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The Register-Guard's policy is the complete and impartial publication in its news pages of all news and statements on news. On this page, the editors of the Register-Guard offer their opinions on events of the day and matters of importance to the community, endeavoring to be candid but fair and helpful in the development of constructive community policy. A newspaper is a CITIZEN OF ITS COMMUNITY.

Published every evening and Sunday morning by the Guard Publishing Co.

Timely Attack on Economic Illiteracy

Prominent in the news lately have been complaints about the economic illiteracy of Americans. Secretary of Commerce Luther Hodges has aired fears that the future of our nation, dependent as it is upon an informed electorate, is endangered because too few voters understand why the U.S. is blessed with prosperity unique in this world.

Now the Committee for Economic Development has followed such concern-provoking reports with the timely announcement of an 11-point program to promote economics education in U.S. schools. The CED program only happens to coincide with a cresting of public interest in economics. It actually has been 13 years in processes of formulation and refinement.

The CED program makes especially good sense for the reason that it is aimed primarily at the 90 per cent of U.S. citizens who never had or never will have even the chance to learn the ABC's of economics in college.

To start the ball rolling, the CED program will employ a "College of the Air" television series, beginning this September, to coach high school teachers—and other interested adults—in the fundamentals of this subject.

25,000 high schools in this country. Next spring, special tests will be circulated to the high schools to check the effectiveness of the training system.

When it gets in high gear, the CED program also will attempt to stir grade schools to mix basic economic ideas into arithmetic classes and other related instruction. The CED cannot command that any of this be done, or even that our high schools seriously endeavor to upgrade the teaching of economics.

And just wait until Junior comes to the dinner table asking what his parents think will be the outcome of congressional debates on tariff problems. Wait until he and his generation realize that they are becoming more mature in economic judgments than most of their elders.

Necessity is dictating that the average American must develop the same sort of interest in the bread-and-butter issues of economics that he now has in the material advantages he otherwise may be about to lose.

Double Bite

Great legal minds in Oregon and Washington are all torn up over the problem of 38 fellows who work on the interstate bridges between Portland and Vancouver. The states are arguing about the law. But there can be no question about the side that simple fairness is on. It's on Washington's.

Under an agreement between the two states, Washington collects the tolls. Under Washington civil service regulations, Washington employees must live in Washington. But the toll houses are on the Oregon side of the line. Thus the toll collectors work in Oregon. And Oregon levies an income tax on people who work in Oregon, even if they live out of state.

So, for reasons beyond the control of the employees, they are victims of double taxation.

Maybe the way out is for Washington to raise the men's wages to cover the Oregon income tax bite and then to bill Oregon for the added expense.

Not in Our State

Commenting upon scandals being uncovered in some state highway departments, the Christian Science Monitor notes that "secrecy and billions do not mix safely unless men of the utmost integrity are running the laboratory."

Oregon hasn't exactly been in the billion-dollar-share bracket as federal highway construction funds have been passed out with increasing liberality in recent years. But Oregon's system of administering its share of these, and its own locally collected highway funds, has long borne out the contention that integrity and open books are basic to good highway programs.

Just last week there was a small news item which indicated that the Oregon Highway Commission now intends to further increase the illumination of its operations. The commission has appointed Victor Wolfe, an experienced member of its professional engineering staff, to take over highway commission

public relations. Hereafter it should be easier for representatives of the press and other interested citizens to get authoritative information in answer to any legitimate questions. Also, the public likely will be increasingly informed about highway commission plans and programs through routine news releases.

The highway commission, comprised of three unpaid citizens appointed to their posts, will be assisted in its work through increased public understanding and good will. Public relations with emphasis on the first word also will provide further assurance that Oregon's record of never having had a highway scandal will continue as a mark for other states to shoot at.

Get Off It

Four distinguished citizens of Eastern Oregon went down to Portland the other day to tell the Chamber of Commerce a thing or two. They sought to convince the city slickers that Eastern Oregon people are nice people, important people. Eastern Oregon, they insisted, is a nice place. Eastern Oregon shouldn't be discriminated against.

Why protest so much? This apparent "bad feeling" between the two sections of the state is in their own minds. To be sure, things have been said that ought not to have been said. A big-mouthed Portland legislator said something about Eastern Oregon as a land of sagebrush and jackrabbits. And Eastern Oregon politicians have been known to say terrible things about the web-footed folks in the valley, with their effeminate ways and their city-bred inadequacies. But such cracks are exceptional. Otherwise they wouldn't get in the paper.

In Eastern Oregon there is some feeling that the Legislature is being stacked against that section of the state. Yet, nobody over here has ever proposed any system as flagrantly one-sided as the so-called "federal plan" that is brought up now and then east of the mountains.

We're not mad at those people. And we don't want them to be mad at us. We're interdependent. We'd have a poorer state if we had to get along without them. And they'd be worse off without us.

Again we say to our friends east of the mountains, "Get off it."

From Our Past

Maybe You Can Supply Punch Line

By KENNETH L. HOLMES Professor of History, Linfield College

On Oct. 23, 1873, Bishop Daniel Tuttle of the Episcopal Church wrote to his home office telling of his extended stage trips through the West. Here is one thing he said:

"I have, this summer, traveled more than 3,000 miles, and 2,500 of these by stage, in day and night riding, along roads where sagebrush growths are almost the only trees, and holes in the rocks almost the only houses. The stage driver is sovereign. How absolutely he rules, any Rocky Mountain passenger can tell you. Police, constables, courts are things unknown in his domain. His will is law for the time being, from which there is no appeal.

"He is not hard hearted nor unintelligent; but reticent, willful, autocratic, despiser of titles and dignities, he certainly is! And if perchance you thought yourself possessed of powers for working influence or winning favors, be not surprised to find them having no effect upon him. "A more independent set of men, resenting the slightest attempt at interference or control, I never met. Yet they are noble fellows, too; most skillful and unweary in their work; men of sound judgment and good education, and with a proud esprit de corps that prizes them to meet, steadily, dangers from the highways and suffering from cold and sleeplessness, in order to push on over their route the United States mail and passengers."

An Expert With Whip

Undoubtedly some of the readers of this column will remember one of the most famous of the stagecoach drivers in our area, Felix Warren. Felix drove the coaches in all three of our Pacific Northwest states: Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Those who knew him seem to be unanimous in giving him credit for being a friendly but firm knight of the whiplash.

He was certainly an expert with the whip. One old-timer said to me of him, "He could flip a flea off a dog's tail."

One day Felix Warren was driving from Lewiston, Idaho, on a run to Palouse, Washington, via the Idaho communities of Genesee and Moscow. This trip involved a climb up the steep grade of the Snake River Gorge. His only passengers were two women, one young, the other elderly. Just as the stage reached the summit of the grade on the way to Genesee, the older woman called out "Mr. Warren, we'll have to stop. We've got a baby on our hands."

With his usual dignity, Felix Warren pulled to a stop, got down from the coach, unhitched the horses and let them out to graze. He walked over to the edge of the Snake River Canyon and stood looking out over the valley for about half an hour. Suddenly he heard the cry of the babe who had been born in his coach. Another period passed, and then the older woman called out that they could go on.

More and More Excited

Felix hitched up the horses and drove carefully on to Genesee. There he left the young mother and her baby and went on to finish the run. When he arrived at Palouse, Felix found the husband waiting for the stage. As the stage driver told him about the birth of his first-born, the new father became more and more excited. Never was a wagon hitched so fast nor driven so hard as that young man dashed off over the dusty road through the rolling Palouse Hills toward Genesee.

A few days later Felix Warren was in Palouse again. He met the father once more on the main street. The young man said, "Mr. Warren, we would have named our baby after you if it had been a boy, but she is a girl, so the next best thing is for you to name her." Felix eyes twinkled. "Why, I'll be glad to," he said. "Now you will ask me, 'What did Felix name the child?' My answer is, 'I don't know.' Maybe someone who reads this column will be able to tell us all."

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So They Say

The only thing that really counts in world opinion, in my judgment, is how strong is the United States.

—Sen. Henry M. Jackson, D-Wash., urging U. S. resume atmospheric nuclear tests.

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Doris Fleeson

Congress Appears Bent On People 'Eating Cake'

WASHINGTON — The reluctance of Congress to do anything for the American people this election year is rapidly approaching the proportions of a political phenomenon.

A business that broke no new ground in two years and brought out no eye-catching product to captivate the customers would certainly be in trouble. Yet Congress can find nothing in the legion of Kennedy proposals in the domestic field which it feels might endear it to the voters next November.

A campaign pointing with pride to what Congress has kept the President from doing seems in prospect, at least in the areas represented by members of the no-saying conservative coalition. It hears no evil, speaks no evil and sees no evil in the affluent society.

To point out that the affluent society brings new national problems in its train—not to mention the advent of the space age with which it coincides—is

only to state the obvious. Congress seems to be acting on the theory that if it doesn't look, they will go away.

Curiously, this is not accompanied by a resurgence of isolationism. In the area of foreign policy, world communism and its leader, Moscow, have made a truly staggering mistake. Perhaps out of their own fear, they persist in creating fear. So long as they do that, appropriations for defense, foreign aid and the United Nations are not in serious trouble.

In some defense categories, Congress wants to spend more money than the President does. It complains of foreign aid and is snarling at a United Nations bond issue. But it has absolutely no evidence that the public does not support the President in these matters; the evidence is all the other way, so these can be worked out.

Americans look to the President as leader in foreign policy. He gets the credit and blame in that field. Congressional cooperation can be very vital, but the dividends mainly are his.

This was shown in 1948. Former President Truman's "80-worst" Congress had ratified the Marshall Plan and Greek-Turkish aid which gave him a high place in history, but it did not save them from his furious attack. They had passed a tax bill which gave grounds for argument that it mostly helped the people with money; and its other major legislation was a bill to remove independent producers of natural gas from federal regulation, which Truman vetoed.

What he did with that record is legendary.

Apart from the vote appeal aspect which every politician must consider, there is a philosophical speculation much in the minds of Washington observers. It is the question of whether any society can continue to vote staggering sums for defense with its foreign aid ramifications and let its domestic plant, so to speak, decay, if not in whole, in important parts.

Yet even a conservation bill in recognition of the population explosion and urban sprawl scarcely made a ripple in Washington. "Let the Americans eat cake" seems to be the congressional motto.

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In the Editor's Mailbag

Let's Be Reasonable

EUGENE (To the Editor)—May I answer the letter by Mr. Melvin Bishop of 222 W. 20th Ave.?

Why, Mr. Bishop, do you and all other pro-fluoridationists want to force fluorides upon those people who do not want them?

Fluorides are available at the drug stores for anyone who wishes to use them, at a very nominal cost, as has been pointed out previously in these columns.

No one is denying you, or any of the other pro-fluoridationists, the right to use fluorides if you wish to do so right now, today.

Let's keep our freedom of choosing what we do, or do not, wish to take. Following this manner of doing things, no one will be trying to force anything upon you, or anyone else.

Let us all be reasonable in our approach to these things, shall we?

WARREN COOMBS 1874 Washington St.

Ah, Wilderness

COTTAGE GROVE (To the Editor)—Re article in Mailbag

Ralph McGill

Chief Justice Earl Warren, the Symbol

Eight years have passed since Earl Warren became Chief Justice of the United States. He came to the court well prepared to sit as its chief justice, although the cat-erwaul of extremist critics still rises raucously and foolishly against him.

Since we have been a nation, only 14 men have held office of chief justice, and three of these served in the first 12 years of our history. In this century there have been but seven chief justices. Each established a record of excellence—Melville Fuller, Edward D. White, William H. Taft, Charles Evans Hughes, Harlan F. Stone, Fred M. Vinson and Earl Warren.

It is significant that all of these seven men became centers of controversy, some more violent than others, because of decisions by the court. (In the years before them we see their predecessors caught inevitably in the same web of history.) Each chief justice has had his furious, and usually irrational, critics, because he, the justice, is the symbol of the enormous power of the Constitution, the document which so admirably shelters us all.

Wise to Drop It

Earl Warren was 62 when appointed by President Eisenhower. The Californian brought to the court a really remarkable record. He had practiced law for 39 years. He began with experience in private practice and as a deputy city attorney. After that he was district attorney for 14 years during which he built a highly regarded reputation for ability and results. He argued a number of cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and attracted admiring approval.

He was attorney general of California for four years and governor for 10. While governor he was the Republican vice presidential nominee in 1948. The year Harry Truman confounded the experts and dismembered the Dixiecrats. Few men have come to the court with so wide an experience with the prob-

section of Register-Guard 4th inst. over signature of Walter Keyes, Florence, stating I am badly confused over the proposed national park in that area, that it is more desirable to preserve the wilderness area than the national park as proposed by our esteemed Sen. Maurine Neuberger, which I believe to be in best interests of all concerned.

I think it is Mr. Keyes that is confused, so let us count the sores on this modern Lazarus that has been raised up by Mr. Keyes and others in that area.

The original meaning of wilderness is a "grassy plain" and I can prove it.

The Basques from the small nation in the Pyrenees on the border between Spain and France are the best shepherds on five continents, and any large sheep outfit will always procure them to tend their flocks, because Basques love sheep, if it needs be, rain or snow, at lambing times the Basques will sit up all night, dry off the little lambs, and see to it they do not get separated from their mother, and help them get their first meal at the lunch counter. After

that the little lamb's troubles are about over.

One could not compel a Basque to let his flock wander into the brambles and hidden "pot holes" of the present area south of Florence, not even at the muzzle of a shotgun, where even an elderly man perished from his own domicile and layed within earshot of his home, and due to depravity of undergrowth was not found for several days after his death.

Some "playground," that's for sure. A Biblical parable by Christ set forth in Luke 15:4, the "good shepherd" gives his life for the sheep. Left the ninety and nine safe in the wilderness and "searched for the one that was lost."

Who would imagine that a good shepherd would be boob enough to turn his sheep loose in that primitive area south of Florence?

There is plenty more to be said re this wilderness matter, and if this escapes the editor's waste paper basket, may come again some day.

BART JOHNSON Rt. 1, Box 486A

From a Reporter

Some Hints To Hopefuls

By DAN SELLARD Of the Register-Guard

One of the things that make political reporting difficult is the reluctance of some candidates to make themselves available.

Now that the filing is completed, we feel justified in speaking our piece. Our thesis is that the public has a right to know, and a newspaper has the obligation to tell, a great deal about a candidate who wants to win a public office.

Already, and it's very early in the campaign, we've had a candidate who refused to give his age, another who was reluctant to give her age, a candidate who has refused to let us take his photo, and another who was reluctant to tell about his educational background.

Important Information

These are important facts. We feel justified in using as much friendly persuasion as possible to get them into print. Then, if the candidate still will not cooperate, we will have to say that he wouldn't.

A goal of any decent newspaper is the printing of enough information about a candidate to enable the voter who never sees him or hears him to still make an informed appraisal.

The age, education, job background, public achievements and platform philosophy of a man are important information. And the candidate's picture is just as important.

We have a formula we use in presenting candidates. There is no favoritism. If the reluctant candidate gets less presentation than the others, it's his fault.

By election day we shall have tried to tell all the facts and explain the thinking of each of the many candidates.

We Don't Mind

This means a lot of night meetings, listening to sometimes-dull speeches, eating less-than-exciting meals, drinking too many gallons of coffee, and receiving a lot of personal abuse from candidates who are losing and need a whipping-boy.

This we don't mind. It's a small enough sacrifice to make, considering that without this coverage it just might be that "the wrong man" would win, that a man could be elected without showing his hand.

We still think it takes a "good guy to beat a good guy." If this sounds like a personal message to several candidates, it's because it is.

Carmichael

THERE'S BEEN A MISTAKE---I DIDN'T ORDER THE BUSINESSMAN'S LUNCH---

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