

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"

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"Liberals" and Tolerance

There is a near-unanimous chorus of criticism of the "methods" employed by Senator McCarthy and of Representative Velde in the conduct of investigations. Loudest of course are the "true liberals" but 20 years ago they were heading the wolf pack when congressional committees were probing into affairs of high finance, banks, munitions, public utilities, etc. True enough, a lot of dirt was exposed to public view, but the process resulted in considerable "smearing" too. For instance when J. P. Morgan testified he had paid no income tax for the year 1930 there was an outcry of anguish that he, a wealthy man, had escaped paying such a tax. The fact was that his losses wiped out his income so there was no income left to tax, a situation shared by thousands of others at the time without disgrace.

Another example of liberal inconsistency: Before the second World War the bundists and Christian Frontiers were conspicuously active, and some of the so-called liberals wanted their activities suppressed. They raised no protest when a miscellaneous assortment of pro-fascists and nazis and anti-Semites were rounded up and put on trial in Judge Elcher's court in Washington in 1944. Some of the same breed however have been critical of the trial of Communists under the Smith act, which spite of its validation by the Supreme Court gets close to invasion of the first amendment.

Recently President Eisenhower has been given enthusiastic support on his order shutting the mouths of his subordinates from reporting on their conversations if called before the McCarthy committee, and President Truman had issued similar orders. This does look like a proper protection of executive authority. Yet some one noted recently that when the Teapot Dome investigation was on, President Coolidge instructed his subordinates to cooperate fully with the committee. What if he had closed their mouths—what a storm would have blown up!

The point we are trying to make is that too many people accommodate their principles to their prejudices. They fail to be consistent. "Liberals" as we have known them in recent years have often been terribly intolerant. The organization with the greatest consistency in holding to its principles is the American Civil Liberties Union; yet it is subject to a vast amount of buffeting and condemnation when it, seeking to preserve civil liberties, collides with race or political or economic prejudices.

Emotions play so big a part in politics, perhaps we should not be surprised that feelings affect attitudes and help mold decisions—after all a human being is not a mechanical robot. But persons should not be forgetful. The smears of present investigators are quite indefensible, and individual rights are often rudely trampled on; but few tears were dropped over the plight of those caught in the net of the investigation of the 1930s—one of those who conducted such an inquiry was elevated to the Supreme Court, and the counsel in another inquiry was named to the federal district bench. (However we admit the standards maintained in those investigations were on a much higher level than in these latter days).

The purpose is to get the truth. Sometimes witnesses want to conceal the truth. They must be "pried open" if possible, then interrogations must follow the usual practice of trials at court. The abuses of witnesses and the broadcasting of reckless charges and insinuations, under cover of congressional immunity are what deserve condemnation no matter what the status or association of the victims. Civil rights are quite indivisible, enjoyed by bankers and manufacturers and agitators and propagandists, within the limits of the constitution.

Administration Sends to Governors Proposal For First Major Change in Columbia Basin Plan

By A. ROBERT SMITH

Statesman Correspondent

WASHINGTON — The Eisenhower administration has dispatched to the governors of the Pacific Northwest states a detailed proposal for making what it terms "the first major change in the main control plan for the Columbia River basin."

The plan is in two parts:

1) A Corps of Engineers proposal previously outlined publicly for construction of the Bruce Eddy and Penny Cliffs dams on the Clearwater River in northern Idaho; 2) A Bureau of Reclamation proposal, not heretofore published, for construction of two dams in the middle Snake River below Hells Canyon.

The latter part of the plan becomes the highlight of the overall scheme because it is related directly to the controversial Hells Canyon argument which is nearing its first anniversary in public hearings before the Federal Power Commission.

Here is what the administration has asked the governors to approve in order that the plan can be sent to Congress for authorization.

The Bureau would build two dams in that stretch of the Snake above the confluence of the Sal-

mon River and below Hells Canyon. The first would be a 158-foot dam at the Mountain Sheep site, and the second a 402-foot project about 20 miles upstream at the Pleasant Valley site. This latter dam would back water right up to the Hells Canyon site.

This plan is designed to be adaptable to either of the Hells Canyon schemes — either the high dam or the three smaller projects proposed by Idaho Power Co. But the benefits from the two newly proposed dams would be greater if the high Hells Canyon dam were built, according to the report to the governors.

If integrated with high Hells Canyon dam, Pleasant Valley would have an installed capacity of 720,000 KW and Mountain Sheep would have 300,000 KW, the report states. If integrated with Idaho Power's three dams, Pleasant Valley would generate 630,000 KW and Mountain Sheep 250,000 KW.

This difference of 140,000 KW by which the former scheme would exceed the latter is attributable to the greater water storage in the high dam as compared with Idaho Power's Brownlee project — or 3,800,000 acre-feet vs. 1,000,000 acre-feet.

The report made it clear that the two Reclamation projects plus the two Engineers projects were not being considered by either agency as a substitute for high Hells Canyon dam. The report declared that the addi-

tion of these projects "whether or not the high Hells Canyon dam is built" will "give more flood control storage than was provided in the middle Snake area" in the present main control plan.

"This additional flood control storage can all be utilized to advantage," the governors were informed. They were told it would help make up for the 2,000,000 acre-feet of water storage that Sen. Guy Cordon (R-Ore.) has proposed to eliminate from the downstream John Day project in his bill by which Portland General Electric Co. would jointly finance the project.

"The proposed reservoirs will increase the firm power output and the economic benefits attributable to all of the dams downstream, namely, the four authorized dams on the lower Snake River: John Day, The Dalles and Bonneville dams," the report said.

This four-project scheme is designed to avoid major clashes with fish interests, for it would leave clear the Salmon River which is considered the main upriver spawning grounds. One feature is to allow for a future diversion tunnel from the Salmon River to the Pleasant Valley dam, but this would not be undertaken at the outset.

The report mentions tying an irrigation project, presumably in Idaho, to the Reclamation Bureau dams but does not detail this proposal.

The Run in the Nylon Stocking

When a girl on the Arthur Godfrey show detected—Horrors!—a run in her hose she remarked that nylons aren't as durable as they used to be. This touched off some banter with Godfrey and others chiming in. It also touched off the National Association of Hosiery Manufacturers who were distressed over the bad advertising. The reason, say the makers, that nylons are less durable is because the ladies prefer the sheer varieties. So thin they are almost transparent, their life is shorter than others of heavier gauge. Just what Godfrey is going to do about it the report does not say. As far as the millions of those who viewed the show are concerned there isn't much he can do about it. He can't recall either the words or the scene, or the stocking run or the same company of viewers.

What the incident does reveal is the sensitivity of each group to what it regards as adverse publicity. Newspapers long have been accustomed to it; but they are pretty securely entrenched behind the dictum that they just print the news, do not make it. Other media, especially those primarily for entertainment, motion pictures, radio, TV, are more exposed. The result is that every show, every program has to be inspected, laundered, aseptized to free it from any taints which would irritate the eyes, ears or noses of any group, religious, political, commercial, industrial, patriotic, recreational, educational. Novels of "social significance" are treated with editorial chemicals to make them safe from investigating committees of church, state or organization. Even then some get by, and invite picketing or boycott. The consequence of such thorough aseptis is apt to be sterility.

Usually the fearsome souls are worried too soon and too much. Folk are more adult than special interests think they are. The hosiery makers for instance would have done better to laugh at the run in Janette Davis's nylons. By their protest the whole incident is blown up in newspapers across the land. But it will take more than publicity to get milady to stop buying and wearing nylons, and sheer nylons at that.

Lakes Wallula and Umatilla

Interstate rivalry resulted in leaving the pool behind McNary dam nameless these many months. Oregonians wanted to call it Lake Umatilla. Residents over the state line preferred Lake Wallula. Both are good, authentic, native lakes, worthy of attachment to the big lake created by the dam.

Faced with this dispute Col. F. S. Tandy, chief of the Walla Walla district of the Corps of Engineers, functioned like a Solomon and suggested calling the pond Lake Wallula and then the pool back of the upcoming John Day dam Lake Umatilla. Sentiment at Umatilla seems to be agreeable; so both names seem now to be in line for application to the two lakes that bloomed where none was before.

This is the best time of year for pictures of the state capitol. As the sun swings way to the North the front of the capitol gets lighted in the early morning hours; the pillars of the building mass and the tower cast shadows making the building more photogenic. At other seasons of the year, with the sun behind the building most of the day, the entrance facade is a grey monotone. Those who are not photographers will enjoy the morning view of the capitol for the next several weeks, the earlier after sunup the better.

Finally concluding that in union there may be strength the CIO and AFL lumber workers are getting together to press their demands for higher wages. They just won't take "no" for an answer though it has been repeated often enough.

Roy Cohn charges that as far as the attorney general is concerned "the deck" is stacked against him. We can't say as to that but in this hearing the aces surely are wild.

Pabst, one of the nation's biggest brewers, is marketing a Cola drink—Tap-a Cola. This conforms to the principle, "if you can't lick 'em, join 'em."

MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER



Comes the Dawn by Conrad Franke

For one reason or another life seems to move at an uneven tempo in homes where there are infants. Families with wee offspring lying around in cribs appear to operate under different ground rules than do homes where everybody is old enough to dress himself. We made a survey recently of a home dominated by a month-old baby and came up with some interesting points — mostly pins. . . .

In the first place the number one commandment in the infant-harboring household is, "Thou Shalt Not Let the Screen Door Slam." Parents become extremely agile in carrying out this commandment. Mothers develop an uncanny sense of practically always knowing when a screen door is about to slam. During our survey we were talking in the kitchen with such a mother. Suddenly she sprang up, zipped down the hall, sped through the dining and living rooms, flung open the front door just in time to block, with her hand, the backward swing of the screen door in the wake of her departing four-year-old son.

Fathers, on the other hand, often attempt to prevent door slamming by lecturing other members of the family. This is a pretty unreliable method. We heard one father yell a warning to an older child just as she was going out the door. His recorded advice sounded like this, "Hey, don't let that (SLAM!!!) door slam. . . ."

Another thing we noticed was people going around on tiptoes crying, "Shhhhhh. You'll wake the baby." This warning usually comes after the baby is already awake. And some parents, especially fathers, occasionally shhhh so loud they wake up not only the baby but anybody else trying to nap in the house. . . . Loud uncles and shrill-voiced aunts are usually welcomed with pained expressions and unheeded, rather than open arms. . . . Grandmas are always welcome—especially if the dinner dishes aren't done yet.

But the big battle in the baby-badgered home comes at night. At this time all efforts are bent to not only get the small one asleep but to keep him that way as long as possible. . . . One enterprising father, severely tried by a noisy child who refused to sleep at night, hooked up the baby's crib to a five-horse power outboard boat motor. If the rocking crib fails to keep the infant quiet, he explained, the roar of the motor drowns out the cries. Cheered by such a display of ingenuity, we asked him how he was making out. "Not bad," he said grimly, "but I'm afraid I'll have to increase that to a 10-horse motor. Some of those wails are getting through. . . ."

The Safety Valve

PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND SEGREGATION

To the Editor:

The cartoon showing a "Dixie" general recruiting private schools for resistance to the anti-segregation law is unfair to private schools, who have been trying to overcome the prejudice of local citizens against education through education itself, which is slower than the supreme court decision.

According to an article in the May 23 copy of "The Register," a Catholic publication, Bishop Peter L. Ireton made the announcement that Catholic high schools in Richmond, Va., once capital of the confederacy, will enroll Negro students for the first time next September.

Private schools have the same difficulties confronting public schools in this issue, which is local prejudice. This can't be overcome by uninformed needling of either side.

Joe Spencer, Stayton, Oregon.

"Spare That Tree"

To the Editor: Although I was born in Oregon, I had never lived here until two years ago. Oregon, to me, had always meant a country of many beautiful trees, which not too many years ago used to cover

and beautify our Willamette Valley. But now the idea seems to be to cut down every tree in sight. I go to school in McMinnville and as I drive over there every day I have noticed how ruthlessly and without any apparent reason many groves of trees are being cut down. Even here in Salem beautiful Maple and others are being cut down all the time and no effort seems to be made to replace them in other parts of the city. The Northwest is noted for its forests but the Willamette Valley is beginning to look like parts of the Middle West with hardly a tree in sight. They talk of reforestation but there seems to be no signs of it on the barren, cut up and burned out hills around the valley. I think we should strive to build up our tree population instead of tearing it down, and make the Willamette Valley truly Pacific Northwest not only for we who live here, but for the tourists whom we would like to see come back for another visit, instead of going home with sore eyes.

Don P. Evans, 685 Court Street, Salem, Oregon.

"Fighting Joe"

To the Editor: From the looks of some of your editorials it seems you have a personal grudge against Senator

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page one.)

a personal God in the sense usually attached to the designation. These persons could not in good conscience repeat this pledge. Yet the pledge should be one that every American citizen could utter with complete loyalty and honesty. We certainly do not want to exclude from reciting the pledge those who may be unbelievers, thus forcing them to be silent while others speak the words. Some American citizens are Buddhists and a few are Mohammedans, who might find themselves under a strain if this pledge finally becomes legal.

In this country we have undertaken to maintain national unity in a federal-state system, with full freedom of conscience. That includes freedom of not believing as well as freedom in choosing or in framing a creed. Even with this principle written into federal and state constitutions plenty of religious bigotry and intolerance remain. It would in my opinion be a mistake to introduce a religious sanction in our constitution or pledge to the flag even though the vast majority of our citizens are willing to accept it and could recite the pledge in good faith. Here is a case where the right of the minority should be protected.

Faith in God, I repeat, is a matter of personal conviction, outside the competence of legal mandate.

McCarthy, or trying to influence everyone to think and believe as you. I know a lot of people who are pleased to have a man with enough courage to investigate Army and communist activities, where most officials are afraid of threats from someone.

What about the seven spies they arrested a few days ago or are they red herring, or did Truman want President Eisenhower to put the clamps on Joe McCarthy because he was getting too close to home base or the nerve center when Truman said Ike did not have to stand for such witnesses, or questions and accusations?

There was plenty of waste in the army, and dirty deals in government, on payrolls, secrets, and favors. A man that is brave enough with all the rest against him should be given credit, or are they all afraid of the truth that hurts?

More of your editorials and ideas and you will be losing subscribers, or are they all like you, fighting Joe because of his religion. You must know what it is.

Jack Daley, Rt. 2 Box 73, Silverton, Oregon

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Time Flies:

From The Statesman Files

10 Years Ago

June 6, 1944

Banner headlines "France Invaded" was the news of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's headquarters announcing that Allied troops were landing on the North coast of France.

Salem will commemorate the centennial of the founding of the first YMCA in London, England. The Y was founded June 6, 1844, and has more than 10,000 branches in 68 countries.

Allied invasion news set off a wave of prayerful enthusiasm throughout Oregon. Groups in shipyards and other war plants collected before band booths to sign pledges for heavier purchases.

25 Years Ago

June 6, 1929

Bliss Carlsen, 66, international-known poet who was awarded the gold medal of letters by the Canadian Parliament, died at the home of friends in New Canaan, Conn. Some of his books were "Sons of Vagabond" and "Trees."

Forrest William Gaw of Kansas City, Mo., was elected director of the school of music at Willamette University, to succeed Prof. Emory W. Hobson.

Chief Little Bison, full-blooded Sioux Indian, lectured at one of the Salem stores on the various tribes that once inhabited the Willamette Valley. He is widely

known as an expert on Indian lore.

40 Years Ago

June 6, 1914

T. A. Livesley & Co. had a hop-picking machine installed on their large hop ranch north of Salem. It requires 40 men to operate it and picks 1200 baskets of hops each day.

Ladd & Bush bank will enlarge its office space by taking over the store room at present occupied by the C. T. Pomeroy Jewelry firm. Pomeroy will move to the space formerly occupied by Charles Hinges.

War on dips, twists, glides, and all objectionable features of the tango and other modern dances was renewed at the dancing masters' convention in session at Cleveland.

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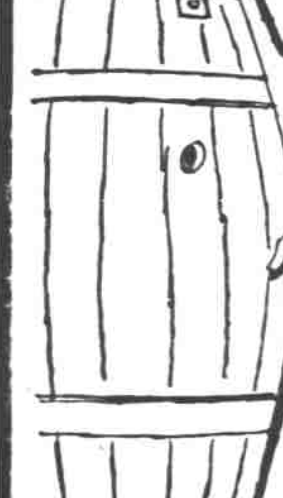
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