

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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What's Wrong with Congress?

Under the LaFollette-Monroe plan for reorganization of congress the present session should have been concluded by July 31st. Instead it is running on with no prospect of adjournment before the last of October. Big appropriation bills that should have been passed before July 1st when the fiscal year begins, are still in the legislative works. Only stop-gap legislation to permit spending at the rate of the last fiscal year has prevented a breakdown of important departments of government. As for the rule for determining the total for the budget within six weeks that has proved unworkable and is now virtually in the discard.

Dissatisfaction with the way congress functions exists over the country and within the congress itself. What ought to be done is made the subject of an article in the New York Times Magazine by Sen. Estes Kefauver of Tennessee. Kefauver is new to the senate but he served several sessions in the house. To win the senate seat he had to break the back of the old Ed Crump machine. Kefauver is to polite to say so in print, but one thing wrong with congress is his colleague from Tennessee old Kenneth McKellar, stumorn, vituperative and obstructive. As chairman (by virtue of the seniority rule) of the powerful committee on appropriations, McKellar is pretty much of a roadblock in the senate, as well as a vindictive tyrant on appropriations matters.

To get back to Kefauver's article. He puts "errand-running" as one the heaviest burden on members of congress. He says that few members do not spend from 50 to 60 per cent of their time doing chores for individual constituents "Our errand-boy work gives us too meager a chance to study or think about the larger issues of the common welfare." Private claims bills, personal problems dealing with citizenship, passports, etc., representing local business before administrative bodies all absorb much of the time of senator or representative.

Such items as calling the roll kill a lot of time (sometimes on purpose). The house, with its long roll, kills as much as an hour just in calling the roll. He proposes electric voting equipment which would reduce the call of the roll to a matter of a few minutes.

In the matter of debate the Tennessee senator thinks the house is too tight with its time allowance and the senate too loose. More time is lost by committee hearings in "quadruplicate"—by senate and house committees separately before a project is authorized, then by the separate appropriation committees before money is appropriated.

But he blames lack of party discipline as the real cause of the failure of congress to function better. He remarks that "Our system seems to put a premium on mugwumpery." Coalitions of republicans and democrats have often seized control, defeating legislation proposed by the party in power. That has been true both in the Roosevelt and Truman administrations.

Party discipline has broken down. It did under republican rule when the "sons of the wild pack" (as Senator Moses called them) won fame (and reelection) as insurgents. It is hard to maintain party discipline when congressmen run on their own in districts and senators run on their own in states. The direct primary makes the caucus state independent, and party organization is greatly weakened.

The paralyzing seniority rule is not touched on by Kefauver, but outside critics hold that

it is one of the biggest obstacles to the better functioning of congress.

What chances are there for improvement? Not many; congress is a law unto itself, rutted in ancient procedure, composed of many persons of mediocre mentality, jealous of its prerogatives. The "Young Turks" like Kefauver will have a hard time driving through the reforms which are necessary. Congress will continue to muddle along, with only minor alterations in its old rules.

Divorce Because of Allergy

The case of Mrs. Joyce Holdridge, the allergic wife who won a divorce in Los Angeles, has been treated with more levity than it deserves. She testified that although she and her husband both loved each other she was affected with an outbreak of rash whenever she was with him. She had spent 18 months of their two-year marriage in a hospital as a result. Judge Brockman who granted her the divorce gave a very intelligent statement when he said:

"Courts may be forced to recognize what medical science has discovered—that such allergies as Mrs. Holdridge complains of are a fact and not a caprice."

There seems little doubt that nervous tensions do result sometimes in skin irritations. The super-sensitivity may be localized in specific spots—women sometimes have acute irritations at the back of the head. Men working under strain may develop skin trouble which resists ointments, lotions and other medication. Mrs. Holdridge seems to have developed an allergy when in the presence of her husband, which obviously is brought on by some nerve reaction.

Instead of making fun of the lady, she deserves sympathy, as does her recent husband. To avoid such allergies and irritations of the skin folk need to learn to relax, mentally and physically.

Familiar Trial Orgy

Hungary is the latest country to stage a trial orgy of an accused communist. Laszlo Rajk who until a few months ago was a top communist and head of the police system is being tried on charges of plotting to overthrow the government. At his trial he admits his sins glibly and says he plotted with Americans (some of whom he names) and with Yugoslavs to assassinate Rakoski, the leading communist who runs the country and to set up a Titoist government.

Maybe he did plot a revolution. That must be common practice in countries ruled by dictatorships. But his confessions are too pat, away. But some day the vicious system that encourages revolution by its own denial of elemental freedoms will be destroyed. It is so evil that it should fall apart of its own weakness.

Carson Heads State Bar

The Oregon State Bar chose an able lawyer and a fine gentleman as its president at the annual convention at Gearhart, Wallace P. Carson of Salem. He comes of a family of lawyers, his father John Carson having been a leading attorney in Salem. His two brothers, John and Allan practice law here now and his sister, Mrs. Genevieve Barsch is an assistant attorney general. Wallace will give conscientious and intelligent service as head of the organized legal profession of the state.



GERMAN STEEL FOR BRITAIN — Girders of a bombed bridge over the Spree, purchased by England, are cut into lengths for shipment to furnaces in the German western zone.

Literary Guidepost

MIDNIGHT BOY, By George Agnew Chamberlain (Bobbs-Merrill; \$2.75)

A midnight boy, should it be that you haven't heard, is a lad who picks the strokes of 12 for birth, thereby achieving a lifetime of unbeatable fine fortune. Mark Perry, the protagonist of Mr. Chamberlain's 29th novel, appears at the age of 14 on page 14; and for a yard and a half and several hundred pages thereafter models for proof of the legend.

Set down in the middle of a desolate section of New Jersey known as The Pines, young Mark is surrounded by a strange cast indeed including: Fortune's Hope Jones, colored mammy of classic cloth, filled with canniness, determination, faithfulness, and romantic confusions; Rusty Ballard, romantic young lawyer betrayed by war into progressing alcoholism; Adele Welsh, the cause of Ballard's dismay; a long-legged

female adolescent with an irritating array of manners and such aliases as Carlotta, Toy and Carl; and final principal, Buck, a collie out of Albert Payson Terhune.

Supporting are one colored handyman, various locals who are apt never to have visited nearby Atlantic City or Philadelphia, sundry out-of-season deer slayers and one or two corpses. Analyzing the ingredients after the final lyric duet by that quickly growing team of Mark-Carlotta the elements of the story become a bewildering melange. There's mystery of a long-abandoned mansion, unburied dead and a hunt for Mark's paternity; narrative of conventional "growing boy" pattern; backwoods feuding; and the you-know-what—happens-finally tribulations of Rusty and Adele.

Some subsidiary romantic comedy duties are put up to Fortune's Hope, who is the mystery key for the main theme, and also is an expert at conning a dusky provincial out of wagon, mule, wages and bachelorhood. The story goes off in so many directions of jolly predestination that none of the themes gets much of a chance to dominate. So it's hard to say just what type audience will like it most. The best catalogue might be the notation that "Midnight Boy" was previously serialized in a national weekly.



(Continued from page one)

to pull leather. Members who had not known of the chairman's directive before it was sent out protested so vigorously that the chairman sent a follow-up communication to the college presidents telling them the committee had no desire to censor textbooks and interfere with academic freedom.

In defying the committee the college presidents will find most editors supporting them. Freedom of speech and of the press is a constitutional right, but it must be defended against tyrants, including those who operate in the name of patriotism.

The incident opens up the whole field of the independence of colleges and universities from government control or dictatorship. It may be undermined in ways that appear innocent. The blunt and offensive demand for a list of textbooks is so obviously an invasion of academic freedoms that it is easily resisted. But university freedom is in danger from government subsidy and from government-sponsored research.

Once let the government subsidize the colleges and universities and the way is open for political interference with their operations. Better for them to be poor but free than rich and dependent. This does not apply so much to publicly supported institutions like state universities and land grant colleges which receive federal grants, because they are admittedly children of government. It does apply to private institutions and those supported by religious bodies. They serve the country best if they are kept completely free of government assistance.

It is in the field of government-sponsored research that new dangers arise. The government is subsidizing scientific experimentation, much of its secret. That is, the government wants to keep the nature of the study and the findings secret. It begins then with loyalty checks of professors and workers and puts the X mark on those suspected of peddled coloration. Scientists resent loyalty tests in peacetime and resent secrecy. They know that knowledge has expanded only as discoveries are made public property. In wartime they will work for the government; and in peacetime many will work in government laboratories and abide by the rules of secrecy. But they do not think it is healthy to draw iron curtains around the laboratories of educational institutions.

Collegiate and public protest stopped the witchhunt among college textbooks. There should be similar protest against infringements of full academic freedom in research, even if that means to kick out of colleges government-financed special research.

Salem Stores Register for Fall Opening

(Story also on page 1)

The array of Salem stores which will participate Tuesday night in the Fall Opening exhibits and will have numbers in the treasure hunt includes the following, registered through Saturday: Allen hardware, Alex Jones, Alexander's jewelers, Anita shops, Acklin bootery, Arbuckle's, Anderson auto, Brown jewelers, Bishop's, Burke's cameras, Busch's grocery, Bramble hardware, Breithaupt's florist, Cooke's sta-

tionery, Capital drugs, Capital furniture, Eifstrom's, Eola Acres florist, Fields' dress shop, Fashionette, Greenbaum's, Gevurtz furniture, Good Housekeeping, Gay's candies, Grand theatre, Hartman's jewelers, Holland bakery, Howard Maple sporting goods, Hogg Brothers appliances, Haniger's dress shop, Heider's radio, Hamilton furniture, Howard corsets, Jackson jewelers, Jewel Box, Jayson's, Johnson's ready-to-wear, Jack and Jill's, Jary florist, JJ clothier, Judson's, Kay's apparel, Kailles dress shop, Karmel Korn shop, Les Newman's men's store, Lambert's antiques, Little French shop, Leon's shoes, McKay's autos, Midget market, Moderne, Margaret's shop, Middleton's shoes, Man's shop, Miller's department store, Morris optical, Mar's lunch, Moore's bicycle and sporting goods, Metropolitan, Montgomery Ward, Marion motors, Nohlgren's restaurant, Olson's florist, Otto J. Wilson autos, Price's, Penney's, Quisenberry's pharmacy, Roberts Bros., Red Cross pharmacy, Rohland's, Smart shop, Sears-Roebuck, Salem Hardware, Salem Home furniture, S&N clothiers, Stevens jewelers, Sally's, Schlesinger's, Stiff's furniture, Salem lighting appliance, Stan Baker motors, Shrock motors, Toy and Hobby shop, Spa restaurant, Valley motors, Vince's electric, Williams card shop, Woolworth's, Woody's furniture, Western Auto supply, Warner motors, Yeater's appliance.

The scarlet ibis, one of the most spectacular birds in the eastern Hemisphere, have been reduced from once extensive flocks to a few scattered specimens in South America.



Lively Building

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!! WHY NOT SELECT EARLY THIS YEAR

STERLING

- Gorham
- Wallace
- Smith
- Towle
- Alvin
- Whiting
- International
- Heirloom
- Lunt
- Reed & Barton
- Danish Imported

DIAMONDS RESET WHILE YOU WAIT

... people know that even the most precious stone is "lost" as an article of personal adornment without a mounting that compliments and displays it with equal taste and brilliance.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEE OUR FINE CHINA

Dinnerware — Figurines
Wedgewood — Lenox — Royal Doulton

Heirloom Sterling
FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

Stevens & Son

Jewelers — Silversmiths
State of Liberty

Hollywood on Parade

By Gene Handsaker

HOLLYWOOD—Claire Trevor, who was nominated for an Oscar 12 years ago and won one this year, says: "I hate myself on the screen."

She saw the first day's rushes of "Borderline," the picture she's now making, and was ill for two days. Does she like her looks? "Heavens, NO! It's a big problem making me look as good as I do."

Her self-dissatisfaction goes beyond looks to action. "You think you're doing something in the scene. Then you see the rushes and you think 'That isn't what I meant to do.'"

Miss Trevor, who has curly golden hair and a sensuous, cupid's-bow mouth, has also an inferiority complex. "Which is just great for an actress," she adds, a little bitterly. She's slowly getting over it, though. Faking to yourself. You look back at several mistakes you've made. You say to yourself, 'Anybody could make those. A lot have made worse mistakes. I did fairly well with the equipment I have.'"

Claire forces herself to go to her rushes. "I still suffer," she says, "though yesterday's looked pretty good. Of course, I never look the way I'd like to—like Joan Fontaine, for instance. I like tall, thin people. I look short and fat most of the time."

The self-critical Miss Trevor, a movie actress 16 years, says she learns something new about acting on every picture. "You think you know the fundamentals, but you're not doing them all." Her husband, Milton Bren, coproducer of her present picture, told her recently: "In moving or reacting, you do everything too quickly. In 'The Velvet Touch' you had a scene with Roz Russell where you turned so fast the audience couldn't even see you. It was just a whirl. Notice how Irene Dunne and Joan Crawford take their time."

Also, confesses Claire: "I've never bothered to notice where the camera was. I was afraid of sacrificing naturalness for a good camera angle. But you can't ignore the audience."

Bob Montgomery, directing her in a Broadway play a few seasons back, reminded her to concentrate more on what others—and she herself—were saying. Claire was nominated for an Academy award for "Dead End" 12 years ago. Her recent Oscar was for her portrayal of the drunken moll in "Key Largo." It fired her with the desire to win another. People now expect her to give an Academy-award performance every time. Claire says slyly, "I will."

Vigorous Asia Policy Finally Evolving

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17—One significant unreported disagreement arose in the vitally important talks on Asia policy this week between Secretary of State Dean Acheson and Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin. There was general agreement on policy in Japan, southeast Asia, and India. Moreover, contrary to report, there was no dispute about Hong Kong. Bevin flatly told Acheson that the British mean to defend Hong Kong if it is attacked, but that there is no present intention of asking for American help.

However, Bevin refused to go along with Acheson on economic policy in China. The state department wants the power in effect to cut off China's trade with the west. The British, with their vast holdings in China, want only to control the shipment of war material and munitions. This disagreement, which deeply affects Anglo-American policy in Asia, clearly springs from the desperate economic plight of the British.

It will only end when the threat of British economic collapse is ended. Yet more really significant than the outcome of the Acheson-Bevin talks is the simple fact that a positive and vigorous American policy in Asia is now at last being evolved, thanks to the efforts of able Ambassador-at-large Philip Jessup. Jessup was recently assigned by Acheson to examine the whole range of American Far Eastern policy, and to come up with a series of recommendations for American action.

The work of Jessup and his staff is still in the thinking stage, and there is a wide gulf between thinking and action. But at least the thinking has been intelligent and imaginative. One project which Jessup and his staff have been considering calls for an American supreme commander for the battle for Asia.

Through no efforts of its own, the state department will now get a discretionary kitty of \$75 million under the military aid program, to fight the battle. If this money is to be spent in dribs and drabs, without any coherent plan or central authority, it will be wasted. It is proposed instead that a man of great stature be found to spend the money where it will do the most good. He could use it to strengthen the centers of resistance to the communists in China, or to arm non-communists in southeast Asia, or to promote American interests in such other ways as he saw fit.

Moreover, he would control all American trade with China. And within very broad limits he would have the authority to take whatever action seemed necessary to promote the central American objective in Asia—a grouping of sovereign national states strong enough to withstand the Kremlin's drive for power. Obviously this project would cut down the authority of the state department's far eastern division, which is therefore throwing cold water on the idea.

Jessup himself has not finally decided in favor of the idea, nor has Acheson. Much will depend on whether a man can be found with the ability and reputation necessary to do the job. As always these days, when there are difficult and vitally important jobs to be done, the advocates of the project have settled on the name of former Under Secretary of State Robert Lovett. Lovett

is a Splendid Student ... if we mean that he is sound asleep by 10 P.M. with his homework behind him, complete, neat and well-presented, ready for tomorrow morning's classes. Parents, as well as teachers, play a major role in this respect. It is their responsibility to see that the student is supplied with materials to make this work not a chore, but a worthwhile, even pleasant, operation. Parents, teachers and students will find that Cooke's stock and sell a wide range of quality school supplies.

P. S. Cooke is headquarters for Parker and Sheaffer Pens. This Fall, as in years past, they will look to