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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, MARCH 7, 1952

Bar Counties From City Functions?

In California, the League of Cities is planning to ask the legislature for a law forbidding counties from engaging in city functions in unincorporated suburban areas, which, in the view of the cities ought to be annexed. The reasons are rather obvious.

City property is a heavy contributor to all county taxes.

Suburban property contributes nothing (directly) to city taxes. To the extent that a county sets up services which duplicate those offered by the city, the city taxpayer is stuck.

Writing in the magazine Public Management, Richard Graves, executive director of the California League of Cities, estimates that in such areas as Los Angeles and Alameda counties, the city taxpayer is carrying 80 to 90 per cent of the county tax load and getting little back because of the vast expansion of county government into such services for the fringe areas as police and fire protection, streets, waste disposal, recreation, libraries and sewage disposal.

(In California last fall, we were hearing rumors of this conflict, although some cities such as Whittier, which control water supply, have a potent inducement for annexation against county competition.)

In Oregon, with the possible exception of Multnomah county, no such serious condition has developed, but the pressure for the expansion of county government into municipal operations is visible and the same inequities of taxing methods exist.

Oregon counties usually operate under the market road law which does not require them to allocate any portion of the funds raised to cities.

Few counties, except Multnomah, attempt to maintain any elaborate municipal services, although in Lane county there are many suburban demands to have the county build and maintain and provide lights for suburban streets.

Clinic on Public School Problems

Approximately 150 men and women from all parts of Lane County representing school districts, granges, labor and civic organizations interested in public school problems will participate Saturday in the first Lane County "lay conference" on public schools. In reality, it will be a sort of clinic with morning sessions broken up into sections for the detailed discussions. At 2:45 there will be a panel debate followed by a summary and the public will be welcome at these reviews of the day's business.

School problems are infinitely complex, but all of the complexities will be discussed under two main headings:

1. Curriculum — from which the problems of adequate school housing and equipment and well-trained staff are inseparable.
2. Taxation and legislation — because none of the problems affecting the school can be divorced from the question of what to use for money.

The Lane County conference is one of a series being held in every county in the state, the purpose being to produce a better understanding of the school problems of the state as a whole and to overcome the illusion that any district in any county can solve its problems without understanding how they are related to the problems of other districts throughout the state.

On curriculum problems the leaders

If it weren't for enemies, whom would we blame for troubles we bring on ourselves?

Statistics say that the average man speaks 11,900,000 words in a year. Just imagine how many the wife gets in.

A tennis expert says short pants are healthful. But not the kind that prevent deep breathing.

A hen-pecked husband is the fellow who gets the crossword puzzle after all but the most difficult words are filled in.

The flu reminds us that maybe we should give an advance warning to house flies: human beings carry germs.

Biologists devote a great deal of time to cell life—criminal courts too little.

It's cold in Alaska, but don't pity the Eskimo. He lives on the fat of the land.

In Oregon, special districts — fire, water, sanitary, park — tend to provide an intermediate step between rural and city organization.

So far, our county officers have generally resisted proposals to embark heavily in municipal functions in the suburbs, and this is wise. Difficulties such as are being encountered in California can be avoided by an early definition of functions to prevent waste and overlaps and tax inequities.

Out of Lane County's total current valuation of \$126,262,602, the total within the eight cities is \$48,679,953, of which \$32,364,033 is in Eugene and \$9,540,388 in Springfield. Nearly one-third of the county total is in Eugene and Springfield, which is to say that property within these cities supplies nearly one third of the \$808,567.90 which the county is currently raising by property tax. (Most of the county's \$3 million a year budget comes from state and federal aids plus fees, fines and department earnings.)

"Since cities benefit by the trade from outer areas, shouldn't they be taxed heavily for the benefit of those areas?"

That question is always asked. In our opinion, cities can and should contribute to the cost of the government for supporting RURAL areas. When those areas cease to be rural, it's another kind of "fish." At that point, both the cities and the bona fide rural areas are stuck—if a county uses its tax powers to go into city services. The genuine ruralites and the cities have a natural alliance, if that happens.

In communities which are growing and changing as rapidly as ours, these problems need study. A sensible allocation of functions, in time, can save much grief.

will be Elsie Bolt, curriculum director at Corvallis; Bernice Tucker, elementary supervisor, Multnomah County.

On taxation and legislation the leaders will be Cecil Posey, executive secretary of the Oregon Education Association, and Lester Wilcox, legal adviser to the State Department of Education. The keynote of the conference will be sounded by State Senator Robert Holmes of Clatsop County, who sees all of these problems as they confront the lawmakers of the state.

All sessions will be held in the Erb Memorial Union in co-operation with the University School of Education. It has been necessary to limit the section discussions to approximately 150 people most directly interested in school problems but there will be ample room for all interested citizens at the final debates. This type of conference is experimental, but it should be of great value to everybody concerned. Professionals and laymen need the exchange of viewpoints.

In Lane County we have long been "school conscious." There has never been any argument over the needs of schools — the best we can afford. In spite of all that has been accomplished to improve Lane County schools, we are still running a race with population increase.

An author says the way a person keeps his library is an indication of his character. Heck, folks, watch out for your shelves.

Sunday brings more accidents than any other day of the week. A day of rest—in pieces.

During the February sales, our little friend the salesgirl gets her wraps in without hurting a soul.

As long as we have so many careless auto drivers, it would help if trains could stop, look and listen.

It seems logical to believe that some cafes are now working on a joint income tax return.

Most men prefer a visible typewriter — when she's good looking.

Come spring garden time and a lot of men's ambitions will go to seed.

Marquis Childs

Irresponsibles Hurt GOP Cause

WASHINGTON — Although we are still only in the warm-up phase of the pre-convention campaign, the battle over foreign policy is already intense. It is fast becoming a question of whether anything can be saved from the destructiveness of a political civil war.

A grim emphasis is put on this by the latest attack. Senator William Jenner (R-Ind) is out to sabotage the Japanese peace treaty. That, at any rate, would be the effect of his amendments to the covenant.

The treaty is largely the work of John Foster Dulles, Republican adviser to Secretary of State Dean Acheson. With painstaking care during the past two years in difficult negotiations in Asia and Europe, Dulles laid the groundwork for the settlement. He was careful to consult with both Republicans and Democrats on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and they reported that rarely, if ever, before had the Senate been so conscientiously included in the preparatory stages of treaty-making.

THE JENNER RESERVATIONS will not be adopted. Jenner is pretty well tagged as just about the farthest outpost of irresponsibility. The haters and the fanatics in the lunatic fringe of the right would put him high on their approved list.

But that is not known in the rest of the world and certainly not in Japan. The implication of certain of the Jenner reservations is that the United States means to keep the right indefinitely to maintain troops and garrisons in Japan. That is a fine propaganda gift to the Communists and the extreme nationalists who want to discredit American intentions.

Other of the Jenner reservations make mischief in one of the most sensitive areas — the relationship between Japan and China. The Japanese would be required to recognize the government of Chiang Kai-shek on Formosa as sovereign over all of what is known as China prior to World War II. All of Dulles' diplomatic skill was required to effect a compromise on the China issue acceptable both in Japan and in the Senate of the United States. The Japanese, and especially the industrialists, are fearful of being shut off from the raw materials of the Chinese mainland. The Jenner reservations would shove the whole effort to rebuild the security of Asia right out the window.

Since the reservations will be rejected, it may be argued that the harm is negligible. But it is in the method of the attack that great damage is done. Jenner says the treaty is part of the Lattimore-Hiss-Acheson plot to turn Asia over to the Communists, and he links Dulles to that plot.

DEMAGOGUERY could not go much further in blurring and confusing all that is involved in the agonizing undertaking of restoring peace and some security to a world torn by war and revolution. It is on a par with the behavior of the late Senator Theodore (The Man) Bilbo of Mississippi, who once in a privileged speech denounced Publisher Henry R. Luce and his wife, Clare Boothe Luce, then a member of Congress, as Communists.

This kind of wilful confusion is one of the reasons why the moral values of our society are being eroded with terrifying swiftness. Jenner is a member of the McCarran Internal Security Committee that has put Professor Owen Lattimore on trial for the views he held as an Asian expert in the years leading up to the triumph of Communist armies in China. At any rate, up to this writing the committee has brought out nothing more tangible against Lattimore, aside from the testimony of one witness that he was a Communist; a charge Lattimore has repeatedly denied under oath.

Lattimore's views may have been altogether fallacious. In hind sight it is easy to see what was wrong with American policy in Asia. But the verdict of history is not yet in and will not be for many years to come. And to convict an individual for his opinions is to destroy the right of free inquiry and free opinion.

This, of course, is not even to speak of the fantastic assumption on which the Lattimore "trial" is based. That is, that one man, one professor, could sway the course of history.

IN THE AFTERMATH of World War I we had the irreconcilables. Today we have the irresponsibles. Republicans out campaigning so vigorously to win in November should know that irresponsibles of the stamp of Jenner can lose the election for them. And, if they should win in spite of this handicap, these same irresponsibles can lose what is left of the free world.

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So They Say—

It's just like Japan, except there aren't as many American soldiers here.—Mrs. Jean Harumi Farley, recently arrived Japanese war bride.

Stop worrying. Remember today will be yesterday tomorrow.—Eddie Cantor.



THE TEMPTATION

"Being forty days tempted of the devil." Luke 4:2

Now Jesus knew that God would send... A host of angels to defend... Lest He in walking paths unknown... Should dash His foot against a stone... With that same aid I have no fear... When storm clouds in my sky appear... Or pitfalls, traps and stumbling blocks... Beset me with life's hardest knocks... If Jesus could in this believe... I know I shall God's help receive.

JULIEN C. HYER

Gaining Weight



In The Editor's Mailbag

EUGENE (To the Editor) — It seems there's an excess of correspondence against UMT of late. I say "of late," because I've only been back home here in Eugene for about six weeks, so can't fairly judge how long this has been going on.

To begin with, let me clearly state that I personally am in favor of UMT and only deplore the insipid piece of legislation now under consideration by Congress, which seemingly arouses the literary ire of our local "homefront" errand boys. I'm afraid that was more bitter than I really intended, however, it has been disillusioning to return home after a second tour of active duty in the navy and find my neighbors have their heads still buried in the sand.

Of course, if you choose to believe that Korea is merely an isolated incident unrelated to other international events — that more tax money and more war material will settle things, then, of course, UMT is unnecessary, but that doesn't make some of the arguments that have appeared in your column any less ridiculous.

I just couldn't believe my poor astigmatic eyes when I read where some well-meaning local person had written that military service makes "brutal killers" out of young men. I'm sorry, but that theory won't work at all. It is nearly always the non-combat veteran who kills or commits other crimes as a civilian. It is not just hearsay. Men who have actually been in danger of their lives, that is men who were normal civilians long for peaceful civilian pursuits.

Other individuals argue against exposing 18-year-olds to "Sir." Wake up folks, any boy of 18 today has either been aware of smoking, drinking and other non-Christian activities for some time, or his parents only allow him out on a leash. And it's as easy for such a boy to go wrong here in quiet, little Eugene, with its "hot rod" drivers and reasonably high rate of juvenile delinquency, as it would be in an army camp, where tavern owners have to refuse to serve minors and his first sergeant will have something stronger than words for the boy who goes against the rules, on or off the base.

My main reason for advocating UMT is more or less a selfish one. I was recalled to active duty, involuntarily in the summer of 1950, after marrying and settling down feeling like nearly every other man my age that I'd earned the right to civilian life. Unfortunately, the U. S. as a whole wasn't ready for even a "small" war like Korea, and many, many thousands of us had to go again.

We haven't got the manpower on tap now for a "big" war and perhaps some of us would have to go for a 3rd time. I feel it's not my turn again so soon, and I want UMT. Not enough teenagers will volunteer for 4 years, and in an emergency conscription is no answer, it's just too darn slow. As long as we as a people may need millions of trained reserves in a few weeks time some form of UMT is mandatory.

Statistically the present draft law will not provide the necessary reserve manpower, because so few men are willing to risk the possibility of being recalled, which they face by staying in the reserves. I feel I'm better qualified to judge the moral impact of military life on 18-20 yrs. old, as I just last month left hundreds of them aboard my late sea-going home, and as a group, after a 1 1/2 yr. period of observation, I can truthfully say they're better-behaved, neater, and better men, than any like group of Eugene men of the same age group. They've learned to be independent of their parents, and that they must get along with other people. Well, I feel better now even if this never finds its way into print.

Thank you,
E. E. ESTES.

PROTEST
SPRINGFIELD—(To the Editor)—At the last public meeting of the Park Board, a speaker was ruled out of order when he made a remark that did not meet with the approval of the acting chairman. Why? Do we have free speech, do we have the right to disagree and express our disapproval, or must we sneak around and whisper in fear of being ruled out of order. Is not the courage to face your opponent and hit out straight from the shoulder something to be admired and encouraged, rather than to rule it out of order?

Who is this courageous person with half a hundred supporters that dares to face a lone enemy and shout "You are out of order, sit down." This, my friends, is one of the persons entrusted to spend wisely \$285,000 of our money. How stupid can you get, and still hold a position of trust. I, for one, am willing to pass a petition to recall our present park board, and replace them with competent American business men, not social climbers using our money to further their social standing.

Furthermore, I will vote NO half a dozen times on a bond issue, the proceeds of which will be placed at the disposal of such persons.

I'm for liberty and free speech, how about you?
DAN L. PLATT,
Springfield, Oregon

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
EUGENE—(To the Editor)—I think the Eugene Register-Guard is to be complimented on the impartial and comprehensive reporting on the religious representation of world religions.

I see hope for a great enlightenment for all of us—as many of us desire knowledge of other philosophies and teachings. Many of us have not forgotten that this great nation was founded on the premise of religious freedom. I don't believe it stated that the Jewish belief, Buddhism or Mohammedanism should be exceptions.

Our Creator, Omnipotent, Omniscient and Omnipresent surely

embraces all races of his children — surely the path they follow leads to perfection as does yours or mine—if we follow it steadily, keeping ever on it.

We are so filled with Divine Wisdom so as to enable us to vehemently state—"This is the only way." I believe there are many paths—all of them leading to the ultimate—even as all streams lead to the ocean.

In the name of Jesus—who went among all people—teaching, loving and healing, let us who call our nation Christian ask that our minds be opened in love and understanding to our brothers of other lands and beliefs, so that we may all walk in peace and truth.

We cannot point the finger of scorn at any other people—so long as we allow our own people to be treated unjustly, even cruelly—and refused the rights of equality of all of us. I speak of Negroes, Jews, Indians, Chinese, Japanese and Mexicans—all are subjects of unjust prejudices and we are not behaving as God's men and women by condoning such treatment.

"So let him who is without sin cast the first stone."

We pray for peace on earth, good will toward all men. Then let us add to our prayer—"Give us the Wisdom of Understanding of our brother. Teach us to love one another so that we may each in his own way build a world based on the concept that we all believe in God and are all striving —each in his own way—according to his own concept, to enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

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Record Seen For 1951 Births

Mortality Rate Drops For 15th Year

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Preliminary figures indicate a record 3,833,000 births in the United States in 1951, the Public Health Service reported Thursday. The previous high was 3,818,000 in 1947.

"Because of the small difference between the two figures, it is necessary to wait for final data in 1951 before determining whether 1951 is definitely the all-time high," the agency said.

The infant mortality rate dropped last year for the 15th straight year. The 1951 rate was 28.8 per thousand live births, compared with 47.4 in 1940 and 64.8 in 1930. The national overall death last year was listed as 87 thousand population, practically the same as for 1950 and fourth year in a row it has been below 10 deaths per thousand population.

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