

Annexations a Problem in Our Area

Annexation is a hot topic in Eugene, Springfield and the suburbs and there is good reason that it should be. The metropolitan area has about 80,000 people but only about 50,000 of these are within the two cities. We have 30,000 people in the unincorporated areas around and between the cities. This means that these people have problems arising from congestion that the cities are in the best position to solve. It is especially true of persons residing adjacent to or near present city boundaries.

There are three areas that are discussing annexation at the present time:

1. The Glenwood community which lies in the bend of the Willamette River between Eugene and Springfield.
2. The Bethel area northwest of Eugene which recently defeated annexation proposals.
3. A large area east of Springfield which has defeated annexation but is considering it again.

A group in Glenwood, under the chairmanship of businessman Walter Steen, plans to meet with both Eugene and Springfield councilmen to determine where its fortunes would be served best by annexation. A proposal to annex the west half of Glenwood to Eugene failed last fall by a narrow margin.

In some respects, the Bethel and East Springfield situations are similar. Attempts to take in a large area has failed in the case of both cities. The people residing farthest from the city limits have defeated annexation. This would indicate that the proper thing to do is to hold elections for the people closest to the city limits who have al-

ready indicated they want city services. People in the Bethel Water District and Eugene councilmen are studying this possibility now.

In Springfield the Chamber of Commerce has urged the city council to delay action on a proposed annexation measure for the area east of the city. The chamber wants a study of the area made and this is probably sound procedure if in the study the people in the area concerned are consulted.

The people closest to the east city limits of Springfield have shown the greatest desire to be in the city. However, city officials have contended that it is more economically sound to take in a larger area, including the big Weyerhaeuser plant. The only trouble with this is that it probably won't work. It didn't work before, and the people near the city who vitally need city services, such as sewers and drainage, are left in no-man's land.

Weyerhaeuser officials don't want to be in the city, chiefly because of the big additional tax bite. That is understandable, but they will have to realize that someday as the area becomes more congested the people living there will force the issue. Right now, the important point, as we see it, is to annex the congested area near the east city limits, both for the benefit of people living there and the citizens of Springfield. Just as in the Bethel case, the other areas will come in later as the buildup progresses.

Subdistricting

Alison Wysong, out-going chairman of the county's Democrats, writes a letter on this page and charges Lane County's legislative delegation with thwarting the will of the people. He points out that the bill permitting counties to be sub-districted for representative purposes passed in Lane County by 7,000 votes last November. Now, he argues, Lane's legislators who don't want the bill to apply to Lane County have prevented it from applying here.

The bill Mr. Wysong refers to would have split the county in two for representative purposes. Eugene and its immediate suburbs would elect two men. Springfield and the remainder of the county would choose three. Under the present system we elect five from the county at large. Object of the bill was to give voters a smaller slate to choose from. There are now 10 names on the ballot for the five positions. Under the proposed measure there would have been four or six.

It was a good law the voters passed in November. It permitted, but did not require—repeat, did not require—sub-districting. This newspaper supported the ballot measure, not because 10 names are too many for the voters to pick through, but because the day might come when our ballot has many more names. In Multnomah County voters pick through 32 names to elect 16.

The argument that the bill would "give representation" to other parts of the county is not valid. A representative from Eugene or Cottage Grove does not "represent" only his home town. Anyway, we already have a good geographical spread in our delegation—two from Eugene and three from elsewhere. When we had only three representatives, we had one from Eugene and two from elsewhere.

Unfortunately the basic issue is all smogged up in politics. Democrats want to subdistrict Marion and Lane Counties because thereby they might elect some Democratic representatives. (Count out Eugene and this is a Democratic county.) Republicans want to chop up Multnomah County, because the way the districts would be carved would favor Republican chances there.

It shouldn't be a political matter. Counties that need subdistricting should be allowed to have it. Counties that don't need it should not have it forced upon them because their voters approved a purely permissive law.

We may expect to hear more of this. It is a ready-made issue for the Democrats in 1956. This newspaper will support subdistricting for Lane County as soon as the ballot is so full of names that the intelligent voter can't make an intelligent choice.

'Ask Bartlett'

Some days ago we acknowledged our debt to A. L. Strand, president of Oregon State College, who notified us that this is the 100th anniversary of Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass." It turns out that President Strand is something of an expert on 1955 centennials. He looked them up in the course of preparing for a speech on the 100th anniversary of professional entomology, his specialty. He points out that this is also the centenary of "Ten Nights in a Barroom" and "Jeannie with the Light Brown Hair."

Well, we've got an anniversary for him. This is the centennial of that handy tome, "Familiar Quotations," known also as "Bartlett's." John Bartlett was a bookseller on Harvard Square and something of a reader. When a question arose as to the source of a familiar saying, the Cambridge answer was to "Ask Bartlett." Soon "asking Bartlett" became a standard procedure.

So Bartlett put his quotations in a book, 295 pages long. It was revised from time to time. The newest edition, the 12th, published in 1948, contains 1,331 pages. The one we use several times a week (mainly to settle arguments) is the 11th edition, published in 1937. It has 1,578 pages, and weighs something over four pounds, counting the slips of paper and the pipe cleaners stuffed in it for bookmarks.

And, President Strand will no doubt want to know, Walt Whitman whose most memorable poems appeared the year of the first Bartlett's, didn't get included in the noble book until 1914.

Red Cross

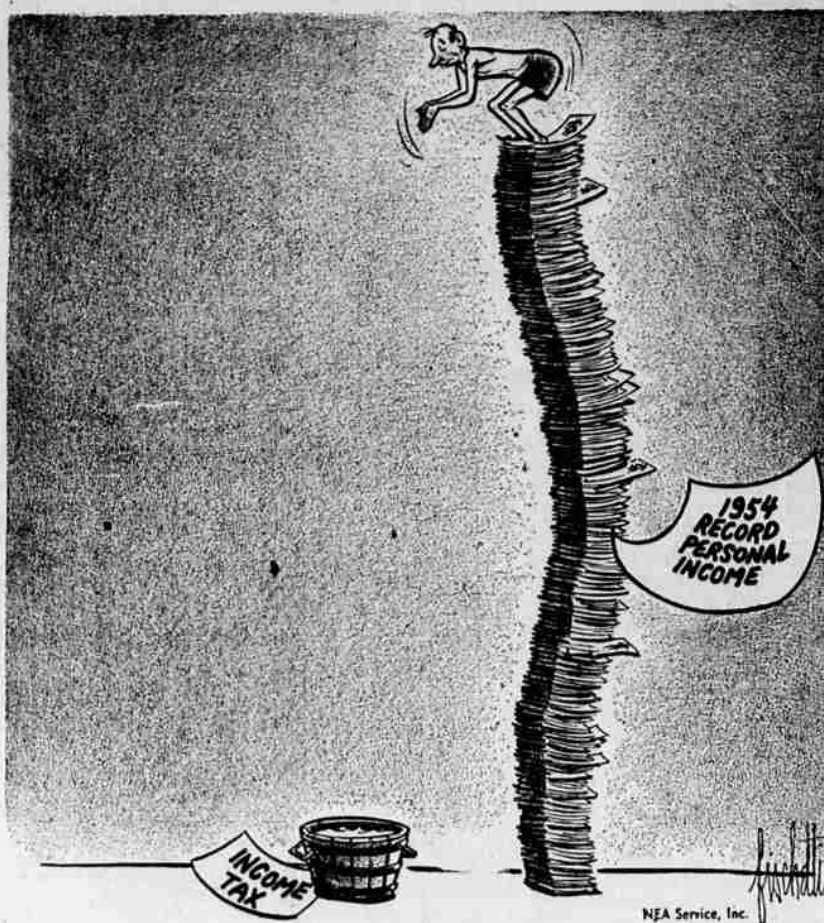
March has traditionally been Red Cross month and in many parts of the land volunteer workers are out calling on businesses and punching doorbells for contributions and urging people to join the Red Cross.

Here in Lane County, the Red Cross has joined with the Community Chest in a United Fund campaign and the monies for the local chapter and our share to the national organization were raised last fall.

Right now some of the 20 per cent of Red Cross funds that go to the national organization is helping the victims of the floods on the Ohio River. The other 80 per cent is working right here in Lane County, helping families who lose their belongings in fire, aiding active servicemen and their families and providing the facilities and equipment for first aid training and many other valuable services.

So if you read, hear, or see that the Red Cross needs funds and volunteers, you can be assured that we in Lane County have the job accomplished for this year already.

It'll Hurt a Little More This Year



IN THE EDITOR'S MAILBAG

Letters to the editor should be limited to not more than 400 words and the name and address.

Subdistricting

EUGENE (To The Editor)—A recent visit to Salem to testify before the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee produced some startling revelations. Senate Bill 6 was introduced at this session for the purpose of districting Multnomah, Marion, and Lane Counties. Because Lane County's delegation is opposed to this bill, Lane County was dropped.

The only two Lane representatives available Monday afternoon when asked for reasons they opposed the bill, made such statements as: "I don't think it's what the people of Lane County want." "The voters of Lane County must first express their opinion." "I don't recall Lane County voting on any such matter." "The vote was not a true picture of what Lane County wants."

Last November's election not only sent these representatives to Salem but passed the districting measure by almost 7,000 votes. If we take their word that the vote on this ballot measure was not an expression of true feelings, then, following this reasoning, it could be pointed out that these same voters were not sure of what they were doing when they cast their votes for these representatives.

It can be said that our seven man delegation is clear on one point at least. Metropolitan Eugene elected everyone of them. The districting bill would have given the rest of the county a chance to elect their representatives. Hoping to protect their partisan position they have chosen to throw this bill into the realm of politics by violating and ignoring the mandate of the voters of Lane County. I am sure the challenge will be taken up. Lane County is in a fine state when we must depend on Senator Holmes of Clatsop County to sponsor a bill that Lane County voters asked for. Such unwillingness to respect the wishes of the people of Lane County could, and undoubtedly will be a prime issue in the 1956 campaign.

ALISON C. WYSONG, JR.
2890 Chamber St.

Rattled

EUGENE — (To The Editor)—We read with interest what friend Hayes wrote: He claims that Old Bret missed the boat.

It's true I did, but don't you fret, Just give me time—I'll make it yet.

'Twas the Democrats and the GOP With their raise in pay that rattled me.

But he assured a Whig votes right— He votes three times — morn, noon and night.

Hayes thinks that Bret should tag along— (Bret never tags—he leads the throng).

We don't bemoan our painful lot, Or the weary lessons that time has taught.

Our aim is still—will always be, To scratch the donkey and the GOP.

So in our last expiring breath, When our Whiggery voice is hushed in death,

You'll find Old Bret is sticking 'round And riding that boat to higher ground.

Bret Law

Wipe 'Em Out!

EUGENE (To The Editor)—The persuasive arguments against any form of "Government in business" as advanced by Mrs. Phetteplace have caused me to reexamine my beliefs, and I call upon others as misguided as I was to change their ways.

Following the premises implicitly in the reasoning of Mrs. P., I suggest, as a starter, abolition of the following: the postal system; city, county and state police departments; municipal fire, water, street and other "public service" departments; welfare agencies at all public levels; public schools, playgrounds, parks, and libraries; and other such "socialistic" endeavors.

Furthermore, let us sell county, state and federal roads to the highest bidder; dispose of state and national forests, parks, reserves and monuments to Dixon-Yates associates; away with county agents, public soil conservation and flood control agencies, and public marketing resources and facilities of all kinds; put the greatest-president-we-ever-had-Hoover Dam, Coulee Dam and other government-built river barriers on the auction block; shut down all V. A. hospitals, city and county hospitals and clinics, and publically-financed homes for the aged, deaf, blind, and crippled; and, of course, put out of commission all city and state radio and TV stations.

I would also call upon the enlightened citizenry to wipe from the books these sordid blots upon our American Way of Life: social security, unemployment compensation, workmen's compensation, aid to children, rehabilitation services, GI allotments, and the ghastly lie.

It stands to reason that labor unions should be run out of business, that cooperatives in whatever form be evicted from their premises, that all books which sneakingly snipe at General Motors and Dixon-Yates be censored, and that all individuals who do not pass the Radar-Thought Test be incarcerated. As for those vile public officials of the TVA-area states who have opposed Dixon-Yates, they were just sneaky radicals to begin with, and if

voters knew what kind of scoundrels these officials would turn out to be, the voters would never have elected them.

RALPH FRIEDMAN
255-31 Cheshire Ave.

No Seats?

EUGENE (To The Editor)—Friday night at Gill Coliseum, Corvallis, Oregon, there were 1,500 empty seats at the basketball game, and the people had previously been told that all the tickets and seats were sold. Why were all these seats empty? This seems to be the story:

The students of Oregon State College were informed that it would be necessary to go to the Coliseum at 5 o'clock in order to get seats. Then they had to stand in line until 6 or after before they could get into the Coliseum to get to their seats, then just sit, because the game didn't start until 8 o'clock. Consequently, with this long waiting period many of the students just stayed home; they were disgusted!

Would you like to go to a basketball game if you had to start out at 5 o'clock in order to get seats? Stand in line in the cold, then finally get into the building about 6:30 and just sit and wait around 'till 8 o'clock? To me the answer is—NO! These students just went on a "No Go" strike, so to speak.

I don't know, but it seems to me as though we are commercializing our sports and our colleges to such an extent that the students—the plain students—are getting lost in the shuffle. We're attempting to put on a purely professional show with only money involved. How much a seat can we get and how many can we sell? Sure, we have to pay expenses, but let's be reasonable. We run these colleges for the good of our pupils—our sons and daughters—so let's not lose sight of this fact. It's the students that make a game exciting and important to me, and to us as fathers and mothers of these students. Let's give the students a chance!

Yours truly,
GEO. M. PETERSEN
3011 Elmira Road

SIDEGLANCES

By Galbraith



PETER EDSON

Federal Agencies Finding Themselves in Hot Water

WASHINGTON (NEA) — Practically every one of the so-called "independent" and also-called "quasi-judicial" regulatory agencies of federal government is now in hot water right up to its multiple chins. A few examples will give the pitch:

Federal Communications Commission is on the pan over charges of using coached witnesses who have now recanted their testimony against Edward Lamb in his application for renewal of an Erie, Pa., TV license.

Federal Trade Commission, re-organized last May and now reviewing some 14,000 past decisions, is charged by labor union leaders with scuttling the consumers' interests.

Civil Aeronautics Board has split on straight political party lines in five major decisions in two years.

National Labor Relations Board has been without a general counsel since Dec. 20. Unions now charge that NLRB is antilabor in its decisions, just as business interests in Democratic days charged the agency with being pro-labor.

FACES BIG TESTS

Federal Power Commission faces big tests in handling of natural gas and Hells Canyon power license cases involving public versus private interests.

The Eisenhower administration is apparently attempting a rejuvenation of the superannuated Interstate Commerce Commission and is finding the going tough.

In oversimplified summary the main troubles are changes in top personnel and changes in administration policy guidance. Much of this is the natural result of the shift from Democratic to Republican control of government. But even after two years, the shift is not complete and there is much confusion.

Many Eisenhower administration appointees to fill vacancies on these boards and commissions have been held up in Congress. This has delayed the handling of pending cases.

HAL BOYLE

Remagen Bridge Capture Upset Allied Strategists

NEW YORK (AP)—The surprise capture of the Remagen Bridge across the Rhine 10 years ago is now accepted as one of the stunning feats in military history.

But when it actually happened it is hard to say who was dismayed most by it — the German enemy or some of the top Allied strategists.

At an anniversary reunion last week President Eisenhower honored 12 heroes who were among the first to cross and seize the bridge. Warmly he assured them that their action typified "the dash, the ingenuity, the readiness at the first opportunity that characterizes the American soldier."

But diplomatically he refrained from mentioning that this sudden battlefield prize became for a few days quite a hot potato at his own wartime headquarters. The big question: What to do with the bridge?

CHIEFTAINS UPSET

Some military strategists, like wives at housecleaning time, hate to change their tidy plans, no matter for what reason. That's why the unexpected capture of the Remagen Bridge upset and even annoyed some Allied chiefs.

Here was the situation in early 1945:

Nobody expected to breach the ancient barrier of the Rhine except as the result of a mighty effort. A big plan had been laid to make the crossing in Field Marshal Montgomery's sector.

Most British—and some American—advisers to Eisenhower at SHAEF were pressing him to mass the Allied strength behind Montgomery in a single big march across Germany.

But Gen. Omar Nelson Bradley and other American field commanders favored another plan. Bradley himself wanted also to cross the Rhine with his Army group, swing north, link up with Montgomery and thus pocket the Ruhr, Germany's industrial heart.

CHANGED THE PICTURE

So the issue stood—still undecided—on March 7th. Then doughboys and tankmen of the 9th Armored Division dramatically changed the picture. Traveling so swiftly they actually had gone beyond their road maps. They arrived at the Rhine. Startled German engineers, led by a major, frantically tried to destroy the Ludendorff railway bridge. Two explosions weakened the structure. But before they could complete the job, American gunfire drove them off. The Yanks raced to the far side of the Rhine.

Should the small American spearhead have seized the

There is a further complication at the second level of personnel in these regulatory agencies, just below the 5 to 11 top members who are presidential appointees. This is in the "examiners" who make the preliminary investigations of complicated business situations, on which the boards and commissions pass final judgment.

IMPARTIAL, PURE

There are 277 of these hearing examiners in the government now. Their pay is \$11,000 to \$15,000 a year. They are supposed to be legal and technical experts in their respective fields of railroads, communications or power. They are supposed to be non-partisan, impartial and as pure as honest judges.

The contention of many business executives and corporation lawyers—particularly those who lose cases before the regulatory agencies—is that too many of the examiners are New Deal and Fair Deal appointees now frozen into their jobs by Civil Service, prejudiced by previous administration philosophy.

GOP extremists argue that all Democratic holdovers in these examiners' jobs should be cleaned out and replaced by deserving Republicans who would then stop persecuting business.

This brings up the second main question, which is policy guidance for these regulatory agencies.

It is only natural that the Republicans have tried to influence the thinking of these boards and commissions, so that they will hand down decisions more in harmony with GOP ideas.

EASIEST WAY

The easiest way to do this is by appointing to the quasi-judicial agencies men who will promise in advance to carry out Administration policies. The more subtle way is through the indirect influence of politicians, interested cabinet officers and even the White House itself. How much of this goes on is rarely ever revealed, but in the end result the slip shows.

The nonpartisan view of this network of regulatory agencies is that they should be as free and uninfluenced as the courts. After all, they were created by Congress to carry out specific laws for the general public good.

bridge on its own initiative?

One officer, who knew of the impending big crossing planned farther north by SHAEF, confessed later his first, momentary reaction to the news his men had seized a bridge intact was this: "What did the boys go and do that for? Now we'll all be in trouble."

BRADLEY DELIGHTED

A high operations officer from SHAEF was present when Bradley, highly delighted, heard the news. When this officer minimized the importance of the bridge's capture, saying it didn't fit into "the big plan"—the Montgomery plan—Bradley indignantly demanded:

"What in hell do you want us to do—pull back and blow it up?"

Eisenhower himself saw the military possibilities at once and ordered the bridgehead strengthened immediately. Later, overriding his SHAEF staff exponents of "the big plan," he sided with Bradley and others who had favored a double pincer attack across the Rhine. In his memoirs Eisenhower credits the Remagen Bridge seizure with shortening the war.

Thus did a relative handful of troops, men with the courage and enterprise to seize a golden moment, change history.

Today many of the survivors have been honored with medals. Equal honor is owed to the memory of dozens of American Army engineers who repaired the bridge under shellfire for 10 previous days and lost their lives when it collapsed into the Rhine.

NO MEDAL FOR HIM

No medal went to the German major who had been ordered to blow up the bridge, and didn't quite succeed. There is no possible excuse in the German army for failing to blow a bridge across the Rhine.

He was tried and shot, and it didn't take very long. Somehow, looking back at the Remagen story, which I helped cover 10 years ago as a war reporter, I cannot escape a feeling of regret at the German major's penalty. Fate put him in the wrong place at the wrong time, and he paid a high price for some bad battlefield luck. He left, I believe, a family.

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