

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"

From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

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Reject O'Mahoney Amendment

By the decisive vote of 43 to 22 the senate rejected the O'Mahoney amendment to a pending rivers and harbors bill. The amendment proposed to add 13 reclamation projects to those previously authorized by the congress and to establish the Columbia Basin account fund which would permit the pooling of revenues and use of the excess receipts from public power projects to help pay for irrigation projects. Senator Cordon of this state was one of the leaders in the opposition to this amendment which was tabled on the motion by Senator Chavez of New Mexico. Senator Morse voted in favor of the O'Mahoney amendment.

The Statesman believes the senate was well advised in rejecting this amendment. It would have authorized projects well in advance of any immediate need, some of which are of very doubtful economic justification. Also the Basin Account scheme would have permitted the diversion of interest on government investment in power projects to reclamation costs. In our judgment this should be returned to the treasury and then appropriated by congressional action.

Congress has been exceedingly generous to the west in approving development projects and appropriating money therefor. The only urgency is in pushing power generating installations. Reclamation is already well advanced and with completion of the Columbia Basin project another million acres will be added to farm production. The country can well wait before taking additional big projects.

The interior department suffers from something of an empire-complex. It wants to build fast and to build big. This is a big country which will grow bigger, but we must use reason in all things. A pool account plan could be worked out on sounder lines; and irrigation projects may be added, one at a time, as they are needed and as they have economic justification.

The Case for the Dry Fly —and for Trout Fishing

"Fly fishing has a tenseness and excitement that goes with no other fishing for trout that I know. The sport's the thing, with victory going to the more skilled. I would rather hook a one-pound rainbow with a dry fly on a 3 1/2 ounce rod than a four-pounder with bait or hardware. There are, after all, greater satisfactions even for the fisherman than a full creel. The sheer excitement of the hunt is one of them."

That's William O. Douglas, a northwest favorite son, ardent sportsman, experienced mountain man, and an associate justice of the U.S. supreme court, talking. He makes his case for fly fishing in an article in the New York Times magazine and in his fine autobiography "Of Men and Mountains"—a book that's headed for the best-seller lists.

With the 1950 trout season barely underway this morning, anglers everywhere will be arguing vigorously the various merits of fly and bait. These are the two schools of thought and the latter is in the majority. Izaak Walton, patron saint of the casting clan, spoke highly of the angletworm and grasshopper. For one thing, bait will catch more trout than flies—usually. This Douglas admits. But people nowadays don't fish primarily for food. If they're worth their salt, they fish for sport and "trout fishing is one of

the finest man knows," says one man who ought to know.

For Bill Douglas has pursued the wary wights from the streams in the Yakima region, to Green Lake in the Wallowa mountains of Oregon, to Snake Den Run in Virginia to Idaho's Silver Creek—"the best dry-fly stream in the U.S."

He recalls how once at Green Lake the woolly worm—to his mind the finest of the wet flies—was the only lure that took trout. Why is one of the mysteries of trout fishing. The calculus of water, temperature, light, wind, bug hatches, feeding conditions, positions of sun and moon, is just too involved for anybody to figure out. Anyway, Bill's woolly worm pulled six Eastern trout—running 10 to 14 inches—off the bottom of a lake that looked dormant as a backyard lilypond.

He was using a nine-foot 2x leader with no weight except the woolly worm. He let the fly sink to the bottom, then he'd retrieve it in slow, jerky movements, taking in about two inches of line at a time. This must have fooled the fish into thinking it was really a nymph—an immature fly that swims around under water before it molts into a winged critter. (The dry fly, of course, simulates the mature fly skittering around on the surface of the water.)

It takes a lot more skill to hook a trout with a fly. Says Douglas:

"There is hardly a tenth of a second before the trout rejects the fly as false. If he is to be caught, the hook must set in a flash. He cannot be hooked if the line is slack. Once hooked he is usually lightly hooked. Fisherman and fish are equally handicapped. There is an excellent chance of the trout's getting away. It's a test of skill to hold him. And if he comes to the net, he can be returned to the water uninjured."

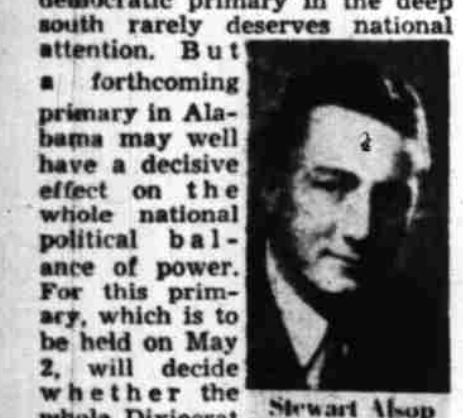
"Mountains," Justice Douglas observes elsewhere, "have a decent influence on men." But the fresh water trouts are one of our great national assets, he continues: "They help a man become acquainted with the earth from which he recently came and to which he will shortly return. . . . On the streams and lakes a boy can come to know himself and learn how to live dangerously. . . . he can experience the thrill of adventure in the discovery of nature. . . . he can learn to commune with God that made the heaven and the earth."

Commenting on the George Wheelers, formerly of Portland, who have sought "asylum" in communist Prague, the New York Times says: "If the Wheelers ever get tired of the communist heaven they can come home and write their memoirs and fear nothing from any American 'gestapo.' . . . We'll bet that's a pretty accurate prediction, too; the Wheelers will want to come home, once the publicity they asked for, and got, dies down. Only they may discover it's easier to get into that "heaven" than to get out.

Professor G. Milton Smith of CCNY has offered this explanation of the flying saucers: "They originated in Scotland, where the Loch Ness monster caused such a sensation several years ago. The sea serpent, angered by lack of attention, has been discharging eggs at surprising velocity by lashing its tail about. These eggs have been floating through the stratosphere and as they descend toward the earth their rotary motion has flattened them into the shape of disks."

Alabama Primary Election May Set Stage for Dixiecrat, Republican Coalition on '52 Ballot

By Stewart Alsop



Stewart Alsop

WASHINGTON, April 15 — A democratic primary in the deep south rarely deserves national attention. But a forthcoming primary in Alabama may well have a decisive effect on the whole national political balance of power. For this primary, which is to be held on May 2, will decide whether the whole Dixiecrat movement is likely to collapse, or whether it may become an extremely important national political factor in 1952.

Aside from Louisiana's huge, shrewd Leander Perez and Mississippi's bumbling Governor Fielding Wright, the real spark-plugs of the Dixiecrat movement are to be found in Alabama. The Dixiecrat brain-trusters include Alabama's wily Gessner McCortney, former Governor Frank Dixon and the corporation lawyers, Horace Wilkinson and Marlon Rushton.

These men now largely control Alabama's democratic party, which in the last election they transformed into a Dixiecrat party. Their control is now being directly challenged by Alabama's able senators, Lister Hill and John Sparkman, and by most of the Alabama representatives. This fight will come to a head on May 2, when the Alabama voters will choose between a Dixiecrat and Hill-Sparkman slate for the state democratic committee.

From the start, the Dixiecrat aim has been to seize the nationwide political balance of power. This aim came nightmarishly close to succeeding in 1948, when the election was almost thrown into the house of representatives, where the four Dixiecrat states could have dictated the outcome. The present intention is to bring the balance of power lever to bear before the elections.

The strategy is largely the brainchild of McCortney, who has been busily promoting it throughout the south. But it has been approved in principle by all the Dixiecrat leaders, and it has the tacit approval of the big oil and corporate interests which supply the Dixiecrats with their financial life-blood.

The first step would be to call Dixiecrat conventions in every southern state early in 1952 — a step which was omitted in 1948. These state conventions would name delegates to a formal national states rights convention, to write a party platform and nominate presidential candidates. This convention would be carefully scheduled to take place after the republican convention. And the fact would be widely advertised in advance that the Dixiecrat convention would be prepared to nominate the republican candidate on the Dixiecrat ticket — provided the candidate and the platform were acceptable.

After all, it is pointed out, Republican Chairman Guy Gabrielson has already said publicly

that he has been keeping in touch with the Dixiecrat leaders, to see whether some understanding might not be possible. Gabrielson's indiscreet remark was quickly disavowed by all and sundry. But the fact remains that by 1952 the republicans will have been out of power for twenty years — and the civil rights issue is the only serious impediment to an understanding with the conservative southern democrats, which could bring the republicans back into power. Obviously the step from a congressional coalition to a coalition behind a single presidential candidate is a short step and by no means illogical.

This Dixiecrat strategy explains why the Dixiecrats have been beating the drum so enthusiastically for General Dwight D. Eisenhower. Although he is publicly (and perhaps wisely) opposed compulsory civil rights legislation, Senator Robert Taft is considered so indelibly republican that southerners could hardly be bamboozled into voting for him. But Eisenhower is not even a registered republican, and although there is nothing in his record to indicate any enthusiasm for Dixiecrat ideas, the Dixiecrats have been eager to bestow on him what might well be a kiss of death.

Obviously, if the Alabama Dixiecrats are administered a severe defeat by the Hill-Sparkman man forces, their strategy will receive a setback from which the outcome will be likely. The Hill-Sparkman camp has been helped by the administration decision to delay senate debate on the civil rights issue — a fact which is doubtless not a coincidence. Even so, the Alabama Dixiecrats are putting on a tough, shrewd campaign, and the outcome is still very much in doubt. And it is not inconceivable that the outcome of this apparently obscure Alabama contest could have a far-reaching effect on the whole national political future.

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GANG BUSTERS



Comes the Dawn

By Dr. Herman N. Bundensen

Spring means vacations and vacations means festivals. And the travel department of the state highway department lists 150 annual festivals, rodeos, feasts, celebrations, carnivals, air days, shows, parades, pageants, boat races, derbies, tournaments, etc., which will be put on, tossed off or nailed down in various towns over the state this season.



They include a Root Feast and Rodeo, Music in May Festival, Pea Festival, Ski Tournament, Catfish and Salmon Derbies, Water Pageant, Fish Fry, Bean Festival, Cherry Festival, Chief Joseph Days, Oregon Shakespearean Festival, Gold Rush Jubilee, Frontier Days Celebration, Huckleberry Feast, Farmerop, Potato Festival and Cranberry Festival, etc. Take your pick.

The \$110,000,000 tourist industry in Oregon is third largest in state. . . . Travel department this year is selling Oregon via four-column ads in 50 newspapers in 11 western states. . . . Travel department estimates over half of out-of-state tourists will come from California. . . . San Francisco office says a good share of 160,000 members of National Automobile club are interested in touring Oregon this year.

Tourist cabin rates are expected to remain same this year as last. Total of 2,253 licensed tourist establishments in state at end of last year—with 133 new ones (average 10 living units each) added during 1949. Number of cabins nearly doubled in past five years.

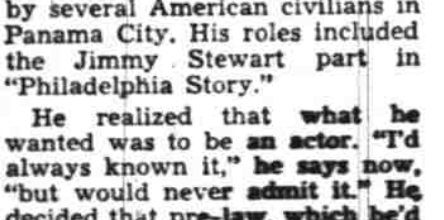
Travel department receives inquiries from Japan, South America, Italy, France, Great Britain, Finland, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Germany, Holland, France and others. Travel to U.S. largely restricted, however, because foreign citizens not permitted to take sufficient cash with them for extensive trip. An Englishman, for example, is allowed to take only about \$100 from Great Britain. How long would that last on New York's Great White Way?

Hollywood on Parade

HOLLYWOOD — In a way James Whitmore owes his acting career — and his nomination for an academy award this year — to the bug of amoebic dysentery. Second Lieut. Whitmore of the U.S. Marines picked up the bug during action on Tinian. After sojourns in several U.S. hospitals, he was assigned to guard duty on the Panama canal. To relieve the tedium, he joined, in off-duty hours, a little theater operated by several American civilians in Panama City. His roles included the Jimmy Stewart part in "Philadelphia Story."

He realized that what he wanted was to be an actor. "I'd always known it," he says now, "but would never admit it." He decided that pre-law, which he'd been studying at Yale before the war, was not for him. Jim is 28. He has bow legs (from cartilage operations for college football injuries) and frank blue eyes. His hair is wavy and sandy red. His face is large, the nose long and sharp, the chin jutting. He was nominated for a supporting role Oscar for his performance as "Battleground." The Hollywood Foreign Correspondents' association voted his the best supporting job of last year.

He first indicated acting tendencies at six, when he'd shake his nose and explode "ba-ba-ba" like Jimmy Durante. His father, James Whitmore, sr., formerly was an official of the Y.M.C.A. and is now executive secretary of the Buffalo, N. Y., city planning commission. Jim was born in White Plains, N. Y.



He played in high school productions of Gilbert and Sullivan and in Yale dramatic enterprises. But until Panama, when he had plenty of time to think it over, he was aiming at law. After experience in summer school, he played the wise-cracking sergeant in "Command Decision" on Broadway. That brought him to Hollywood, where he now has his first lead in "The Next Voice You Hear."

Previously he had only one picture role, a small part in "Undiscovered Man." Jim finds the honors that have come his way so soon "a little frightening." He still isn't sure of himself. His present lead is his "first big break."

The Safety Valve...

To the Editor: Are Salem home owners safe from spot zoning? The proposed zone change at Kearney and High Sts. to enable construction of a 122 unit (8 story) apartment house is sought despite a lack of need for \$100 monthly rental units in Salem. Petitioners for the change are endeavoring to get the planning and zoning commission to cram it down their neighbor's throats, despite the fact that of 60 taxpayers in the affected area only 13 signed their petition. Thirty-five consistently oppose the change, 16 signed both for and against, six of these wish to withdraw their names, and one remains neutral. Hence far less than 50 per cent approve the change in their

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

of the Colorado mountains. Stock ranches there are giving way to recreation as the region's most important resource. Dude ranches, trout fishing attract summer visitors and ski courses draw winter sports enthusiasts.

At Craig, Colo. one leaves the railroad not to touch it again until near Salt Lake City, a distance of about 250 miles. North-eastern Utah is mountainous and arid. Snow-covered ridges of the Uintahs rise on the north and the Wasatch range to the south and west of the highway. At lower elevations heavily eroded humps of mountains make the landscape a picture of desolation, moderated by occasional cattle ranches and streams. After a final climb to 8,000 ft. over Strawberry Pass one drops rapidly to the floor of Salt Lake basin and comes on beautiful Salt Lake City, basking in the mountain sunshine.

I take no space to describe Denver and Salt Lake City, both interesting cities, each with a very different history, capitals of the great mountain region of the west. They are so well-known further description is not necessary here.

The most direct road to the northwest heads toward Burley, Idaho. It is labeled 30S until it joins shortly 30 in southern Idaho. Shortly after entering Idaho we knew we had entered another zone of climate: greener grass, more evidence of moisture. Stray clouds began assembling, then with a high wind and dust storm as forerunner came the rain, the gentle rain of the northwest. For the northwest is the lovely land, the green land, the fruitful land.

On down familiar Highway 30 through Boise, into Eastern Oregon, over the Old Oregon Trail (now reminiscent of its original condition with heavy construction work in progress near Ontario and between Arlington and The Dalles and near Bonneville), to Portland, and up the Willamette Valley to Salem. No mishaps, not even a puncture. And, believe it or not, we did not see any car wrecks along the way.

Now what impressions do I have from this admittedly rapid tour of the USA?

First, America is busy. Everywhere people were at work: building, manufacturing, mining, tilling the ground and planting crops, and in Florida harvesting early crops of garden stuff. The south is not the idler one may think. It is busy too. Men work hard in the south, some of them just to earn a living, others to

develop their farms and businesses and enterprises.

Second, one caught no note of pessimism. No one seemed to be contracting his operations. On the other hand a healthy optimism seemed to prevail, as far as domestic business is concerned.

Third, Americans are confused. They are bewildered over the news from Washington and world capitals. Washington in particular presented an example of quarrelling and bickering among leaders which added to the confusion of the public mind. Stronger, more positive leadership is needed there; and less of playing for partisan advantage.

Fourth, this is One Country, a country with great diversity, a country whose sections have peculiar characteristics, loyalties and prejudices, but One Country. There is needed a better understanding of the problems and mental attitudes in these sections; a personal visit, hurried though it was, serves to instruct one in this regard.

Fifth, modern improvements are doing much to unify the country. Supplementing newspapers and magazines have come radio, good roads, and better schools. The paved highways are breaking the crust of insularity, sometimes with a shock. Everywhere one sees the big yellow buses transporting children, white and black, to central schools. This will mean better diffusion of education and contribute to the unification of our common country.

Tomorrow I shall write some concluding Travel Notes to terminate the series.

Pay Hike Asked For A-Board

WASHINGTON, April 15—(AP)—President Truman's difficulties in finding an atomic energy commission chairman prompted Senator McMahon (D-Conn) to propose today to raise the pay—and prestige—of commissioners. McMahon, who is chairman of the senate-house atomic committee, said in a statement he will offer Monday a bill boosting the pay of the commission chairman from \$17,500 to \$22,500 yearly and other commissioners from \$15,000 to \$20,000.

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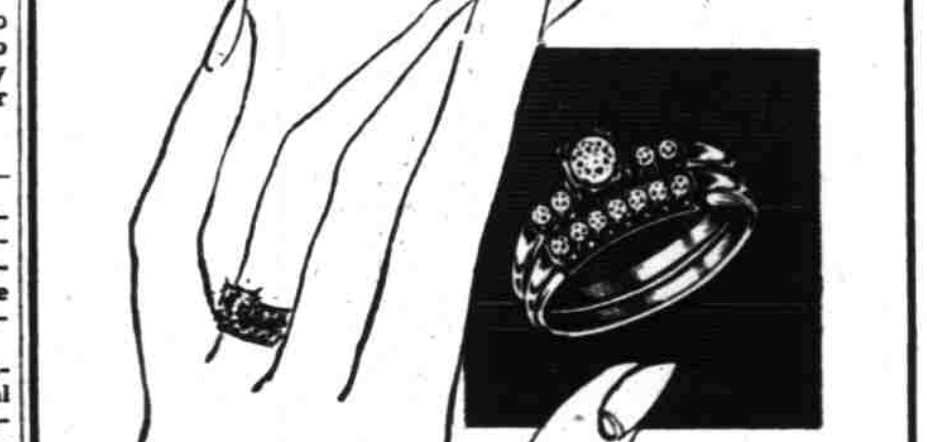
For the 1950 Cherryland Pageant to be held June the 15th, 16th and 17th.

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