

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Swoys Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor and Publisher

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A Successful Press Conference

A good healthy antidote to the growing tendency among national, state and local agencies and public officials to throttle unfavorable publicity—that seems to be the consensus of opinion about the conference at the capitol Saturday in which state officials and Oregon newsmen took part.

As governmental functions on the national level have grown in range and complexity, it has gotten harder for Washington reporters to find out what is going on. The lazy ones just rewrite, as news, the publicity handouts they get from public relations experts and press liaison men hired at public expense by government agencies. Reporters with an "in" get their stories from leaks and "informed sources close to the White House"—sources likely to have a bias. Everybody attends briefing sessions which sometimes amount to little more than sales talks for a particular scheme or person. There's been some complaint that the administration is more interested in "conditioning" the public through calculated releases to the press than in letting the public know the truth. The ugly term for all this is "thought-control." And the motive, of course, is self-preservation.

That instinct for self-preservation is as strong in state and locally elected and appointed officials as it is in national wheels. And the means are the same: withholding from the public facts which would get an unfavorable reaction and releasing for public consumption only such information as officials think the public should have.

In Oregon, relations between the press and public officials are pretty straight-forward, on the whole. At the meeting Saturday several top men such as Superintendent Maison of the state police, head of the state finance department Harry Dorman, and Governor McKay said that the people of Oregon had a right to all news "releasable." The friction, of course, is over what officials consider "releasable" and what reporters consider news.

Frequently it is not the top men who withhold news, but the minor characters who jealously guard their offices. These individuals, knowing that the information they have is public property, will answer a direct question from a reporter, but they will never volunteer news or fill in with pertinent details. That's why sometimes the public gets incomplete stories, and why reporters are always up in arms against officials who arbitrarily decide for themselves what the public ought to know and not know.

On the other hand, officials have a legitimate gripe too: Too many newsmen, they say, play up or emphasize news that is "bad" or derogatory, and underplay "good" news, or information that indicates a job well done or an institution well run.

But newsmen at the conference were impressed and gratified with the turn-out of heads of almost every state department, and most of all with the attitude of the officials. They all seemed anxious and willing to learn something about releasing news—a heartening sign that the "thought-control" poison has not seriously infected Oregon's officialdom. Conferences be-

tween officials and reporters such as that held Saturday do much to insure that it never will. The Statesman's City Editor Bob Gangware, who arranged the mutually beneficial exchange, deserves thanks from the press, the officials and the public.

Some Drops to Drink

Over in Jefferson county residents on the new irrigated lands and in the towns adjacent have suffered from lack of good water for domestic use. There is plenty of fine water at Opal Springs and the reclamation bureau has drawn up a plan to distribute the water to meet local needs. The secretary of the interior reports the Bend Bulletin, gives the plan his blessing.

That leads the Bulletin to point to older districts which have been drawing on surface sources such as the irrigation canals for domestic use. What's good for the North unit, reasons the Bulletin, is good for the older districts and urges residents there to study the matter.

"As they do so, is it not possible that the bureau of reclamation should be interested also? If improvement of the household water in one section of bureau irrigation development is a proper bureau function, might it not be so considered in an adjoining section?"

The Bulletin's reasoning is logical; but isn't projecting the reclamation bureau into the business of supplying water for towns and country houses something of an extension of the welfare state?

Legislative Scoreboard

For what it is worth the evidence offered in the "selections" made by the Pendleton East Oregonian in a poll of newsmen covering the last legislature tends to confirm the frequently heard remark that upstate counties furnish better legislators. Certainly Multnomah came off poorly in this "form chart." Its ratio in representation is a little less than one to four and it holds to that pretty well except in the "worst" schedule of the house where it gets four out of five.

Here was the score: Of five senators rated "best" upstate had four, Multnomah one; of five senators rated "worst" upstate had four, Multnomah one; of the house upstate had one, Multnomah four.

This is at least a different rating method than the one used by pressure groups and organizations who check merely the voting record on selected issues.

Minor Magnitude

Referring to the recent address of General MacArthur in Cleveland the Oregon Journal comments:

By his intermittent forays from his headquarters in the Waldorf-Astoria hotel in New York to different parts of the country to attack the administration, Gen. MacArthur is firmly establishing himself as a political figure of the first magnitude.

The general is endeavoring to establish himself as a political figure, but as far as magnitude goes he'd better stick to soldiering.

Greece Pictured as Stronghold of Pro-America Feeling; Communism Thoroughly Discredited

By Marguerite Higgins

ATHENS — In an audience at the Royal Palace, Queen Frederika of Greece observed that any new influx of American soldiers to bases in this country would find a genuine welcome from the population.

We were discussing the probability that Greece would soon be admitted to the Atlantic pact and the likelihood that shortly thereafter the United States would dispatch bomber squadrons to bases being built on Crete. I wondered what the impact on public opinion might be of a new peacetime importation of Americans in uniform.

"It would add to our feeling of security," the young queen observed. "You see, here in Greece we really are convinced that America has no ulterior motives. And we are thoroughly in favor of any measures, including bases, that strengthen the defenses of the free world."

In contrast with Western Europe, the spirit in Greece seems almost too good to be true. Yet in talking to more than 30 politicians, newspaper editors and labor leaders I could find no disagreement on the foreign policy attitudes. There appears to be a minimum of the corroding resentment which in Western Europe stems from having to take dollars and leadership from the United States, still regarded by many—especially in France and Great Britain—as a rather uncouth upstart in the realm of international diplomacy. The Greeks are urgently convinced of the necessity of building a worldwide anti-Soviet front and they support the Americans because they are furthering this goal.

As Queen Frederika emphasized: "This country's willingness to make great sacrifices in contributing to the anti-communist cause is based on hard reality. You must remember that we have had the communists raid our homes, murder our people, steal our children. We

know the enemy first hand perhaps better than any other free people in Europe."

Queen Frederika was of course, referring to the satellite-supported communist warfare in this country which was finally crushed last year. This communist civil war turned about one-tenth of the population into homeless refugees and kept the nation in an economic turmoil that grievously hampered reconstruction.

Both King Paul and Queen Frederika were personal witnesses to the tragedies of the civil war, for despite pleadings from Gen. James A. Van Fleet, then head of the American military advisers in Greece, they both insisted on jumping to the front lines in a constant effort to build the morale of their people.

"Our purpose," the queen recalled, "was to give them memories to divert them a little from their own tragedies. Sometimes we would go into villages which the communists had left only a few hours before. The women would come to me and say that their husbands had been murdered, their children kidnapped. There was nothing, of course, that words could do to heal such wounds. I could only hold their hands and by a look or a gesture try to show how deep our concern for them was. It was our hope that after our departure thousands of the personal losses would be softened by the new memory—the memory that the king and queen had been there and that they would do all they could to help."

The energy displayed by the king and queen during the war has not diminished since. They are very hard-working monarchs indeed, passing much of their time traveling to every corner of their kingdom. The queen has an infinite number of charities she attends to. And the king has personally, for example, overseen the creation of 400 new schools. In fact, the only serious criticism directed at their majesties is that they are too active, especially in the question of Greece's internal politics.

But the population as a whole

seems sincerely devoted to the royal pair. Frederika is an extraordinarily pretty, petite young queen with the kind of personal dynamism that easily qualifies her as Greece's most eloquent protagonist. Her description of Greece's suffering and strivings recently reduced two comparatively hard-boiled senators to tears. Most visitors usually leave the palace muttering variations on the theme "That woman is terrific." Frederika's impact is such that the American mission here, which feels that Greece's importance as an ally is not fully appreciated in the United States, would like nothing better than to have King Paul and Queen Frederika pay a visit to Washington. The royal couple is highly receptive to the idea and if the visit comes off the American public will enjoy a real treat.

The queen received me in one of the large salons in the royal palace situated in the heart of Athens. The queen is no stickler for protocol and I was greeted with a smile, a shake of the hand and was waved into a comfortable overstuffed chair.

In selecting her personal wardrobe she prefers simple designs and fabrics. She had on an embroidered dirndl skirt of cotton beige a sleeveless bolero jacket matching the skirt and a white organdy blouse. She wore white shoes with medium heels. The only sign of her station in life was a giant round diamond sparkling on her left hand.

At the end of the audience, during which the queen gave an impressive account of Greece's contributions to the anti-communist cause, I asked whether there was any danger that the world crisis might cause Greece to turn to a dictatorship.

"Absolutely never," said Queen Frederika. "The king would never permit it. The people of Greece have suffered much in order to have freedom and a representative form of government. The people will never be deprived of their freedom so long as my husband remains king."

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ANCHORS AWEIGH!



Comes the Dawn

Funny how amateur race fans can fall into a guessing trance and come out smelling like a quiniela. Take that late race Saturday which paid off about 89 horse blankets if you hit first and second horses. Winners were horses No. 1 and 4. Two female track plungers, who were madly tossing the money away by playing a buck on each race, decided to play a quiniela. About the only thing these girl gamblers knew about horse racing was the way to the parimutuel windows.



Well, the girls decided to place a modest sum on 1 and 6. But on the way to the window the one who was to place the bets, forgot the numbers and made a wild stab at 1 and 4—which, of course ended up as the winning combination. The payoff comes when the husband of one of the ladies, unbeknownst to his frau, had also picked the winning ticket—probably by a soul-tearing scientific deduction. . . . Andy Burke, ex-county sheriff, also played the same race. He asked the ticket maker for numbers 1 and 5, but the ticket man erred and punched the wrong numbers, which of course proved to be the right numbers.

Speaking of fairs . . . While Oregon residents modestly admit their state fair is purty good or, maybe jim-dandy, the town criers in Los Angeles (where else?) hail the Los Angeles county fair as "an exposition unsurpassed in magnitude, variety, entertainment and exotic beauty." The fair grounds are referred to as "400 acres of enchantment." What is crudely called the agricultural exhibit building in Salem is titled the "Glorious Palace of Agriculture" in L.A.

One of the "magnificent and glittering productions" (i.e., one act) of the "lavish, star-studded musical extravaganza" (i.e., the outdoor show) is blurbled like this in the land of suns: "With a blare of trumpets the swiftly-paced sequence brings the second episode, THE BOLERO, an amazing collection of orchestral dynamics closing with the entire company in wild gyrations!" . . . Well, THAT would probably be illegal in Oregon, anyway.

Once there was a Salem archer who could hardly wait for the deer season for bow and arrow shooters to open in the Tillamook burn area. Finally, when the season opened Saturday our longbow artist steadied his quiver, filled it full of arrows, got out his Steady Arm and Eagle Eye, and took off like Hiawatha after the Lonesome Buck. He got about 40 miles up the trail when he discovered he had forgotten, of all things, his trusty bow. Not being a newspaperman he couldn't very well lose his barbs from a typewriter, so he had to return all the way home for his stringed instrument. Moral—(Sounds better in Indian sign language) . . . Many a speedy deer has got away from an unstrung bow.

GRIN AND BEAR IT by Lichty



Several degrees and a teacher's certificate are fine, Miss Finch . . . but you'll find a little experience is a little invaluable . . .

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page one)

the defense power administration is interested in power development and able to speed it along. The two dams now proposed would provide power. One at Howard Prairie would impound water which could be diverted to Emigrant reservoir to provide supplemental water for the Talent irrigation district. The Cascade gorge dam would provide no storage but it is proposed that profits from sale of its electric energy be used to finance irrigation in Illinois valley.

At a meeting in Medford the association adopted a resolution disclaiming intention to push for dams on the Rogue except with approval of other organizations concerned with valley development. In spite of this Frank Streeter of the Grants Pass Courier, accepts the compromise but adds: "The sensible program is to fight for what we can get now and go after the other things this valley needs as the opportunity presents itself." Sen. Ben Day, however, who has been a leader in the battle for Plan A, objected to the compromise.

The association also voted to ask Governor McKay to appoint a Rogue basin resources committee. It is expected that the governor would assign Ivan Oakes of the Willamette basin commission to assist in working out problems in connection with the Rogue river development.

Whether the reclamation bureau will accept this watered-down program remains to be seen; and I would be skeptical of the interest of the defense power administration in the power projects since the area is not presently power-deficient.

What probably will work out is that features which excite comparatively little controversy will get the green light when congress is ready to authorize new projects for the reclamation bureau. In the long run economic pressures probably will outweigh the opposition of recreationists to Plan A. The battle however is just a sample of the difficulty we have in harmonizing views of various groups interested in natural resources.

Chest Drive Kickoff Oct. 2

Salem's Community chest drive will kick off on the morning of October 2, it was announced at a meeting of the chest leaders Monday noon.

Chairman Edward Majek told 11 division leaders that plans for the 1951 drive are in "excellent shape." The meeting was held in the Marion hotel. This year's quota is \$120,000.

Tabor to Found Newspaper at Chief Joseph Dam

Hale Tabor, former Salem and McMinnville newspaperman, is founding a new weekly newspaper at Bridgeport, Wash., near the site of Chief Joseph dam.

Both Tabor and his wife, the former Ruth Matthews, were at one time on the staff of The Oregon Statesman. Tabor last week sold the Kalama (Wash.) Bulletin which he founded five years ago in partnership with Al Phelps, also formerly of The Statesman. Phelps now is publisher of the Cathlamet (Wash.) Eagle.

Purchaser of the Kalama paper is William Tait of San Raphael, Calif.

Better English

By D. C. Williams

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "Each of us have got to exercise more patience."
2. What is the correct pronunciation of "verbiage"?
3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Animosity, anonymous, annull, analysis.
4. What does the word "warrantable" mean?
5. What is a word beginning with "ans" that means "answerable; accountable"?

- ANSWERS
1. Say, "Each of us has to exercise more patience."
 2. Pronounce vur-bi-ij, as in fan, both f's as in it, accent first syllable.
 3. Annull, 4. Justifiable; defensible. "Falsehood is never warrantable." 5. Amenable.

Quote for the Day

The memory is a treasurer to which we must give good funds, if we would draw the assistance we will surely need.

Nicholas Rows

Safety Valve

Wasted Talent

To the Editor:

I have been watching the trouble at the pen like all the rest of Oregon and wondered why the warden can't hire guards that are able to keep order instead of being scared to death of the cons.

This brings to mind a pair of guards that used to work as inside guards during the time the pen was run by the officials. They were able to know about the prison breaks and other trouble before it happened.

These men (Burl Davis and Vic Helms) had the respect of the convicts as well as the guards and until the inmates found out these boys were on the job the bull pen did a rushing business. What is wrong out there that calls for clubs or the knifing we read about in the papers?

I saw one of these ex-guards at the State capitol building and wondered why they won't try to keep men like Davis and Helms out there where they are needed so badly.

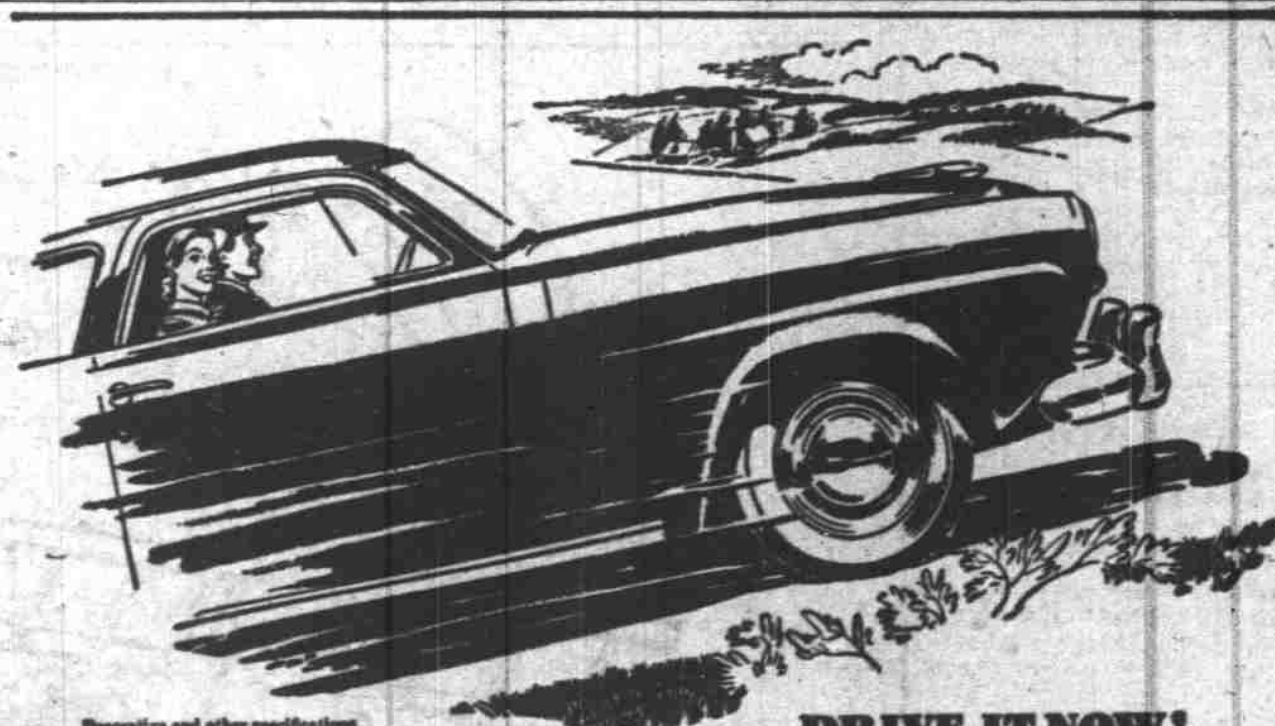
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