

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.

Brief for (Slow) Inflation

Prof. Sumner Slichter of Harvard University, argues, in an article in the current Harper's Magazine, that "a slowly rising price level is actually preferable to a stable price level." He contends that price stability may be achieved only at the price of "chronic unemployment or drastic intervention by the government in the relations between employers and employees." The country can't afford a recession, not only because of its internal damage but because it would force a curtailment of our imports to the detriment of our allies, exposing them to communist revolution.

Government intervention to halt recessions means that each revival of business will start from a higher price level than before. This means that prices work higher. In other words the realities of modern life point to the continuance (with government sanction) of inflationary forces. This prospect is heightened by the power of organized labor with its ability to resist wage cuts and to exert pressures for higher wages.

Inflation of course works an injustice to those living on fixed incomes, or who have their wealth invested in cash, in bank deposits, mortgages or bonds. But Slichter argues that the reverse—deflation—also works grave injustice in creating unemployment and losses to those holding commodities or property whose values shrink or those with debts in fixed sums.

Slichter's defense is of a "slowly rising price level." That actually is what we have had in this country from the beginning, with interruptions of business recessions and depressions from time to time. What we have had since 1939 is galloping inflation which has weighed heavily on individuals and institutions with fixed incomes. The trick is to put brakes on inflation. Governments rarely will attempt this, so economic law often supplies its own surgery by way of correcting inflationary excess through depression or "hard times." Inflation is like the drinking habit—it is too easy to call for more and more inflation, more wage increases, more price increases. Sometimes countries go on a terrible debauch as France in the period of the French Revolution and Germany in the 1920s. It takes a lot of political fortitude to slow down inflation; and use of political tools usually is resisted by those who want prices or wages to rise. As with vice, inflation first may be scorned, but later is "embraced."

It would be a mistake to interpret Slichter's thesis as justification for another dose of inflation. We certainly need a leveling off period after the orgy we have had for a dozen years. In the slow process of the years we have had a steady rise in price levels, and that will continue in the future, slowed down by advances in technology or by recessions. The thing to do is to restrain it from excesses; and as Slichter advises, to blunt the edge of occasional recessions lest they produce economic disaster.

Lebanon Earns Honors

Honors continue to accrue to Lebanon for its new Community Hospital, even though it appears now that President Truman will be unable to attend a contemplated dedication in October.

The Satevepost is featuring the hospital project; the Public Health Service is heralding it far and wide, and the entire state is proud of the spirit which not only made the hospital possible but made it possible preponderantly through support of the community itself.

Originally, it was believed possible President

Truman might attend an October dedication, in connection with his dedication of Hungry Horse Dam in Montana and a resultant jaunt through the west which press dispatches said would comprise primarily a "whistle-stop tour." Now, the Lebanon part of the plan evidently won't materialize. The change is to be regretted.

We don't know what the President would have chosen to say in Lebanon, but for one thing he certainly would not have treated the Lebanon program as a "whistle-stop." Lebanon is no "whistle-stop" to Oregon. It is one of the state's most progressive and fastest-growing communities. Salem is proud to be its neighbor.

Pipelines Prove Themselves

The economy of moving petroleum products via pipeline instead of tank car and truck has been proven beyond all doubt, and a new line is to be constructed from Salt Lake City to Boise.

The announcement to that effect this week confirms the opinion of oil men, as voiced last year when a group of Oregon newspapermen were flown to Salt Lake City to see the initial pipeline development, that eventually pipelines would form a veritable network and eliminate most surface long hauls.

Progress in electronics and the use of radioactive materials have made such projects possible. Automatic controls and inspections have removed nearly all chances of errors. Radioactive elements used as "dividers" permit several kinds of products to move through one line at the same time, without risk of unobserved dilution.

Impetus to such underground transportation came from Big Inch and Little Inch during World War II. But private industry is carrying the idea to even greater dimensions in wider fields. Salem will get its natural-gas pipeline yet.

In the long succession of pastorates at Salem's historic First Methodist Church that of Dr. B. Earle Parker ranks high. Dr. Parker was distinguished for his scholarly attainments, his deep insight into the spiritual needs of the age. In his long career as minister Dr. Parker held many very important pulpits, but he became attached to Salem and returned here for his retirement. In recent years he served the rural church at Pratum, but was completing a home in Salem when his final summons came. He will be remembered as a faithful servant of his church and a consecrated minister to humanity.

Who says the South isn't making progress? Voters in the newly formed First Congressional district chose Rep. Thomas G. Abernethy as Democratic nominee over Rep. John E. Rankin, a regular old Ben Tillman type of Southern fire-eater, who had served 16 consecutive terms in the House. Consolidation of districts under redistricting legislation forced him to run against another Representative. Though seniority Rankin held the powerful position of chairman of the committee on veterans' affairs. He introduced legislation for dotting the country with TVAs. His motion at the beginning of one session preserved the one-time Dies committee for continued investigation of subversive activities. He sponsored most liberal legislation for the benefit of veterans, including a recent bonus bill. He was a thorough-going supporter of "white supremacy" in the South and foe of civil rights legislation. Abernethy surely can't be as intolerant as old John E.

Great Britain, United States Decline to Yield Any Controls in European Unity Organization

By J. M. ROBERTS JR.

Associated Press News Analyst
Great Britain and the United States plan to maintain a relationship with the new European Coal and Steel Community.

Schuman plan similar to their ties with the European Defense Community unified army.

In neither case are they yielding any part of their sovereignty to the international control authority. It is set up by the Europeans, but in both cases they are promising full cooperation for the benefit of the entire Atlantic community.

The major difference in the type of relationship is that the new European army will come under the North Atlantic Treaty Organization high command, headed by an American.

In the coal and steel field, it will be a matter of mutual interests rather than command, but the European authority will set the pace in some respects.

For instance, American coal and steel allotments to Europe will follow the pattern of allotments by the European high authority, so as to maintain the meaning of the balances established by it.

Britain presumably will do much the same, although Britain's commonwealth obligations and her competition with Europe will certainly condition her actions in some respects.

The European Coal and Steel Community was established to pool the heavy industrial resources of Western Europe, create a single market and provide a supranational authority which could prevent one nation from using its resources as a threat or a weapon against another.

Without it, France could never have agreed to the rearming of Germany, or even to a revival of German production at a level above that of France.

One of the most enlightened lines ever written into an international treaty provides that the members of the authority shall consider themselves representatives of the country, not of the countries from which they come, and that one of their collective duties is to protect the community from nationalism.

It is easy to draw some fairly close parallels between the working of the coal and steel plan and the various inter-governmental and inter-company agreements

of the world oil industry which are now under attack by the United States government, but that is one of the quirks of this strangely experimental world.

The fact that the United States will coordinate its coal and steel business in the Western world with that of Europe is a natural consequence of American support for the Schuman Plan throughout the two years of its gestation.

Britain, on the other hand, was suspicious and hostile at first. Economically she feared consolidated European competition and politically her Socialists opposed something which froze out Socialism. Now Britain has announced her plans for "closest possible association."

A colonel's daughter no less. This is a boy's world still, in many aspects, for Alessio. The confidences which he shares with Tarquinio, and their intimacy in general, are symbolized by the name of "the cavern." Giovanna is Diana, her attendant is the Midwife; Peppina the maid is Hygeia, young Gulizia is the Frog; there are the Elder, the Spartans, the Turks . . . the very nicknames are a mark of juvenility. Since it is a boy's world, Fascism, with its bogus romance, is gunplay, its appearance of maturity, its defiance of that supposed tyrant of childhood, the teacher, makes an appeal to them, particularly to the timid, uncertain Alessio.

The novel starts off lamely. It does not end too well, either, for though Alessio may not outstay his welcome at Zobeida's, he stays too long to suit the reader who, besides, finds her a somewhat conventional figure. In the middle sections, however, with Alessio at home for the summer, playing with his brothers and sisters, talking to workmen, reading Tarquinio's letters, Vittorini again gives proof of his unusual talents.

Literary Guidepost

By W. G. ROGERS

THE RED CARNATION, by Elio Vittorini, translated from the Italian by Anthony Bower (New Directions; \$3)

It was back in Mussolini's Italy, Alessio Mainardi, 17, son of a one-time Socialist who has repented of his radicalism now that his brick kilns earn him a comfortable living, has been sent away to school. He lives in Signora Formica's roominghouse, where his close friend is Tarquinio Masseo, a year older, farther on in his studies, more independent and self-sufficient.

With Tarquinio for boy friend, he also has a girl friend, Giovanna, a year is junior, but a ripe, knowing miss whose gift to him a carnation . . . whence the novel's title . . . seems to him full of gratifying implications. But "girl friend" suggests an innocence which does not do justice, to this youngster who, continental-fashion, pays modest fees for lessons in love at Madame Ludovica's. There he meets Zobeida, who is endlessly informed on just these matters about which he does not dare expect much help from Giovanna.

LABOR DAY PARADE



IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page one.)

the small percentage for the county fairs. Those who wager get 87½ per cent back, so as a group they face a sure loss of 12½ per cent. To get this small percentage for the fairs the state is in effect sticking the weak and the gullible who become victims of the gambling habit.

It would be far better for the state or the counties to levy the small tax required to support the worthwhile activities of fairs and stock shows. A committee with members of such prominence as the Collins committee, supported as it would be by the Oregon Council of Churches surely could obtain from tax levying funds in lieu of the pari mutuel percentage.

The state ought not to be participating as partner in gambling promotion. It prohibits other forms of wagering and cracks down on slot machines and pinballs. Certainly it is quite inconsistent then to be legalizing pari mutuel betting in return for a cut in the take.

So far as I have known the dog race and horse meets have been conducted in a clean manner by the operators, and the state racing commission manages the tote boards. But gambling is a vice which grows into a vicious habit. It sucks the weak into its maw. Pari mutuel in this state has made its victims of heavy losses resulting sometimes in loss of property or of jobs. The price is too heavy to pay for the good purpose of county fair support. Actually of course in this battle the fairs are the smokescreen for the operators of pari mutuel racing. The Multnomah Kennel Club is the chief concern to profit in pari mutuel operations in Oregon; and it is largely owned by out-of-state stockholders.

The issue posed in the amendment is not to dry up income for fairs and Four-H clubs and stock shows but to end the state's partnership in a big gambling enterprise.

Tourists Push Gasoline Sales To New Record

Heavy tourist travel pushed gasoline sales in Oregon during July to an all-time monthly record of 57 million gallons, Secretary of State Earl T. Newberry said Thursday.

The total was 2,500,000 gallons more than the previous record set in August, 1950.

Gasoline sales in the first seven months of this year totaled 319 million gallons, an increase of 12 millions over the similar period of last year.

Police Deny Availability Of State File

A "figment of his imagination" is the way state police reacted to a check artist's story that he had gained access to the Salem headquarters file of wanted persons.

Jerry James O'Brien, arrested in Portland after telling many changing stories as to a fictitious career in law enforcement, said he

Better English

By D. C. WILLIAMS

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "Jim and Ned are both alike in their tastes, and it's not difficult to please either of them."
2. What is the correct pronunciation of "elite"?
3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Domesticate, domination, domineering, dominion.
4. What does the word "quiescent" mean?

What is a word beginning with m that means "to have weight or effect"?

ANSWERS

1. Omit both, and say, "it's not difficult to please either of them."
2. Pronounce a-let, a as in ate unstressed, e as in eat, accent second syllable. 3. Domineering.
4. At rest; motionless. "A quiescent body." "A quiescent fluid."
5. Militate.

GRIN AND BEAR IT by Lichty



"While I welcome one-dollar contributions to my campaign, we must tell the people frankly that the money will buy them no diplomatic posts . . ."

Control Tactics For Diseases Of Pigs Decried

Riled at what they charged was "lack of adequate coordinated control measures to prevent the spread of swine diseases," the National Association of Swine Records has sharply attacked present control measures of the hog disease, vesicular exanthema.

In a recent meeting at Springfield, Ill., the group representing all purebred swine registries charged that the spread of this disease reflected the "lack of a well formulated and coordinated plan to meet emergency disease control." They blamed this neglect on the Bureau of Animal Industry and some states.

The national association also charged that some regulation policies are creating unfavorable publicity for pork and pork products and are costing the swine industry millions of dollars. Association officials said that not one known case of the disease has occurred in purebred hogs east of the Rockies, and that it has primarily been traced to uncooked garbage feeding.

Attacking uncooked garbage feeding, the association urged a state and federal ban on such feeding practices. They also called for an inspection by a qualified veterinarian of live hogs leaving a serum or garbage feeding plant.

Uniform state regulations on interstate and intrastate movement of hogs to the farm were requested by the group. The members suggested that all animals over five months old should be pronounced free of brucellosis by a qualified veterinarian within 30 days of sale date, and that the

entire herd be "officially" cleared as free of infectious disease within 30 hours of any public sale.

The group reminded state officials in 16 states that present embargoes are restricting movement of breeding stock. This, the members said, is vitally important to the 1953 pork production.

Their final plea was that more funds be made available by federal and state government for research on treatment and prevention of all infectious swine diseases.

Lillian Green Succumbs to Brief Illness

Miss Lillian Stephen Green, died Thursday at her residence, 1027 S. 12th St. She had been ill about one week.

Miss Green, an employee of the Kay Woolen Mills for the past 50 years, was born in Salem in December 1876. She attended schools in Salem and was employed by the mill as a weaver. For the last few years she had been working in the finishing room.

Services are to be held Tuesday at 10:30 a. m. in the W. T. Rigdon Chapel with interment at the IOOF Cemetery.

Survivors include nephews, Ray Lousignont, Portland, and Cecil L. Edwards, Salem; niece, Marvella E. Mefford, Salem; sisters, Mrs. Margaret E. Lousignont, Portland, and Mrs. Mary Jane Edwards, Salem. Two grand-nieces and grand-nephews also survive.

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