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'Jabberwocky' Describes It Nicely

There's an adage to the effect that a closed mouth gathers no foot. The Oregonian's editors should memorize it—and reflect upon it when next they feel moved to write about "Tax Jabberwocky."

Last Saturday they published what they must have intended as a rebuttal to earlier disclosure here that Portland is dogging it when it comes to employing local property taxes for the support of public education.

Instead, our peers at the Oregonian only proved what we have insisted all along. We quote them now:

The Eugene taxpayer pays a smaller municipal tax than does his Portland counterpart, because the smaller the city the less complex the required services. And the Eugene taxpayer's county millage is extremely low, less than half that of the Portland taxpayer, because Lane County gets a big help from O & C land grant funds in meeting its budget.

Taking that first point first, we can only conclude, again, that the Oregonian expects to shift a larger portion of its local school district's burdens to the state-at-large, for no better reason than that it is a big-city district.

Portland is a big burg, sure. And a big force, politically, in this state. But that really should have nothing to do with the problem of putting state-collected school support funds to use where they are most needed.

The Oregonian's argument that Portland property owners are too heavily burdened to support their own schools as most those of other districts is refuted by facts available right in the Portland area. Statistically equalized tax rates for Portland, Gresham, Oregon City and Beaverton are now quoted from a current tax study which the Oregonian editors seem to have read only for purposes of making Portland-Eugene comparisons.

Table with 5 columns: City, Per Capita, Per Capita, Equalized Millages for, City Other. Rows for Portland, Gresham, Oregon City, Beaverton.

Considering its abilities to bear property taxes, even Beaverton is outclassing Portland in willingness to pay its own way—particularly in regard to schools. Now, as to the Oregonian's sly cut at

the O&C funds which help reduce county taxes in 18 western Oregon counties, we are, and have been, agreeable to a legislative interim committee recommendation that these be to some degree included in calculations meant to determine relative needs for state "equalization" payments to local school districts.

As the Oregonian so rightly stated, we do champion the principle that state aid should go first to those districts which are valuation-poor and pupil-poor.

It is our view, however, that Portlanders are using the O&C issue only as a smokescreen to hide behind while they attack the equalization principle in hopes of destroying it entirely. Similarly, it is purposeful that they cry "discrimination"; complain that they have too many tax demands upon them because they live in a big city; and, beamon having only \$5,412 assessed value per capita.

They are attempting to draw attention away from one compelling truth. We repeat that now.

Only 14 Oregon cities—including Portland and Eugene—have \$5,400 or more assessed valuation per capita. Two hundred and four have less! And, many rural areas are without high-value industrial and commercial properties which they would need to match even the average city's property-tax abilities.

Clearly, equalization is needed in the distribution of state school-aid funds in order to guarantee every Oregon youngster a sound, basic education. Clearly, some youngsters could not be afforded this guarantee if state aid were apportioned on the flat, per-pupil basis that Portland favors.

The Oregonian calls it loony logic to suggest that Portland per capita taxes should be higher than Eugene's—or Podunk's, we must suppose.

What, may we ask, could be loonier than to follow the Oregonian's brand of logic to its conclusion? What could be more neatly termed "jabberwocky" than a plea that state school-support funds should be juggled to compensate Portland simply because Eugene and Podunk haven't yet increased their non-school property taxes to support zoos, municipal sports palaces and other necessities of big-city status.

The Kind of 'Gap'

There has been consternation, understandably, but more than that there seems to be general misunderstanding concerning this business of a "missile gap."

Recently, when the Russians shot a huge rocket toward Venus, we heard comments that the old "missile gap" apparently still existed. That is, the U. S. is yet several years behind the Russians in long-range rocket capabilities.

Actually, this is not the case. The remarkable Venus shot by the Russians definitely indicates a "space gap" but it does not mean a "missile gap" in which the Reds' nuclear capabilities with rockets is superior to ours. Even should the Russians have more long-range missiles, (which from all evidence is doubtful) we have tremendous capability with our strategically based intermediate missiles and Polaris type rockets for a nuclear deterrent.

In the high-powered, long-range shots we admit the Russians are ahead of us. It is a "space gap" that we should be concerned about. It should spur us to push ahead faster on the power side of rocket development. But for nuclear war-head capabilities, the Russians know we do not lag.

Admiral Off Base

Some of Vice Admiral Rickover's views on U.S. education have indicated penetrating insight. Others haven't.

Now he's come up with one that may almost destroy his reputation as a competent critic. He suggests uniforms for U.S. public school pupils.

This is glaring evidence that he knows nothing of actual conditions among junior and high school sets. Nowhere are uniforms more exactly prescribed. They vary from school to school and month to month. But parents of teenagers have the budget deficits to prove that their offspring are far fussier about appearing in the proper uniform of the day than any Navy man who ever lived.

Science Gap



THE USSR...



...REPORTS ON...



...ITS VENUS ROCKET...



...PROGRESS

Peter Edson

K's Double-Talk Confuses Disarm Issue

Washington (NEA)—The Kennedy administration apparently hopes that most progress can be made in negotiations with Russia's Khrushchev on the subjects of disarmament and peaceful coexistence to avoid World War III.



Edson

Khrushchev has done a lot of talking on these subjects as a self-styled champion of the peace-loving states.

But when his words are examined closely, what comes out is mostly double-talk. This was particularly true when he reported on the recent Moscow conference of Communist party representatives from 81 countries.

Here are significant excerpts from his long Jan. 6 speech to illustrate this point: "Comrades, if the problem of all problems of our times is that of averting a new war, the most radical way of solving it is disarmament. ... Our struggle for disarmament is not a tactical move. We sincerely want disarmament. ..."

"The struggle for disarmament is the most important factor for averting war. It is an effective struggle against imperialism. In such a struggle the socialist camp has the majority of mankind on its side."

"The struggle for disarmament is an active struggle against imperialism, for restricting its military potentialities. ..."

"The primary conditions of progress in disarmament is the mobilization of the broadest masses of people and their increasing pressure on imperialist governments. ..."

"In the capitalist camp, policy regarding socialist countries follows two trends: A militant aggressive trend and a moderate-sober trend."

"Lenin pointed out the necessity for establishing contacts with those circles of the bourgeoisie which gravitate toward pacifism, even if they should be of the poorest quality. ... The correctness of these words is confirmed by the events of our times, too."

"Among the ruling classes of the imperialist camp, a fear for the future of capitalism prevails. ... Hence there are two tendencies: One is aiming at war, the second accepting the idea of peaceful coexistence in some form. ..."

"Comrades, life itself bears out the correctness of the Leninist policy of peaceful coexistence of states with diverse social systems, consistently pursued by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. ..."

peaceful coexistence in some form. ...

"Peaceful coexistence with capitalist countries... facilitates the activities of Communist parties and other progressive organizations of the working class. It facilitates the struggle the people wage against aggressive military blocs, against foreign military bases. ..."

"Thus, the policy of peaceful coexistence, as regards its social content, is a form of intense economic, political and ideological struggle of the proletariat against the aggressive forces of imperialism in the international arena. ..."

"There is only one way of bringing imperialism to heel... an all-out unification and consolidation of the world revolutionary movement... to prevent the danger of war. ..."

"The Communist party of the Soviet Union and the Soviet government will continue with determination to do everything to enhance the military might of our country."

In The Editor's Mailbag

About the Mission

EUGENE (To the Editor)—There still seems much, a way too much talk of jabbering, and not enough sound down to earth reasoning about the Eugene Mission.

There are people that rightfully say what they think without thinking.

They do not want the mission in town; because they have a selfish attitude; they think only of themselves and to hell with anyone, and everything else. What they really mean is "I always take this stand toward the down and outers." I say God will take positive

Carmichael



Seashore and Jobs

WESTLAKE (To the Editor)—The new administration is greatly concerned over the unemployment situation. It plans to spend millions of dollars to correct this situation by creating new jobs and increasing unemployment benefits.

On the other hand our new senator appears to be doing everything in her power to add to the administration's difficulty in solving this problem by her single-minded advocacy of a national seashore on the Oregon coast.

She has recently stated that she may disapprove of the International Paper Company's proposed pulp mill at Gardiner solely on the basis that it would detract from her seashore, regardless of the fact that this mill

Jerry Bennett

Kennedy's Will Weakens on Liquid Diet

WASHINGTON (NEA)—Even President Kennedy's strong will power weakens when it comes to going on a diet. Recently, the chief executive decided to lose some weight by drinking one of the popular low calorie liquid foods. But at least one person saw him using the concoction to wash down two sandwiches.

Robert S. McNamara, secretary of defense, and Orville L. Freeman, secretary of agriculture, were the only ones to attain the rank of Eagle Scout.

But Dean Rusk, secretary of state, was the knot-tying champion of the Atlanta region. And Robert Kennedy, attorney general, had the distinction of being a Scout in another country.

He joined the Scouts in England where he lived from 1937-40 while his dad was ambassador to the Court of St. James'.

KATHRYN LARSEN, 9-year-old daughter of Washington executive and former NEA correspondent Douglas LARSEN, went to the National Press Club's weekly family night buffet decked out in a new muff and pillbox hat.

When she got on the elevator, a man remarked "That young lady looks just like Jackie Kennedy."

"You're mistaken," said a voice in the rear. "She must be Bobby's wife."

MRS. JAMES ROOSEVELT, completed baffled when Mrs. Roosevelt handed her the dress.

Mrs. Roosevelt had the same reaction when she saw a big sign on the wall which read, "Republican National Committee." Turned out the clerk had directed her to Mrs. Mary Greer of the committee's staff who was using the room for a Republican women's meeting.

AT A BOY SCOUT anniversary breakfast here, 14-year-old Eagle Scout Richard E. Osher of San Diego, Calif., made a speech so eloquent that Rep. Bob Wilson (R-Calif.) cracked:

"I'm sure glad he has 11 years to go before he is old enough to run against me."

By Sylvia Porter

Kennedy Moving Cautiously With Anti-Slump Measures

So far the Kennedy administration has done little more to combat the current business downturn than a Nixon administration would have done—and to date it actually has shown more caution on anti-slump moves than the Eisenhower administration showed during the last downturn in 1958.



Sylvia Porter

Considering the torrent of words pouring out of the White House on the economic situation, the headline being made about the level of unemployment, the administration's efforts to prod Congress into passing urgent legislation to extend jobless benefits and aid depressed areas, this appraisal will startle you. But read on and you'll have the facts to confirm it.

(1) Government spending programs and awards of defense contracts are being accelerated. This is a continuation of the speedup begun during the Eisenhower administration in mid-1960—before any GOP official publicly admitted a recession was on. As Prentice-Hall emphasized, in July-November, 1960, military procurement obligations jumped 21 per cent above the 1959 span—and this was no accidental rise.

In the 1958 recession government defense spending was boosted much more. Prentice-Hall estimates spending on defense hard goods in the first half of 1958 at almost double the total in the preceding half.

(2) Spending on the highway program is being speeded up too—another continuation of a move initiated under Eisenhower. In the 1958 recession this type of spending was not only accelerated but also increased by more than a quarter-billion dollars.

(3) Unemployment insurance is being extended to workers who already have exhausted state benefits, and liberalization of the program is being pushed. Similar moves were made in the 1958 downturn. Incidentally, the Eisenhower administration rated temporary aid to the unemployed in that recession as the step of greatest impact.

(4) The outflow of government cash to individuals who might be in most need now is being accelerated via an order to speed up payment of dividends on veterans' life insurance and of tax refunds. Orders of the same nature was issued in 1958.

(5) Pressure is being put on home mortgage rates through reduction in FHA's charges, some liberalization of housing credit and an organized campaign to talk down mortgage rates. Much more than this was done to stimulate housing in 1958.

(6) The Federal Reserve System has taken aggressive steps to make credit easily available and lower its cost in order to encourage increased borrowing for homebuildings, new plants, mod-

ern equipment, etc. As our country's central bank, the Federal Reserve System acts independently of the administration. It began moving toward easier, cheaper credit in early 1960—before even its governors were sure something was going wrong in our economy. It also acted aggressively to ease credit and cut interest rates in 1958.

Of course, it's not entirely black and white! A Nixon administration wouldn't have favored so broad a depressed areas bill nor, probably, the quick expansion of social security benefits proposed by President Kennedy. It's unlikely that Nixon would have urged a higher minimum wage "immediately." Nixon's recommendations for "a new tax incentive for businesses to expand" undoubtedly would have been different.

But there's a provocative caution in the pace and type of anti-recession action proposed to date, and the resemblance between the 1958 anti-recession remedies and the 1961 suggestions is, in Prentice-Hall's words, "strikingly close in the broad outlines."

I hope it implies the Kennedy administration's judgment that this recession will be neither serious nor persistent enough to justify crash programs. I think it implies just that.

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Other Editors' Views

Full Cycle In Freighting

From the Cleveland (Ohio) Plain-Dealer

The newest item of contention in the continuing squabble among carriers involves the International Brotherhood of Teamsters who are crying foul play because the railroads are under-selling the truckers in the business of transporting new automobiles.

The Teamsters, understandably, are trying to maintain jobs for their drivers. But there is a queer twist to the car-toting trade. Total employment on the nation's railroads is about half what it was in 1930 and it is reasonable to assume that the competition from trucking lines has been responsible for most of this job loss.

Other reasons would be railroad cutbacks, mergers and automation. In fact, it wasn't so long ago that the federal government told the nation's railroads, when the latter went to Washington to seek relief from losses, to do something in the self-help area. The railroads were told to find ways of helping themselves.

One of the ways discovered was the specially designed tri-level railroad car which can carry up to 15 regular sized autos or 18 compact cars. This is the technique which the Teamsters complain is unfair competition and which threatens truckway job maintenance in the union.

Thus the cycle is complete. Railroads get business as a monopoly at one time, railroads lose business to truckers, railroads win business back. In the steady advance of technology jobs disappear in wholesale lots. But are the Teamsters interested in what became of the almost half a million railroad employees whose jobs disappeared in the last 30 years?

So They Say—

How do we intend to conquer space and survive when only about 50 per cent of our male population has enough physical efficiency to be qualified to wear the uniform of our armed services?

—Col. Frank J. Kones, director of physical education at West Point.



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