

# The Oregon Statesman

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

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## "Little Hurricane"

With committees of Congress probing into military affairs with the special purpose of finding out how well advanced our defense technology is, the occasion was offered for partisans of the several services to play their hand. Apparently they overdid it, for Defense Secretary Wilson called a hurried press conference at the Pentagon where he, the secretaries of the several military departments and chiefs of staff submitted to questioning. Apparently Wilson did most of the talking and spoke quite as directly to the several services as to the public through the press. They all promised, however, a thorough investigation to trace the bickering which was attributed to lower echelons in the several services.

This rivalry is old, and as Wilson said, to a certain degree it is a good thing, the competition putting each branch of the service on its mettle. The methods of the infighting are old, too; information is made to "leak" from official sources to journalists who are favorable to the site supplying it, as was admitted by a Navy captain a few years ago. Publicity then flows, Congress gets stirred up, committees start probing, further strife breaks out within the defense establishment. There was a fierce controversy over unification, with General Bradley referring contemptuously to the "fancy danc" (Navy) who were in opposition. Another feud was that between the Navy and the Air Force over putting reliance on long-range bombers and scuttling the super-carrier America, which was done, though later big carriers were authorized and built. Now the contention is over guided missiles and the agencies which may develop and use them, and the role of the Navy in offensive aerial warfare.

This "little hurricane" blew to such proportions that the Commander-in-Chief became concerned. Secretary Wilson reported, after a visit with the President that Eisenhower was "a bit unhappy" over the revival of inter-service rivalry. He intimated, too, that disciplinary action may fall on officers who "stick their heads up" in violation of orders to avoid provoking controversy. None of this daunts Congress, however. Senator Symington's committee is going to proceed with its inquiry into missile production and other military procurement, also on the Navy's role in modern warfare. After all, Congress has the final say because it appropriates the money for the department of defense.

It is all quite bewildering to most Americans. They know they are being taxed heavily for national defense and feel they should be getting the very best that brains can provide. They are disturbed over reports of lethargy in development and of conflicts among the services. They must depend on Congress to lay out the program through its appropriations and on the President and secretary of defense to maintain discipline for the proper carrying out of our defense policies. They are the only ones who can see the problems as a whole. The separate services often are unable to see the forest for the trees in their own back yards.

## Provincial Texas Papers

"Is it true what they say about Texas?" Well, what are they saying? A historian, Hugh Russell Fraser, now domiciled in Texas, thinks Texans are "on the whole" just about the "most provincial people in America." They get that way "because their newspapers don't tell them."

Journalistic provincialism. Measured by bulk, by volume of advertising and size of circulation, Texas has some "great" papers, but evidently their greatness doesn't extend to keeping their readers informed on world and national events — not like the Denver Post with 14 columns of "outside" news and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch with thirteen and one-half.

Texans who are interested in what goes on across their state borders would fare better, says Fraser, if they subscribed to the Toronto Star: "It carries more news about the United States than either the Dallas News or the Houston Chronicle."

French Farmers Block Roads  
Farmers in France have their troubles, too. To advertise their complaints thousands of them rolled their farm machinery across the roads blocking Sunday motorists on their jaunts into the country and keeping police busy opening lanes of traffic. During the blockade the farmers passed out tracts explaining their plight which was made more serious by crop damage in the disastrous freeze of last February. The demonstration did accomplish that result. It may also acquaint the public in France with the basic problem of French agriculture which is simply that it is overmanned under modern conditions of farming.

French farmers report that 200,000 small farms have disappeared in the past ten years, but the fact remains that still some 80 per cent of the "active" population is engaged in agricultural pursuits, as against 22 per cent in Denmark and 19 per cent in Holland. According to a report to the Christian Science Monitor, from Paris by Joan Thiriet, farmers in Northern France, using modern methods and equipment, do very well, especially at farm prices fixed to sustain marginal farmers on poor farms in the South.

It will be interesting to see what the French government does for relief of French farmers—their chief demand now is for credit to get them over the current crisis. Belieged as it is with its troubles in Algeria, the government surely does not welcome any outbreak of discontent on the home scene. It does seem clear, however, that there should be an occupational shift in France from agriculture to industry—but both employers and worker organizations will have to alter their restrictive philosophy if industry is to expand to absorb those who transfer from farming.

Pacific Northwest Pipeline Co. reports it has made contracts covering sale of 511 million cubic feet of natural gas a day to customers in the Pacific Northwest. Its pipeline has reached Umatilla, Ore., save for one 30-mile stretch and work is in progress on the Washington side of the Columbia River. Portland Gas & Coke will start its change-over of burners in August to be ready for turning the valves to deliver natural instead of manufactured gas. The advent of natural gas gives a big supplement to our fuel supplies in this region.

The president of the University of Iowa says that half of its law school graduates this year will leave the state, attracted by better opportunities elsewhere. Iowans will debate whether this is boon or bane for their state.

## Editorial Comment

WANTS IRON CURTAIN AROUND U. S.  
Representative Francis Walter (Dem., Penn.) has introduced and is holding hearings on a bill designed to knock out recent court decisions requiring full and fair hearings in passport cases. The measure also would give the State Department broad statutory authority to deny passports for travel abroad.

## REFRESHER COURSE



## Safety Valve

Student body at the State School for the Blind recently bought three azalea plants as a memorial to a student who died at the school last February—a victim of diphtheria. She was Christine Ortiano, 7. Turned out the plants were imported from the Rothschild estate in England. The same estate where the girl's father, Adriano Ortiano, had worked before bringing his family to America. The azaleas are planted and in full bloom just south of the new school building on Mission St.

Election leftovers... Theme song of successful primary candidates now is, "Will You Love Me in November as You Did in May?"... and for unsuccessful candidates, "You Tell Me Your Dreams and I'll Tell You Mine."... And voters who balloted at Hoover School Friday received quite a jar when they noticed election slogans posted along the school halls. Signs like, "Vote for Scott; He's Hot!" Turned out though, they were campaign signs for the school's student body elections.

Voting machines would have helped a lot of counting boards out from under a snowstorm of ballots. The long list of county, state and city measures and candidates kept some boards up to their ballot boxes in uncounted votes for hours after the polls closed. Even at that, the Statesman's elaborate network of drivers and correspondents gathered about 60 per cent of the total Marion County vote within four hours. And they travelled nearly 1,000 miles to do it.

Marion County clerk's office received more than its usual number of election day telephone calls from confused voters and board clerks. Voters were having their usual problems of not knowing where to vote, wondering if they were registered, etc. And calls came from a lot of persons whose addresses had been changed recently by the postoffice, but not reported to the clerk's office. Some boards were letting these people vote, and others were not. But the predicted uproar over signing the pollbooks failed to materialize.

When, and if, Hattie Bratzel wins the district attorney title in November she will be the first woman in the history of Oregon to do so. There have been several women deputy DA's in Oregon and several women candidates for the job. But none, even though they probably were qualified, have ever made the grade. Several other states, however, have distaff DA's.

Loot Missed By Burglar  
A burglar who broke into the rear door. Nothing else was reported missing and apparently no attempt had been made to break into the safe or cash register, police said.

GRIN AND BEAR IT By Lichty  
... And while it's customary to blame the parent for the child's behavior, we must not lose sight of the fact that it's the parent, who pays our fees!

## IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from Page one.)  
acre. In the early years of tree growth considerable stock is lost from deer browsing.  
Of interest are the comparative figures on prices realized on C & C sales. In 1939 the timber was sold at an average price of \$1.96 per MBF. The latest sales show an average price of \$3.62. This reflects not only the sharp increase in price of stumpage but also the demand for O & C timber because of the cutting of timber on privately owned lands which were more readily accessible. With substantial sums available for road construction the O & C administration is building roads into its timber holdings. The biggest project of the kind is the Smith River road system back of Gardiner and Reedsport in the Umpqua drainage. A contract has just been let for surfacing this road system and over it will come millions of board feet of timber. It is designed and built for permanence both for harvesting and for future timber management. (No decision has been announced by the director of the Bureau of Land Management on whether the marketing area restrictions in this district will be lifted on salvage sales. This is urged by mills in the Eugene area and strongly opposed by mills in the coastal area from Gardiner to Coos Bay.)

Better English  
By D. C. WILLIAMS  
1. What is wrong with this sentence? "He might of done like I did in this case."  
2. What is the correct pronunciation of "nicely"?  
3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Beneficial, benignancy, belligerent, bellicose.  
ANSWERS  
1. Say, "He might HAVE done AS I did in this case." 2. Pronounce nice-ee-ti, three syllables, and not nice-ti. 3. Beneficial.

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