

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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That Liquor Report Again

Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton complains that the state liquor commission will not furnish him with a copy of the report of special investigators selected by the governor to probe reports of acceptance of gratuities by members of the commission staff. He feels that as chief law officer of the state, with a responsibility in the field of law enforcement, he should have a copy of the report for such action as he may deem necessary. The commission, according to report, intends to file the report with Governor Patterson who had ordered it. Thornton, who has no power of subpoena, says he intends to ask the Multnomah county grand jury to make an investigation of the rumors and reports. That is, of course, the proper procedure; and it is worth noting that a Democrat, William Langley, takes over as district attorney in that county next week.

For that matter, why should not the report be made available to the press? If members of the commission or employees have been accepting gifts from representatives of the liquor industry, why not let the facts be made public? The report was made at state expense, and it would seem the people are entitled to know if public officials or employees have violated the law or sound public policy in taking favors of value from those with whom the state does business. If the investigators found no more to criticize than the two cases which were publicized, so much the better, and the less reason to bottle up the report.

Action for releasing the report to the press rests with Governor Patterson. We Republicans who are loud in criticism of the mink-coat era of the Democrats can't afford to cover up when misconduct on the part of Republican officeholders is alleged.

Plywood Outlook Bright

Just 50 years ago the first Douglas Fir plywood was turned out at St. Johns, Ore., on a wooden press operated by hand screws with a panel bonded with animal glue. Even a few square feet was quite a job to make. In 1954, in western United States, Douglas Fir plywood production approximated nearly 4 billion square feet.

The wonder is not the progress in half a century so much as it is that 1954 turned out so well with a sluggish market in the first quarter and a work stoppage most of the second quarter. Considering those factors, and with the immediate status favorable, it is little wonder predictions are for increased sales in 1955 even exceeding the 2 per cent gain registered this year over 1953.

Providing a sufficient number of suitable logs remains available, there seems no reason to dispute the Timberman, which, looking at the 1,200,000 housing starts expected in 1955, finds that the plywood industry's long-term outlook "appears to be one of broad, expanding markets."

A London doctor says getting up on a cold, clammy morning comes easier if one wiggles his toes first. It also helps if one kicks the covers off.

Struggle for Southern Indo-China Greatest Drama of the Moment in Southeast Asia

By JOSEPH ALSOP

HAIPHONG, Indo-China—The great Asian drama of the moment is the struggle for southern Indo-China. It is being watched by a large audience of Cambodians and Siamese, Malaysians, Indonesians and Burmese, who want to know which side to choose when the drama reaches its own conclusion.

On one side in this crucial struggle, is the passionate conviction, the frightening dynamism, the remarkable power to do much with little which this reporter saw at first hand in the main southern base of the Viet Minh. There is also the power, never forgotten in southern Indo-China, of the Communist military force that the Communists are building up here in the north.

On the struggle's other side, meanwhile, there is nothing as yet but an obscure basket of eels. After months of open warfare between the civil and military branches of the non-Communist government of southern Indo-China, the crisis has ended in a "solution" which parades the worst solutions of Chiang Kai-shek's last year on the mainland.

The army is demoralized and disorganized. The civil administration is generally corrupt where it exists at all, and in most places it has less authority than the underground administration of the Viet Minh. Wide regions are also controlled by the private armies of the native "septs," which more closely resemble the Capone mob than any normal religious organization. And over this squalid, senseless chaos, Ngo Dinh Diem, honest and virtuous but wholly out

of contact with reality, presides with obstinate certainty that all will yet be well.

The combined efforts of the French commander, Gen. Ely, and his old friend and partner, President Eisenhower's representative, Gen. Lawton Collins, have thus far failed to straighten out a single eel in the basket. For the moment, the French and American policy of trying to "bolster up" the non-Communist government of southern Indo-China is being continued in a blindly automatic way. But how do you bolster eels?

Maybe the position would be better today, if the Washington policy makers had not deprived Gen. Collins of all bargaining power by committing him to absolute support of President Diem. As matters stand, President Diem has rejected almost all the good advice Collins and Ely have given him, and there is no serious hope of improvement in sight.

What is very much in sight, is open acknowledgement of Communist victory in southern Indo-China. The French government has the heavy responsibility of 40,000 native Frenchmen and many tens of thousands more of Vietnamese holding French citizenship, all of whom must be offered an opportunity to evacuate if southern Indo-China seems likely to fall into Communist hands.

This immense movement of people, with all their goods as well, cannot be accomplished overnight. A year at least will be needed for it. That means that the French government must give the warning to evacuate some time this spring or summer, in order to have reasonable leeway before the Indo-Chinese election in July, 1956.

As matters stand, it is hard to see how the giving of the warning is to be avoided, for southern Indo-China certainly seems likely to fall into Communist

Optimism for 1955

Quite uniformly the business forecasts for 1955 are optimistic. They find basis in the marked business revival of the last quarter of 1954. Steel and automobile manufacture which had lagged the first three quarters came to life in the final three months, as motor makers turned out new models and increased their steel orders. The revival in heavy industry gave a lift to the railroads so many of them have been reporting increases in car loadings over corresponding weeks in 1953. Even the long moribund textile industry has come alive again. Retail merchants enjoyed a huge Christmas business.

The real surprise in '54 was the amount of building carried on, especially house construction. The count of starts is expected to be only a little under that of the record year of 1950. The market for building materials, notably lumber and plywood, remains strong at the year-end, an augury of continued good business in this line through the coming months.

Election day touched off another bull market in common stocks. The election of Eisenhower in 1952 gave a fresh spurt to stock prices; and the rebuff given his party was considered as bullish in 1954 on the ground that it was not severe and further that the result indicated a fresh injection of inflation. The old highs of 1929 were penetrated and passed, and the daily turnover in stocks jumped to over four million shares.

The prevailing psychology is one of unlimited faith in the future and confirmed adherence to the idea of an "expanding economy." This is the reverse of the psychology of 1932-33, when regrets were heard that our economy was "mature" and industry "overbuilt," and that the days of open frontier were gone forever. Now individuals, investment trusts, and even endowment trustees hurry to buy common stocks and base selection quite largely on the promise of business growth. We hear talk of what our GNP now somewhere under \$400 billion you do not recognize the term, is "Gross National Product," a term used by economists to embrace the total output of goods and services. Predictions on GNP sound like Andy Brown counting on the radio. With GNP now somewhere under \$400 billion, the prognostication is for expansion to \$500 and on to \$700 billion a year, and that without the stimulus of currency inflation. The old spirit of unbounded optimism in the good old USA is reasserting itself.

Conservatives whose predictions of a business lull have been confounded so frequently in the postwar year rub their eyes in amazement at the trends, but they are no longer willing to utter warning of possible disaster. The gloom and doom of the politicians of early 1954 have been quite fully dissipated. There is trust that the government will avert calamity through its currency management and fiscal policies of easy credit and generous appropriations. The outlook is for progressive dilution of the value of the dollar which finds its balance in the resulting increase in price levels.

But trees do not grow to the sky and periods of growth are interrupted by periods of pause or even of retrogression. It is easy to overestimate the rate of growth or to misjudge the area of growth. Optimism, such as we note for 1955, needs always to be put to the test of prudence. It is when the skies seem all rosy that one needs to be alert to a weather change.

Nature manages to even things up fairly well, though sometimes with a vengeance. The region of the Southwest where the blizzard struck on Wednesday is the one that has been suffering from acute drought for several years. The heavy snowfall is welcome, though not the wind and cold.

Heavy snows in the mountains make going rough for motorists. But how the skiers welcome it, right in the holiday season.



ZUECHER

THEN CAME THE DAWN



Comes the Dawn

Well, if anybody is up and about reading this today, it proves one thing. You must have made a New Year's resolution to get up early in 1955. Speaking of resolutions we have scrawled up a list of good intentions we hope the following persons take to heart for 1955 . . .



Joe DiMaggio—To make sure he doesn't get thrown out at home this year.

The Weatherman—To give us nothing but sunshine all next summer.

Sen.-elect Neuberger—To go to work.

Sen.-retiring Cordon—To go fishing.

Sen. Morse—To hope the press is 90 per cent right about him this year.

TV Announcers—To interrupt commercials once in a while with a little program.

TV Wrestlers—To throw aside during 1955 those old weapons like double-belly slams and strangulation deaths grips and to dream up some new holds for meanness.

Theatre Owners—To show bigger movies on bigger screens.

Al Lightner—To trade his whistle for a pistol—for protection.

Premier Mendes-France—To stay alive in '55.

S. Salem Hi Football Team—To top the score of '54.

State Legislators—To try to complete their job this year in time for Christmas shopping.

President Eisenhower—To say what he thinks this year.

Marilyn Monroe—To stay under cover this year—both news-wise and otherwise . . .

Dior—To get around more this year.

Santa Claus—To stop imitating Judge Val Sloper every Christmas.

Norman Thomas—To start running for president again.

Old Man 1954—To drop off his bundle of memories and to go quietly.

Kid New Year—To take it cool and easy. . . .

New Firms List Names

Assumed business names filed with the Marion County Clerk's office this week include:

Morgan, Bartelston and Halland, certified public accountants, filed by George Halland, 630 Breys St.; Ted Morrison Real Estate, by Willard L. and Helen B. Morrison, 1332 Heather Lane.

Evergreen Greenhouses, filed by Mr. and Mrs. Edwin A. Bollinger, Silverton Route 3; Frank J. Pokorny & Sons, farming and com-

mercial machine work, by Frank J. Robert B. Daniel J., and Edwin J. Pokorny, Woodburn Route 1; Woodburn Hotel, by Mrs. Mildred Rice, 177 Garfield St., Woodburn.

A "federal power project reservation" is a reservation of public lands for use in connection with a power development project under the jurisdiction of the federal power commission.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"Is catching comrade peasant blowing horn, ringing bell and welcoming New Year . . . is obviously mental case . . ."

Time Flies:

10 Years Ago

Jan. 1, 1945

Three babies, two girls and one boy, arrived in Salem on New Year's Day. They were born to Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Scharbach, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Bynum, Scio, Mr. and Mrs. James Mason.

Planes based in the central Philippines, made their deepest penetration of invasion-menaced Luzon island, swept 150 miles beyond Manila to sink three enemy warships and five cargo vessels.

Mrs. Charles P. Bishop, long-time resident died at her home at the age of 87 years. Mrs. Bishop, born in 1859 as Fannie Kay, was active in community life for 54 years.

25 Years Ago

Jan. 1, 1930

Bells, auto horns, mill whistles, train whistles, sirens, drums and vocal cords conspired to make the instant of midnight the noisiest that Salem had experienced in several years, as Baby 1930 was ushered into the world.

With the addition of 10 marriage licenses issued yesterday, the total number of marriage licenses granted by the county clerk here during the year 1929 reached a total of 520, a 42 per cent increase over last year.

A hostile demonstration was staged by about 300 Mexicans as Pazqual Ortiz Rubio, president elect of Mexico, arrived at



(Continued from Page 1)

take note of birthdays as a measure of age.

A different conception of Time, however, is held by physicists, mathematicians and philosophers. Joined with Space, it figures in Space-Time, a concept which regards space and time not as independent but united in a world of four dimensions. "Every point is correlated with an instant of time, so that for every point there is a fourth coordinate, the time coordinate." This concept is employed by Einstein and modern physicists; and some conceive space-time as the ultimate stuff of which the universe is composed. This "morning after" is no fit time to indulge in such heavy reasoning and abstract speculation.

There is still another conception of Time, that embraced in the couplet of Austin Dobson's: "Time goes, you say? Ah no. Alas, Time stays, we go."

Lorado Taft, the great American sculptor seized this idea as the inspiration for one of his works of statuary, which stands in Jackson Park, Chicago. In it, humanity marches in procession while the figure of Time stands still. True enough. Men come and go; generations pass; Time remains.

Whether we regard Time as fleeting (Tempus fugit) or mankind as marching with Time stationary, the admonition of "Carpe Diem"—seize the day—applies. All have "Time on their hands." How they employ it supplies an answer to their quest for happiness.

Forest Fires Near Record Low for 1954

The State Forestry Department reported Friday that forest fire losses in 1954 were almost a record low, and that 3,310,000 trees were planted on state forest lands during the year.

The department said there were 593 fires that burned 2,297 acres of state and private lands, compared with 873 fires and 1,713 acres in 1953.

The tree planting project started in 1949, and 15,000,000 trees now have been planted.

During this year, the state sprayed 67,000 acres of eastern Oregon forests that were infested by Spruce Budworm. Plans have been started to work on 600,000 more acres that recently were found to be infested.

The worst infestation is in the Blue Mountains of northeastern Oregon.

Young Cyclists Cited to Court

A juvenile was cited on two counts Friday after city police spotted a motor scooter being driven on a sidewalk in the vicinity of Portland road and South street.

The 15-year-old boy was charged with driving a motor vehicle on a sidewalk and having no driver's license. He also was issued a warning for expired license plates police said. The boy was ordered to appear in court next Wednesday.

From The Statesman Files

40 Years Ago

Jan. 1, 1915

Editorially — Great supplies of war materials are going from Pennsylvania up to the Canadian Pacific, thence to Vancouver, B. C., and on to Vladivostok, and from there to Russia. A long, long way.

Scarcity of neutral ships to carry on the existing trade between the United States and Germany was emphasized in a letter by Secretary McAdoo to Representative Alexander, chairman of the house merchant marine committee.

Judge and Mrs. George H. Burnett celebrated their 34th wedding anniversary on New Year's Eve, with an open house. . . . assisting were Mrs. Ed Weller and Mrs. George Brown.

Better English

By D. C. WILLIAMS

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "It is a fact that I begun the work last week."
2. What is the correct pronunciation of "mesmerize"?
3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Blamable, inflammable, consumable, inseparable.
4. What does the word "fillicide" mean?
5. What is a word beginning with pa that means "to cover with excuses"?

Answers
1. Say, "that I began the work." 2. Pronounce: first syllable as mez, not as mess. 3. Inflammable. 4. Act of murdering a son or a daughter; also, the parent who does this. 5. Palliate.

One Million Fund Given State Parks

The Oregon State Parks Division of the State Highway Department will have available a \$1,194,000 budget for the maintenance, development and operation of the state parks system during 1955.

C. H. Armstrong, state parks superintendent, said more than a third of the budget would be used for operation of the parks which includes the upkeep and maintenance of the many facilities provided for the public. More than half of the budget will be used in development and new construction.

Operation of the Oregon state parks system is administered by representatives with headquarters in State Highway Department buildings in Salem, Portland, LaGrande, Bend and Coquille.

Armstrong said the costs of operating the parks have been substantially reduced because of close cooperation with the highway division.

The state parks superintendent predicted that by 1964 Oregon Parks will be operating for a total of 10,000,000 visitors.

The parks division now administers 156 separate park areas containing 55,052 acres.

Armstrong said there has been a decided trend toward boating facilities. As a result, he said there would be three new parks in 1955, at Fort Stevens, Ochoco Reservoir and at Detroit.

The fine work accomplished by park and maintenance crews in keeping parking areas, access roads, thousands of picnic tables, and sanitary facilities in good condition was praised by Armstrong.

Armstrong said response to the park development program has been tremendous both attendance-wise and in comment received from park visitors. "We have received scores of letters congratulating us on our state parks development," Armstrong averred.

Eighteen American states produce iron.

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