

EDITOR—William M. Tugman MANAGING EDITOR—Alton F. Baker Jr. SERVICES—Full Associated Press, United Press, Audit Bureau of Circulations

Public Information and Good Government

"Though all the winds of doctrine were let loose to play upon the earth, so Truth be in the field, we do ingloriously, by licensing and prohibiting, to misdoubt her strength. Let her and Falsehood grapple; who ever knew Truth put to the worse in a free and open encounter?"

—John Milton's Areopagitica.

The news is the most powerful instrument of the press—and when we speak of the press nowadays we should not think merely of a few famous newspapers but of all the modern agencies of public information, the thousands of community dailies and weeklies, the specialized publications of thousands of trade and professional associations, the radio and television stations, even the movie newsreels and the weekly and monthly reviews which follow in the wake of the news.

Your newspaper, of course, is still the most important of these agencies. Flatters call us "moulders of opinion," an honorable title which we should seek to justify rather than deny.

"A newspaper isn't doing a job unless it has all or nearly all of the right enemies."

But—the purpose of this piece is to show that even the most vigorous editorial policy is only partially effective, unless it is documented with facts and unless it supports an equally vigorous policy in digging out and publishing the NEWS—and especially the news about the public's business, which is government at every level.

(This, by the way, is a request piece in advance of National Newspaper Week, October 1-8, by which time maybe we will be in our fine new building, with new presses and equipment to correct many of the deficiencies in our service which mechanical limitations have imposed. So we are going to "talk shop".)

This paper is often accused of "mixing news and editorial policy" which would be unethical, if true. A few years ago when we sent our reporters to describe the horrible condition of county roads and the waste of county road funds we were thus accused.

"Is it 'editorializing' to show the people of the community the truth about their roads—with pictures?"

When we exposed the sale of thousands of acres of county timber at one-tenth the going price obtained by federal agencies, the same cry was raised, but our answer was:

"Those news stories were FACT and not opinion—facts the people had a right to know."

It is not possible to build "fire walls" between editorial pages and news pages. If we assign reporters to root out facts about city or school debts, or administrative inefficiency or malpractice, it is our contention that such reports are legitimate and necessary NEWS.

For years the Register-Guard has experimented with methods of informing the public about political candidates and campaign issues—all the printable pertinent facts about each candidate for every office; all the pros and cons about controversial issues (and we'll have 18

Streamlining Oregon Legislative Procedure

If the Oregon Legislature could be spared the duty of considering hundreds of picayune bills which now infest its calendar, it could probably reduce its "running time" to within 50 days and do a much better job on important matters. For some years we have been suggesting:

Establishment of an Interim Council which would have authority to dispose of minor matters, subject, if necessary to confirmation when the regular session meets.

Segregation of a large amount of legislation from such major problems as taxation, appropriations, legislative apportionment which should have the full attention of the entire Legislature.

It would require a constitutional amendment to establish such an interim council, but we believe it would be better and more economical than the proposal for a preliminary session and a final session of both houses.

Most of the changes now being considered by the Interim Committee are mere changes in session mechanics, of doubtful value in speeding up the work. It should not be too difficult to make a classification of the measures which could be threshed out by the Interim Council to clear the decks for major problems.

state and two local on the ballot this fall). These "issue analysis" stories we print on Page One. For candidates we often take a three or four page spread. We follow these explanatory articles with our editorial recommendations. We are often asked:

"Is this sort of spread worth the time and cost? Does it produce any provable results in elections?"

Nobody in his right mind would ever claim that a newspaper produced this or that result in any election—because so many other influences enter in. We have taken many a sound licking (as in our two county manager campaigns) but we can say this:

"Readership surveys at the time of these election spreads have showed a readership of this election material as high as 'Orphan Annie' gets, about 70 percent, which is very high."

"In one year, when time and paper allowance did not permit the full treatment on all issues, there was a marked difference in the voting results on those issues which we had to neglect."

"By mail and telephone we get plenty of reader testimony that this type of service is wanted."

"Our opinions are not nearly so important as the facts we bring out."

So we keep on doing it. There is one question which is always interesting (because it usually comes from candidates whom we have not preferred).

"As the only daily newspaper in this field do you think you have any moral right to express any preferences?"

Of course, we think we have not only the right but the positive public duty to do it. We try to be fair. We do not claim that our opinion is the only one or even the right one. We carry the little editorial slogan that "a newspaper is a citizen of its community" and we try to speak as any forthright citizen would speak, with deference to others.

The prescribed text was "The Newspaper and Good Government", but we prefer to make it "Public Information and Good Government", because we are only one of the many agencies in this service of the news.

It may be an overstatement to say that corruption cannot exist where the public is informed. But it cannot endure if the truth is printed freely and repeatedly.

(In Lake Charles, La., they indicted the local editors for "slandering" the professional gamblers, but with all their power the crooks couldn't make it stick.)

It is our firm belief that wherever a public is fully informed, good government follows, slowly but surely. Our free press is far from perfect. It is often cynical, sometimes venal, and frequently lazy and superficial in its work. What most critics of the press forget is that the VOLUME of news has become so great that it is beyond human capacity to cope with it.

But with all its faults and shortcomings, the press today is doing the best job ever done to inform people about this cockeyed world in which we live. Whenever we feel "low" we turn to that passage which Milton wrote in his Areopagitica 300 years ago:

"Whoever knew the Truth put to the worse in a free and open encounter?"

Free men have inherited a glorious fight!

Under the present system it often happens that some trifling measure, of interest to one small segment of the state, is used to block action until "deals" can be made. Most of these fights should be fought before the proposed Council, which could hold monthly meetings, if necessary.

When sessions stretch out to more than 100 days, it becomes impossible for many good men and women to serve without serious personal loss in time and money.

"How would such an Interim Council be selected? How would they be paid? How would you keep them from becoming too powerful?"

Those are legitimate questions, but not impossible to answer. The thing we see in going through the 1,000 or more bills which are dropped into the hopper at every session is that most of them are measures which should not require the attention of the whole Legislature.

If these could be disposed of in advance, or even predigested, you would be getting at the main cause of delay in our Legislature. So many of them are matters which an efficient city council disposes of in the first 30 minutes of its sessions.

Peter Edson

Oil or Nothing, Texas Man Told

WASHINGTON (NEA) — The Indonesians recently moved into a big new embassy here. It's the old Walsh mansion on Massachusetts Avenue, just above Dupont Circle.

In its rundown condition, it served as a Red Cross headquarters annex during the war. But now that the Indonesians have taken it over, it has been refurbished and made to look better than new.

Just after Ambassador Ali Sartoro and his staff got settled in their new headquarters, the ambassador got a telephone call from a man who identified himself as a Texas oil man.

"I like the looks of your new house," said the oil man. "I don't know what price you bought it at, but I'll give you \$100,000 more than what you paid if you'll sell and move out."

The ambassador said he wasn't in the real estate business. Then as an afterthought he asked his caller how many oil wells he owned. The man said "Sixteen."

"Well," said the ambassador, "I'll give you \$100,000 more for your oil wells than what you paid for them."

With that the oil man hung up and the Indonesian never did learn who he was.

INTEGRATE INDIAN WITH PALEFACE? UGH!

A big conference of experts on the problems of the American Indian was held in Washington recently, to discuss what ought to be done about integrating the noble red man with his white cousins.

The pow-wow lasted several days. After all the speeches were over, one of the few Indians present got up and made medicine which almost broke up the conference.

"I don't want to be integrated," he said, "I want to remain a red man."

GERMAN ARMS PRODUCTION NEEDED

The ban against German production of aircraft, long-range guided missiles and atomic energy, as provided in the new peace contract and European defense force agreements, may not be as complete as it appears in the treaties now before Congress for ratification.

John J. McCloy, U. S. High Commissioner to Germany, is now in Washington to testify on these treaties.

The primary reason for the ban appeared to be a desire to satisfy France that Germany would not become too powerful. Beyond that, however, was the strategic necessity of not locating key European defense plants too close to the Russian front.

German technical skills will be employed, says Mr. McCloy, to produce radar equipment and aircraft components which other European countries cannot make. Air frame and complete aircraft assembly plants can be located in France, England or Italy, where there will be greater security from possible Russian bombing or seizure.

The great risk in this plan is that German skills in aircraft and guided missiles will not be utilized to the fullest at a time when the Western powers are woefully weak on air power.

Many of Germany's top scientists and aviation engineers have of course been working in the U. S. and other Allied countries since the end of the war.

FOREIGN AID MONEY SPENT HERE

Paul Hoffman, former head of the Marshall Plan organization, says it's wrong to refer to the mutual security program as the "foreign aid" bill. That name makes many people oppose it.

Actually, says Hoffman, most of the money gets spent in the United States. And though the goods are delivered to Europe and other foreign countries, they contribute to U. S. military defenses at the front lines.

INDIA TO CARRY BIGGER LOAD

The government of India will spend \$2 for every \$1 in the U. S. \$54 million Indian aid program approved by Congress last fall. This is the plan worked out by American Ambassador Chester Bowles, now back in Washington for consultations with Congress and the State Department.

Fifty-five areas, covering some 11 million people in 16,500 villages, have been selected to receive this aid. Thirty centers are being opened to train the 6800 native Indians who will direct the work. In addition, 200 Indian administrators will be trained in the U. S.

A pilot operation at Etawah, India, under the now famed Horace Holmes, has already enabled some 79,000 people in 102 villages to increase their food production 46 per cent.

By the end of the four-year program for U. S. Point Four aid, it is hoped to increase production in each area covered by 35 to 50 per cent. The first year's program will reach only about three per cent of India's 320 million people.

Eighty new areas would be covered next year, 140 more in the third year, and a total of 600 by the end of 1956, if the U. S. Congress approves the Bowles plan. By the end of this Indian five-year plan, some 120 million people, or over a third of the population, would be reached.

Ambassador Bowles has estimated the U. S. cost at \$250 million a year for the next four years, for a billion-dollar total. About half of this sum would go for technical services and equipment, the other half for purchase of wheat and cotton.

Congress has so far been extremely cold to the Bowles proposals. He is trying to sell it as the best way to avoid a repetition of the anti-Communist failure in China.

The Shepherd

RECOVERY

"That it may go well with thee." Eph. 6:3 When doctors use their art and skill . . . And you have taken dose and pill . . . They end the job allotted men . . . It's time that God look over then . . . You lie there looking at the ceiling . . . With time to search your inmost feeling . . . Is it too big for you alone? . . . Why not use aid you've proved and known? . . . Ask God to help and do your part . . . We get well when we're well in heart.

JULIEN C. HYER

Editor's Mailbag

DEADWOOD DAVE.

DEADWOOD (To the Editor)— If "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty" it seems reasonable to suppose that complacency is the saboteur of freedom. When one contemplates the numerous and deliberate attempts to betray this nation during the past ten or fifteen years, the complacency of the American people is appalling. And worst of all, those patriotic citizens who have waged the bravest fight to expose the treachery of the attempted betrayers have in most cases been "smeared" for their efforts. Some criticism has come from misguided but sincere critics. But by and large the well organized "smear" attacks directed against the enemies of Communism, have come from those who seek to clothe themselves with an aura of faked "liberalism."

Whittaker Chambers, in his book "Witness" (page 472), throws some light on anti-Communist "witch hunts":

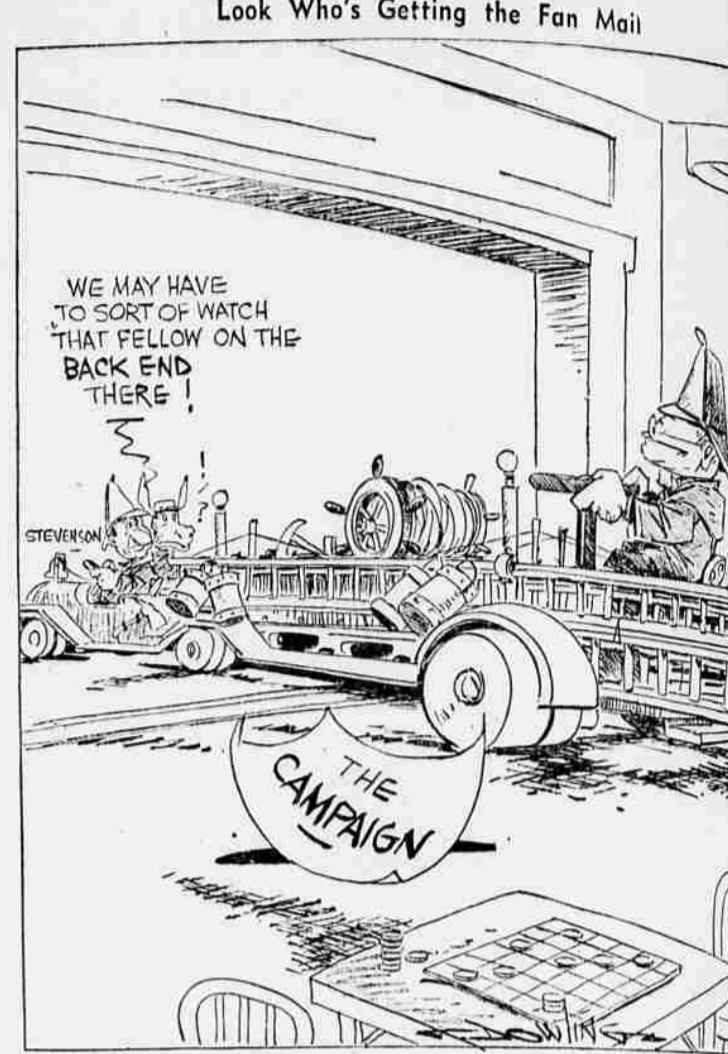
"For men who could not see that what they firmly believed was liberalism added up to Socialism could scarcely be expected to see what added up to Communism. Any charge of Communism enraged them precisely because they could not grasp the difference between themselves and those against whom it was made . . . Every move against the Communists was felt by the liberals as a move against themselves . . . Unlike the liberals, the Communists were fully aware of their superior tactical position and knew that they had only to shout their innocence and cry "witch hunt" for the liberals to rally in all innocence to their defence."

Louis Budenz puts it a little differently. Budenz says (page 589, McCarran report) "To my knowledge 95 per cent of the members of Communist-front organizations are actually Communists."

Among the many hundreds of Communist-fronts have been more active or influential than the "National Council for American-Soviet Friendship." I wonder how many members of this front were among the 95 per cent of them were "innocent liberals"?

Do you know Mr. Editor, or Mr. John Q. Citizen, that 5 "liberal" U. S. Senators and 3 "liberal" Congressmen were members of this Communist-front? Did these brilliant men (?) understand the character of the organization? Or were they dupes? If they were dupes why were they duped into an organization which included the following members: Maxwell S. Stewart (tagged as a Communist by Budenz, page 563 McCarran Report), Corliss P. Lamont (also named by Budenz as a Commie), Phillip Jaffe (see below), Frederick V. Field (an-

other Commie), Langston Hughes (see below), Paul Robeson, Mike Quill, Phillip Murray, Joseph Curran, Sidney Hillman and Harry Bridges. Phillip Jaffe was editor of "Amerasia" in whose offices some 1,700 secret government documents were found, including the secret papers on the A-bomb. This was prior to the Potsdam conference where Harry told Joe about our "secret" bomb. Jaffe was convicted of perjury, reversed, re-trial granted. Sidney Hillman was identified as a Communist by Maurice Malkin who testified before a House Un-American Activities Committee that Hillman joined the Communist party in 1919 and was a member thereafter until he died. "Clear everything with Sidney." Langston Hughes is the author of the poem "Goodbye Christ." Every Christian should read this poem one verse of which follows. "Goodbye



Christ Jesus, Lord God Jehovah, Beat it on away from here. Make way for a new guy with no religion at all. A real guy named Marx Communist, Lenin, Peasant Stalin Worker me."

The above ought to show the "liberal" character of many of the members of this Communist-front to which 5 Senators and 3 Congressmen belonged as late as 1946. (See page 321-327, Tenney Committee of Calif. legislature). Is it any wonder we had an Alger Hiss?

And here's some more for you complacent Americans who abhor "witch hunts." Do you know that Max Klausen, member of the Sorge spy ring, installed and operated a secret radio transmitter in the private home of the American Vice-consul in Harbin, Manchuria? (See page 47, "Spies, Dupes and Diplomats") Now suppose we get a little closer to the home front. Among

the many Communist-pamphlets published by the Institute of Pacific Relations which played such a part in the formation of the astroturf Far Eastern Force, one was called "Lars Soviets," written by Max Stewart, wife of Max Stewart, art above mentioned. A copy of "Land of the before me which was used in the Eugene High school marked "Room 212, C. This pamphlet was written by the wife of a Communist purpose of inciting you to denounce the Communist ganda.

You may not have known before Mr. Citizen, just you happen to be one of the complacent citizens who that such men as Max Stewart and Joe McCarran don't know what they are doing about. Yours, DAVE H.

Advertisement for U.S. ROYAL tires featuring 'Nation-Wide U.S. ROYAL Trade-in SALE' and 'Now Millions More Can Own Them—at the Biggest Savings in Years'. Includes a table of tire prices and descriptions of 'Air Ride', 'De Luxe', and 'Centipede Grip' tires.

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