

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor and Publisher

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Sweetland's New Agitation

Rep. and Mrs. Monoroe Sweetland seek to keep their political (Democratic) irons hot by reviving agitation over state regulation of utilities. Their direct attack on the surcharge was rejected by the Public Utilities Commissioner, and Judge Skipworth in Lane County gave short shift to a court attack on it when some customers of Mt. States Power brought suit for a refund. Now the Sweetlands are seeking by the initiative route to make the office of Commissioner elective. Sweetland explains that the move is directed toward making the commission "more responsive to the welfare of the people." He says he hopes by such a change "to halt the long series of rate increases by restoring direct responsibility of the commissioner to the people."

What Sweetland means of course is to make the commissioner responsive not to economic facts but to political pressures. If he were acquainted with Oregon's political history he would know that the state did elect its three-man commission for a good many years, but the method was attended with recalls and so much controversy that the law was changed to make the commission appointive. In the big Joseph and Meier battle in 1930 their slogan was "abolish the public service commission." After being elected on that platform Meier realized its folly and merely moved to substitute a one-man commissioner for a three-man commission.

The facts do not justify Sweetland's complaint against a "long series of rate increases." In the case of electric utilities which are his special target, three principal utilities operating in the state have had only one general increase in rates. Pacific Power and Light had one of about two per cent in 1949 covering operations in and around Portland. The same year Portland General Electric had one of 8 per cent. Both had a temporary increase for the surcharge, but that expired last May. California-Oregon Power Co. had one general rate increase in 1953 of 11 per cent, and some limited schedule adjustments in 1951.

The Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co. has had a series of rate increases since the war, four in fact; but in no case has the increase granted come up with the amount petitioned for. Its total askings were \$15,513,000 and amounts granted \$7,428,000. Since the war its wage bill alone has gone up \$13 million a year.

Choosing a utilities commissioner by popular election will not alter economic facts. It will not reduce a single item of expense, cut a single payroll or avert increases. The rate increases for utilities are only a fraction of the increases in prices of other products and of most services. The Oregon public utilities commissioner has been exceedingly conservative in authorizing rate increases. Sweetland is merely reviving the old political sport of whipping the utilities department or the utilities to advance his own political ideas and promote public ownership. If the public will obtain and heed the facts they will disown this newest attempt of Sweetland's to agitate the political waters.

Winnie's Tears at Bermuda Seen as Fully Justified by Perils Lying Ahead for EDC Pact

By JOSEPH ALSOP



Joseph Alsop

conference in Paris.

Sir Winston Churchill opened the discussion at Bermuda by voicing a familiar British view. As the world knows, the EDC was first proposed as a means of obtaining the German divisions which are needed to complete NATO. London has always cared very little about European federation, and has backed the EDC only to get the German divisions.

Therefore the Prime Minister, moved by reports from Paris that the French Parliament would not pass the EDC, suggested that there was no need to be rigid in dealing with the problem. What was needed, he said, was a good, stout German army, standing in the way of a Soviet attack on Western Europe. If the French did not like the EDC, he concluded, why not adopt the alternative of German national re-armament within the framework of NATO?

To Sir Winston's proposal, President Eisenhower replied with great firmness. In the first place, he said, the American government did not favor independent German national re-armament. In the second place, although the French might not feel much enthusiasm for EDC, he was convinced the Prime Minister's alternative would evoke even stronger opposition in the French Chamber of Deputies.

ties. In the third place, Germany's Chancellor Adenauer was also dead set against German national re-armament, since the "European" policy Adenauer has followed would soon be reversed by a reborn German General Staff.

Therefore the President concluded there was no alternative to the EDC. It was the EDC or nothing, as far as he was concerned.

To this statement by Eisenhower, Secretary Dulles added a warning. The American Congress was both convinced that Europe ought to unite, and quite certain the NATO structure could be usefully completed without German divisions. The huge American outlays in Europe and the maintenance of a large American armed force in Western Europe were difficult to defend before the Congress, at the best of times.

The French had been pressing for guarantees that the American and British forces would remain in Europe for a very long period—up to fifty years. The French ought rather to be thinking of the danger of the American divisions being recalled from Western Europe at a very early date. For if the Chamber of Deputies rejected the EDC, the Congress would altogether lose patience; and then, Dulles indicated, the withdrawal of the American forces from Europe would have to be ordered.

At the next session, the British Prime Minister made his rejoinder to the American President and Secretary of State. Sir Winston began by saying that he had reflected carefully on what Eisenhower had said, and he had reached the conclusion that the President was justified in ruling out all alternatives to the EDC. For this reason, he wished to pray, to beseech the French government and its representatives to pass the EDC at all costs, in order to avoid the

terrible cataclysms and catastrophes that would otherwise overtake the free world.

As for his own future policy, Churchill continued, he would be forced to order the withdrawal of the British divisions from Europe the moment the American divisions began to move out of Britain, he said, with mounting emotion, had been forced once before to fight on her islands, and Britain would do so again if need be. But he wanted no one to be under any misapprehensions as to the frightful consequences he foresaw, if the whole structure of European defense that had been so painfully built up were allowed to crumble into utter ruin for want of the keystone of the arch. And at this point, the old man wept at the conference table.

There were those who took Churchill's emotion and his tears as signs of the weakness of age. Yet by any sensible test, the Prime Minister's reaction was fully justified by the dangers that now lie ahead.

Maybe the policy announced by Eisenhower and Dulles at Bermuda, and reiterated by Dulles at his Paris press conference, is tintured with bluff. Maybe the purpose is to get the French to act on EDC by "shock tactics." But if the shock tactics do not work, and the bluff is called, what then?

Even the ever-optimistic American Embassy is currently only quoting even odds on the French Chamber passing the EDC. If the EDC does not pass, and the American administration carries out its threat, Western Europe will again be transformed into a military vacuum. The future given by Churchill at Bermuda will shortly be substantiated by the remorseless march of events. Surely this prospect deserves as much attention from the American policy-makers as their undeniable difficulties with the Congress.

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Competition in Electric Generators

General Electric is protesting the award of a contract for two big electric generators for the McNary dam powerhouse to an English concern. The latter underbid GE by some \$641,000; but GE says the loss in taxes to American units of government from loss of this business would exceed the saving plus the import duty the foreign company will have to pay. The relationship is hardly that direct. In theory at least GE is free to produce other goods for which it can find a market at home or abroad.

As a big exporter GE is interested in widening markets. In fact one of its executives has been active in the International Chamber of Commerce which works to expand world trade. But when GE sees the loss of an order which runs around \$4 million its enthusiasm for "trade not aid" wanes. U.S. industry will have to learn to compete, all over again. This underbidding comes as a tough jolt; but it carries its own lesson.

Two for the Show

It is hard to conceive of the begowned, sober-faced justices who compose the U.S. Supreme Court going to a movie, and in a body and having the vast and imposing Supreme Court building for a theatre. They did, though, twice this week (though going in a body is something they rarely do in their opinions on cases). The occasions were to review appeals against rulings censoring two movies. One, "La Ronde" was banned by New York censors as immoral; the other, "M" was barred in Ohio because it was considered degrading.

What is involved is not alone the character of the movie, but the constitutional principle of freedom of speech. The high court in recent decisions has given liberal interpretation to this provision. Soon we shall see how it applies its judicial doctrines after viewing particular movies.

The 1953 birth rate was about 25 per 1000 population. The total number is estimated at more than 3,950,000 which breaks all previous records. This is good news to the purveyors of infants; but it will make school boards, who must look ahead six years, groan at the prospective demand for more schoolrooms and teachers.

Josephine County farmers who grew hops for years on the rich bottom lands of the Rogue River are considering turning to raising snap beans. They have been in touch with Salem cannery men who seem interested. Last year demand for the Oregon snap bean exceeded local production, so beans may be the answer for the distressed hopgrowers.

In effect Governor Patterson told the Indians Oregon's whites will not consent to be second-class citizens.

Editorial Comment

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT

Judge James Alger Fee recently issued an order which restrains railroads from putting lower freight rates into effect on petroleum shipments between Portland and Spokane. Subsequently the secretary of the Interstate Commerce commission advised a railroad official, "you have valid excuse for making the new rates effective despite court order." Any Pendleton attorney could have predicted the next event. Former Pendletonian Fee told ICC attorneys: "If you attempt to violate or counsel the violation of an order of this court, I shall cite the person who did it for contempt and I shall bring him here and try him." Bigger "fish" than ICC and the railroads have learned not to question the authority of Judge Fee.

—(Pendleton East Oregonian.)

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"Good grooming is very important, young ladies!" in marriage it holds a husband! in business it helps pass the time!



Despite the fact he knocks 'em dead elsewhere Bishop Sheen reportedly isn't doing so good over at the Lee Apts. . . Seems there is one TV set in the lobby of the Lee for tenants . . . And on Wednesday nights the good Bishop is on KPTV the same time the fights are on KOIN-TV . . . Naturally this causes some friction—with, usually, the women lining up on the side of Bishop Sheen and the men holding out for the fistcuffs. . . At last report the men had finally won out—at least temporarily . . .

Marion County District Court Clerk Dan

Poling thought he'd made a hysterical historical discovery this week. To wit: A map of the battle at Gettysburg. He was cleaning out a drawer in the office and found a location chart showing various military concentrations, and so Poling deduced it must be an oldy. The map, apparently was used at one time by an officer taking some sort of a correspondence course (maybe one of those WW II wonders)—presumably quite some time after the Gettysburg fracas . . .

Slips that pass in the type—A local paper writing about the meeting this week of the anti-grid group listed the various suggested titles for the new committee. One suggestion read like this, "Get Rid of the Grim Committee." . . . Or was it a slip? . . . And Four Corners residents are having their traffic problems too. The hiway dept. installed four stop-signs at the intersection of State St. and Lancaster Dr. But it took some time before motorists would even slow down enough to read the new signs . . .

For true-blue, heads-up, take-it-on-the-chin sports-manship you simply can't beat the Duchess of Windsor. Here she's slipped, slip and all, from the first to 10th place in the new list of the world's 10 best-dressed women. And what did she do? Scream foul and ask for a rematch with the champ? Burn up all those off-the-shoulder sweatshirts and platinum-heeled sneakers and go out and buy a new wardrobe? Pledge a better battle next year? Take a few nasty verbal digs at the first-place winner? Try to hang herself with a string of matched pearls? Nope. She simply snuggled a little deeper into that 10th place mink and said, "That's where I belong."

During 1953 Salem, if nothing else, has made national headlines with several dandy controversies. First there was Venus. Then the city hall bell wringer. And now it's the grid system. . . Portland radio station KGW (you remember radio?) rope-pullers were in Salem this week telling up a story on our loud City Hall bell. The radio men tape-recorded statements of Bill Chadwick, Mayor Al Loucks, city employees and just plain Bill on the street. Rumor is that the whole, belish yarn will ring out over KGW probably Sunday afternoon. . . Wonder if anybody is going to do anything with the local glum grid grievance.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page one.)

heating stove whose warmth stimulated the yeast—perhaps it was put behind the hard-coal "base burner" whose dull-red glow seen through the eisen-glass added cheer to the steady warmth which pervaded the "sitting room."

It was a minor tragedy if by some mischance—the fire going out for instance, —the batter turned sour. Then the chore of restarting the mix had to be endured. Barring that, buckwheats were the steady diet from fall until the frost was well out of the ground in the spring, and the time came to dope all members of the household with sassafras tea or sarsaparilla as a sort of purge of the winter's accumulation of possible ills.

Modern living has little or no place for buckwheat cakes. The new self-rising flours have done away with the old jar of yeasty batter. Wheat cakes are now more popular, and waffles; and they are only a once-a-week menu item. Orange juice, egg

and toast and coffee suffice for the moderns, with a bowl of some well-advertised cereal prescribed for the children.

Those who grew up on buckwheat cakes, two or three layers deep, larded liberally with butter and drowned in sorghum molasses, or brown sugar syrup or true maple syrup can't forget the food on which they were nurtured. But they too reach for orange juice, toast and coffee in their latter days. The outlook is for the Pennsylvania fields white with the flowering buckwheat to grow smaller still in the future.

Better English

By D. C. WILLIAMS

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "Who is he painting that picture for?"

2. What is the correct pronunciation of "long-lived?"

3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Exhibitionist, exonerate, exhilarate, exuberance.

ANSWERS

1. Say, "For whom is he painting that picture?" 2. Pronounce the i as in lie, not as in lift. 3. Exhilarate.

The Safety Valve

Townsend Birthday

To the Editor:
Upwards of five million loyal adherents of the Townsend Plan for National Insurance, will again on January 13th, 1954 hold thousands of anniversary meetings to honor their founder, Dr. Francis E. Townsend's eighty-seventh birthday. During the past twenty years he has had no purpose but to serve his country, and promote the welfare of all the people. For his lofty patriotism he is admired; for his faithful service to humanity, we all love him, and at the close of another wonderful year of service, we take his spotless record of the great emancipator, wrap it in the silver foil of affection, and entwine them with the golden threads of gratitude.

George H. Holmes
1326 Third St.
Salem, Oregon.

DAIRYMAN'S LICENSE

To the Editor:
The Statesman is incorrect in its editorial column of Jan. 1 in regards to Elmer Deetz and his milk business, when it implies that a milk license is conditioned on sanitation. The license is a business requirement and is issued under authority

of the State Board of Agriculture and not the sanitary department.

Lewis Judson,
1000 Judson St.

(Editor's Note: Mr. Judson is in error for the producer must have a license to correspond with the grade of fluid milk he is selling. Before the license is issued an inspector from the Department must inspect his physical facilities which "must conform to the requirements created by regulation for the production and distribution of fluid milk meeting the standards of quality for which the license to use the particular grade license is sought.")

MALENKOV AND THE CORPORAL

To the Editor:

In your editorial page of this date we note your article, quote "Malenkov's Friendly Greeting;" we note, in the latter part this statement by you, quote "Though it may figure as part of the Russian peace offensive, nevertheless it probably has a solid foundation in the hope of avoiding armed conflict." The part I wish to refer to, is, "it probably has a solid foundation."

Now, at this point, let us go to another news article. On page one, in the course of the interview of Claude J. Batchelor we find this statement, quote "I didn't want to be a Communist I just wanted to be a Peace fighter."

Now, again, let us turn back to your Editorial Page, and we find this, quote "An American corporal has chosen repatriation, the second of the small group of resuscitants. His Japanese wife in Tokyo may have been more of an attraction to him than the Stars & Stripes. These renegades should not go unpunished, even though we applaud their repentance of desertion."

It seems to me you are willing to put your faith and dependence in a statement by Mr. Malenkov (God forbid) while at the same time you wish to bring punishment on one of your own countrymen. This kind of reporting seems to again bring to the fore the old saying, "It all depends upon who you are; how much prestige one has, etc."

In this young man's mind and heart, it would not surprise me too much, that he has more of a desire for real peace on earth than Mr. Malenkov. But, he has so few mediums by which to exploit his desires and thoughts. The world hangs breathless upon the words of Malenkov, but how much attention will it give to Batchelor? And just what kind of attention?

The answer is found in your articles. Incidentally, it didn't take long for you to forget the spirit of Christmas, and get back on the beam.

BERT L. HAMILTON,
Rt. 4, Box 319.

40 Years Ago

Jan. 7, 1914

The Russian export chamber devotes many of its semi-weekly meetings to various aspects of trade relations with America, which continues to interest Russian industrial and commercial circles.

During 1913, a total of 466 permits to appropriate water were issued by the state engineer. Over 400,000 acres will be irrigated as the result.

The football league organized among Salem public schools proved successful. Garfield School won in the football league and has also organized a basketball team.

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British Lose Influence In Jordan

(While J. M. Roberts Jr. is on vacation his column is being written by members of the AP foreign staff.)

By WILTON WYNN

AMMAN, Jordan (U)—Arabs still refer to Jordan as a "British puppet," but British influence in this desert kingdom has been declining steadily.

Since the assassination of King Abdullah in 1951 British power has slipped steadily. A freely-elected parliament replaced the monarchy as the country's real power. The rise of anti-British Palestinians in the government made the British position more difficult. And Britain's annual subsidy is being rivaled by financial aid from other countries.

Today the British must deal with an entire parliament instead of with one cooperative king. Late in 1951, the Jordan constitution was altered to make the government responsible to parliament instead of to the king. This change has given added power to the half million Palestinians added to Jordan after the Arab-Israeli war in 1948. Palestinians now form a slight majority in the country. One third of Jordan's population are refugees who left homes in what is now Israel. The Palestinians hold Britain largely responsible for loss of their homes.

Palestinian (and with it anti-British) influence has reached a new high in the current cabinet of Dr. Fawzi Mulki. Palestinians hold half the 10 portfolios. Because of their aggressiveness and ability, these men dominate the cabinet.

Led by Foreign Minister Hussein Khalidi, Minister of Economy Anwar Khatib, and Minister of Education Ahmed Toukan, this group can rally the nation on any given issue.

Prime Minister Mulki is considered friendly to Britain, but he knows his government will fall if he openly compromises with Britain on a major issue. Any appearance of compromise on the Palestine question, for instance, would bring his cabinet crashing down. Despite this opposition, the British cling to their position as No. 1 foreign power here mainly because Jordan has not figured out any way to do without economic aid and remain solvent. The British subsidy for the Arab Legion alone amounts to roughly 24 million dollars annually. In addition, Britain is providing economic aid.

CRIME COMES TO JAIL
DALLAS (AP)—A prisoner here is charged with stealing a wrist-watch from a cellmate in county jail.

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THE 1954 FORECAST

The economic outlook for 1954 and an estimate of earnings and dividends for 1
40 RAILS • 25 UTILITIES
65 INDUSTRIALS

Here's a searching look into 1954 by the Economics Staff of a nationally-known investment research organization that should help every businessman and investor in making decisions in the coming year.

Outlined are estimated Earnings and Dividends per share for 1954, for 40 Rails, 25 Utilities and 65 Industrials, in table form for quick reference. In addition, 32 top industrial groups—steel, oil, chemicals, etc.—are surveyed, evaluated for the year, with opinions as to what may be expected for each. Long in preparation, this comprehensive 16-page Report on the entire Economic picture for 1954 is yours NOW—free of charge. Simply fill out and mail coupon.

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