

Oregon Statesman

"No Fear Sweeps Us. No Fear Shall Awe." From First Statesman, March 25, 1851

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Member Associated Press

Complain of Taxes On Small Tree Farms

The Lane County Chamber of Commerce adopted a resolution the other day asking the state government to review taxation policies on small tree farms. This was the outgrowth of complaints over the valuations of timberlands now being made by the State Tax Commission. The Lane County group declared the present policies are confiscatory to the business of operators of small tree farms. On the other hand taxing authorities have been criticised on the grounds that assessments on timberlands are much too low.

We are inclined to doubt if there is much merit in the gripes of the Lane County tree farmers. If the taxes they pay really hurt they can put their land under a reforestation classification when they would have to pay only five cents per acre per year, plus one-eighth of the usufruct.

It may be, of course, that through the cumulative effect of compound interest it could be figured that it will not pay to hold timberland over the long cycle between harvests. That was the idea 20 years ago, and owners of these lands let them revert to the counties for taxes. About 1940 the tune changed. Corporations began buying up cutover lands. They are concerned with indefinite life-expectancy and able to carry growing timber through the long growing cycle. An individual, however, cannot expect to harvest more than one crop of prime timber in this part of the country during his lifetime.

The small holder would look on his timberland as a sort of savings bank, except that the privilege of withdrawal is restricted. He must have other occupation or income during the holding period. A farmer for instance can let his rough back acres grow up in timber, and if he is wise he will do the planting of selected stock. He may let stock graze through the early years of tree growth. Then when the trees are merchantable he can sell them and get a nice chunk of cash. A good many landowners in this valley discovered in the past 20 years that the trees they had paid little attention to in draws or on ridges were worth real money — they became genuine mortgage lifters. This experience can be repeated indefinitely.

A large proportion of the timber supply comes from what are called woodlots. This is true particularly in the East and South. In lesser proportion it is true even in the Northwest. Pulp mills afford a ready market for the small stands of timber. It is wise to encourage the small tree farm both from the standpoint of soil conservation and the economy of the community. The lands, however, must pay their fair share of taxes either year-by-year or on the deferred harvest plan. Just what such a fair share would be, we do not undertake to say; but we do urge tree growing where that is a preferred land use.

Senator Neuberger has suggested exchanging a tribe of Oregon beavers for a pair of Russian brown bears. The exchange could take place, he suggests, in 1959 during our centennial year, and the bears could be housed in the new Portland zoo. Maybe Dick could get like to include some of those White House squirrels with the Oregon beaver.

Reserve Board Lowers Reserves

The Federal Reserve Board, which applied brakes to retard the forces of inflation, has been busy of late loosening its credit restraints. The rediscount rate has been lowered from a high of 3 1/2 per cent to 2 1/2 per cent. Reserve requirements of banks that are members of the reserve system have been lowered in two steps of one-half per cent each. The effect of the latter moves is to permit banks to loan a larger ratio of their deposits. It makes more credit available and the former move serves to make it available at a lower cost.

The response of the economy however may not be as rapid as when the FRB is working in the other direction. A sudden application of the brakes may bring an early slowdown or halt; but release of the brakes doesn't increase the speed. We recall in the late 1930s banks were full of money but they could find few borrowers. Business still was timid. Government could borrow money at very little cost—a fraction of a per cent for short term certificates.

We do not look for business to rush in now and borrow money for new expansion. Annual reports of most corporations state that capital outlays will be less in 1958. They do not want to get too far extended. Also they want to bring lately built plants into profitable production. The lower cost and greater supply of credit ought to encourage home building, however; for there are always families that are eager to acquire new homes. Eventually cheap credit attracts users, and in the interval the lower cost of money is to the borrower a greatly appreciated saving but it takes time for lower wholesale rates on credit to seep down to Joe Doakes.

One can't help wondering though if the credit relaxation isn't coming too fast, inviting a fresh spurt of inflation before the country has recovered from its last binge.

War of Nerves

The Cuban rebellion led by Fidel Castro sets a new style. It isn't a military coup which moves out one dictator and sets up a general who later will become one. It isn't organized warfare. Rather it is a war of nerves. Castro and his followers indulge in hit-runs tactics. They may burn sugar plantations, raid towns, or pull such stunts as the abduction of a renowned racing car driver. Also Castro indulges freely in propaganda like a call for a general strike or an "ultimatum." The cumulative effect is to frighten the people, leave the streets deserted in Havana and shops empty of customers. It's just a question of how long Batista can hold out against such tactics.

After marching up and downhill and back again the Internal Revenue Service has given up its demand that all persons who are reimbursed on expense account must show the IRS itemized reports of the expenses that were incurred. Now this is to be required only of those who do not submit expense accounts to employers. Those who itemize their expense reports to the employer will be excused from furnishing IRS with a copy. This makes sense. The employer is more apt to detect padded expense accounts than a government agent, and if the former is satisfied the latter should be. The agitation, however, may be productive of good in encouraging closer scrutiny of these accounts all along the line.

The Union Pacific railroad has announced it will construct a new freight depot in Portland to cost an estimated \$2 million. This will be for handling less-than-carload shipments, loss of which in volume to trucks has hurt the rails. It's encouraging to note that one railroad has faith in three things: the region, its own line of enterprise and in the future of the less-than-carload business for railroads.



Comes the Dawn

Sen. Wayne Morse, who blew in from Washington, Thursday for a short visit, said there was one recent story in the Morse-Neuberger relationship which the press missed. And it was just as well, too, probably. It was at the time when the press was harping on the Morse-Neuberger feud over the postal hike debate. The Morses had the Neuberger over for dinner. The meal was catered and the next day everybody was ill. They traced it all to some tainted creamed chicken. But Sen. Morse admitted he would have had some tall public explaining to do if the word had got out at that time that Sen. Neuberger—whom Morse had just blasted in the Senate—was ill after visiting the Morses.

Morse also noted that because he wore a red rose in his lapel during his last filibuster, fellow senators nervously kept his coat under surveillance for signs of another verbal marathon. So when the host at a recent Washington party for a group of senators passed out red carnations Morse yielded to pressure from the others and wore the only white one in the room.

If you've been feeling in your bones lately that the weather in this area is changing—your bones may be right. There is evidence, weather experts say, that during the last two centuries the weather in Oregon has been growing steadily warmer and milder. This is caused, not by atomic experiments or high taxes, but because the glaciers have been receding. Anyway, this is what Dr. Henry P. Hansen, of Oregon State College, told the Oregon Branch of the American Meteorological Society recently. He based his conclusion on a study of pollen grains found in Pacific Northwest peat bogs.

About 5,500 years ago things were so warm in the Willamette Valley that elephants (the non-political kind) roamed the plains. Then it got progressively colder and wetter. Until about 200 years ago when the glaciers began to move back again and Northwest weather began to warm up. Dr. Hansen is not sure whether the trend of the last two hundred years indicates that our descendants will be tarzaning around with elephants again, but he's sure it's getting hotter. All of which may come as something of a surprise to the snow-shovelers in Florida.

And things are warming up for the U. S. postal inspectors, too. Salem Postmaster Al Gragg reported that the Postmaster's Headache—the chain letter—is rearing its illegal head again. This is the chain letter which promises a savings bond as a prize—a trouble-making gimmick which postmen rank next to slippery steps, biting dogs and sticky stamps. And Postmaster Gragg, who notes things always become a little unglued at the beginning of Spring, stood up and laid down the law on chain letters. Even if they are not mailed—but the bonds or receipts are—they are still unlawful. There are other ways to fight the recession.

GRIN AND BEAR IT



"I think we outfoxed the union on that contract... There's nothing says we have to give them a cost-of-living increase that'll result from the raise we just gave them..."

Safety Valve

Contributions to the Safety Valve must be signed by the contributor, giving the address. This is necessary to insure authenticity and responsibility. Contributions should be limited to 500 words.

'Government of Laws'

I have read with interest your editorial of March 13 criticizing the recent order issued by this office denying approval of the Idaho Power Company proposal to issue and sell \$20,000,000 worth of bonds and debentures to finance certain controversial structures on the Snake River. When I was appointed to my present office there was considerable conjecture and apprehension, possibly arising from the fact that I am not a lawyer as well as from my previous service in the field of partisan political affairs, that my behavior in this office might be based upon partisan considerations and not, as the law requires, upon the statutes and constitution of the State of Oregon.

Consequently, upon assuming this office, it seemed appropriate for me to assure the public that my actions would be based on some twenty years of study, interest and experience in the field of utility regulation and, more specifically, upon the laws of the State. There has been no occasion for me to retract or amend the statements which I made on that occasion more than a year ago.

Since then, however, I have observed with much amusement and some small amount of discouragement the statements made by newspaper editors and others to the effect that my policies and actions ought to be guided by sound "judgment," more "practical" considerations and various other subjective qualities not always to be found in the Oregon Revised Statutes. I find these statements especially amusing because they emanate from those leading minds in the community who are most often heard to announce that ours ought always to be "a government of laws and not of men."

Perhaps the most amusing persons in the whole situation are those individuals who were first dismayed by the appointment of a Commissioner who had had political experience; and who were then temporarily relieved to find that the Commissioner not only could read but actually recognized the supremacy of law over subjective "practical" expediency; and who are now dismayed once more to find that the Commissioner is actually serious and consistent in his determination to follow the law.

I make no apology for my belief that it is the obligation of all governmental agencies, including commissions and courts, to follow the law rigidly. If the law is good, such a practice ensures its support. If the law is bad, such a practice ensures its change. But it is not within my jurisdiction (or that of the courts) to try to change it, either by action or by inaction, and I will not do so.

Howard Morgan
Public Utility Commissioner

Poor California

Regarding the statement of oil hot shot Ed Pauley, of the California Board of Regents; that Cal. teams "can make more money playing other Cal. colleges." Shed a tear for poor mistreated California. Similar to the "Ivy-League," they could form their own and call it "sour-grapes" league. Why do so many California "Native Sons" come to the state of Oregon for an "Education"? Yours for "Sports" non-profit, at the college level.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page one)

The \$100 list includes the above and the following:
Bartlett's Familiar Quotations
Amy Vanderbilt's Book of Etiquette
Short History of United States, News & Commerce
Dictionary of Contemporary Usage, Evans
Masterpieces of World Literature (digid) Magill
Little Treasury of Great Poetry, Williams, ed.
Encyclopedia of Painting, Myers
Everyman's Dictionary of Music, Hoon

Among the better dictionaries are Webster's Collegiate and American College Dictionary. An alternate book of quotations is Stevenson's "The Home Book of Quotations." Emily Post may be substituted for Amy Vanderbilt on Etiquette.

Another all-round reference book is the Lincoln Library in one volume. For a good general history of the Northwest I would recommend "Empire of the Columbia" by Dorothy Johnson and Charles M. Gates. Important for every Oregon home is a copy of the Oregon Blue Book, obtainable from the Secretary of State. This is particularly valuable for students in the upper grades and high school.

For information about the federal government the Congressional Directory and Statistical Abstract, which are published annually, are valuable. They may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington.

The better atlases are those by Rand McNally and Hammond.

A more complete encyclopedia than the one mentioned in the Columbia Encyclopedia, is one volume. There are of course the multi-volume encyclopedias like the Britannica and Americana. A number of cyclopedias specially adapted for children and youth are available. Among them may be mentioned: Junior Britannica written primarily for elementary and junior high age levels; Compton's and World Book which carries through senior high.

In these days of quiz shows there is a fresh search for facts, so a good reference library is quite indispensable. It might be said that a lawyer's success depends on his skill in the use of indexes to law books. So it is for the ordinary citizen. He can't carry all knowledge in his head, but he should know how to find it, and have readily at hand a good working set of reference books. Reading lists vary according to the tastes of readers. In them, as in foods: "De gustibus, non disputandum"—there is no accounting for tastes; so I make no attempt to recommend even minimum lists for general reading.

Time Flies

FROM STATESMAN FILES

10 Years Ago

Mar. 21, 1948
The dedication of Baxter Hall (men's dormitory) at Willamette University drew many alumni, among them one who has an unchallenged claim to distinction as the oldest living graduate, Dr. L. L. Franklin Belknap, 95, of Medford.

Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Cook, Salem, narrowly escaped death when their car crashed through a cement railing on the Marion-Polk County bridge and dropped 25 feet onto the street below.

25 Years Ago

Mar. 21, 1923
Ignace Paderewski, Polish pianist and one-time premier of his country, was the guest of honor at the first dinner since President Roosevelt took office. Senator and Mrs. McNary of Oregon were also guests.

Miss Phyllis Day, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Grant Day, announced her wedding date at a luncheon. Miss Day will become the bride of Robert Ramsden, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ramsden, April 27.

40 Years Ago

Mar. 21, 1918
Popular high school students of Snikpoh will stage a benefit play at Salem High school. Those appearing in the comedy are Wolcott Buren, Wallace Carson, Richard Elster, Arthur Ross, Herbert Darby, Margaret Goodin, Lucy Leonard, Isabel George, Lucille Jones, Helen Rose and Clara Breitenstein.

Felicitations are reaching Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Grier upon the arrival of a son. Mr. and Mrs. Grier formerly of Salem now reside in Falls City.

Better English

By D. C. WILLIAMS

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "On account of differences in policy, the two countries are at war with one another."
2. What is the correct pronunciation of "blackguard"?
3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Adequate, admittance, adherence, adjutant.
ANSWERS
1. Say, "BECAUSE of differences in policy, the two countries are at war AGAINST EACH OTHER." 2. Pronounce black-ard, accent on first syllable, and not black-gard. 3. Adherence.

Statesman Ballot Box

At home over a wide-spread area of the mid-Valley which sees them in the status of Salem's two outdoor swimming pools at Little and Parrish Junior Highs. They are supported jointly by the city and by the far-flung Salem school districts. The question is whether there should be a charge levied for their use, and if so, how much and how soon. They are now being reconditioned at a cost of \$100,000 through bonds. The question is whether from now on they should be supported, at least in part, by those who use them. Today's question:
Should a charge be levied for swimming pool use?
Yes _____ ; No _____
Comments and suggestions: _____

(This ballot need not be signed, but any other communication accompanying it and designed for publication in the Statesman 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 it or leave with: THE OREGON STATESMAN,
BALLOT BOX EDITOR,
120 CHURCH ST. SE.,
SALEM, OREGON

French 'Polite' on Tasting American Wine at Dinner

BEAUNE, France (U.S.—Southern) — French chicken went down fine Wednesday night but American wine at a French dinner table—well—h, the comments were polite. The occasion was the regular dinner of the local Rotary Club at which 60 members were surprised by an American menu complete with American wines.

The idea was that of Marc Chevillat, who recently completed a Rotary tour of the United States that included San Francisco, New Orleans, Los Angeles, Miami, Tampa, Washington, New York and Boston.

"Most of the guests even concluded that the corn was not as bad as they feared," he commented. Also the wine, all of it was Burgundy type drawn from the supplies of the luxury American liner United States. Here in the heart of France's Burgundy district, it has as tough a test as you will find.

Oregon Statesman

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Federal School Building Plans Would Bolster State Economy

BY A. ROBERT SMITH
Statesman Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Most members of the Oregon congressional delegation believe that a federal school construction program, next to stimulated housing construction, would greatly benefit the nation, especially Oregon's sagging lumber industry.

But the prospects of a federal aid to education bill becoming law this year don't look bright at this mid-point in the congression a session.

Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.) plans to raise the issue in the Senate when a vote is taken on a federal scholarship bill. He said he will offer the school construction program as an amendment to that measure. It is an indicator of senatorial sentiment is bound to come in coming weeks.

major beneficiaries of added school construction." Rep. Edith Green (D-Ore.), a member of the House Education and Labor Committee, has joined a group of lawmakers who have petitioned President Eisenhower to review his previous support for a federal aid bill.

"If our economy needs to be stimulated by new federal programs, surely united action to build schools for our children is the most worthwhile of all the programs now under consideration," Mrs. Green declared.

Rep. Walter Norblad (R-Ore.) is the state's only congressman who isn't strongly for such a program, although he recalls that he voted for a federal aid to education bill last year.

"I've given it very little thought," said Norblad. "I'm sitting back and waiting to see what the administration requests. I think probably it would be a good program, but I don't think the amount of money used in school building would be significant. The ones I've been in used mostly brick and cement."

One of the unspoken fears of members of both parties reportedly is that a school construction bill would raise once more the civil rights issue involved in the public school integration decision of the Supreme Court and the flareup at Little Rock high school last fall.

reportedly seeks to avoid a civil rights clash. The school aid bill usually raised the issue presented by the so-called Powell amendment of whether aid should be denied those states which have not yet complied with the Supreme Court's decision.

"The Democratic leaders of both houses have shied away from the school bill without explanation. Some who support the program think it would give the Democrats a first class political issue, so long as the Republican administration fails to renew its advocacy of school aid.

The National Education Association is advocating a program calling for \$1 billion allocations by the federal government to states in 1958-59, gradually increasing to \$4.5 billion in 1961-62. Funds would be divided among states in equal proportion to the number of school age children. Funds could be used for either buildings, basic equipment of for supplementing teacher salaries. The NEA program would start with a federal allotment of a least \$25 per school age child and increase this to at least \$100 in four years.

Sen. Richard L. Neuberger (D-Ore.) said he believes this NEA program "permits far more flexibility in meeting local needs than earlier school construction bills" because the states are free to use the funds for buildings or salaries.

Neuberger said he thinks aid to elementary and secondary education should precede scholarships for college education, which would be provided under bills the administration is supporting.