

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"  
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## Neuberger Accuses the President

Senator Wayne Morse in 1946 called President Truman a "ham actor," a remark he lived to regret. Now Oregon's freshman senator, Richard L. Neuberger, has branded a statement by President Eisenhower as an "utter falsehood." The President had said with reference to federal expenditures for public works such as power plants, that when the government does this it can print the money to do the job; and went on to point out the dangers from printing press money: "That has the effect of cheapening money, and I don't think we ought to go into that."

Neuberger's contention is that these power plants pay for themselves, hence his application of "utter falsehood" to the President's comments. It impresses us as quite juvenile, like Morse's "ham actor" outburst.

The President was correct in his diagnosis of the effects of printing press money: it does lead to inflation. The blowing up of the national debt from around \$20 billion 25 years ago to near \$275 billion now has been followed by great inflation, or in other words, a cheapening of the dollar. To the extent that the government printed more money to finance more public works inflation would be given fresh stimulus.

Now it is true that projects like Bonneville and Grand Coulee dams are paying off their power investment faster than was required in the 50-year payout schedule. But they haven't paid it out yet, and it will be years before they do. It may be argued that it is good business for the government to borrow money to build these self-liquidating projects, but that doesn't refute the thesis in the President's general comment on printing press money.

The new junior senator may disagree with the President's theory about deficit financing and debate its validity; but he does ill to himself and to his cause by accusing the President of issuing an "utter falsehood."

## Please, No "Alternatives"

Among the various ideas sprung at the legislature over the tax business is one to submit to the people various alternatives and let them make the choice. That would be a poor way to legislate. The people might vote down all the proposals. That would of course leave the fateful alternative of putting all the deficiency, subject only to the six-mill levy limitation, on property.

No, let the Legislature adopt the program it deems best, leaving the event to the hands of God or the demagogues. We are not sure whether it should anticipate a referendum by prescribing an "iffy" special election. There's a lot of bucking and balking because no one wants to carry more of the tax burden. But the people of Oregon know the load must be borne—they want no deficit which would merely postpone or increase the burden.

So, let's get on with the show, and let the chips fall where they may.

Senator Jackson of Washington urged his colleagues to quit offering their advice to President Eisenhower on how to conduct our affairs in the Formosa area. Might be good advice for senators, but what about editors?

## Atomic War for Formosa's Offshore Islands Seen as Likely, Because of U.S. Weakness

By JOSEPH ALSOP

HONG KONG—Take the grave weakness of the American armed forces on this side of the Pacific. Blend in what seems to be the American

policy in the Formosa crisis. Add the formidable array of Chinese Communist military power. Then shake at crisis heat.

What you get from this repellent recipe is the clear possibility, almost verging on the likelihood, that the United States will end by having to fight an atomic war for Formosa's offshore islands.

That is not the Eisenhower administration's intention, of course. The intention is to make a cease-fire deal, or to teach the Communists to mind their manners in a "limited" fight. But the Administration's intention has less and less relation to the real drift of events.

It can be safely predicted that the Chinese Communists will not formally assent to a cease-fire. In this city where the best information on Communist China is available, every competent authority, American, British and Chinese, also agrees that Peking means to attack the offshore islands this spring. Therefore, unless the National Security Council again reverses American policy, a fight for the offshore islands involving American forces is now in the cards.

In such a fight, the air battle will be crucial. A powerful Communist force is now massed for the air battles in the great Chinese airbase complex in Chekiang and Kiang provinces, as already described in this space. Here, we then, any assurance of beating this powerful Communist air force without using the absolute weapons?

An unhappy "no" is the only possible answer to this key question. No one can give any other answer, who knows the hard facts of our weakness.

Our only prospective allies, the Chinese Nationalists, have one unready group of F-86 fighters and one obsolete group of F-84s to match the very great Communist strength in jet aircraft. All the rest of the small Nationalist air force is composed of rotary engine types.

The U. S. Far Eastern air force has some 500 planes less, on its roster today than on the grim day when the Korean War began. Furthermore, it has no bombers whatever except for one group of B-36s on Guam. As they have been exclusively trained with atomic weapons, the B-36s cannot hit a fair sized county with conventional bombs.

Finally, there is the Seventh Fleet, with its total strength of six carriers and no replacements in sight. On the Seventh Fleet will fall—must fall—almost the whole burden of the air offensive. Refueled Air Force fighters may be used as bombers.

But the main job of sweeping the enemy airfields, which is the only way to win the air battle, will have to be done by naval air.

That is the realistic situation. The Navy's leaders in the Pacific are strongly committed to the view that we must fight for the offshore islands. They do not want to discourage a bold policy. They profess to be able to do the job the situation imposes on them.

But history says it is a very risky business to send in a carrier force against a strong land-based air force. In the present case, the risk is all the greater because the Communists are ready to their Ilyushin-28 jet bombers, which are almost as fast as our carrier-borne fighters. Maybe the optimism of the admirals will be justified by the

## Hunt for Bob Errion

A good many local people had some painful financial memories revived with reading how the authorities were hunting for E. R. (Bob) Errion, under a "body execution" writ on a judgement of \$123,000 on the ground of fraud. Errion has been missing for four months. Judge Lindberg of Seattle described Errion as a "fantastic person endowed with great facilities of persuasion, a magnetic personality and an irresistible charm." Many around here could testify to the truth of the judge's description.

Errion, with his then close associate, J. R. Barton, first broke on the local scene in the late 1930s promoting an oyster-growing cooperative for Coos Bay lands. They induced many farmers to join and put up money; but the enterprise blew up with a bang when members accused Errion and Barton of bilking them. Errion persisted in oyster bed promotion and was indicted for using mails to defraud in this operation, but was acquitted in 1946.

More recently Errion, who had broken with Barton, was a prime promoter in Beaver Plywood cooperative which planned a mill at Independence. Then he claimed to hold a big body of choice timber, also special patents for machinery. This project died a-borning. Then Errion moved his talents to promoting a plywood and hardboard cooperative at Estacada, and a similar cooperative at Mount Shasta, California.

Widows seemed to fall victim to Errion's charm and plausibility. One in Seattle holds a judgement for \$88,000 against him on a Coos Bay oyster land deal, and two others are suing him in Seattle courts. Meantime neither Errion nor any assets in his name have been located.

The moral is obvious; but while the law may sometimes circumvent the designers of evil or pursue them after the event, the law can't lower the birthrate on suckers.

Confirmation of John Harlan as Supreme Court justice was long delayed, to the discredit of the senators who held up the nomination in committee. Only 11 voted against him when his name finally went before the Senate. Justice Harlan is recognized as an eminent lawyer, a man of high character, entirely worthy of the office to which he has been named. He comported himself with dignity through the period of silent treatment accorded him and in the hearing where senators sought to get him to commit himself on public issues, probably for purposes of entrapment. He has a great name to live up to, that of his grandfather who served on the same court long and ably; but the country should not expect—or want—just a carbon copy of his ancestor.

The four representatives from Marion County have joined to introduce HB 507 which would create two subdistricts in this county for election of two representatives each. One is composed of the City of Salem and 13 adjacent voting precincts; the other of the remainder of the county. The population of the county is divided about equally between the two. No senatorial subdistricts are proposed. The bill has been referred to the House committee on elections, and presumably a public hearing on it will be held. Then all who are specially interested may appear and express themselves. We think the delegation was wise in offering a subdistrict plan. This county voted for the amendment which makes such a division possible.

This man Summerfield really is shaking up the post office department. He is even making a move to substitute ball point pens for the familiar scratchy steel pens that have been in use since goose quills went out of style. It has been said that you never found a poor pen in a bank or a good one in a post office. That may no longer be true: banks are providing ball points too.

## GRIN AND BEAR IT

