

Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Squays Us. No Fear Shall Awe."
From "First Statesman, March 28, 1851"

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Another Slice Off Paychecks

Starting January 1st take-home pay of employees gets nicked some more. The deduction for social security will be raised from two to two and one-quarter per cent. Employers will have to match this. Those who are self-employed will have their tax raised from three per cent to three and three-eighths. This increase is ordered to finance the extension of benefits authorized by the last Congress. These were to authorize payment of benefits to disabled persons between the ages of 50 and 65. Also women are now eligible for old age annuities at age 62.

So insured have workers become to "deducts" from pay checks that they will probably register no complaint at this fresh one. What the process does, of course, is to siphon the earnings of the working and earning class for the relief of the elderly and disabled. The program has been a popular one, but it is expensive. Further tax increases are scheduled in the future—which simply goes to show that somebody has to pay for government bounties.

Deny Tax Advantage to Steel

The Defense Mobilization Board has rejected the applications of steel companies for fast writeoffs of investments in plant expansion. They had asked for this tax favor on some \$2.3 billion to be expended in new steel-making facilities. The board, which has had the applications under review for some time, made its ruling last week and at the same time refused to make special allocations of steel plate for tanker construction.

The board is to be commended for these decisions, especially the first. The Statesman has protested from time to time the continuation of this tax favoritism which originated during the Korean War. The steel industry is deluged with orders, but it is also waxing fat on profits. If any industry should be able of itself to finance its expansion, it is steel. To deny this is to say that our system of private enterprise won't work.

Steel companies have been quick to lift prices as wages and operating costs have gone up. They have a huge cash flow in their retained depreciation allowances. And their credit in the money market is excellent. Let them build their own plants, and pay taxes the same as other corporations.

The House committee on government operations voted up federal property and found it came to \$236 billion. If that is right then Uncle Sam is broke, for the national debt exceeds \$276 billion. However, federal "hidden assets" may make up the difference, such as the White House grounds, still carried at the original purchase price of \$1,600, and the Presidio at San Francisco, listed at \$1 and worth \$50 million or so.

Republicans had their Smith—Joe Smith, whom a Nebraska delegate wanted to nominate for Vice President at the national convention. The Democrats now have a Jones—an elector in Alabama cast his ballot for Judge Walter Jones instead of Adlai Stevenson, thus breaking the binding custom of casting the ballot for the winner in the state election. Maybe, if they would get a Smith and Jones on the same ticket, it would prove a winner.

Among the big meat packers Swift & Co. has been the most consistent in its earnings. However, it is by no means immune from the drive of competition. Its report for the last fiscal year showed it earned only six-tenths of a cent on each dollar of sales. While its sales volume in 1956 was higher than in 1955, its earnings were \$8.8 million less because the profit margin declined from one cent per dollar of sales in 1955.

Joseph Alsop Leaves for Entire Year of Newsgathering to Keep Pace With World

By JOSEPH ALSOP

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31 — Dear Stewart:

The origins of this letter of farewell, in case you are interested, go back to an unbearably hot afternoon in early 1941, when I arrived in Chungking just before a rather nasty little Japanese bombing raid.

Like a great many other people in those days, I had been self-confidently writing about China's problems from Washington. But it was only necessary to sniff the dust-laden air in these filthy, ruined Chungking streets, to begin to suspect that everything I had written was pure drivel.

The suspicion was confirmed, with sad finality, within less than forty-eight hours.

I then and there resolved that if I ever returned to the newspaper business, I would try to go where the news was before writing about it. It seems an impossibly long time ago since you and I adopted this resolve of mine as the first rule of our reporting partnership. In fact a whole decade has passed since we came back from the war and founded this joint enterprise.

In that decade our country has boldly met and triumphantly accepted the challenge of world leadership of the cause of freedom. And in that decade, too, freedom's cause has failed to prosper with a saddening fre-

quency, despite America's great efforts. I do not think it is prospering at the moment; and I am very sure that the tempo of world events is not accelerating in a rather dizzy way.

You remember what the Red Queen sternly said in "Alice through the looking glass": "It takes all the running you can do to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast as that." I have the same feeling now about keeping abreast of the vast developments and shattering crises that are now going on within the Soviet Empire, in the troubled Middle East, and in Western Europe itself.

That is why this is a letter of farewell, quite probably for a whole year. We have a run "twice as fast," I feel very sure, in order to remain faithful to that resolve I made in Chungking many months before Pearl Harbor, which you and I re-affirmed just after the war. So now, instead of leaving for a few months abroad as I have so often done before, I am leaving with a year's wafaring as the prospect before me.

It is not pleasant to transfer my base. (For have not you noticed too, that what one misses most after a few months of traveling is simply one's own bed?) It is not pleasant, either, to abandon all the roots I have spent so many years putting down in Washington (although of course I hope they will still be there when I get back at last). But there is the need to go, and there is no escaping from it.

Stockmen and Deer Hunters

Bill Jenkins of the Klamath Falls Herald and News, an editor who qualifies for hunting as Charlie Stanton of the Roseburg News-Review does for game fishing, commends the Oregon Cattlemen's association for its attitude toward deer hunters. At its annual meeting in Prineville the association went on record as wanting to cooperate with hunters, spite of the loss and damage they have sustained. The stockmen recommend a posting of private lands against hunting, save with permission of the owner, and then printing on the signs the name and address of the owner, so he may be reached.

This plan would have advantages both ways: The hunter who obtained permission would not be a trespasser, and the owner would know who was hunting on his lands. It should make for greater hunter-responsibility.

Cattlemen surely have a grievance against trigger-happy hunters who think property rights may be ignored in the wide open spaces. At Prineville they reported the toll of the recent deer season: 78 cattle killed, 23 wounded, 179 head strayed due to hunter carelessness and 154 gates left open. Jenkins expresses the hope that the stockmen and the Red Hat committee will work out a satisfactory solution to this hunter recklessness. He admits, however, that the problem "has been just as hard to whip as the common cold."

Hunting, like fishing, seems to generate a lot of grief and controversy.

Portland is having juvenile troubles—teenagers who commit mayhem, damage property, disobey authorities, respect no discipline. Police are said to ignore them, explaining they are "juveniles" who would get cotton-pull treatment in court. Portland judges might take a leaf from the book of a police judge in Aurora, Ill., who required five youths there to spend part of the weekend throwing snowballs across the Fox river, to write the 10 commandments 20 times a day for five days, and observe a 7 o'clock curfew—all because they broke the windshield of a truck in a snowball fight. This punishment was unusual, but it couldn't be classed as cruel. How effective it will prove as a cure remains to be seen.

The state department is vexed because three American newsmen have gone into Red China on reportorial missions, despite the U. S. ban on such travel. This "terra incognita" should be opened up newswise, so we can get a more accurate picture of life in Communist China. State's ruling got little support from the press, and now two men from Look magazine and one from a Baltimore paper circulating among Negroes have ignored it. If the men went at their own risk, they should not be penalized by the U. S.

Editorial Comment

Ferment in Indonesia

The new Indonesian Republic is suffering from growing pains. Elements of the army, which only last July caused a furore by ordering an investigation into the conduct of the Minister of Foreign Affairs in connection with corruption charges, have openly rebelled against the authority of Premier Ali Sastroamidjojo while maintaining loyalty to President Sukarno and former Vice-President Mohammad Hatta. Economic difficulties and the form of government are both causes of the unrest centered in Sumatra.

When Indonesia was first proclaimed a republic, the idea was that there should be a large measure of autonomy for the major groupings of the nation's 3,000 islands. But that idea was junked and, instead, the central government has become more and more powerful. When last fall President Sukarno suggested that most of the political parties should be dissolved and that a "guided" democracy be substituted for the current regime, he had to deny that he wanted to become a dictator. Vice-President Hatta, who believes in local autonomy and democracy, thereupon resigned his post.

Since much of the republic is under "state of war" law because of opposition to the government, military governors control affairs in large parts of Indonesia. Now the military leaders in North and Central Sumatra have called upon President Sukarno to oust the Premier, give that island's 12,000,000 inhabitants a bigger voice in the conduct of their local affairs and the spending of their tax money and to bring Mr. Hatta back into the government. The President and Premier have refused to recognize the rebels and have declared a state of siege. But the differing ethnical and cultural backgrounds of the peoples who make up the republic, their varying languages and customs, certainly deserve some recognition. If worse difficulties are to be avoided in this young nation, the original principles upon which independence was granted need to be put into effect.

—(New York Herald-Tribune)

'ONE FOR THE MONEY—'



Comes the Dawn

Well, this is the time of year when a lot of people stand around and cry, "Ring out the old! Ring in the new!" And a lot of other people crying, "For heaven's sake. Stop those bells!" Anyway, the Old Year, personified by a man with a long "hidden beard" and an old-fashioned razor, makes way for the New Year, a small taxpayer with a bare bank account. Or, as someone once said, here we've got a new year already, and we're not even used to the old one...

For anyone who is interested in such things today it should be noted that New Year's Day was not always on Jan. 1. Back in the Middle Ages people rang in the New Year on March 25, the beginning of spring. This gave them all of January and February to pay their Christmas bills and lay away a little something for New Year's Eve. But along about 1582, when the Gregorian calendar was adopted, they moved the party back to Jan. 1. Hence that old Middle Age saying, "In January, 'tis not the heart which drives the blood to the head. It's the fetes."

For a long time the Chinese celebrated New Year's Day on the day of the first new moon after the sun enters the Zodiacal house of Aquarius—sometime between Jan. 21 and Feb. 19. This was dropped some time ago. Probably because after being out late on New Year's Eve few persons could sit down and figure out when the sun entered Aquarius, or why. Another reason why this festival didn't last long in China is because people were supposed to pay off the debts on New Year's Day. Which was a day most people tried to sleep right through...

New Year's Day celebrations have taken on all sorts of forms during the years. Even back when there was only one couple around, we're told a little Cain was raised. And the bowl football games of today are a descendant of the Wassail Bowl games, played around a roasted pigskin centuries ago. Of course, in the Wassail Bowl battle they didn't choose up sides, and occasionally a spectator got kicked between the goalposts. It was this sort of thing which led to New Year's resolutions...

Another thing about New Year's is that it gives all those motorists who escaped on Christmas a chance to try again. But you should also remember—that in the dictionary "New Year's" comes between "Newton's Law of Motion," and "next of kin."

Strike Averted By Ironworkers

PORTLAND, Dec. 31 (U. S. —) The strike of 3,500 Northwest iron workers originally set for tomorrow has been called off while union officials study a new wage offer, a federal mediation commissioner said today.

Commissioner George Walker said the district council of the International Assn. of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers will meet to discuss the new offer Saturday in Spokane.

A union official here said employers originally were asked for a 35-cent an hour boost. He refused to disclose the new wage offer.

Lumberman Dies

PORTLAND, Dec. 31 (U. S. —) Edward Tyler Sturgeon, 67, owner and president of Morrill Sturgeon Lumber Co., yesterday died of cancer. He was formerly of Pocatello, Idaho.

He will meet to discuss the new offer Saturday in Spokane.

A union official here said employers originally were asked for a 35-cent an hour boost. He refused to disclose the new wage offer.

His successor has not been named, but reports indicate that Jens Terjeson, Pendleton, is under consideration for the post. Terjeson is past president of the Oregon Wheat Growers League and the National Assn. of Wheat Growers.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



...And a happy New Year to you, Mr. life of the party!

Safety Valve

Fiction?

To the Editor: Robbers, robbers everywhere, but not one (little) policeman to be found. Windows broken, stores robbed, yet not a flat foot to be found. I wonder where they all can be?

Now let's see? Let some one make an honest mistake. Oh yes, fail to stop at a red light, or a stop sign. That did it! Yes here comes some one. Oh yes! here they come. Policemen. Policemen everywhere, all in nice new shiny cars.

Let's stop and see what happens. Up walks a little dandy, pad and pencil in hand. I want to see your driver's license. So comply. You run red light. No, entered on yellow, it turned red. Policeman began to write. Ten minutes still writing. So I am tired and ask the policeman if he ever did that. He says yes, in Los Angeles. I ask did you get a ticket? He said no. Yet you give me one. No answer.

Next day I go to court, (which made me think of one of our kangaroo courts). Anyway all had our choice to plead guilty or not guilty. If not guilty a date was set for trial. But I think they all plead guilty for some were too poor to finance a trial. Some were working and could not pay off. Someone said there were 67 and the day before over 100. And all get fines, ranging \$2.50 and up to \$17.50.

It was just like an assembly line, one up and one down. The man just ahead of me, same charge was fined \$2.50. I was fined \$5.00, we both plead guilty, rather than come back for trial. So taxes should go down and crime go up huh? Could this be fiction?

With best wishes and a Happy New Year.

J. K. Cloyd
993 S. 12th Street

Rancher Resigns Agriculture Post

PORTLAND, Dec. 31 (U. S. —) E. Harvey Miller, a former Morrow County wheat rancher, is retiring as chairman of the state Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee for Oregon.

In that post for the past three years Miller has been administrator in Oregon of federal farm price support, conservation and soil bank programs.

His successor has not been named, but reports indicate that Jens Terjeson, Pendleton, is under consideration for the post. Terjeson is past president of the Oregon Wheat Growers League and the National Assn. of Wheat Growers.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page one.)

April, no permanent settlement between Israel and the Arab neighbors. Changes in the Soviet Union and its satellites, without revolution. Repatch job on NATO; United Nations baffled in trans-forming truce to peace.

U. S. Politics: Democratic-controlled Congress will get along well with President Eisenhower—no use to fight such a popular personality, especially when he is committed to policies the Democrats have endorsed. After all he is on his last term!

Strong controversy over amount of federal aid to foreign nations in prospect, but huge chunks will be provided to build dams around the Red Sea. Red China will release last of U. S. prisoners, but haggling will continue over other items in dispute: Formosa, Korea.

No tax cuts; return to deficit because of bigger spending.

Business: More of 1956, only worse. That is, high production, high wages, narrow profits, keen competition. Stock market weakness in first half-year as prices readjust to realities. Easier credit as year advances.

Construction volume lower because of credit costs and greater prudence, but highway construction on larger scale.

Better year for farmers and for concerns selling to farmers.

Oregon: Serious-minded Democrats will try to produce good legislative program. Income surtax repeal in sight, but not to be retroactive. No sales tax, but increase in regular income tax schedules. No \$40 per census child increase in basic school fund, but as much as revenue program will permit.

To sum up: 1957 will be a year without marked boom or serious recession. A year for hard work, diligent attention to business, alertness to opportunity, but with quite generous reward for effort. That ought to be enough.

Time Flies

FROM STATESMAN FILES

10 Years Ago

Jan. 1, 1947

Salem's new city government will take over the reins of this growing municipality at a meeting in the city hall. Mayor R. L. Elstrom and all seven councilmen already have been sworn in by City Recorder Alfred Mundt.

25 Years Ago

Jan. 1, 1932

Salem is in the center of the only district in the United States growing a fine quality of long fiber flax for commercial uses. Salem is also the hop center of the United States.

40 Years Ago

Jan. 1, 1917

Mayor Walter E. Keyes who took his place as the head of the city administration, in his message to the council, sounded an emphatic warning that caution should be observed in making appropriations during the coming year in view of the high taxes.

Better English

By D. C. Williams

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "His talk treated on subjects of interest to all."
2. What is the correct pronunciation of "evidently"?
3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Dissatisfy, dissuade, dissorient, dispersion.
4. What does the word "exponent" mean?
5. What is a word beginning with tr that means a "quiet, calm"?

ANSWERS

1. Say, "treated OF subjects."
2. Accent first syllable, not the third. 3. Dissorient. 4. One who or that which represents. "He is the exponent of his party."
5. Tranquil.

Ferret Suggested to Thread String Through Long Pipe

WOODBRIDGE, N.J., Dec. 31 (U. S. —) "Rats!" said disgusted fire officials.

"Ferrets!" says Lee Crandall, curator of the Bronx Zoo, to firemen and engineers who have been trying to lead a wire through a small 700-foot pipe.

Crandall said today a ferret is the only animal, with the proper state of mind, to carry a wire through. "If he wants to get through, he'll go through," the curator said. "They're good runners and very persistent."

Both qualities are apparently missing in Woodbridge rats. Again and again Louis Salamon, an en-

gineer has been trying to encourage the rats through the pipe with a string taped to their tails.

The firemen want to lay a fire alarm wire through the pipe that runs under the New Jersey Turnpike to a housing project. Once the string gets through, it's an easy thing to pull a wire after it, Salamon believes.

But the rats he's trapped at the city dump will only go so far. The most cooperative, threatened by Salamon's war whoops at one end and enticed by food at the other, made 600 feet. Then the string broke. Other rodents just stopped.

Hunting Mishaps Kill Ten In State During Past Year

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ten persons were shot and killed in Oregon hunting accidents in 1956. Hunters under 21 were involved in about half of the fatal shootings.

The State Game Commission says that the death rate can best be reduced by emphasizing safe hunting practices to youngsters.

The death toll included two hunters who drowned. And there were an additional 35 non-fatal shooting accidents in the year, according to the commission.

This figure was 12 under the

1955 total. In addition, a score of hunters died of heart attacks.

The 1956 death list included: James F. Miller, 23, St. Helens, by companion while preparing to leave on trip.

Marvin Davis, 15, Sweet Home, tripped over own rifle in Metolius area.

Glenn Allen Burkett, 32, Portland, by companion near St. Helens.

George William Quarles, 24, Stanfield by companion near Baker.

George F. Zimmerman, 23, Burns, by companion near Burns.

James A. McDaniel, 12, Port Orford, by companion near Roseburg.

Douglas Thompson, 15, Culver, by companion near Culver.

Helen Shaughnessy, 39, Portland, when gun dropped by companion discharged at John Day.

Herman Johnson, 38, Stayton, by own gun which discharged as being put in car in Marion County.

Carl S. Sumner, 39, Mt. Vernon, Ore., by companion in Grant County.

Drowned: Duane Amen, 27, Salem, in Willamette River when boat capsized.

Memmo Swartzendruber, 12, McMinnville, in South Yamhill River when boat capsized.

Portland Marchers To Miss Inaugural

PORTLAND, Dec. 31 (U. S. —) Capt. Carl Shoemaker today said the Portland police drum and bugle corps probably won't get to march in President Eisenhower's inaugural parade.

The \$15,000 necessary to promote the trip hasn't been raised, he said.

As the evacuees returned, they found the once verdant mountain country shrouded in dismal gray ashes of brush and trees.

Help was quickly forthcoming. With President Eisenhower having designated Los Angeles County as a major disaster area, the SMALL Business Administration announced it would open headquarters Wednesday in Santa Monica to receive applications for low-interest loans to rebuild homes and businesses.

The Red Cross opened a welfare center in the Chamber of Commerce Building in swank Malibu Beach to accept requests for emergency assistance and long-term financial aid. Twenty-two families quickly applied for the long-term assistance.

As quickly as the fire threat was erased, the possibility of floods loomed.

The mountainsides were swept clean of the thick brush and undergrowth which held back water from rains. Heavy rainfall would send torrents of water gushing down on inhabited areas.

With the normally wet month of January at hand, county forestry and flood control officials are acting swiftly to meet the threat.

ANNOUNCEMENT

T. W. SAHLSTROM, O.D.

ROY B. CLUNES, O.D.

OPTOMETRISTS-VISION SPECIALISTS

Announce the opening of offices, Jan. 2, at Livesley Bldg., Salem. Practice limited to eye examination and fitting of contact lenses.

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