

# The Oregon Statesman

FOUNDED 1851

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

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## Substitute for Property Tax

The Eugene Register-Guard renews its expression of disrespect for the property tax. Difficulties of equitable appraisal lead economists to condemn it. Yet the property tax has shown great durability, perhaps because it can't walk off and escape the impost.

The Register-Guard suggests this alternative:

Abolish the property tax as such; the Angel Gabriel couldn't determine true value accurately or equitably, much less keep up with changes.

Substitute a graduated service charge against every piece of property in the state with NO EXEMPTIONS.

Base all other charges against property on what the property EARNs, an income tax.

Immediately there springs to mind the objection that unproductive property (vacant lots, buildings, idle farms, standing timber) would escape all taxes based on earnings. This of course is a swing to the far extreme from the single tax idea which Henry George propounded as a solution not only of the tax question but of economics. That theory called for taxing the "unearned increment" to prevent the holding of idle land for speculative gain. This theory gained wide currency—Oregon voted on single tax measures in 1908 and 1912.

An income tax on property would permit the escape of non-income producing property even though it had real market value, and would deny stability of income to taxing units. In poor crop years farms would contribute little; in good crop years they would have heavy taxes. That might be easier for the farmers but it would give uncertainty for public revenues.

Then we wonder how a "graduated service charge" would be applied. What would be the basis of the graduation? Would that not also involve appraisals with the same defects of human judgment, special influence or official inertia to impair the value of the appraisals?

The personal property tax is one we ought to get away from; but we see little chance to get away from the real property tax, and think it still has virtue in spite of its critics.

## Report on Korea, Japan

One of the important features in Oregon journalism this year was the reporting on Korea and Japan by Herman Edwards, military editor of the Oregonian. He spent several weeks in the Far East, got in touch with units whose personnel was chiefly from the Northwest, flew with airmen, visited front line areas, and spent time in Japan trying to feel the pulse of affairs there. The articles he wrote were interesting and informing, with a commendable freedom from bias.

Japan, wrote Edwards, has made a great recovery from its war injury. Relations between the Japanese and Americans have been surprisingly friendly considering their earlier hostility. How long the Japanese will follow the democratic forms is a question which some answer by predicting their short life. However the events of the war and postwar periods have left a lasting imprint on the Japanese people.

Edwards, in his final article, reported the feeling of frustration which grips the Americans in Korea. With no "goal" in sight and an arm-

ist elusive soldiers are disposed to wait the time out until their rotation home is due. A good reporter, Edwards wisely avoids a venture into prophecy.

Textile workers struck and rioted in Egypt. The army which now is boss warned them to pipe down, declaring that further disturbance would be regarded as high treason. That is what happens in situations such as exist in the Middle East. Tilt the lid a little and the demons of revolution pour out. The poor textile workers doubtless figured that if the fellahin (tenant farmers) were to fare better they should too. If the workers and peasants really become aroused revolutionary chaos may result.

These political exchanges between Democrats and Republicans are chiefly shadow-boxing to keep publicity flowing in the summer season. The heavy campaigning is reserved for September and October. Even then it will seem out of character for Ike and Stevenson to go at each other in an old-fashioned slugfest.

Oregon residents who have suffered little from earthquakes are apt to joke at California's earth shivers. When they read that Bakersfield's schoolhouses have suffered damages in the amount of \$3,000,000 from recent quakes they should understand that an earthquake is not a laughing matter.

The Ashland Tidings reports attendance at the Shakespearean festival running 25 per cent above 1951. That's fine, giving the financial support which is needed in addition to compliments on the performances. The festival will continue through Aug. 29th.

We are not worried over the report that the Communists have tried to infiltrate into the Boy Scouts. They may have tried, but they will not get very far. Scout leaders are too sensible, and the Scout oath of loyalty to God and country bars out Communism.

The Truman-Stevenson conference lasted three hours. The report said they discussed foreign policy—for twenty minutes. It's easy to guess what they talked about in the remaining two hours and forty minutes.

Crochet old Senator McKellar of Tennessee was defeated for renomination. That's good news on the Mc's: One down and two to go—McCarthy and McCarran.

Spelling is important. After all there's a big difference between being a reckless and a wreckless driver.

Some of Stevenson's advisers want to pull the airbrake cord before Truman's whistle-stop special even gets started.

The U. S. and Britain are to confer again on the Iran question but more than just Mossadegh will faint if anything much comes of it.

Great Britain is planning an airplane with a three-floor elevator. It was not announced whether there would be a bargain basement.

## Camp Fire Girls Selling Fair Bugs Today



Camp Fire Girls in Salem, Dallas, Mill City and other Willamette Valley towns today and Saturday will sell the colorful fishing-fly-like State Fair Bug on city streets, advertising the 57th Oregon State Fair which opens Aug. 29. Edward Mjelke (left) chairman of the Salem Chamber of Commerce Fair Committee, is shown holding a large size version of the lured decoration. Camp Fire girls with him are Barbara Glenn, 1335 Lee St.; Jeannie Roberts, 1443 S. Commercial St.; Jean Ayres, 2645 Maple St.; Ann Moler, 1810 N. Cottage St.; and Miss Enid Wolcott, girls' adviser.

## The Safety Valve

Replies to Letter On Teen-Age Drivers To the Editor:

Contrary to the opinions in a recent letter in this column which expressed amusement at comments on the traffic situation in Salem, I see nothing at all amusing about any of it. I think the situation is grave, and one of vital interest to every mother and father. Having repeatedly had the right-of-way taken away from me, in the middle of a cross walk, while crossing the street, I view with some misgivings the approach of school season when the small fry start to school. I quite agree with another recent letter about the traffic on High and Mission and elsewhere. I also live on a corner where I see plenty of the younger set doing what I call "crazy driving." I do not blame the traffic patrolman either for the trouble on our new (speedways, shall we call them) one-way streets.

No, the traffic cop is not the answer to the problem of teenage drivers. Their education should begin in the home, with the parents as examples. My first thought, when I see the hot rod driver performing his, where are his folks, do they know or care? Of course the teen-agers aren't all to blame, but to quote from a recent article in August Family Circle entitled, "Let's make teenage driving safe," this article says in part:

"Teen-agers represent only 10 per cent of all automobile drivers, but they have 11 per cent (or 10 per cent more than their share) of all accidents, and 16 per cent (or 80 per cent more than their share) of all fatal accidents, according to the Liberty Mutual Insurance Company." Insurance companies are charging more for insuring cars driven by teen-agers.

Let's wake up, parents, before it's too late, in your home or mine. A light application of "The Golden Rule" might help.

Mrs. Alfred H. Turner  
1097 So. Liberty.

Suggests Hot-Rod Club To the Editor:

I have been following the articles in this paper the last week pertaining to safe driving in Salem, and I've been trying to discover what I consider would be a good solution to this problem. Other cities have just such difficulties as ours.

I do know that preventing teenagers from driving would be almost impossible as well as

useless. The so-called "hot-rod" is anything but a race driver with a noisy car. If he is a true "hot-rodder," his one concern is to own a safe car for good performance on our highways.

Eugene, just seventy miles from Salem, has found a helpful guiding body for teenagers of this city. A group of young fellows, having a common interest in cars and driving, have formed a club, with the full support of city officials and police officers. This organization has curbed a large percentage of excessive speed and reckless driving in Eugene.

Clubs such as this will not answer all our traffic safety problems where teenagers are concerned, but they do provide a helping hand, which is certainly necessary in this age of speed.

Curley Kannler  
1363 Elm St.

# IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued From Page One)

The latter train teachers for the schools, so there should be a close relationship between them. It is not advisable to draw on public school administrators exclusively; neither is it desirable always to draw on professors of education when executive positions in colleges of education are to be filled. A "mixture" ought to be healthful however, wedding the fruit of experience "at the front" with the theory of the college textbook and classroom. Bennett is well grounded in the principles of education but his years in city school administration have given him an insight into the actual work of teaching in public schools. So he can enter his position with a good balance of judgment, to the great advantage of the state's teacher-training program.

The Salem district has a good organization which can carry on successfully until the board selects a successor to Bennett. It will be hard put however, to find one of his capacity.

## Ex-Bigamist Marries Again

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Ding Dong Daddy of the D line has married again, for the 15th time.

Francis H. Van Wie, 66, was wed Aug. 5 in Las Vegas, Nev., to Amelia Pritchard, 73-year-old Los Angeles widow, they disclosed Wednesday.

Van Wie served a San Quentin prison term for bigamy. He wooed his brides while he was a conductor on San Francisco's "D" Street car line, but neglected the court formalities in divorcing himself from them.

When he testified for himself in his trial, he estimated that he had been wed 12 or 13 times. He was given three 10-year prison terms but was paroled two years after his conviction in 1945.

## Saturday Meters Bring Protest from 7th Day Adventists

SPRINGFIELD, Ore. (AP)—Parking meters are worrying churchgoers in this city.

The Rev. Raymond Cales of the Seventh Day Adventist church, clutching a parking ticket, asked the city council to free members of his church from the need of feeding the meters during Saturday services. Other worshippers, who observe the Sabbath on Sunday, he argued, have no such worries, since meter regulations are waived on Sundays. The council asked its police committee to study the problem.

## Republicans Differ Over Policy Setup

By J. M. ROBERTS Jr.  
Associated Press News Analyst

There is some maneuvering in the Republican campaign camp over how the policy of containing Russia should be supplemented by a campaign for liberation of the satellite nations.

Rep. Charles Kersten of Wisconsin wanted General Eisenhower to proclaim the liberation program, but the candidate's subsequent statement merely endorsed the Wilsonian policy of self-determination of peoples and promised to encourage the hope of freedom among them.

Kersten would begin with propaganda and organization of volunteer military units among political refugees to serve with the Western Allies.

But he is obviously looking also toward the encouragement of revolt and supply of anti-Communist forces within the countries.

Eisenhower, by not going all out on those lines, stuck to precedent established by the State Department.

The diplomats hold that containment is not a good descriptive word for what they are doing. Holding operation might be better, with its implication of developments to follow.

The development for which they hope most directly is that Russia, once faced with the military power being developed during the holding operation, will automatically be required to change her tactics.

Until they see what that change involves, the diplomats do not want to freeze on to any ideas based on hypothetical questions.

Russia is in complete control of the satellite armies in Europe. To talk of revolt there under foreseeable circumstances is out of the question.

The only thing that could be done is to prepare guerrillas for

a possible general war, and that might help to precipitate it. And it would confuse liberation with the most immediate demand, which is the defense of what remains unconquered. Britain and Africa had to be saved before France could be liberated. Nevertheless, the day is approaching when the problem of what to do after containment will be uppermost. Co-existence between two heavily-armed camps, with its constant drainage from the national economies for military replacements, is a pipe dream.

All such arms races as the present one have ended in war, and the odds are that this one will. The Allies are taking the short end of the odds because, by their democratic natures, they must. And because of the terrible consequences if history should repeat.

Pending establishment of a balance of power, the Allies lie open to the threat of conquest by a government which, unlike those of the West, has the power to make war without consulting the wishes of its people.

With a balance of power, there will be two major alternatives, one will be war, a breaking by one side or the other of the chains of fear, economic overloading and spiritual futility.

The other will be a change in Russia. That is not impossible. Vast changes could come through the deaths of Russian leaders.

## Better English

By D. C. WILLIAMS

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "The data is insufficient, and I can only deal with actual facts."

2. What is the correct pronunciation of "manes" (spirits)?

3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Lethargy, lison, leisure, limitation.

4. What does the word "exorcise" mean?

5. What is a word beginning with comm that means "to pity"?

ANSWERS

1. Say, "The data are insufficient, and I can deal only with facts (omit actual)." 2. Pronounce ma-nez, as in mail, e as in ease, accent first syllable. Lison. 4. To expel or drive off an evil spirit. "The natives imagined he was exorcising the devil." Commiserate.

## Both Parties '1952 Civil Rights Pledges Bear Big Resemblance to Unredeemed' 48 Promises

WASHINGTON — Neither the Republicans nor the Democrats could deliver on their 1948 platform promises on civil rights. But both parties are promising about the same thing again in 1952.

In 1948 both parties said they would pass civil rights legislation, with particular endorsement for some form of FEPC (Fair Employment Practices Commission). In the four years that followed, however, neither party was able to deliver, according to a Congressional Quarterly study comparing 1948 and 1952 platforms of the major parties with their records in Congress.

The closest either party came to making good its promise was the largely Republican vote in the House which was sufficient to gain approval for a non-compulsory FEPC. Most Democrats in the House voted against it. The Senate took no floor action on the measure, so the proposal died.

Even so, both parties again in 1952 endorsed some form of such federal fair employment legislation. Neither party promised compulsory FEPC legislation, and both apparently were willing to leave the matter to the states to some degree. But federal legislation on the issue was pledged.

The Democratic platform for 1952 also pledges to modify the Senate rule on debate. Under the present rule, filibusters have repeatedly defeated attempts at strong federal civil rights legislation. Modification of the rule probably would be designed to make it easier to place a limit on debate in the Senate, where it now takes a two-thirds vote to do so.

As in 1948, both parties in 1952 said they would eliminate poll taxes and pass anti-lynching measures. Neither party delivered on such past promises.

In other fields both parties generally were more successful in living up to their 1948 platforms than they were in civil rights.

On foreign policy and foreign aid, both endorsed generally similar programs in their 1948 and 1952 platforms, but they did not advocate exactly the same details of execution.

In 1948, the Democrats endorsed

sed the Marshall Plan and regional security agreements within the charter of the United Nations, while the GOP advocated mutual aid on a self-help basis "to other peace-loving nations" and collective security arrangements against aggression.

The 1952 Democratic platform advocates a continuation of present economic and military aid programs and further states that "we will not abandon the one-free peoples of Central and Eastern Europe" now under control of Russia.

The Republican platform for 1952 emphasizes aid to Western Europe under a plan which will neither "bankrupt" nor "isolate" the United States.

During the past four years both parties gave Congressional approval to continuation of Marshall Plan aid. In 1952, however, Congress reduced funds for the program, with Republicans voting for the cut, Democrats against.

In the field of veterans legislation, both parties in 1948 promised legislation giving adequate benefits to veterans. In 1952 they both pledge improved benefits, especially for Korea veterans.

In the four years between the two platforms, both parties in Congress approved increased benefits and gave Korea veterans benefits similar to those which were previously in effect for World War II veterans.

On the controversial issue of Universal Military Training and the draft, neither party directly touched the subject in either the 1948 or 1952 platforms. After the outbreak of war in Korea in 1950, both parties approved such a program, but in 1952 a bill to establish UMT was killed in the House.

The much-debated matter of taxes places the parties a little further apart this year than they were in 1948.

The Democrats in their 1952 platform promise to reduce taxes when the nation's security permits, and go on record as opposing a federal sales tax. The GOP pledges to reduce tax by the elimination of waste and also advocates a special study for the purpose of reallocating the tax-

ing authority among federal, state and municipal governments. In the 1952 plans, Democrats favor mandatory supports of 90 per cent or more, while Republicans call for "full parity prices ... in the market place."

The labor planks of both platforms in 1948 and 1952 focus sharply upon the Taft-Hartley Act. The Democrats both times pledged to repeal it. The GOP promised each time to keep Taft-Hartley, but the 1952 Republican plank advocates amendments to the law as experience shows they are needed.

In the past four years, Republicans in Congress were successful in blocking Democratic attempts to repeal Taft-Hartley. Minor amendments of the measure got approval from both parties.

Republican platform writers seemingly had more reservations than did the Democrats on the subject of federal public health legislation both in 1948 and 1952. In 1948 the Democrats called for "enactment of a national health program for expanded medical research, medical education and hospitals and clinics." The 1952 party plank advocates federal aid for medical education, hospitals, preventive programs and health services—the last especially for rural areas.

The Republicans in 1948 stressed the need for only that federal health legislation which fits in with a competitive economy and advocated federal-state programs of hospital construction, care for the mentally ill and maternal and child health. The 1952 GOP plank opposes compulsory federal health insurance and supports federal aid for hospital construction and research programs.

During 1949 through 1952, Congress voted two-party approval for measures increasing federal aid to states for hospitals and establishing research programs on five classifications of disease. Extension of social security benefits to more people got approval of both platforms in 1948 and 1952. And both parties agreed on such legislation in Congress each year after 1948.

## GRIN AND BEAR IT by Lichty



"We must not take a defeatist attitude, comrades... look how long the Republicans have been waiting to take over the country..."

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