The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

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Development Fizzle

Two years ago the Legislative Assembly put up $50,000 for a Development Commission. A rather ambitious project was envisioned with additional funds to become available from other sources. The Commission got off to a poor start. Later it was reorganized but not in time to accomplish anything of importance. By a tie vote the ways and means committee turned down the request for $130,000 to continue the Commission. Later it agreed to review the question.

The Commission hasn't justified its existence and should be killed off. Local chambers of commerce are aggressive in this field, and there is little a state body can do even with an enlarged appropriation. Some states go into this promotion in a big way, and some states have special tax or other concessions as bait for new industry. Oregon doesn't attempt to outbid such states, and shouldn't.

On the basis of the record the Development Commission doesn't deserve an extension of life.

Reapportionment Again

The House elections committee voted six to five for a resolution resubmitting the question of apportionment of the Legislative Assembly. The old federal plan was revived, with one senator for each county; the House to be apportioned on a population basis.

The voters of the state in 1950 rejected a federal plan which guaranteed each county one representative. That vote was 190,992 for to 215,302 against. In 1952 the voters adopted the present reapportionment plan which made effective the provision of the constitution of 1857, namely basing apportionment on population.

The new proposal of one senator for each county would give Multnomah with a population of nearly 500,000 a senator; likewise Sherman with 2,271, Gilliam with 2,817, Wheeler with 3,313. Now small counties often have sent superior legislators. But we do not think the people will buy a measure which distorts population ratios as badly as is proposed.

Deer Overpopulation

Sunday the State Game Commission took sportsmen and animal lovers on a tour of the Keating area in Baker county where they got to see the extensive loss of deer due to starvation and malnutrition. The skeletons of dead deer and the stripped brush on which deer feed bore testimony to the overpopulation of the range.

Sentimentalists would have the commission provide hay to keep the deer alive; but game department experts cite cases where deer starve beside hay piles. Browse is their meat, not hay which is the tailored diet of domestic animals.

The remedy as was pointed out in this column recently is to reduce the deer population by permitting killing of does as well as bucks. Deer herds must be brought into comfortable balance with the forage available to them after proper provision for livestock.

Increase in Bank Robberies

Crime doesn't pay is an old adage, but enough persons think it will to keep the business going, policemen busy and jails and prisons full. Temporarily at least crime paid off for four bank robbers who lifted over $300,000 in currency from a branch of the big Chase Manhattan Bank of New York City on Wednesday. The holdup was carefully planned, the "joint" had been "cased" for six months; the bandits knew the names of a number of the employes. Their getaway by car was swift and complete.

By coincidence the Sylvia Porter column on business news which the Oregonian runs, dealt Wednesday morning with the increase in number of bank robberies. She reported there were 513 such crimes in 1954, an increase of 23 per cent over 1953 and of 129 per cent over 1950. More of the jobs are being done by amateurs—the guy who carries a paper sack and passes a note to the teller, "This is a stickup, hand over the currency." The robbery of the Queens branch of Chase Manhattan was no amateur job, but it does look as though there were inside connections.

Conditions are favorable for bank robberies. Employes rarely offer resistance to the demands of robbers. Money in tellers' cages is easy to pick up and hand over. Autos provide quick getaway and city crowds swallow up the desperadoes.

The fact remains, however, that eventually the majority of bank robberies are solved. The amateurs are tracked down and apprehended. But something more is needed to prevent the attempts at robbery. Better protection of banking offices, closer scrutiny of those entering and leaving the banks, greater care in selecting and observing personnel may be of some help. After that stronger assurance of arrest and punishment may help to deter both amateurs and professionals from trying to get rich by robbing the banks.

Multiplication and Subtraction

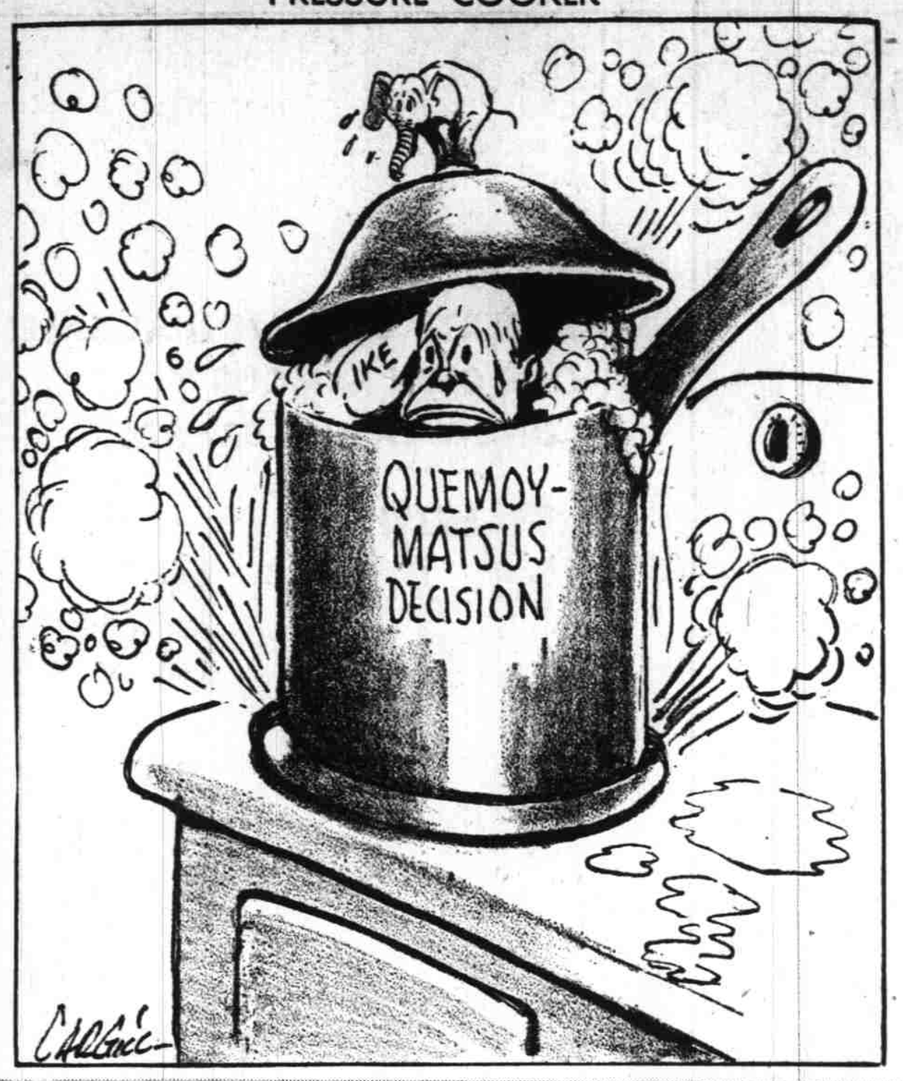
Between the radio mike and the congressional committee room numbers undergo a surprising shrinkage. Five years ago Joe McCarthy started the game by declaring in a Wheeling, W. Va. speech that there were over 200 Commies in the State Department. He made several adjustments of his numbers later—always downward, but never succeeded in proving there was a single Communist employee there. Last campaign Vice President Nixon told of the several thousand employes who had been fired under the security program, but never made it clear how many were ousted as Reds or fellow-travelers along with the drunks, perverts and blabbermouths. Tuesday the state department security officer told a Senate committee they had fired two in 1954 for alleged Communist affiliations—and 104 for sex perversion. Quite a contrast between political multiplication and official subtraction.

Strike on L & N RR

A strike of non-operating employes on the Louisville & Nashville railroad is now in its fourth week. Limited service is being rendered, chiefly if not entirely freight. The controversy is on a point of principle. A general settlement between carriers and non-operating employes (maintenance of way, equipment, office personnel, etc.) provided for contributions for health and welfare benefits. The L & N management says it is willing to put up its share and make deductions for all of its employes who authorize it to do so, but is not willing to do it for those who do not agree. The labor organizations insist that the settlement covers all employes. Other railroads apparently have accepted those terms, but not the L & N.

Shippers have complained loudly over the cancellation or reduction of service and industry and business in the L & N territory have suffered. Somebody is going to have to "give" to get the trains back on the road.

PRESSURE COOKER



Comes the Dawn by Conrad Prange

A lot of partisan steam was let loose at that Hells Canyon hearing in Portland Wednesday. Much of the applause was in favor of opponents to the proposed federal high dam on the Snake. When the crowd was noisiest Sen. Neuberger, a member of the Congressional committee conducting the hearing, read from a letter sent out recently to Republican precinct workers in Multnomah County from Philip Englehart, who recently retired as county central committee chairman. A P.S. to the letter urged GOPs to pack the hall for the hearing. Contrary to early reports Sen. Neuberger did NOT show up toting a squirrel rifle . . . .

* * *

Another witness, State Rep. Wayne Giesy, of Benton County, told the committee to go back to Washington, that it was just wasting its time here. Committee member Rep. B. F. Sisk of California informed Giesy, a trifle snappishly, that Congress was now in recess and that he (Sisk) had turned down an invitation to bask in Miami sunshine this week in order to come out to Oregon for the hearing. Don't know whether Sisk was impressed with our Miami-like weather here this week or not . . . .

* * *

Most potent argument of the day came from a little, gray-haired lady hailing from "about 50 miles west of Corvallis," who said she had stumbled around in the dark for almost 50 years before she finally got electricity. She told the committee: "In your deliberations, turn out the light, put a coal oil lamp on the table and then make your decision."

* * *

Mention was made several times during the hearing that it was a "grass roots" affair. So when Carey Strome, Junction City frmer, introduced himself as a grass farmer, he said he had just left the grass roots only several hours previously to attend the hearing . . . . Also drawing a brief chuckle from the crowd was State Rep. Kay Meriweather, who came to the witness chair armed with a stack of material which turned out to be petitions . . . .

* * *

Al Ullman, Eastern Oregon Demo, said that people in Idaho had been influenced against the Hells Canyon project by the Idaho Power Co. This brought a tart reply from committee member Sen. Dworshak of Idaho. The senator said Idaho voters did so know what they were talking about and, anyway, he said he doubted the words of a man (Ullman) who "didn't have the confidence of enough voters" in his district to win at the last election. Ullman could only reply that better men than himself have been defeated at the polls . . . .

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page one)

Members of the committee will return to Washington, and hearings there will be resumed when technical data will be presented for consideration. On balance it seems unlikely that the hearings out here changed the opinion of a single committeeman. It gave an opportunity for airing of views and for embalming in the records the attitudes of several hundred persons on federal power, private enterprise, socialism, public debt. Unless Congress acts with greater dispatch than usual the issue may be decided in another form, by the Federal Power Commission in passing on the application of Idaho Power Co. for license to build three dams in the mid-section of Snake River.

The issue gets all tangled in the bill which is before Congress. It does not merely propose a high federal dam in Hells Canyon, but carries provisions which as Governor Patterson pointed out threaten to prejudice the interest in Oregon. The bill allots 500,000 kw to Idaho and the adjacent section of Eastern Oregon. This strikes at the heart of the concept of regional development and regional utilization of hydroelectric energy from the Columbia River system. (Of course Idaho Power Co., will eventually use that power in the same area).

The bill carries the famous preference clause for public bodies and cooperatives. This would mean that in event of power shortage public bodies could claim the energy and deprive customers of private distributing companies such as Pacific Power & Light and Portland General Electric and Washington Water Power of energy from federal projects. This has the aspect of a built-in leverage for public ownership of distributing companies.

Finally the Morse-Neuberger bill assumes a burden with respect to irrigation development, presumably the Mountain Home, Idaho, project, a terribly costly undertaking. It would do this by diverting interest on the investment — the so-called interest component — to help finance irrigation, although there is no possible chance of using the waters from the Hells Canyon reservoir for irrigation.

My own preference remains to have the federal government build and operate all the main stem dams in the Columbia system, but the hearings have brought out facts about the Morse-Neuberger bill which I do not approve of: the fixed allotment chiefly to Idaho; the preference clause whose benefit would accrue largely to Washington; and the conversion of the interest component to subsidize ultra-high cost reclamation projects such as the Bureau of Reclamation has been pushing for years.

To-day's Holy Week Meditation

An Interpretation provided by The Upper Room

CRUCIFIXION

It was a night of boundless agony before a day of untold suffering. One man wrestled with his God as none other ever had. He finished with power to endure the death before him! To triumph over death! To overcome the world with life everlasting!

When their last supper together in The Upper Room was ended, Jesus and his little band of faithful disciples joined in the singing of a hymn. Then they went out together. But as they reached the quiet garden of the Mount of Olives, the agony of the day ahead was on Jesus' mind. He realized it was useless to go back to their crowded lodging place — for this night he could not sleep. He could only pray for strength to endure the day ahead. Mark tells the story:

"And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; remove this cup from me: howbeit not what I will, but what thou wilt."

And straightaway in the morning the chief priests and the elders and scribes, and the whole council, held a consultation, and bound Jesus, and carried him away and delivered him up to Pilate.

Pilate felt certain that Jesus was innocent, but he was afraid to do the right thing. The Roman governor, however, did not escape his question, get rid of Jesus, nor wash his hands clean of our Lord's blood.

Face to face with Jesus, we are compelled to do something about Him. Meeting with Him may turn out to be the biggest thrill in existence, or the worst tragedy. The correct answer as to what to do will be made by those courageous enough to stand alone. Christ looks to us to assume personal responsibility when others shun it; to stand for righteousness when evil is strong against us; to defend the truth, not counting the cost to ourselves.

Christendom remembers Pilate as the man under whom Jesus suffered. Pilate chose to be a friend to Caesar, and missed the greatest friend of all.

Tomorrow (or Sunday): "Resurrection."

Time Flies:

From The Statesman Files

10 Years Ago
April 8, 1945

County coroner Leon W. Barrick purchased the Ruby ranch, located on Jordan creek in the Jordan valley, for a reported sum of $45,000.

Mrs. Robert Wilson (Mary Macy) entrained for San Francisco, where she met Lt. (j.g.) Wilson, who had been at Pearl Harbor for the past 21 months. After a week in the bay city the couple returned to Salem and spent his leave at the home of her father, Mr. O. A. Macy.

Argentina was welcomed back into the American family of nations, 13 months after she was excluded on the grounds that her government cooperated with the axis. The United States and 19 other republics resumed what was called "normal diplomatic relations."

25 Years Ago
April 8, 1930

With an aim to better business conditions and to establish an association for the protection of the independent merchants of Salem, a group of local independent retailers met and organized the Salem Independent Retailers' Protective association.

Teams of the industrial and commercial twilight baseball leagues were permitted to use Olinger field this season at a cost of $5 a team, the school board voted at its regular session.

Mrs. Martin Hunter, Alderwood Country club, topped a field of 125 contestants in the Oregon Women's Gold association sweepstakes at the Waverley Country club. Mrs. Hunter turned in a 94 to beat Mrs. Ercel Kay, Salem, by one stroke.

40 Years Ago
April 8, 1915

The teachers and educators of Salem gave a reception for Dr. Winship of Boston at the home of Miss Ethel Rigdon, Salem. Dr. Winship was an educator of national and international fame.

A number of members of the Commercial club left Salem by automobile for Mt. Angel to attend the celebration of the completion of the Clackamas Southern railway to the city.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred S. Bynon and family, whose home was recently destroyed by fire, located temporarily in the home of Professor Schmalle, Winter St.

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Answer to Easter Riddle of Jesus Christ's Death Found in the Sorrow of Repentence

By GEORGE W. CORNELL

NEW YORK (AP) — A Christian dad's Easter chat with his son:

If you ever understand the big riddle, my son, you'll be a better man for it.

Not many people really do. They talk about it a lot, and get faint glimmers. But usually they bog down in words.

Words sometimes aren't much good. They mean different things to different people. And the world's so full of words, the old phrases wear thin.

That's why it's so hard to get inside the riddle. You can't make it out by just reading about it, or reciting sentences, or breaking it down into equations and formulas. You have to dig for it 'till it hurts.

Down at the church and Sunday School, they're going to be telling about it this weekend. They always do at Eastertime. It's a fine thing, too. But you wonder how many really get the idea.

* * *

You know the story, son. You could tell it yourself. About how they took Jesus and nailed Him on a cross. You also know the part saying He died for your sins.

That's the difficult part, isn't it? That's where the riddle is, son. You might think it sounds a little remote, that Jesus dying hundreds of years ago, had anything to do with you. It doesn't come clear easily.

If it could have been put in words alone, Jesus probably would not have subjected Himself to such an ordeal in the first place. He might have just explained it all, and let it go at that.

* * *

But it doesn't work that way. It won't for you, either. That's why He purposely went through the toughest kind of torture life could dish out. He wanted to make a point about living that applies directly to you.

You see, He knew we aren't perfect. Human beings have a mean streak in them. Oh, they've got goodness in them, too. But they're a mixture. They're part nice, and part ornery.

You've heard the old words, part God, part devil. That's us. We were built that way so life would mean something. It's what makes living an adventure, a sort of test to see which part comes out on top.

Well, Jesus came down here shaped like us. He was human, but also God. He was tempted to be bad. So are we. He wanted to show us how to handle the situation.

* * *

So what did He do: Even though He behaved Himself so well, and was so good and kind and wise, there was evil down here, and so he was crucified. Don't think it was easy for Him. It was the worst kind of pain there could be.

Nailed up there to that cross, Jesus suffered, He actually died of suffering. He didn't bleed to death, or die by any blow or fatal stabbing. He just suffered sorrowfully until He died.

Now what did He mean by doing that? He said He died for the sins of the world. And He told people to repent of their sins, to do as He did, and that His death was the answer for all of them.

There's that old riddle, son. When Jesus died, it didn't mean you were promptly rid of all your meanness. No sir. All the way down the line, you're going to find yourself doing things you shouldn't.

But if you're the right kind of man, you'll regret them. You'll be sorry. Repent, they say. You'll be so sorry, it'll hurt, if you're really sorry. And you'll suffer inside. You'll die a little.

* * *

Oh, you won't be crucified. You won't have to go to the cross, except a little. Jesus did that. He took the real punishment for you, just to show you the way.

But that's what it takes, son. You've got to stoop very low, and be very sorry, for the bad part that keeps cropping up in you. You've got to walk through the valley of shadows. That's how life is.

No matter how hard you try to do right, you'll slip. And it takes real stuff in a man to face himself honestly, to endure the pain and the remorse of it. But that's the way to lick it.

The crybabies try to hide from it, or drown it out with sleeping pills or money or noise. But the brave men take it on the chin, and accept it.

* * *

But why, you ask. That's a natural question. Why should you have to bend so low, and hurt so much and repent so deeply. That's the other part of the riddle, son.

But as you grow a little older, you'll begin to know. You remember that after Jesus humbled Himself to the depth, after He submitted to the travail and the pain and the death — He rose from the grave, in shining new greatness.

He rose, even above death. He took the worst, walked the harshest trail of sorrow — because He loved us so much. And by doing so, He found life — life indestructible, strong, lasting.

That's the secret of it, son. It'll be the making of you, if you see it.

All this talk may not make it clear to you. Talk's a poor substitute for the act. People have to discover it for themselves. They have to go through the dark hurt of the cross before they can see the Easter sun.

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Legion Chief Collects Booty

GAFFNEY, S.C. (AP) — South Carolina American Legion Department Commander Feltham S. James won a bushel of Virginia apples, a bushel of Michigan apples, a bushel of North Corolina peaches and a Georgia country ham in bets with Legion commanders in those states.

James, a minister, offered South Carolina peaches against the other peaches, apples and ham that his department would lead the others in 1954 membership percentage.

GRIN AND BEAR IT — By Lichty

"It doesn't hurt any husband to make himself useful between paydays, Dagwood"

No Alimony To Red Wife

PITTSBURGH, Pa. (AP)—Paul G. Mikich, 57-year-old steelworker, was brought into court to explain why he had not complied with a 1953 court order to pay his wife $80 a month.

Mikich said his wife had returned to her native Yugoslavia.

"I don't feel our good old American dollars should be going to anyone living voluntarily behind the Iron Curtain," Mikich said.

Judge Francis O'Connor agreed and cancelled the order.

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