

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"

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CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor and Publisher

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Tax Commission Dilemma

The Portlanders who moved out to the woods and placid shores of Oswego lake to escape the noise and crowds of the city are having their repose rudely disturbed. The assessor has been around. Many of these country places are fine estates, though others are merely comfortable homes of the genteel and better-to-do folk. But the visit of the assessor and his follow-up notice of valuation has left the home-owners gasping. Individual protest ripened into mass indignation; and don't think the upper income brackets can't squawk too when their purse-pocket is being gored.

The protestants seized on this item of objection, that whereas their properties were individually appraised the county assessor used arbitrary percentages to apply to property in other parts of the county. Hence they say, the valuations are not fair and equal over the county. On their complaint the Clackamas county board of equalization threw out the county assessor's revaluation and ordered values set back to January 1, 1949. The issue now has been appealed to the state tax commission, which is caught somewhat in the light of the line because the assessor claims he has been following the commission's rulebook.

To prepare for its decision the commission has sent its own appraisal engineers down to the country club area, and that evokes howls from the property owners. The ugly word "gestapo" is hurled because of methods the appraisers used. They are accused of going over a property "brick-by-brick." Maybe the objectors really have cause for alarm. If County Assessor Wood has chastised them with whips, perhaps the commission appraisal engineers (who really know their stuff) will chastise them with scorpions. In the end they may wish they had settled with Wood. The fear is probably groundless however. The commission keeps wet fingers to political winds and two of its members are adept at wiggling out of tight places, and they may find some saving formula that will leave no one out on a limb, the assessor, the property-owner, and least of all, themselves.

Boyle and the President

Frank Kent, Washington correspondent for the Baltimore Sun who has been observing the national political scene with a cold eye for many years recently devoted his column to William Boyle who is now chairman of the democratic national committee. Boyle, writes Kent, is the closest of any to President Truman. He is a thorough-going politician whose sole concern is getting the votes.

This is how Frank Kent describes him: The answer to these questions seems to be Mr. William Boyle, the \$30,000-a-year chairman of the Democratic National Committee. Personally Mr. Boyle is quite the hardest-boiled, tin-tacked, passionately practical politician seen here in years. An ex-policeman of Kansas City, a product of the Pendergast machine, the chairmanship is a pretty high post for a man of his background and age. Primarily, of course, it is the place for a practical politician. But the point is there has been none in memory quite as completely saturated and concentrated upon machine politics of the strictly old-fashioned type as he. If Mr. Boyle ever thinks of anything other than politics, no one has found it out. President Truman seems to have a bifurcated personality. He talks virtuously and often acts virtuously and then he can act with a callous political manner and accept the fruits of Pendergast politics without a shudder. Boyle fits well the latter side of his personality.

Jane Cowl

One remembers a great actor or actress for a long time after he has seen one perform. Such is the appeal of dramatic art that he feels a certain kinship with a great performer on the stage. So many will feel a sense of personal loss in the passing of Jane Cowl, one of the really great actresses of our time. She was both beautiful and talented. While her great success was attained on the stage she also performed on radio and for movies.

We recall seeing her in Seattle many years ago in "Smilin' Through" and then again in New York in "The Road to Rome." She was a distinguished Juliet in "Romeo and Juliet" and was co-author as well as actress in "Lilac Time." Something fine is lost with her retirement from the stage and passing from life.

France's Plan for International Parliament May Be Stepping Stone to Council of Europe

By J. M. Roberts, Jr.
AP Foreign Affairs Analyst
WASHINGTON, June 22 (AP)—

France's proposal for an international parliament to act as the legislative arm of the Schuman plan has aroused speculation that what she is really doing, in addition to working for an industrial pool, is designed to give the council of Europe, now merely an advisory body, some real authority.

The proposal is also believed to have been produced in the hope that Britain would take a more favorable view of industrial control by a body in which her parliament would be represented than of the bar executive control which the French outlined originally.

The system described to the Paris conference by Jean Monnet, France's economic "idea man," and co-author of the plan,

bears some resemblance to the American governmental system. There would be an executive authority to do the work, a parliament to review its activities and lay down policy, and a court which members could appeal decisions which they felt infringed on their interests.

But the French still cling to the idea of a democratic operation, in which national industrial controls would be subordinated to international needs and coordination. No veto is provided, except during an initial period of adjustment, for nations like Britain which are unwilling to leave the final say in international hands.

As outlined by Monnet, the proposed parliament would be composed of delegates appointed from national parliaments or elected by them from among their own members. This is the same setup as that for the advisory council of Europe now established at Strasbourg, and the next logical step would seem to be to incorporate the proposed steel and coal control in that group's powers. Germany is already a member of this group,

though not quite full-fledged, and might like an idea which would make it necessary to admit her as an equal partner rather than merely an associate.

All the participants are still hoping that Britain will eventually come in, but the labor government has just decided to stand or fall on its decision to remain aloof from the Paris negotiations, although not finally barring cooperation once it knows the exact form the new organization will take. London is keeping representatives in Paris to maintain contact with the conference and, presumably, to advise the delegates how various steps will be considered in Britain as they come up. The British government's stand based on Britain's economic position is understandable even if the labor party's own opposition on the grounds of mere socialist party dogma is not. To get the hang of how the government feels, it is only necessary to think what American reaction would be if Europe were demanding the same of the United States.

Safety Valve

OFB Executive
Boats Balanced Plan

To the Editor:

May we compliment you on your column "It seems to me" of the June 20th issue in so far as you champion the American fight against sectionalism, prejudices and class egotism. Giles French may or may not have made the inferences you and John Denny of the Oregonian attributed to him. It is worthy of note that the actual quote printed in both papers could have been used in a sentence with quite a different meaning. The entire quote would have been more appreciated.

Be that as it may. We would appreciate your considering the following statements:

1. The legislative reapportionment debate is not purely city versus country, nor is it partisan. It is rather a difference of opinion as to the principle of democratic representation. Otherwise, the following would not be the case.

A. A high percentage of signatures for the Balanced Plan are coming from Multnomah County and Portland proper. Conversely we know many signatures for the Population Plan are being obtained through Labor Union and Farmers Union membership in rural Oregon.

B. The Balanced Plan will increase Multnomah County representation from 13 1/2 representatives to 15 and from 6 1/2 senators to 9 according to best estimates.

C. Nine rural counties lose representation in the house and seven in the senate under the fair and equitable Balanced Plan.

2. If prejudice were the driving force behind the two petitions would you have the following?

A. Leading Democrats and Republicans openly espousing the balanced Plan and allowing their names to be used on state and county committees.

B. The Young Republicans, many subordinate and Pomona Granges, the Oregon Farm Bureau Federation and everyone of its County Farm Bureaus working together in a non-partisan non sectional effort to maintain true representation.

Much can be said about Government representing population only, yet the development of our Green country of the West has been possible only because of the wisdom of our people insisting that area and communities of interest as well as people be represented.

Certainly your inference that anyone but urban inhabitants are selfish landed Gentry was not intended for the hundreds of small and medium sized farmers, their families and their rural problems of rural roads, schools and taxation. Those people, mostly by the toll of their own hands, furnishing Oregon with its second largest industry creating wealth and jobs and purchasing power without which Oregon would die.

There is one more great difference between the two plans for reapportionment. One would allow for political interpretation and manipulation by either political party in power each ten years. In fact, two out of the three of the Board of Control could so manipulate the districting of counties so that their party would receive an unfair advantage over the other.

The Balanced Plan safeguards that possibility remote as it might be.

Is that not a cause for debate and careful consideration of the voters of Oregon?

We sincerely hope that both plans are placed on the ballot. The voters of Oregon will make a sane and constructive decision.

For that reason our organization is assisting the Oregon Balanced Plan on the ballot. We are sure those working for the Population Plan, backed by both labor organizations and the Farmers Union, will have their own ballot.

It is for such problems the initiative and referendum was written into the Laws of the State of Oregon. It is for such problems they should be retained on the proper representative basis.

Surely no unbiased newspaper, individual or organization should do anything but urge that this question be placed before the people of Oregon.

We, as an organization of farmers with all active members and officers obtaining 65% or more of their income from farming, compliment your stand against prejudice. We are making great strides in cooperating and working with other groups both rural and urban. We are sensitive about our public relations and have received unlimited compliments for our effort toward a broad minded, unselfish and cooperative approach to all legislative matters. A perusal of our resolutions and those of the American Farm Bureau will prove this statement better than half truths and outright misrepresentations of some poorly informed.

Surely you are correct, "A man's a man, for a' that," whether his problems include those of area or not.

Yours very truly,
Oregon Farm Bureau
Federation
Marshall Swearingen
Executive Vice President

American and British Marines wear somewhat similar insignia. The U.S. Marine emblem shows a globe, eagle and anchor, while the British wear a globe encircled by a laurel wreath, together with a small anchor, a lion and a crown.

GRIN AND BEAR IT by Lichty



"It's a perfectly safe horror program, dear . . . just some politician describing what will happen if his opponent is elected . . ."



Salem district census office will close its doors (on the noses it has counted) June 30 for good . . . info on data gathered by federal head hunters already sent in to Washington, D.C. . . .

Supervisor Cornelius Bateson said that seems to him no one in five county area satisfied with total count . . . chambers of commerce of 25 towns, for which population totals released, very unhappy . . . nearly all had anticipated higher totals.

"Nearly a dozen chamber managers called me up and doubted (to put it mildly) the accuracy of our figures," says Bateson. "Milwaukie, with a 180 per cent increase, still wasn't satisfied. Many town fathers based their estimates on a recent census conducted by the state. And others 'just knew' their communities had more persons than we gave them."

None of the cities in this area, however, waxed as desperate as did Aberdeen, S.D. There, when it appeared that population count would not come up to expectations, the chamber of commerce offered \$1 per person to those who had been missed in the regular survey—to come forward and be counted . . . Bateson said that of the 265,000 persons enumerated in Salem district only one person refused to answer the income question and only one refused to fill out the agriculture form.

Marion county district court, slated to move into the school administration office (old high school building) late this month, will not make the jump until August 1 . . . other county offices in the courthouse will not move until after Jan. 1, 1951 . . . county health department, originally included in moving plans, will probably remain in its present location, county officials say.

Difference between British and American publicity efforts never more evident than in neat magazine Great Britain prints to entice tourists to Merry England . . . where an American tourist guide would explain "Fan Dancing in Florida Fish-houses," this English mag has a weighty piece on "Folk Dancing in England." . . . U.S. tourist pamphlets always spice up beach propaganda with leggy blondes playing leapfrog or beachball but English bally'oo about the seaside shows pictures of two small boys building sand castles, breathtaking scene of Black-pool from the air, a young couple (in street clothes) strolling happily through "the Regency Pavilion, Brighton, Sussex," and a closeup of "Dunoon on the firth of Clyde." . . . other sprightly articles in the English publication include "Motor Coaching in Great Britain," "The Capitals Limited," "Edinburgh Festival," "National Trust Gardens," and a racy account of a world meeting of Girl Guides.

Hollywood on Parade

By Gene Handsaker

HOLLYWOOD — What would you be doing today if you hadn't answered a particular "Help Wanted" ad? Or decided that selling, perhaps, was more fun than chemistry? The law is the most popular second choice in a small survey I've just conducted among movie actors. Don DeFore says that after a few weeks of law school, he realized it was only the courtroom dramas that interested him.

Law Student Bill Lundigan took up radio acting on the side at Syracuse university—and liked it better. Dennis Day took a pre-law course at Manhattan college. He sang in a couple of college shows and presently got paying jobs in radio. Ray Milland says, "I might have been a bum."

After four years' service in the British army, he spent a \$2,000 inheritance on a European tour. Broke, he accepted an actress friend's offer to get him a job as an extra in British movies. Jimmy Durante says, "I was a photo-engraver when I was 17. I quit to play piano in Diamond Tony's at Coney Island. I wanted to be a great ragtime piano player. Then I started singing." Joel McCrea: "My first ambition as a kid was to be a cattle rancher. I needed money to buy a ranch, so I became a cowboy in pictures. Then I became fascinated with the (movie) business." McCrea owns a 3,000 acre cattle, barley, and wheat ranch north of here but no longer has "the same driving ambition about it."

Larry Parks graduated from the University of Illinois as a Bachelor of Science and chemistry major. He'd planned to be a doctor, but school shows and summer stock changed his ideas.

Wendell Corey: "Acting looked better than selling washing machines, which I was doing, so I got into little theater." Lou Costello: "I'd have been happier if I'd done what I wanted to do—be a bum." Burt Lancaster, after an acrobatic career and Army hitch, planned to take a job as advance man for a concert-book agency. Then a play executive spotted him in an elevator and nabbed him for a Broadway role.

Edmund Gwenn: "My great ambition was to go to sea. I had an uncle in the Royal Navy. But my mother had one uncle who had been shipwrecked and another who had been court-martialed for exceeding his wine bill. She persuaded my father not to enroll me in the Royal Naval college. I began playing in amateur performances and went on the stage at 17. My father disapproved so strongly that he disowned me. That was fortunate; not having a farthing, I had to take every part that came along."

Better English

By D. C. Williams

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "Her luxurious hair won her many compliments." 2. What is the correct pronunciation of "brogeny"? 3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Excuseable, malleable, permeable, tangible. 4. What does the word "advocate" (verb) mean? 5. What is a word beginning with ve that means "fluency of words, as in speaking?" ANSWERS 1. Say, "Her luxuriant hair." 2. Pronounce prof-e-ni, e as in on, e as in bet unstressed, i as in it, accent first syllable. 3. Excuseable. 4. To plead in favor of, to support, or recommend publicly. "He advocated the suggestions made by the president." 5. Volubility.

3 Glasses of Water 'Fatal' In Damascus

By Henry McLemore

DAMASCUS, Syria, June 22 —

Incidental intelligence about Damascus: My favorite businessmen here are the shoe shine boys, of which there were some 25,000 at the last unofficial account. They not only give you the best shine in the world; they do it for less money and with the most expensive equipment to be found anywhere. Their shoe shine boxes are made of hand-hammered brass as are the containers for the various fluids and pastes with which they anoint your shoes. A similar box in the U. S., if it were available, would cost close to a hundred dollars, yet a shine costs about three cents in American money.

What puzzles me is how a shoe shine boy ever accumulates enough money to become a shoe shine boy. Are they sons of wealthy parents? Does the government advance funds to youngsters who show talent with the brush, rag, and shoe brush? Or is there a foundation, patterned along the lines of the Rockefeller Foundation which gives aid to Damascenes who show unusual talent for making a shoe, even the oldest one, shine like a bride's eye as she walks down the aisle?

Any reader who can enlighten me would do me a favor by cabling me in care of the Semiramis Hotel, Cairo, where I'll be when this reaches print.

Before visiting Damascus be sure to call your favorite insurance salesman and take out a sizable policy protecting you against being run over by a donkey. Donkeys have the right of way here, just as they have since time immemorial, and there are enough of them to control completely the right of way. I neglected to take out such a policy with my favorite insurance sales, Miss Carrie Freeman of Daytona Beach, Fla., and as a result I am going to be out a few hundred dollars. Donkeys are little, yes, but they are persistent, and when one sticks his muzzle in your ribs and keeps pushing, it is part of you that yields, not the donkey's nose. Donkeys are not equipped with horns or ariens, either, so they sneak up on you. But one can hardly complain. The donkeys have been here centuries and centuries before the first American visitor arrived, so they have a sounder claim to the streets of Damascus.

If you are a visitor, and want to start the day wrong, buy yourself a drink from the cold drink vendors who wander the streets of Damascus. The drink usually bright red in color, is carried in a big glass jug, surmounted by a vast amount of silverwork, nearly always in the shape of a sailing ship. The vendor attracts attention by beating two silver bowls together, and serves the drink in glasses. He cleans the glasses by pouring in four drops of water, no more, swirling the drops around, and emptying them on the street. As magic a user of words as I am, I am unable to describe the taste of the drink. It is my guess, however, that it is compounded by mixing the tears of a heartbroken donkey with equal parts of water from a bird bath frequented by young

owls and water from the Red Sea at low tide.

One glass of this mixture (which the Damascenes partake with great relish) is guaranteed to make the average American drop to his knees and ask forgiveness for anything bad he has done during his lifetime. Two glasses and it is too late to do anything. Three glasses and the next thing that happens is a wire to his next of kin.

Damascus is one of the few places I know in the Near or Far East where you can send out something to be dry cleaned with the assurance that it will be dry cleaned, not washed. Laundry is fast and superb.

The best night club in town is the Black Cat. It advertises as the only club in the world with 22 acts and no cover charge. The ad is true, and the blessed thing is that the 22 acts require just 22 minutes. Most of the acts are of the type which is known as (this being a column for family newspapers) abdominal dancers. The most popular hangout in town is Freddie's. Freddie is a transplanted American, and what you won't meet in his saloon has yet to be met. Note to Time Magazine: Please send Freddie a fresh clipping of the story in which his place is mentioned. He has just about worn out the one he has showing it to all newcomers.

Brother Crosby and Miss Grable are the Americans Damascus would like most to see. That's all for the moment. Meet you at Freddie's.

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IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

too with other landlords, private and public.

Marion Clawson, director of the bureau, in a recent address before the Society of American Foresters, told of the bureau's conservation efforts on these lands. To quote:

"Soil and moisture operations have been approved for 301 project areas, both inside and outside of grazing districts, and detailed plans have been drawn up for 47 million acres. These planned projects contain 12 million acres of severe to critical eroded lands. We estimate that 95 million acres or 50 per cent of the lands we administer are in a condition of severe to critical erosion. Only 18 per cent of the land is in a reasonably satisfactory shape as far as erosion is concerned. On the basis of the areas studied and planned for to date, we estimate that the whole rehabilitation and conservation job would cost \$15 million dollars."

Add to that the needs for lands administered by the forest service and those in state, county and private ownership and the cost of a comprehensive conservation program is stupendous.

But that should not bar the road. The job must be done, both to control silting of streams and filling of reservoirs but to increase the forage on which livestock and game may feed. The cheapest meat is that produced on good pasture. We can't increase the area of grazing land but we can increase the grass production of the land and thus increase our meat supply.

The program must go forward; and the bureau of land management must lead the way, — and move forward faster.

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