

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"

From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

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Harping May Be Helpful

As it did during war years, the Statesman avoids using the word "only" when recounting casualties which were not as high as might have been expected. The "only" seemed to detract from the dignity and importance of the individual. So the word will be avoided in reference to the number of highway deaths over the July 4 week end.

However, the holidays should not pass without some comment that apparently more and more drivers are becoming cognizant of their responsibilities, with a resultant cheering reduction in expectable injuries and fatalities.

Sometimes it is wearisome to type out the same old warnings prior to heavy traffic week ends — pointing out again and again that drivers are responsible for five cars, not just one (the cars in front, back and at the sides as well as their own); that slow drivers can lead to as many accidents as fast ones at times; that constant alertness is the price of life, and that alcohol is a fine thing to rub on sore muscles.

But when the week end is over and the toll less than expected, we are cheered in the belief that perhaps such constant harping has helped in some small way to keep the danger fresh in mind.

Work Facing Legislature

Whether the trend toward increased worker benefits and lower employer tax rates can be continued, in regard to Oregon's unemployment compensation program, is going to be a major issue at the next state legislature.

Plain facts are that unemployment reserves are down something like 35 per cent from their post-war high of \$86,000,000 and payments exceeding \$23,000,000 in the year just closed were the second highest in history. And despite increasing payrolls, revenue has dropped.

But it is true, too, that benefits averaging \$22 a week are much smaller in proportion to normal pay than obtained some years ago, and there is considerable agitation to bring such benefits more nearly in line with current pay schedules.

Suggestions are myriad, though none has taken definite form. Some employers have considered proposing the elimination of seasonal workers in the lower pay brackets, as an offset to possible higher benefits. Another suggestion would broaden coverage to additional groups, as a means to halt the decline in funds. Whatever the commensurate, present conflicting opinions preface a prolonged controversy before the 1955 legislature adjourns.

Reputation of Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas Enhanced by Record in Congress

By JOSEPH AND STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON—As the Congress goes into the home stretch this month, it is already clear that this melancholy session has ruined some reputations, severely damaged a good many others, and really made only one. The man to make a serious reputation this year is Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas.



The professional investigators may be better known to the television audience than the Senate minority leader but the big, tough, ambitious, long-headed, energetic and enormously hard-working Johnson has been saluted by Harry F. Byrd of Virginia as "the best leader I've seen in the Senate." And that is good enough for the man from Texas.

Johnson is interesting in several different ways. For one thing, by his work, he illustrates all too clearly the fullness of President Eisenhower's bad luck with his own party.

If the Republican performance in Congress even slightly resembled the Democratic performance, as organized and directed by Johnson and wily, courageous Sam Rayburn, the Eisenhower administration would already have the kind of coherent, powerful record of accomplishment that its leadership deserves.

On at least two occasions in this session, where the President's policy happened to coincide with Democratic views, Johnson has stepped in to rescue Eisenhower from defeat by his own party on really major issues.

One such issue was public housing. The House Republicans gutted the provision of cheap housing for lower income groups. A considerable number of Senate Republicans were

ready to defy the leadership and go along with their friends in the House. But Johnson organized his Democrats to give the President about what he wanted.

Another issue was foreign trade. It is not generally known, but the hard old chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, Dan Reed, was actually playing with the idea of letting the reciprocal trade act altogether die this year, on the ground that his committee had no time to deal with it. Then one of Johnson's Democrats, Sen. Albert Gore of Tennessee, shyly offered the Clarence Randall trade program, including a three-year extension of reciprocal trade, as a Senate amendment to the tax bill.

That meant weeks of debate on the tax bill in the Senate, a probable Senate victory for the Randall program, and other unpleasantness for Representative Reed. With great haste, the one-year extension of reciprocal trade was reported and passed in the House. If the President had chosen to rally the Eisenhower-Republicans in the Senate, they and Johnson's legion would have been able to transform the one-year extension into the bill the President really wanted.

Johnson's intervention in these two issues was partly conviction, partly politics, of course. But it was not politics at all, when Sam Rayburn, speaking for Johnson as well as himself, went to President Eisenhower some months ago to say that if there were hard and unpopular things to be done in the defense and foreign policy fields, the President could count on Democratic support.

Johnson and Rayburn, are symbols indeed, of the opportunities that the President has thus far neglected, to work with a large majority group of moderate men in both political parties, and to leave the anti-Eisenhower Republicans howling and withering somewhere out in right field. It is an opportunity Eisenhower may yet take at the next session, if his present discontent with his own party in Congress continues unabated.

Lyndon Johnson is interesting, too, in the sense suggested by

Our Friends Relax

The United States, long unique among nations in having no peace-time conscription, now calls its military men at a younger age and keeps them in active service longer than almost any of its allies.

A recent tabulation in U. S. News and World Report shows that only Britain, South Korea and Nationalist China conscript youths below the 18½-year limit of this country. The age in those three nations is 18. And only those three keep them as long — Britain for 24 months and the other two nations indefinitely depending on need.

Both Holland and Belgium recently reduced the service period to 18 months, the same as for France, Turkey and Greece require 24 months but do not draft anyone less than 20 years old. Australia and New Zealand require active service of but three months. The Philippines only 10 months altogether, including reserve status.

The picture is different on the other side of the Iron Curtain, however. Russia takes youths of 16 and compels service from 24 to 60 months; satellite countries take them at 17 and require a minimum of 24 months on active duty.

Some nations have no draft laws, including India, Austria, West Germany and Japan.

In the main, the recent survey finds, "troop build-ups are proceeding rapidly in Communist countries, much less rapidly in countries friendly to the U. S." In the age of the military specialist, total weapons and vital mobility of firepower, however, it still is not clear that numerical advantage is dominating.

The Federal Civil Defense Administration is moving its headquarters from Washington, D.C., to Battle Creek, Mich., to get out of an area which might be an A-Bomb target. Battle Creek's population is 48,660, slightly more than Salem's. Any conclusion one might draw from that would be on the optimistic side, for sure.

A writer on international affairs says there is new hope in France. Now if France will show us something so that we can share its new hope in itself, things will look brighter.

Editorial Comment

AMERICANISM IN MENLO

This week in Menlo Park 30 members of the Exchange Club did their community and their country a notable service.

They did it by voting, over a single dissenter, to give up their national charter rather than expel a member of Chinese descent.

Such action is of special value in these times when the Communists are capitalizing on every opportunity to persuade the world that ours is a nation of bigotry, of ruthless persecution of racial minorities.

But its main value is apart from that. This is the practical application of American doctrine, the faithful performance that puts meaning into the abstract principle of Americanism. America is, after all, no more than an amalgam of widely assorted minorities, bound together by common bonds. Perhaps the most powerful and essential of these bonds is respect for the right of any individual human being to achieve dignity in keeping with his intrinsic worth. That bond has been measurably strengthened by the action of 30 business and professional men of Menlo Park. (San Francisco Chronicle).

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



Washington Mirror

Seniority System Center of Debates

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Statesman Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Just about every time Mark Hatfield and Mrs. Dorothy Woodring meet, they square off in a good natured debate over one of Hatfield's pet peeves—the sacred seniority system that prevails in Congress.

Blunders by Kremlin Bring Arbenz's Fall

By TOM WHITNEY
(AP Foreign Staff)

It looks very much as if the international Communist strategists in the Kremlin made some pretty bad mistakes in sizing up the Guatemalan situation.

It's hard to imagine that they wanted to lose control of this beachhead in the western hemisphere. Their grip on the government of President Jacobo Arbenz Guzman was very strong and had they played their cards carefully it seems likely that he might have been able to stay in power for a long time.

But it was the Kremlin itself that blew the whole thing sky high with the result that Arbenz has now been overthrown.

Certainly the Kremlin realized when it permitted a large shipment of Communist arms to be sent from an eastern European port to Guatemala that this would cause an explosion on the Guatemalan issue, inside Guatemala itself and obviously in the United States.

Thus in authorizing this shipment they were engaging in what looks like an open provocation both to the United States and to anti-Communist Guatemalans. They were asking for trouble but at the same time apparently playing to win and confident that they would.

On the other hand, as dispatches from Mexico have suggested, the Communist strategists may have thought the U. S. government would throw all Latin America into an anti-U. S. hysteria. This would have played into Communist hands.

They may also have calculated that it would lead to a revolt of some sort inside Guatemala which the Arbenz government would crush—and in doing it establish a full-blown Communist revolution and reign of terror which would put the country permanently in their grip.

The reaction of the Moscow press to the Guatemalan rebellion supports most definitely the idea that the Kremlin expected to win there. As soon as the rebellion broke out, Pravda and other leading papers launched a big press campaign against the United States and in favor of the Guatemalan communists. Big editorials and extensive articles were carried day after day till the overthrow of Arbenz.

In the United Nations the Soviets also went out on a limb on the Guatemalan issue, taking a stronger stand even than the Guatemalans themselves.

Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov himself promised the Guatemalan government in the warmest words the assistance of the Soviets in the United Nations only a little while before Arbenz was overthrown. These Soviet actions seem to reflect confidence that Arbenz would survive.

The Russians went wrong on every count as it turned out. The United States did not step into the trap of direct intervention in Guatemalan affairs, but instead took action only in concert with other American nations. The Guatemalan Communists proved to be not so strong after all.

So right now for the moment the Russian press is not saying as much about Guatemala as it was a little while ago.

This is only a brief hint, however. The Russians always find some consolation in their acerbity. In the Guatemalan case their tactics now will be to try to inflame public opinion all over Latin America and the rest of the world—pictur-

They met again last weekend, and of course debated once more, but to no conclusion.

Hatfield, dean of students at Willamette University, spent last weekend in the capital with two of a number of students now en route to Europe with him for a summer tour. The Willamette students taking in the Washington sights with the dean were Judith Wood and William Schantz.

Mrs. Woodring, secretary to Rep. Walter Norblad, gave them the grand tour of Capital Hill—and then it began.

Bright Star
Hatfield, a young member of the Oregon legislature and considered one of the bright stars in the Republican party in the state, let loose with a barrage against the system in Congress which makes a man chairman of his committee only if he has been a member of the committee longer than any other member.

Like no small number of like-minded folk, Hatfield said he thought this practice ought to be scrapped in favor of choosing chairmen of committees on the basis of their qualifications.

The system, Hatfield claimed, penalized the capable young men in Congress to the advantage quite often of men well past their prime. It is that seniority system which made Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy chairman of his committee on investigations, and which made his Wisconsin colleagues, Sen. Alexander Wiley, chairman of Foreign Relations Committee, to mention only two cases.

Mrs. Woodring for her part gave not an inch. She contended that small states (population-wise) like Oregon would never have a chance to get their representatives into chairmanships without the seniority system. She claimed the larger states would crowd out the smaller states in any free election of lawmakers to the powerful heads of committees.

Makes Point
But with the seniority system, she says if Oregon congressmen live long enough and continue to be re-elected they will sooner or later attain goals otherwise impossible without the prevailing system.

Mrs. Woodring made the point that neither system would be perfect, that the imperfections of one system would be eliminated at the cost of different imperfections — and for her money, they would be worse if the seniority rule were repealed. She adds that it gives a man something to work toward as a reward for long-term service.

But she is not an advocate completely of the status quo in Congress. Mrs. Woodring would like to see a mandatory retirement age fixed by law upon members of Congress, say about 75. This would mitigate some of the criticism of the seniority system, which often of course results in the most senile of lawmakers in the most key positions.

But the status quo appears in no danger of alteration, for only Congress can revise its rules governing election qualifications of members.

DAIRY MEET PLANNED

CORVALLIS (U) — Joint meeting of the western division of the American Dairy Science Assn. and the American Society of Animal Production here July 11-14 is expected to attract about 400 dairy and livestock scientists.

ing the Guatemalan revolt as North American intervention in Latin American affairs.

But now anti-Communist nations in the western hemisphere have acquired in Guatemala a propaganda weapon of no little significance themselves with which to counter the Soviet line. Much information is going to come to light in Guatemala in the near future to expose the Communist plot and the Communist reign of terror there and put the Red machinations in a pretty unseemly light. The dissemination of this information may do a great deal to show intelligent Latin Americans the dangers of Communism in the western hemisphere.

Time Flies:

From The Statesman Files

10 Years Ago

July 6, 1944

Dr. George Herbert Smith, president of Willamette University, was the recipient of the honorary degree of doctor of laws at the spring convocation of the University of Southern California.

Salem young men who passed the Navy's Eddy test, qualifying for a 10-month course in radio technician training, were Richard M. Page, in training at Chicago, Ill., and George H. Swift Jr.

In a message to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek as China entered the eighth year of war

with Japan, Prime Minister Churchill pledged aid against Japan.

25 Years Ago

July 6, 1919

George Landroy, editor of an Antwerp, Belgium, newspaper, died at Mammoth Hospital, Yellowstone National Park, from burns suffered from boiling water from Castle Geyser. Landroy was touring America.

Louis E. Bean, 66, chairman of the Public Service Commission, died unexpectedly at the home of friends. Mr. Bean was a member of the State Legislature for 14 years and served as Speaker of the House in his last term.

Dr. and Mrs. Grover Bellinger are in The Dalles to attend the "open house" for the new Eastern Oregon Tuberculosis Hospital.

40 Years Ago

July 6, 1914

The foundation and first floor joists for the new \$30,000 Girls Industrial School Building

Better English

By D. C. WILLIAMS

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "She performs with great skill on the piano." 2. What is the correct pronunciation of "temperament"? 3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Pictorial, piazza, pickaninny, peccadillo. 4. What does the word "interminable" mean? 5. What is a word beginning with en that means "a being"?

ANSWERS
1. Say, "She plays the piano with great skill." 2. Pronounce tem-per-a-ment, four syllables, not tem-per-ment. 3. Peccadillo. 4. Endless. "The hours of waiting seemed interminable." 5. Entity.

being erected on 40 acres of ground south of Salem, have been completed. The building is scheduled to be ready in September.

At La Grande, lightning set off the city's fire alarm system when a bolt struck one of the wires. Georges Le Gagneux, French aviator, was killed while attempting a double loop in the air. He plunged into the River Loire.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page one.)

to pass on educational publications of the state system of higher education. At that time, Director Dorman said he had no such intention in administering the law. But here, when Rep. Maurine Neuberger objects to the alleged propaganda in the milk administration's house organ, he proceeds to act as censor.

Of course, state funds shouldn't be used to publish material that may properly be branded as political propaganda on controversial issues; and the funds collected for financing this administration are state funds. But the responsibility should rest in the appointing authority, or, in case of its default, in the courts. And that control rests fundamentally on discretion in the conduct of affairs. We have no doubt that the board of agriculture and the governor will act to prevent abuse of the printing privilege. But we do not want business office censorship.

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