

Northwest's Assets Win Costs Argument

(Editor's Note: J. Wesley Sullivan, news editor of The Oregon Statesman, is on leave of absence to accept a Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University. During his absence he will write exclusively for this newspaper as The Statesman's "Down-East" correspondent.)

By J. WESLEY SULLIVAN
News Editor, The Statesman

BOSTON, Jan. 4—Is the cost of living really higher in the East than in Oregon?

For the answer to that let's eavesdrop on a hypothetical argument.

PROFESSOR X—Would I save any big money by moving to the West Coast? I doubt it. I've gone down my budget and compared prices. I can save a few dollars here and there, but it still adds

up to peanuts. I'm looking for ways to lop hundreds of dollars from my living expenses.

SULLIVAN—How about electricity? We have cheap power in the Northwest.

PROFESSOR X—That is just what I'm talking about. My total electricity bill a year is less than \$250. So I have a few dollars. What about food? That's a big item. I suppose food is a lot cheaper in Oregon. What about clothing?

Foods Costs Are Same

SULLIVAN—No. Food costs are about the same—except for meat and fruit. I still recall in fright when I see steak at two dollars a pound back here.

Clothes are both cheaper and more expensive.

PROFESSOR X—That doesn't make sense.

SULLIVAN—I mean that there are more tempting expensive clothes back here. What's more, people don't dress informally the way they do in the West. But when clothes get to the bargain basement here, where they are manufactured, you sometimes get amazing bargains.

PROFESSOR X—So far I've heard nothing from you financially to make me want to go West, young man, go West.

SULLIVAN—How much did you pay for your house?

Housing Less in Oregon

PROFESSOR X—About \$30,000. It is a good three-bedroom house in a good suburb. You have to go out a few miles to get anything decent. You know, there isn't a single building lot left in Cambridge, a city of 100,000.

SULLIVAN—Your house in Oregon would only cost about half that much and it would be close in.

PROFESSOR X—Yes, but you only buy a house once in your life.

SULLIVAN—But you pay for it over a 20-year period and you are carrying the burden of that extra \$15,000 in mortgage at a 5 or 6 per cent interest rate. How much are the taxes on your house?

PROFESSOR X—\$500 a year.

SULLIVAN—It would be half that in Oregon.

Now, about transportation. How much does it cost you to get to and from work?

PROFESSOR X—Let me see. There is 45 cents train fare and 20 cents on the MTA each way. That's \$7.30 a day.

SULLIVAN—Wipe much of that off the books if you live in Salem, Ore.

Now we've been talking about hundreds of dollars and even thousands. But I'll throw this in for a clincher. For every one of these extra dollars you are spending you have to earn a dollar. And on every dollar you earn you are paying federal income tax and state income tax. That adds a quarter to a third to the cost of everything we've mentioned.

PROFESSOR X—I'm wavering. But what about the intangibles? The opportunities to see plays and hear the symphonies and the speakers. You don't have those out in the sticks—er, I mean in Oregon.

East Inconvenience Rad

SULLIVAN—No, we don't. But you pay through the nose for those things. Not just the high priced tickets, but also the long time it takes to get to and from them, the gosh-awful traffic jams, the high price of parking, the exorbitant prices you have to pay baby-sitters (Sullivan pauses for breath at this point).

Now out in Salem, Ore. (with pointed finger waving on high) we have the mountains within an hour to two on one side and the seacoast the same distance on the other. What's more there are no private beaches and the forest camps are free to all. You talk about living—

PROFESSOR X—I'm convinced. I see the light. Say, you don't suppose they have an opening at Willamette University?

Relief Offered

LONDON, Jan. 4 (AP)—Britain is offering flood-stricken Ceylon an outright gift of \$28,000—equivalent—as a starter on relief. Other British and foreign aid is being arranged.

Commie Court Sentences Three Catholic Priests

VIENNA, Jan. 4 (AP)—A Communist people's court in Bucharest recently sentenced three Romanian Catholic priests to prison terms of from 8 to 15 years on charges of antistate activities, the Vienna Catholic news service Kathpress said Friday.

All were charged with having maintained relations with hostile countries. A number of nuns, tried with the priests, received less severe penalties.

Controversy Still Rages in Wyoming Long After Scandal of Teapot Dome

By BOB LEERIGHT

CASPER, Wyo., Jan. 4 (AP)—A teapot-shaped rock stands like a sentinel over the central Wyoming wastelands today—guarding the mystery of millions of barrels of oil which touched off one of the nation's biggest scandals.

Are oil wells rimming the 9,320-acre Teapot Dome Reserve tapping some of the oil which the Navy staked out in 1915?

That was the heart of the famed Teapot Dome scandal in the 1920s. It is still a question over which geologists and oilmen may argue for years.

Although more than 355 million barrels of oil have been pumped from the Salt Creek Field, just south and east of the Teapot Dome Reserve, J. R. Schwabrow, supervisor of the Northwest Regional Office of the U.S. Geological Survey's oil and gas division, says there is no geological evidence that any oil from the government reserve is being drained.

Schwabrow explains that all of the oil-production in the Teapot

Dome Reserve came from the Wall Creek sand formation, between 2,500 and 3,000 feet beneath the earth's surface.

Recent oil production in the Salt Creek Field, about 40 miles north of Casper, is from the Shannon sand formation, only 1,000 to 1,500 feet below the surface. Eighty-five wells are now pumping oil on land surrounding the Teapot Dome Reserve.

"The Navy is aware of developments in the Salt Creek Field and is keeping a close watch to determine that none of the oil under the Naval reserve is being drained off," Schwabrow says.

The famed Teapot Dome case arose in 1924 when the government charged Mammoth Oil Co., Sinclair Crude Oil Purchasing Co., and the Sinclair Pipeline Co. with fraud and bribery in connection with leasing a portion of the Teapot Dome Reserve, which belonged to the Navy.

Secretary of Interior Albert B. Fall was sent to federal prison in Arizona for his part in the leasing arrangement.

Harry Sinclair, president of the three oil companies, served 6½ months in the District of Columbia jail for contempt of court and contempt of the U.S. Senate in investigation of the leasing scandal. He later went on to greater success as an oil promoter and developer. He died recently a wealthy man.

Mammoth Oil Co. drilled 85 wells in the Teapot Dome area before both civil and criminal court cases were settled. Only about 3½ million barrels of oil were produced by the company in five years. All the wells were shut down when the court of appeals held the lands should not be leased.

The oil and gas reserves in the Teapot Dome area have never been fully recovered and the Navy's estimate of their value has remained classified material. But Wyoming oilmen estimate there are several million barrels of oil beneath the abandoned wells.

But the Teapot Dome Field itself never lived up to its potential.

Hillary Party Relaxes After South Pole Trek

By RENNIE TAYLOR

U.S. SOUTH POLE STATION, Jan. 4 (AP)—Sir Edmund Hillary and four fellow New Zealanders relaxed with American friends today after a hazardous 1,200-mile trek to the South Pole.

Hillary was confident he had laid the groundwork for a companion British Commonwealth team that expects to be the first ever to march clear across Antarctica.

The other expedition, a British party led by Dr. Vivian Fuchs, was reported 200 miles from the pole yesterday and is expected to arrive by Tuesday. The Fuchs party is moving on the pole from the South American side of the Antarctic. Hillary came from the opposite direction.

Route Marked

Fuchs, who left from Shackleton Base, will follow a route marked by Hillary in crossing to Scott Base on the New Zealand side of the Antarctic. Hillary left supplies along the route from his well-equipped tractor convoy.

The 38-year-old New Zealand explorer, knighted for conquering Mt. Everest in 1953, camped in sight of the U.S. station last night. With him were Murray Ellis and Jim Bates, the mechanics who kept the tractors running, and Peter Mulgrew and Derek Wright.

The New Zealanders began their dash to the Pole on Dec. 26. Abandoning their dog teams, they relied entirely on three tractors drawing two sleds. The party made a force march of 70 miles in 24 hours to arrive in sight of the U.S. base.

Sighted by Americans

Seventeen Americans stationed at the Pole sighted the expedition at 11:30 a.m. today. Navy Lt. Vernon Houk, military commander of the station, and scientific leader Palle Mogensen went out in a tractor to meet the New Zealanders.

Houk greeted Hillary, and the New Zealander replied: "Glad to be here."

The Americans led the party to a spot encircled by oil drums and computed to be the geographic bottom of the world. Hillary looked briefly at the circle but did not step into it.

The New Zealanders then were taken to the station mess hall for their first hot meal in several days—navy beans and hot dogs.

From opposite sides of the continent Hillary and Fuchs had planned to leave simultaneously on their trips to the Pole. But Fuchs was delayed, and on Dec. 26 Hillary radioed to New Zealand's Scott base: "I am hell bent for the South Pole—God willing and crevasses permitting."

Fatal Expeditions

Scott Base is named for British Navy Capt. Robert F. Scott, the leader of the last expedition to travel overland to the pole. Scott got there Jan. 18, 1912, but died on the return trip. The first explorer to reach the Pole was Norway's Roald Amundsen, who won the race with Scott on Dec. 14, 1911.

Although 122 persons have gone to the Pole by air, Hillary and his party were the first since Scott to make it overland.

In London, a spokesman at the headquarters of the British Commonwealth Antarctic Expedition contrasted the purposes of Hillary and Fuchs.

Fuchs is making scientific observations in connection with the International Geophysical Year.

"Hillary placed the emphasis on getting places and determining the best way to get through," the spokesman said. "He was not so preoccupied with the scientific observations which were, after all the purpose of the enterprise."

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Rep. Vinson Attacks Plan for Single Military Leader

By EDMOND LEBRETON

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4 (AP)—Chairman Vinson (D-Ga.) of the House Armed Services Committee said today that placing the armed services under a single chief of staff would mean "national suicide."

Vinson, who steers with an iron hand the House committee that considers military legislation, said:

"I refuse to be stamped into precipitous and dangerous changes merely because a Soviet-built satellite is circling the earth."

He declared, moreover, that each service should be allowed to develop its own missiles independently.

Proposal Attacked

Vinson's statement was a blast at the suggestions, multiplying during a Senate investigation of missile shortcomings, for tighter unification of the armed services. He was in effect serving notice that any legislation for this purpose will run into a major barrier in the House.

Vinson praised the present system, in which the commanders of the several services form a committee to set over-all policy. He set his face against any basic changes.

"The basic concept of the Joint Chiefs of Staff cannot be criticized as inferior or inadequate," he said. "We must not forget that the Joint Chiefs of Staff system won the greatest war in world history. The German government, which lost the war, was under the Supreme General Staff system."

Rivalry Statements

Obviously striking back at statements that inter-service rivalry enabled the U.S.S.R. to surpass the United States in the missile field, Vinson said:

"Let each of the services develop their own weapons system, in spite of the fact that by so doing they are competing with each other. . . . If competition in business and industry has made America great, I see no reason to believe that coordinated competition is not just as healthy for our armed services."

He said it is only "alarmists" who say the reason the United

States does not already have an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile or a satellite is that "the Army has been keeping secrets from the Navy, the Navy has refused to cooperate with the Coast Guard, the Air Force wants to swallow the Army's missile program, and the Army wants control of the whole missile system."

Inquiry Planned

The committee over which Vinson presides will begin Friday a closed-door inquiry into the en-

tire U.S. defense system. Vinson has said that it is separate from and not competitive with the missile investigation by the Senate Preparedness Subcommittee, which resumes Monday.

Vinson said that if Congress finds it necessary to reorganize the Department of Defense, it might well do so by cutting back the organization he described as superimposed over the separate services. He said "unnecessary duplication" might be eliminated by restoring more authority to the secretaries of the separate services, "perhaps to the extent of putting them back in the Cabinet." At present, only the secretary of defense has full Cabinet status.

No Example Cited

Vinson added: "I have not seen demonstrated one single example of inter-service rivalry with deleterious effect on our war efforts."

But he said any attempt to name a single commander would have such effects: "Put a naval officer in supreme military command . . . and naval

Nixon, Wife Visit New York to See Few Plays, Relax

NEW YORK, Jan. 4 (AP)—Vice President Nixon and his wife flew into town Friday, for a weekend of relaxation.

He said they were going to take in a few Broadway plays, as an advance celebration of his 45th birthday on Jan. 9.

They'll go back to Washington Sunday afternoon.

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