

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
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Oregon Democrats on March
Running all through the news and commentaries on the present session of the Oregon legislature are signs that the Democrats in Oregon are on the march. They are still in the minority in the Legislature but they are looking forward to taking Oregon in 1952.

Much of the delay in the legislature is attributed, by the Republicans, to the gyrations of Dick Neuberger and his Demo colleagues who are accused of trying to make the 1949 Oregon Legislature look like the late lamented 80th Congress.

"This is the most 'political' session in Oregon history," one old timer told us on a recent visit to Salem. "The Democrats have introduced all kinds of social legislation and they are forever making speeches and they do everything but show us what to use for money to carry out some of their fancy schemes."

At this time and at this distance, it is not possible to judge which side is getting the better of the "play to the galleries." The FEPC bill adopted by the Legislature was pledged by the Republicans long before Neuberger and his crowd attempted to snatch the credit (with an eye to Portland's increasing negro vote).

The Legislature is not likely to adopt any Memorial on CVA, even the amended and appealing revision which was under discussion last week — and for the very good reason that nobody has yet seen the bill which will be introduced into Congress at President Truman's request. But the Democrats are counting heavily on using CVA to create antagonism to the Republicans in the next campaign.

The Democrats have proposed that legislators be paid \$1200 a year using the specious plea that with a liberal salary a "poor man could afford to be elected" and "ambitious young men trained for future leadership in the nation." But they blithely ignore (as do the Republicans) the fundamental difficulty in Oregon legislation which is that 1949 business cannot be handled on an 1859 setup.

The Democrats have carefully avoided TAXES and other such unpleasant but vital measures. They are friendly to everybody's wants, but content to let the Republicans figure out how to pay the bills. One observer tells us:

"If the Portland papers had stayed closed down we might have been able to wind up this session. Now it looks as if we might be here weeks."

The "fine eye-talian hand" of National Committeeman Monroe Sweetland seems to be in the Democratic strategy, although Neuberger gets more publicity. To say that the Republicans are annoyed by all this demonstrating is to utter one of this year's greatest understatements.

It will be a good thing for Oregon, in our opinion, to have an aggressive and enterprising Democratic Party, but their legislative tactics may not be as smart as they think. Somewhere at the end of the session must come a summing up of accomplishments and the Democrats will be on the spot to show what if anything they have actually contributed to accomplishment. In terms of accomplishment their record is not likely to be impressive. And the people of Oregon are not too easily fooled.

When 1952 rolls around, there will also be the \$64 question for all parties:

"What can you show us in the way of MEN and WOMEN for candidates?"

Oregon has remained "a Republican state" for years not because of the strength of the Republican party as such, but because of the fact that the Democrats have seldom had candidates who could command confidence. Martin won in 1934 when the Republicans "defaulted" in terms of talent.

We would make this observation. The new crop of Democrats is definitely "organization minded." They will be building from the precincts up, using even the tiniest county or state office to strengthen organization. Republicans won't laugh them off.

Mental Health in Lane County

What we are pleased to call modern civilization seems to work much harm to mental health. People crack up under the strains and frustrations and worries to which they are subjected and from a wide variety of physical causes. But there is a new approach to what the late Dean Dillehunt, of the University of Oregon Medical School used to call "the Dark Continent of the Mind."

"This 'dark continent' of mental diseases and disorders is being explored and one of the most important agencies in this work is the National Mental Health Association for which Harold Barton is field representative in this area. Professor Paul Eisner is president of the Lane County chapter, and he is making plans for Mental Health Week which President Truman has designated for April 24 to 30.

"Most mental disorders are not only curable but preventable, if taken in time," says Professor Eisner. "Therefore we emphasize mental health education, community clinics, although we do not omit legislation and institutional needs."

Doctors in Lane County and elsewhere are burdened with cases which are complicated with "mental angles." Every doctor is to

some extent a psychiatrist, but there are a great many cases for which the ordinary physician or surgeon hesitates to prescribe. Everywhere in the country there is a shortage of competent specialists in this field, and as a result all kinds of quacks and pretenders have reaped a golden harvest and done untold harm.

"Did you see Olivia DeHaviland in 'Snake Pit'?"
It was not only a superb picture but a remarkable contribution to mental health education. But it will take a great deal more than one motion picture to overcome the old superstitions about mental disorders, especially the perfectly unnecessary "sense of shame" which is felt by patients and often by their families. There is no good reason either for shame or despair in most cases. On the contrary there is great reason for HOPE. Dillehunt used to say:

"If we spent half a much on clinics and proper diagnosis and treatment as we do on building and running asylums, we might eventually reduce asylum costs to a very small sum."

Good health, either mental or physical, is largely a matter of plain common sense and ordinary decency in living. That is where the Mental Health Association comes in, trying to strip away some of the mystery from "mental diseases," seeking to get a little more intelligent handling of actual cases in clinics and hospitals.

It is a paradox that civilization should drive so many people "nuts," isn't it?

Proposed Measure Before The Legislature

A BILL
For an act relating to and providing for the regulation of certain elections in counties and other taxing districts.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:
Section 1. Notwithstanding any existing provisions of law, no county, municipal corporation or taxing district having the power to levy a tax upon property and which shall be in existence on January 1, of any year, shall on and after January 1, 1950 cause to be submitted to the voters of such county, municipal corporation or taxing district during such year any question relating to fiscal affairs or tax levies, by law required to be submitted to such voters, except as in this act provided. This act shall not apply to the state of Oregon.

Section 2. Whenever it is necessary to submit to the voters of any county, municipal corporation or taxing district a question pertaining to the fiscal affairs or tax levies of such taxing body, the directors or officials discharging the legislative function or the managing board charged with the power and duty of levying taxes for such taxing body shall make and enter an order for a special election to be held on a date as hereinafter provided and shall certify to the county clerk that such special election is necessary, stating the reasons therefor. Such certificate shall be made not less than seventy (70) days before the date of such election. Thereupon the county clerk shall, not less than thirty (30) days before said date of election, issue and mail to the respective judges and clerks of election in the respective election precincts in his county election notices prepared in the same form and manner as for a regular general election, stating thereon that the question so certified to him will be voted upon at such election, and include therein a copy of such certificate of levying body as aforesaid, and thereafter such election shall be held in the manner provided in the general election laws and the vote cast thereon shall be given, counted, returned and canvassed in the same manner as votes for candidates for county officers.

The date of the special election to be contained in the order providing therefor shall be either the third Friday in May or the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, as the case may be, in any year; provided that if any election is to be held throughout the county on said date, the election provided for herein shall be held at the same time and place, and in connection with said regular county elections; provided further, that if in any odd year prior to the time for making a certificate a statewide special election is directed to be held at a date other than as herein specified, such date may be substituted for the date herein specified.

Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to prohibit any county, municipal corporation or taxing district from ordering elections to be held on both dates, provided herein for elections, in the same year.

Section 3. In any year when a regular election is to be held throughout the state or any special election is to be held throughout the state or any county for any other purpose, on the third Friday in May or on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, the notices of election herein provided to be given by the county clerk of each county may be included in the general notice of such election.

Section 4. The question certified as herein provided, when submitted to the vote of the people, shall be stated on the ballot by including in such question the statement of the reasons made by the levying body or board of the county, municipal corporation or taxing district upon whose certificate such election is called and held, and the votes of the people shall be given upon the answers "yes" and "no" in the usual manner of submitting questions to the vote of the people; provided that any special provisions of law or municipal charter relating to the form of ballot to be used by a particular taxing body shall be complied with insofar as they do not conflict with the provisions of this act.

Section 5. Whenever in the opinion of the officials charged with the power and duty of levying taxes for any county, municipal corporation or taxing district an emergency exists whereby it is necessary to refer to the voters of such taxing body a question pertaining to fiscal affairs or tax levies, at an election other than that provided for herein, such officials shall make and enter an order for a special election on said date and shall set forth a date therefor and shall certify to the county court or board of county commissioners of the county in which such district is located or in case of the county by entering a resolution on its records, that such special election is necessary, stating the reasons therefor. Such certificate or resolution shall be made not less than sixty (60) days before the date of such election. If the county court or board of county commissioners shall, in the exercise of its sound discretion, declare that such emergency does in fact exist, it shall make an order directing that such election proceed according to the certificate presented to it or resolution executed and filed by it.

Upon such order of the county court or board of county commissioners, and not otherwise, such election shall proceed and be conducted in the manner provided for in the existing laws relating to such county, municipal corporation or taxing district.

For the purpose of this act an emergency is deemed to exist when some unforeseen disaster, crisis or similar unusual event occurs which seriously impairs the operations and primary functions of the county, municipal corporation or taxing district, and which calls for immediate action or remedy.

Section 6. Nothing in this act shall be construed to prevent the submission to the voters of any county, municipal corporation or taxing district at the elections and on the ballot provided for herein, any question not relating to fiscal affairs or tax levies which would ordinarily be submitted to such voters under existing law.



Editor's Mailbag

EUGENE — (To the Editor) — It's just too bad that the people of Oregon have put their Legislature in such an embarrassing position as they have with the old age pension proposition! It is even worse than it is for the old folks to have to ask for "subsistence" and have to swear that their children are not able to keep them!

Do you old folks remember hearing the children declaim at some school entertainment the poem, "Over the Hills to the Poor House," and trying to wink the tears from your eyes as you envisioned it? You never thought you would come to that. Did you?

Most of the old folks over seventy have been paying taxes some fifty years, and they started helping pay the Civil War Veterans and their wives pensions and kept it up as long as they lived and considered they were honoring them.

They have helped pay the pensions of Civil Service workers, Spanish War Veterans, Veterans of the First World War and the Second World War, as well as helping pay the cost of the wars. They have helped pay Teacher's Pensions, Preachers and even President's. They have helped pay for all our public institutions, highways, bridges and all civic improvements. They were not asked if they could afford it, they just worked harder and gave up luxuries — sugar, lard, white flour, etc., at times.

They are fortunate if they have saved their homes, the unprecedented conditions have used up their savings; the high cost of labor prohibits their carrying on their usual businesses and they are without the pale of "Social Security." Must they be a burden to even their own children?

Would it not be possible to make a canvas of the State as is done

for the Red Cross or other projects and register the names, age and the approximate taxes they have paid, and any public unpaid services they have given during their life time and grant them an honest-to-goodness "pension" as a reward of merit for services well done?

Criminals, the disloyal or those already having pensions being disqualified naturally.
Would it not be worth while to have them feel, in their declining years, that their lives had not been in vain?
Mary H. Hudson

WYNCHA LOOKWERYA GOAN? By David J. Doran

AN ODE
As I rattle down the highway in my '36 sedan,
I do quite a little wondering about my fellow man:
About the guy who's meek and shy when walking down the street.

But a rowdy and a bully when he's in the driver's seat.
Afoot he's quite a social light, his manners are superb,
But he doesn't take 'em with him when he pulls out from the curb.

When he's not in his car a nicer fellow never breathed,
His eye is bright his step is light, his face with smiles is wreathed,
He's a model of deportment and a gentleman clear through.

An inspiration to our youth and to their elders, too.
But when he slides behind the wheel an awful change takes place,
And he becomes the enemy of all the human race.

The way he acts out on the road soon makes it pretty clear
That all his lovely manners are hypocrisy and fear—
The only time that he's polite to all his fellow creatures.

Is when he knows that if he aint they'll rearrange his features.



So you're driving to California

We hope you have a pleasant trip, with a minimum of slippery highways, road hogs, and unsolicited advice from the back seat on how to drive, where to stop for meals, and where to spend the night.

Of course, you might be a bit more comfortable if you went by train and let the engineer do the work. You'd arrive rested, instead of tired out. And you'd avoid those persistent "Next time, try the train" billboards which (we warn you) will make you wish you'd taken their advice in the first place.

It doesn't cost a great deal to go to California on the train. Why not call Southern Pacific and get the dope—just in case?

P.S. If you need a car when you get there, you can rent a good one at low rates. We'll gladly arrange it for you.

S.P. The friendly Southern Pacific
R. E. DEAN, Agent Phone 2200

He feels it's safe to be his ugly self out on the highway. He ought to be compelled to walk, and would if I had my way.

ROAD HOGS
SPRINGFIELD — (To the Editor) — Perhaps Spring isn't here yet, or even close, but it's close enough for us stump-lot Shelleys to reload our trusty Parkers, burn a little incense at Clio's altar, and spoil some poor linotypers' day with a couple hundred lines of lurching doggerel. This quaint old custom is probably a modification of an early American sport called "Hoss-whipping the Editor." In view of the fact that the Register-Guard has been very kind to me, I have limited my annual outburst to a mere three stanzas, and will now suspend operations in this line until next Spring.
DAVID J. DORAN
325 17th St.

James Wolfe, the conqueror of Quebec, was made a brigadier general in the British Army at 31. A year later, when he was killed in battle, he was a major-general.

WOMEN!

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More Planes Join Search

Two additional airplanes were being dispatched from Hamilton Air Base, California, to Eugene Monday to aid in the search for missing pilot Frank Hulme. Lt. Donald L. Copenhaver, Air Force officer in charge of operations, announced the planes will boost the total Air Force light planes to two L-13s and three L-5s, in addition to two PBVs which have taken part in the search. Several private planes also have taken part.

Meanwhile the air and ground search entered the third week Monday, with negative results reported to date. Hulme, a private flyer from Menlo Park, California, was enroute to Sacramento from Kelso, Washington, when his surplus BT-13 training plane was reported low on fuel near Eugene March 1. Copenhaver said the search has totaled more than 220 flying hours, and will continue several days more.

Murray Says T-H Act Is 'Loaded' Weapon

WASHINGTON — (UP) — CIO President Philip Murray told the House Labor Committee Monday that the Taft-Hartley Labor Act is a "deadly weapon, loaded against labor." In a letter to the committee, Murray said that the "vast majority of people of good will in this land have no use for the law and have come to recognize its dangerous effects." A House labor subcommittee is considering repeal of the Taft-Hartley Law and re-enactment of the Wagner Labor Relations Act with certain "improvements." The Senate Labor Committee already has approved the measure.

Acts At ONCE to Relieve and 'Loosen' BAD COUGHS and HOARSENESS (CAUSED BY COLDS)
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