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**EDITOR AND PUBLISHER** Alton F. Baker  
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**Doctors Convene and They're 'Mad'**

Members of the Oregon Medical Society are flocking into Eugene for their 75th annual meeting and they're "mad." The usual professional papers will be read under long and incomprehensible synthetic Latin-Greek titles (because we have yet to find a doctor who talks plain English when he refers to the liver or the spleen), but the real business of the session will be to discuss the threat of "socialized medicine" and more particularly the high-handed tactics of the Truman administration in trying to force through the health insurance program.

Everybody has read of the anti-trust suits which have been levied at medical associations in many parts of the country, among them Oregon, but how many people are aware that the FBI and the agents of the Income Tax department have been used to comb the records of medical associations and of individual doctors. In one case in Chicago, there is evidence of entry by night into the offices of the American Medical Association to search for records. In a formal statement the AMA says:

"Certainly it will be a travesty on justice if the Anti-Trust Division of the Justice Department can be used to silence opposition to the creation of a Government trust in medicine. If the POLICE ARM of the government is used to intimidate doctors and others, it may be used to terrorize any other minority in the nation."

The medical profession has brought some of its troubles upon itself by its reluctance to police itself to get rid of the gougers and grasps who have turned the "healing arts" into a commercial enterprise, although the percentage of such people is not greater in the medical profession than in any other. The medical profession as a whole is guilty of being reactionary, insofar as it has been slow to recognize the need for cooperative medicine and hospitalization, and insofar as it still resists legitimate efforts to supplement inadequate private funds to develop more adequate hospital and medical service.

Most doctors give liberally of their time and skill to charity, but the profession as a whole cannot take refuge behind this fact to cover its failure to attack and propose remedies for many of the public health problems which it faces. Even with the doctors of Oregon the guests of Eugene, it is not our purpose to avoid some of the issues between the profession and its public.

But we do say, the tactics which the Truman administration is using against the doctors are AN OUTRAGE against all our American principles of justice and decency. The federal government is not dealing with Al Capone and his mobs but with American citizens, the members of a profession whose contributions to the public good far outweigh any sins which they may have committed, either as groups or as individuals.

The doctors have a right to be indignant. They have the right to warn the rest of us that this type of government terrorism is our battle also.

**Looks Like Navy Has a Case**

For many years the Navy was the "fair haired child" in our national defense "family," especially under Franklin D. Roosevelt who never attempted to conceal his love for ships and seafaring men. Since World War II, the Air Force has succeeded to the Role of favorite. This competition for preference lies behind all the squabbles and is playing hob with the efforts at unification under one Department of National Defense.

(It is a human situation which should be easily understood here in Oregon where we have struggled for years to obtain "unification" in higher education).

However, it is our belief that the squabbles cannot be dismissed as mere competition for preference. If it were only that, the severest discipline should be visited upon Capt. John D. Crommelin and others in the Navy's high command who may have conspired with him in the move to "break the censorship" on Navy opinion. It is wiser to believe that Capt. Crommelin and his associates would not have risked their careers, if they had not believed devoutly that they had a story to tell. They should not be "crucified" as Billy Mitchell was in the early days of Air Force when he brought upon himself the wrath of "high brass" in both Army and Navy by insisting they must recognize the growth of air power. In effect the Navy people are telling Congress:

"If we put all our eggs in one basket we'll be sorry. If we try to build all strategy and tactics around the Air Force's B-36, we'll be sorry."

As to the merits of any plane, no layman is equipped to judge. As to the need for integrated development of every weapon and every branch of service, there can be no dispute—if you accept as basic the proposition that not even an atomic war can be won by any quick stroke with any single weapon. There is still a lot of truth in the grim maxim:

"Wars are won finally by men taking and holding ground, and most of the time they're on their bellies."

Control of the seas is also ancient doctrine

and still particularly sound for world war but only because without sea power it is impossible to move ground forces to the places where they hold ground. The air is "another sea." And all of the tanks and far-reaching rockets and mechanized devices are merely improvements to increase range and mobility and the cover for the moving in of men and supplies. Hitler almost won because the French tried to reduce defense to the Maginot line and simple theory.

It is a shame that so much time and talent and substance must be expended on military preparations when the only real defense against wars must come through international law and order and understanding, and perhaps we should pray for the day when all the "high brass" will be looking for other occupations. Unfortunately, that's a long way off.

The problem at Washington is going to be to suppress those squabbles which are purely petty and selfish without shifting anybody who has any real contribution to make to defense. Louis Johnson, as secretary of defense has a tough job cracking down on ambitious generals and admirals in every branch, and he seems to have erred in trying to "shush" public arguments. The public needs to know "what cooks" because if another war comes, we'll all be in it, and we'll lay odds it won't be over quick, as we'll be using every weapon in the book. Planes played a big part in the last war, but we recall going out once during 1942 to round up a lot of plain old bowie knives for some of the boys who were doing belly work in the jungles.

(Note: United Nations might make more progress if those lads could take lessons from the defense squabblers and stage more interesting public fights).

**A Friendly Note From 'Jebby'**

In the day's mail is a pleasant little note from C. Girard Davidson, assistant secretary of the interior, and Harry Truman's number one leg man for the establishment of a Columbia Valley Administration, nee Authority. Jebby is one of the most delightful gentlemen that ever came out of the great state of Louisiana. He has brought with him his southern drawl and the fine art of making the "needle" practically painless. Says Jebby:

"I have just had the pleasure of reading your editorial of September 15 entitled 'Please Lay Dem Pistols Down' (referring to the rough handling of some of the natives up around Lowell who were dispossessed to make way for the Meridian Dam.)

Here comes the needle:

"The last part of your editorial points out how much better things can be handled when they are done close to home. As you know, I agree with this philosophy and point of view 100 per cent. I have always felt that because of your basic belief in home rule and being the most ardent advocate of this in the region, you should be one of the main supporters of the decentralization of the Federal agencies so as to require that the work be done closer home and closer to the people who are affected. I feel that some of us have done a very poor job in showing you what the CVA really hopes to do with Federal agencies, since this is one of its main purposes."

There is a little thing called VOTING REPRESENTATION for the people of the Northwest in the governing board of the proposed CVA which has been totally omitted from the present CVA bill and from every one of its predecessors. Perhaps we are naive to expect Jebby to share our view of the importance of voting representation since he comes from the great state of Huey Long where voting was merely a counting process. Now that Jebby has become an Oregonian, by residence, there is some talk among the democrats of running Jebby for senator to replace the iniquitous Wayne Morse. We would like to see Jebby have the benefit of this educational process. Both ends of the needle are sharp.

**WASHINGTON LETTER**  
 BY DOUGLAS LARSEN  
 NEA Staff Correspondent

**UNCLE SAM SENDS TWO TOP OFFICIALS TO RUN GUAM—BOTH LACKING IN EXPERIENCE**

WASHINGTON — (NEA) — Whether or not the new civilian governorship which Uncle Sam is now installing on Guam provides them with better government, the Guamanians should at least end up thinking that they are better off than they were before. The two top U.S. officials who will be installing the change and running most of the activities on the island from now on are high-level government public relations experts.

The new civilian governor of the tiny Pacific island who will take over if confirmed by the Senate is Carlton Skinner. He is now public relations director for the Interior Department. During the war he was a lieutenant in the Coast Guard.

Helping Skinner to step into his new job, and director of all the naval forces on Guam, is Adm. Edward C. Ewen, the man who ran Navy's public relations through the thick of the hectic fight over the B-36. He was sent out there a few months ago. Neither of the men have any experience in running island governments.

**Mysterious Human Element**  
 Veterans' Administration has discovered that you can mechanize federal office procedure only so far, and then the human element steps in to bog down the works. On the application blanks for the dividends on GI insurance—which have been pouring in at the rate of 1,000,000 per day since the blanks became available—VA specifically directs that the veteran should not staple or fasten together the two halves of the form. The two halves are part of the same card and should just be folded before being dropped in the mail.

The hundreds of complicated office machines which the VA had had designed to sort and file these cards were built to take the forms folded, not fastened. But to the dismay of the officials who thought they had every bug out of the dividend-handling process, a big fraction of the applications have been coming in securely fastened with many staples or bound together with scotch tape.

Before these fastened cards could be put in the processing machines, a large crew of "staple pullers" and "scotch tape cutters" had to be set up. This neglect of directions will cost the VA plenty.

**Editor's Mailbag**

**ROAD TROUBLE**

WINBERRY—(To the Editor)—Crack, snap! goes another spring. "Rip, another tire ruined. 'Clatter-clatter,' a muffler torn off. 'Bump, bump, bump,' that's a car in the ditch, it's steering gear is wrecked. No, folks, this is not a wrecking house, it's just the Winberry Road. Drive over it at your own risk. A flat boulder in front of our house measures sixteen by thirty-seven inches, and there are many more as big or bigger along the road. How will surface gravel ever stay on things like that (if we ever get gravel)? Our road has big roots, and pieces of wood embedded in it. These will rot and make chuck holes. Sharp rocks and big boulders stick up inches high, without pretense of covering, all the way from the Winberry Bridge to the Sailor place.

An official of the Vancouver Plywood Company, (the outfit responsible for the condition of our road), asked me why we were kicking; that we had a better road than we had ever had before. I told him that at least we didn't have to drive over a big pile of boulders to get back on the road and that the Winberry Road is worse now than it ever has been. We have been told that the Forest Service is partly responsible for the condition of our road. It is a sure thing that they don't stand for this kind of boulders or construction in the forest reserve. Just ride up Winberry and you can tell with your eyes shut when you hit the Forest road.

Maybe if we didn't have to keep up our own cars and could get another one anytime the old one started to rattle, we wouldn't think it was so bad. Does our county court intend to spend all our road money paving roads to their homes and the homes of their relatives, forgetting that quite a number of taxpayers live up here in the sticks? I haven't mentioned the troubles of logging truck operators, as my letter is too long already. I'll get them next time.

Mrs. H. W. Barney.

**SQUEAK WAS A CAT**

WILSON CREEK, Wash.—(U.P.) Three Wilson Creek women could not understand the strange squeak coming from the motor of their car as they were out driving. They finally stopped to investigate and, lifting the hood of the car, they found a cat clinging to the top of the storage battery, more dead than alive. They lifted the groggy feline to the ground.

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**EXPERT SLIPS UP**

PAOLA, Kan. — (U.P.) — Miss Thelma Rand, drivers' license agent, forwarded 2860 applications to the Kansas motor vehicle commissioner and got only one back for correction, hers. Miss Rand forgot to sign her own application.

**SPOONER NEVER DID BETTER**

MELBOURNE, Australia — (U.P.) — I. J. Greenwood, president of the students' representative council at Melbourne University, will have a time living down his words of welcome to overseas students. Flustered Greenwood called them "overstewed seedents."

**FIRST LADY RETIRES**  
 CINCINNATI, O. — (U.P.) — Miss Augusta Brehme, first woman police telephone operator in the city, has retired after 41 years with the Cincinnati & Suburban Bell Telephone Co. She spent 30 of the years at the police exchange.

**STAMPS FOR GROWING**  
 MEMPHIS, Tenn. — (U.P.) — The delivery boy in a package and instructions to collect 40 cents. The boy with 41 cents and three stamps.

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