

By Charles S. Souquet

Bernard de Voto ranks high as an historian, novelist and critic.

DeVoto thinks in terms of geopolitics. It is the occupation of the Mississippi Valley and the region west to the Pacific Coast by one people who put it under one government which gives the United States its present power and world position.

This land mass was approached by different peoples from different angles. The Spanish worked the edges of the Gulf of Mexico, and Coronado, starting from Culiacan on the east coast of the Gulf of California in 1540, pushed north across present Arizona, New Mexico, Texas as far as western Kansas in search of the rich seven cities of Cibola, finding only the impoverished villages of the Zunis and other Indians.

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Session Speedy At Start

By PAUL W. HARVEY Jr. Associated Press Correspondent

Setting some kind of a modern record for speed, the Oregon legislature will head into its committees ready to tackle the 10 major lawmaking tasks.

While a big share of this legislation was introduced during the busy first week, the rest of it should make its appearance next week.

The statute revision council, which the legislators' bill-drafting service, says it already has requests to draft 300 bills, which shows the lawmakers want to get their bills drafted early and go home as soon as possible.

House to Vote on Code

The house will vote Monday on the new three-volume code, which is legislators' bill-drafting version of all Oregon laws. It is expected to be passed by the house quickly, but there are signs it might run into some trouble in the senate.

When the new code is passed, then all new laws and amendments will be based on it.

Here is the status of the 10 top priorities of the legislature:

1.—Finance. The tax committees of both houses will meet Tuesday to discuss the main tax bills, which simplify the tax system by putting all income tax money into the general fund. The house already has the bill to make state personal income tax exemptions conform with the federal exemptions.

2.—Code Revision. The new law code, the fruit of four years of labor by the statute revision council, probably will be passed through both houses in a few days.

3.—Public Welfare. Unexpectedly, this is developing into one of the biggest battles of the legislature, with the whole welfare system under fire. The ways and means committee is studying whether to make public the details of those getting old age pensions and other welfare, hoping it might save money by forcing a good number of persons off the rolls.

4.—Government Reorganization. Consideration in both houses will begin work in a few days on Gov. Patterson's surprise recommendation to hold a convention in 1956 to write a new state constitution. The bill to create a state revenue department, by consolidating all major tax collection agencies, is ready for introduction.

5.—School Reorganization. The education committees of both houses will try to find a way to make it easier to consolidate school districts. Largely because of strong opposition from the state grange, the people narrowly defeated the 1941 legislature's school reorganization bill.

6.—Liquor. Legislation to sell liquor by the drink, as ordered by the people last November, will be up for discussion next week before the alcoholic control committee. The liquor commission wants sales by the drink only in places where meals are served. But labor organizations, calling this class legislation, demand that liquor be sold also in places where a working man can buy it without having to go into a restaurant.

7.—Highways. The major bill, already before the senate highway committee, would let the highway commission continue its bond program for road building by issuing \$2 million dollars worth of bonds.

8.—Parole Reorganization. No legislation has shown up yet, but there will be legislation for a full-time paid parole board.

9.—Unemployment Insurance and Workmen's Compensation. The biennial dispute between employers and labor will begin early in the week when labor introduces bills to increase jobless benefits and industrial accident payments.

10.—Fellon Dam, Stopped by a state hydroelectric commission order that it can't build Fellon Power Dam on the Deschutes River, the Portland General Electric Company and Central Oregon commercial interests will introduce two pieces of legislation.

Space at a Premium in Many Salem Schoolrooms



Space is at a premium in many schoolrooms as the Salem School District's juvenile population grows faster than dollars are available to provide buildings. This is evident particularly in this classroom at Auburn School, east of Salem. Taught by Mrs. Robert Rice (at back of room) the 29 third graders and 14 fourth graders have double lines of desks and are crowded to the walls.

Thousands in D.C. for Gala Inaugural McKay to Serve as Ike's Landlord

By A. ROBERT SMITH Statesman Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Although he won't have half million other responsibilities as Secretary of the Interior, Douglas McKay will be President Eisenhower's landlord after Ike moves into the White House.

When Mamie wants her upstairs parlor repainted she'll have to check with Doug, probably after having Mrs. McKay in for tea and winning her over to the re-decoration ideas.

When Ike digs a few divots in the back lawn practicing his golf swing, it'll be McKay's boys who follow him up to manure the mutilated White House sod.

McKay, of course, can't collect any rent because the President gets his lodging free. As for a lease, that's up to the Americans voters to renew if they wish after four years.

But McKay's department has charge of remaining landlord functions, even to hiring the household staff of the Executive mansion.

This all came about when Washington, D. C., was established as a federal city a number of plots or ground were given to or bought by the Government and set aside for its use.

Responsibility for caring for these grounds has evolved over the years along with jurisdiction over the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial and other shrines into a function of the Interior Department.

That means when Douglas McKay marches up to Congress to ask for money to run his department, one of the items will be care and maintenance of the White House. Each year Interior officials must take an inventory of federally-owned furnishings in the historic mansion and get the President's signature on the list, thereby holding him responsible for their care while he is living there and for their presence after his departure.

In the downstairs public rooms—those shown to visitors daily—the President and his family can't make a move without calling in the landlord or his agents, in this case the Fine Arts Commission. No changes or additions to the furnishings or decorations can be made downstairs without an okay from the commission.

But upstairs the First Lady is boss. And if Mamie wants the Eisenhower living quarters repainted in the spring, she can pick the colors herself and have Ike tell Doug to get the job done.

Ship Pulled Free of Mud

COOS BAY (AP) — The freighter Santa Clara Victory ran aground in the lower harbor of Coos Bay early Saturday, but was pulled free at high tide in mid-day.

No damage was anticipated, because the bottom there was mud and sand. A Coast Guard cutter and two local boats tugged the freighter free. It then went to North Bend to load lumber.

Packed Train Crashes in Fog

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — A packed Miami to Boston passenger train crashed into a freight in dense fog early Saturday, injuring seven persons, two critically.

The fast Atlantic Coast Line Miami, pulled by three diesels, slammed into the freight about 3 a. m. some 30 miles southwest of Savannah at Fleming, Ga., small town of 400 with only one telephone.

The impact derailed the three diesels and four of 19 passenger cars, two of them empty, off the Boston bound train and knocked eight freight cars from the track.

Flames broke out in the freight caboose and one of two empty pullmans but were confined there. The freight, a 56-car southern train, had pulled up to repair a wheel bearing on track used jointly by ACL and Southern. State Patrolman E. E. Sharpe said flames it set up probably were not visible in the thick fog.

Doorbell-Ringers Ask to Watch TV

A "desire to watch television" prompted doorbell ringing on the part of three juveniles, they told police after their apprehension in North Salem Saturday night.

The boys, two 14 and one 15, were soaked with rain. They told city police their doorbell ringing campaign hadn't brought any invitations to watch TV. After questioning, the boys were sent home.

THE WEATHER table with columns for Max, Min, Precip. and locations like Salem, Portland, San Francisco, Chicago, New York.

Wes Roberts New National GOP Chairman

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans unanimously elected C. Wesley (Wes) Roberts, 49-year-old former Kansas newspaper man, as their national chairman Saturday after being told they can lose control of Congress next year if they don't watch out.

Party leaders who had a leading role in success at the polls last November congratulated the rank and file and claimed 11 million new GOP voters in the election of Dwight D. Eisenhower as President.

But they told the GOP National Committee that, while Eisenhower won a big personal victory, the party gained only slim majorities in the Senate and House.

They declared the party must remain alert lest it lose Congress in 1954, halfway through Eisenhower's term which starts Tuesday.

Formerly of World War II, Roberts, who headed the House Republican Campaign Committee in the presidential campaign, put it succinctly when he said:

"I think the people wanted a change and Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Republican Party represented a change to them."

Roberts, former weekly newspaper editor, said in accepting the chairmanship:

"A political party is only worth its weight in better government. The Republican Party challenged the people of America to demand a government of honesty, of integrity, of broad vision and high purposes. The people of America responded. Now the challenge rests with us, the Republican Party."

A veteran of World War II, Roberts was organization director of the committee in the campaign and one of the earliest Eisenhower-for-president supporters.

He was chosen to succeed Arthur E. Summerfield of Michigan, who has resigned to be Eisenhower's postmaster general.

Mine Test Hole Holds Screaming Girl 90 Minutes

GILBERTON, Pa. (AP) — Five-year-old Laura Mae Heiser fell down an 11-inch wide strip mining test hole Saturday and screamed hysterically for 90 minutes until 40 rescuers yanked her free on their sixth try.

The little girl was playing with some friends on the floor of an anthracite strip mining project two miles northeast of this community of 2,000 when she fell down the hole an estimated 10 feet.

Man's Return Ends Mystery At Mt. Angel

MT. ANGEL — The mystery of the whereabouts of an elderly Mt. Angel man, feared by police to be the possible victim of foul play, was cleared up Saturday by the appearance of the man himself.

William F. Dwyer, about 70, whose bloodstained home here caused police to begin searching for him, turned up—healthy and unaware of the excitement stirred up.

Sheriff Denver Young said Dwyer was questioned by a deputy when the elderly man stepped off the bus at Woodburn—enroute from Portland to his home at Mt. Angel.

Young said Dwyer explained the quantities of blood in his home by saying he had been ill and had hemorrhaged at the mouth. This the old man said, had happened earlier in the week. He had then gone to Vancouver, Wash., to visit his son. He was on his way home Saturday after having spent Friday night in Portland.

Mt. Angel Police Chief Merle Grace notified county officers when he entered Dwyer's home Friday and found large quantities of blood about the house and what had seemed to be evidence of an altercation. Grace had checked the house when it was reported that Dwyer had not been seen for several days.

Civil Defense Report Praises Public, Criticizes Air Force

High praise for public participation in Civil Defense and a slap at the Air Force for its now-defunct Skywatch highlighted a six-month report of the Marion County Civil Defense issued Saturday.

More than 5 per cent of the county's population has enrolled for Civil Defense work—a total of 5,698 persons and a 40 per cent increase since last July 1. Director Wallace S. Wharton said.

Major criticism accrued to city officials of Aumsville, Hubbard, Mill City, and Woodburn—"efforts so far have been to no avail in getting directors to fill vacancies" in those cities, although "under state law the mayor or council of each incorporated town or city is responsible."

Wharton also said no clarification was forthcoming on the question as to the status under international law, of ground observers who presumably would be classified as "irregulars" and therefore have no protection whatever from any punishment an enemy commander might wish to mete out to them or to the communities which harbored them.

The report reiterated a Civil Defense belief that the Ground Observation Corps should be made completely an Air Force function, and also said that:

"Despite the failure of the U. S. Air Force to provide the training and assistance promised," the Marion County ground observers "performed creditably x x x due to the persistent work of County Coordinator Robert D. Geddes and the heads of the posts in the County."

McKay Advocates End to 'Throttling' Of Private Power

By EDWIN B. HAAKINSON

WASHINGTON (AP) — Major changes in the government's vast public power program were indicated Saturday by Douglas McKay, President-elect Eisenhower's choice for Secretary of Interior.

McKay's proposals to give privately-owned utilities a bigger share of the power business became known when Chairman Butler (R-Neb) released a transcript of McKay's closed-door testimony before the Senate Interior Committee.

That 15-member group on Thursday unanimously recommended Senate confirmation for McKay, who resigned as Governor of Oregon to take the cabinet post.

McKay told the Senators that he had sold his shares of stock in oil and timber companies to avoid possible embarrassment in his new job.

McKay's criticism of the power plan's extended programs of the "New Deal" and "Fair Deal" administrations came during questioning by both Republican and Democratic senators.

McKay testified that private enterprise and privately owned electric power companies had been "throttled" and there has been a tendency in the past to give the breaks to all the public deals.

McKay also said that he was not in sympathy with some of the efforts to build up federal controls over electric power and distribution in the Pacific Northwest, especially the Columbia River Basin.

Extended Exchange The extended exchange between McKay and senators over power policies caused Sen. Cordell (R-Ore), from McKay's state, to say there is "necessity for the Congress to develop and spell out clearly a public power policy."

"That is right," agreed Chairman Butler. Under questioning, the incoming Secretary of Interior took these stands:

1. Favored immediate admission of Hawaii to statehood. He said Alaska also should be admitted under certain conditions that he did not outline.

2. Endorsed claims of coastal states to ownership of the submerged off-shore lands, including rich oil reserves.

3. Urged greater controls of public lands and electric power facilities at state and local levels instead of Washington.

4. Said that private enterprise should be given a chance to assist in development of atomic power for widespread future use.

5. Expressed sympathy for development of atomic power, coal and shale reserves for fuel to augment or replace present electric power, natural gas and coal supplies.

6. Avoided a definite stand on the argument over whether the Interior Department or the Agriculture Department's forest service should control and administer public lands, used widely in the West for livestock grazing and lumber production.

7. Promised to avoid "empire building" as Secretary of Interior.

8. Said the federal development of big multi-purpose dams—combining irrigation, flood control and electric power development—must continue but indicated that privately owned utilities should share in distribution and sale of more of the power.

(Story also on page 2)

Phone Office Blaze Sets Off Fire Siren

SILVERTON — All records for summoning a fire department may have been broken here Saturday when a short circuit in telephone equipment started a fire and blew the fire siren at the same time.

Lowell Brown, manager of the Silverton Telephone Co., said damage was confined to telephone equipment. He said the short circuit burned out 300 switchboard lights and knocked out the exchange from 3:30 a.m. to 6:50 a.m.

Brown reported restoration of service was speeded because new equipment was on hand in preparation for the company's switch to dial service. The company immediately hooked into the new board for power.

The fire siren blew so long that many people thought it was an air raid warning.

It's Here To Stay! Meaning Television, of course. Therefore, The Statesman today is inaugurating a new department in its Classified Advertising section—a radio as well as television, and including installation, repairs and service. Your COMPLETE Newspaper