

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.

Senate Has a Bad Day

Senators showed they were unwilling to sacrifice their patronage prerogative by accepting the reorganization plan which would have taken postmasters out of politics. Though recommended by the Hoover commission and submitted by President Truman the Senate voted 56 to 29 to kill the plan. So instead of being put entirely under civil service the postmasters will continue as at present—partly in, partly out. Senators still will have the right to reject presidential appointments, and so their patronage lever is retained.

This was not the major recommendation of the Hoover commission on reorganization of the postoffice department, but its defeat clips off just that much of the advantage which the whole plan would give. Until there is a thorough-going overhaul of the department, greater mechanization of its operations and modernization as recommended by the Commission, huge deficits will continue and probably will mount.

Another bad move of the Senate Wednesday was to send the bill for the St. Lawrence Seaway back to the Foreign Relations committee. This effectively kills the bill for this session, since its chairman, Tom Conally is a bitter foe of this seaway. It may also mean that the United States will miss the opportunity of sharing with Canada in this development because the latter country has served notice it will proceed on its own if the USA will not join.

The seaway and the power projects were separate features of the St. Lawrence development. A sharp fight is in progress over the power development, whether to let it be done by private companies or not. The seaway drew strong opposition from the Atlantic terminal cities and from railroads serving them. It had the strong support of the Great Lakes states and cities.

The imminence of heavy traffic in moving Labrador iron ore upstream from dumps on the lower river to the steel mills in the Pittsburgh-Cleveland-Chicago area should have been enough to tip the scales in favor of U. S. participation in this development. That seemed to make it fully justifiable from an economic standpoint. We may rue the day we let the chance slip. Now Canada may get on with the job—and we will help pay for it with tolls.

Passing of Old Courthouse

The passing of the old courthouse, soon to fall before the axes of wreckers will spill a lot of sentiment, for folk of Marion County have become warmly attached to this familiar landmark. Its utility as a seat for the conduct of county business, however, is spent; and removing it to another site in order to preserve it seemed quite impractical.

The building is a copybook replica of the French townhall style of architecture. Its Mansard roof is definitely French. Its ornamental details are mixed, however—its fluted columns with floral capitals are Corinthian.

The old courthouse has served well for nearly three-quarters of a century. It must give way to another more spacious and more nearly fire-proof. The new follows modern design; but as folk grow up under it they will develop an attachment to it. And the new building should stand for many times the 75 years of the life of the old one.

Many though will not want to be around when

Sen. McMahon Uses Promise of Thousand Hydrogen Bombs in Drive for Presidency

By JOSEPH and STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON — The nightmare of our times was unconsciously pointed out, the other day, by Sen. E. Bruce McMahon, of Connecticut. When he announced his Presidential candidacy, the Senator offered the construction of a thousand hydrogen bombs as the chief point in his political program. Mass production of weapons of total destruction is certainly an odd ball to dangle before the electorate; yet Sen. McMahon was not exactly talking through his hat.

The truth is that mass output of super-bombs is probably not very far off. An Austrian physicist published the basic theory more than a decade ago. The theory had been elaborated and refined, and was being actively argued in the scientific inner circle, when Klaus Fuchs was still working at Los Alamos. And today the practical problems have been largely solved, and the testing stage is at hand.

It is important to realize that the successful construction of a true super-bomb will be a development surpassing the construction of the atomic bomb, in the same way that the atomic bomb surpassed the World War II blockbuster. The two weapons are different in principle. The atomic bomb depends upon nuclear fission of the huge atoms of uranium or plutonium. The super-bomb depends upon the nuclear fusion of the small atoms of hydrogen.

Above all, the two weapons are different in potential. The last

Eniwetok bomb had a power of over 100 kilotons, which is the scientists' language for the explosive force of 100,000 tons of high explosive. This is something near the limit of an atomic bomb.

In contrast, the first true super-bomb to be detonated is expected to have a power of two megatons, which is the equivalent of the explosive force of 2,000,000 tons of high explosive. Moreover, this is not the end. There are complex limitations of mechanism, and limits on the size of the super-bomb that can be delivered to a distant target. None the less, the two-megaton bomb can theoretically become the precursor of even greater and more terrible weapons.

The confident anticipation that a two-megaton bomb can now be constructed represents a change in scientific opinion. As first disclosed in this space, the first hydrogen fusion bomb will be detonated at Eniwetok at the end of the summer. This experimental model will not be the true super-bomb, however. Until very recently, there was the most widespread doubt among the best qualified scientists that the true super-bomb could and would ever be built. The vital recent development is that this doubt has been resolved, and that the super-bomb is definitely in prospect.

The character of this weapon which is in prospect goes beyond what the normal human imagination can comprehend. The two-megaton bomb will achieve total destruction in an area of just under 100 square miles. It will devastate by blast an area just under 180 square miles. In its single explosion, a whole vast megalopolis, a great modern capital, can be wiped from the face of the earth with almost the finality of the end of the cities of the plain.

Within the American government, even the anticipation of this weapon is already causing controversy and heart-searching. Improvements in design have

made it possible for speedy light bombers and even long-range fighters to carry atomic bombs. These means of delivery are both vastly more economical and vastly better calculated to penetrate enemy air defenses than the huge and costly strategic Air Force. Hence a growing school in the Air Staff has been advocating a change-over.

But the super-bomb depends for its power on the quantity of heavy isotopes of hydrogen that is exploded in it. It is necessarily large, and the more powerful it is, the larger it is. It cannot be carried by light planes. Hence Gen. Curtis LeMay is not merely opposing any change in the composition of the Strategic Air Force. He is even demanding authorization for eleven additional wings of the largest jet bombers. These wings would cost somewhere between \$10,000,000 and \$15,000,000,000, and on the basis of the present budget, they would knock the rest of the Air Force program into a cocked hat.

Meanwhile, the State Department's Advisory Committee on Disarmament, including such eminent scientists as Dr. Vannevar Bush and Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, has also raised its voice. Because of the super-bomb, the committee is insisting that a bold new effort must be made to explore the possibility of a disarmament agreement with the Soviet Union.

One reason for this, in turn, is the extreme probability that the Soviets will have a super-bomb of their own almost as soon as we shall. They started with the same knowledge. While our hydrogen bomb development was kept in low gear for several post-war years, theirs was almost surely in high gear. So, the fact that this weapon is now in prospect cuts two ways, and cuts very deep. Altogether, the development herein reported promises to change the shape of our world, and it is time that someone said so.

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SADDLE OF PAINT AND R-R-RIDE!



Editorial Comment

CONTINUOUS CREATION
There are about a hundred million galaxies—colossal swirls of stars. How were they created? Even before the war Fred Hoyle, Hermann Bondi and Thomas Gold, three bold, bright young mathematicians of Cambridge University, decided that the original star-stuff was still lying around in the black spaces of the universe and that new galaxies were being formed. If this is so the notion of a universe that is dying or running down like a clock, a notion fostered by Edington and Jeans, is wrong. So is the notion that the matter in the universe was created all of a sudden. The self-renewing universe of Hoyle, Bondi and Gold was so startling that astrophysicists rejected it. Now comes the Astronomer Royal, Sir Harold Spencer Jones, with a pronouncement in its favor.

The raw stuff of creation was hydrogen, the most plentiful element in the universe. Mueen left, says Hoyle—about an atom of it in every pint of space. This is not much to buyers of milk but a lot when all space is considered. Hoyle holds that this vast reserve must be embarrassing to those who follow Edington in believing that at first matter was concentrated in a small space and that it then began to expand. There seems no doubt that the universe is expanding. But is this balloon of a universe finite or infinite in size? From the mathematical work of Hoyle, Bondi and Gold it seems that the age of the universe and the volume of space are infinite. The galaxies disappear in the expanding universe, and the most powerful telescope can never reveal what becomes of them. But other galaxies are formed out of the hydrogen lying around.

All this does not mean that the expanding universe of the relativists is a myth. In fact, expansion and creation proceed together. Under the new dispensation space simply stretches as the universe expands, so that there is no difficulty in accounting for the new matter that is being formed. If we cannot actually behold the process of creation it is because it takes a thousand million years to add a new atom to each pint of space, according to Hoyle and his colleagues. Under the Edington-Jeans dispensation it will not matter much to us if the end of all, billions and billions of years hence, was stagnation, a gloomy "heat death." Somehow it is comforting to think that the universe will go on forever.—(New York Times)



Now that Salem voters have approved a second senior high school, another burning question arises to give school board officials an additional headache. To wit: What to name the new school. There'll be an outcry from the citizenry if the new educational edifice is called "South Salem High," and the present high school on 14th Street is left just plain old "Salem High" (thus still packing the weight as THE high school of Salem.) And trouble also is foreseen if the new school is named after a famous person, dear to the hearts of school children (like Jersey Joe Walcott or Jane Russell). Because then it wouldn't be carrying the honored title of the city while the present one still would, etc.



Some officials say the only out is to name the new school "South Salem High" and the present one "North Salem High." No one knows what the residents in East and West Salem will say to that.

And, of course, other kingsized brain-busters will plague school officials from an administrative standpoint. When the new school is erected how will the athletic equipment be divided? And will the geographical division of students throw all the good athletes, debaters and hot-rod experts into one school? Then there is the matter of distributing teachers to each school—some already want to teach in the new school.

The State Capitol switchboard is so besieged these days with calls from bonus-hungry veterans that if you ask for the "State Veterans Affairs Dept.," the headfone gals will automatically ask: "Bonus division, sir?" . . . And in addition to the actual check each bonus envelope also will contain: (a) A reminder from the Treasury Dept. to invest the cash in bonds, (b) A list of other benefits available to Oregon veterans, and (c) The nameplate containing info on how the bonus is computed. This means that while the veteran is reading all this literature his wife can sneak out and cash his check.

Friends of Jason Lee, up-and-coming attorney, did not faint with surprise when Jason resigned the State Tax Commission the other day. The feeling there has been unmutual ever since the ruckus over the deal involving that Japanese-American several months ago—a deal unfavorably by Lee . . . Harold Roessler, employment office mgr., believes in picking what he preaches. After releasing reports about the current shortage of strawberry pickers, Harold hied his wife and three youngsters into a berry patch that night after work . . .

GRIN AND BEAR IT by Lichty



"Too bad they picked a woman as class orator . . . they could have guessed that the topic would be her latest operation . . ."

Congressional Quiz

Q—How many Congressmen lined up behind either Taft or Eisenhower for President?

A—A Congressional Quarterly survey of lawmakers who have publicly announced support of one or the other of these two candidates showed 13 Senators and 22 House members in the camp of Sen. Robert A. Taft (R-Ohio) and 11 Senators and 24 House members who have come out publicly for Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, as of June 1.

Q—Do the "Ike men" or "Taft men" in Congress vote most often with the majority of Republicans?

A—Generally, Taft supporters have higher party unity percentages than do the Eisenhower backers, according to Congressional Quarterly's analysis of how many times they voted their party majority on party-line roll-call votes. But the "Ike men" have higher bipartisan support percentages—that is, they tend more to stand with the majority when most members of both parties vote the same way.

Q—Does the foreign aid bill make any provision for stimulating the European economy?

A—The Senate agreed May 28 to an amendment offered by Blair Moody (D-Mich.) and 26 other Senators to use \$150 million in matching funds put up by recipient countries as a revolving fund for loans to European business men who showed a willingness to increase productivity. This would also strike at Communist-dominated labor unions, Moody said, by helping Europeans to "build the sort of economy in which the distortions and seduction of Red agents will fall on barren ground."

Q—Why is Hoover calling for a new "Hoover Commission" to study ways of streamlining the government?

A—The former President said a new commission should be appointed to check on the unfinished tasks in reorganizing the government, and to study new problems in the federal setup due to the defense program. Hoover made the suggestion June 3 in a letter to Chairman

William M. Dawson (D-Ill.) of the House Expenditures Committee studying 29 bills to carry out most of the remaining reforms proposed three years ago by the commission head by Mr. Hoover.

Q—Do Congressmen have an old-age pension plan?

A—Since 1946 Congressmen have been entitled to contribute six per cent of their salaries to a fund which provides pensions to retired members 62 years old. To be eligible, a Congressman must have six years of service and must have contributed to the fund for five years. The 66 former members of Congress now on pension get from \$1,825 to \$6,500, depending on length of service. The average is \$3,328. (Copyright 1952, Cong. Quarterly)

Gen. Ridgway Repeats Germ War Denial

ROME (AP)—A strong denial, intended to answer once and for all Communist charges of germ warfare, was voiced by Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway Tuesday.

But Palmiro Togliatti, secretary of Italy's Communist party, went right on repeating the charges and threatened another Nuernberg trial for bacteriological "war criminals."

Ridgway, the new Atlantic Pact commander in Europe, spoke at the airport en route to Naples after two days of Communist efforts to whip up anti-Ridgway demonstrations here had fizzled.

"As the former commander in chief of the United Nations Command in Korea, as God is my witness, I tell you that no element of that command employed any form of germ warfare at any time and that all the so-called proofs, including photographs, were manufactured by the Communists themselves," said Ridgway. He read from a prepared statement.

His voice shaking with emotion, he added "I know of no better illustration of the deliberate use of deliberately fabricated falsehood by Communist leadership than their charges that the United Nations command employed germ warfare in Korea."

4-H SESSION NEAR

CORVALLIS (AP)—A 10-day 4-H club summer session will open on the Oregon State College Campus here Wednesday. Some 1750 youngsters from throughout Oregon are expected.

Tele-fun by Warren Goodrich



"Wait at least a minute for Junior to answer. Only yesterday he soloed for the first time!" . . . You'll complete more calls if you always give your friends plenty of time to answer. . . Pacific Telephone.

The Safety Valve

SUGGESTIONS INVITED FOR REPUBLICAN PLATFORM

To the Editor: May we utilize this means to ask members of the Republican party in Oregon to forward any suggestions they might have on the 1952 party platform?

We have a responsibility to serve all of the Republicans in this state when we represent them on the Platform Committee in Chicago.

Address either of us as indicated below until the first of July (after that date, c/o Palmer House, Chicago). We pledge ourselves to consider each suggestion carefully.

Sincerely yours,
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