

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

Business for Lawyers!

With Oregon's state government facing large deficits in the coming biennium, the possibility that the state may have to levy a property tax becomes a probability.

In 1951 the Legislature adopted and the people in 1952 by referendum adopted a law, ORS 311.660 which provides "the state shall not for any fiscal year, collect a state property tax in any greater sum than the total of: (a) six mills on total assessed valuation in state; (b) such additional amount as may be necessary to pay bonded indebtedness or interest thereon."

In November we will vote on a constitutional amendment which says: "unless specifically authorized by a majority of legal voters voting upon the question, the state shall not levy for any fiscal year after Dec. 31, 1954, a state property tax in excess of the sum to meet bonded indebtedness and interest thereon, plus six mills."

Apparently the proposed constitutional amendment has the same purpose as the present law—with referendum on each state property tax levy mandatory—BUT Charles A. Sprague, the Statesman (Salem) has been looking over a recent study prepared by Fred Packwood, Portland attorney and tax expert which raises some complicated questions:

"Consider the 1951 statute first. Does it apply only to the state levy within the six per cent limitation or does it include levies outside the limitation which were voted by the people?"

Words, Words, Words!

The amendment poses a different problem. The proposed six mill limitation is a constitutional amendment and in lieu of the present six per cent limitation. But note this exception: Unless specifically authorized by a majority of the legal voters upon the question...

Mr. Sprague suggests that this tangle be explored by legal experts before Nov. 2, lest we "freeze a straightjacket" into the constitution.

We will go farther and possibly cheat the lawyers out of some fees by saying that the proposed constitutional amendment ought to be condemned NOW, because this type of detailed and specific legislation has NO PLACE in the Constitution.

If Oregon ever gets a new Constitution we hope it will be limited to organic and fundamental law. It can be done by proper definitions of what is fit for constitutional enactment.

"Better Un-heroic Survivor Than Dead Hero"

After 18 months in Red China's prisons, Richard Applegate, of Medford, and his two sailing companions in the China seas, have been returned to Hong Kong. Applegate is a veteran in the foreign news service. It isn't a pretty story that he tells.

So, you can't blame any intelligent and well-informed man for trying to save himself before the Commies destroy his wits. However some people will ask:

"Then why hold courts martial to punish soldiers, sailors or marines for breaking down in Communist prisons?"

There may be some important differences. A generalized "confession" as to "germ warfare" is not likely to bring immediate harm to any individual. A statement made by a prisoner of war which puts any other prisoner in jeopardy is almost unpardonable—especially if it is made to curry personal favor or special privileges from the captors.

For the military, of course, there is the necessity to preserve discipline which could be undermined by too much sympathy for those who break under torture or threats of torture to the peril of other people.

But, for all of us, in or out of the military, there must be at least a generous effort to understand those who have been a little less than heroic when subjected to Communist torments. Even the Nazis and the worst of the Japs were amateurs by comparison.

Calcimine's Day Over

(Salem Capital-Journal)

Calcimine, the poor man's paint, like the bullet mold, the tallow candle and the stove-pipe hat has expeditiously become almost extinct. Not many years ago, and for decades before, that humble mixture of calcium carbonate, glue and water was an accepted and pleasing coating, white or tinted, for plastered walls and interior ceilings.

brief, always filled the household with apprehension. Uncle Jim tipped. Soon came the evening when he retired with a full bottle and a lapse of memory. Somehow the bottle became upset with the stopper out and the contents dripped through the floor and ceiling to create an indelible stain and fill the sitting room with an haunting and enduring fragrance of mellowed corn whiskey.

Nearly anyone with a little fore-arm muscle and a flexible back could apply calcimine. It was easy to mix, easy to spread and the slosh, slosh of a freely working calcimine brush in the hands of an adept was a sound becoming to the action. And there was an odor, too, associated with calcimine, a distinctive odor that was refreshing and bespoke of a new cleanliness.

Former President Green of the American Federation of Labor knew the value of keeping clear of politics. We don't want a labor party in this country and we don't want the Democrat party to serve as a vehicle for it (or do we?).

After all, calcimine was only a water paint that covered well, dried quickly and was cheap to apply. Dad used to grumble a bit when he was told the sitting room needed going over with a fresh coat of calcimine but, after some argument, he bought the stuff, mixed it in the woodshed and brushed it on after the carpet had been rolled up and the organ properly covered.

Los Angeles man has invented a device so's you can shave electrically while driving. Brother! In L.A., a driver is close-shaved continually without so much bother.

True, there was a deficiency about calcimine that modern, ready-mixed wall paints have overcome. Calcimine did stain easily when exposed to ceiling leaks. And a stained ceiling must first be remedied with a stain killer followed by another coat of calcimine.

This "code of campaign ethics" which the Democrats and Republicans have adopted ain't hard to understand. McGurk says it operates just like this world disarmament.

Came the day when Uncle Jim dropped in and his visitation, however



Tom Whitney

Soviets Sabotaging Atom Peace Pool Plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Soviets are attempting to counter the propaganda effect of President Eisenhower's plan for an international atom pool for peace by labeling it a fake.

operation the first atomic energy electric power plant for industrial purposes. In fact the new power station, as the Soviet announcement made clear, was of quite small capacity—about the same size as experimental atomic electric power plants long since in existence in the west also.

are going to proceed with the atoms for peace plan anyway without the U.S.S.R. This puts the Russians on the spot.

It's just a front, Pravda declared a few days ago, intended to distract the attention of world public opinion from the fact the United States—in Pravda's words—is continuing intensive preparations for atomic war.

President Eisenhower's concept in making his proposals last Dec. 8 in the U.S. for international cooperation in peacetime atomic work was that the countries which have atomic materials and experience should make them available to other nations.

TOUGH ON THESIS This is going to make it harder and harder for the Communists to maintain their thesis that the United States is only occupied with war uses of atomic energy.

The inauguration of the Eisenhower plan is going to pose a serious problem for the Kremlin.

He specifically included the Soviet Union as a participant along with the United States. Confidential talks were held by the U.S. government and the Soviet government earlier this year to try to work this idea out, but there was no agreement.

Pravda, commenting on the President's Labor Day speech, said, "The United States is creating only the deceptive appearance of striving for use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes and in fact is continuing the intensive atomic arms race and preparation for atomic war."

RUSSIAN CLAIMS For years the Russians have been claiming with considerable effect in some places that it is the United States which is responsible for the atomic arms race, that while the U.S. government makes ready for atomic war the Soviet government directs a large part of its energy to seeking peaceful uses of atomic energy.

The talks broke down basically over the Soviet stand that any such arrangement should be accompanied by a general prohibition on any use of atomic and hydrogen weapons.

The Pravda version of the Eisenhower plan is not likely to fool many people if the United States government really pushes rapidly ahead with the President's project.

Not long ago the Russians announced with great fanfare, for instance, that they had put into

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In The Editor's Mail Bag

OLDTIMER ANGRY OAKRIDGE (To the Editor)—You are to be commended on your Labor Day editorial. I am at present working on the electric crew at the Ed. Hines Westfir Plant, Lumber Division, which as you know has not been on strike due to the fact that our former business agent overlooked opening our contract with the company last spring.

That applies to the AFL sawmill workers as well. This was one of the most ill-fated, ill advised strikes I have ever seen. When the unions by their acts lose the respect of industry and the confidence of their members, it is time that something be done besides just talk about it.

And also, Mr. Morse, next time you mention the give-away administration, let's have you give us a detailed accounting of the hundred billion that Truman and Roosevelt lost all track of.

As a member of the local CIO union of Oakridge, I feel that a few comments on some points you missed would be in order.

JOHN L. LUNDBERG, Rt. 1 - Box 206A, Oakridge, Oregon.

OH DEAR! OAKRIDGE (To the Editor)—As the editor has often said, "Politics make strange bed-fellows." We note in a local paper a recent front page article that a member of the Board of Directors of the Lane County Electric Co-operative has accepted chairmanship of a local Cordon for Senator Club. How any leader in a Public Power Utility can reconcile his position as a proponent of public development and distribution of electric power with chairmanship of a club advocating the re-election of Senator Cordon is beyond our understanding.

One of these is political. When our President Hartung makes the statement he was credited with a short time ago at the Springfield meeting that this is the year to endorse a complete slate of Democrat candidates, it makes me see red, and not the Russian kind either. I vote for whom I please and not always for a Republican because I happen to be one.

There has been altogether too much beating the drums for a strike every time an opening presented itself. There is too much protection afforded some union members, who personally I wouldn't have working for me at 10c an hour if I was in management's place.

Which is the more attractive? There is little room to choose between them. Gina has the prettier face—it has a fragile, doll-like quality. Marilyn has the more impressive figure. But it's close. Gina's structure is still not the kind you'd kick out of your tennis court.

Many years ago I helped elect Floyd B. Olsen, governor of Minnesota, on the Farm Labor ticket, and they just about wrecked the state. But we all make mistakes at times, especially when young and naive.

We need information that is not distorted or biased presented to the average worker, who, if he is not capable of making his own decisions, at least has had that opportunity.

SMALLER ACTRESS She was surrounded by press agents, interpreters and her husband, Dr. Mirko Skofic, a poker-faced man with a very sense of humor. He is also her manager. He finds less and less time for medicine.

Former President Green of the American Federation of Labor knew the value of keeping clear of politics. We don't want a labor party in this country and we don't want the Democrat party to serve as a vehicle for it (or do we?).

We worked hard in the old days and it didn't kill us. It did keep us from robbing banks (or our friends) as extra curricular activity. We were too tired come nightfall.

"When Gina was a smaller actress," Dr. Skofic said, "I was a bigger doctor. Now she's a bigger actress, I'm a smaller doctor."

We could also get along without some of our union leaders who do nothing but bellyache about the Taft-Hartley Act because it happens to curb some of their activities, which as far as the rank and file membership of a union is concerned, do them little or no good.

We built many of the institutions and industries that today furnish jobs for thousands of workers who neither know nor appreciate the fact.

"She's really a very talented woman," he said. "She sings, you know. And she sketches her own dresses."

I have been around this old world quite some time now and my hair is gray and thin from rubbing against objectionable characters. I make no apology for what I say nor fear any retaliation, because that is something which works both ways and I have always found if you want to get the horns in a nest real mad, just ram a stick in it. (Your own, if you wish.)

Both sides of the lumber industry could stand a cleaning and while it's being done, let's leave the politics out of it. Nobody is going to talk the country into a depression before the fall elections, not even Twenty-two Hour Morse, much as he would like to embarrass his former pal Jke.

"Yes, she sketches them after they're finished," said her husband. In halting but charming English, Gina explained that she is weary of being compared with Marilyn Monroe, she is weary of having American reporters never ask for measurements. They ask about her art.

So, when I make the statement that some of our union leadership stinks, I mean just that.

How can an officer in a public power distributing agency actively support Cordon's candidacy for re-election to the U. S. Senate? It's beyond us, so will let someone else figure it out.

NOT COMPLICATED "And they ask how much you're earning, and that is boring, too," said her husband. "It's so silly," Gina said. "They ask, how much is this (she indicated her chest)? What does it matter? It does not depend on the weight of the bosom to be a good actress."

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Gina and the doctor were married six years ago and honeymooned in the Alps. "She is not complicated," he said. "She has learned nothing of this woman business — how to be difficult, how to make a man suffer. She may look like a vamp but she's just a simple girl."

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Lightfoot Case Starts Phase of U.S. War on

WASHINGTON (NEA) — A new phase of the U.S. internal war on Communists will be launched in Chicago this fall with the trial of Claude Lightfoot under the membership clause of the Smith act.



All of the 81 Communist Party functionaries who have been convicted so far have been tried under the conspiracy clause of the Smith act. The specific charge has been organizing or helping to organize a "society, group, or assembly of persons who teach, advocate or encourage the overthrow or destruction of the government of the United States by force or violence."

The 10 Smith act trials completed in the past six years plus three more still pending in New Haven, Cleveland and Denver have all been against groups of defendants involved in a conspiracy.

It being easier to bring the Communists to trial in bunches than separately, this pattern has been followed in all Smith act cases until the Lightfoot case came along.

VITAL CLAUSE The evidence in this case seemed to offer an opportunity for the government to institute a trail against a single Communist under the membership clause.

In a membership case, the government must prove in every trial the subversive nature of the Communist Party, its advocacy of overthrow of the government, and the defendant's knowledge of these purposes together with his support of those objectives.

This is a time-consuming process. Even so, government attorneys believe this first membership case may be completed within six to eight weeks. The conspiracy trials have been running six to eight months.

Lightfoot was arrested June 14, 1954, and set for trial before the court in Chicago on Sept. 21. The case was filed by the U.S. Attorney James D. Parsons and James O'Donnell of the Department of Justice.

Since Lightfoot is the son to be tried under the membership clause of the Smith act, he is a Negro, born in Lake View, Chicago, and went to the University of Chicago and the University of Illinois. He has no other connections with the Communist Party. Over 20 years ago he became a member of the Young Communist League.

He returned to Chicago in 1936. Then he was national director of the Illinois branch of the Workers' School in 1942. He became a member of the Communist Party in 1945.

From April, 1945, to 1945—during most of the U.S. Communist Party's disbanding, Lightfoot was in the U.S. Army, in supply technician duty in the Quartermaster's Department. He served two years in a saw mill. He was discharged.

The next year he came to Chicago, helping to start the party. In 1948 he was self as legislative director of the Illinois branch of the Communist Party in New York, and he was arrested in 1949. He was held in the District Eight C. P. headquarters.

At the December, 1949, convention of the party in New York when its national membership was reduced from 55 to 35, Claude Lightfoot was one of nine alternates. This convention holds today, at the leading American Communist Party headquarters.

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