

Those Ten Little Words

In Salem the House of Representatives now has the Portland State College bill which was steamrollered through the Senate in record time last week. Before the steamroller starts through the House, we would urge representatives to think about three points:

1. The companion measure which would build P.S.C.'s \$800,000 building and leave the state's other educational building needs to be decided upon by popular vote. We talked about this in detail Sunday and expressed fear that Portland, happy with its new building, would not likely support the needs of the rest of the state. We suggested that the P.S.C. building be voted upon, too.

2. A curious line in the bill the Senate passed.

3. The speed with which all this is being done.

The curious line in the bill amounts to a blank check for the backers of Portland State to build just as big and just as complete a college as they want to—and don't think they don't want to. The State Board of Higher Education saw the dangers inherent in allowing that line to be in the bill. The board moved specifically to eliminate that line from the bill that went to the Legislature. But there it is—in the bill and approved by the Senate.

A draft of the law, read to the board Dec. 13, contained this sentence: "The Board of Higher Education may acquire additional land and construct additional buildings and facilities necessary for Portland State College to provide programs to accommodate all qualified applicants for admission."

Recognizing this as a "blank check," the board put a period after "College." Thus they eliminated the words, "to pro-

vide programs to accommodate all qualified applicants for admission." But somehow, when the bill got to the Legislature, the 10 little words were back in.

Board members insist that they will restrict Portland State to undergraduate studies of a general nature and to teacher training. Their assurances in this regard are doubtless made in good faith. But it is questionable if they can stick to their guns when the pressure builds up in Portland for a law school, for engineering, journalism, business training, pharmacy, music, home economics and graduate study. Their backbones will be stiffened if the "blank check" clause is removed by the Legislature.

Creating a college is like getting married or buying a car. It's not the original investment that counts; it's the upkeep and repairs. It's a serious step, and one which ought to be studied carefully by members of the Legislature. Therefore it is especially disturbing to note how easily the Senate passed the bill.

The House, we sincerely hope, will look at it with a more careful eye. There is no reason for hurry. The "blank check" clause should be removed. And we hope somebody in the House will wonder how much this thing is going to cost—year after year after year. What is going to be done about a library? How much is that going to cost next session or the session after that? Does the chancellor's office in Eugene really believe that Portland State will not be the largest school in the state system by 1965? In passing this bill, is the Legislature creating a third state school of the first order—another school comparable to the University and O. S. C.? Somebody ought to ask these questions, and he should insist upon answers.

January Thaw

Anglo-Saxons of King Alfred's time called January "Wulfmonath," the cold, winter month when hungry wolves were most likely dangerous. A thousand years later their descendants, settling in a new world, printed almanacs to forecast, far in advance, the weather. One of their forecasts was invariably for a "January thaw," pleasant but tragic about three weeks into January.

That's what Western Oregon had Sunday — an almanac-type January thaw, three weeks into Wulfmonath. Gardeners here, like gardeners of colonial times, inspected their shrubs and bulbs Sunday and fretted. They were fearful of the frosts of February, and even of March, which might nip the buds that had poked out too soon. They could mutter almanac phrases like "If you see grass in January, lock the grain in the granary," and "January warm, the Lord have mercy."

We join gardeners in their hope that there is no truth to the equally old saying, "If January calends be summerly say, 'twill be winterly weather 'til the calends of May."

New Judges

It looks as though Lane County may be facing a minor crisis in the availability of qualified persons for circuit judgeships, now that Judge William G. East is a leading contender for U. S. District Judge for Oregon.

He has the backing of the local bar association and in our opinion has been a hard-working, effective judge for this judicial district and has done an excellent job of maintaining the dignity of his office.

However, if Judge East should be selected for the federal post, it will immediately create one vacancy in Lane County Circuit Court. If the Legislature looks with favor on the local bar's request for another circuit judge to sit primarily in Lane County, it will mean the need for two new judges. We have commented already on the great need for the additional judge here.

This situation makes it incumbent on the bar to prepare now for selection of the most highly qualified men. This is not so easy as it seems because many of the best qualified lawyers are not willing to give up their private practice for circuit judge positions which pay \$10,500. In Lane County, we have been

fortunate for the most part in the quality, ability and integrity of our judges and the situation developing now calls for the highest type of community service from the Lane County Bar Assn., which in our system of selecting judges plays a key role.

The bench, in our democratic system of government, is one of the highest callings to which a citizen can aspire. We hope that some of our best qualified local lawyers will make themselves available for recommendation by the bar association.

Ave or Adlai?

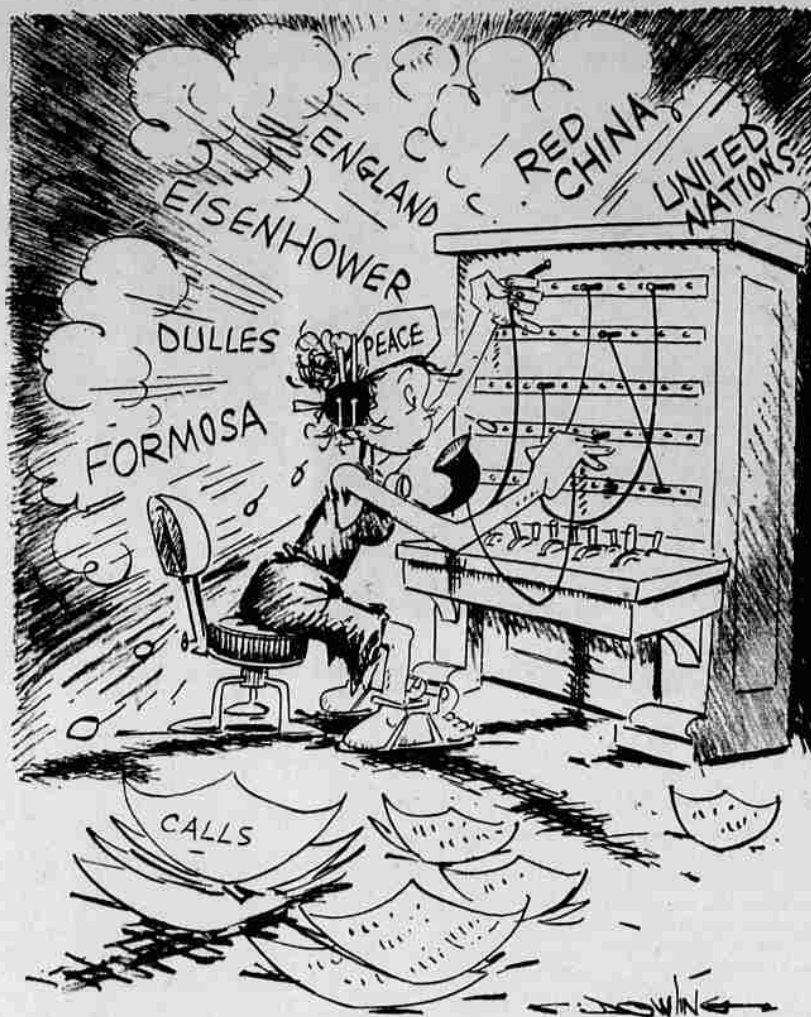
There is some speculation that New York's new governor, Averell Harriman, might squeeze out Adlai Stevenson when the Democrats in 1956 look for a man to take the presidency away from Eisenhower. And certainly "Honest Ave" does have some very real advantages that Stevenson lacks. The principal one is that he's got a steady job. Stevenson will be practicing law and minding his own business while Harriman is running the nation's largest state and making headlines every week. While Stevenson practices the profession which earns him a living, Harriman will be practicing the one (politics) which keeps his name before the voters.

It is doubtful, however, that Harriman can do any better than Stevenson did on buttering up the Old South, a traditionally Democratic region that took a fairly dim view of Stevenson and his A.D.A. liberalism. Harriman would take into the South both the A.D.A. tag and the tag of Tammany Hall, not a brilliant combination for a politician who wishes to win the hearts of the citizens of Dixie.

In the 1952 primary campaign we had some professional contact with both men. We found Stevenson both a sharper man in the give-and-take of the press conference, and a jollier boy in the social swim. We've heard both talk and we're more impressed with the one who talked so often in the fall of '52. If we were a delegate to the Democratic National convention, an unlikely contingency, we'd cast our little convention vote for Stevenson.

Down by Lebanon an airplane, landing on a field, struck a horse and killed the beast dead. That's an insulting way to eliminate the noble steed, who was once mankind's swiftest means of transportation.

This Is a Busy Time at the Switchboard



FREDERICK C. OTHMAN

Portions of U.S. Suffering Winter Drought

McLEAN, Va.—This so far has been the driest winter yet in our county. It isn't funny.

Cold we have had. And also winds. But all the snow we've seen wouldn't frost a cake. The Potomac River above tide water is little more than a trickle; my own creek isn't even that.

Wells keep running dry. One whole community has appealed for city water; the pumps there have been lifting nothing much but air. Careful citizens like myself have been rubbing off the tread of their new snow tires on dry pavements. Tire chains, so far unneeded, are destined to go on the bargain tables.

What we need is a genuine, old-fashioned blizzard, or maybe three, or 1955 will be a dried-out year for sure. Widespread and heavy snows have hit many parts of the country, but Fairfax County, Va., is not alone in its lack of moisture.

Rep. Ed Edmondson (D-Okl.) surprised his fellow statesmen with a recital of Oklahoma's woes, and those of 17 other states, where rains and snows have been slight. He charged that relief from the federal government not only has been too little and too late, but that in many cases it has gone to the wrong places.

He reported that in Oklahoma

alone 115,000 people are on direct food relief; half of these are farmers and their families with hardly enough water even to drink.

HUNGRY PEOPLE

"There are hungry people in Oklahoma," he said, "and they number into the thousands. I call it Catastrophe. I call it trouble."

He said he'd received numerous charges that small farmers have been discriminated against in the passing out of relief and that certain big-time seed and feed dealers have been profiteering in government surplus commodities. He promised that Congress hasn't heard the last about that.

Rep. Overton Brooks (D-La.) agreed that Louisiana was similarly dry and Rep. Harrison A. Williams (D-N.J.) thanked them both for letting him, a city man, know how rough this drought has become.

And that brings us back to my own beaten-up acres, which never yet have looked so yellow as they do now. My well, which is 120 feet deep, has not yet begun to sputter, but every morning now I take my shower with hot water and apprehension.

Our new fruit trees we have wrapped in aluminum foil to protect them from the drying

winds. We've mulched the box woods and other brush with straw to save what moisture may still be left in the ground.

WISHFUL THINKER

Every couple of days the weatherman, who must be a wishful thinker, predicts snow and then the sun makes a liar of him.

Night before last the thermometer on our hill registered 10 above zero. This is pipe-freezing weather, but after seven years in the country, buying new pipes to replace the busted ones every spring, I have foiled that.

There's a new widget on the market called a heat ribbon. It's made of plastic and it looks something like the lead-in wire on a television set. The idea is wrap this around the cold pipe and plug it in. The ribbon grows warm and so does the pipe and the water continues to flow.

Some of my more ingenious neighbors have installed thermostats to turn their ribbons on automatically when the pipe starts to freeze. I'm not smart enough to do this; I keep an eye on the thermometer and push the button. I'll not forget, either.

Nobody does, after a few winters of wrestling with cracked water pipes.

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IN THE EDITOR'S MAILBAG

Which Way?

EUGENE (To the Editor)—I would like to say a few things to Glenn Widdifield of Springfield. Yes, Glenn, that trash on the streets that you mention is evil and dangerous because it presents a false view of life in its true sense. Life in its essence is beautiful and sacred, and so far as gambling goes it's all right to gamble with nature. Farmers have to do it and so do miners and fishermen. "Replenish the earth and subdue it" is God's command. But gambling with your brother's or sister's money is decidedly wicked. "Thou shalt not covet (or desire) anything that is thy neighbor's" is one of the ten commandments. This applies as well to adults.

You are mistaken, Glenn, when you refer to high school kids of 14 or 15 as grown up. They may be grown up physically, but mentally and morally they are still children. That is why we have laws for their protection. The body develops so much faster than the mind. A boy or girl who is denied proper home or religious protection is much like a leaf detached from a tree—it is easily tossed about by the wind.

Our country is infested with wolves in human form and they know that boys and girls are easy victims to cigarettes, liquor and gambling, as slavish habits to make the promoters rich. If boys would not smoke or drink until they are 21, most of them would never smoke at all. When a man gets to be 25 or 30 he looks back at his teen-age, not as "grown up" but as "growing up" and climbing over "fool hill" with many a hard fall. That is the hard way of life which most of us had to learn. I have known many strong-looking men who had stomach ulcers, heart attacks and lung trouble by using beer and cigarettes when they might as well have been as sound as a dollar. As a watch is no better than its mainspring, so no boy or girl is any better physically than his

heart and lungs. Any athlete can tell you that.

When I was your age, Glenn, we had to take several courses on physiology showing the evil effects of liquor and tobacco on our health. Today I would no more be tempted by that stuff than I would be tempted to eat trash out of the barnyard. So it's up to you, Glenn. You can become a strong, healthy boy and set a good example to others, or you can drift with the wind like a leaf and help drag others down. Which shall it be?

DORVIN DUDECK
Route 5.

Whig View

EUGENE — (To the Editor)—All the Whigs (both of them) have read with keen interest the story (Two for the Show) in a recent issue of Time magazine about our two Oregon senators, Coalcoosing of these two senators, two souls with but a single thought, two souls that beat as one, will undoubtedly demote our ring master Joe McCarthy to taking tickets for the side show and the Republican minority to selling pop-corn and peanuts and keeping small boys from crawling under the merry-go-round tent.

The Whigs can see great possibilities in this pair if they can agree which shall work on the gee side and which on the haw side of the yoke or keep from pulling their heads out of the bow. Together they should be able to pull a heavy load, switch flies off one another's rump and pull the donkey out of any mud hole in which it may flounder. They have an unbroken spirit and possess a flare of life, and are intimate enough to read each other's fan mail.

Being a Whig and father of rare culture and extensive experience, we can but sit back and dream of what might have been, had McKay not confiscated all the bed clothes and left Wayne's feet exposed to the cold, cruel world. The Republi-

can party is now living in the past and overworking the word IF. They say IF more Republicans had voted; IF less Democrats had NOT voted; IF the GOP had been more aggressive; IF more political speakers had taken up the cudgel for Cordon, IF McCarthy had been allowed to whistle stop the country. Well all we can say IF Uncle Sam had been a woman he would have been your aunt. No use shedding crocodile tears, spilling tiger milk or concocting peacock ideas. We are in for it and what cannot be cured must be endured. Right or wrong they are still our senators and under their vests (if they wear a vest) will undoubtedly be found an honest, pulsating and sentimental heart of gold. The future is only the past again, entered through another gate: (Pinerio)

Troubled but not dismayed,
BRET LAW

Cats

EUGENE (To the Editor)—One day last week, a lovely, long-haired, light grey and white cat appeared at my door. Of course, it may have been lost, and then again it may have been dumped. Since I have three cats of my own, I hardly care to have another. So, I'd better get busy and hunt a home for this one.

If people who dump cats, dogs, kittens and pups, were themselves dumped in some strange place without food, shelter or drink, I wonder how they would like it. Feelings of animals can be hurt and an animal can be hungry and thirsty just like people.

Once a tiny kitten, not old enough to lap milk, was left at my place and I fed her with a doll bottle. Sometimes people do not appreciate things half as much as animals. Remember Matthew 5:7.

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MARQUIS CHILDS

Segregation Issue Delayed By Unfilled Court Position

WASHINGTON — Final settlement of the most important issue to come before the Supreme Court in a generation is being held up because there are only eight justices instead of the full complement of nine on the bench. This is, of course, the issue of desegregation in America's public school system.

On Nov. 8, President Eisenhower nominated John Marshall Harlan to fill the vacancy on the court left by the death of Justice Robert H. Jackson. The hope was the Senate would act during the McCarthy session so that Harlan could take his place on the supreme bench with the other justices.

SECOND TRIP

But the Senate Judiciary Committee failed to act on the nomination. The opposition of the southerners was openly expressed by Sen. James O. Eastland of Mississippi. The then chairman of the committee, Sen. William Langer of North Dakota, had been having a kind of running feud with the Department of Justice and he complained that no appointments to the Supreme Court had ever come from North Dakota or other western and southern states, which he named.

The President sent the nomination up a second time on Jan. 10. Harlan is a New York lawyer out of the law firm in which former Gov. Thomas E. Dewey has now become senior partner. He was named a year ago to be a judge on the circuit court of appeals in New York.

The unanimous decision of last May abolishing segregation in the public schools provided for further argument on how the sweeping order should be put into effect. This was widely hailed at the time as a wise provision making possible a cooling-off period in which timing and method could be debated. The argument had been first set down for December but it was indefinitely postponed when no action was taken on the Harlan nomination at the special session of the Senate.

WANT HEARINGS

Chief Justice Earl Warren was known to be anxious that a full bench hear the three days of debate between opponents and proponents of the revolutionary change. Many other cases are certain to grow out of the court's original order. Some southern states are seeking legal ways to get around the decision. Three states — South Carolina, Georgia and Mississippi — have already adopted constitutional changes permitting counties or

school districts to abolish the public school system in order to avoid the decree of integration. Such action will almost certainly be challenged in the courts and the eventual decision will be up to the highest court in the land. A justice who had not heard the argument might feel it necessary to disqualify himself. When there are only eight justices, and they divide four to four, the effect is to affirm the lower court's decision, but this is not binding in any other case.

Both Langer, now ranking minority member on the judiciary committee and Eastland, the ranking majority member, want hearings held on the Harlan nomination. Langer says he is opposed to Harlan's confirmation and will oppose all nominations to the cabinet and the Supreme Court until some of the unrecognized states are given their just due. According to Langer, Florida in the 109 years since its admission has never had an appointee either to the cabinet or the high court.

The real issue, however, is Harlan's attitude on the question of integration. His grandfather, also named John Marshall Harlan, was a Supreme Court justice, and in 1895 he wrote a famous dissent. He dissented vigorously from the decision in which the court held that "equal but separate" school facilities for Negroes met the test of the constitutional guarantee of equality of opportunity. The "equal but separate" doctrine, the basis for segregation in the schools of the south, prevailed down to the court's decision of last May.

FAMOUS CASE

Southerners have read that dissent in the famous case of Plessy vs. Ferguson and they wonder if it expresses the views of the grandson. Sen. Eastland is reported to have raised the dissent as a ground for objection to the present-day John Marshall Harlan. Eastland says this is not true and that he has never made any public reference to the likelihood that the grandson might think like the grandfather.

Hearings, when they are held, should not take long. Harlan has the highest reputation among his fellow lawyers in New York. The Senate Judiciary Committee has received some derogatory letters but they are virtually all of the type that say, "We don't want any more justices who think the way those others do."

Reports reaching the court indicate that integration is taking place with little incident, even in those border states such as Tennessee where segregation has been a deeply entrenched pattern. There is great gratification that on the whole it has been so well and temperately accepted. But the court would like to get on with the job as quickly as possible.

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PETER EDSON

Labor's Election Influence Conceded by GOP Analysts

WASHINGTON (NEA) — For the first time, Republican analysts are ready to concede that the influence of the union labor vote and the activities of organized labor's political workers are an important factor in U. S. election results.

It is conceded that the so-called labor vote was influential in electing many candidates who this month took office as state legislators, governors and members of the new Congress.

In no case can it be said that all-out, pro-labor members control any state legislature or any state's delegation to Congress. But there are freely expressed Republican opinions that if present trends continue, union labor control of the Democratic party or even a U. S. Labor party are possible. For the Republicans, this poses a problem of how to win more union labor support.

Analyses of last November's elections, looking primarily at the union labor vote influence, are still not yet completed. But the highlights are so readily discernible that they show a pattern.

U. S. Senate races in which the labor vote held at least the balance of power, gave victory to the following Democrats: Paul H. Douglas of Illinois, Patrick V. McNamara of Michigan, Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota, James E. Murray of Montana and Richard L. Neuberger of Oregon.

MORE 'FRIENDS'

American Federation of Labor's League for Political Education has recently revised upward the number of friendly senators and representatives elected in 1952. It now lists 182 instead of 176 pro-labor congressmen and 41 instead of 40 pro-labor senators.

AFL-LLPE points out that 60 per cent of the Senate candidates and 58 per cent of the House candidates it endorsed were elected. Putting it another way, 18 out of 30 endorsed Senate candidates won, and 152 out of 282 endorsed House candidates won.

This is seen as considerable advance from the 80th Congress, when organized labor could claim

only 83 friends in the House and 25 in the Senate.

In governorship races, the union labor vote is given credit — or blame — for the election of such candidates as Averell Harriman in New York, Abraham A. Ribicoff in Connecticut, G. Mennen Williams in Michigan and George M. Leader in Pennsylvania.

In all, the Democrats took 27 governorships — a gain of seven — but not all of these can be attributed to a labor vote.

Similarly, in state legislature races, one preliminary count indicates that the Democrats took a total of 545 seats away from Republicans, and lost only six. Just what the labor vote influence was in these results is still under study.

The general trend, however, is considered significant. While only 16 million out of the 64 million workers in the U. S. civilian labor force belong to organized unions, this minority has learned gradually how to throw its political weight around most effectively in national, state and local elections.

FEMALE VOTE

The Congress of Industrial Organizations Political Action Committee was a whipping boy for Republican campaign orators in the Franklin D. Roosevelt era. But CIO-PAC was not taken seriously as a political force nor was it considered too effective.

When President Eisenhower was elected in 1952, it was interpreted as proof that there was no labor vote. Today CIO-PAC spokesmen say it was the wives of many union members who switched votes and helped elect Eisenhower.

In 1954 elections, it is believed most of the union labor vote went Democratic again. An important factor was unemployment. Of the 21 House seats which Democrats took away from Republicans, 18 were in labor-surplus areas.

AFL-LLPE and CIO-PAC each raised more than \$1 million in campaign funds this year. Half was used in the national and half in local elections. This would indicate only about two million union labor members — at \$1 apiece — supporting political activity.