

Oregon Statesman

"No Fear Sweeps Us. No Fear Shall Ave."
From First Statesman, March 22, 1851

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Can Oregon Tail Wag Federal Dog?

Howard Morgan, State Public Utility Commissioner, has issued an order denying approval of Idaho Power Company's proposal to sell \$20 million worth of bonds and debentures which it desires to sell to finance its capital investments, chief of which at the present time are dams on Snake River for which it has permits from the Federal Power Commission. The order reads as though Commissioner Morgan was trying to overrule the U. S. Supreme Court and supersede the Federal Power Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Supreme Court validated the licenses issued by the FPC. The FPC and the SEC have to approve the issuance of such securities and presumably they have or will. We doubt if Morgan's denial will hold up the sale, for it is not likely that the state tail will wag the federal dog. It didn't in the Pelton Dam case.

It is true that Idaho Power has never received licenses from Oregon for its three dams on the mid-section of Snake River. The Oregon Hydroelectric Commission held hearings, and then the question was referred to the new Oregon Water Resources Commission. Neither body made a final determination of the case. The Oregon Water Resources Board has asked the FPC to suspend any portion of the IP licenses "which would interfere with maximum economic development of a High Pleasant Valley or other projects of higher order of development in this reach of the river." It also asked Congress to take action to suspend the IP licenses for the two dams it plans to build below Brownlee, now nearing completion. Neither body has acted. It seems quite unlikely that either will act as requested, at least as far as Brownlee and Oxbow dams are concerned. The Morse bill for a high Hells Canyon dam remains dormant in a House committee for lack of votes for a favorable report.

Morgan has used the bond application to twist the tail of Idaho Power; but as far as halting the work of the power company on the two dams is concerned that is improbable. Such a work stoppage would injure the company and ultimately its customers through added costs.

Morgan lists certain unanswered questions such as rights of the power company to the water in view of lack of Oregon licenses, lack of agreement with Bonneville Power Administration covering power interchange and uncertainty as to marketing of winter power surplus. Only the first is of primary concern to Oregon, and that risk is assumed by Idaho Power the same as PGE assumed such risk at Pelton Dam. The other matters lie more within the jurisdiction of the FPC which is the licensing agency. Morgan is on better ground in criticizing the Commissioner's lack of authority over the issuance of short-term (less than a year) notes. The custom in financing is for corporation to borrow from commercial banks for short term during construction, and then take up the notes with bond issues. This saves interest on idle money.

The debt, however, is incurred before the Commissioner has a say. Once a project is licensed and under way the regulatory authority must allow for its financing, withholding approval only when the terms are unjustifiably onerous or some improper practice is revealed.

Morgan's zeal to tighten utility regulation outruns sound judgment. His interposition in the Portland traction rate dispute merely got everybody mad, and he retreated, with scars. In this matter his order of denial in all probability is only a paper rebuff to the power company.

Kraft Boxes For Forms

Frequently The Statesman has reported or commented on efforts to utilize our timber more fully and to upgrade its manufacture. Steadily the big burners, once the indispensable adjunct of a lumber mill, have gone dark or been pulled down because the one-time waste of the log is going into useful materials: hardboard, pulp, or at lowest level, fuel. But sometimes refinement of manufacture results in competition within the industry. For example when plywood became practical for use in forms for concrete pouring, the market for shiplap suffered. Then sanded plywood gave way to inferior quality called sheathing for such uses, and the former lost that outlet.

But we heard recently how another product of wood displaced shiplap, plywood or sheathing for form lumber. In the construction of the Air Force SAGE plant at old Camp Adair, floors for a multi-story building were poured on the ground for hoisting later into position. Certain openings had to be left, such as space for beams. The forms used for this pouring were simply corrugated boxes, cut to size and laid end-to-end. That was cheap material which took little skill or time to lay out on the job. The corrugated board is made from mill waste or low-grade logs. But if it takes the market for low-grade lumber then where will the waste come for the kraft mills? Already this board has diminished greatly the market for boxes and crates, and many box factories have gone out of business.

The lumber industry has long complained of the competition of substitutes. Now it faces internal competition from the products whose development it has fostered. At least all this keeps the business interesting if at times unprofitable.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
If you want to keep out of hospitals avoid accidents. Oregon Blue Cross lists them as the principal cause of hospitalization—22.5 per cent in Oregon. Respiratory ailments were second in 1957 at 16 per cent. Disturbance of the digestive tract were 11.6 per cent and genito-urinary complaints 9.3 per cent. One gratifying statistic is the report that the average length of stay in hospitals for all patients, including maternity, decreased from 5.54 days in 1956 to 5.43 days in 1957. Hospitals are fine things to keep out of even if you do "graduate" in shorter time than formerly, but what a blessed institution they are in time of need.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
Washington has raised its fee for non-resident anglers to \$15 and Bill Jenkins in the Klamath Falls Herald and News predicts that Oregon will move to match either Idaho's \$10 or Washington's \$15. The idea seems to be to gather in more shekels—also to discourage "foreigners" from catching local fish. Ten dollars seems enough of a penalty for fishing by non-residents in Oregon streams, especially for what they are likely to catch. If we want to encourage tourists, we shouldn't soak 'em too much.

GRIN AND BEAR IT By Lichty



"A medical check of his symptoms and a financial check of his credit indicates that the patient's chances are better than ours, gentlemen!"

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1.)

some 1.40 to one, and so recommended the work. The savings in transportation cost (to the company) was cited to justify the cost from the economic standpoint.

The pulp-kraft mill has been built at Toledo and is now in operation. But nothing in the way of mill construction has been done in Alaska by Georgia-Pacific. Last December the investment house of Blyth & Co. put out an attractive brochure descriptive of Georgia-Pacific. This reviewed the history of the corporation, noting particularly its rapid expansion. Here is its reference to the Alaska venture:

"Also, in 1953, Georgia-Pacific received from the federal government a preliminary award of 7% billion feet of timber in the Tongass National Forest near Juneau, Alaska. Finalization of this award is conditioned upon the Corporation's consummation of a cutting contract by mid-1958 and agreement to have in operation by 1961 an Alaska pulp mill with an annual log requirement of 100 million feet. Economic practicality of utilizing this timber has not yet been determined, and Georgia-Pacific's management is continuing its study of the project."

In other words, the Yakima Bay project was found feasible on the prospect of a mill development which remains uncertain. I wasn't able to justify the spending of that much money on Yakima Bay in any event, and until that Alaska mill gets to shipping pulp the project certainly doesn't qualify under the Corps' own estimates.

Oregon is pleased to have the industrial development at Toledo, and wants to see it prosper. But \$20 million is a lot of public money to spend primarily to aid a single company. The chance of developing much additional tonnage for this port is limited because the Yakima watershed is small in size and limited in productivity. Local patriotism shouldn't extend to raiding the national treasury.

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. Letters must be signed with names and full addresses.)

'New' Mr. Nixon

To the Editor:
The new Mr. Nixon I see has applauded the President's recent announcement of a program to speed up spending on various public works authorized by Congress, while himself preferring "to go down the tax cutting rather than the spending road" if the "recession" continues for a few more weeks.

Sounds a nice inconsistent does it not, a nice example of what The Statesman recently called Republican ambivalence, or maybe just working both sides of the street. Of course Nixon was the real founder of the White House mutual admiration society, and is always praising Ike just as Ike is always praising Messrs. Benson and Dulles. So, as he adroitly implies, spending tax money is not really spending when the Republicans do it, nor is borrowing really borrowing, nor bureaucracy really bureaucracy. And of course a Republican depression, however wide, deep and lasting, is just something thought up by those wicked Democrat politicians, those un-American prophets of doom and gloom.

Dicky, however, always keeps his feet on and his ear to the ground. I suspect he's not quite so confident as Ike has been told to be that Prosperity is just around the corner. So, just in case, he seems to be figuring that with lots more income tax payers than unemployed workers around, a tax cut is just the thing to win the GOP some much needed votes; and, this year, we shouldn't hear much about national bankruptcy, balancing the budget, or reducing the national debt.

"Good Old Days"—Hogwash

To the Editor:
In editorials and letters to the editor, we are being besieged by a host of hysterical utterances against the manner in which our young are being educated. If one were to believe the writers, the "good old days" in education saw a universal love of knowledge and a complete freedom from the problems of discipline. I know personally that this is nothing but hogwash, and I believe that the gliding of the past is but an inverted acknowledgment that our children are more articulate, more tolerant, and better able to employ nonfictional thinking about the affairs of life than were we at their age. Above all, it irritates us to see them enjoying something that we found dull, and doing easily what we were forced to do.

I had my early education in one of the best of these "well-disciplined, dedicated schools" but I remember clearly the fist fights the principal had with older students; and I have been licked with willow switches, rubber hoses, paddles with holes calculated to achieve a nice dispersion of blisters, and even violin bows. That my grades were in the upper tenth among my classmates is to be credited not to a

Five Highway Projects In Area Up for Bidding

Five highway projects in Marion, Polk and Yamhill Counties will figure in bidding scheduled by Oregon State Highway Commission for March 27-28 in Portland. The highway department issued a list of 27 projects Wednesday, all to be bid on at that meeting. Included from this area are: Yamhill County—illumination installation on the Wallace bridge-Sheridan section of the Salmon River highway. Yamhill and Marion County—2.15 miles grading and 3.27 miles paving on the Newberg-Gearie Corner section of the Hillsboro-Silverton highway. Marion County—roadside improvement on the Statton-Sublimity Interstate section of the North Santiam highway, 20 miles east of Salem. Polk County—Construct precast

beam reinforced concrete bridge on Pacific Highway West, about five miles south of Monmouth. Yamhill County—.15 mile of grading and paving on N. Kutch and E. Monroe streets in the city of Carlton.

Court Makes Two Welfare Fund Verdicts

Two judgments concerning welfare funds allegedly received by misrepresented incomes were handed down Wednesday in Marion County Circuit Court action. A judgment of \$1,611 was awarded the State Public Welfare Commission against Ethel Mae Back of Silverton. The woman allegedly had not declared employment income concerning welfare funds received from September 1956 to August of last year. Mrs. Back has pleaded guilty to charges of unlawfully obtaining public assistance funds in previous circuit court action involving the funds and is awaiting sentencing, said court officials.

A judgment of \$400 was also awarded the state commission against Violet Mae Lewis of Salem concerning support payments allegedly not reported while receiving welfare benefits. No criminal proceedings have been filed against her, said welfare recovery division officials who handled the matters.

Car Accident Leads to Suit

Donald L. Smith filed an \$18,000 damage suit against William E. Neal Wednesday in Marion County Circuit Court. The suit concerns a two-car accident Oct. 12 at 17th and Mill streets in southeast Salem. The suit seeks \$15,000 general damages and \$3,000 special damages to cover medical expenses, said court officials.

Interim Group to Study Maintenance

Responsibility for construction, operation and maintenance of state buildings will be discussed by the legislative interim committee on government reorganization at a meeting in Portland Saturday at 10 a.m. in the state office building. State Sen. Daniel Thiel, Astoria, in announcing the meeting, said that responsibility for state buildings is now divided among the board of control, secretary of state, department of finance, capital planning commission and other state agencies.

Woman Fractures Leg in Home Fall

FRUITLAND—Mrs. Harmon DeVrees suffered a double fracture of her right leg, at the ankle and below the knee, Tuesday in a fall at her home. She was taken to Salem Memorial Hospital, where attendants said Wednesday her condition was "satisfactory."

Time Flies

FROM STATESMAN FILES

10 Years Ago

Mar. 13, 1948
Plans for a new downtown retail store building on the site of the burned Oregonian Building were announced by Harry M. Hawkins and Thomas A. Roberts, local businessmen who have taken a 50-year ground lease on the property.

Gov. John Hall filed for the Republican nomination to the governorship with the "ballot slogan" "Present governor; war veteran; qualified by experience."

25 Years Ago

Mar. 15, 1923
The 1923 legislative session which adjourned recently, probably was the most economical one held in Oregon for many years. Officials said the savings in the two houses would exceed \$15,000. Oregon State College won the Pacific Coast Conference basketball championship by defeating University of Southern California, 24 to 19.

40 Years Ago

Mar. 13, 1918
American built battle planes will be in France by July in sufficient quantity to insure adequate air protection of the sectors held by American troops. The daylight saving bill was passed by the House and now goes to the President. The plan is to set clocks forward one hour on the last Sunday in March and set them back an hour on the last Saturday in October.

Statesman Ballot Box

President Eisenhower, taking note of an economic slump, is asking Congress to approve extension of unemployment compensation in 30 weeks. The federal government would pay the difference between what states now provide and the longer period suggested. The present payment period varies from 14 to 26 weeks. Oregon's is 26. Today's question:

Do you urge extension of unemployment compensation?

Yes _____ No _____

Comments: _____

(This ballot need not be signed, but any other communication accompanying it and designed for publication in the Safety Valve must be signed, carry the full address of the signer, and be less than 200 words in length. Ballots should be received by Sunday to insure counting. Results will be made known next Tuesday.)

Mail to or leave with: THE OREGON STATESMAN, BALLOT BOX EDITOR, 120 CHURCH ST. NE., SALEM, OREGON

Beaverton Pipe Company Wins Keizer Gas Contract

Loy Clark Pipeline Co. of Beaverton was awarded a \$35,190 contract Wednesday by Portland Gas & Coke Co. to lay 30,000 feet of eight-inch pipe to bring natural gas service to Keizer and other

Family Weekly

Tax Filing Tips Listed By Experts

"Ten Tips for Tax Filing" are given in Family Weekly magazine, appearing with your Statesman next Sunday, March 16. The suggestions are based on interviews with experts of the Internal Revenue Service, listing the most common mistakes made by taxpayers and the money-saving possibilities most often overlooked.

A number of other helpful articles appear in the 40-page issue of Family Weekly. "How to Make Your Motorcar Safe for a Rainy Day" describes three ways to "cut down the traffic toll in rainy weather when dangers are three times as bad." "Make Sure Your Hobby is Safe!" gives the do-it-yourself expert a list of dangerous products innocently used in home workshops. "How to Photograph Children" shows parents the easy way to capture the elusive moods of their youngsters; and "Compromise Can Help Your Marriage" describes the give-and-take methods that can keep both husband and wife happy.

Picture features in Family Weekly include "Mother to Zoo Babies," which shows an attendant at work with wild animals; "When a Bullet's the Culprit," a close-up glimpse at what the ballistic expert does for a living; "The Laughtons Team Up Again," Charles Laughton and Elsa Lanchester in scenes from their first movie together in more than a decade; and "That's Why Puppies Were Born," a candid look at an orphan and the "parent" who adopted him.

Special articles include "Wake Up and Read!" a fresh approach to what's new at the library; "Rosemary Grows Up" (fiction), a story of adolescence; and "The Case of Too Many Clues," another of William T. Brannon's popular true-crime stories.

Chamber Delegates To Attend Eugene Workshop Today

Representing Salem at a U.S. Chamber of Commerce-sponsored workshop at Eugene today will be Salem businessman Del Milne and Salem Chamber of Commerce manager Stanley Groves. The one-day conference will study problems confronting local Chambers of Commerce and a discussion means of alerting businessmen and community leaders about the importance of the chamber to proper community development.

Sky Streak Identified As Plane Vapor Trail

Several valley residents reported sighting a smoke colored streak across the sky Wednesday morning extending from the south horizon to the north horizon. McNary Field weather station identified the band as a vapor trail caused by an aircraft passing through the cloud deck. It was first seen at 7:45 a.m. and lasted almost an hour before vanishing.

State to Auction 67 Used Vehicles

Sixty-seven used vehicles will be auctioned by the state March 21 in the grandstand at the State Fairgrounds. The vehicles will be on view at the fairgrounds for two days prior to the sale.

Military Roundup

Fort Huachuca, Ariz.—Sgt. 1st Class Leroy L. Sutliff, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lyle E. Sutliff, 1785 Lancaster Dr., NE, Salem, Ore., recently was assigned to the 312th Military Police Company. Sgt. Sutliff, formerly a sergeant with the Salem police department, entered the Army in 1943. His wife, Jacqueline, is with him at the fort.

Key West, Fla.—Baron J. Plesley, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Plesley, 1191 Dearborn Ave., NE, Salem, Ore., and Marvin C. Moist, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Moist, 4757 Texas Ave., NE, Salem, recently returned to Key West aboard the submarine tender USS Howard W. Gilmore after taking part in the Atlantic Fleet's annual "Operation Spinboard" in the Caribbean Sea.

What Kind of Money Do You Need?

• Pin Money • Hobby Money • Vacation Money
• Mad Money • Meter Money • Just Plain Cash

IT'S AS EASY AS 1-2-3 WITH
6 for 3
(Coming Soon)

Alsop Brothers to Close Happy Partnership, Recall Struggles

By JOSEPH and STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON—At the end of this month, the above joint by-line the symbol of a long and happy, brotherly partnership, will cease to appear in its accustomed place. For various highly practical reasons, it has become desirable to divide the functions of newspaper reporting and magazine writing, which our partnership has always combined.

A parting in which personal feelings pull one way and practicality pushes the other way is always a sentimental business. So maybe it is sheer sentimentality on our parts to want to mark the announcement of this on-coming parting with a sort of retrospect of our 12 years and more of work together.

We formed our partnership when we had barely put our war-time uniforms in mothballs, in the first postwar months of the first Truman administration. If you want a measure of how incredibly long ago that was, there is the odd fact that we ran into our first trouble as columnists because of insufficient faith in the high and noble purpose of the Soviet Union.

The first Azerbaijanian crisis was just on the horizon; and in analyzing Stalin's grab for Persia, we followed the line of the exceptionally brilliant Soviet experts that the government had in those days. (One of them is

in exile now; another has been driven from the public service; and we now seem to rely on the Secretary of State's direct wire to the Almighty for the functions the experts used to perform. But that is another subject.) Having followed the line of our expert friends, we were denounced as hard-nosed, maliciously anti-Soviet pessimists by an impeccably Republican publisher of great importance to us, who later indulged in more than a little appeasement of Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy.

Being a newspaper columnist is a little bit like being a Greek chorus. You report, you analyze, you comment, and you describe the parts of the drama that do not take place on the open stage. Since irony is a principal ingredient of the political drama, anyone who spends much time in the chorus is bound to remember a good many ironical episodes, like the episode of the indignant publisher.

The business itself has its own ironies. You find you bore people until their teeth hurt when you are most right, as we did with our angry reports on the Truman-Johnson disarmament program before the Korean war, and with our similar reports on the Eisenhower disarmament program that has been only a little modified by the Sputnik. You also find that the things you have to drive yourself to do very often end by being no more than wryly funny, as when one of us rather queasily decided to go in with the first wave at the Inchon landing, and the future seems more doubtful today than one could have thought remotely possible 15 years ago. Maybe, indeed, our particular section of the chorus is separating just as the drama reaches its climax, which is another reason why we regret the separation. But the separation has been decided, and this retrospect has gone on long enough.

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is one of the chorus is a real drama—no mere sock-and-buskin fraud but a real, life drama of national and human destiny. And in this respect, how splendidly exciting, how full of movement and suspense, how often tensely stirring these last twelve years have been!

"The American lead" was a fact beyond imagination questioning when we two went to work together. The question was, rather, whether this great technical and economic lead would be transformed into American leadership in freedom's bitter struggle to survive in a divided world. Every American political tradition was against the transformation. The wisest and most experienced Americans regarded the transformation as utterly impossible—for instance, one of us can vividly remember that very experienced man, James F. Byrnes, inveighing against the first proposers of the Marshall Plan as featherbrained visionaries who did not "know Congress."

Yet this great transformation of American lead into American leadership nonetheless took place; and there followed years that were troubled, certainly, but heroic too. Maybe it was the unaccustomed effort of peacetime heroism that caused the subsequent welling-up of poisonous mutual suspicion and quick hatred among Americans.

At any rate, the poison has been neutralized now. But the "American lead" has been lost too, and the future seems more doubtful today than one could have thought remotely possible 15 years ago. Maybe, indeed, our particular section of the chorus is separating just as the drama reaches its climax, which is another reason why we regret the separation. But the separation has been decided, and this retrospect has gone on long enough.

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Russ Farmers Cited

MOSCOW — Awards ranging up to the Order of Lenin were conferred by the Soviet government this week on 2,178 outstanding farm workers in the Belgorod region. Similar decorations went to 2,862 workers in the Smolensk region.