

# Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"  
From First Statesman, March 23, 1851

Statesman Publishing Company  
CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor & Publisher

Published every morning, Business office 200  
North Church St., Salem, Ore. Telephone 4-6811

Entered at the postoffice at Salem, Ore. as second  
class matter under act of Congress March 3, 1879.

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## "Programs for Conservatives"

Ripon, Wisconsin, the birthplace of the Republican Party is seeking to repeat its paternity by fathering the "Republican Educational Foundation." Launched as strictly a "grass-roots" enterprise the Foundation is sponsoring "Program for Conservatives." It wants to make Ripon a research center for its political philosophy and a seed center for propagating its political faith.

The publicity release states that the Foundation "is dedicated to the principles of conservatism on which this nation was founded." It disclaims connection with any political party and makes its appeal "to all Americans, regardless of party, who oppose the moral and economic decay of collectivism."

It has found in Dr. Russell Kirk whose book, "The Conservative Mind" offers a foundation for the conservative philosophy as applied to politics, a literate spokesman and has made Kirk chairman of its publications committee. Initially the Foundation is circulating a series of twelve essays by Dr. Kirk.

There is a field for promotion of the conservative viewpoint in politics and government with its emphasis on preserving sound values rather than traipsing off after fantasies and fallacies and promiscuous panaceas. The trouble has been that so many of the attempts on this line have been sponsored either by racketeers eager to tap the tills of timid tycoons, or by purblind zealots resistant to any change. Such movements have gone early to seed. Though some survive, they lack influence. Dr. Kirk has his labor cut out for him to keep the program for conservatives based on an intelligent appraisal of today's issues in terms of our historical political faith and tradition.

## Dog's Rights

A "dog's life" is a slangy reference to degradation, but a judge in Seattle has ruled that a dog has rights too. This Seattle dog was one of the "assets" in the estate of a deceased woman. The estate executor, however, considered the dog more of a liability than an asset, so he sought a court order to permit him to have the dog dispatched by "euthanasia" (lethal sleep). Judge Hugh Todd, however, denied the petition. "A dog," said the jurist, "has some rights . . . especially when he hasn't committed any crime." So the dog is permitted to continue to live a dog's life, though of what sort is not reported.

Dogs have had their day in court before, whether as alleged sheep killing dogs or as barkers that disturb the neighborhood or as vicious. Some have been condemned for their trespass on the rights of man. But no good-tempered dog, to our knowledge has been tried in court and condemned.

One recalls the fictional trial of a dog in "The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come," where the plea of the lad who owned the dog saved his life. The "trial" in Seattle was real, and the judge's ruling commends itself to dog lovers everywhere.

## Butter Market Adjustment

Secretary Benson can point to the situation in butter as proof of the workability of his plan for agriculture. When he reduced the support prices on dairy products in the spring of 1954 he was severely attacked by political foes and by some who had a selfish interest in keeping the butter price high, even if it meant the government would have to buy and store the butter. The shift was made, however, and the dairy industry has succeeded in making its transition with a good measure of success.

For the 1953-54 fiscal year the government had to buy 355 million pounds of butter. In the past year its purchases declined to 159 million pounds. Moreover, it has been able to reduce its stores of butter from 456 million pounds on July 31, 1954 to 184 million pounds one year later. Benson hopes to get rid of this in coming months.

There has been some decline in production, but with prices somewhat lower consumption of butter has increased. Consumption of fresh milk has increased six billion pounds in the past year.

The medicine of a lower price guarantee may have tasted bad in April, 1954, but it has contributed toward a cure. A similar prescription clearly is recommended for the other crops whose surpluses are bearing down heavily on Uncle Sam's back.

A Polk county grand jury has indicted a former employe of the highway commission accusing him of "feloniously" accepting a sum of money from a contractor doing business with the state. If the employe was guilty of accepting the money, was not the contractor guilty in tendering and giving it? The offense surely cuts both ways and should have equal consideration from the grand jury.

Addendum on physical fitness: An anthropologist of Smithsonian Institute says that American men now average one to two inches taller than those in George Washington's day.

## Editorial Comment

### OLD-FASHIONED POLITICAL SPOILS CASE IS WELCOME

With no desire to appear cynical or flippant, we confess to receiving something of a lift out of the current whoop-de-do over Edgar E. Hoppe and his separation from a \$14,800-a-year spot on the payroll of the Internal Revenue Service.

Inasmuch as the Service and a succession of commissioners tolerated him for 24 years before he was lopped off in 1953, we are not quite convinced by official protestations that he was fired for incompetence. His own angry assertion that he was sacrificed from "political considerations" strikes us as plausible, and as a welcome indication that a national fever is breaking.

If Hoppe speaks well and true, his is one of the few Government suspensions, dismissals, or firings in many a year that have not evolved from the mysteries of "security." If he is correct, he was no kind of "risk," but just a Government worker who voted wrong.

This political firing would, if upheld by the courts in which Hoppe is suing, represent a return to the old, discredited spoils system, a thing to be shunned. But reprehensible though that may be, it is safer to live with than certain manifestations of a security system.

When Government workers are fired for reasons of old-fashioned, practical American politics, rather than because they know somebody who knew Alger Hiss, or belonged to a chowder and marching society that subsequently elected a fellow-traveler as secretary, or have a brother-in-law who subscribed to the Daily Worker, or shun the company of young women, or possess an abiding faith in the Bill of Rights, they and all their fellow citizens may breathe easier and sleep sounder.—San Francisco Chronicle

## UNDER THE SPREADING CHESTNUT TREE



## IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1.)

teaching methods. The Salem schools no longer rely on the sight method, but swing into phonics early in the school course. (The Flesch book was serialized in a good many newspapers and stirred up quite a lot of controversy. The Statesman considered running it locally but found it wouldn't apply in the local situation.)

Well, how good are our schools? Periodically complaints are heard that those finishing high school can't read very well, that their spelling is bad, and that they get stuck in simple arithmetic. Neglect of the fundamentals is decried, and the frills and fringes of the modern curriculum denounced. This man, Wilson, who comes to the defense of the public schools in Harper's, is a writing man himself, author of a recent good selling novel, "The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit." He doesn't deny shortcomings in our schools, but he contends they are doing a better job:

"More education is being passed on to more children than ever before in history, as well as more health care, entertainment and all the rest of it. The advance is perfectly measurable: the average scholastic attainments of soldiers in World War II were tested and found to be much higher than those of the soldiers of World War I. Most suburban schools in America are incredibly good, compared to any sort of school in the past. Many centralized rural schools give the children of farmers an education as good as anyone in the nation can get."

Certainly the school plants have improved, as most adults can testify. Teachers enter the profession with far better preparation. Far more children are attending school and going on to complete high school. There are very few communities where compulsory attendance laws are not enforced, whereas up into this century children in many communities got to attend school only a few months each year, for a limited number of years.

Universal education has brought its problems, particularly that of leveling standards of attainment. It has also brought dilution of the old curriculum which had as its core language (reading, spelling, grammar), mathematics, history, geography. A miscellany of courses given credits has been added, but there can be no denying they contribute to the rounding of personality.

In short today's schools aim at preparing youth for today's world. And today's world is far different from that of a century ago. The cave mother taught her child not to venture into the woods lest the wild animals carry him away. The modern mother, city and country, gives very early instruction to watch out for automobiles. Times change, and teaching goals and methods do, too.

As for this LOOK article it appears to rate state educational systems by certain mathematical computations. The factors considered are: (1) Financial support which includes money spent per pupil and per classroom and the average value of public school property. (2) Teacher status considers average of classroom teachers' salaries and percentage of elementary teachers with fewer than four years of college. (3) Results Obtained includes percentage of population 25 years or older with fewer than five years schooling, percentage of inductees failing qualification tests, 1950-51, percentage who completed high school in 1950-51. Oregon's rating is fourth on Financial Support, eleventh on Teacher Status and

first in Results Obtained. Its combined rank is first. Washington is given second in combined rank, Illinois third, Wisconsin fourth, Massachusetts fifth, New Jersey sixth California seventh. As might be expected states of the South are lowest in the scale, the inverse order being Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina, Arkansas. A rather strange position is given Maine, 37th, and Vermont 35th.

Other criteria would doubtless alter the positions of many states, and I doubt if Oregon schools are really tops in the nation. Though it is hard to figure out how Miss Rummel arrives at her "combined rank" ratings, in general her map does give a fairly accurate scoring of schools, with the western states taking the lead over the older states.

The public schools are pretty much what the people make them, though sometimes even the parents are bewildered over what the teachers are trying to do at the schools. The public controls the purse strings (and really are very generous toward their schools), and their demands for expansion of curricula have had to be met. This also remains true that children from the homes are the "raw material" the teachers have to work with. With that material, better prepared teachers in greatly improved schools with finer facilities are trying to do a good job of preparing youth for life and citizenship.

## Stitching Art Helps Girl to Scholarship

Carolyn Bishop, 16, Salem, won a summer school scholarship from the Oregon Wool Growers Auxiliary because of her display of expert stitching skills. Carolyn's finished product—a dart, seam, and hem constructed in lightweight wool—recorded a top score from the judges.

For the third straight year, St. Paul entered the champion team in the 4-H forestry identification contest at the State Fair.

Corinne Conner, 12, Marion Koch, 12, and Dick Romine, 14, scored a total of 280 points out of a possible 300 in identifying 25 specimens of native trees and shrubs. Dick, in his third year of forestry, scored 100 per cent. Both girls are in their first year. Club leader is Z. F. Martin of St. Paul.

## GOP Defensive Attitude Irks Rep. Norblad

NEWPORT, Ore. (AP) — Rep. Norblad (R-Ore) told a rally of Lincoln County Republicans Saturday night that their party has been on the defensive too long.

"We have an outstanding program to sell to the people and an outstanding record of accomplishments," Norblad said.

"This record is so strong that it is interesting, if not amusing, to note our congressional opposition bragging about how well they supported President Eisenhower and his program," Norblad added.

## Time Flies

FROM STATESMAN FILES

### 10 Years Ago

Sept. 11, 1945

A business deal which has been in the public eye for more than two months was consummated when the Salem City Council voted to sell the old reservoir site on Fairmount Hill to Carl Hogg and Elling Halvorsen for \$13,750.

Residents of the Rocky Mountain region felt the first blasts of approaching winter. In the Star valley of western Wyoming, the season's first snowfall left a blanket two to three inches deep on the ground, which took a heavy toll of the unharvested crops.

Eric A. Johnston, 46-year-old head of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, was elected president of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, Inc., succeeding Will Hayes.

### 25 Years Ago

Sept. 11, 1930

Carolyn Swope, who each summer conducts the largest private summer school in the state of California, made a short visit in Salem, calling on Mrs. Mary L. Fulkerson, county school superintendent. More than 1,000 students were enrolled in the Swope summer school.

There are two farmers who are not complaining about production, or low prices. Homer and Harry Fredrickson of the Needy district, Aurora, are satisfied with the 153 tons of flax, taken from a 50 acre field.

Milton Sills, 48, for many years one of the best known actors in motion pictures, fell dead from a heart attack while playing tennis with his wife and son at their suburban home at Los Angeles.

### 40 Years Ago

Sept. 11, 1915

Senator A. M. LaFollette was appointed to represent the Marion County Taxpayers League at the land grant congress which begins at the Statehouse, R. P. Boise, the original delegate from the league, was unable to attend.

Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Ohling, Albany, were in the city with their son Merrill and daughter Elma, where they registered at the Willamette University. Merrill is a freshman and his sister graduates this year.

Salem proposes to curb the jitney before it becomes a nuisance. To that end an ordinance was passed at the meeting of the City Council raising the license fee for taxicabs and jitneys from \$10 a year for each car operated to \$25 a year.

## Reclamation Meet To Emphasize Wood Products

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The urgency of a stepped-up reclamation program to meet "the needs of food and fiber for our rapidly growing population" will be emphasized at the forthcoming 24th annual meeting of the National Reclamation Assn., C. Petrus Peterson of Lincoln, association president, said Saturday.

The convention, expected to draw at least 600 persons, will be held in Lincoln Oct. 24-26. Speakers booked, according to Secretary Manager William E. Welsh, Washington, D. C., are headed by Interior Secretary Douglas McKay.

## River Plunge Proves Point

DETROIT, Mich. (AP) — Police charged Elmer Frame, 32, and his companion, James Bowden, 27, with drunkenness after Frame boasted to Bowden that he was an "excellent diver" and jumped into the Detroit River to prove it. Police said Frame, who had to be rescued from the water couldn't swim.

## Air Unit Boasts Grandfather, 34

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Two outfits in the Strategic Air Command here boast grandfathers — one as young as 34. He is M. Sgt. William H. Dye of the 30th Bomber Squadron who became a grandfather last year. The other is 49-year-old Col. Michael N. W. McCoy, commanding officer of the 321st Bombardment Wing.

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## Despite Financial Crises, Both Socialists, Tories Optimistic Over British Economy

By STEWART ALSOP

LONDON — Since the war the British have developed a habit, by now almost an ingrained as tea or fish and chips, of having an economic crisis every odd year. They are having one now. Its outcome will determine whether a nation—especially a nation like Britain, which is absolutely dependent on exports—can have its cake and eat it too.

Ever since the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, the British have been having their cake and eating it—and very good it has tasted too, thank you. There is no unemployment here at all. On the contrary, jobs are going begging, in mines, in offices and elsewhere. This in turn has given the labor unions an unchallengeable bargaining position and wages have gone up and up.

At the same time, business has been booming merrily, while the state has been spending immense sums, for defense and the social services. The result has, of course, been inflation of the pound; the real value of the pound has dropped about 30 per cent since the devaluation in 1949.

In theory, all this should have led long since to the loss of Britain's competitive position in world markets, and to another great economic crisis. In fact, the current crisis is very weak tea indeed, at least for the present, compared to the tremendous, and world-shaking crisis of 1947, 1949 and 1951. Chancellor of the Exchequer R. A. Butler denies, indeed, that it is a crisis at all—it is only a difficulty which will soon be overcome. The most important outward and visible sign of the crisis or difficulty is the loss of something like \$500,000,000 from the British gold and dollar reserves in the last nine months.

At the same time, small sinister whispers of a second devaluation have begun to be heard and the pound has shown signs of weakening on the

world market. The crisis or difficulty is absolutely invisible, of course, to the ordinary British worker, enjoying a second glass of beer in his pub, on the best wages he has ever had; or even to the stockholder, mulling over future opportunities for profit over a gin and tonic in his club. But the crisis is very real to the responsible men in both parties, and they are worrying more than they care to admit.

Indeed, it began worrying the able Chancellor of the Exchequer as early as last February, when he sharply raised the bank interest rate. This was supposed to have the effect of reining in the current boom. Instead, the boom broke into an excited gallop. At the end of July, Butler tightened the reins further by clamping down sharply on consumer credit. It remains to be seen whether this will slow down the boom. What amazes the foreign visitor is the unanimity of opinion here about the economic problem.

Butler is blamed by the Socialists not for clamping down, but for not clamping down hard enough or soon enough. It is remarkable, moreover, to hear left wing Labor politicians

echoing, in private, the equally private views of most Conservatives that the root of the trouble lies in overemployment. As long as jobs are going begging, there is no incentive for higher production; coal mines are left idle (Britain will soon stop all export of coal, causing consternation on the continent), and prices pace wages in an unending spiral.

Yet both Socialists and Conservatives are also optimistic. The long pull. Labor men repeat, almost as a litany, that the Labor Party is going to have to adjust its policies to the fact that mass unemployment and mass poverty are things of the past. An able Conservative politician remarked that he was not really worried about the present economic troubles because the last ten years had proved that catastrophe could always be avoided by intelligent economic management by the state.

The view, which is now very widely shared here, amounts to the conviction that Britain can have its cake and eat it too, provided the cake is eaten with prudence and intelligence. There is an intellectual fashion in such matters. In the years immediately after the war it was fashionable here to say, with a very long face, that Britain could never again become a great power or even support its population—the only solution was mass emigration. More recently, it was fashionable to say that even a relatively painless recession in the United States would knock the whole British economy galley west.

In fact, Britain has not only recovered from the war, but carried a major rearmament program as well, meanwhile feeding its population better than ever before. And it was during the American recession that the British boom really began to gather momentum.

It is easy to see why optimism, at least for the long pull, has replaced pessimism as the intellectual fashion here. One can only hope that the optimism is as justified as the pessimism was not.

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**Oregon Statesman**  
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Subscription Rates  
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Daily and Sunday \$ 1.45 per mo.  
Daily only . . . . . 1.25 per mo.  
Sunday only . . . . . 10 week  
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