

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us. No Fear Shall Awe"
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State Share in O & C Revenues?

The Oregonian offers the suggestion that the State of Oregon be cut in for a share of revenues from O & C lands. That's an idea which will appeal to half the counties of the state—the "have-not" counties; and be resisted by the other half—the "have" counties. There is historic foundation for the sharing, however. One of the bills passed since reversion cut in the state irreducible school fund for participation; but the 1937 act made provision only for the counties, aside from the federal treasury.

When the lands were on the taxrolls a state property tax was regularly levied on them and paid by the proprietor railroad. So if the theory of the sharing is in lieu of taxes a case could be made for state participation, although no state property tax has been levied since 1940.

Other counties have looked with envious eyes on the big divvy the O & C counties get—Lane's share may run to a million dollars if the ratio remains 75 per cent to counties and the Bureau of Land Management gets jurisdiction over the converted lands. That's a lot of money for a county budget—already the county judge there is talking about using it for a new courthouse as Douglas County did with its first big O & C windfall.

The controversy over cutting up the O & C pie is very sharp now as government agencies want to reduce the 75 per cent slice the counties get under the present law. To figure in the state will further complicate the politics and the mathematics. The state can claim a share on the basis of history and of need too; but no state official or legislator is coming forward to advance the state claim.

The point which The Statesman has sought to emphasize is the importance of these forest lands as an economic resource, which will help sustain the private economy if properly managed, as well as help public treasuries.

The McGrath Story

Arthur Krock, head of the Washington bureau of the New York Times, gives a detailed report of the events which led to the resignation of Attorney General McGrath. It begins with the cabinet meeting of March 28th when McGrath brought up the matter of the questionnaires which Newbold Morris was sending to high-placed government officials asking them to disclose facts about their sources of income. McGrath protested this was an unjustified invasion of privacy. After some discussion Pres. Truman directed that the questionnaires be held up pending a further conference which came April 2nd. In the interim McGrath offered his testimony before a House committee, sharply critical of Morris.

At the conference on April 2nd, reports Krock the President agreed with McGrath that Morris should be fired. They also agreed that Truman would issue an approving statement at the time that Morris was notified of his dismissal. But the latter failed to carry through on that. The ruckus at the airport was over the issuance of this statement by the President. His press secretary, Joe Short, vigorously protested. The next morning McGrath decided to act and wrote the letter firing Morris. In mid-afternoon he had a call from Truman telling him he would like to announce McGrath's resignation at his press conference, shortly due. McGrath said briefly, "You have it."

Krock winds up his story with this: "When, how and by whom the President was

Attempts at Federal Economy Hampered By Opposition to Hoover Commission Plan

BY ROBERT A. SMITH
Statesman Correspondent

WASHINGTON — That irate taxpayer with a flair for dramatics who stood up in a Farm Bureau meeting in Marysville, Calif., on Feb. 28, stripped to the waist and sent his shirt to his Congressmen in protest over taxes, really started a deluge.

But a useless one at best. His Congressman, Rep. Hubert Scudder (R-Cal.), has received 117 shirts from citizens who were urged to follow suit by the California Farm Bureau Federation. And four women got expensive enough to dispatch their girdles to the hapless legislator.

The stunt hit its peak about mid-March, as income tax day approached, but has since petered out. The Oregon Farm Bureau Federation tried reviving it two weeks ago when 22 directors of the organization met at Salem to peel off their shirts and send them to Sen. Wayne Morse, Reps. Lowell Stockman and Walter Norblad. Other members of the Oregon delegation reported receiving none.

A Washington Congressman reports receiving a pair of baby pants from a fellow who claimed he'd already lost his shirt to high taxes and all his son had left were the pint-sized britches. Another recalls during the late thirties when someone launched a "bundles-for-Congress" drive intended to poke fun at the movement in Congress which resulted in members being given old age retirement benefits.

The lamentable feature of the shirts-for-Congress crusade is not that it fell quite short of reaching sizable proportions, but that

it was aimed wrong. It would have been much more useful for these well meaning Farm Bureau members to have sent their shirts to the home office of their own organization, urging the American Farm Bureau Federation to get behind the recommendations of the Hoover Commission that would show actual dollar savings for all taxpayers and improve government efficiency.

The Citizens Committee for the Hoover Report estimates that a reorganization of the vast U. S. Department of Agriculture would cut USDA overhead by \$80 million—not just once, but every year. Yet legislation to carry out this reform has virtually been pigeonholed in Congress, largely because of failure of farm groups, such as the Farm Bureau, to get behind it. Secretary of Agriculture Brannan also opposes the plan, but it's not the disapproval of a cabinet member that deters Congress from acting.

The Veterans Administration, likewise, could be overhauled at an annual saving of \$90 million, but the American Legion has

Better English

By D. C. WILLIAMS

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "This is the man who I told you about yesterday."
2. What is the correct pronunciation of "heroine"?
3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Demitasse, demobilize, demijohn, demurage.
4. What does the word "immutable" mean?
5. What is a word beginning with ca that means "to burn"?

ANSWERS

1. Say, "This is the man about whom I told you."
2. Pronounce her-o-in, e as in bet, e as in obey unstressed, accent first syllable.
3. Demurage.
4. Unchangeable.
5. Cauterize.

fought the Citizens Committee for the Congressional standstill in its opposition to any VA changes. Major changes in the Interior Department and Army Corps of Engineers could cut the Federal budget by \$200 million each year. This involves consolidation of the flood control work of the Engineers and the reclamation work of the department, which is vigorously opposed by pork barrel lobbyists in practically every Congressional district, and particularly by Sen. McClellan (D-Ark.) who is chairman of the Senate committee on government operations. Not even a hearing has been held on the proposal.

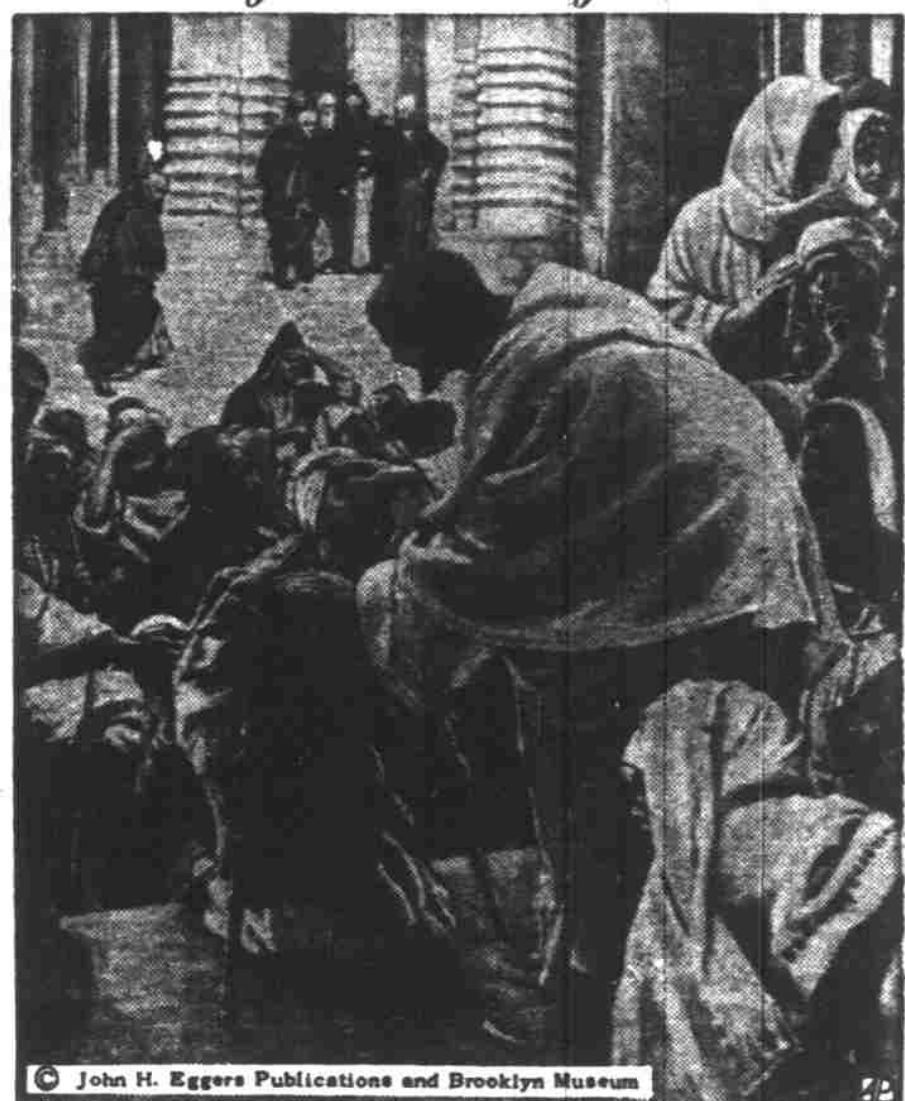
An estimated \$150 million would be saved every year by combining all government medical services into a Department of Health, as the Hoover Commission advocated. But a bill to enact this has been spurned by the biggest organization of doctors, the American Medical Association. No action has since been taken.

Other such reorganization proposals could save the taxpayers \$5.5 billion every year—if once approved by Congress. But Congress will not act without grassroots support, which heretofore has been woefully lacking in contrast to opposition of special interests.

About half the Hoover reforms have been put into operation by recent presidential plans and acts of Congress, resulting in an estimated \$2 billion savings. The remaining 50 per cent are the tough ones, and the ones that would save the most.

No one would rather cut government costs efficiently than members of Congress. So far better for the Farm Bureau, the Legion, the doctors and others to roll up their sleeves on this practical Hoover plan than simply stripping off their shirts in noisy, useless protest.

Today in Holy Week



John H. Eggers Publications and Brooklyn Museum

The blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.—Matthew 21:14. (Photograph of original painting by J. J. Tissot.)



WASHINGTON INTERVIEW

"Welcome to Washington, D. C., Mr. McGranery. If I may say so, that is a mighty fancy pair of asbestos trousers you have on there. Where in the world did you . . ."

"Thank you, sir. These non-inflammable pants WERE a little hard to come by on such short notice. In addition to this tweed pair, I have a pair cut for formal wear and a set designed for sports wear. This pair I have on comes equipped with a cushion seat—in case I get kicked out of my job unprepared."

"What is this gadget here, Mr. McGranery? It sorta looks like . . ."

"Why, that's a set of armor-plated underwear. To ward off sharp barbs, stabs-in-the-back and pointed remarks. I understand it's considered poor protocol to stand there and bleed in front of Congress. And this bulky package contains a portable garden-type plow. If anyone digs up the Amerasia case I intend to plow it right back under again."

"Well, you certainly came prepared . . ."

"That isn't all. Now, I have here a pair of blue denim overalls, liberally sprinkled with red, blue and gold paint. I intend to wear this to committee hearings to prove that I am not a whitewash artist, but a real painter artist. And I've brought along my own hammer, with which to dismantle the Morris plan. And this odd-shaped bundle is a portable oxygen mask for use in those endless closed hearings."

"How about that bundle there?"

"That contains a quantity of stainless steel prongs. If I am going to do any probing in Washington I want to do it in a sanitary way. I don't want to get any on me. These probes come in various sizes depending on the calibre of whatever it is I am probing. A short probe, we'll say, will do for government employees who are seen wearing red socks, and a longer probe for wealthy tax dodgers."

"I see you've come prepared to play baseball, Mr. McGranery. Isn't that a . . ."

"This catcher's mitt here will be used to catch brickbats and foul balls tossed my way. And this catcher's mask and belly-guard will come in handy when I run head-on into stiff opposition. I even brought my spiked shoes in case the . . ."

"Well, I think that'll be . . ."

" . . . opposition wants to get tough. This bottle of camphor will be used in case I get nipped in the bud. And these are a pair of plastic feet I intend to use as wedges if my enemies try to slam the door on me. This box contains non-erasable chalk—to help the FBI draw a line on me. And this bag there holds a . . ."

"Fine, Mr. McGranery. Guess I'll be . . ."

" . . . trick table. If they try to delay my appointment by laying it on THIS table, it'll collapse under their hands. And this object in my pocket is a saddle horn—in the event I am handed a loose rein. I also brought along with me four dozen extra shirt-sleeves, so that I may make lots of off-the-cuff statements. And in that large packing crate there . . ."

Political Parade

(Editor's note: Stories in the "Political parade" are written by or for the candidates, on invitation of The Oregon Statesman. And views expressed herein may or may not be in accordance with the opinion of this newspaper. Stories on candidates with opposition in the primaries are published on page 1 each day.)

Today's Subject:

LOUIS W. PLUMMER

Candidate for

POLK TREASURER (R)

Louis W. Plummer, Republican candidate for treasurer of Polk County, is cost accountant for the county roads department and for the last five years has been located in the office of the county treasurer and is familiar with the duties of the county treasurer and is well qualified to do the work of that official.

Congressional Quiz

Q—Can Congressmen spot "inspired" letters—written at the prodding of some organization trying to get a bill passed or defeated?

A—Legislative offices say the "inspired" mail is easily recognized. The letters usually follow the same pattern of wording, argument and timing. Much of such mail consists of printed postcards or form messages which the citizen merely signs and mails. Legislators queried by Congressional Quarterly felt that some of the letters on universal military training—the biggest mail issue of the first quarter of 1952—was inspired, but most of it was genuine.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page one)

is reminiscent of the Liberty League campaign in the mid-1930s, led by John J. Raskob and Al Smith who had soured on Franklin Roosevelt. That failed; and I think the new version with MacArthur as the champion will fail. Voters instinctively turn away from the drives of powerful financial interests who think they can sway opinion by big outlays of money for propaganda.

We'll have a trial run in this state of MacArthur sentiment. His name appears on the Republican ballot in the May primary. It was put there by his friends although the General is reported to have objected. This time MacArthur supporters will not have to write in his name. With Taft's name off the Oregon ballot the General will not have to share the votes of conservatives. True, no active campaign in his behalf is yet set up; but one might be at the last moment. Here in Oregon we'll have a showdown between the Five Star General, MacArthur and Eisenhower.

We shall see whether in this state the MacArthur sentiment really jells when voters have a chance to give him their preference. It is my prediction that he will win only a small proportion of the total vote in Oregon. And the more copies of his Jackson, Miss. speech are circulated, the fewer votes he will get. It is the Jeremiah of a jaundiced but ambitious old man who is entranced by his sense of destiny and beguiled by flatterers.

GRIN AND BEAR IT by Lichty



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"Now . . . I didn't vote! . . . drove by the polls on the way over but there was a line half a block long, so I didn't bother to wait . . ."

NATURAL RUBBER FUTURE SECURE

PENANG, Malaya (AP) — An American rubber trade leader says synthetic rubber will never pose a threat to natural rubber because it cannot meet demand. Fred Koyie, chairman of New York Rubber Trade Association, said here because demand for natural rubber is increasing yearly, there is a bright future for Malayan rubber. He also said there should be an all-round exchange of information among the United States, Britain and Malaya.

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