostile to the purposes of the act. Again I cannot imagine that congress will appropriate money to be spent on these river projects except by an agency under federal control. The constitution gives the president, not governors of states, power of appointment to federal offices.

I am not impressed with the patently ingratiating provision of Davidson's CVA bill to give two places on CVA to "bona fide" residents of the region. There are plenty of poor sticks and lame ducks out here who might get those appointments. If the region has men of stature equal to the task they should be chosen on merit, not geography.

The simple truth is that the states and localities have surrendered whatever "rights" they may have had in the fields of reclamation and flood control and hydroelectric development to the federal government. Oregon burned its fingers on irrigation districts several decades ago, and abandoned the field. The Willamette valley showed little enthusiasm for flood control until Senator McNary got the law changed so the federal government could bear virtually all the cost. Ohio did make large investments through conservancy districts after suffering damaging floods, but now the army engineers are doing the job on most of the rivers without cost to local taxpayers. None of the states has undertaken a big hydro project.

In short, we the people have turned these capital improvements over to the federal government. States are busy with highway building, but they plead with the government for substantial contributions. It is quite late, therefore, to talk about creating an interstate agency for regional development. As far as "states' rights" are concerned, the important item for protection is rights for use of water as now determined under state laws—and the CVA bill purports to give that protection.

States have no machinery for administration, no authority for fund-raising, no body of laws for government of interstate projects. The pertinent question now is how best to organize federal agencies to do the job committed to them by popular demand and congressional action.

Comment Editorial

independent of question able sponsorship, but his earlier reputation for business competence and civic decency had justified the hope that he could keep himself above the level of a stooge for truculent manipulators. While his legislative record on gambling and liquor issues has been disturbingly parallel with Pearson's, it was felt that he had had in him which would enable him to resist being put to flagrantly unworthy political uses. He is a sad disappointment. His handsome presence, ingratiating personality and the publicity accruing to his attractive name may result in his nomination and election as governor in 1950, but that outcome should bring the blush of shame to all who feel pride in good government in Oregon.

The two successors to Messrs Fisher and Wheaton may make good, even though Fisher's successor goes in under something of a cloud. He may prove out as better than a "political cheap-skate," which is how ex-Governor Sprague refers to him in Salem Statesman. It is to be hoped so, for the sake of the state as well as for the very personable young man who has been allied politically with the less particular element of the republican party organization.

As for Pearson—no one expected any better. The tax commissioner he didn't like was part of the administration in which that

fine gentleman, Pearson's father, was a part. It was by the vote of Pearson's father as a member of the Board of Control with Governor Martin that Wallace Wharton was elected tax commissioner after Rufus Holman resigned as state treasurer in December 1939 and Governor Martin appointed Pearson Sr. state treasurer. Wharton made a first class record as tax commissioner until he went into war service and he resumed that fine quality of service after he came out of the war. But repudiation of Pearson Senior's attitude in many matters is no surprise to those who have observed Pearson Junior in action.

Newbury's mawkish denial of connivance with Pearson is unacceptable. Murray Wade in his Capital Parade service this week says: "The changes had been anticipated since the first of the month when Governor McKay declared he favored keeping the present commissioners on account of their present good records. The other two members of the board of control decided each would name a candidate and elect them. Secretary of State Newbury named Smith and State Treasurer Pearson names MacLean." As little respect will be commanded by any denial made by Newbury to Wade's recollection as is being paid to his original denial.—Oregon Voter (C. C. Chapman, editor)

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Precinct Votes Spell Defeat for Polk Road Tax

DALLAS, May 21.—(Special)—A proposed \$480,000 special road tax levy was defeated in Polk county Friday by a vote of 1,380 to 630, a complete tally today showed.

The 10-mill levy carried in only five of Polk county's 30 voting precincts. The levy proposed would have been raised over a three-year period and would have been used to improve the county's road system, which suffered heavy damage during the past winter.

Precincts approving the measure were Spring Valley, Perrydale, Jackson, Pedee and Rock Creek. The voting tabulated by precincts showed this result:

Precinct	Yes	No
Salt Creek	35	71
Oakdale	50	60
Rickfall	15	66
Eola	11	34
Brush College	12	27
Spring Valley	26	23
McCoy	19	30
Perrydale	37	28
Buell	13	14
Jackson	43	1
Williams	9	12
Gold Creek	3	17
Douglas	15	16
Buena Vista	10	52
Airlie	4	17
Pedee	25	13
Bridgeport	11	48
Rock Creek	20	5
West Salem	3	10
	2	15
	2	23
Independence	1	5
	2	3
	2	10
	4	9
Monmouth	NE	12
	NW	17
	SW	11
	SE	17
Falls City	North	21
	South	13
Dallas	1	39
	2	27
	3	45
	4	32
		80
		630
		1,380

Latter Day Saints Convention to End in Salem Today

More delegates are expected in Salem this morning for closing sessions of the Oregon district priesthood institute of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. About 100 from Oregon and part of Washington were here Saturday.

President J. L. Verhel of Portland and Bishop Monte Lasiter of Seattle are conducting the program, which today will include fellowship at 8:45 a. m., classes at 10, preaching at 11 by Apostle C. George Mesley of Independence, Mo., lunch at noon, class and concluding business at 2 p. m. Speaker Saturday night was Evangelist Mark Yeoman of Portland.

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