

# 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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## And Election's Four Months Off

James T. Marr, Oregon AFL Secretary, gets a rise out of several Oregon editors when he predicts that Senatorial Candidate Richard L. Neuberger will be the victim of a "big smear" campaign.  
The Capital Journal doesn't see how an attempt to picture Neuberger as "a radical and a dreamer" could be called a smear. Instead, says the CJ, "an insidious smear has been directed for months past at Douglas McKay and Senator Cordon, the like of which we cannot recall since the granddaddy of all smears, the job of Charley Michaelson, worked so successfully on Herbert Hoover."  
The Oregonian says that Neuberger is "a past master of the smear technique and has been using it indiscriminately." It objects to Neuberger's charges that Cordon is a stooge of big business, the oil companies, the timber barons, the private power companies, etc., and that McKay is Cordon's "willing errand boy." Also, the Oregonian doesn't think it was fair of Neuberger to refer to Cordon as "gnome-like."  
It is a shame that this important senatorial contest has deteriorated so rapidly to the level where advocates of both sides are crying foul. For the main part, the debate has been on the issues until now when the "smear" thing is coming out into the open.  
We say "is coming" because the dirty business is not entirely in the open yet. Neuberger's feeling about Cordon's record in Congress has never been secret; he's been saying what he thinks (or what he says he thinks) about the resources problems for a long time. He makes serious charges of "giveaway" (an inaccurate catch-word if there ever was one) but at least they are refutable by facts where error can be shown. On the other hand, this "radical and dreamer" business is pretty hard to pin down. What is a "dreamer," exactly? How can a man prove he is not one? And the term radical is another semantic enigma, eel-slippery. But we agree much of this type of stuff does not constitute a real smear.  
The worst of the smears still is not out in the open. That is the exploitation of anti-semitism which we feel certain Cordon would not condone. Cordon has a plenty good case to fight Neuberger's "stooge" charges. Neuberger can try to defend himself against the "radical and dreamer" charges. But Neuberger can't change his name or his ancestry or his religion.

St. Louis called off its elephant show because "the elephants just couldn't stand that hot gravel in the show area" during the recent heat wave. Chances are the gravel couldn't stand the elephants, either.  
Gertrude complains her horoscope told her that she needed tact to meet influential people, but that she hadn't met anyone from Washington, D. C. in months.

## Recent Events Declared to Have Vindicated Dr. Oppenheimer on Nearly All Counts

By Joseph & Stewart Alsop  
WASHINGTON—To the Soviet enemy, the transcript in the case of Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer has revealed many secret matters. To the American scientific community, this same transcript has made an even more dangerous revelation.  
In brief, it has shown that Dr. Oppenheimer really got into trouble, not because he gave the government honest, informed, usually sensible but unwelcome advice.  
The chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Admiral Lewis Strauss, has gone to great lengths to give a different impression. "Defects of character" were the theme of his bitter opinion against Oppenheimer. And to a disturbed and protesting scientist of Los Alamos laboratory, the stouthead of our weaponry, Strauss wrote:  
"The Atomic Energy Commission does not believe that any government servant—scientist, engineer or administrator—should slant his advice or temper his professional opinion because of apprehension that such advice or opinion might be unpopular now or in the future."  
Naturally, however, the scientists are testing these assurances by Admiral Strauss against the record compiled by his own subordinates. That record begins, of course, with the commission charge against Dr. Oppenheimer, with its ugly hints about the H-bomb controversy. And that record continues through the massive transcript, with attack after attack on Dr. Oppenheimer's ad-

## Spare That Good Name!

Is Blossom Gulch School a good name for a fine, new 30-room school? Some citizens of Coos Bay don't think so and the Coos Bay Times, comments:  
"The word gulch does not smack of culture and, one must admit, trying it to blossom only removes part of the harshness. Gulch, perhaps largely due to the influence of western movies, has become synonymous with badmen and blazing six guns rather than with the forces of virtue which always triumph in the typical western. All schools in District 9C have names reflecting their location. Blossom Gulch would follow that pattern—but there is a roughness in that word gulch that just doesn't fit, its opponents have stated. True, if a school had been built there in pioneer days and given that name, it probably would sound right and any move to change it bitterly resisted—but now, well—"  
And the paper calls for suggestions for some nice, suitable name.  
Since when are Oregonians so refined and "cultured" that they must deny their own heritage?  
Too many of the good, old descriptive names have been slicked up by squeamish namby-pambies. Hog Canyon is now Rowena Dell; Deadman Creek is Ruchel Creek; Devil's Lake is Delake. In Marion county the Oregon Electric Railway station, first named Chemeketa in order to perpetuate the original Indian name, was changed by local enthusiasts to Hopmere, "a silly mongrel" word, according to Lewis A. McArthur, author of "Oregon Geographic Names."  
The history of geographic names is a fascinating one. It tells much about the people who made this state—their wonderful humor, their down-to-earth realism, their acute perceptions, their family pride, their occasional nostalgia for the old hometowns, their ear for the musical Indian dialects, and their hope for the future.  
Names like Boiling Point, Hole-in-the-Ground, Peepover Saddle (also called P. O. Saddle), Sinkers Mountain, Bachelor Flat, Bakeoven, Donner and Blitzen River, Mutton Chop Butte, Whiskey Run, Pawn, Fin Roberts Creek (as dry as Fin Roberts), Ropers Bunion and our own Popcorn and Brush College schools have character as well as historical raison d'etre. To replace them with some phony, fancy, high-sounding name would be an irreplaceable loss to the state.  
Words like slew and butte and gulch and prairie and run are good words, as typical of our region as kill (in New York State) and bayou (in Louisiana) are of theirs. The national heroes are already amply supplied with namesakes and the nation's highways are uniformly plastered with tradenames, slogans and catchwords in neon and poster-paint. Place names and dialects that are distinctly provincial are refreshing; without them, the whole country would assume a tiresome and artificial sameness.  
Coos Bay should take pride in what picturesque local names survive and Oregonians everywhere should resist any shallow and unworthy urge to slough off their rough but honest past.—(M. W.)

## Editorial Comment

BY WAY OF EXPLANATION  
Error is hard to avoid. The Waverly, Iowa, Independent pulled one and the editor was almost suffocated by the protests of his readers. He acknowledged the boner, but added: "In an ordinary newspaper column there are 10,000 letters and there are seven possible wrong positions for each. That makes 70,000 chances per column to make errors and also several million chances for transcription in my newspaper of 48 columns. In the sentence 'To Be or Not to Be,' by transcription alone, 2,750,022 errors can be made." (Brooks-Scanlon Pine Echoes).

## Better English

By D. C. WILLIAMS  
1. What is wrong with this sentence? "She generally attends the meetings, but it is near a year since I late attended one."  
2. What is the correct pronunciation of "caramel"?  
3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Cryptic, crustaceous, crucifixion, crisscross.  
4. What does the word "legacy" mean?  
5. What is a word beginning with na that means "ingenious; artless"?  
ANSWERS  
1. Say, "She usually attends the meetings, but it is nearly a year since I last attended one."  
2. Pronounce kar-a-mel, first as in care, second as unstressed, e as in bell, accent first syllable.  
3. Crustaceous. 4. Something left by will; a bequest. "His legacy made him a wealthy man." 5. Naive.  
sop permit such a division of the stockpile. To be sure, the thinking developed by Dr. Oppenheimer and others in the Vista report is now, generally speaking, the official thinking of the Pentagon. But the generals' toes were trodden on by Dr. Oppenheimer's premature correctness, and suspicions were aroused.  
Finally, there is the shocking Lincoln story. Here the transcript shows the Air Force venomously opposing all efforts to organize a serious air defense of the United States—"sabotaging" is the ugly word used by the distinguished Dr. Gregory Zacharias. And here the transcript shows, too, that in this present year of doubtful grace, Dr. Oppenheimer was solemnly charged with probable disloyalty because he wanted his country to be defended against Soviet air-atomic power.  
Indeed, with the sole exception of the H-bomb debate, time has proven that all Dr. Oppenheimer's advice to his government was sound and good. But it was not, to borrow Admiral Strauss' word, "popular" advice. And its unpopularity quite clearly and directly generated the bad feeling, the nasty whispering, the sinister public hints, which in turn made possible Admiral Strauss' ultimate attack on Dr. Oppenheimer.  
All but one or two of the basic facts showing supposed defects in Dr. Oppenheimer's character were known in war-time at Los Alamos; and were known, too, when Strauss and the other members of the A.E.C. unanimously reaffirmed Dr. Oppenheimer's clearance in 1947. What then are the scientists to think? The stale controversies, so endlessly aired, the A.E.C. prosecutor's constant effort to attribute evil motives to Dr. Oppenheimer's position in those controversies, have inevitably made the scientists think that the Strauss letter to Los Alamos is "less than candid."  
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## WHERE THE FLYING FISHES PLAY--



## Time Flies:

From The Statesman Files  
**10 Years Ago**  
July 15, 1944  
Five oil-refineries and a pumping station at Ploesti, Romania, were blasted by 750 U.S. heavy bombers in the worst flying weather ever encountered over western Europe.  
Every day the lumber division of Oregon Pulp and Paper Company (the former Spaulding Logging company) loads a car of neatly-packaged sections of Quonset huts for shipment to the navy.

**25 Years Ago**  
July 15, 1929  
Attempts of Oregon Stages Inc., to obtain an exclusive franchise for street busses in Salem were sidetracked when the city council indefinitely postponed consideration.

**40 Years Ago**  
July 15, 1914  
A letter received by the city treasurer, R. A. Crossan, from Mrs. Crossan, who is spending her vacation at the McKenzie Anglers' Club, was filled with tales of speckled trout and forest hikes.  
More than 160 acres of timber, a school house and some standing grain were reported burned eight miles southeast of Eugene in a brush fire that threatened several farm homes.  
President Wilson, through Secretary Bryan, notified the Senate Foreign Relations Committee he wished to press for ratification, before adjournment of Congress, of new peace treaties signed with 20 foreign powers.

## U. S. Now on Sidelines in Indochina War

By WILLIAM L. RYAN  
AP Foreign News Analyst  
Secretary of State Dulles apparently has officially removed the United States to the sidelines in the Indochina War.  
If that is so, the result of his Paris conference with British Foreign Secretary Eden and French Premier Mendes-France may be to stiffen the Communists' all-or-nothing demands in tottering Viet Nam.  
In the words of the communique issued by the three Western statesmen in Paris Tuesday, a "clear understanding" of the three Western powers' respective positions was reached.  
"The United States secretary of state," said the communique, "explained fully the attitude of his government toward the Indochinese phase of the Geneva Conference and the limitations that government desires to observe as not itself having a primary responsibility in the Indochina War."  
That seems to say clearly enough that the Indochina negotiations at Geneva are something to be battled out primarily between France and the Communists, that the United States is more or less just an interested observer.  
Consequently, Dulles himself is not returning to Geneva, but instead is sending Undersecretary of State Walter Bedell Smith, a concession to France's impassioned plea for American moral support at the negotiations.  
Just before the communique was issued Clement Attlee accused Secretary Dulles of "playing right into the hands of the Communists" by failing to return to Geneva.  
Aside from the British Labor Party leader's stand on the admission of Red China to the United Nations, which might be considered beside the point in this specific instance, his argument with regard to the United States at Geneva is worthy of a careful look.  
The statement that the United States has no primary interest in the solution of the Indochina conflict by negotiation would seem to flash a green light for the Communist side to press its demands upon France.  
If these demands are so harsh that France must ultimately reject them, that would mean continuation of the Indochina War. Then much of world opinion—particularly in nervous and frightened Asia—would point a finger at the aloof attitude of the United States.  
But if the French, weary with the war and eager for settlement at almost any cost, accept the Communist demands, that means another long Red stride toward creeping encirclement of the Asian continent, from which the United States can not remain aloof.  
Moscow is far from aloof to the situation. Molotov is on hand, and the Communist propaganda mill daily is grinding out the Red position—that without a political settlement simultaneously with the military one, there is no possible solution for the Indochina crisis.  
That is the Communist bid for all of Viet Nam eventually, and from there, probably all of Indochina. The political settlement, involving elections, coalition government and solution on an all-Viet Nam basis would give the Communists a tremendous advantage in Viet Nam. If the Red propaganda along these lines was for the purposes of bargaining, their hand seems to have been strengthened.

## Literary Guidepost

THE MAGICIANS. By J. B. Priestly. Harper.  
Here's another one from England, and from the prolific Priestley. Life begins at 40, we used to be assured; now, we read, it begins at 50 or 60. Beneficiary of this new dispensation is Sir Charles Ravenstreet, whose notion that, after his old firm outs him, nothing is left proves to be quite wrong. The story is not always credible but it's likable.

## GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty  
Better leave the pieces to the right of the Senator empty, don't... He usually swags the country free of Communists with that grin...  
Illustration of a man grinning while a bear is present.

## Services for Joseph Benoit Set Saturday

Funeral services for Joseph W. Benoit, 62, former accountant with the Public Utilities Commission, will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday in St. Joseph's Catholic Church. He died at a Salem hospital Wednesday following an illness of about five years.  
Benoit was born in Salem Feb. 9, 1892 and moved as a youth to Astoria. He later moved to Portland where he lived for several years before returning to Salem about 18 years ago. He was with the utilities commission for 12 years until ill health forced his retirement five years ago.  
Benoit was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 661 and the Salem Elks Lodge. He served in France during World War I.  
Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Nell Benoit of Salem; and stepchildren, Mrs. Wilda Gutherless, Seattle, Paul Williams, Roseburg, Maynard Williams, U. S. Merchant Marines; sister, Mrs. Cathline Baker, Seattle.  
The W. T. Rigdon Co. is in charge of the service.

## Federal Aid for Springfield's Schools Approved

SPRINGFIELD (AP)—A federal grant of \$114,500 for construction of 10 additional classrooms at two grade schools in Springfield School District No. 19 was approved Wednesday.  
The district plans to build six new classrooms at the West Side school and four at the Page school. School officials said the money was made available under a law providing assistance to districts experiencing increased enrollment. A survey here revealed there were about 800 children of school age in families of federally employed workers, or those working on federal projects. About 200 are children of workers on the Lookout Point Dam project.

## The Safety Valve

SIGNALS EXPLAINED  
To the Editor:  
Several correspondents have recently written letters which have appeared in your column, concerning Salem's rather new "walk-wait" light system at numerous downtown intersections. These letters represent sincere complaints about a problem which has vexed many people.  
The city administration, by means of printed pamphlets, newspaper and radio releases, and police car loud speakers, has attempted to explain the new "walk-wait" lights, but it is apparent that we have missed many people. At most intersections in the downtown area the "walk" light is on for about 10 seconds. The signal then changes to "wait" for about 15 seconds. The average pedestrian crosses the average street in about 20 seconds.  
The purpose of the "walk" light is that of a "starting" signal. A pedestrian starting on "walk" period for the crossing of the intersection and thus it is not necessary nor possible to complete the crossing of the intersection on the "walk" period alone.  
Traffic experts consider these new type signals to be the best means of helping both pedestrian and motorist at busy intersections.  
Any of our citizens desiring further explanation of these signals may call at the city hall for a pamphlet, or one will be mailed upon request. I am in hopes that this explanation will be of assistance to readers of this column.  
Al Loucks  
Mayor of Salem

## Solon Opposes AEC Power Contract Plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Anderson (D-NM) Wednesday night introduced legislation to prevent the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) from negotiating a private utility contract for power to be delivered to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA).  
Anderson offered his plan as an amendment to a bill revising the atomic energy law. It was introduced after an hours-long speech during which he criticized the proposed power contract which President Eisenhower has directed the AEC to negotiate with a private utility firm. Three members of the commission had opposed the plan.  
Sen. Gore (D-Tenn) suggested earlier that the law be revised to make sure the AEC "cannot be overruled by a telephone call from the White House."  
Under the President's plan, the AEC would contract for 600,000 kilowatts of private power to be delivered to the TVA at Memphis, Tenn. in return for TVA power the AEC receives at its Paducah, Ky., plant.  
Anderson's amendment would limit the AEC's authority to sign power contracts to those for power to be delivered directly to atomic plants.  
It also would limit any cancellation costs to the actual loss suffered by the private utility group and would require the AEC to submit any power contract to the Joint Atomic Energy Committee before it is signed.  
Anderson told the Senate he was not asking for contract veto power for the Joint Committee, but insisted that group should have the right to look over any contract at least 30 days before it would become effective.  
He said the cancellation clauses in the proposed contract would permit the private utility combine to collect 40 million dollars in damages and gain full control of all power involved in a period of from one to five years if the contract were cancelled.

## Defense Office Backs Area's Dam Projects

WASHINGTON (AP)—Early construction of five Oregon-Washington power dams has been recommended by the Office of Defense Mobilization, Rep. Gore (R-Ore), said Wednesday.  
He said they are John Day, Priest Rapids and Rocky Reach Dams, all on the Columbia River; Cougar Dam on the McKenzie River and Green Peter on the Santiam.  
He said the recommendation was based on Northwest power needs.  
Coun said the endorsement now goes to the President's Council of Economic Advisors. If approved there, he said, it should give priority in Congress to legislation authorizing construction.  
Legislation has been introduced proposing that all five of the projects be built in partnership with local interests.  
The Priest Rapids bill was sent to the White House Tuesday, and the Cougar proposal has cleared the House and now awaits Senate action.

## Defense Office Backs Area's Dam Projects

BRIDGE OPERATION  
NEW YORK (AP)—Brooklyn bridge has been restored to full use after a four-year modernization overhaul which cost seven million dollars. Once the 71-year-old structure had a central promenade for pedestrians and individual lanes for elevated trains, trolley cars wagons and cattle. It now has the walkway and six traffic lanes.

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