

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"  
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## 79th Congress, Second Session

Tomorrow the second session of the 79th congress will convene. Members refreshed by a long Christmas recess will return to take up their labors. Staring them in the face is the critical domestic economic situation and the president's program for handling it. Also high on the agenda is the proposed loan for Britain. Advance expressions indicate no cohesion among the congress for an affirmative program on domestic matters. The president's own program is unpopular with the country and disliked in congress. His appeal of January 3 has evoked no general applause. At the same time the congress has no alternative program such as the president has called for. A policy of drift prevails, and it will take powerful pressures to budge the congress out of this mood. For one thing this is election year with all house members and one-third of the senators up for reelection. Election year is no time for much legislative experimenting.

Current acute problems are the strife between labor and management and the mounting tide of inflation. The president's fact-finding formula has already failed in the General Motors strike, steel workers are due to walk out on Monday. Yet the anti-strike bills in congress have as little prospect of passing as the president's own measures.

The answer for these worries may be found principally in an increase of production. This will defeat the pressures for inflation, will supply the goods the country demands, and soon will through lowered prices lift the real wages of workers. In spite of headlines over strikes the country's plant is being steadily reconverted, and production of peacetime goods will be on an accelerated scale. Congress having already moderated the tax burden, there seems little it can now do to open the gate for full production.

The real race is with inflation. President Truman's policies have let inflationary pressures get nearly out of hand. If congress lets price control die on June 30 the price spiral will be hard to stop. If we can hold the trenches a few months longer the country's machinery will get in gear and production will commence to overtake demand and avert uncontrolled inflation. The most important responsibility of congress therefore, is to support the battle against inflation.

One desperate need which the congress may help to meet is housing. The Wagner-Ellender-Taft compromise bill seems to be a constructive and progressive piece of legislation. While it is opposed in part by home private interests, the need for housing and for improved housing of low income groups is so great that private interest should not be allowed to defeat government aid of the type that is contemplated.

In its first session the congress took care of foreign affairs quite adequately, ratifying the San Francisco charter, approving machinery for its operation, and ratifying the Bretton Woods agreement. If the UNO general assembly meeting succeeds, congress may have less cause for worry over our relations with other countries.

The world, including the United States, is in a period of readjustment following the terrific dislocation of the world war. We cannot expect things to smooth out readily. But the problems are such as can be solved if the people through their congress and administration will apply intelligence and courage in tackling them.

## Arabian Pipeline

During the war Secretary Ickes was at one time determined to construct at government expense a pipeline across Arabia to bring oil from the middle east to the Mediterranean coast. The Statesman was one of the first to condemn the proposal as an unwise expenditure of government funds and involvement of our government in middle east politics. The proposal ran into so much opposition that it was dropped.

Now the oil companies themselves are proceeding with plans for building a 1000-mile pipeline across Arabia and through Palestine and have recently obtained from the latter country a concession for the crossing.

It is far better to have the operating private companies make the investment; and they will have no trouble with the financing. The companies interested are Standard of California and Texas company, which jointly own the American-Arabian Oil company. Time has fully justified The Statesman's criticism of the Ickes plan.

## Crippled Communications

The General Public gets cuffed around when strikes affect public utilities, as is the case in the crippling sympathy strike of telephone workers. Communications are a vitally essential service; and those accepting employment in such occupations are under a moral obligation to maintain the service. Ordinarily they do, even to the hazard of life and limb. Come flood or fire, earthquake or tornado operators stick to their posts to the very last minute, to give out warnings and to guide the work of rescuers. It seems most unfortunate then for telephone workers to leave their place of duty because of wage disputes, especially when they themselves are not principals to the dispute.

It is Western Electric workers who are striking now. Western Electric is an affiliate of the Bell system and handles particular mechanical work for the telephone company. Employees of the latter company in some cities have gone out in sympathy; and that ties up seriously the communication service of the whole country. Salem workers, we are glad to note, have shown commendable loyalty to their responsibilities by remaining on the job.

The Western Electric strike however holds up manufacture of equipment and so postpones phone installations here and elsewhere.

The country gets tired of these work stoppages which eventuate in takeovers by government. It is more or less a fiction anyhow, because the same officials actually remain in charge; and eventually the dispute has to be settled by agreement. The settlement ought to be worked out without any striking. The public interest in this instance transcends the interest of the parties who at best are quarrelling over minor differences in wage rates. If this interference with essential services continues and expands government may take a hand and impose compulsory arbitration of such disputes. Freedoms hardly extend to the point of wrecking the functioning of the whole communications system of the country.

## Norblad to Washington

Walter Norblad goes to Washington with the confidence that should come from the splendid vote he received in the old first district on Saturday. To be elected congressman is a great honor and a real responsibility. Norblad has met the first test of popular approval by winning the first election. Now he must meet the sternest test of performance in the national legislative body.

Young and naturally aggressive, he will need to develop in maturity of judgment, to season his principles and avoid the temptations of political opportunism which beset anyone in politics. If he makes good from the start he will be able to retain the position over a long term of years, growing in strength and influence in national councils and in ability to serve his district. The Statesman wishes him well as he shoves off for Washington.

The VFW is first to come up with a bonus bill, one to pay veterans \$3 a day for their service and \$4 for each day overseas. The total cost would run from \$25 to \$50 billion. Recalling the bonus battles which followed the first world war one can predict that political powers of resistance will be very feeble. Probably few presidents would veto a bonus bill now, although every president from Harding to Roosevelt did before. Money talks, but not very loud these days.

## Cooperation Vital Need for Peace

(Charles Feltz, who covered the old league of nations for several years and who spent the war years in Europe, outlines here the ingredients by which the new United Nations organization, now meeting in London, may outdo its predecessor.)

**By Charles Feltz**  
Associated Press Foreign Staff

The United Nations, second great world organization in our time to undertake the task of keeping the peace, hopes to profit from the errors of its predecessor.

Like the league of nations, the UN is by no means as perfect as the wartime peace planners once hoped for, but it is an instrument through which world opinion can find the means to keep the peace.

Behind the high-flying hopes of the UN founders, behind their public expressions of optimism, lies the conviction that the UN's main strength lies in the support of the U. S. and Britain. In both of these countries public opinion can be expressed freely. In both countless organizations are striving to activate public interest in the only existing defense between them and the "last war." For since the development and use of the atom bomb, few doubt that the next one would be the last.

**UN's Machinery Is Superior**

In three of the great powers which quit the league of their own volition to continue the way of the aggressor—Germany, Italy and Japan—public opinion could not be freely expressed. What the common man thought made little or no difference to his government.

The machinery of the UN, it is generally agreed, is superior in many respects to the machinery of the league. The world may have found the league little help in keeping the peace, but has now found some profit in knowing the league's weaknesses.

The great absentees of 1920—the U. S. and Russia—are in the UN and have undertaken to use force "if necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security."

**Concessions to Distract**

Unanimity of all members of the league was necessary to action vital to the maintenance of world peace. In the UN only the five states with permanent seats on the security council have a veto power.

This was a concession to the fact that even after another great war the big powers did not have sufficient trust in each other to abandon that part of their national sovereignty necessary to make the world organization all-powerful in international disputes. UN, like the league, is a compromise, but is generally agreed to be a better compromise.

Both Truman and Attlee have made various public statements in recent months indicating their willingness to abandon the big three talks like those at Yalta and Potsdam, taking such discussions into the security council within the UN.

**UN More Flexible Than League**

The United Nations is far more flexible than the league, whose machinery ground slowly even normally and still more slowly when certain members desired to impede its progress, which was frequently the case.

Members of the new security council have wide discretionary powers to determine what constitutes any "threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression." There are now no hair-splitting efforts to define aggression such as those famous in the league.



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Are They Trying to Nickname Him Charlie McCarthy?

## The Literary News Behind the News

By Paul Mallon (Distribution by King Features Syndicate, Inc. Reproduction in whole or in part strictly prohibited.)

**THE FABULOUS FRONTIER** by William A. Ketcher (Rydal Press, \$3). If you are interested in the increasing flow of regional literature you may wish to dip into this book, an excellent piece of research on southeastern New Mexico covering the lusty period from 1870 to statehood in 1912. Through its pages move cattleman and gunman, the pioneer merchant and editor and the inevitable landboom promoter.

There are good sketches of John S. Chisum, the cattle king who ran 80,000 head on Lincoln county's 17,000,000 acres; Patrick Floyd Garrett, frontier sheriff and slayer of Billy the Kid; Thomas Benton Catron, the state's first senator, and Albert B. Fall of Teapot Dome fame, among many others. Fall, the writer concludes interestingly, "was not proved guilty of wrong doing beyond a reasonable doubt."

**MERCHANT SHIPS 1944**, edited by E. C. Talbot-Booth, R. D. R.N.V.R., assisted by E. B. R. Sargent, R.N.V.R. (Macmillan, \$19). The world's merchant ships as of 1944 are listed in this standard reference work, which also contains all available information about sinkings and new construction. There are more than 900 photographs and nearly 5000 line drawings. Among other incidental information, the volume contains airplane silhouettes.

**THE COMPLETE CARD PLAYER**, by Albert A. Ostrow (Whittlesey House, \$2.75). This tells you how to play about everything, from accordion, the game of course, to Zon-check, including such variations of poker as whiskey poker, cold hands, lame brains, cross widowy, snookie, butcher boy and lazy Edna.

**PETER HUNT'S WORKBOOK** (Ziff-Davis, \$4). Hunt is a very ingenious guide if you like peasant-style decoration, which means bright color and surfaces loaded with design; if you want to change an old organ into a desk, old lamps into ash trays; and if you think a marbledized finish is better than plain honest wood. For me, these decorations are too fussy and ornate.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12 — An editorial surveyor has reported 72 per cent of the newspapers fact-finding solution for labor claims at first, but suddenly turned around and in one week during December (22 to 29) 65 per cent attacked the plan.

This he considered a strange and inexplicable turnover of public opinion, or press opinion, and he criticized it. He said the change came about when the Truman fact-finding board for General Motors was confronted with the union proposition of going into the company profits to set future wages on this basis.

My analyst friend has simply been confused, as have most readers of the current labor news, by the emotion of opposing factions. The truth behind the matter is evident.

**Used by Rail Unions**

Mr. Truman advocated the fact-finding solution out of the experience of the railroad union brotherhoods, who have enjoyed its operation for more than 15 years. The idea of establishing a public concept of the facts, with 30 days' cooling down before strikes, in the case of the brotherhoods, never entered the question of how much the railroads were making.

The idea of going into company profits of the past for a wage scale for the future was developed by the union in the General Motors case, merely because the company had war profits and the union wanted bigger wages. In the every-way similar steel case, the same CIO unions have taken an opposite stand because there were no steel profits.

Mr. Truman is now moving to increase the price of steel through Mr. Bowles in order to create money by which the steel companies can raise the union wages.

**"Reasoning" Is Futile**

The simple truth is thus shown to be that the unions want a wage increase — for whatever reasons they can concoct, for the reason of profits in the General Motors case, for the opposite reason necessitating a price increase in the steel case.

This is the essence of the matter, and anyone who indulges himself in any economic reasoning about the matter is wasting his time.

Thus the newspaper editorialists are proven by the facts to be right in changing their stand. The Truman fact-finding solution has been headed by union pressure into ascertaining company profits in the General Motors case. These are past profits, based on war business, and the manufacture of different products.

**Inconsistency Pointed Out**

The union would be entirely logical if it demanded a distribution of these profits to the workers. That would make sense, but it is entirely illogical in contending that these past-profits should measure the future wage scale, because the same profit is not guaranteed for the future.

Indeed, the profits of General Motors henceforth will be measured by entirely different considerations—the volume of production, the future cost of materials, the extent of sales, the effects of advertising, efficiency, and a thousand other factors. Past profits on war business have absolutely nothing to do with the case.

When the Truman fact-finding was turned into that illogical vein, naturally its advocates turned against it. They could not, in justice to simple reasoning, do otherwise.

**Falsity Seems Conceded**

Indeed, the unions themselves concede the falsity of the profits basis of establishing future wages by repudiating their own motors doctrine in the case of steel.

A straight-forward, just application of fact-finding would have followed the principal of the brotherhoods example in the case of motors, steel, electrical workers and all others, computing the increase in living costs, measuring what increases in wages had been granted, subtracting these, and proclaiming a just, sound wage increase.

The solving could be done by simple arithmetic. A principle could have been established which would be a yardstick for all cases.

The trouble with the union case and the sympathetic administration handling of it is that no principle has been established.

**Two Opposite Claims**

In one case the unions make one economic claim; in the other they make the opposite; and the administration tries to do their bidding in both instances. How then, could there possibly be anything else but confusion and strife?

What the situation requires is the establishment of a just principle, a common yardstick based on simple truths. The war administration had one in the Little Steel formula.

The trouble then was a politically minded government, boldly sympathetic to any union cause, whatever it might be, corrupted the formula by secretly allowing wage increases in the guise of regrading portal-to-portal, vacations with pay, and similar devices to defeat its own formula.

**Comics More Interesting**

Everyone knows what this strike campaign is—a drive of

## IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued From Page 1)

exception. He served for a time as secretary of the navy under Polk, and later made this comment:

"One of the very foremost of our public men and one of the very best and most honest and most successful presidents the country ever had."

Justin H. Smith, however, who wrote extensively on the history of the period, says of Polk's term: "There was nothing large about the administration. The confines of mediocrity hemmed it in."

Polk's latest biographer, McCormack, gives a more just conclusion:

"He was a constructive statesman, an unusually able executive, and a sound patriot. No other president took his task more seriously, nor spent his energies more freely for his country; and few, indeed, have done more to increase the power and prestige of the nation."

Another cause for the shadow over Polk was the rise of the slavery question. Emerging into controversy during his term, that question was magnified in bitterness in the ensuing dozen years until it split the country into armed camps. As a result, events of major importance during Polk's term have not received their due weight in our nation's history. For the west these events were vital: settlement of the Oregon question and acquisition of California. In western history the civil war was remote, while the decisions of 1846 were determining. The west, therefore, owes a great debt to the statesmanship of James K. Polk, a debt which hardly is recognized even though one of our fine counties in Oregon is named after him.

Still another cause for lack of recognition of Polk was his own personality. He was secretive, unassuming, an intense worker, driven with an almost Calvinist conception of duty. As a result he had few friends, and even his close associates thought him distant. Clay and Webster, with more colorful personalities, absorbed most of the popular enthusiasm of the period. Polk, despite his great labors and achievements, is little appreciated by Americans, and even westerners who live in the land he brought under the flag scarcely know him. The 150th anniversary of his birth last November 2 passed without even a reference in Oregon and California, the region he added to the Union.

In this centennial anniversary of the settlement of the Oregon question and of the conquest of California, historical societies and public bodies in the west might very well honor the memory of James K. Polk, with appropriate ceremonies. Tuesday I shall devote my column to a report on the accomplishments of President Polk during his four years in office.

**Practical Religion**

—By Rev. John L. Knight, Jr., Counselor on Religious Life, Willamette university.

Modern preaching has sometimes neglected to emphasize the results of wrong-doing or the inevitability of judgment. Hence many people have a "get away with it" attitude toward life.

The more closely one looks at life, however, the more certain one becomes that he cannot escape the consequences of any act. It has become a part of his life, to add or detract. The "get away with it" philosophy is mere self-deception. As Emerson put it: "Whoever fights, whoever falls, Justice conquers evermore."

the unions for a 30 per cent wage increase for any reason imaginable or unimaginable, valid or otherwise.

Frankly I think the comic strips and sports pages are more interesting these days. Do you think the new football league will be better than the old one?

**Brownsville Tavern Owner Slugged, Robbed**

BROWNSVILLE, Jan. 12 — (AP) Gus Davidson, tavern owner here, was severely injured when slugged and robbed of \$200 cash and his watch after closing his business early today, City Marshal Clarence Keith reported.

State Police Sgt. Earl Houston said Davidson was struck by a blunt instrument and was unable to describe his assailant or whether there was more than one person assaulting him.

**EGYPTIAN MOTHER DIES**

CAIRO, Jan. 12 — (AP) — Safia Zaghoul, 69, termed "the mother of Egyptians" by her followers because of her long campaign for national independence, died today.

## Seven Added Classes to Be Started Soon

Seven classes, in addition to the course in radio speech and production, are to be established by the general extension division of the Oregon system of higher education in Salem for the winter term starting the week of January 21, it was announced Saturday.

These include natural history of Oregon, teaching of elementary school science, art education, Oregon history, small house planning, twentieth century literature and first year Spanish.

The class in natural history of Oregon, given by Miss Ruth Hopson, will be held from 2 to 4 each Monday at the senior high school. All other classes are in the morning.

**Miss Wasson Teacher**

The course in small house planning is being taught by Miss Josephine Wasson of the school of architecture at OSC. The class in twentieth century literature is to be offered by Dr. H. E. Childs of Oregon State English department.

The first class of the radio speech and production course will begin on the evening of January 17, four days before the rest of the extension classes, and unlike the others, it will be held in the Salem city library.

**Teacher Classes Set**

Three classes are being offered to teachers in the Salem area for those desiring either to complete their certification requirements or for special training in their particular fields of teaching. The class in teaching of elementary school science will be given by Miss Ruth Hopson. Oregon history will be taught by H. E. Inlow of the College of Education at Monmouth. The course in art education will be given by Miss Constance Fowler of Willamette university.

Spanish by the conversational method again will be offered by Miss Jenette Roberts of the senior high school.

Registration for any of the extension courses will be conducted at the time of the first class meeting.

## Concentration Of Naval Craft In Puget Sound

SEATTLE, Jan. 12 — (AP) — The greatest concentration of naval craft in Puget Sound history jammed Seattle's harbor, Bremerton and nearby anchorages today and naval authorities estimated 176 merchant ships and transports were moored or anchored in the sound from Port Townsend to Tacoma.

Most of the ships had brought troops and naval personnel home for re-deployment. Nearly 500,000 have passed through Puget Sound ports in the past five months. The peak is passed and the army port of embarkation headquarters announced yesterday only 6782 men were here, at Tacoma and Vancouver barracks awaiting transportation home. Many of the vessels have been withdrawn from transport duty.

Fighting craft in Puget Sound today included six battleships, six cruisers, the carrier Essex and a dozen escort carriers, and 163 smaller craft including 36 sub chasers, 37 patrol craft and 40 LSTs.

The population of Afghanistan is estimated at between seven and ten millions.

## GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"Junior just won't get home!—He spent months in the occupation of Germany, Japan and San Francisco!"

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