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 The Register-Guard's policy is the complete and impartial publication in its news pages of all news and statements on news. On this page the editors of The Register-Guard offer their opinions on events of the day and matters of importance to the community, endeavoring to be candid but fair and helpful in the development of constructive community policy.

Anybody Wanna Be A Schoolteacher
 In Salem the other day, we attended a meeting of Public School Administrators, several hundred of 'em from all parts of Oregon—all wrestling with the same problems, mounting enrollments, inadequate buildings, not enough really first class teachers, and the greatest of all problems, how to get the public to understand its school problems.

Later in the evening, we reclined on a bed in the Senator Hotel, listening to a group of text book publishers representatives talk about teachers and school administrators. Some of these gents, as might be expected, were former teachers. Somebody said:
 "Jack, why did you give up a good job as superintendent to peddle books? Money?"
 Jack pulled out a long black cigar, unvelled it, bit off the end and spat:

"I chew my cigars. Filthy habit. But I like it. Now down at —, I had a Board Member who had some funny notions about school teachers, I guess. The cheap chiselling old so-and-so wasn't above trying to make me buy school supplies through his store, in spite of it being strictly agin' the law, but he didn't like my cigar chewing. Nope, it wasn't the money. I'm not actually making much more at this racket, but I can be myself. So I quit."
 This led to a lot of wierd tales about schools and school teachers and school boards and some of the more fantastic experiences, especially on the rural school circuit. Adolf said:

"My wife made me give up teaching. I loved every minute of it, and I'd like to go back to it. But the way things were, we never dared to buy a house or settle down anywhere. You never know when you'd get the axe for some little thing. On this job, at least, we know where we're going to be from one year to the next."

The argument was made that conditions have improved greatly in the last 10 or 15 years—pay is better, tenure is assured in many of the larger school systems, better facilities are being provided, slowly. The National Commission on Teacher Education and Professional Standards is calling upon the colleges of the United States to recruit 1,045,622 teachers over the next 10 years. At present rate of teacher production we will get only 300,000 in the next 10 years and that will mean continued teacher shortages in the poorer districts, continued overloading and a large carry-over of super-annuated. One man said:

"They'll have to find some way to build up the dignity of the teaching profession, if they are to fill their quota. It isn't low pay that drives many away from the teaching profession. It's the prevailing attitude that the teacher, especially the male teacher, is a sort of freak that hurts. You have to have a real CALL like a minister to be a good teacher, and I know plenty of men who have that call. They have no interest in getting rich. That isn't what drives 'em out of teaching. It's the pica-yune restrictions on the teacher's life, the frustrations. Why I know a good guy . . ."

This led to the general conclusion that "somebody ought to write a book," a first class novel about teaching in the United States. Jack said:

"Sure, there's a great story there, but my house wouldn't publish it, not if it really called the shots."

Somebody ought to write a book. Somebody ought to open a school for school boards. Somebody ought to go out and ring bells and blow fire sirens to make the American people realize the importance of their schools and the dignity of the teaching job. This from some of the hard-bitten guys who peddle school texts, and they have very few illusions. It was quite an experience to stretch and hear them ramble on about what they see and hear as they make their rounds.

"How you gonna weed the loafers and the four flushers out of the teaching business, Jack?"

Jack was fluent on this topic, beginning with universities and schools of education, but he kept coming back to his main point "the dignity of teaching," the humanity of teachers, and the great need of "flesh and blood instead of plaster saints." It could have gone on all night, but the road to Eugene is long and tiresome and full of trucks.

Symptom of Russian Discontent

It stands to reason that a great many Russians cannot be happy under Soviet rule. Two Russian air force officers have flown into the American zone in Germany and have claimed "political refuge." This incident may be added to the sensational Kosenkina case as another strong symptom of discontent in Russia.

Our military authorities have taken the proper course in returning to the Russians the plane in which the officers made their escape, and in returning a Russian sergeant who was taken for the "buggy ride." It needs to be made very clear that we are not harboring known criminals or grabbing Russian equipment (although the Russians have not hesitated to grab our equipment at every excuse). It will be necessary to have a very careful examination into the claims of the Russian officers that their only offenses against the Russian government were political.

Of course, in Russia it is treason to disagree with the rulers of the Kremlin or with the Communist party. That marks the great essential difference between their thinking and ours. We tolerate even Communists in this country and the question is often asked:

"How far are we obligated to carry this tolerance of people who want to destroy our nation, who take their orders from a foreign government?"

The answer seems to be that if we are faithful to American principles we must tolerate these people as long as they confine themselves to the realm of mere BELIEF; when this belief merges into hostile actions, then we must punish them to the full extent of their offenses.

Often we have spoken of this doctrine of tolerance as "the American hair shirt." It is a doctrine which entails some obvious risks. Nevertheless we believe that it is a policy which in time pays off. Many are the Communists in this country who have repented after a measure of Communist experience. The real reason for tolerance, however, is that we cannot prosecute any person or any group of persons for BELIEF without endangering our own rights to what we believe.

Tyranny has never paid off, never in the world's history. It has always ended in revolution. Sometimes tyranny has endured for centuries but it has always ended in collapse. This is not to say that Russia is nearing revolution or collapse. But these incidents prove that Russians are men and women like ourselves. They will endure just so much.

Reader Editorial

FRED CUTHBERT COMES UP FOR AIR

EUGENE—(To the Editor)For the second time in a dozen years, I have been accused of being facetious when I suggest that Eugene would be smart to plow up its "main drag" and plant it to grass. Is that all the appreciation a planner gets for offering his home town a million dollar idea? Imagine the headlines in newspapers all over the land, in the planning press, pictures in national magazines and the movies, about the first city in the United States to plow up its main street and convert its downtown area into a modern shopping center designed scientifically for the convenience and pleasure of its patrons. Thousands would come from hundreds and thousands of miles to see and shop. Tourists would look forward to shopping in the famous district. Local folks, relieved from much of the noise, fumes, danger and irritation caused by the constant streams of contentious traffic, would find new pleasure in shopping.

After driving your car many times around the block, or several blocks, in the vicinity of your destination, how frequently are you able to park within five blocks of where you want to shop? A large percentage of the motorists during busy hours are cruising for a convenient parking place, without any real hope of stopping in front of the store or office building where they expect to do business. In Ann Arbor, Michigan, income from parking meters is being used to build municipal parking garages convenient to shopping districts. It would certainly be much better to park safely and conveniently within a block or two of the business area and walk over to shop in peace and comfort in a beautiful park-like environment. At present, we plow through excessive sidewalk traffic to an intersection, stand in line for the green light, or dart across the street, hanging on to bundles and children, hoping to beat the light before getting run down, then walk back half a block to a point opposite the one from which we started several minutes before. With the street made into a park way, crossed with convenient walks, we could wander at will back and forth from shops on one side to shops on the other, saving our nervous system much grief and saving hundreds of feet of needless walking. To add to the shopper's comfort, continuous marquees or covered walkways could extend along the store fronts, affording protection from sun or rain. In summer, park benches could be placed under the trees for the rest of the weary or aged shoppers, and as convenient waiting places; and in the pleasant weather, refreshment could be had at tables under gay umbrellas. Taking a cue from Victoria, B. C., hanging baskets of flowers might line them all, adding color and fragrance.

Intersections of cross streets could be designed to permit turn-out loading zones to reduce interference with moving vehicular traffic. Albeys in some instances might be refurbished to provide mid-block access from parking areas. By careful planning, most of the practical problems introduced by the project and peculiar to individual businesses could be worked out.

But of course the whole idea is utterly fantastic "Ivory Tower" stuff. It would require the overcoming of too much inertia, would cost some money, would be largely without precedent, without which most business men and particularly bankers, do nothing. However, one thing is quite predictable, unless there is some bold thinking and planning and building, good old "light squeeze" Willamette Street will be "has been" in a relatively few years, and up the flue will go some mighty important investments. In years to come when you are all scratching each others' mossy backs, and I am in deep freeze at the South Pole, remember these prophetic words.

Very truly yours,
 Fred A. Cuthbert.
 P.S. Most of my family have agreed to accompany me to the South Pole (with stop-overs in Mexico, Brazil, Peru and Chile). Where do we pick up the tickets?

ASSESSOR ASKS FOR COOPERATION

EUGENE—(To the Editor)—During our program of a complete appraisal of all real property and particularly that of new homes and business buildings, we are finding quite a great deal of new construction which has not previously appeared upon our tax rolls.

Obviously, such a condition is looked upon as being a laxness in the Assessor's office and we admit that with our limited personnel, we are unable to cope with this deplorable situation in view of our enormous growth, business expansion and efforts in equalizing all assessments. In order that our efforts be made easier to some extent and to distribute our tax load fairly and equitably, we ask the full cooperation by the tax paying public.

However, I desire to make it plain to everyone that under the Oregon law, every person owning property is required to submit a list of all such property which is subject to ad valorem taxation, and failure to do so, the taxpayer is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of not more than one thousand dollars.

Due to the many irregularities and tax evasions, I wish to serve notice to all, that new buildings and structures of any type must be reported to the Assessor's office immediately during the year in which it is occupied as required by law and that failure to do so may subject to owner to court action.

I am glad to state that many taxpayers are cooperating 100% in this respect by reporting all new construction promptly and in so doing they are not forcing their neighbors to pay their taxes.

This warning is given in the hope of full cooperation by everyone and in fairness to all the tax paying public who must bear the burden of governmental cost.

Yours truly,
 GEORGE A. STOCK, Assessor.

Mt. States Pays Stock Dividend

Stockholders of Mountain States Power Co. holding shares as of Sept. 30, 1948, drew a quarterly dividend of 6 1/4 cents a share, a recent announcement of the board of directors said.

The dividend was paid to holders of both common and preferred stock, and was payable Oct. 20.

In its announcement the company said that operating revenues have continued to reflect the same "substantial increase" that has been experienced during the past months. It interpreted the increase in revenue as due to an increase in business expansion and an increased use of electricity for all purposes.

Costs Up Too

But, the announcement said, the increased earnings have been accompanied by increased operating costs of every kind. While revenues reflected an increase of \$1,381,854 in the 12 months ending August 31, 1948 over the preceding twelve months, operating and maintenance costs increased by \$723,703. Of this amount, \$322,919 represents increased payments for electric energy purchased for resale, and \$257,939 for increased costs of salaries and wages. The remaining \$143,000 reflected the higher costs of materials, supplies, services, rents and other miscellaneous items.

Taxes Higher

Taxes, too, Mountain States said, are responsible for higher costs and lower earnings. It estimated that an increase of 15 per cent in taxes will be experienced in 1948. Mountain States Power Co. services Springfield, Cottage Grove and other Willamette Valley communities.

Explosion Rips Sun Oil Plant

COLUMBUS, O.—(AP)—An explosion and fire ripped through a Sun Oil Co. storage plant on the western outskirts of the city Thursday, threatening storage tanks containing 3,000,000 gallons of gasoline before the blaze was brought under control.

Two men suffered first, second and third degree burns in the blast that shook the western limits of the city at 4:50 a.m. A warehouse filled with drums of oil was destroyed and flames licked at 12 large storage tanks.

All available fire equipment was ordered to the scene before the fire was officially declared under control shortly before 7 a.m. Firemen evacuated 40 families from nearby homes as a precautionary measure.

No estimate of loss was available immediately.

William Love, 23, of Columbus, a warehouseman who suffered burns about the face, said he and Layton Royce, 28, of Cincinnati, a truck driver, were loading tanks with fuel for delivery.

"It sounded like a big clap of thunder," Love said. "The heat was intense and the explosion blew tin through the air like bullets."

Washington to Get Atomic Research

SEATTLE—(AP)—Diseases of the adrenal gland will be investigated by the University of Washington through use of radioactive sulphur as a tracer, officials reported Wednesday.

Elaborating on an Atomic Energy Commission announcement in Washington that the University would carry out such a project, University officials said \$13,000 is believed to have been allotted for the work.

The research will be directed by Dr. Robert H. Williams, head of the Department of Medicine at the University's Medical School.

Dr. Roberts, while at Harvard earlier, did research with radioactive iodine in connection with thyroid gland diseases. He has a national reputation for research in various glandular diseases.

The radioactive sulphur is produced by atomic piles at Oak Ridge, Tenn.

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