

Oregon Statesman
No Favor Sways Us. No Fear Shall Awe
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CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor & Publisher

Barge Line Permit

Permission to extend its service to Eugene has been granted the Albany Barge Co. by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

This represents the first utilization of the Willamette for freight transportation, other than log rafting, since the upstream dams were constructed by which the flow of the river in dry seasons can be regulated.

The barge line has not undertaken to serve Salem, because the haul is too short and the rail-truck competition too keen.

New Bridges for Salem

Over 25 years ago during the administration of Mayor Tom Lavesley a program was launched for replacement of wooden bridges over the creeks that thread their way across old Chemeketa plain.

In our opinion this improvement holds top priority, particularly as to the High street bridge. This is old, carries heavy traffic and its safety is a matter of continuing concern to city officials.

Editorial Comment

AN ANSWER ON FLEXIBLE SUPPORTS

A reader asks us why we are in favor of flexible price supports for farm products (see Letters to the Editor). There are two reasons:

1. Flexible price guarantees, if they were flexible enough, would permit farm products to move into consumption and export instead of piling up beyond safe reserve levels in storage.

2. Flexible price guarantees would permit the market to be more effective in directing farm production. High rigid supports provide incentives for farmers to continue producing things beyond the needs of consumers and foreign buyers.

We believe that price guarantees should be used only to provide more stability in market prices—that is, to level out the wide swings caused by changes in supply and demand—but not to raise the long-run trends of prices of a few basic crops.

Lower and more flexible price supports will not reduce farm production in total, but they will permit a better balance in farm production among different crop and livestock products.

Acresage controls, the "soil bank" and similar programs may help reduce total farm production for a time. These controls are not a perfect solution. If allotments are based on history, they prevent desirable changes in cropping patterns and land use.

If subsidies are needed for farmers (and we believe they are needed, especially during the present adjustment period), then we favor subsidies by other methods than through price guarantees.

Direct subsidies would permit the market to function more freely and would not misdirect farm production and marketing as do high price supports.—Des Moines Register

Power Without Responsibility

Joe Alsop's correspondence from Saudi Arabia which has been appearing on this page has given a very graphic description of the social and political transition in progress there.

Yet slavery still is practiced in Saudi Arabia. Some years ago old Ibn Saud, then king, proclaimed a new code for slave brokers. Alsop quotes the going prices for slaves.

On issues dealing with human rights, freedom of information and such, usually you will find countries like Yemen and Saudi Arabia following the lead of India in voting for resolutions extolling human freedom.

With more new-born and weak nations being admitted to United Nations the problems of holding the General Assembly to the course of wisdom will grow more difficult.

United Nations has embarked on a policy of universality of membership, but that will not include universality of responsibility.

Announcement that Gov. Arthur Langlie of Washington will be a candidate for U. S. senator insures Republicans of a strong opponent of the incumbent, Warren Magnuson.

Automobiles aren't selling as fast as they did last year. The manufacturers are complying with the old law of supply and demand, but instead of cutting prices to stimulate demand they are curtailing supply through factory layoffs.

Poll-Taking Described as Art, Not Science, With Results Difficult to Fit Into Statistics

By Stewart Alsop
GARY, Ind.—Just how do the public opinion polls work, how reliable are they and what do they really mean?

The question is worth asking, because the polls have become a major influence in American politics. The polls induced a fatal complacency in the Dewey camp in 1948, for example.

In all, we have talked to some seventy-five people, housewives, Negroes, steelworkers, middle class businessmen and plain Americans. From the point of view of the political reporter, it has been a fascinating experience, which has led to certain very strong impressions.

The first thing you do, if you are a careful and diligent pulse-feeler as Louis Harris, is to make a very careful analysis of a given area—its racial composition, its income level, its past voting record. Then you prepare a detailed political questionnaire.

And then you go out and ring doorbells. Suppose you are feeling the public pulse in a workingman's section of Gary. There is a street of new, small houses—what used to be called bungalows—some of them beginning to show the signs of wear.

Once in a while the door is slammed but usually, once the first question is answered the rest is easy. Often the chilly politeness are asked to step inside, and when they thankfully do so, they are almost exactly the same thing, except in the slums and the richer suburbs.

Then the questioning begins, and it soon becomes apparent that poll-taking is not a science but an art—a useful and meaningful art, when practiced by such an expert as Harris, but an art all the same.

A couple of days of poll-taking serve as a reminder that Americans are nice and friendly people, who talk freely. But the experience also serves as a reminder that political matters are far from removed from the daily life and daily interests of most Americans.

Almost everybody, we discover

ered, knew something about President Eisenhower and something less about Adlai Stevenson (although one lady remarked that it was too bad "That poor Stevens had that heart attack.") About two out of three had good notions about Estes Kefauver. But a good many could not identify the Vice President, and only a handful had formed an opinion of such esoteric political figures as Averell Harriman and Stuart Symington.

In such circumstances it would have been wholly futile merely to ask a series of mechanical questions, and to note the answer. Poll-taking more even than most political reporting, is an attempt to peer into the recesses of the human mind.

When the young steel worker says he expects to vote for Stevenson, will he really go to the polls? When the tattered old Negro on the back stoop of a slum house says he will vote for Eisenhower, is he merely trying to please the polltaker? How do you score the lady who says she always votes Democratic, but that she just loves the President on TV? And how is the elderly fellow who allows that he "kinda likes that Cow fever" really going to vote, if at all?

Because American voters are human beings, and human beings are unpredictable, it is simply not possible to express the political sentiments of the American people neatly, down to the last decimal point. But the kind of careful, diligent pulse-feeling such experts as Lou Harris do makes it possible to sense with some assurance certain trend of political thought, which will be described in another report in this space.

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IT SEEMS TO ME
(Continued from page one)

Safety Valve

(Editor's Note: Letters for The Statesman's Safety Valve column are given prior consideration if they are informative and are not more than 300 words in length. Personal attacks and ridicule, as well as libel, are to be avoided, but anyone is entitled to air beliefs and opinions on any side of any question.)

Views on City Issues
To the Editor:
Many of us are FOR Fluorides but AGAINST putting it in our water supply as there are better and more economical ways of getting it to the few who will benefit.

I understand that Salem Heights has fluoridated water, how much has tooth decay declined in that district and at what expense?

For those who are interested in fostering an outdated fire alarm system in the city, read the article in READERS DIGEST, September 1954. In this day of radio for the police and a telephone in every home, why go back to a horse and buggy era with a fire alarm system. It has been proven over and over that more than 60% of all alarms turned in, where they have the systems, are false. It will cost far more than it will save even though it is not so represented by those who want to put it over. I have yet to see any money saved by voting more and more bond issues. Des Moines Iowa, has abandoned its fire alarms.

I hope that most voters are aware that two of the bond issues will go on indefinitely and once voted on favorably will forever be on our taxes. And would some one please explain why the city should finance a golf course for the favorite few who in most cases can well afford to pay and patronize the private clubs. How about a riding academy or a dance hall or doesn't some one have any land they want to sell for that purpose to the city? Just get a pressure group together and get the city to finance your favorite scheme.

Bena M. Skaggs
896 N. 17th St.

Better English

By D. C. WILLIAMS

- 1. What is wrong with this sentence: "I have sympathy with him on the death of his father."
2. Which is the correct pronunciation of "menial"?
3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Friendless, lifeless, soulless, remiss.
4. What does the word "amiable" mean?
5. What is a word beginning with imp that means "threatening"?

- ANSWERS
1. Say, "I have sympathy for him." 2. Pronounce "menial," accent first syllable. 3. Soulless. 4. Capable of being united. "There is nothing amiable about his style of writing." 5. Impending.

Fluoridation—Mass Medication

To the Editor:
Fluoridation of our city water is mass medication and is a violation of every concept of medical practice and is also a violation of the constitution of the United States and of every state in the Union. It takes away our personal liberties and our constitutional rights. It compels us to drink fluoride water whether

we want to or not. I for one do not want it.
I am wondering what has become of the doctor patient relationship when fluoride treatment is left to the water department who has never seen the patient and who is not licensed to prescribe. This is a far cry from the high standard formerly held by the dental and medical profession.

Fluoride is for those who want to use it and to stop its use when they choose. They can get it as any drug store so I do not see the use of medicating everyone. This is a free country, so let those who want to use it do so and let the ones who do not, keep their personal liberty and constitutional rights.

If it is true that no damage will accrue from fluorides used by the promoters of fluoridation sign a note assuming liability for the same? I can't believe that all the dentists and doctors in Salem want this rat poison in the drinking water. If it kills rats, rabbits, dogs and cows, what will it do to the people who drink it?

I am indeed surprised that such a highly rated publication as the Statesman should call all those who oppose fluoridation "ignorant, designing quacks, fanatics and self-seekers." I wonder who is calling who what? Come on all you ignorant, designing quacks, fanatics, and self-seekers, let's show them just how we can take on this question by killing the fluoride measure on May 18 and keep our personal liberty.

MRS. ORI EWELL,
1254 N. 17th St.

GRIN AND BEAR IT By Lichty



And where does my opponent get the idea that I am the tool of party bosses who plot in smoke-filled rooms? ...

State Closes Air Bombing Slaying Case

DENVER — The state wound up its case Wednesday at the murder trial of John Gilbert Graham, completing almost nine days of testimony intended to prove he planted a dynamite bomb aboard an airliner which exploded, killing 44 persons including his mother.

In closing, Dist. Atty. Bert M. Keating returned to a confession obtained from the 24-year-old defendant by the FBI last Nov. 14. Graham told Judge Joseph M. McDonald that the statement was not true and that it was given to protect his wife, Gloria, from possible arrest for lying.

Ray K. Moore, who directed the special FBI unit which obtained the confession, was the next-to-last state witness. He reiterated that the admissions were voluntary. The final state witness was Dr. Robert Harrington, who examined Graham after the confession was obtained and who testified there was no evidence the youth was harmed during questioning.

A flurry of defense motions came as soon as the state rested. Graham's court-appointed attorneys asked Judge McDonald to dismiss the case for two reasons: First, that it should have been filed in nearby Weld County, where wreckage of the plane crashed to earth last Nov. 1, and second on the grounds that the state had failed to prove "every allegation" in its charge. The defense also asked a directed verdict of acquittal.

The defense claimed that no "offense" had been proven in Denver and also that the state had failed to prove Graham had caused his mother's death.

It requested the motions be argued outside the presence of the jury of seven men five women and an alternate, a woman Judge McDonald complied with the request and advised the jurors that the case would be occupied through Thursday morning with matters connected with the trial. He told the jurors to return to the courtroom at 1 p. m. Thursday, when the defense will begin presenting its case.

Specifically, Graham is on trial for the death of his mother, Mrs. Daisie E. King, 35, who boarded the United Air Lines plane at Denver for a flight to Alaska. Graham's confession said he placed the bomb in her luggage.

River Yields Angler's Body

ROSEBURG — The body of William Allen Jessup, 49, Cottage Grove, was recovered Wednesday morning at a log dump on the Umpqua River, near Scottsburg, 13 miles east of Roseburg. Jessup drowned April 21 when his boat, capsized while he was fishing. Police had been dragging the river for his body since The body was found by a party of police officers, Coroner L. L. Powers said.

Time Flies FROM STATESMAN FILES

10 Years Ago May 3, 1946

Preliminary drawings for a new men's dormitory at Willamette University were approved at a meeting of the executive committee of the trustees in Portland. The architect, Pedro Bellesini, was instructed to proceed with final drawings.

25 Years Ago May 3, 1931

The ranks of true promoters may be thinning, but interest is as keen as ever in the deeds and accomplishments of those who have laid the trails and paved the way that vast wilderness which is today Oregon. If any one doubted it, he should have been at Clatsop to witness some 2,000 promoters enjoy the 25th annual Oregon Founders' day.

40 Years Ago May 3, 1916

After a year of labor which has been devoted largely to financial re-adjustment rather than to a definite campaign of promoting the Salem Commercial club has practically freed itself of debt, according to Manager McCall.

Oregon Statesman
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By carrier in cities: 1.25 per mo.
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Sunday only .10 week.
By mail Sunday only: 1.00 per mo.
In advance: 2.75 for 3 mos. \$9.00 year.
By mail Daily and Sunday: 1.00 per mo.
In Oregon: 1.50 for 3 mos. \$4.50 year.
In U.S. outside Oregon: 1.45 per mo.

Power Surcharge Declared Legal by Oregon High Court

The surcharges collected by G. F. Skipworth of Lane County, western Oregon power companies in the fall and winter of 1952-53. The suit was brought by Harold K. McPherson and others against Pacific Power and Light Co., one of the three companies which levied the surcharge.

The companies levied the 20 per cent surcharge to reimburse themselves for the added cost of steam generation, which was necessary because there wasn't enough water to operate their hydroelectric plants.

McPherson contended the surcharge was illegal, and asked for refunds totaling \$500,000. The high court, in its opinion by Justice William C. Perry, ruled that the public utilities commissioner has no authority to award refunds, and that the surcharge was legal.

Young Demos Ask Apology From McKay

CORVALLIS — The Oregon State College Young Democrats, through their board of directors, Wednesday accused Douglas McKay of "abusive conduct" at a meeting here last week and respectfully suggested that he apologize.

The incident occurred last Wednesday at a Young Republican sponsored gathering following McKay's talk at an OSU convocation. McKay, who is seeking Republican nomination to the U.S. Senate, said the issue was being "grossly exaggerated" and denied most of the Young Democrats' accusations.

John DeZell, of Medford, a science student at Oregon State and vice president of the State College Federation of Young Democrats, said that McKay had called him a "radical news dealer and worse" when DeZell attempted to question McKay about his policies when he was secretary of the Interior Department.

McKay said his questions to McKay were on such matters as his "past labor record, his policies on fish and wildlife lands, his personal views on Hells Canyon and his reported statements about statehood for Alaska."

McKay said he had told DeZell he "created the incident" and that DeZell was not of standing attending a Republican affair while wearing "Stevenson" and "Morse" buttons.

McKay said "plenty of people saw the incident, saw the boy try to heckle me. I tried to give him some answers."

McKay said he had told DeZell he sounded like a "news dealer." But he denied using any abusive language or having used any other political designations in his conversation.

Jim Lattie, editor of the Oregon State Barometer, said he was present and that he heard McKay say at one point that DeZell sounded "like a Marxian-socialist" and McKay had explained there was "considerable difference between a Russian Communist and a Marxian Socialist."

Two Escape Plane Crash

NEWPORT — Two Toledo 109 men crashed in a light plane here Wednesday morning, but neither was seriously injured, state police reported.

State police listed the men as LeRoy Harrison, 37, and Gus Selwyn Harrison, 26. Light plane was demolished, state police said. The plane reportedly struck trees at the Newport airport and crashed. The men received cuts and bruises, state police said.

The flight deck of the U.S. aircraft carrier Saratoga has an area of four acres.

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Firm Reports Oil Holdings

YAKIMA — A Sunshine Mining Co. official Wednesday announced that reports of the company's oil holdings in Idaho are being reviewed by the state.

Frank M. Hardy, secretary-treasurer of the company, said that the company's oil holdings in Idaho are being reviewed by the state. Hardy said the oil operations were intended to offset decreasing gains from mining operations in the Ketchikan area in Idaho, he said.

Annual reports of the company's oil activities, Sunshine's common stock opened on the New York exchange today at 10 1/2, up from 9 1/2, and closed at 9 1/2. The company's common stock had closed last night at 8 1/2.

Police Chief at Roseburg Quits

ROSEBURG — Police Chief Stanley Olson Wednesday submitted his resignation to City Manager George Farrell, saying he will enter private business this summer in Roseburg.

Olson came here from Eugene in 1952. His resignation is effective June 1. Farrell said 23 ambulances for the job have been received, and the appointment of a new chief will be made possibly within 30 days.

Portland Dry

PORTLAND — Portland had only a mild and a forecast month instead of the average of 2.13 inches. That made it the driest April on record since 1900, according to the Weather Bureau said.