

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us. No Fear Shall Awe"
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"Never Had It So Good"

George Meany, president of the AFL was a recent guest at the National Press Club in Washington. He gave a report on the recent conference of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions in Vienna. During the question and answer period which followed he said, in response to a query, "Yes, right now we never had it so good," speaking of labor's share in the national prosperity.

Now that was quite a concession because since FDR made his alliance with labor few of its leaders have seen anything good in Republican control of Congress or the White House.

For that matter even the Democrats have stopped hooting at the "trickle down" theory they attribute to Republicans. At present prosperity is surely trickling down to all employed persons, and the ratio of unemployment has been declining.

Recent wage increases in major industries have helped wage earners, as long as the cost of living holds stationary or shows little rise. In pressing for wage increases the labor leaders have shown great resourcefulness. A year ago when business showed signs of slipping they argued that wages should be increased to supply "purchasing power." This year with business booming, McDonald of the steelworkers union scoffed at the ten-cents-an-hour increase offered by U. S. Steel and demanded a bigger increase because of the high earnings of the steel companies. The best that employer representatives could do was to hold down the amount of the increase.

When prosperity is well distributed, it is indeed wholesome. Employers feel more ready to grant wage increases if their own business is moving along well and prospects for the future are good. That seems to be the situation at the present time, although there are areas where prosperity is thin. How long these good conditions will continue is anybody's guess. We fancy the GOP wishes the election were this November, with George Meany feeling the way he does. A lot may happen in a year.

Secretary of Agriculture Benson has taken steps to clear his department records of classifying Wold Ladejinsky as a security risk. He is the former expert on land reform who was dropped by Benson, only to be rehired by Foreign Operations administration for similar work. The clearance must give Ladejinsky much satisfaction. Another whose name has been cleared of disloyalty is John Service, formerly with the State Department. The court decision knocking out certain loyalty board actions affected Service too, though he will not get his job back. At least it looks as though Washington's domestic cold war is moderating.

Spite of the biggest budget in its history—\$6,707,000—which includes \$1,500,000 for a new courthouse the tax levy for county purposes in Lane County will be only seven—that's correct, seven—mills. The reason?—\$2,232,000 in receipts from O & C forest lands and \$1,231,000 for the forest service. Even with the lightning of the county burden by these forest windfalls Eugene city taxpayers rejected a budget increase of \$165,000 to help provide essential city services.

Intelligence Experts Aghast at Big Rise in Optimism Over Chances for End to Cold War

By JOHN SCALI
For J.M. ROBERTS
AP News Analyst

Some top rank intelligence experts are aghast at the big rise in optimism in Washington over prospects for some kind of a deal with Russia ending the cold war.

These officials, who have been carefully following Soviet developments for years, believe it is dangerous nonsense to expect the Russians to accept the kind of terms that are necessary to ease East-West tensions.

In their view, neither the Geneva

"Summit" conference this month or later Big Four talks at a lower level will succeed in removing the threat of war from the international horizon.

What particularly baffles these observers is the current outpouring of stories picturing Russia so weak internally that it has no alternative but to make sweeping concessions to the West in the near future.

This theory, now being discussed seriously by responsible officials, holds that Russia's agricultural and industrial production has fallen so far behind that the Kremlin

wants a two or three year truce in order to catch up with the West. Intelligence experts believe any such theory is a pipe dream.

Russia's current sweet talk, they believe, represents a new, more imaginative maneuver to block what the Soviets fear most—German rearmament.

There is no solid evidence whatever, they say, that the Russians are hurting because their industrial machine and farm output has started to collapse.

On the contrary, they feel there is good reason for believing that Russia has successfully expanded production in these fields in the past two years and that output will improve from now on with less money and effort.

For example, Russia's farm crisis may be solved by the end of this year by the apparently successful campaign to put some 72 million new acres under the plow. Russian spokesmen have been ballyhooing this feat during the past year, claiming that two-thirds of the new plantings will produce food during this crop season. These intelligence experts believe Moscow is telling the truth on this point.

Further, Russia obviously has succeeded in turning out new jet fighters, jet bombers and impressive amounts of new ground weapons in recent months. These have been displayed to foreigners in Moscow during recent national celebrations.

Intelligence surveys indicate these are not advance prototypes but actual production models, meaning that factories have already been tooled up to produce them.

With this evidence before them, these intelligence experts are now trying to curb the more enthusiastic and optimistic government officials who believe the Russians in some way may have got religion and will behave like good boys from now on.

Overplay on Holiday Death Roll

We are getting tired of making the death roll the most important news about holidays, especially long weekend holidays. Before the event the target goal is posted, and there are endless admonitions to observe caution. As the holiday gets under way the adding machines get to counting, and headlines proclaim the mounting score. After the holiday is over they keep running up the score—just like returns on election night.

No, we aren't callous over the loss of life, just weary of having it exploited to fill the gaps in the news when holidays shut down the normal sources.

And what about the proportions? Consider the many millions who are driving the highways, swarming the beaches and the rivers and lakes, seeking recreation in a variety of ways, many of them attended with risk. May it not be that the ratio of accidents to those participating is actually lower than on ordinary weekends. Consider, too, that the cars have more occupants in them (families), so the number injured per accident should increase, on the average.

Sure, most accidents are preventable: One doesn't drown if he stays out of water. But modern living calls for risk, with so many mechanical appliances, so much devotion to recreation; and with risk will come a certain percentage of accidents resulting in death and injury. The warnings and admonitions do help to reduce the number; but even those who stay home may get hurt (home accidents account for a large percentage of injuries). But we may as well count on several hundred fatal accidents on three-day holidays. No need to blare out the fact and rehash it in black headlines and recurring radio broadcasts.

More Automobiles

Automobile manufacturers set a terrific pace the first half of 1955. They broke all records for the term when they turned out 4,256,000 passenger cars and 643,000 motor trucks. The arch rivals, Chevrolet and Ford, battled it out for No. One position. Chevrolet produced 938,938 cars and 196,976 trucks while Ford reported 894,947 cars and 194,045 trucks. Just how their sales comparisons showed up will not be known until state registrations are in. Dealer inventories are reported high, but as manufacturers slow down for their model changeovers dealers will try to work off stocks. So intimately is the motor car industry in all its ramifications tied in with American business that its prosperity affects general prosperity very closely. If the boom of the first half doesn't turn sour, the last half the automotive trades can register 1955 as a banner year.

Editorial Comment

NOW YOU SEE IT

It may be, as Miss Dorothy Parker once quipped, that girls who wear glasses never get passes. But some recent research shows it doesn't apply to baseball players.

Tests made by the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company at Rochester, N.Y., show that the boys who can look 'em over best get on base most. They also indicate that the score a man makes in the visual skills examinations can be used to predict pretty accurately his standing among his teammates at the end of the season.

Other things were learned, too, by the researchers. The vision that makes a player a good hitter is different from the vision that makes a good pitcher. The pitcher who's chunking 'em down the tube has eyes that work as one unit, while a good hitter can keep one eye on the ball and count the house at the same time. Bausch and Lomb can tell you also why one outfielder gets under the long ball with a minimum of effort and why another guy wanders all over the lot blaming it on the sun or the lights. One of these boys is flunking his depth perception test and what he needs is glasses.

This information may do a great deal for some players and perhaps for the game unless the idea is carried too far. It would take entirely too much out of baseball, for instance, if Bausch and Lomb arranged things so that all the umpires could see as well as if they were in the bleachers.—Wall Street Journal.

BONE OF CONTENTION



(Editor's Note—Senator Neuberger's contribution is greatly in excess of the limits usually maintained on Safety Valve letters. It is used without cutting, without editorial endorsement and with notice that The Statesman cannot admit additional communications of such length.)

Neuberger View On Power To the Editor:

Because of my respect for the fairness and integrity of the Oregon Statesman, I should like to submit to the people of the state through your letter columns a rather detailed statement on the question of Columbia River development.

Many newspapers in Oregon are claiming editorially that we must accept "partnership" with the private utilities as the best we can get, because not even a "Democratic-controlled" Congress will authorize new Federal starts on our great rivers. This is the core of a major argument in favor of the proposed "partnership" with private power companies.

"Real Facts"

What are the real facts? They are these: Further Federal development has been halted because of the virtually solid opposition of the Republican Party to the public power program which proved so successful in the Northwest, from 1933 until 1952.

The Oregon press speaks of the "Democratic-controlled" Congress as though it were unanimously Democratic, which of course is not the case. The United States Senate, for example, consists of 49 Democrats and 47 Republicans. What is the stand of these Senators on Hells Canyon dam, for if Hells Canyon could be constructed as a high Federal project, our power shortage would be relieved for many years into the future?

Forty Democrats are known to favor S. 1333, the bill to authorize the high government dam at Hells Canyon. Only two Republicans favor the bill. In other words, the Democrats in the Senate are 81 per cent for Hells Canyon. The Republicans in the Senate are only 4.3 per cent for Hells Canyon. It is obvious that if the Republicans were only a fraction as enthusiastic for Hells Canyon as are the Democrats, the bill would pass without any difficulty.

Oppose Hells Canyon

Nor should it be overlooked that the three Republican Governors of the Pacific Northwest states—Patterson of Oregon, Langlie of Washington and Smylie of Idaho—all have taken a firm position against enactment of the Hells Canyon bill. In addition, a former Republican Governor of Oregon, Douglas McKay is now the Secretary of the Interior, and he has led the fight against the building of a high Federal dam at Hells Canyon.

The three Oregon members of the U. S. House of Representatives take an identical position.

"Doctrine" Claimed

In other words, it is official Republican Party doctrine to

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oppose new Federal starts in the Columbia River Basin. In 1953 Mr. McKay announced his program of "partnership" with the private utilities, and that has been Republican Party policy ever since. When Oregon newspapers mourn that Federal development has been stopped, why do they not point to the group which has stopped it? That group is the private utility companies and the leaders of the Republican Party—not rank-and-file Republicans but the party's political leaders. After all, the private power companies have been taking dozens of costly advertising pages in national magazines to urge the American public to oppose any further Federal hydroelectric developments.

In May of 1954 Secretary of the Interior McKay delivered a major speech in Oregon, claiming that we had to have "partnership" with the utilities because there simply was no more money in the Federal budget for dams in the Columbia River Basin. Mr. McKay's sentiments were immediately endorsed by Governor Patterson, Senator Cordon, Representative Norblad and many others.

Colorado Project Cited

Yet, I sat on the Senate Interior Committee in March of 1955 when Mr. McKay urged us to authorize the Upper Colorado project, which includes \$1,659,000,000 worth of dams—over five times the cost of Hells Canyon, for example! This, too, is prevailing Republican doctrine.

How can it possibly be that there is plenty of money in our Treasury for the Upper Colorado project but none for Federal dams at Hells Canyon, John Day, Green Peter, etc., etc.?

The Upper Colorado project is marginal and dubious. Its energy will cost at least 6 mills per kilowatt-hour, probably more. No utility company would think of coveting these poor power sites. Hells Canyon power, by contrast, will cost only about 3 mills a kilowatt-hour, perhaps even less. Surely Secretary McKay does not want to tell his Oregon people that we cannot get further Federal development because our power sites are so magnificent that the private utilities desire to preempt them! Yet that seems to be the McKay-Republican position—ample Federal funds for poor sites in Colorado, no Federal

funds for good power sites in Oregon!

"Political Squeeze Play"

My wife and I were born in Oregon. We love Oregon, as we know the distinguished editor of The Statesman loves Oregon. We feel that Oregon today is being victimized by a political squeeze play, manipulated by the private utility companies and supervised by the Republican Party. The editor of The Statesman surely must realize that our Federal program has been blocked only because the Republican Party opposes it unanimously. If only a few Republicans in Congress would join the overwhelming majority of Democrats who want Hells Canyon and John Day erected as Federal projects, our power shortage would be a thing of the past.

In conclusion, I want to say that I do not oppose "partnership" for doctrinaire reasons. I oppose "partnership" because I feel certain that "partnership" power would be high-cost power. Low-cost power is the one basic natural resource which our region has to offer new industries which can bring us big major payrolls. Nor is it true that "Eastern" members of Congress oppose Northwest dams, for fear these projects will lure Eastern manufacturing plants to our area. Among the Democrats sponsoring the Hells Canyon bill, for example, are Senators from such great Eastern industrial states as New York, Illinois, Rhode Island, Michigan and Alabama. If some "Eastern" Republicans would join these men, dynamite and bulldozers soon would be breaking bedrock for the high Federal dam at the bottom of the vast chasm of the Snake River.

The basic fact remains that the Democrats in the Senate are nearly unanimously in favor of further Federal development on the rivers of the Northwest, while the Republicans in the Senate are nearly unanimously against such further development. Why has the Republican Party taken this position? Why does the Republican Party push "partnership" with the private utilities in the Northwest, while at the same time it urges more Federal development on the dubious and uneconomic power sites of the Upper Colorado region?

Richard L. Neuberger,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1.)

of its leaders may not be sustained with the passing of time. Cities are full of memorials honoring those whose names are almost forgotten. I think I can illustrate my point by referring to the memorial honoring Oscar S. Straus which stands in the plaza on Fourteenth St. NW., Washington. It is quite elaborate, with a fountain in the center and on each side of the paved circle around the fountain is a large bronze figure, reclining. I am old enough to recall who Oscar Straus was; but I wonder how many do who are under 30 years old. And how large a place will his name have in the history books a century hence? He was, indeed, a very distinguished American citizen, a diplomat,

secretary of commerce and labor in the Theodore Roosevelt administration, and author. He was a member of the Straus family which has been prominent in the field of business and public affairs, whose contributions to philanthropy and public service have been notable. The Oscar Straus memorial in Washington was an expression of the warm affection in which he was held. Yet, as I looked over the Memorial recently I felt that it had been overdone. And it is not quite 30 years since Oscar Straus died.

I am inclined to believe that the Taft memorial, if it is built, will stand as a monument to a Lost Cause. For its leading donors, it will express their respect for Bob Taft, and their deep and lasting regret that he did not win the Presidency. It will stand as a monument, also, to the defeats of the party conservatives who hated the New Deal, distrusted Franklin D. Roosevelt, made the balancing of the budget their shibboleth. Bob Taft was the chief spokesman in the Senate for the old American tradition with its emphasis on individual initiative, self-reliance, economic freedom, a sturdy opponent of the conception of government as the intimate regulator of private activity and the guarantor of personal security. It was a great and valiant tradition; and we are not too sure that its loss is for the permanent gain of the American people.

If the New Deal's breach with what were considered sound principles of public finance leads to an ultimate debacle, and if the doctrine that the government must provide cradle-to-grave security leads to the breakdown of personal responsibility and paralyzes incentive which has been the dynamic of our economic system, then Bob Taft may be hailed as the "noblest Roman of them all," to be compared with the senators of ancient Rome who resisted the Caesarism that transformed Republic to Empire.

But if, as seems now more probable, the United States is able to make its political and social readjustments successfully, resisting the extremes of the welfare state, preserving the essence of the competitive capitalist system and maintaining fiscal solvency, then Taft will be remembered as a lesser figure who fought change valiantly but unsuccessfully, and his imposing memorial will stand as a monument to one who misread the signs and portents of the time in which he lived and served.

Airlines account for around 25 per cent of passenger miles in U. S. intercity travel.

Time Flies

FROM STATESMAN FILES

10 Years Ago

July 6, 1945

President Truman was headed for Europe and the big three conference, accompanied by Secretary of State James F. Byrnes. They were to meet Premier Stalin and Prime Minister Churchill in the Potsdam area near Berlin.

Jerry Saylor, until recently engaged in the insurance business in Portland, was sworn in as executive director of the public employees retirement board, created by an act of the 1945 legislature.

Back from a primitive "Shangri la" into which they were plunged by a tragic plane crash, a little Wac corporal and two army men flew to Hamilton Field, Calif. from the south Pacific. They were Cpl. Margaret Hastings and Sgt. Kenneth Decker and John S. McCollom.

25 Years Ago

July 6, 1930

Dr. and Mrs. Vern C. Miller, nee Margaret Breitenstein, after a wedding trip were at home in San Francisco where Dr. Miller was attached to the medical corps of the United States army.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, 71, novelist, historian, physician, traveler and spiritualist, died at his home in Crowborough, Sussex, England. He was the creator of the Sherlock Holmes yarns.

Mrs. Rhoda Quick Johnson, first white child to cross the old Santiam river trail, was queen of the celebration for the new cut-off to the beaches. She wore a crown made from jewels found on the coast, famous for its agates.

40 Years Ago

July 6, 1915

A jolly party of young folks chaperoned by Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Legge motored to Silver Creek Falls for an outing. The party consisted of Doris Churchill, Margaret Legge, Lucile DeWitt, Lucille Jones, Wolcott Buren, George Weller, Charles Huggins and Reed Roland.

Miss Margaret Flower, blind singer of Salem, was among the singers at the chautauqua held at Woodburn. She was accompanied by Harry Mills, son of Councilman J. A. Mills.

Official Washington took a grave view of the situation produced by Germany's refusal to meet the demands of the United States growing out of the sinking of the Lusitania with a loss of more than 100 Americans.

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