

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Susps Us, No Fear Shall Ave"
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The Wilsonville Cutoff

Elsewhere on this page we reprint an editorial from the Bend Bulletin dealing with what we know locally as the Wilsonville cutoff. The imputation is that this was promoted by Portland merchant interest seeking to pour more traffic to its trading center. It also asserts that commission records are silent as to "original favoring argument". The Bulletin also raises the question whether the road is necessary since 99E has been made into a four-lane highway as far as Canby. The status of the cutoff will be reviewed by the commission on September 19.

The usually accurate Bulletin is confused in certain particulars. The records of the commission show that as early as March 3, 1927, a delegation from Wilsonville asked the commission to consider an alternate route for the Pacific highway through Wilsonville. That was before money was spent on the widening at Oregon City. On October 27 of that year the late Milton Miller and a delegation from Butteville appeared before the commission to urge the same project. Other entries in the minutes appear down through the years to Sept. 24, 1946 when a delegation from Salem and Woodburn appeared before the commission and urged that the big sum (around half a million dollars) which it proposed to spend for widening the road from Oregon City to Canby be diverted, instead, for the completion of the Wilsonville cutoff.

As to authorization of the route, the minutes show that on January 27, 1937 the commission adopted and designated as a state highway route a section known as the West Portland-Hubbard highway, No. 51.

During the period in question, Henry F. Cabell was chairman of the commission. Our information is that Mr. Cabell delayed approving the proposed route because he had property interests which might be favorably affected and wanted to avoid any suspicion of using his office to advance his personal interests. Anyone who knows Mr. Cabell will, we are sure, testify to his high standard of ethics.

What precipitated the first work on the route was the availability of federal funds for grade separation projects. One of those selected was the underpass at Hubbard on this new route. Several miles of fine paving were built beyond and then a country road connection made with the road to Wilsonville ferry.

The right-of-way department on authority of the commission acquired over the years the necessary right-of-way for a super-highway, with limited access.

The coming of the war delayed further work on the road, until 1948 when a section was graded and paved from the West Portland end. What holds the work up now is lack of funds for the bridge at Wilsonville.

The route is not new. This writer recalls that nearly 20 years ago Roy E. Klein, then highway commissioner, pointed to the Oregon Electric line from Wilsonville to Salem and said that the best location for a road between Portland and Salem. Had the OE abandoned its line, as was once considered a possibility, the state undoubtedly would have acquired its right-of-way. This remains the best route, and the Baldock plan for Salem shows that this is in the highway department's hope, chest for the future. The link to Hubbard is a useful connection but not the ultimate best route from Portland to Salem.

The advantages of the cutoff are that it shortens by several miles and would reduce by perhaps 15 minutes the time required for

travel between Portland and Salem. The fact that it will be a freeway should promote safer travel. Grades on this route will be much easier, which will be an advantage for heavy vehicles. Through the connections with Barbour boulevard and Fourth avenue in Portland and with Harbor Drive, vehicles can move quickly to destinations in the center of the city.

This route will not replace or displace the route by Canby and Oregon City to Portland. That has definite advantages for those wishing to get to many east side locations, to go through Portland north or via the Columbia river highway. In our opinion both roads will be needed, of four-lane capacity by the time the state can get them built. Which should get priority, completing the four-lane road from Canby to Salem or completing the cutoff, is a debatable question. And we are not presuming now to say when either job should be placed on the commission's time schedule — other parts of the state have needs too.

The route via Wilsonville was not "born in sin". From an engineering standpoint it is a superior route. The cutoff is needed now to reduce congestion on 99E, and eventually a direct route from Salem paralleling the OE to Wilsonville will be needed.

The Bulletin has long worked in behalf of the Warm Springs highway to give it a shorter and easier access to Portland. The Wilsonville route offers similar advantages, though on reduced scale as far as miles and minutes are concerned. But multiplying the time saving by the number of vehicles using the route its economies probably will be greater than the Bulletin's favorite.

When the commission has its hearing September 19 Salem should again urge that the cutoff be completed as soon as the commission can finance the project though Salem is interested also in making present 99E a four-lane facility.

Getting Ready for College

Mamas are busy these days getting their daughters outfitted for college. If they are to be freshmen this is a serious chore, for a wrong choice of apparel may be fatal to a sorority bid.

While parents take a great deal of interest in what their children will wear when they go to college, and where they will live, they are often blissfully ignorant of what they will study or what they are prepared to study. An article in today's Statesman (Section 2, page 4) Marguerite Wright points out the importance of proper preparation in high school. In short, college begins down in the ninth grade. Unless students take courses with some intellectual meat on the bones they will not be ready for the strong fare that comes when they plunge into college work.

The cafeteria plan of course offerings in high school accommodates a variety of tastes which is necessary if all youth are to be herded into high school. Really, to prepare for college means to select courses that will provide a good foundation for college levels. Parents of high school youngsters should think of this as well as outfitting the youth with becoming apparel.

Klamath Pomona grange rebelled against the state grange purge order of 22 legislators for supporting a bill which the grange politics disapproved of. And at the Bend convention the committee on taxation made bold to recommend a sales tax (which the convention after much oratory turned down). Could it be that the tight hold that Grangemaster Tompkins and his predecessor Ray Gill held on the organization is slipping?

Petty Vanity Moves '5 Per Centers'

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop
In the atmosphere of Washington today, one almost regrets the passing of the days when Big Sam Ward, king of the railroad lobbyists, fed his bought senators or on beaver tails stewed in champagne. For at least things were done in a big way then.

There is nothing big in what the five-percenters investigate has been unearthing. There is only a small kind of nastiness. There has been no evidence of personal corruption. The motivation of almost everything that has been done has apparently been petty vanity. And it has been on a niggling scale — the hole-in-corner wire-pulling, the commercialized "friendships," the little favors for little men.

Even where the evidence of real corruption exists, as in the general accounting office's investigation of war contract settlements, it has been on a scale so petty as to make Sam Ward blush with shame. To read the actual cases of fraud, which Comptroller General Lindsay Warren's investigators have unearthed and sent to the justice department for action, is a depressing experience. It is depressing to find that the service officers and government officials who have sold themselves have been willing to sell themselves cheap.

Since charges have not yet been brought by the justice department, names cannot be named. But here is the sort of thing which, according to Warren and his staff, has been going on. Shortly after a certain firm's representatives met two government employees, it was awarded three handsome government contracts. At the same time, liabilities to these government officials were entered on the firm's books, a measly \$2,029 and a measly \$1,175.

Another firm asked a government official to increase its contract price. The increase was granted. The firm paid the government official \$500, a sum Sam Ward would not have stooped to offer a cloakroom attendant. Again, two army officers on active duty were paid for "part-time services" by a firm which they were dealing. Soon after the payment, the firm got a lush government contract. The officers collected a mere \$2,000 in stock values for betraying their commissions.

Such raw palm-greasing was exceptional. Warren's investigators found they more frequently discovered a subtler form of recompense for services rendered. Repeatedly they found that officials or officers, who had been responsible during their government service for awarding profitable contracts or exceedingly generous settlements, were subsequently employed at handsome salaries by the firms which had been benefitted. No doubt in many cases this was mere coincidence. But no doubt, in many cases it was not.

Although almost all the cases of fraud involving government officials or officers have been on a petty scale, the total sums involved are not petty. Warren has already announced that his investigators have discovered fraud costing the unhappy taxpayer more than six and a quarter million dollars. Moreover, Warren's experts are now combing a case which may involve a fraud

charge of nearly twenty million dollars against a single company. And it is not generally realized that the general accounting office is only equipped to spot-check a small portion of the total number of contracts and settlements involved. Thus it is likely that the whole loss to the taxpayer may run well into nine figures, no small sum even by today's standards.

It may be argued that the general accounting office has an axe to grind. On the theory that conversion would never get underway if the usual ponderous GAO accounting methods were used, congress relieved the GAO from direct supervision of settlements. Warren and his subordinates have bitterly resented this, charging that it was an open invitation to fraud and waste, and it is obviously in their interest to prove their point.

It may also be argued that in view of the millions of people and the billions of dollars involved, the government is on the whole honestly run. Certainly there is nothing to compare with the lush corruption of the days when every important financial interest had its private army of bought lackeys in the government. Yet there are increasingly visible symptoms of a highly unpleasant disease. Such symptoms as have been uncovered by the five-percenters inquiry, by Warren's investigation, and by other probes do not indicate that the disease is as yet deeply serious. The symptoms are like the itching and scratching of the skin people get when they do not wash enough. Yet, as the government and private business become constantly more involved with each other, the disease could easily go more than skin deep. It is this which justifies all the hullabaloo about what would certainly seem to Sam Ward a very niggling business. (Copyright, 1949, New York Herald Tribune Inc.)

"ALL I KNOW IS WHAT I READ IN THE PAPERS"



IT SEEMS TO ME

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and to the paralyzing effect of cartels and price-fixing associations which by eliminating competition destroy incentives for economies.

Of the multitude of proposals for a solution, Miss Ward scoffs at the contradictory ideas: automatic free trade and rigid government planning and controls. Under the former, demand for dollar goods would be so great that prices (in terms of pounds, francs) would be so high no one would buy them at all — to the ruin of many American exporters. Rigid controls serve to maintain high production costs and so stifle trade.

The solution, according to Miss Ward, is assurance from the United States that annually for ten years some seven or eight billion dollars will flow into the world market. She suggests that this could be done without adding to taxes by raising the price of gold and thus revaluing American gold stocks. To this proposal a writer in the Wall Street Journal inquires:

"If seven or eight billion dollars over the next ten years would exorcise the dollar shortage why did not some \$20 billion over the last five years exorcise it? The sum was much greater, the time much shorter. Yet the shortage is more acute today than ever."

It seems to me that raising the price of gold would have disastrous effects domestically in encouraging further inflation, at a time when the greater need is for deflation. It is hard to see where money-juggling (devaluing the British pound or the American dollar) would cure the disease, though Miss Ward says that America could demand as condition for the continued grants free currency exchange and free multilateral trade within the sterling area. But all our pressures for this under the Marshall plan have come to naught.

The real cure is a dose of medicine which neither Britain nor the United States is willing to take: restoration of the free market. Britain's dollar shortage becomes our product "longage", so we have a stake in the solution, too. France offers an example of the curative effect of freedom to trade. Ever since the first world war the French franc has been an unstable medium. In February, 1948, against the advice of Britain and the United States, France opened a

free market where francs could be exchanged for gold. One writer comments: "The result has been wonderful." The black market in francs has disappeared, the value of the francs has stabilized and French economy is now on quite a wholesome basis.

Socialization of industry is not the immediate cause of Britain's plight. But the socialist climate has been damaging to Britain's economy. The government now takes 40 per cent of the income in taxes; it strips the once well-to-do classes of funds which might go into capital investment; it expands the civil establishment to administer government programs which though they may be socially desirable are uneconomic — now British effort should be concentrated on producing goods it can sell in world markets.

The United States, on the other hand, maintains tariffs which limit imports and keeps prices for farm crops at levels where it must give the goods away to get rid of it. We haven't the nerve to get down to earth ourselves. Thus, we are building up forces which may eventuate in a crash as disastrous as that of the 1930s.

We can continue our grants for a term of years and will do so. But when will Europe be weaned? When will the U. S. admit more imports? Or will stresses accumulate which will lead to depression, revolution

Survey Due of Airport Hazard

Re-surveys to determine obstacles in the approach and turning areas of Salem's McNary field are under way by a group from the bureau of U. S. coast geodetic survey of the department of interior. The group, under the supervision of H. J. Bozzo, will spend approximately three weeks in the area making the surveys.

The surveys will be made available to the CAA, Donald Harper, district airport engineer, said Saturday. It has been five years since a similar survey of the field has been made.

TRIES SYNTHETIC RICE

MADRAS (AP)—The Government of Madras is experimenting with production of synthetic rice as a means of overcoming the rice shortage in the province. Synthetic rice is a mixture of the flours of tapioca, sweet potato, dried bananas and de-oiled peanuts. Food officials say synthetic rice had three times the caloric value of natural rice.

The Hambletonian has been won seven times by fillies and 15 times by colts.

and war? The stakes are high in these days.

Literary Guidepost

By DeWitt Mackenzie
IT'S AN OLD STATE OF MAINE CUSTOM, by Edwin Valentine Mitchell (Vanguard Press; \$3)

It's always a treat to follow Edwin Valentine Mitchell on one of his adventures back into the colorful colonial days of New England. Few there are who know the history of that period so intimately as does this voluminous writer whose dry humor and six feet three of stature advertise his own Yankee birth-right.

This time Mitchell goes to Maine for the material from which to construct another of his series. The author takes full advantage of this broad title to deal with a great diversity of subjects on which he exercises his knack for story-telling. The result is a happy medley of useful and entertaining information about the grand old state of Maine in its candle-light period.

Mitchell starts with the felling of the trees and the hewing of the timber in the virgin forests. From there he progresses naturally to the creation of the grand old houses, some of which still remain to testify to the

artistry of the colonial builders. Throughout the account he gives deft touches of humanization, as when he applies personification to ancient dwellings after this fashion:

"People on the coast do a good deal of moving — not just the contents of the houses, but the houses themselves. ***A man will see a lonely old house somewhere and feeling sorry for it will buy it and move it to where the old thing can enjoy the company of other houses."

This building of fine houses was associated with the creation of fine ships, for Maine built some of the world's most magnificent sailing vessels, both merchantmen and men of war. Among them were the graceful and speedy privateers which swept the seas under bold commanders.

So the book runs through a great variety of subjects, encompassing superstitions, colonial humor, the world-famous stone quarries, fishing, and the delights of lobster and blueberry pie. Taken together these diverse elements give a graphic and interesting picture of colonial Maine. It is history presented in a most attractive form.

Editorial Comment

LESS THAN USELESS

When it was started in 1935, the Wilsonville cutoff seemed to us a waste of highway funds. It was intended as a traffic of the Pacific highway and, aside from the fact that 18 mile project was to shorten the distance from Salem to Portland by a matter of four miles, its only function was to siphon traffic from one branch and create an overload on the other branch.

On why the road was begun, what has held up construction (after 14 years much of it remains unopened) and what is needed to open it to traffic.

One other question should be asked and answered before anything is done and that is, regardless of whether the cutoff was necessary in the beginning, whether it is necessary now. Since the project was undertaken, the so-called super-highway (east side) from Portland to Oregon City has been built and has been extended, with extensive and tremendously costly rock work involved in widening the road where it skirts the bluff to the south of the Clackamas county seat. Eventually, super-highway type construction will be the rule on the east side route from the state's capital to its metropolis. The plan is to provide amply for a vast movement of north and south traffic.

While making that provision or having made it, to resume a project for diverting that same traffic would be less than useless. The money which it would cost can be used elsewhere to much better effect. —BEND BULLETIN

Wife Given 3-Year Suspended Term for Aiding Escape Try

Dolores Todd, who admitted aiding her husband, Jack O'Neil Todd, in an unsuccessful escape attempt from the Marion county jail June 6, Saturday received two suspended prison sentences totaling four and one-half years.

In other Marion county circuit court action, three prisoners entered pleas of innocent to various charges, one pleaded guilty to a charge of larceny and another was granted time to secure an attorney before entering a plea.

Told to Leave State
Circuit Judge George Duncan, ordered Mrs. Todd to return to her former Wisconsin home and not to return to Oregon without written permission of the state parole board.

She received a three-year sentence for aiding in the escape attempt and 18 months for illegal possession of narcotics.

Plead Innocent
In other cases Earl Knothe, Silvertown, and Charles DeSully, Portland, both pleaded innocent to charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Their cases were continued for trial date.

In two separate larceny charges,

Lester E. Johnson, Oregon City, pleaded innocent and was continued for trial date, while Roland F. Griswold, alias Jack Henry Dykes, Stockton, Calif., pleaded guilty and was continued for sentencing to August 27.

Chen Gerald Diggs, Stayton, charged with cashing a check on insufficient funds, requested time to secure an attorney. He was continued to August 23 for arraignment.

OPENS DEATH NOTICE
ALTOETTING, Germany — (AP) Frau Maier was notified by German authorities recently that her husband, Johann Maier, had been killed in action with the German army in the last days of the war. Johann Maier opened the letter himself. He was captured by Allied troops, released in summer 1945, and has been with his family ever since.

Your Health

Since 1892, when the first case was described, physicians have been familiar with a rather strange disease known as polycythemia. In this disease, the red cells of the blood are enormously increased. And so is the total amount of blood in the body. This increase is so great that those veins which can be seen through the skin look full and the skin itself has a deep red tinge. Usually, there is also some increase in the number of white cells in the blood. And the spleen, located in the upper left part of the abdomen, is enlarged, often to a great degree.

which is widely used at the present time is what is known as spray radiation. This is X-ray treatment given to various parts of the body on succeeding days. Eventually, most of the parts are exposed to the X-ray. By this method, freedom from symptoms has been obtained for periods of over six months to more than two years. Some physicians have found that the patient may be kept symptom-free for as long as five years at a time.

The exact cause of this disease is not as yet known, but what we do know is that there is great over-activity of the blood-making part of the bone marrow. Though the outlook for complete cure does not seem too good, there are a number of forms of treatment which seem helpful. The new drug, known as phenylhydrazine, has been used. Its action is to cause destruction of red blood cells because there is an excessive number. An excessive dose may cause loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, itching, and other symptoms. One of the disadvantages of this form of treatment is that anemia or lack of red cells may result from an overdose. That is why it is so important that a doctor always supervises the treatment.

What are known as nitrogen mustards have been used in a few cases and have produced freedom from symptoms and reduction in the blood cells for periods of over six months to two and a half years.

Other forms of treatment seem more beneficial. For example, one of them is the withdrawal of blood from a vein on repeated occasions. While it may quickly relieve the symptoms when such treatment is carried out, it is necessary that blood counts be made at frequent intervals in order to be sure that the blood level is kept high enough.

Still another method employed is the giving of radiophosphorus. With this treatment symptoms also have been relieved for a period of over six months to more than five years. When properly given, no reactions are noted and there are relatively few complications.

Another method of treatment

Until more is learned about this disease, the various forms of treatment described must be relied upon to control it. **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**
K. B.: When there is a bad ptosis condition present, involving all of the organs in the abdomen, do these organs return to their original position after prolonged wearing of a ptosis belt?
Answer: The wearing of a supporting belt will not overcome ptosis or dropping of the organs in the abdomen. Of course the wearing of such a belt will help to relieve the symptoms. Exercises for strengthening the muscles of the abdomen may be helpful. If the symptoms persist, some operation may be required.

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