

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us. No Fear Shall Awe"
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Explosion at Whiting

One who has gone through the industrial section southeast of Chicago by Highway 20 or via the eastern trunk line railroads will remember the forest of oil refinery tanks and stills which abound there. The largest installation is that of Standard Oil of Indiana which pioneered in making this a great refinery center. The explosion Saturday of the company's liquid hydroformer, the still for production of high octane gasoline,—the world's largest—was both terrific and terrifying. The wonder is that so few lives were lost (two killed, 84 injured), and that the holocaust did not spread to engulf the whole nexus of refineries, residences, commercial properties.

The force of the explosion lifted huge sections of steel plate and tossed them about, crushing houses, killing and maiming. One auto was flattened to a thickness of one foot by a ten-ton slab of steel. The accompanying flash and flames rose to a thousand feet. Interesting and not surprising were the reactions of the neighboring residents. One thought the city was under enemy attack. Another thought the sun had exploded and the world was coming to an end. With all the publicity given to possible thermonuclear bombing minds of the people are somewhat conditioned to such a catastrophe. Within its limits, however, the explosion of a petroleum products still can be just as devastating and alarming.

The explosion at Texas City a few years ago was one of similar character. The miracles of modern chemistry are attended with great risks. The rearrangement of molecules which is the common task of the industrial chemist often yields highly unstable compounds. Some combinations cause smog which is irritating and may be asphyxiating. Others may be touched off by spark or jar to release forces that are highly destructive, as happened Saturday at the Whiting plant of Standard Oil. Man must contrive defense with his progress, and even then in this world of Nature occasionally gone wild, and chemicals off their leash, disaster in greater or less degree seems to be inevitable at times.

Down the Hatch!

A postal worker down in Houston, Texas, was suspended because he wrote a political letter to the newspaper comparing "Eisen-crat" Governor Shivers to a "Judas goat." The order was based on the Hatch act which bars federal employees from political activity. The postal worker is appealing to the civil service commission, contending that a letter to the editor is not within the ban of the Hatch act. Whether it is or not becomes a question of legal interpretation. However, we aren't too sympathetic with the Hatch act. It has the virtue of preventing the party in power from regimenting government employees for political chores. It has the drawback of trying to make political ennuis out of a large class of intelligent citizens who are both interested in government and acquainted with its operations. Just how a legal line may be drawn separating vice from virtue in political activity we do not know; but the Hatch act seems to us too severe.

That was a neat pickup of \$20,000 made by the schoolboard in obtaining a reappraisal of its fire insurance risks. The saving will continue at the rate of some \$6,000 a year due to the newly published rate. The Salem school district's fire loss has been minimal—only the old Liberty schoolhouse which burned a few years ago producing an insurance claim. Put a star on the blackboard behind the names of the board members, with two for Gardner Knapp who followed through on the survey.

North Africa Fracas Believed Working Toward Becoming Fullblown Revolution

By WILLIAM L. RYAN
AP Foreign News Analyst

Compromise may no longer work in North Africa. At best it may be a temporary stopgap, but forces now are at work which are intent upon keeping France's shaky empire in ferment until it becomes a fullblown revolution.

The Voice of Arabs, a regular broadcast permitted to emanate from Cairo, now stresses the word "revolution." It has been speaking of the North African violence of the past weeks as "battles of the revolution" against France's "soldiers of imperialism."

Cairo has been allowing, if not sponsoring, inflammatory broadcasts to North Africa for several years now.

Obviously the sponsor is the Arab League, which apparently dreams of some sort of pan-Islamic movement solidifying Moslems in a belt extending all the way from Africa's Atlantic Coast to the heart of Asia.

Dreams of Moslem unity, and even of Arab unity, are illusory. The Arab League itself, made up of nations in the Middle East, is plagued by its own inner turmoil, suspicions, intrigues and machinations.

But the new Egyptian government may not be entirely without imperial ambitions of its own. It gives some cause for suspicion in its attitude toward the future of the Sudan on its Southern border.

It also has laid itself open to suspicion that it aspires to be spokesman and leader for the entire Moslem world of the Middle East and North Africa.

Astoria Celebration

Astoria has done the best job of celebrating the sesquicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition. That was proper, because that was the western terminus of the great overland expedition which they headed, which was sent out by President Jefferson to explore the continent to the Pacific. Astoria combined its annual regatta with ceremonies honoring the anniversary. Present were descendants of the two captains, of Sacajawea and of Sgt. Patrick Gass.

One feature of enduring importance was the dedication of a replica of Fort Clatsop, the winter quarters, 1805-6, of the exploring party. This has been built for permanence, following as closely as possible the plan of the original fort, and at its authentic location. Crown Zellerbach corporation, extensive owner of Clatsop county timberlands, furnished the logs. They were chemically treated so the rebuilt fort should stand as a valid point of reference in the history of the Northwest and of the nation.

Lewis and Clark left no markers there save the fort which in time succumbed to the elements, and a salt cairn where they replenished their salt supply by boiling off ocean water. Permanent settlement by whites, first in what is now Oregon, came with the Wilson Price Hunt expedition of 1811, sent out by John Jacob Astor to found a fur trading post at the mouth of the Columbia. Astor's commercial venture failed, but Astoria survived, rich in its history and thriving as a port and trading and fishing center.

Attorney Names Not Sacrosanct

The Marion County Bar Association is circulating a resolution, apparently adopted by its public information committee, on which attorneys are asked to vote.

The resolution starts: "Be it resolved . . . that the newspapers of Marion County be requested to observe the following rules with reference to mentioning the names of attorneys in news articles."

The resolution seems both innocuous and useless, but there is one paragraph to which The Statesman takes exception and which it has no intention of recognizing no matter what the vote is on the resolution.

This paragraph says: "When any action is taken by a lawyer acting in his professional capacity representing a client, the name of such attorney and the name of his firm shall not be mentioned."

The Statesman in the past has mentioned at its discretion, and will continue to mention at its discretion, the name of any attorney or firm of attorneys which appends his or its name to any document on file as a public record. The test will be on whether publishing the name is part of the proper news coverage of the proceeding.

We understand the attitude of the Bar association: it wants to avoid name publicity in the form of advertising. But the newspaper follows its own rules. Using the name of a professional person, doctor or lawyer, in a news story is not done to benefit (or to injure) that person, but to give the facts which seem essential.

Getting the liquor probe show on the road has run into a new complication. The Multnomah county grand jury's inquiry was suspended when a relative of a liquor commission supervisor who was serving as a juror reported the fact to the judge. A September panel will make a fresh start. Meanwhile Attorney General Thornton continues his legal grapple with the liquor commission in the local circuit court. Suspense over the outcome is largely confined to the political wisecracks.

The Book-of-the-Month club was followed by a host of imitators in the business of distributing books. The pattern has been adopted for the sale of phonograph records with the similar bait in an offer of a classic record. Columbia has followed suit to set up a record club, but RCA hasn't. As with books, the record clubs will probably get more distribution, and may even stimulate sales in record shops which now are worried over the new competition.

A Portland preacher, head of a healing cult, and his associates are defendants in libel suits which total nearly two million dollars. If the suits are won and prove collectible the chief defendant would be a good subject for TV's "What's Your Line?"

Better English

By D. C. WILLIAMS

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "I'll start in reading the book today and shall probably finish it up tomorrow."
2. What is the correct pronunciation of "automaton"?
3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Rebuttal, reappearance, realism, restaurateur.
4. What does the word "disconsolate" mean?
5. What is a word beginning with "ina" that means "not sufficient"?

ANSWERS

1. Omit "in" and "up." 2. Pronounce a-tom-a-tion, first a as in all, both e's as in ea, accent second syllable. 3. Realism. 4. Deeply dejected; sad. "We were moved by the tears of this disconsolate woman." 5. Inadequate.

GRIN AND BEAR IT By Lichty



"You wrote beautiful love letters, Fignewton! . . . they read just like seed-catalog descriptions! . . ."

IT SEEMS TO ME

Continued from page 1)

1951. The Korean war and the rush for rearming shot up the government's spending. Deficits in recent years were:

1953, \$9.4 billion
1954, 3.1 billion
1955, 4.2 billion

The administration has worked hard, and so has Congress to make spending fall within receipts. There is a natural impulse to do that this fiscal year, so it can be advertised as a "promise fulfilled" by the GOP in the next campaign. With anything like good money breaks the goal should be reached next June 30th.

As to possible tax cuts in 1956, that is something else again. The Democrats wanted to put through a tax cut this year, but the Senate wouldn't go along, and the administration opposed it. The latter held out hints on one in 1956, and since that is election year we may be sure the vote-conscious congressmen will be eager to take the hints. The sparring will be over who gets what. Here are some of the possibilities:

A flat credit of \$20 on the tax, for each taxpayer and dependent. The estimated loss in revenue is \$2.1 billion.

The increase of \$100 in the personal exemption. Cost to treasury, \$2.4 billion.

A five per cent cut across the board. Cost, \$1.4 billion.

Democrats will be agitating for tax cuts which will benefit the greatest number of voters, ignoring the fact that the increases adopted in Democratic times shouldered more of the burden onto those in middle and upper bracket incomes. They will not want to retreat on the route they advanced. The opportunity for demagoguery is apparent, whereas the honest thing to do is to weigh the income tax structure as a whole and try to do equity among all classes.

In the face of all the pressures for cuts in personal income taxes there seems little basis for hope that the corporation tax rate of 52 per cent will be reduced.

For my part I am willing to let the present taxes stand until the budget is made securely in balance and a start made on paring down the national debt. Few people seem to worry about the debt any more, in spite of its size. It is there however, swollen to huge dimensions—around \$275 billion. Prudent politics and honest public finance call for keeping it from growing larger and moving toward its reduction.

It will be all right with me if Secretary Humphrey doesn't hold another press conference until a year hence, when he can announce a surplus in the treasury for the previous fiscal year.

Time Flies:

From The Statesman Files

10 Years Ago

Aug. 29, 1945

Survey for a proposed \$600,000 bridge across the Willamette River at Independence was ordered by the State Highway Commission after a delegation from Marion and Polk Counties assured members the two counties could meet half the expense.

Lt. Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita, the "Tiger of Malaya" who dictated the surrender of the British at Singapore and had vowed he would crush MacArthur's Philippines reinvasion, radioed he will begin his own surrender journey.

More than 1,500 applications for telephones are now on file in the Salem offices of the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company, Harry Collins, manager, reported.

25 Years Ago

Aug. 29, 1930

Gold, which has ever led men into uncharted countries, lured two Salem men, Capt. W. C. Stephens, a veteran miner, and John Y. L. Hillpott, into the wilds of Douglas County where, during 59 days of prospecting, they made their "strike."

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Bynon were the guests of the Fred Bynons, stopping en route to their home in Portland after being guests at the summer home of Col. and Mrs. E. Hofer at Agate Beach.

Construction work on the new extension of 12th Street in Salem, south and east for two miles on the main Pacific

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Labor Board Split On Issue of Union 'Unfair Practices'

WASHINGTON (AP)—The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) split wide open Sunday in deciding not to punish a union for unfair labor practices against its own employees.

The 3-2 ruling brought a sharp complaint from dissenting members that employers "will no doubt be astonished to learn" that unions are free to engage in the same conduct forbidden to employers.

The two dissenters said they "believe the decision achieves a paradoxical and unwarranted result in permitting unions to deny to their own employees the very rights and privileges which unions have so vigorously advocated and won for employees of others."

"Free to Flout"
"Labor unions are now free to flout the very statutory provisions which they ardently champion and which have been hailed as the Magna Carta of labor."

The case that brought the ruling was the first to come before the board in its 20-year history in which a union was charged with unfair labor practices toward its own employees. It involved a wide variety of Taft-Hartley charges against an AFL Teamsters Union subdivision in Portland, Ore.

NLRB Examiner Martin S. Bennett found the Teamsters organization guilty of trying to prevent Teamster employees from joining the AFL Office Employees Union. In 1953, the office workers picketed Teamster headquarters at Portland.

Two Disagree
The NLRB majority, overruling the trial examiner and dismissing the case, was composed of former Chairman Guy Farmer, Ivar Peterson and Abe Murdock. The decision was reached prior to Farmer's resignation last week.

Farmer and Peterson said unions come under the NLRB rule against taking cases involving nonprofit organizations. Murdock said he would consider such charges only when the union is operating an all-out business enterprise.

Philip Ray Rodgers and Boyd Leedom, dissenters. They said the examiner's finding indicated the Portland Teamsters group had "run the entire gamut of employer unfair labor practices" in the case. They expressed belief that Congress intended the NLRB to apply the law to unions in their capacity as employers.

28 Cases
Rodgers and Leedom said a study of NLRB files showed at least

28 other cases of unions charged in recent years with unfair labor practices. Most of these were dismissed, withdrawn or compromised before reaching the full board.

"It is unrealistic in any case," the dissenters said, "to believe that a Congress which—animated by a desire to make the Wagner Act a two-way street—adopted an elaborate code of restrictions upon labor unions, could have intended to strike down in whole or in part the only limitations in the Wagner Act upon labor union conduct."

"Such a view not only takes language out of context but ignores the mood of Congress in passing the Taft-Hartley Act."

Teamster groups involved in the case were Portland Locals 223 and 206, the joint council of Oregon Teamster unions, a security plan office which administers union welfare, and the union's building association.

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