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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. A newspaper is a CITIZEN OF ITS COMMUNITY.
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PAGE 4 EUGENE, OREGON, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1952

Cities Want Bigger Highway Bite

For many years cities have been receiving 25 per cent of the federal-aid funds for highways. Now through the powerful American Municipal Association they are asking Congress for a bigger bite, and although no specific percentage is suggested, they are emphasizing the point that 50 per cent of the federal highway revenues (gas tax) is collected within cities.

Last year and for some years past Congress has been appropriating \$500,000,000 for all the federal-aid highways in the 48 states, of which \$225 million went to primary highways, \$150 million to secondaries (and some county roads), \$125 million to highways within cities.

(An additional \$10 million for two years was allocated to "defense roads" and \$25 million to federal forest roads.)

Oregon's share is a little under \$7 million — on the time-tested formula, based on the population, area and mileage of the 48 states, of which approximately \$3,150,000 (45 per cent) went to primary highways; \$2,100,000 to secondaries (30 per cent); the 25 per cent for cities in Oregon being about \$1,750,000. In the present Congress there are three bills:

HR 6094 — The Administration bill which would reduce federal aid 20 per cent to \$400 million but retain the present formula for allocation giving \$200 million to primaries, \$100 million to secondaries, and \$100 million to cities.

HR 6390 — which would raise federal aid 20 per cent to \$600 million plus \$150 more for defense highways. It would not alter the percentage of distribution and would provide \$270 million for primaries, \$180 million for secondaries, and \$150 million for cities, and on top of that \$150 million for defense roads.

HR 6180 — which would provide the same 20 per cent increase in the customary allocations to primaries, secondaries and cities, with an additional \$100 million for "interstate defense highways" — \$700 million in all.

For years the western and southern states have resisted efforts by the more populous eastern and industrial states to change the formula for allocation between states, giving more weight to

population and less to area and mileage. Such a change would be disastrous for such a state as Oregon with 7,500 miles of state highway and only 1 per cent of the nation's population.

The demand to up the percentage for cities without changing the formula for allocation between states is not so bad, because Oregon would still get its proportionate share of the federal-aid total, and the money could be used to good advantage within cities. BUT — it would certainly slow down construction between cities.

One thing that needs to be set straight is the illusion that Uncle Sam is a Santa Claus in highway building. In Oregon we pay a total of 8 cents a gallon gas tax, of which 6½ cents is state tax and 1½ cents is federal. In the present year we may collect close to \$30 million in state gas tax and about \$7 million in federal gas tax. We get back in federal aid just about what we pay in. In the overall program we contribute in the ratio of about 4 to 1.

Of the measures before Congress our preference is for HR 6180 which recognizes the importance of interstate highways in defense, in distinction to local defense roads (which should be built out of military funds).

We do not think Congress should accept the 20 per cent cut proposed by the Administration because, although drastic economies are needed in these times of crisis, cutting down on highway needs could be penny wise and pound foolish. Increased costs justify a 20 per cent increase in the "normal" federal aid.

If we could make a choice, it would be to leave the apportionment of federal aid for cities (above the present 25 per cent) to the discretion of the highway commission in each state. They are in far better position than Congress to pass on current needs. Within limits the highway commissions should be free to make the allocations for urban or rural needs.

So You Want to Be One of Those Writers?

According to Gorham Munson of Hermitage House, Inc., at least one million Americans aspire to be Writers (with a capital W). Of these 70,000 are holding down salaried writing jobs and hoping for the lightning of fame and fortune to strike. Only about 10,000 writers are self-employed, peddling their stuff to the major markets of books, stage, screen, magazines, radio and television. The aggregate income of these 10,000 free lancers is about \$30-million a year, or only about \$3,000 apiece. The number of writers in the "big money" is pitifully small.

So much for "Life on 1952's Grub Street" as reported by a panel of experts in the current Saturday Review. The book business in particular has fallen on hard times, what with enormously inflated printing costs and markets which have been depleted by the competition of ready-made entertainment in the form of television, radio, movies. During 1951 only 8765 new books were published, including textbooks, technical books, mail order books, and many classifications not represented in book stores. Lots of book stores (about 70) have been going out of business, thereby reducing the outlets for both publishers and authors. Mr. Munson states:

"Only about 100 authors of new books each year will realize from their sales \$3000 and upwards — in a few instances, very much upwards; the rest will earn from, say, \$500 to a couple of thousand for their work."

Of course, there is always the chance that even if a book doesn't sell very well as a book, the author and his publishers may make a killing on the movie or dramatic rights. This gamble makes the prospects interesting. It also creates a condition under which book publication is to some degree dependent on the "subsides" from the more profitable allied industries.

The author of today must be a merchant as well as an artist, according to Fletcher Pratt who reports on the "double life" of a book author. Mr. Pratt does not pretend to be a genius. He is a free-lance reporter who makes his living by digging up stories which were missed or slighted by the daily

press and finding the appropriate market for them in all kinds of trade journals and specialized magazines.

"Ah, yes, but the really smart writer will not try to peddle his own stuff. He will get himself on the roster of some topflight literary agent and let the agent do the worrying about selling the stuff."

Alan C. Collins, manager of Curtis Brown, Ltd., has a lot to say about literary agents. The literary agent or broker is a very necessary and usually honorable character in the writer's world. He sets up an office, maintains a staff and has contacts with all of the purchasers for every type of stuff—and all he wants is "ten per cent of the author's life." In fact, the agent is still collecting his ten per cent long after the author's death if the writings continue to have sale.

In the agency field, the current evil is a tendency toward monopoly. As the margins of profit diminish the agent tends to want and need an increasing percentage for his cut. There are still literary agents who play the traditional role of father-confessor and friend to the author but the agencies tend to become more and more impersonal and commercial in their viewpoint.

All sorts of remedies are proposed to improve the lot of the author, but there is only one point on which all seem to agree:

"Authorship is desperately hard work. The person who hopes to be a successful author must rid himself of the illusion that the payoff is on genius. It requires anywhere from six months to ten years to write a respectable book. The agencies of writing are usually preceded or accompanied by months of laborious digging and research. Most of the great names in the literary business have been built by hard work."

It seems to us it was Thomas Edison who said that genius was one-tenth inspiration and nine-tenths sweat. Books will continue to be written because out of the millions who think about writing there will always be a few who have the indomitable urge to create. Perhaps it is a good thing that the number of books published has dropped because so few are really worth the good white paper or the printing labor which they use, or the library space which they clutter up.

Marquis Childs

Taft's Optimism Said Disquieting

WASHINGTON — Within the Taft camp the confident sense of victory is like a heady wine. This is more than just professional optimism whipped up to convince the doubters. It represents a conviction that the prize of nomination is now within the grasp of the determined men who make up the Taft high command.

But with this mounting confidence there has developed an attitude that some Republicans find deeply disquieting. And this is true not only among those working actively for the draft of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower. Included are lifelong Republicans who have declined thus far to take sides, hoping above all to find a winning candidate on whom most of the party could agree.

The attitude in the Taft organization is increasingly thus: "You're either for us or you're against us. And if you're against us, it's just too bad for you." In the flood of dubious oratory traditionally marking Lincoln's birthday pro-Taft men were everywhere conspicuous. Unless you were pro-Taft, some senators are saying, you were not eligible to speak at a party rally. Representation from the eastern seaboard states at these political pep meetings was negligible.

TENTATIVE INVITATIONS were extended to two eastern senators — one pro-Eisenhower and one neutral — to speak in Michigan. A little later these invitations were withdrawn. This same attitude was reflected in the cold shoulder given Arthur Vandenberg, Jr., son of the late senator and organizer of Eisenhower clubs throughout the country, when he canvassed the possibility of running for the senate in his home state.

The growing exclusiveness of this approach is what worries loyal party men who are fearful of a split in the ranks that could do great harm in the fall campaign. The danger, as they see it, is that the Taft crowd will draw an even more rigid line. On one side will be fundamentalist Republicans. On the other side will be the outcasts who have dared to vary by a hair's breadth from the old-time Republican religion. Discussing this prospect, a senator in the neutral camp put it as follows:

"Both in the Republican national committee and in the Taft organization a palace guard is closing in. They're determined to read out anybody who doesn't jump to their orders."

"That's exactly what the palace guard around Tom Dewey did in 1948. You couldn't get a new idea in to him. But now it's begun six months earlier."

"THAT PALACE GUARD" was one of the reasons Dewey lost in 1948. They were so all-fired sure they were going to win that they didn't need anyone's help, not even the help of the voters. Now with that same thing beginning six months before it began the other time, we've got a good chance of throwing away what should be a certainty. It's a pretty sad business when you find that attitude taking hold of people so early."

Those who are concerned about the rigidity of this approach to the '52 contest are not thinking about the so-called independent vote. They are aware that within the Republican party itself are many who cannot be expected to subscribe 100 per cent to the Taft line.

Nor are the differences confined to the eastern seaboard. One of the party's best vote-getters and most conspicuous assets, Governor Earl Warren of California, is opposed to Taft on a number of issues. So is Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon who also proved in 1950 to have outstanding vote appeal.

What seems pretty clear is that there are just not enough fundamentalist Republicans to win an election for a nominee who won't have anyone but fundamentalists in his camp. It is a fine, exclusive club. But the vital statistics show that it has been growing smaller year by year.

SENATOR TAFT has several times spoken with scarcely concealed scorn of the independent vote. He seems to think he can win in November without it. He may be right, but surely, no Republican can win without the untold support of his own party.

Increasingly, it looks as though the pressure of events would result in a Taft-Truman contest. That would present many voters with a highly distasteful choice. Doubtful of Taft's stand on foreign policy, they are at the same time fed up on what has been going on in Washington. Faced with this choice, the independents and even many nominal Democrats might go fishing on election day. In that event regular Republicans turning out in full numbers might elect their man. And it could be that this is the very circumstance on which the Taft camp is counting in their growing optimism.

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So They Say—

It has been its (the Truman administration) policy to utilize our undevastated resources, our unexploited cities, our unequal financial and productive ability, to prevent another world conflict which might destroy civilization—Vice President Alben Barkley.



JESUS' TOLERANCE

"Bless, and curse not." Romans 12:14
As Jesus in The Temple taught... A woman taken in sin was brought... And she was to be stoned to death... But Jesus asked, Who witnesseth?... And called for him to cast a stone... Who had no misdeeds of his own... No man accused her as before... So He said go and sin no more... Are you toward sin adamant... But to The Sinner tolerant?
JULIEN C. HYER

All Ready for Alaska and Hawaii



In The Editor's Mailbag

E. C. M. A.*

A concert tonight: what a wonderful evening 'twill be!
I believe that the artist is Marion Anderson; she,
Who has sung before monarchs
and critics of numerous lands,
Will be here in our Court.
Such occasion our presence
demands.

How rapidly people arrive for the music tonight!
It would seem that they all
have looked forward with
greatest delight

To this moment. The house lights
go out and the people expectantly
pause;

At last she appears; the building
is filled with applause.
She has bowed to our clapping
and waits for a quiet to come.

When our noises subside she
is ready; but now there are
some

Ill-bred cattle whose clattering
hoofs can be heard on the stairs
As their chattering, prattling
progress they make to their
chairs.

With remarkable poise she regards
their impossible gall,
Till at last they have settled;
each heifer and steer in his
stall.

Like a glorious product of powers
beyond our low plane,
She sends forth such a beautiful
melody none can but
strain

Every sense to be certain to hear
each great note. What a joy
To be able to witness the excellence
she can employ.

But again, as Miss Anderson tries
to begin her next song,
Can be heard in the hall such a
thundering, blundering
throng

That to sing would be hopeless.
So calmly she stands on the stage

And refrains from her singing.
Oh how in her heart
she must rage

At such insolent treatment, yet
outwardly showing no sign
Of disturbance, she valiantly
waits for the noise to decline.

It would seem as if somehow
these idiots might learn that
they

Can not hope to establish a
bad reputation that way.
Yet they seem so engrossed in
their own little selves, that to
tell

Them of decency only insults,
and makes thicker the shell.
Even yet they have not fully
finished their petty decorum.

But, soon as the program is
finished, they rise from the
forum

And quickly depart (now their
duty's accomplished). No care
Do they give for the encores
which follow that program
so fair.

With kindness and courtesy still,
the great artist returns
To the stage for an encore;
her beautiful voice she now
turns

To the wonderful Ave Maria; and,
breathlessly still,
Those who stayed listen rapidly
to matchless perfection,
until,

With a crash that resounds through
the hall, someone slams shut the
door,
And perfection the bores have
succeeded in wrecking once
more.

*Modestly dedicated to that
distinguishing organization, the Eugene
Cattle Movers' Association.
R. K. LEIK,
630 E. 13th, Eugene.

Rug Business
TEHRAN, Iran—(AP)—Oil-rich,
cash-short Iran announced
Thursday she is stripping
government offices of her Persian
carpets and selling them to raise
money. She also is selling 1000
government automobiles.

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Scientist Gives 'Lights' Theory
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Dr. Donald H. Menzel, physicist and associate director for solar research at Harvard University, said the streamers of light are caused by hydrogen gas from outer space breaking through the earth's magnetic field.

When the gas breaks through, the scientist said, the hydrogen particles become luminous upon contact with the earth's atmosphere some 200 miles above the earth's surface.

Menzel, a visitor to the University of Colorado high altitude observatory here, based his theory on findings of the Harvard-Corcoran and the Yerkes and Cornell observatories.

The Colorado observatory discovered the sun shoots out streamers of almost pure hydrogen gas, and the earth is continually plowing through the gas formations.

Menzel believes the energy and heat thrown off by the hydrogen atoms could have an important effect on both weather and radio reception.

FLORENCE—(To the Editor)—

Headlines saying the racial issue arises in Eugene make us aware of present tolerance. Approximately one tenth of all people in the United States are Negroes. The Negro is one emigrant that did not come to our shores to exploit the wealth of the new world. The victim of white man's cruelty and greed he came with chains on his legs and a blacksnake whip on his naked back to make his brutal master wealthy. Even though he is as much God's creation as the rest of us he was bred and sold and handled like an animal. Years later when the Great Emancipator Abraham Lincoln broke the bonds of slavery some whites took joy in trying to prove the inferiority of this human that had been kept in an animal environment for generations. What would the white man have been under the same conditions? Is it any wonder some of the old negroes used to say, "white man told us it is no harm to steal from white man."

Scientists tell us there is no all around superior race. All races have weaknesses and strong points and that individuals within each racial group vary more than the averages of any two races. Hitler thought the Nordics were superior but his ideas seem to have gone to pot.

Parts of our country have one justice for whites and another for blacks. I know an honest hard-working negro that was traveling through Arkansas a few years ago on a stock train. He got off at a station and entered a grocery store to purchase food. The groceryman said, "What are you doing in my store?" The Negro said, "I am hungry, I want to buy something to eat and I have money."

The merchant became furious and said "You black so-and-so get out of my store before I kill you." That was the southerners' idea of keeping the Negro in his place, a common idea in the south.

We Oregonians don't want to smile too much when we remember what Portland did to the toleration ordinance it had up.

Neither do we want to forget what the south does to President Truman's Civil Rights Bill. It is high time we grew up and dropped these childish ideas about intolerance. The Negro deserves social, industrial and legal equality but no special favors of any kind because he is not superior. Negroes contrary to popular opinion are not eager to marry whites or have their children attend white schools. They want to marry their own kind be given a fair chance to make a living for their families and have as good schools for their children as whites have for theirs. Why shouldn't they pay the same taxes?

Our Communist enemies sometimes point out the existing intolerance in the United States and it hurts because we know a lot of it is true. However in the south Negroes have been given more rights in the last ten years than in the century before. Communi-

ties in Arkansas now point with pride to the excellent schools they provide for Negro children. Nearly all southern universities have opened their enrollments to qualified Negro students. Let us go on until we have complete fairness and justice for the negroes and all other minority groups.
S. P. Wilkerson

Honey In Parlor
BELMONT, Mass. — (U.P.) — Mrs. Arthur Tinkham keeps a beehive in her parlor sun window "for the entertainment of guests." She has a dozen other hives in her backyard and says honey has just about banished the sugar bowl from her home.

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