

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
From First Statesman, March 23, 1851

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

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Published every morning, business office 215 S. Commercial, Salem, Oregon. Telephone 2-2441.
Entered at the postoffice at Salem, Oregon, as second class matter under act of congress March 3, 1879.

Senior Partner

Socialists propose public ownership of the means of production so that the proceeds may be distributed, if not equally, at least without profits to proprietors. This, they believe, would contribute to the "good life."

The system of the graduated income tax without socialism works quite successfully however in scaling down the incomes of those at the top of the business totem pole. In the case of corporations the government takes over half the net income, and more than that if earnings fall in the excess profits class. The percentage rises fast with individuals so that those in high brackets "take home" only a small percentage of their total incomes.

This makes government a "senior partner" in American business. Its budget is based on taking a large share of personal earnings and corporate profits. This gives it a great stake in the present economic system. The tax-loss argument has been used with great effect by private utilities in resisting socialization. It would be quite overwhelming to government finance if any general program of nationalization were proposed.

Government can't afford a business depression any more than an individual or a corporation can. This fact makes it almost impossible for the government, no matter what party is in control, to quit pumping a measure of wind into the money-credit system in order to sustain dollar incomes even though dollar value decreases. Government is at once the beneficiary and the victim of the inflationary process.

A Jack-and-the-Beanstalk Industry

That indispensable journal of the wood industry, The Timberman, devotes its January issue to a Plywood Review. This is a veritable jack-and-the-beanstalk story. In 1940 production of plywood from Douglas fir amounted to only 1,200 million square feet. Last year's production was 2,700 million. In 1940 there were 33 softwood plywood plants in Western states and in 1952, 105. Oregon has shown the most rapid expansion in plywood manufacture, the number of plants growing from nine in 1940 to 42 at present.

This bulge in production brought a glut in the market in 1951. Price cuts were posted and at the year-end mills reported growing order files. The slump may be regarded as temporary for plywood is proving such a versatile material that demand soon will catch up with output capacity.

Credit for making possible the expansion needs to be shared with inventors and research specialists. The inventors turned out new machinery, particularly the electric dry-press. The researchers came up with new waterproof glues which gave plywood a wide market for outdoor use.

Demand has pushed the price for "peeler" logs to very high figures. To compensate for this manufacturers use lower quality material for the "sandwich" and the back side, which "stretches" the supply of first-grade stock.

With its great stands of timber—the largest of any state—Oregon will get a large share of the business and resulting prosperity in plywood manufacture.

Editorial Comment

"WHAT FOOLS THESE MORTALS BE!"

"Puck" was right.
Just how many fools there are at the present time, or will be 6 months hence, will be indicated by how many votes for President, Harold Stassen gets at the 1952 Republican convention—or anywhere else for that matter.

It is really hard to believe that a person of his years and experience would think such a pronouncement as he issued Thursday night would fool ANYONE—but he must think so, or he would not have signed his name to it.

We have met with political opportunists before, but never one quite so brazen and crude as the former Governor of Minnesota, in this effort to horn-in on the Republican presidential contest.

We have previously remarked upon the political aspirants who are going to be AGAINST "sin" the forthcoming campaign, but we never expected to find anyone who is going to be FOR the Devil at the SAME time.

But that is Slappy-Happy Harold's program. Take the notables he is going to consult with if and when he moves into the White House, for example. Here they are, quote:

General Douglas MacArthur and General Dwight D. Eisenhower, former Democratic Chairman James A. Farley and former President Hoover; Senator Harry F. Byrd (of the "Va-gin-la Byrds" suit!) and Ralph Bunche, colored delegate to the United Nations; Elder Statesman Bernard Baruch, and no one.

Now there is something for the book!
If anything like that has ever happened before in the political history of this country it never has been recorded.

If there is any voting-minority—or majority for that matter—which is not represented in that group, we don't know what it is. But the incredible feature is that with the exception of Barney Baruch each representative is paired up with his exact opposite and natural opponent, political speaking.

We have heard of playing both ends against the middle before, but never before has any candidate for the presidency, we can recall, who came out not only for the leaders and principles of his OWN party but that of the opposition—at one and the same time!

The most striking example is teaming up Senator Byrd, bitter opponent of "world government" and 100% for white supremacy, with Ralph Bunche, leader of internationalism and eloquent pleader for his colored race and racial justice.

The juxtaposition of that 100% REPUBLICAN, Herbert Hoover and Jim Farley, who has been 100% against that party all his life, and will be until his death—is a close second.

If General MacArthur was right about Korea and the duty of a general in the field to his Commander-in-Chief, then General Eisenhower was—and still is—100% wrong.

But—
There is a strong MacArthur political following, a stronger Eisenhower following; there is the Southern vote, the Dixiecrat vote; the Pro-Fair Deal and the anti "Fair Deal" vote; the colored vote, the white supremacy vote; the pro-UN vote, the anti-UN vote; the Jewish vote, the anti-Jewish vote; the pro-war vote, the anti-war vote; and so on ad nauseam.

And Harold Stassen is going to get ALL of them—or try to—and if his program succeeds, of course he will.

What brings us back to our starting point.
"What fools these mortals be!"
Just how foolish, we must all wait a few months to see.—(R.W.R.—Medford Mail-Tribune)

GRIN AND BEAR IT by Lichty



The Safety Valve

(Contributions to this column should be limited to 300 words. Write only on one side of paper; give name and full address. Poetry is not accepted.)

Wants Substitute For Christmas Tree

Dear Editor:

Isn't it a shame some one doesn't produce a Christmas tree, an artificial one that could be used for several years and stop this waste of beautiful first for one month we enjoy them decorated up, then we have to discard them where in the forest they could grow into large trees which will provide shelter for our wild life, beauty for us who seek it. The motto "Let's Keep Oregon Green" can start by finding a replacement for our usual Christmas trees. Like other good things in life, trees are a priceless heritage which we can pass on to the next generation so let's make a New Year resolution to take care of our trees.

CHRISTINE FRENCH,
4852 Rickman Rd.

Views on Political Situation To the Editor:

At the beginning of a New Year is a good time to take inventory—to look back and try to look forward.

Some of us remember 24 years ago Hoover did not know if he was Democrat or Republican. Republicans elected him. He had been in India a long time and was not disturbed when some Americans suffered—he was accustomed to it in India. If the Republicans couldn't do any better than that the people quite naturally elected a Democrat.

Although Roosevelt wasted Billions he allowed very little real suffering.

He received the approval of the poor and many others. With a very well developed ego he continued help even when people would not try to help themselves. That was not good for those being helped nor for the ones who had to pay for it. And he would need votes to be elected again and again and again.

Nothing but death would have stopped Roosevelt. But there was much worse to come.

Truman was vice president because Roosevelt thought that he was weak and harmless to him. Truman now has spent more money than all the Presidents before him combined.

To elect a Republican it would be necessary to either get some

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from Page One)

over a 10-year period (which neatly diminishes his income tax liability). Considering the effort required in working out such a deal between sellers and buyers and in negotiating the bond sale one must admit that he would earn a pretty good fee.

The deal is under attack again. A Spokane group which objects to wrecking the private corporation will again fight the scheme in court. And Electric Bond and Share, which owns considerable AP&L stock, but not the control, wants the SEC to take a hand and claims the proposed purchase price fails to recognize the increased earning power of the company. It wants AP&L to distribute the WWP stock to its stockholders in its own liquidation.

WWP is a well operated company. The majority of its customers live in areas which have resisted public ownership agitation. For these fringe PUDs and a stooge corporation to buy the whole company is like having the tail wag the dog. It seems a pity to have this efficient private operation scuttled and its properties dismantled, when there is no demand therefor in most of the territory it serves.

WWP and planes to fight with later on. From these alternatives it is natural to turn away, and to hope for the best.

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No Religious Services for Max Litvinoff

MOSCOW (AP)—Palbearers chosen from among high officials of the Soviet Foreign Ministry carried the remains of Maxim Litvinoff to his grave among Russia's Great Wednesday.

There was no religious service for the former Commissar of Foreign Affairs who played the leading diplomatic role in reestablishing relations with the United States after the Bolshevik Revolution. Born a Jew, Litvinoff did not belong to any church. He was 75.

Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko led the group of official mourners and acted as a pallbearer.

The death of Litvinoff, who broke through Russia's diplomatic isolation from the West after the First World War and was her spokesman at the old League of Nations for a system of collective security and disarmament, was announced in eight paragraphs on the last page of Pravda today.

Continuation of Inflation Seen By Forecasters

The crystal ball was worked overtime by Salem Rotary Club Wednesday as predictions for 1952 came thick and fast from six speakers on a program led by Philip M. Brant, Salem and North Salem Kiwanis Clubs met jointly with the Rotarians for the program at a Marion Hotel luncheon.

Continuing inflation was forecast by two of the speakers, Dr. Burton Wood, Oregon State College professor of agricultural economics, and Leo Page of the Ladd & Bush-Salem Branch, U. S. National Bank.

Dr. Wood saw continuing increases in public debt, bank loans, money supply, spendable income, consumer credit, taxes, consumer price index, farming cash receipts and retail sales. He predicted slight reduction in business plant expansion and little change in farm prices.

Page said foreign demands for U. S. food would keep agriculture's position favorable and rehabilitation in Korea would boost the lumbering industry. He predicted more raises in wages and salaries and a stiffening resistance to further tax increases.

On politics, Charles A. Sprague, publisher of The Statesman, predicted neither Truman nor Taft would be a presidential candidate.

Dean Robert D. Gregg of Willamette University forecast growing strength for United Nations, further steps toward federation in Europe, armistice in Korea but possible similar wars elsewhere, no general war.

Mayor Alfred Loucks predicted steady progress on municipal projects already started plus a start on new street bridges, some widening and resurfacing of heavily traveled streets.

On education, Vice President Robert W. Fenix of Willamette predicted closer scrutiny of athletic policies, less construction, lower enrollments, continuation of decentralized research in smaller universities, development of educational uses for television.

Washington Mirror

Oregon Farm Income Gains Below Average

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Statesman Correspondent

WASHINGTON—American farm incomes from all agricultural products during the first 11 months of 1951 climbed 15 per cent, but for Oregon farmers the increase amounted to only 5.8 per cent.

Oregon livestock growers, however, enjoyed an increase in cash receipts of 22 per cent, a figure that held true across the nation. But cash receipts from marketing of all other Oregon farm commodities dropped seven per cent this year as compared with last.

Other statistics, contained in the latest report of the U.S.D.A. Bureau of Agricultural Economics on the farm income situation, revealed that:

Nationally, receipts from poultry and eggs were up 30 per cent, meat animals 23 per cent, and dairy products 17 per cent.

Fruits and tree nuts showed a slight decline from \$1,300 billion to \$1,031 billion; vegetables as a whole increased from \$1,280 billion to \$1,399 billion.

Other crops varied as well. Truck crops, cotton and soybeans each brought from 20 to 25 per cent more in total receipts, but these gains were partly offset by lower receipts from wheat, corn, peanuts, potatoes and sorghums for grain.

The general increase of 15 per cent in farm incomes allowed the farmer to keep pace with the inflationary trend in prices of non-farm products, the report stated. It said wholesale prices of non-farm products increased on the average of 14 per cent during the first 11 months of 1951.

The 15 per cent increase in farm receipts accrued from a slightly larger volume of market commodities, plus an average increase in prices of about 14 per cent.

STRIKE BEGINS EMBARGO

NOR OLK, Va. (AP)—Two railroads ordered an embargo on export coal shipments in Norfolk as a strike of 250 tugboat workers brought harbor business to a virtual standstill Tuesday.

Pastor Niemoeller Arrives for Week Visit in Moscow

MOSCOW (AP)—Pastor Martin Niemoeller, West German Evangelical Church leader, arrived by a Soviet plane Wednesday for a week's visit at the invitation of the Russian Orthodox Church.

A militant anti-Nazi and advocate of East-West cooperation, Pastor Niemoeller was welcomed at the snowswept Vnukova airport by the bearded Archbishop Macari.

"I am very pleased to meet you," the pastor told the Archbishop through an interpreter. "I bring warm greetings from the German people to the people of Russia."

Hicks Praises Morale of GIs In Korean War

"Don't undersell the troops we have in Korea, either regulars or reserves," Leonard Hicks, Salem resident, just released from active duty, told Salem Exchange Club Wednesday.

Reviewing the 18 months of fighting in Korea, Hicks maintained American troops there are "grumbling less than the people at home." He added that they have lots of confidence in Generals Ridgway and Van Fleet and are not as pessimistic as people in the U.S.

The speaker added that though many do not agree with General MacArthur's extension of his forces far into Northern Korea last winter, "as an administrator MacArthur can't be beat."

Hicks declared that U. N. troops could beat the Chinese back out of Korea if allowed to strike at their Manchurian bases. The Chinese success in last winter's offensive he credited to a gap between Eighth Army and Tenth Corps lines.

Hicks, a member of the Exchange Club, commanded Salem's Battery C, 4th 103 mm Howitzer Battalion, when it went into active duty in August, 1950. While in service he rose from major to lieutenant colonel.

Hill Anthony, Ex-Salem USO Leader, Dies

Death of Hill Anthony, former Salem USO leader, in an accident at his home near Poulsbo, Wash., was learned by friends here Wednesday.

Anthony was reported killed instantly, just before Christmas, when a tree felled by a high wind struck him as he was cutting wood.

Anthony came here during World War II as program director for the USO center. He also was active in organizing a square dance group which continued and bears his name.

Survivors include the widow, two daughters and a son. Anthony had retired from USO and earlier YMCA work.

R. H. C. Bennett Sent to Prison For Larceny

R. H. C. Bennett, 65, ex-member of the Oregon Legislature from Yamhill County and for many years a farmer and attorney in the Yamhill area, entered the State Penitentiary here Dec. 21 to serve a five year term for larceny, prison officials said Wednesday.

He entered the prison, officials said, after he was convicted in the Yamhill County Circuit Court of stealing approximately \$3,000 from an estate for which he was the attorney.

Bennett previously was committed to the Oregon State Hospital on March 24, 1949, and was paroled June 20, 1950. He received his final discharge from the hospital last April. He was sent to the State Hospital by the Marion County Court while serving in the House of Representatives at the 1949 legislative session. He previously served at the 1937 and 1947 sessions.

The crime for which he was convicted in Yamhill County was committed prior to the time he entered the State Hospital.

Kelso to Head New Chemical Control Plan

Selection of Ray Kelso, State Agricultural Department employee, to have charge of supervising the new Agricultural Chemical Control Program, was announced Wednesday by Frank McKennon, chief of the State Agricultural Department's division of plant industry.

Kelso has been a shipping point inspector since 1948.

A three-day training course for all air operators who expect to engage in dusting or spraying for agricultural purposes and for all ground applicators of herbicides will open at Oregon State College Jan. 28.

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