

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"  
From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

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### High School Societies

Once again the Salem school board has felt called to take drastic measures—suspension of 19 high school students—to suppress so-called secret organizations in Salem high. The action is not new—year after year there has been difficulty over clandestine groups—even although this time there is controversy as to whether something different is involved.

The American Boys club to which the 19 boys belonged has been adjudged by the board to be in the "secret society" category. Members of the board say the local ABC had applied for a charter from the Portland ABC club and operated under the by-laws of the Portland club.

From this and other information, the board reached its decision. There is no doubt that it was an honest one, reached after careful study, and that the board is acting on the basis of facts before it and under legal statutes imposing upon it a duty so to act in cases it adjudges contrary to state law.

On the other side of the picture, it is certain most if not all of the parents involved are convinced their sons have done nothing illegal—that the ABC was not a secret society.

There is no intent here to try the case. Either the decision of the school board will stand, since the board acted on full authority, or there will be a test court case as has been intimated. At least, no one should have been in ignorance of the school board's attitude on summary dismissal. The SHS parent's handbook states that "agreements to withdraw from or dissolve a group have been violated without exception. . . . Any student known to be a member of an illegal organization will be expelled without notice, and will be barred permanently from all school activities at any time he might return to Salem high school."

It is lamentable that such issues arise. The approved extra-curricular activities already in vogue at Salem high would seem to cover almost any student interest. There are seven student body activities, 10 athletic teams, at least 30 clubs and organizations including Hi-Y and Tri-Y clubs for social activities sponsored by the YMCA and YWCA, and a dozen subject activities.

Some of these organizations are open to any student. Others are selective groups; for instance, the S Club for boys earning a school letter, the Honor Society for students with high grades.

What school people oppose (and the state outlaws) are the exclusive, sub rosa groups which contribute nothing constructive to school life, attempt to evade school supervision and sometimes try to influence or control legitimate school activities. Such groups tend to be disruptive and subversive and are not to be tolerated either in high schools or colleges, where they also exist.

It is sometimes hard to draw a line between a congenial group of students who meet informally at each other's homes for social affairs and groups which would be considered outlaw. But the line must be drawn somewhere and the school board says it is certain ABC bridged it.

Meanwhile, it is to be hoped the boys continue their high school education—even though under an informal opinion of the attorney general the state cannot force them to pay tuition and attend elsewhere despite the compulsory attendance law. It is not their fault that abuses of leniency in past years has forced the growth of stringent school rules. Nor is the school board's.

### A Madame President for the U.S.A.?

Business and Professional Women's Week seems an appropriate time to call attention to recent news stories from Washington that Capitol Hill Republicans are talking seriously of nominating a woman for vice president in 1952. Margaret Chase Smith of Maine, the first woman ever elected to a full senate term, is one candidate the boys in the smoke-filled rooms have in their minds.

Their argument is that, with more women eligible to vote than ever before, a feminine running mate would be just the thing to put the GOP in the winners box.

The idea may not be haywire, at that. A survey just completed by the women's division of

the republican national committee shows an increasing number of women in vital governmental jobs. Nearly half a million women are employed by the federal government, 500 in jobs of authority. There is one woman minister in Luxembourg, 50 women vice-consuls, 11 women secretaries of embassies and legations. Two large cities—Portland, Oregon, and Sacramento, California—have woman mayors. Some 188 women serve as city clerks. About 100 women hold important judicial jobs in federal, state and city courts. Fifty women are presiding judges of county and probate courts. And, of course, there are hundreds of women in national and state legislatures and in state appointive offices.

It is probably safe to say that most of the women holding political office rose to their positions after years of experience in their business or professional fields. Men have gradually accepted women's specialized abilities in these fields—and in politics.

That's why there's talk today of a woman vice president.

Not only that, Vincent Sheean, in a recent issue of Look magazine, proposed a woman president. Says he:

"Plainly stated, I believe that if there could be found a woman capable of filling the office of president of the United States, the election of such a woman would be the most irresistible symbol (the mother-symbol) we could possibly produce in every Hindu and Chinese village, in every agricultural commune in Russia, in every farm in Poland. . . . No ordinary person in the modern world would find it easy to believe that mother (any mother) desires or would bring about a war. . . . To the ordinary peasant. . . the symbol could only mean peace: the intention of peace and good will."

Sheean's argument is of the sort that would nauseate practical politicians as well as surprise anthropologists. It could put any move to get an able woman into any national office behind the eight-ball.

Ignorant peasants who consider their women as chattel, fit only for childbearing and pulling the plow, would believe Americans are loony if we elected a woman for president. But what these peasants think doesn't make much difference in Russia or China. It is the educated classes which control these countries. It is in the educated classes that women all over the world have fairly equal status with men. And in these classes it is recognized that the male sex has no absolute monopoly on militarism, brutality and immorality, any more than it has on intelligence and ability. And mothers often are naturally just as willing to send their sons off to war as fathers if their patriotic feelings are aroused.

A woman president for the U.S.A. is not beyond the realm of possibility. But if she is ever elected, it won't be to convince the Chinese that Americans are soft-headed. Nor will it be the result of a national Oedipus complex. It will merely be the result of political expediency: a large female electorate plus a candidate who has served her apprenticeship in business or the professions or politics (not in a nursery) and who looks like a sure thing.

Phil Aspinwall served the people so many years at the postoffice that people will miss his friendly face and his reliable service. It is quite an achievement to round out 45 years in the postal service as has Mr. Aspinwall. He has earned his retirement, and we trust he will enjoy it for many years.

### Editorial Comment

From Our Contemporaries . . .  
FLAVORFUL DAYS

Saturday has been designated Sweetest Day—by whom so designated we can only guess. But the purpose is clear. On that day every citizen whose income is at or above the median line is to take home a bundle of fudge or of something just as sweet.

It is an experiment noble in purpose, as Herbert Hoover once said of something else. Yet when we envisage, as all economists must and do, the wide ramifications of the relationships between the vinegar and pickle industries, as well as the social significance of ascertaining our duty status in the face. We must have a Sourest Day as quickly as the crowded calendar permits.

—(Wall Street Journal)

### Partial Evacuation of Britain Urged

By J. M. Roberts, Jr.  
AP Foreign Affairs Analyst

WASHINGTON, Oct. 13.—(AP)—If the United States really wants to do something to help Britain permanently, the population reference bureau suggests, she might provide ships to remove a third of the island's people to other parts of the commonwealth.

The bureau, a non-profit private organization of American scientists which makes a continuing study of population problems, does not approach the idea as a fantasy.

The movement of fifteen million people would not be easy, it says, "but it would be much cheaper to move a 140-pound person once than to move some 1,400 pounds of food—plus other raw materials—every year to support that person if he remains in Britain."

The bureau thus adopts a belief that is gaining widespread acceptance. It is that Britain is not likely, ever again, to be able to support her population in the manner to which it was once accustomed, or even to continue to support it in the emergency manner which is followed now.

Britain grew to world eminence because of an early monopoly on the tools and skills which produced what we have come to call the industrial revolution.

As her population grew it was forced to seek new means of support, and as they were found the population grew. But the world is no longer the place for pioneering that it was 200 years ago, competition has overtaken Britain, and her economy threatens to become more and more insular, since her natural resources at home are very slender.

The idea of emigration has received attention in Britain since the war, but has been discouraged by the cost of people who have been taxed out of their surplus funds, and by restrictions on the amount of money which can be taken from the country. And the government has feared the country might be robbed of skilled labor.

Migration would, the report says, improve both the living standards of those who leave as well as those who stay, and make the United Kingdom more nearly self-supporting. The commonwealth would be strengthened

in its outlying parts.

From the American standpoint, it is claimed, billions of dollars in capital aid and natural resources could be saved, and friendly nations on our perimeter like Canada and Australia would be built up.

### Better English

By D. C. Williams

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "Mr. Jones' speech was replete in humor."
2. What is the correct pronunciation of "lamentable"?
3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Adamant, adequate, adaptability, adenoid.
4. What does the word "inconceivable" mean?
5. What is a word beginning with mu that means "capable of change in form, qualities, or nature"?

ANSWERS  
1. Say, "was replete with humor." 2. Pronounce with accent on first syllable, not the second. 3. Adequate. 4. Incapable of being realized in the imagination. "It is inconceivable to me that he could have done such a thing." 5. Mutable.



### GRIN AND BEAR IT

### By Lichty Literary Guidepost



"But it's not a luxury, Otis . . . doesn't it automatically become a necessity when you can make a down payment on it? . . ."

### IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1.)

useful in propelling ships, especially submarines. Two other reactors of different types are also planned by the commission.

The business of turning the tremendous energy released by splitting the atom to the job of furnishing light and power and heat like an electric plant is tremendously complicated. The story was pretty well described in the July issue of Scientific American. How can you harness the explosive force of atomic fission and bring it into a continuous flow for use in variable quantities?

As now contemplated the operation would be at first use of a byproduct of production of plutonium. In this process, neutrons attack uranium in graphite piles, changing it to the new element plutonium. To keep the works cool a fluid courses through the pile to take away the heat, just as water circulates around an automobile motor to keep it cool. The idea is to withdraw the heat from this cooling agent, using it to fire a boiler that would turn a dynamo and produce electric energy.

At Hanford, Columbia river water is used, but it never gets to a boiling point. If the works were operated at high temperatures to heat up the fluid the materials in the pile would be apt to break down. Scientists have a tough problem in trying to bring the cost of electric energy produced from an atomic reactor down to economic levels.

The solution in fact seems a long way off. If some way could be found to harness the energy released in atomic fission directly for power generation, that short cut would open the way

for swift utilization of this newly-discovered force.

We have to remember that scientists are just scratching at the edges of a vast new field. Their past successes in unlocking nature's secrets and in bridling natural forces for man's use are grounds for expectation that eventually means will be found to put the tremendous energies released by atomic fission to useful as well as destructive ends.

### WANTED A PET

PRINEVILLE, Ore. (INS)—While astonished tourists looked on, the driver of a lumber truck lassoed a badger alongside the road near Prineville. Securing the infuriated animal in the seat beside him, the buckaroo calmly drove away.

### KENTUCKY ON THE MARCH

By Harry W. Schacter, with a Foreword by Mark F. Ethridge (Harper, \$3)

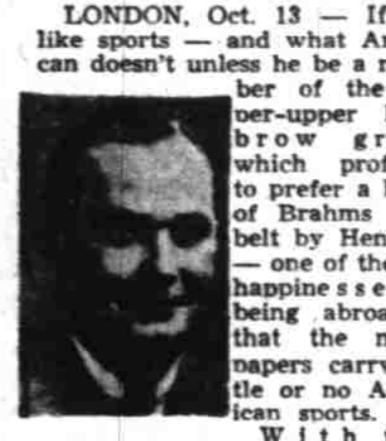
When the Committee for Kentucky, with Harry W. Schacter as founder and head, began almost six years ago to gather and proclaim the facts about Kentucky, newspapers, radio, magazines, planning organizations spread the word that here was something revolutionary.

First, a state was publicly proclaiming it was far down on the list of states in education, health, agriculture and general welfare, and second, it was proposing to attack and improve these conditions.

Now Schacter tells modestly and interestingly how Kentucky woke up and began its march of progress, and how any state or local community could do the same. Further, Schacter sees his

### Cricket Poor Substitute for World Series

By Henry McLenore



LONDON, Oct. 13 — If you like sports — and what American doesn't unless he be a member of the upper-upper high-brow group which professes to prefer a batch of Brahms to a belt by Henrich? — one of the unhappiest of being abroad is that the newspapers carry little or no American sports.

World Series being play what do you think I had to read about in the Express, the Mail, the Times, the Graphic, and all the other London papers?

Cricket, so help me! and if you haven't seen cricket, or read about it, let me tell you that it is 15 minutes less than nothing — and by a slow clock, too. It is the only game in the world where hundreds of runs are scored, yet nothing happens. It has all the excitement of the Podunk depot four hours after the only train for the day has passed through.

If you are not reading about cricket you are reading about greyhound racing. There are a dozen or more greyhound tracks in London and the citizens go for them like sweethearts go for secluded spots on a picnic. I wouldn't be surprised if two-thirds of the population of London has a bet riding every night on some pin-headed beagle with a long tail, a stomach like a hollowed-out broomstick, and all the sense of a wet sleeve.

Mixed in with cricket and greyhound racing are football and motorcycle racing. The greatest way in the world to starve to death is to work your head off for years and become an English football star. The clubs (the Sheffield Wednesdays being the one I read about just because of its entrancing name) draws crowds of 60,000, 70,000 and up, and must make tons of money unless they make it a rule to hire only treasurers guaranteed to abscond on the hour, every hour.

Yet the top stars, men who correspond to Jackie Robinson, Sammy Baugh, Jack Kramer, Bob Feller, etc., in this country draw crowds of 60,000, 70,000 pletely ridiculous. A top, top player is lucky to get \$5,000 a year.

In France and Italy, when you turn to the sports pages and, with the help of an interpreter, try to find out what is happening at home, you get one thing — bicycle racing. Bicycle racing is more than a sport over here — it is a religion. The Tour de France — in which some hundred limned gentlemen, heads and shoulders hunched over the handlebars, ride clean around France — is much more important to Frenchmen and Italians than the state of the lira and the franc, or the rise and fall of their governments. And the winner of the pedal fixture gains a status just a notch above that of premiers and ministers of state. He can sell his old bandages and bicycle clips for a small fortune and can retire to a life of ease—that is, if a man who really likes to

committee as a proof that Americans, if they unite, can make democracy work.

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I know how the World Series came out, thanks to a paragraph about as long as a stick of chewing gum. It is fortunate that I wasn't there because I would have bet on the Brooks. They looked to be a much better team on paper, but perhaps the Yanks have something in their hearts that makes all the paper stuff worthless.

And what about Notre Dame? Still winning by 40 points after using everybody in South Bend except the oldest inhabitant? I'll be back in a few days and I do hope the unification of the services argument has been ironed out. Wouldn't like to come home and have to say, "This is where I came in."

(McNaught Syndicate, Inc.)

### The Safety Valve

To the Editor:

As nearly as I can find out Catholic Charities is the only beneficiary of the community chest which really contributes to needy people, although newspaper and radio advertising carefully gives the impression that all of them do so. When affairs were at their worst several years ago the standard reply to pleas for sufferers was "We have no funds for that purpose." So R. A. Harris hustled and found a few people of different ilk. I do not remember all of them, but Doug McKay (now governor) was one and Judge Bailey of the supreme court was another. When a case of real want appeared Harris came and collected a dollar or two from each of us, and that case was relieved. "Character-building" is O. K., but sometimes belly-filling is also necessary. The community chest seems to overlook this, but there will be plenty of evidence of it before next spring. Can't a small portion of the chest funds be set aside for this—or must we reorganize associated charities and soup lines? Incidentally, we do not expect a circus to follow the exact line of truth in advertising, but it seems that our community chest might fittingly make a gesture in that direction. The community chest is in no sense a relief organization, and such inferences should be taboo in its publicity.

A. M. Church.

(Editor's note: The Community Chest is not in itself a relief organization. It is a fund-raising organization for eight local welfare and social service agencies and eleven state agencies. Money contributed to the Chest goes to agencies, like the Salvation Army and Catholic Charities, which do give emergency relief to needy persons. Both these organizations provide beds, food and clothing for transients by the hundreds as well as for local residents in an emergency. Long-term relief, of course, is the job of county welfare agencies.

To the editor:

We are inclined to agree with the lady from California who bemoans the passing of "Old Salem." We, too, have known both the old and new Salem.

We first saw Salem in the fall of 1917, and it won our hearts completely. To us it was a dream town, a story-book town, one you think exists wholly in fiction and never expect to see.

Change and growth are inevitable, however, and without them no progress could be made. But we do think Salem has lost something of flavor and atmosphere which made it outstanding. Now it is just another town.

It must have had something unusual to affect a stranger as it seems to have affected the Long Beach lady.

Sybil M. Doughton  
Salem  
P.S. Salem is still our favorite town.

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