

A New Constitution — Maybe Someday

One of these years—and we mustn't expect too much too soon—Oregon voters may have a chance to vote on a new state constitution.

The committee, composed partly of legislators and partly of lay citizens from all parts of the state, issued two reports—a majority report favoring a new basic legal document, and a minority report recommending that the present constitution be patched up.

Two members of the committee—Mrs. Olga Freeman and Bert Wengert—are from Eugene. Chairman is Sen. John Housnell of Hood River.

Even the minority members of the committee have been critical of the present state constitution. Some of them have explained that the reason they favor amendments instead of a complete new document is that they doubt if Oregon voters would ever vote to adopt a complete new document.

Criticisms of the old document, which was written in 1857 and which has served as the state's constitution since Oregon was admitted to the union Feb. 14, 1859, fall generally into three categories: that the constitution is archaic, that it is too long and that it is cluttered up with stuff that should not be in a constitution.

Fifteen states were admitted to the union after the admission of Oregon, and 35 of them have adopted new constitutions since that time. There are quaint provisions in the present document, requiring, for example, that no candidate for public office shall have engaged in a duel.

Boundaries of the state, as described in the constitution, would give Oregon claim to four counties of southeastern Washington—Walla Walla, Asotin, Columbia and Garfield.

And then there's the matter of length. The federal constitution contains 7,500 words. Oregon's contains 19,000. And Oregon, for what it's worth, shares with 43 other states the dubious honor of having a state constitution longer than the federal document.

One reason it is so long is that it is so cluttered with amendments. It's easy to amend it—just as easy, via initiative petition, as it is to pass an ordinary law. And groups which want their legislation to stick are likely to submit it as a constitutional amendment so that the legislature can't repeal it or change it.

Truckers Doing Better

Every week this newspaper receives from the secretary of state in Salem a little progress report on the highway accident situation. It's pretty grim reading most of the time, and about the last place a person would look if he wanted to find some encouraging news.

Commenting only upon accidents in which trucks were involved, the report says that truckers operating on Oregon streets and highways in 1953 turned in a record that was much improved over the 1952 accident record for that group. There was a 32 per cent reduction in the death toll resulting from these accidents, and the number of accidents and injury accidents was also cut considerably.

A Bright Spot in the Week's News

There's little enough, heaven knows, to cheer about these days as we read the newspapers. Indochina, Geneva, McCarthy, bigger and bigger bombs. All leave considerable doubt that the species will survive, or that if it does survive, that it can stay free.

And it is the nature of the news business that the gloomy stuff usually overshadows the cheerful. Sometimes to find the best news you have to turn many pages and search back in the recesses of the paper where the news items are short and the headlines are small.

Thus it was this week when the interview with Thornton W. Burgess was uncovered far back among the fine print. Burgess, the author of animal stories for

It is hard to say how many times the constitution has been amended. But 113 times seems to be the guess of many students of the documents. Most let it go by saying simply "more than 110 times." Oregon, however, wins no blue ribbons with that number of amendments. California with 312 amendments leads, followed by Louisiana with 287 and South Carolina with 192.

Many of the constitutional provisions and amendments are what lawyers speak of as "substantive law," stuff that should be provided for in statutes in the regular law books. The constitution, they say, should remain only a basic document which sets the direction for statutes, but it should not be interchangeable with statute.

The fixing of salaries of state officers is an example of this sort of thing. Other examples are legislation on daylight time, liquor sales, bonding specifications, and the location of state institutions.

The idea of constitutional revision is not new. Dick Neuberger, the Portland Democratic senator, has been arguing for it for a long time. In his address to the 1953 legislature Gov. Patterson recommended that the legislature consider it. So that body set up the interim committee whose report was turned in recently.

Conceivably the next legislature could work out plans for a constitutional convention to draw a new document. Then the voters would have to approve the idea of the convention. That they could do as early as the general election of 1956. Then the convention could meet and write a constitution which the voters could approve or disapprove in 1958 or 1960.

There is much in the present constitution that is excellent. And in criticizing it we must remember it was written in 1857 when Oregon was a frontier region—a thousand miles from the nearest state to the east. The men who wrote it wrote a document for their own time.

Few would change the Oregon bill of rights, which is excellent. But there are critics who say the constitution is too easy to amend and who would put some limitations upon the initiative and referendum process. Others say the legislature should be able to slap an emergency clause on a tax bill (although any attempt to tamper with this feature of the constitution will certainly be regarded by many as an attempt to put through a sales tax).

There will be agitation for a careful study of the Nebraska system which provides for a one-house legislature. However, since no other state has followed Nebraska's example, there is not much chance that Oregon will either.

The prospect of a constitutional convention assures that there will be exciting times ahead. The men who write a new document will have to be men of iron. The pressures upon them will be terrific. (R.B.F.)

Ready to Shoot the Old Scene Again

YOU KNOW YOUR PART—JUST JUMP IN AND START YELLING FOR HELP THEN HE GOES IN AND SAVES YOU!



Peter Edson

Chemical Maker Advances Atom Pool Plan

WASHINGTON (NEA) — A new idea for an "International Atomic Energy Bank" is now being put forward by William C. Foster, president of the U.S. Manufacturing Chemists' Assn.

The Foster plan calls for the loan of atomic energy materials, reactors and know-how to countries that do not have adequate power resources of their own.

It would be an extension of President Eisenhower's original proposal to the United Nations for a world pool of atomic energy, to include Soviet Russia.

The present status of President Eisenhower's proposal is not entirely clear. Russia turned down the plan at Geneva.

HOPE FOR LIFE But United Nations conferences on disarmament and atomic weapons control, now going on in London, are supposed to have under active consideration the possible diversion of atomic energy materials to peaceful uses.

So the Eisenhower plan may not be completely dead. Foster believes his plan could be put forward without Russian participation. As he visualizes it, this international bank of atomic energy materials would operate something like the Marshall Plan.

It would function as a cold war instrument to help the non-Communist countries remain free by raising their standard of living. The atomic energy materials lent to other countries would be subjected to a rental fee which would cover the interest on the capital investment. This would be similar to the leasing arrangement under which it is now proposed that U.S. private industry be given atomic energy materials for the development of electric power.

Foster, a former New Jersey manufacturer, was once administrator of the Marshall Plan. He has also served as Undersecretary of Commerce and Undersecretary of Defense. He gave up his Pentagon job in 1953 to become head of the Manufacturing Chemists' Association and its Washington representative.

IMPORTANT ROLE For anyone who may wonder what the chemical manufacturers are doing in atomic energy matters, it must be recognized that chemistry plays a big part in the separation and purification of atomic energy materials.

DuPont, Monsanto, Carbide & Chemical and other big industrial firms in this field have of course played a major part from the start in building and operating the \$11 billion worth of U.S. Atomic Energy Commission plants.

Several recent developments in the atomic energy field have made possible the plan. Foster now advocates.

The hydrogen bomb, through its greater explosive force, will release for peaceful uses more of the uranium that formerly went into the original atomic bombs.

No peacetime application of the energy released in a hydrogen bomb has yet been found. But Foster says there is no reason why research cannot develop such use.

PACKAGE REACTOR The practical development of electric power from atomic energy is closer than many people realize. Fourteen months ago the Atomic Energy Commission initiated its program of industrial power development by private industry. The original goal was to get this development within 10 years.

One year later Duquesne Power and Light Co. of Pittsburgh announced it would invest over \$15 million to build an atomic electric plant. AEC now has over 60 power research contracts.

U.S. Army has now practically completed development of an atomic "package reactor" which would develop from 1000 to 2000 kilowatts of electrical energy. Contracts for production of these reactors may be let soon.

Units like these are what Foster believes would be useful for an international atomic energy bank. He believes they would revolutionize industrialization of underdeveloped countries. He predicts commercial atomic power within five years.

In The Editor's Mail Bag

DOG PAPERS

EUGENE (To the Editor)—A little over two years ago, during March of 1952, we got a blue Doberman Pinscher pup from the Lane County Humane Society. This pup was approximately 9-months old at that time—which makes his date of birth probably some time in the early summer of 1951. This pup was picked up because he was running at large, the owners being unable to watch out for him because of work and school. As far as we can tell, the owners may have been a working lady and her school-age son. The exact owner is still somewhat of a mystery.

With two years of love, work, and training, this pup has grown into a magnificent dog and was recently a father of seven pups out of our red Doberman dam. This litter of pups includes an extremely rare fawn-colored Doberman. The pup, now called "Lucky" is so intelligent and obedient that we use him in his own revue on our stage at the Country Inn.

For two solid years we have been searching for the A.K.C. registration papers or the litter registration on Lucky. We feel that the papers are somewhere in the City of Eugene or Springfield. We have had the help of Dr. Baronti and his staff in trying to locate these papers. Now, Miss Dorothy Duree and her able staff at the Humane Society and the breeder, Mrs. H. K. Schmidt are following leads on the missing papers. We have driven miles and talked to many, but the elusive papers are still missing. We now wonder if any of your Mailbag readers may help us with this search. There is a reward for the location of these papers. We may be reached at 5-7344.

NEIL A. KOCH, JIMMIE A. HARPER, 4100 County Farm Road.

First let me say "I'm not a

TRAFFIC QUESTIONS

EUGENE (To the Editor)—I should like for me and a few thousand others to have some questions answered by someone. When driving east on 11th Ave. in Eugene it is common knowledge that one may, after stopping, turn left on a red light at Olive and Oak. One may likewise turn right on a red light at Charnelton, Willamette and High and at Hilyard turn either left or right when driving eastward.

My question concerns the junction of 11th and the highway. Can one proceed onto the highway from 11th on a red light (a right-hand turn) or is this considered no turn?

I would like also a sensible reason for the prohibition of right-hand turns onto the highway—after stopping—from Hilyard, Agate and Onyx. Also, why should the sign at Agate stating "enter only on flashing amber" be 15 feet away from said, flashing amber light.

Also, when the flashing red light says you may turn from the highway onto Walnut St. why do so many people fail to notice the sign which says you must first stop? Could this sign be reworded so it would be more obvious?

Nope, I'm not mad. I haven't received a traffic ticket in over a year.

Thanks, Mr. Kies, for your recent newspaper item reminding us to trim trees at intersections. I hadn't realized these new stop signs tower so high into the trees. Happy to trim mine—and anyone else's who asks. I'll bring the saw.

RICHARD E. CHAMBERS

LIKES DST

EUGENE (To The Editor)—What's all the "fuss" over daylight saving time about? Looks to me like some of these people just want to "cuss out" the "white collar worker."

white collar worker." Second, ask my wife if she has any trouble getting me to wear a "white collar." Third, I start my day at 8 a.m. but I like DST!

The most recent letter listed tourists as one of Oregon's great incomes. I'll venture that 75 per cent of the tourists live under DST.

Also that loggers start their day when the sun comes up—so—why worry about the clocks?

Too, God has been mentioned as the originator of time. Yes, but time, as we know it, regulated by mechanics (gears, weights, springs and such) is man-created. If you will get out your encyclopedia you will find that time, as we know it, was originated by the railroads.

"The farmer works from daylight to dark." So, what does he care what the clock says?

The Grange is always mentioned in this controversy—they don't wish to be regulated by the "city guys." Well some of us "city guys" don't wish to be regulated by the Grange either.

So—what's all the "fuss" about? FRED C. ARNOLD

SILENT DEAD

SPRINGFIELD (To the Editor) WITH THOSE WHO SLEEP We have been working today among those who are asleep. Cleaning out weeds and vines. That all around them creep. Some have come so recently by the tombstones I have read, in this old neglected city, To join the silent dead.

The recent ones have flowers rare Where still the grieving cry The old have been forgotten now As sunken grave belie.

And as the fleeting days pass on Into the future years Remember we will turn to dust In spite of all their tears. DEAN J. BEALS

Marquis Childs

Hanoi's French Population Faces Dien Bien Phu Fate

WASHINGTON — The American policy-makers who have been most active in promoting "united action" to try to save Indochina from Communist conquest are just now taking a cautious line. They say that no final commitment has been made to the government of Premier Laniel in Paris to intervene directly should the Communist bloc at Geneva continue to stall on the terms of an armistice acceptance to France and Britain.



Childs

At his press conference on Tuesday Secretary of State Dulles was asked if there was any intention of dealing unilaterally with the Indochina situation. He replied that this would not happen unless the whole nature of aggression should change there. Unilateral action might be taken by the United States, Dulles suggested, if there was open armed aggression by China.

CHARGES CERTAIN

In the days and weeks just ahead, with the threat to Hanoi and the Red River delta as grave as it is, there are almost certain to be charges of direct Chinese intervention. The fact that the Vietnam guerrillas have today the capacity to launch an attack with eight divisions, including one artillery division, will be taken by those anxious for American action, with or without allies, as being evidence of a radical change in the Chinese Communist role in the war.

Those close to Dulles complain, as they have in the past, that because the British and the French, too, wobble from one side to another on the issue of point forces in Southeast Asia it is difficult to activate the proposed alliance. Not only the French assembly but the government, the people and the French foreign office itself are deeply divided on the issues in this critical phase of the nearly eight-year-old Indochinese conflict.

Some are for ending the war at once on any terms the Communists will grant. The conspicuous political figure in this faction is Pierre Mendes-France, who may be the next premier if the Laniel government falls. At the other extreme are those who insist that in spite of reverses, such as the fall of Dien Bien Phu, France must fight on or risk the loss of all French overseas territories, including the North African colonies which are vital to the French economy and where 3,000,000 French nationals have developed a highly protected agriculture and some industry.

It is officials in this faction who believe the government has committed to intervene in Indochina toward a debacle of thousands of French citizens threatened with massacre. Adm. Arthur W. Radford, chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is generally credited with the "United Action" policy. He arrived in Paris at the time of the conference, had received the French Foreign Minister Bidault's urgent plea to intervene in the conference held on the fateful Saturday at the residence of the American ambassador in Paris.

On the following Monday he went to London and British officials reported that he had recommended British participation in an air strike from aircraft carriers to save Dien Bien Phu. This was on April 26, the day the Geneva conference opened. The British cabinet rejected this request. The British military chiefs were insisting that 48 hours after such an air strike the demand to send ground forces would be irresistible.

COMMENT DECLINED

Radford has declined to comment on these reports. Members of his staff insist that he is not an adviser to the President, but a commander-in-chief, and that he does not initiate policy. At the same time, however, they are firm that the date of April 26, set, in a carefully worked-out plan, for a request to be made to Congress in person by President Eisenhower for authority to intervene in Indochina. It was proposed that Congress would act immediately and that, thereafter, under the plan an air strike would be launched on April 28.

But the members of Radford's staff said that this was a hypothetical plan to go into effect under certain conditions, the primary condition being "united action" with other powers with interests in the area. The condition, they say, is still a requisite to future steps.

But the British believed that an air strike against Dien Bien Phu would bring almost immediate direct intervention by the troops and a greatly enlarged Asian war. They refused the request and, therefore, there was no action at that critical moment. But another view of the critical phase is just ahead in the air strike against Dien Bien Phu. The French, with its thousands of French civilians, seems likely to become another Dien Bien Phu. (Distributed by United Press Syndicate, Inc.)

Hal Boyle

Berlin a Blazing Beachhead For Struggle in Cold War

BERLIN (AP)—"All Germans around one table."

That was one of many slogans for unity chanted last week during a three-day Communist-sponsored rally of 500,000 German boys and girls in the debris of East Berlin.

Watching the slow torrent of youth through the rubble left by Adolf Hitler, I had to suppress a wistful urge to seize a banner and start yelling an old battle cry of my own youth:

"Up the alley. Down the street. Central High School — can't be beat."

It seemed to me that the paraders might just as well enjoy chanting that slogan instead of "Down with Western imperialism" or "From Berlin to Rome, Yank go home." It doesn't make much difference to the average teen-ager what he hollers—just so he knows he is hollering the same thing as the teen-ager next to him.

BUGLE PRELUDE

But the trouble with the slogans of the teen-ager of Eastern Germany is being taught is that they don't lead merely to the black eyes and bruised muscles of juvenile gang fights. They are a prelude to bugle blowing and another great big grown-up war.

This was my first look behind the fringe of the Iron Curtain in five years. I had the depressing illusion I was looking at half a million dirty-necked children, wandering parentless through a ruined world, crying words they did not really understand themselves.

But they were only puppets of a new power for murder. Somebody had bought the big red banners that hung from almost every broken building. Someone had put up loudspeakers along the streets that rang with martial airs. Someone had taught them to wear a blue shirt initialed FDJ. Someone had taught them how to march in ordered rows.

The someone who had done these things was wise in the ways of corrupting the young. He was using exactly the same tactics Hitler had. And, just like Hitler, he wasn't going to all that trouble just to beat Central High School. He even put on a tremendous night fireworks display to wind

up the rally. I stood in a large mass of these German boys and girls near Marx Engels Platz last night, watching the great showers overhead, hearing the crash of explosions, and wondering why anyone would go through Berlin's many nights of terror during the last war to enjoy this display. And as a matter of fact, there wasn't much cheering.

When the show was over the children of yesterday went quietly back to their bivouac or paused to make love in the tattered doorways. At a Communist sponsored youth rally the people don't have to worry about snappy old prying cameras. They are encouraged to take pictures.

Here in Berlin this vast slave of youth in the eastern zone was taken by most as another incident in a great battle that has gone on unceasingly since Hitler's fall—the eternal battle for the young German mind, an endless tug-of-war between East and West.

FOR GRANTED

Nobody seems to feel that a body is quite ready yet to blow the bugle, but it is widely expected for granted that in time the problem is to win the young mind to the future purpose.

But it must have made me besides myself tremendously here in a vast capital still in the rust of a lost war, to see half a million boys and girls wear crimson banners and marching in step.

Berlin alone lost almost exactly that same number of lives in last conflict. Today it feels already the great beachhead of the cold war.

So They Say —

Keep this in mind, we have the White House a man who believes in constitutionalism. We are not going to get into war without Congress. Something to say about it. Chairman Hall.

He (Phil Rizzuto) is the man that holds the (Yankee) together, no matter who is beside him.

Happy Mother's Day. May we have many more of them. They could use \$25.—Bob Blatt, University student who is a mother.