

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us No Fear Shall Awe"  
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## Steam Engine, Toot, Toot!

The Legislature is removing regulations on the driving of steam engines on streets and highways. No longer will the ponderous, slow-moving engine, its stack belching smoke and fire, have to stop to let horses pass (both steam traction engine and the horse are out of highway circulation now). The engines can blow their whistles in cities, if Gov. Patterson signs the bill which has passed both houses. And operators of the steam engines will not have to lay planks down for its crossing of a bridge.

This clearing away of dead timber in the code-book does revive memories of the steam traction engine which seemed to children a great black monster. Its invasion of town was an event, for its use was normally to furnish power for a grain separator at threshing time. When one did come to town the kids would pour out to watch the behemoth pass. They would trail along behind in their bare feet, stepping in the dust-compressed path of its big bull wheels. If the engineer pulled the whistle cord the resulting snort was an added thrill to the young fry.

Firing these engines was no small chore. Their fuel efficiency was low. A tender wagon hauled coal for its maw; and sometimes a tank wagon trailed along to replenish water in the boiler. These ungainly brutes were not built for locomotion. They were primarily stationary power plants, set on wheels so they could move from setting to setting.

Quite some time ago gasoline or diesel powered engines replaced the old steam rigs. But just as the combine has not fully superseded the header and thresher, so there must be still some steam traction engines in use. No horses shy at them, and the Fords and the Cadillacs pass them by disdainfully; but the steam traction engine was the original horseless carriage. Only it was not here to stay.

With all the legal impediments removed the steam engine will not come back—it is in full retreat on the railroads. But this expunging of laws revives memories of the day when it flourished.

## Escape and the Trappists

News that the Trappist Order may establish a monastery here in the Willamette Valley is received with interest not only by Catholics but by individuals of every faith who have read Thomas Merton's best-selling books, "Seven Store Mountain," "Waters of Siloe" and his latest, "The Sign of Jonas."

For, as always in time of crisis, there is revival in our time of various forms of religious experience, one of the most popular (judging from the sales of Merton's books) being mysticism and withdrawal from the "world" and its troubles.

By "popular" we do not mean to say that masses of people are taking monastic vows. That would be too hard. But many are taking the easy way: Merton's writing can "bring vicarious satisfaction to those who remain in normal society yet share his indignation at its evils, a pleasing sense of being on the side of the angels," accord-

ing to Aelfred Graham in the January Atlantic Monthly.

Graham is a Benedictine (the abbey at Mt. Angel is Benedictine) and he has his doubts about Thomas Merton. Graham asks whether Merton is "A Saint?—or an ecclesiastical Whit-taker Chambers? An exponent of Christian holiness?—or a preacher of pseudo-perfectionism?" Then Graham decides that Merton is "in fact a propagandist for mysticism for the masses." Monk Merton calls men away from "this wolf-world, this craven zoo" to contemplative prayer. "It is a way of perfection from which no one is excluded," says Merton. And of the Trappist monastery, Merton says:

"(It is) the real capital of the country... the center of all the vitality that is in America... the cause and reason why the nation is holding together. These men, hidden in anonymity of their choir and their white cowls, are doing for their land what no army, no congress, no president could ever do as such: they are winning for their land the grace and the protection and the friendship of God."

(Certainly no Willamette Valley Chamber of Commerce booster ever dared make such grandiose pronouncements. Maybe it would be nice to have a Trappist abbey here and become the center of the universe!)

Dom Graham admits that such talk is heady, but that it is rather close to the "holier than thou" attitude humbler Christians frown upon. Graham doubts that every Christian ought to renounce the world (which, incidentally, God so loved that he sent his only-begotten Son, etc.) because:

"Mysticism is not for the masses but for an elite. To lose sight of this is to divert Christians from what may well be, for the majority of them, their most urgent business. Their call is not to take flight from society but to revivify it with Christian prayer from within... For this underlying prayer will be the inspiration but prayer, as St. Thomas Aquinas pointed out at length, is no substitute for energies employed in direct relation to the needs of the hour. In our present predicament no religious propaganda could be more in harmony with the Marxist book than an appeal to Christians to let the world go to the devil in its own way. The most pressing theme for their reflections is the reminder that they are the followers of a Master who went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed."

This statement by Benedictine Graham in contrast to Trappist Merton is not quoted to ignite an intermonastic controversy that has been smoldering for ages, but to indicate that such debates are of very real importance to the secular world. There's evidence enough that many are withdrawing, in spirit if not in the flesh, from the world and its problems, and this bodes ill for the rest who are "staying with it." In the long-term struggle between good and evil, men of good will are needed at the front, not safely cloistered.—M.W.

Gov. Patterson made another good selection of a man for judge when he named Phil Hammond of Oregon City to fill the newly created office of circuit judge in Clackamas County, giving that district a second judge. The Hammond family is well known, Phil's father, William Hammond having practiced law at Oregon City for many years.

## Liberal Demos Hit Back at Morse Saying He Has No Monopoly on Political Integrity

By A. ROBERT SMITH

WASHINGTON—Liberal Democrats struck back at Sen. Wayne Morse for the first time last week, following a succession of attacks by the Oregon Independent in which he charged them with "substituting political expediency for political principle," "hypocrisy," "walking out on their responsibilities to minority rights in the Senate," and doing him "irreparable political damage in Oregon."

Since Jan. 13, when Morse was defeated by an 81 to 7 vote in an unprecedented move to retain his seats on the Armed Services and Labor committees, he has been sniping at liberals who declined to vote with him because they disagreed with his strategy. Several times he has referred to them as "gutless wonders."

"The Senator from Oregon has no monopoly on liberalism, on liberal leadership or on liberal action," retorted Sen. Herbert Lehman (D-N. Y.), "and some of the Senators he has attacked have records on liberalism which I believe would not suffer by comparison with his record."

The usually gentle, mild-mannered, 75-year-old New Yorker who becomes easily aroused by what he considers injustices, told Morse, "Others too have principles and convictions."

Concluding with a reaffirmation of his admiration for Morse, Lehman said: "He is a real liberal, but I do not think he is the only liberal in the United States."

Lehman's chastisement of Morse came midway through an hour-long speech by the Oregon Senator in which he blistered

liberal Democrats. It was disclosed during Morse-Lehman exchanges that some liberals who had confided with Morse prior to making his committee stand had voiced their disagreement with his strategy in forcing a Senate vote on the question, although they agreed to support his resolution which would increase the size of the two committees in order to make room for Morse.

Consequently, Morse had the support of only six Senators when he went ahead with his strategy to force a ballot—and his resolution, which had greater support, was pigeonholed by the Republican leadership.

Lehman on Friday said it was proper to criticize the pigeonhole action rather than, as Morse was doing, "accusing Senators who have just as consistent a record of liberalism as has the junior Senator from Oregon of surrendering their principles and of being willing to yield to political expediency."

In a surprise development, Lehman revealed that two days following Morse's committee fight he had called Morse to offer him his position on the Labor Committee because he thought Morse "would be an extremely valuable member of the committee as he had been for many years."

Morse said he replied by asking Lehman "what made him think that I would accept through his charity what I was entitled to as a matter of right." Previously Morse had turned down an offer from the GOP of a position on the Armed Services Committee, saying he had a right to the assignment from the Senate as a whole without relying on either party's offerings.

Repeating his theme that not since 1871 has a Senator been bumped off his committees, and that therefore his being bumped

constituted "an emasculation of the seniority system" in the Senate, Morse failed to mention that the reason previous insurgents like George Norris and Bob LaFollette encountered no difficulty in retaining their committee posts was that they, unlike Morse, were willing to receive their assignments in the customary manner, from one party or the other. Morse apparently is the first insurgent in Senate history not to subscribe to this custom.

Liberal Democrats, Morse charged, "stand convicted before the bar of American public opinion today as a group of men who walked out on their responsibilities to minority rights in the Senate." He predicted they would hear from thousands of their constituents who wouldn't swallow their alibis or rationalization of their action.

A survey of the offices of liberal Democrats revealed that letters of complaint regarding the treatment accorded Morse had been received as follows:

Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.)—20 to 25; Sen. Henry Jackson (D-Wash.)—14; Sen. Paul Douglas (D-Ill.)—"not very many" but no count available; Sen. James Murray (D-Mont.) none; Sen. Warren Magnuson (D-Wash.) less than 12; Sen. Herbert Lehman (D-N. Y.)—no count made but an aide said they had received relatively few in comparison to most controversial topics that swell Lehman's mail to about 5,000 letters daily.

"I am aware of the irreparable political damage this alleged group of liberals has done to me because for weeks there have appeared in newspapers across my state from three to five vicious editorials a day inspired by reactionaries in my state who want to destroy me politically because they know they cannot control me," Morse contended.

## SETTING THE FOX FREE TO GUARD THE CHICKEN HOUSE



## Congressional Quiz

Q—Are the economy aims of the Republican leadership of the new Congress going to cramp the legislative budget for sleuthing?

A—Apparently not. A survey by Congressional Quarterly indicates the 83rd Congress may outdo the investigative champion, the 82nd Congress. Committee probes or studies were called for in about 105 pieces of legislation introduced during January 1953, compared with about 70 during the first month (January, 1951) of the 82nd Congress. To finance probes, the Senate authorized \$820,000 in January, 1953, compared with \$485,000 two years earlier (figures include carryover of unspent funds). The House took no action on probe funds in the first month of either year.

Q—What happens to any money a Congressional committee has left over after finishing an investigation?

A—According to Congressional officials, it is either re-authorized for later spending by the same committee, or returned to the U. S. Treasury, usually after a two-year holding period.

Q—Who has "sniffed out" the most investigative trials this year—Democrats or Republicans?

A—Of the approximately 105 legislative proposals concerning investigations introduced in January, about 75 were sponsored by Republicans, and 25 by Democrats. Five were co-sponsored by Members from both parties. Proposed investigations deal with such subjects as the military services, veterans, agriculture, commerce and industry, education and welfare, natural resources, taxes and economic policies, and U. S. security and communism.

Q—Is there any plan to relieve Congressmen of some of their investigative duties so they can spend more time at lawmaking?

A—Some of the investigative load would be taken from Congressional shoulders under a proposal by Rep. Jacob K. Javits

(R. N. Y.). On Jan. 29 he introduced legislation to establish an Office of Government Investigation as a permanent agency to probe "illegal, improper or unethical acts relating to the transaction of the business of the federal government."

Q—Is Congress taking any steps to prevent persons from being unjustly "smeared" in testimony at Congressional investigations?

A—Sen. Estes Kefauver (D Tenn.) Feb. 10 proposed a "code of fair conduct" to safeguard individuals from "derogatory remarks." Under the code, persons would be notified beforehand, when possible, that derogatory material was to be presented, and allowed to file answering statements. Rep. Kenneth B. Keating (R. N. Y.) said Dec. 6 Congressional investigators should be careful not to "destroy the good name" of innocent men, and said some public life had "not hesitated to trample" good names "beneath the muddy boots of sensational charges."

(Copy, 1953, Cong. Quar.)

## Better English

By D. C. WILLIAMS

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "He sat the vase inside of the box."
2. What is their correct pronunciation of "globular"?
3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Persecute, perspicuity, perscribe, personify.
4. What does the word "analogous" mean?
5. What is a word beginning with "tra" that means "handed down from generation to generation"?

ANSWERS  
1. Say, "He set the vase, and only 'of'." 2. Pronounce the e as in rob, not in globe. 3. Prescribe. 4. Corresponding to something else in certain aspects. "There is something in the exercise of the mind analogous to that of the body." 5. Traditional.

## GRIN AND BEAR IT by Lichty



"Is reporting you to secret police, comrade mama, if you insist on giving me castor oil... only glorious leader is allowed to do the purging..."

## Parley Result Disappoints British Press

By J. M. ROBERTS, JR., Associated Press News Analyst  
A thread of disappointment runs through British editorial comment on the recent conferences in Washington between high Anglo-American officials, although they had been forewarned that the talks were purely exploratory.

As a matter of fact, the discussions, covering political cooperation throughout the world as well as the new trade policies which Britain is trying to get the U. S. to accept, were heavily overshadowed by the death of Joseph Stalin.

Participants as well as observers were well aware that the end of Stalin's long reign was bound to produce changes—although their nature was not yet clear—which would affect almost any decision the Allies might try to make at this moment.

The British government had made it fairly clear to the American public that Foreign Secretary Eden and Chancellor of the Exchequer Butler had not come begging. They wanted to discuss plans which had been evolved within the British Commonwealth which required American help, and which were to be placed later before a European economic conference. The commonwealth is suggesting drastic changes in America's protective tariff policy in what they call a "trade not aid" program.

The Times of London called the post-conference communiqué an "anti-climax," and the News Chronicle said they were an example of diplomats being required by democratic processes to say something when they much preferred to say nothing. But the Times did say that the talks had served to clear the decks.

On one point in which Americans were much interested because it seemed to presage at least a par-

tical bridging of the gap between British and American policy in the Far East, the Manchester Guardian and the Washington Post expressed kindred views.

The British agreement to further curtail trade with Communist China, said the Guardian, "will have a greater effect on American public opinion than on Chinese supplies."

The Post said the greatest effect would be psychological, since China is doing most of her business by way of the trans-Siberian railroad.

It is only natural that Britain should be in a hurry about a project which seems to contain the seeds of her salvation from economic dependence on U. S. largesse.

It was only natural, also, that the Eisenhower administration, in office only a few weeks, should feel that it was being rushed on a subject which is one of the most controversial in the history of American politics. And it is one which must be approached carefully if it is not to interfere with the stability of America's own economy which is, in the long run, the one on which the whole free world organization depends most heavily at this time.

## Sportsmen Back Bill to Ban Dams in National Parks

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sportsmen and other organizations Tuesday backed proposed legislation to prohibit building of dams or other projects which would damage any national park or monument.

Fred H. Packard, executive secretary of the National Parks Association, told a House Interior Subcommittee that in spite of laws on the book surveys have been made for dam sites and other works within national parks and monuments. Packard said a water project has been proposed that would adversely affect a national park there has proved to be an alternative method of producing the benefits without invading the park.

William Voight Jr., executive director of the Izak Walton League, said previous laws showing intent of Congress to preserve the National park system are inadequate and need correction.

## Searchers Find Lost Boy at Play

PORTLAND (AP)—Searchers worked along the banks of Johnson Creek in Southeast Portland Tuesday, looking for 4-year-old Clifford Kuenle, missing from his home two hours.

The boy was found safe—playing with toy tractors in a variety store some 20 blocks away. His relieved mother said it was the first time Clifford had wandered away.

DIES FROM BURNS  
EUGENE (AP)—Mrs. Edith Gates, 67, burned when a stove exploded at her home near Marcola Feb. 19, died in a hospital here Tuesday. Her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Preston Gates, 30, who was burned at the same time, is recovering.

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