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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.

'No Contempt of Committee'

It is extremely interesting to note that a jury of eight men and four women at Seattle has acquitted Herbert J. Phillips of the charge of contempt brought against him because he refused to answer questions as to his political affiliations which were put to him by the Washington Legislature's Committee on Un-American Activities. Phillips was at that time a professor in the University of Washington. He later admitted membership in the Communist Party under faculty investigation and he was dismissed on that account.

"Then why was he not guilty of contempt for refusing to answer the questions of a legally established legislative inquiry?"

The defense argued that the Canwell committee used high-handed tactics, that Phillips was not given a chance to employ counsel, call witnesses in his behalf, or to plead his constitutional rights. And from all reports, the procedures of the Canwell committee were high-handed, quite as bad as those of the parallel committee in Congress. The instructions of the judge in the Seattle case are interesting. He told the jury:

1. Ignore the fact that Phillips is a Communist.
2. Consider the questions asked by the committee as entirely proper.

These instructions might seem to instruct the jury to find that Phillips was guilty of contempt, but since they recognize the committee as "a court," they also raise the question as to whether the committee acted as a court should act—with due consideration for the accused's rights. It took the jury 24 hours to say: "No!"

This is an important case because it sets a pattern. Millions of Americans who are above the slightest suspicion of Communism have objected to the high-handed procedures of legislative inquiries. It is possible to destroy any citizen's good name by dragging him before an investigating committee and asking him questions which reflect on his integrity or character—in the presence of the press—without giving him a chance to reply. Bills are now before Congress to correct this evil.

Incidentally, the Seattle result speaks volumes for the American spirit of fair play, for the jury system and for our courts in which even a Communist may still claim rights. Maybe even Professor Phillips will begin to wonder if he has made a good swap in turning Communist. When he was in Eugene a few weeks ago he was quite sure he would be jailed on this contempt charge. No martyrdom in this.

Indirectly the Seattle jury has convicted the Canwell committee of un-American procedures. It is a healthy verdict.

Bouquet to Morse from Sawyer

As might be expected, last Sunday's statement by Senator Wayne L. Morse with regard to the proposals for a Columbia Valley Authority has drawn criticism from both sides. Enthusiasts for "authority at any price" are not happy over the Senator's insistence on VOTING REPRESENTATION for the people of the Northwest. Those who object to CVA in any form are not happy either.

Thus, we find Bend's Robert W. Sawyer well pleased with Morse's demand to see the bill before jumping to any conclusions and with his insistence that the measure shall not be rushed through Congress and that hearings shall be held here in the Northwest, but uneasy because of Morse's implied willingness to accept a regional administration if the stipulation for voting representation is met. Mr. Sawyer says in The Bend Bulletin:

"The senator's sixth point and the whole telegram from which it is summarized is disturbing as seeming to indicate an acceptance of the authority idea. If an authority is forced upon the northwest every possible safeguard should be included but now is not the time to agree that one will be voted and this seeming agreement on Senator Morse's part is in some degree a contradiction of his point one. We think, however, that it is unconscious and unintended and we repeat our word of commendation."

Because of his long time leadership of the National Reclamation Association, anything Mr. Sawyer says on this subject is significant. He had a leading part in bringing about the inter-regional council to coordinate the work of existing federal agencies, and there can be no doubt that this council has done much good. He represents an important group which feels that no elaborate changes are necessary.

Our position comes between those who oppose any change and those who advocate the TVA type of administration without regard for long range consequences. President Truman's representatives at the recent Portland conference made an elaborate pretense of administrative reorganization as the sole motivation for the CVA bill, but they refuse to submit copies of their bill. We do not like this type of political manipulation. Our question is:

"Are you in fact setting up a regional government? If so, voting representation for the people who live here becomes indispensable."

Morse raises the same issue. His state-

ment serves warning that he will fight any measure or any compromise which does not provide REPRESENTATION. This is the one issue which Dr. Raver and his cohorts have been trying to by-pass and avoid.

Portrait of Fulton Lewis, Jr.

Many people in this community will remember H. N. Oliphant who was Sgt. Newt Oliphant, one of the editors of Yank magazine, when he visited Eugene during the war to describe Eugene's efforts in post-war planning. He and his pal, Sgt. Bennie Schnall, ace photographer, made many friends here.

In the March issue of Harpers there is an article by Oliphant entitled "Fulton Lewis, Jr.—Man of Distinction." Because Mutual's ace news commentator has a wide following in this area, pro and con, there will be many who will want to read the article even though they may not remember Oliphant.

Oliphant has done an excellent job of factual research of characterization based on his investigations. He sees Fulton Lewis, Jr. neither as the super patriot which many of the followers believe him to be, nor as the "fascist devil" conjured up by those who don't like his ideas. We shall not undertake to reprint at length. There is one sentence, however, which sums up the whole story.

"Lewis is a vigorously self-confident man who tends to think of himself as a National Asset."

This same short, graphic characterization could be applied to many of the nation's news and radio commentators who have suddenly become rich and famous. Lewis, like most of them, is fundamentally a good reporter who has lost perspective and therefore sees himself as saving the nation from itself and to that extent he has ceased to be a good reporter. We put it much more unpolitely than Oliphant some time ago:

"Most of the big name columnists are stuffed shirts with swelled heads."

It is interesting to note that this year's Raymond Clapper prize for the best job of reporting the Washington scene was awarded to modest Peter Edson of NEA, whose daily column is printed in this and many other small newspapers. This award is made by news men and it is significant that they passed over all the great names in their selection.

We hope Newt Oliphant will give us a continuing series of "portraits of pontiffs" of the editorial pages. It will be healthy to have the interpreters interpreted to the people. Nobody can do it better than this ex-G.I. with his quaint humor and his utter lack of awe in the presence of personages.

So the Public Is a Jury

"I wish I could live on a desert island where I wouldn't ever see a newspaper or hear a radio. I find it hard to know what to believe."

The speaker was NOT from Portland where they have been without any newspapers for three weeks. But he is a conscientious citizen and we can understand how he feels. The American public is literally battered with news from all parts of the world. We live under a continual bombardment of ideas and opinions. All we can say is:

"Ever serve on a jury? As a free citizen you are always on a jury, and it is a very big job, a responsibility. It's up to you to read, and listen and decide."

In Russia, it's much simpler, as it was in Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy. There you just read what you are told to read, and apparently it isn't too safe even to cross your fingers while you do it. Nor would it be safe there to argue about Taft-Hartley or to say unkind things about "those dopes" in the Kremlin as we do about those dopes in Washington. In India and China and those parts of the world where the great masses can't read at all, they haven't fared so well either. We could say:

"The privileges of being free and enlightened carry with them certain heavy penalties. Along with the funnies and the sports pages we thrust a lot of complicated 'problems' at you."

Old Justice Holmes spent most of his life on the bench, listening to wise men and fools, to honest zealots and to zealous rogues and he once said something like this:

"Beware of apparent facts and beware of too much exactness."

And he set freedom of thought above all other freedoms, and he stated it like this:

"If there is any principle of the Constitution of the United States that more imperatively calls for attachment than any other, it is the principle of FREE THOUGHT—not free thought for those that agree with us but free thought for those we hate."

Hang on to that thought and what you read and hear about this cockeyed world won't bother you so much.

WVLA is gonna give Herb Cox a great "testimonial dinner" Friday night, beginning with a "sunshine and song hour, OBR assisting. Sorta seem' the old boy off "Chicago style," says McGurk.

Slogan for lumbermen's dinner will undoubtedly be "Oh that mine adversary had written a book!" Every lumber man ought to be familiar with Job.

President Truman has been having himself a two-weeks vacation in Florida. It is not stretching it too much to say that for once Congress was with him in spirit.

FSA has new guide book for parents, "Your Child from Six to Twelve," but the newest Poppa round here wants to know whose child it is from 12 to 6.



In The Editor's Mailbag

NOT ASHAMED

EUGENE—(To the Editor) — I think that the lady and gentleman from Lane County who wrote to you from Mesa, Arizona, are very easily embarrassed. I think that if any embarrassment is in order it should come from their letter to the R. G. and not from the picture you printed of the colored lady and her small daughter.

I agree with you wholeheartedly in the stand you take in regard to race or creed. I think this race superiority stuff is a menace to our National Security, and belongs back in the days of the Civil War. It surely doesn't belong in our U. S. today.

I do not believe in inter-marriage between people of different races, but I hold that a man is a man regardless of race or creed, and that all U. S. citizens should be treated alike and no discrimination shown. "The Three Musketeers" had the right idea.

"One for all and all for one" I think that this is the only way any nation can hope to survive for any length of time.

Yours for Justice,
E. C. FEGLES,
1680 Park Ave. Eugene, Ore.

DELIVER US!

EUGENE—(To the Editor)—I'll start off by saying I'm White, an American for at least 5 generations and of well mind and legal age. I came to Oregon on July 24, 1948 from Pontiac, Michigan. I believe this information necessary in view of what I'm going to write.

After reading Mr. and Mrs. Alcorn's letter one can readily understand the mess the entire world finds itself in. I had no idea Eugene harbored prejudice. They say they've lived in Lane County for 12 years. I wonder where they came from. I saw the colored lady and her child pictured in the Register-Guard and saw nothing to be embarrassed about. There is too many colored people in the U. S. to close one's eyes and pretend they aren't here. Also they're having children the same as people of other races so there's going to be more of them.

It is perfectly evident the complainants are not acquainted with any colored folk. I happen to know a few of them in my home town and have seen a few here but do not know them. I think the Alcorns would find that even the Negro will agree there are good ones and bad ones. I also know a few good and a few bad white people. My husband and I have friends from every country in Europe, also Canada, Mexico, Russia and a few Jews. We're proud of that fact. Proud that we've been invited to their homes and learned a little about their ways and customs and traditions. It's very interesting and educational, and some long lasting friendships have developed. The Negroes seldom if ever ask a white person into their homes as they know they'll only be rewarded with snubs, so I've never been in one's home, but I know from the colored boys and girls I went to school with that their homes are typically American. The Negro, Mr. Editor, not only gets the tail end of housing but the tail end of jobs, education and the "milk of human kindness."

At for the Alcorns being embarrassed at showing their friends in Arizona the picture of the colored lady and child, I take it for granted the friends are as prejudiced as they. I saw a few colored people in Prescott and Phoenix, too, last summer so they aren't unknown down there. Perhaps they believe in treating the Negro as they do the Indian.

Oregon is a wonderful state, as the population growth proves. More and more people are coming here, among them will be the Negroes. They have every right to and aren't going away just because a few people refuse to admit they are here. He and his children as well as the Indian and his children are ordered to fight and die if necessary to preserve the "American way of life" and yet are denied the right to enjoy that same way of life in many of our states. I have never heard of any crime committed by a Negro that some white man hasn't equalled or surpassed.

It's time this country decides to do something good for the Negro and Indian and "step on" the little Hitler before they become the problem, and "Please, God deliver Lane County from prejudice."

Mrs. Ray Coffey
Rt. 1, Box 10, Springfield, Ore.

SPRINGFIELD WOMAN OPPOSES PEJUDICE

SPRINGFIELD—(To the Editor) — Prejudices of any sort are an abomination and why so many otherwise intelligent people feel the way they do about the colored people is more than I can understand.

I've never the Editor of the Register-Guard had nothing for or against the Gentleman until I read the "Editor's Note" following the Don Alcorns letter and I'm sure for him from here on out.

It's nothing short of disgraceful for a person to be judged by their color alone. How would some of us white people fare if judged by those students. I attended High School in Spokane, Wash. and there was a colored boy in my class — his intelligence, manners and clothes compared favorably with the best white boys in the class and if I chanced along at the same time he did enroute to another classroom I walked and talked with him, the same as I did the white class mates. One of the girls in the group I ran around with made an awful fuss about it and told me I either had to stop it or she wouldn't go round with me, so I told her if that's the way she felt it was OK by me, but I had to have a better reason to snub our class mate, so while I never went out of my way to be nice to the colored boy I treated him the same as I always had.

I've always been sorry for the colored people and hope and pray I live to see the day that most of this prejudice is overcome. I was quite pleased when I saw the picture in the R.G. the Alcorns referred to and wish I could put the photographer on the back. Do it again sometime, buddy.

Sincerely yours,
(MRS.) B. F. SMITH

QUESTION—ANSWER

EUGENE—(To the Editor) — When the city paid \$50,000.00 of the taxpayers money for the mill race what did they get?

Why does the mill race association now have to get property assessments for the mill race when the city already paid \$50,000.00 for what?

Or did this \$50,000.00 purchase by the city involve only the mill race North of Broadway?

An answer to the above questions, published in your paper, would be appreciated by a great many taxpayers.

Yours very truly,
R. U. BRONSON.

EDITOR'S NOTE: — The city acquired all rights—and responsibilities—in the Millrace from the intake at Judkins Point to the outlet into the Willamette river near Ferry Street bridge, including power plant which was later sold for some \$7500. Main value was the right-of-way for highway and future bridge structures from Broadway to new bridge site over river—in terms of dollars—but many feel that the recreational values of the stream from Broadway to Judkins Point have even greater real value. Just what the City's responsibilities are to restore that portion of the stream not used for highway will require a thorough search of law by attorneys, but it seems fairly certain that a stream which has been in PUBLIC use 97 years cannot be abandoned lightly any more than can a public street on which people have built homes or services counting on flow of water. Furthermore, the people have voted \$20,000 bonds for restoration of the stream. Even if Millrace Association had not offered to raise matching funds, it seems likely the city could be compelled either to restore the stream or pay cost of filling. The city got more than its \$50,000 worth in right-of-way. The value of a restored stream in terms of public use and civic beauty is much harder to compute, but it would cost many times \$50,000 to create such a waterway.

Editor's Mail Bag

FEED SQUAWS

SPRINGFIELD—(To the Editor) — It seems to me it would be easy for all of us to embrace Russian Communism if we could forever be "Just be a spectator."

My experience of observing one of a "Plato Republic" many years ago was as such.

The men folk wandered around wearing nothing but G-string and moccasins.

The supply of food issued consisted of dried fruits and vegetables and lard, etc. The supplies were kept in bins and in front of each bin was a husky brave with a small scoop.

As the squaws walked by with aprons outstretched, the first brave hit it with a scoop of lard, the next with dried prunes, the next peas, and then dried beans, etc.

The dried vegetables hitting those buckskin aprons stretched tight were like the roll of snare drums and the squaws were employed for many hours. Beside the duties of caring for many papooses, she had to first get the dried peas, beans and prunes and sundry separated from the bulk lard, and after that separate the beans from the peas and so forth.

I picked up a dried prune out of an apron of one, and asked the lady if they were good to eat. She said Sure him good, but squaw all time much busy, pickin, pickin, pickin.

The point is that this was an action which was legal, and communalistic, but was not adopted by any of the spectators that I know of, for applying to economics for their own system of free enterprise.

I believe we ought to be thankful for our Constitution. But to

try to get rid of the administration which is onerous with inconsiderate which would be a fascism.

Yours respectfully,
BURTON M. W.

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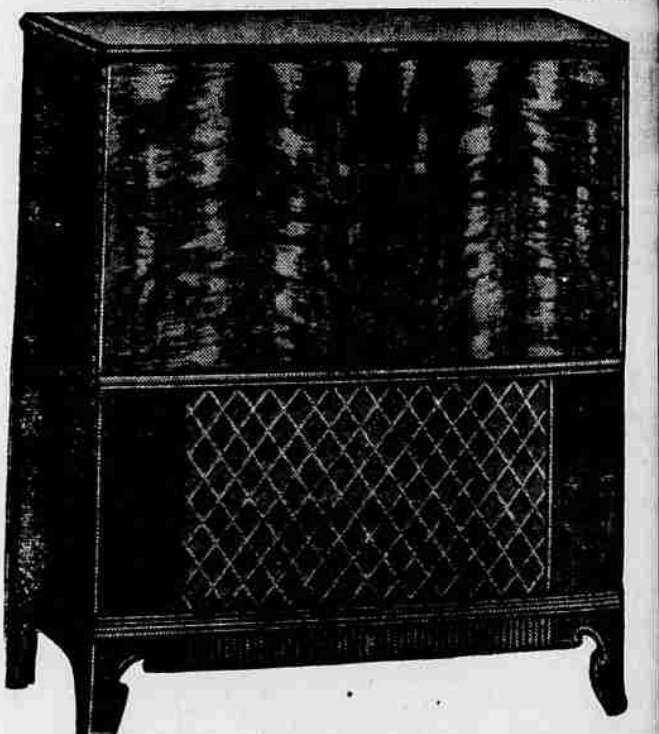
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