

The Oregon Statesman

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

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Diplomacy— A Two-Way Street

One of the more conservative Washington columnists recently wrote rather a sad piece about the lack of American foreign policy. That is of course the theme-song of much of the correspondence of Joe Alsop. Things seem to have gone to pieces in the Middle East. Such friends of the United States as tiny Lebanon and King Saud of Saudi Arabia have been in difficulties. The Lebanese government has had to combat incipient revolution, inspired, so it is alleged, by pro-Nasser elements. King Saud turned over many of his powers to his brother. Egypt's Nasser has been feted in Russia. All these are cited to show deterioration in the position of the United States in that strategic and economically valuable region of the globe.

The debate in France threatened NATO, the bulwark we have so steadfastly supported for security of the West. Algeria and Tunisia have been problem children for our relations with France. The mobs who confronted Vice President Nixon released a flood of criticism of U. S. foreign policy via a visit to the Latin American countries. It was made to look as though our foreign policy is just collapsing.

What critics often fail to understand is that foreign policy is not a one-way street, but a complex of relations. Choices are not always just between Good and Evil, for the greys and tans dim the sharp contrast between black and white. Sometimes the choice is for the lesser of two evils. Moreover our foreign relations depend half way on the attitude of other nations. As the President has said, the United States must act as a "partner" and not as a "boss." Russia can dictate to its satellites (but not to Yugoslavia); the United States can't dictate to its allies, and has to be circumspect in its arm-twisting. It takes two to make a bargain; and when one will not bargain, none is made.

We are not at the moment defending U. S. foreign policy or policy makers. Probably they have made mistakes. What we are pointing out is that we can't determine the foreign policies of other nations; nor should we let them determine ours. In this troubled postwar world there have been many tides and cross currents. Perhaps we are fortunate that we have suffered no more than we have. And we must recognize that as nations, especially new nations, gather strength, they will be more ready to assert independence. That is occasion for rejoicing, for our goal is not to subvert, but to lead nations into self-sufficiency and orderly, independent government.

Prosperous Alberta

In the depression of the 1930s the Province of Alberta, Canada defaulted on its bonds and in desperation turned to the Social Credit party which had one of the fantastic schemes afloat in that period for promoting prosperity. The party when it came to power didn't pursue the social credit program but it did give the province conservative government. In 1936 its debt totaled \$167 million; but at the end of 1957 this had been whittled down

to \$30 million which was more than offset by assets of nearly \$350 million in bonds and debentures held by the provincial government.

It was the discovery of petroleum and postwar industrial expansion which lifted Alberta to affluence. The province held mineral rights on much of the land, and oil leases and royalties poured money—good Canadian dollars—into its treasury. The province has loaned of its surplus to municipalities for improvements and schools.

Oddly, the Social Credit party though it holds power still in Alberta, was pretty well washed out of seats in the Canadian Parliament when the elections went strongly to the Conservatives. A party under similar name governs in British Columbia, but it seems to be independent. Formerly Alberta was dependent almost altogether on raising of grain and livestock. Now oil and gas and industry contribute greatly to its wealth.

Strauss Retires From AEC

When Lewis L. Strauss wrote President Eisenhower that "circumstances beyond our control make a change in the chairmanship of the Atomic Energy Commission advisable," those acquainted with the "atomic energy current" knew what he meant. It was, that he might fail of confirmation if renominated; or if he were, that he would face a running feud with Sen. Clinton Anderson who will become chairman of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy. So Strauss, who has been the center of many storms over government policies in this field, bowed out. The severance is not complete, however, for the President has named him as special assistant to work on the atoms-for-peace program.

Strauss is a tough-minded, strong-willed individual. Such a positive figure is sure to invoke controversy, and Strauss did nothing to reduce that certainty. He disagreed with fellow commissioner Thomas Murray. He got the blame for the removal of clearance for Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, the scientist who had helped contrive the first atomic bomb, and this drew the wrath of scientists and others of liberal outlook. Strauss has defended continued testing of nuclear bombs as essential to national security, and this has earned for him the hostility of pacifists and of worriers over the effects of radiation. Also Strauss has been lukewarm in promoting construction of plants converting atomic energy for civilian use, which has brought him more criticism.

For all this Strauss has been a devoted public servant, dedicated to the job of providing maximum national security through exploitation of atomic fission and fusion. He wears scars of many battles within and without the commission; but it is safe to say that the nation's security has been advanced through his administration of the atomic energy program, insofar as lay within his power. Disagreements on particular items should not cloud the contribution he has made in the nation's interest.

For his success (or as member of the AEC) the President has turned to John A. McCone, a Los Angeles businessman and a former official in the Defense department in the Truman administration, who enjoys a high reputation in California business circles.

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Assessment of timber in Lane County has stirred a controversy similar to that reported recently in Coos County. In Lane the State Tax Commission has recommended setting up a 25-year life for standing timber for tax purposes. This would increase the current tax burden borne by owners of the timber and stimulate liquidation of the timber. The Eugene Register-Guard questions the wisdom of this determination, and regards a 40-year term as much more realistic. The county board of equalization will have to decide, and after that appeals may be taken to the State Tax Commission or to the courts. The problem is very complex, but it looks as though owners of timber lands are going to have to pay a larger share of property taxes than they have previously.

LATE SPRING THAW



Excise Tax Slash on Transportation Seen

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Statesman Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Despite the general resistance to a broad tax cut from congressional leaders, there appears now to be an outside chance for elimination of the excise tax on transportation.

This would amount to a selective tax cut of 3 per cent for shippers of cargo by truck, rail or air, and a decrease of 10 per cent in the total cost of passenger tickets on trains, planes and buses.

Nearly half the members of the Senate have teamed up in sponsoring an amendment which will be offered to the upcoming bill which extends excise taxes beyond June 30 for another year. All Northwest senators favor the idea of killing the transportation tax, for they argue that it discriminates against the Pacific Northwest because of the longer distances to the great eastern markets mean higher shipping costs and proportionately higher excise taxes.

Sen. George Smathers (D-Fla.), chief advocate of dropping the tax, pointed out that a carload

of apples shipped from Winchester, Va., to New York City costs \$267.83, whereas a carload from Yakima, Wash., costs \$352.18. The Virginia shipper pays a tax of \$8.04 on his carload, while the Yakima shipper pays \$23.57 tax on his carload.

"So the apple grower from Washington state not only has a natural, understandable disadvantage, but the federal government compounds the disadvantage for him," said Smathers. "The disadvantage works in reverse when the eastern manufacturers try to ship to the West or the South. No wonder plants seek to relocate. This transportation tax helps to build an unnatural wall between regions, creating economic isolation."

The transportation tax was imposed at the outset of World War II "for the purpose of discouraging transportation of persons and of freight; it was to constitute a drag upon the civilian economy, and that is exactly what it is doing," Smathers said.

Sen. Richard L. Neuberger (D-Ore.), discussing the issue with Smathers in the Senate, pointed out that in Oregon large sawmills own their own trucking fleets, so they avoid the tax on shipments, but smaller outfits that ship by common carriers must pay the tax. Smathers agreed that it discriminates against the little business.

Smathers said a series of "semi-ethical and semi-illegal" dodges and sharp practices have come into use to avoid payment of the federal tax. Sometimes drivers of privately owned trucks, unknown to their employer, will take a backhaul of goods which if shipped by common carrier would be taxed. The senator said such things are hard to police, and so the tax is encouraging "wholesale law violations on an ever greater scale."

The U. S. Treasury collected \$468 million in transportation taxes the past fiscal year, but Smathers argues that the net gain was only \$225 million because businesses can charge it off as deductions in computing income taxes.

A former economist of the Interstate Commerce Commission has predicted that if the tax were discontinued, the Treasury would make a clear gain of about \$24 million. He figures that repeal of the tax would enable common carriers to regain about 20 per cent of the private carrier business, with a resulting increase in income tax payments.

The attitude of the Eisenhower administration will probably be the key to the outcome of this proposal. There may be enough strength in the Senate to pass it, regardless of the administration's stand, because the western and southern states, with two votes each, will have considerable strength. But the heavily populated eastern states could block it in the House if the administration urged against it.

Time Flies

FROM STATESMAN FILES

10 Years Ago

June 8, 1948

Ray Glatt of Woodburn was elected president of the Marion County Community Chest. He will succeed Loyal Warner, new president of the state chest.

Dr. and Mrs. John W. Beard, Portland, who are retracing the Oregon Trail on horseback, have reached the halfway mark and are in Wyoming. The Portland couple spent their 40th wedding anniversary on the trail.

25 Years Ago

June 8, 1933

Inundating fields, menacing stock and sending a gravel digger crashing into one of the Marion-Polk county bridge piers, the Willamette River rose suddenly to 13.5 feet. This was the highest the river has ever been in June.

America's famous song writer and orchestra director, Ted Florio, comes in person with his famous orchestra to play an engagement of one day at the Elsinore Theater.

40 Years Ago

June 8, 1918

Five thousand Oregon school children have been enrolled in the five Junior Rainbow regiments organized by State School Superintendent Churchill for selling of war savings stamps.

F. W. Steusloff who has completed his first term as president of Salem Commercial Club was re-elected. Robert C. Paulus and Charles H. Fisher were also re-elected. A new official is S. B. Elliott of Salem Bank of Commerce.

Family Problem

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — James Brooks knows now why police kept summoning him to traffic court. His brother, Leonard, admitted in municipal court that he gave James' name four times when he was arrested for traffic offenses. Brother Leonard finally paid the fines.

An average of 3,000 prisoners are paroled from jail to the Salvation Army each year.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from Page 1.)

in status of the faculty. Salaries have been raised progressively until they now rank high among these of independent colleges. The former plan for pensions has been supplemented with federal social security. Provisions for other welfare needs have been added. Allowances are made for travel to professional meetings.

All this has not been a one-man achievement by any means. The university has been most fortunate in having a very devoted board of trustees who have led the way in financing the expansion program; but Dr. Smith has been the leader and organizer, and confidence in him has primed the generosity of those in the widespread Willamette community.

To get back to Dr. Smith's report: He advised that for all the post-Sputnik talk about federal aid to education nothing had yet emerged which assures any assistance to liberal arts colleges.

"I am sure that in the future we must, as we have in the past, depend upon our own resources, the help from friends voluntarily given, and the tuition charge of students who attend the college."

This though does not daunt the men and women who guide the affairs of this institution now winding up its 116th year. Another item in the president's report deserves mention: the development of an honors program for junior and senior students. A limited number—15 next year—of superior students will be admitted to this program. For the junior year a seminar will be held one night each week, with lectures, discussion, followed by research and reports. Seniors in this program will do research and write a thesis. The purpose is to put greater emphasis on intellectual effort to prepare gifted minds for greater achievement.

To point out that Willamette isn't pausing for breath, save to retire the debt which was necessary to its recent expansion, Robert Nelson of Portland, chairman of the trustees' development committee, sketched fresh goals that are being set up: new dormitory, a student union, a chapel, larger facilities for the college of law if it is to continue to grow. (The law college will celebrate its 75th anniversary next fall, the oldest law school in the Northwest.)

One of the best parts of Dr. Smith's report was his remark at the close, that he had thoroughly enjoyed his 16 years of service "and looked forward to many more." That meets with the hearty approval of all Willamette-land: trustees, the Methodist Church, faculty, students, alumni, Salem citizens and friends everywhere.

Statesman Sunday Quiz

A lot of information is fed to us for a nickel or so a day. It's packaging into a newspaper comprises the work of editors, reporters and communications facilities all over the world, plus almost around-the-clock operations of local staffs to get it in shape for the press runs day after day.

The past week's news menu included answers to the following questions, and if you get seven or more correct you should get an extra 50-calorie allowance on your diet for the day.

1. In what Oregon town did new high school burn?
2. What school quit Pacific Coast Conference?
3. What new U. S. aircraft carrier was christened?
4. In what state did tornado kill 28 persons?
5. Who resigned from Atomic Energy Commission?
6. What Oregon city won \$10,000 for community work?
7. Who's new manager of Salem Senators ball team?
8. Where were 200 children hit by food poisoning?
9. What ranks first as Oregon's worst weed?
10. Who quit as head of Am. Federation of Musicians?

(Answers on Page 5)

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 150 words long. Letters must be signed with full names and addresses.)

Army Pay Not Excessive

To the Editor:

The party who wrote the letter concerning Army Pay in Saturday's Statesman apparently is so young he has never lived through a war, or is one of the few who suffered no privation nor loss of loved ones as a result of a war.

Otherwise, how could anyone with reasonable intelligence write such a ridiculous letter. My husband is an Army officer, whose college education was interrupted by World War II. When the war was over and he returned to finish his education he found the going pretty rough, having accumulated a wife and two children during those war years, and being quite a few years older than the average college student. Eventually he was forced to drop out, in order to support his family. Then, just as he was getting ahead, the Korean war broke out and he was recalled as a Reserve officer. Since then he has been offered several chances to accept civilian jobs with much higher pay than the Army pays, but for several reasons has chosen to stay in the Army. One of these reasons was the three years we spent in Germany, where we saw things we Americans never dreamed possible. I wish that every person who dares to call themselves an American, and yet feels the way this person does, could spend a few weeks in any war-torn country and see people living like animals—some in bombed out cellars, digging in garbage cans for their food. Perhaps this would give them some idea of what could happen to us.

Another reason my husband stayed in the Army is because they have spent thousands of dollars training him for his present job, and were he to get out, they would have to spend thousands more to train someone else. There's where your tax dollars are going my friend—not in the "fabulous" salaries the army pays, but to train men for jobs that other men have deserted in order to take higher paying civilian positions.

At the present time my husband is in Korea—having served 14 months of a 16 month tour of duty. Do you think they are living high on their grand pay raises over there? Some are still living in tents, in freezing weather, without electricity or indoor plumbing—far from any form of civilization. Do you think that any lousy pay raises the Army gives us can make up for the months my children have been without a father—not to mention my own loneliness?

Well, they say Ignorance is Bliss, and I hope everyone who feels as you do remains supremely happy, until the day you're blasted out of your holes by a hydrogen bomb!

Mrs. Olivar Severin,
467 18th St. N.E.

Drive Contributions

To the Editor:

An interesting list of names is that of the contributors to the campaign funds of the several candidates in the recent primary election. It shows that a great many people like to pay part of the campaign expenses of their favorite candidates.

So long as it is their own money, freely given, there can hardly be any question raised as to the propriety of such donations. However there is one, and I believe the largest of all, that came from a tax-exempt organization, and the primary costs are usually a mere drop compared to the costs of the final November election.

Usually the two parties watch closely that one does not gain any advantages not shared by the other. Here is a question for the lawyers to ponder—Why should one party enjoy the use of tax-exempt money that is denied to the other? And why should anyone be permitted to allocate such funds without restriction, or accounting?

John W. Plank,
Salem.

'No Price Big Enough'

To the Editor:

In reply to J. M. Campbell's letter to the editor in Saturday morning's issue, regarding Army pay, I have but this to say:

For the service these men are doing our country and you and me, for the risks they take, both in time of war and in time of peace, for the time they spend away from their loved ones, families, homes and friends, for the strain, hardships, trials and tribulations they go through—the everything this country couldn't possibly pay them enough! There is no price big enough to make up for the things our servicemen miss, nor for the things their loved ones miss while their husbands, sons and friends are serving!

Our service men have the biggest responsibility and the biggest job of anybody in the United States; protecting it and the citizens! And for this job they are doing—they are the most underpaid people in the world! We should appreciate it and never take it for granted.

Deanna Pace,
1489 Court St.

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