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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.

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Hospital Plans Do Involve Public Interest

Would the establishment of another major hospital in Eugene benefit the community?

That question cannot be quickly or easily answered. Events of the past two weeks indicate that there may not be enough time to study half of its implications before construction begins on a new 100-bed hospital.

At first blush, it might seem that if some group of investors wants to build a new hospital here, that's their business, and theirs alone. And that's about the way it will probably turn out, since no one has a legal right to butt in.

As the chairman of the Oregon State Board of Health has explained to the Register-Guard, problems of providing hospital care of increasingly high quality to increasingly larger populations are causing a lot of discussion across the nation.

have been regularly trained at Sacred Heart, and many of them have stayed to follow their careers in this community.

And well-trained physicians and surgeons have been attracted here to establish practice because of the excellence of this hospital.

Sacred Heart has been built to sufficient size that it can, and does, keep adding important equipment, life-saving devices, many of them, which smaller institutions cannot ordinarily afford.

As a non-profit institution, Sacred Heart is in the hospital "business" only in the sense that it is operated to serve the needs of its patients in the most effective manner it can.

If construction begins on another hospital here prior to July 1, it is certain that Sacred Heart will lose federal aid funds which it otherwise could use to help finance its next expansion.

In Eugene's case, the entire spectrum of medical care has been brighter than it has been in many other cities in recent years, largely because Sacred Heart General Hospital has been developed and operated as a major and an exemplary medical institution.

Again, it cannot be maintained that Sacred Heart has a prior right to this hospital service area, to the exclusion of any new hospital. But, certainly, there are possible effects—medical, economic and moral—which should be considered by those proposing a new hospital here, and by all residents of the Eugene area.

Conventions

Oregon Democrats, even more than Oregon Republicans, are all split up. And it's largely because of these pre-primary conventions in which power groups within the parties seek to have it appear that some candidates are "in" and some "out."

Political conventions are fine, up to a point. They serve admirably if they are called to give the precinct worker and ordinary voter a chance to be heard on issues.

But these conventions are not so fine if they enable a few strong members to freeze out primary candidates who may not be in tune with the leaders.

The philosophy of Oregon's free and easy primary system is that anybody can run. Of course we get some self-starters, some unknowns on the ballot.

There is no room in Oregon for "official" slates of candidates before a primary election. Only the voters, on election day, should have the power to make a slate official.

Lament

In the winter, when a man wears a series of coats and vests, he has pockets, nothing to use them for. In shirt sleeve weather he has no place for his sunglasses.

ROTC Proposal

Military training will no longer be compulsory on Oregon campuses after this year. It took some doing, however, to get the compulsory feature of the program, the first two years, made voluntary.

Under this proposal, ROTC training would begin in the summer between the sophomore and junior years of college. Cadets would spend four weeks at a training camp.

Now, the first two years of training cover such things as drill, elementary weapons training, military courtesy, and basic military skills.

The proposal is an optional one. It may not be better than the present system. But just as good. The point is that there is no special virtue in an old system just because it is old.

Too Late Now

Among the things we wouldn't know if we didn't read the Wall Street Journal is that there is now on the market a long-play record entitled "Getting Into College Today."

Even better advice would be to learn to read in the elementary and secondary grades so that one doesn't have to take his counsel from a phonograph record.

CQ Quiz

How About Secretary Of State?

The Secretary of State is the top-ranking Cabinet member and is in line to the presidency. This quiz tests your knowledge of the secretaries of state.

Q—Current Secretary of State Dean Rusk is the 55th man to fill that post. The first secretary of State was (a) Aaron Burr; (b) Thomas Jefferson; (c) Alexander Hamilton?

A—(b). Robert R. Livingston, however, was the first secretary of foreign affairs under the Continental Congress before the Department of State was created.

Q—All but one of the following presidents were formerly secretaries of state: (a) Thomas Jefferson; (b) James Madison; (c) James Monroe; (d) John Quincy Adams; (e) Martin Van Buren; (f) James Buchanan; (g) Benjamin Harrison. Which is out of place?

A—(g). The other six were the only presidents to serve as secretary of state.

Q—John Foster Dulles was secretary of state for six years, second in length of service only to William H. Seward, who served eight years. Seward was secretary of state for (a) Abraham Lincoln; (b) Grover Cleveland; (c) Andrew Johnson?

A—(a) and (c). Seward is noted for his purchase of Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million. Alaska was then named "Seward's Folly," since the purchase was considered, at that time, to have been a bad deal.

Q—Only one secretary of state in recent years also served on the Supreme Court. He was (a) Edward R. Stettinius Jr.; (b) Cordell Hull; (c) James F. Byrnes?

A—(c). Byrnes was secretary of state from 1945 to 1947 and associate justice from 1941 to 1942. He also served as senator, representative and governor of South Carolina.

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Library Opposed

SPRINGFIELD (To the Editor)—Read the letter about Vera Hansen's heart breaking over the county library. Well, I would like to ask her does she and other Democratic officials like awake nights thinking up more ways to squander money?

When folks get too lazy to go get their books, it's a crime. Most everyone of adult age that lives in the country has a car, and someone that drives, so country folks can go to a library same as the city folks when they go shopping for groceries, etc., and if Johnny can't read just look at his parents and teachers to find the reason. I do not know if all our first grade classes are taught phonics, but they certainly should be.

You know our Democratic party is becoming more "socialistic dictatorial" every day, and that is only a thin line from the so-called communism, and people that love their freedom and liberties had better wake up, and fast.

I have been registered a Democrat for many years, but never voted a straight ticket, as I think we need to look into the background of our officials. We need to vote down some of these brainstroms of our socialistic people and show them we mean business.

DELLA McCLUSKEY 2440 G St.

'Tenor of Remarks'

PORTLAND (To the Editor)—My attention has been called to an editorial appearing in your paper.

I am quoting pertinent excerpts from a letter which I caused to be published in the Oregonian: "Your political editor, Mervin Shoemaker, deservedly enjoys an excellent reputation for integrity and accurate reporting. It is, therefore, regrettable his report of my remarks at a recent meeting of a Democratic club luncheon did not correctly reflect the tenor of my remarks or my attitude toward our non-partisan judiciary system."

It is my recollection, a recollection corroborated by others in attendance that I stated "if I were running on a partisan ticket I would be proud to carry the word Democrat in letters two feet high, but that the race

Political Candidates' Mailbag

Debates Wanted

EUGENE (To the Editor)—As campaign manager for Walter J. Pearson, Democratic candidate for governor, I feel compelled to state my views concerning the responsibility of the Democratic gubernatorial candidates to the registered Democrats in Lane County as well as the rest of the state.

Mr. and Mrs. Democrat, you know we must compare these primary candidates — their strengths and weaknesses — in order to get the best man for the job. Sure, we can take pot shots at Mr. Hatfield, and we should, but let's also remember that there are definite differences in ability and views between Senator Pearson and Attorney-General Bob Thornton, as there are between any two individuals. We can have a good fighting primary campaign which will awaken a lot of disinterested voters; however, Mr. Thornton states that he is only going to run against Mr. Hatfield and not Senator Pearson, in the primary.

Remember, mature individuals can have a good lively disagreement on their views, experience and qualifications for governor without attacking each other in a vicious way. Walter J. Pearson wants a debate with Mr. Thornton on their respective views and qualifications for governor, and will show you, the voter, where he stands on the issues. Senator Pearson knows that this is his duty, to appeal to the best that is in people, and that he must give them enough facts about himself and Mr. Thornton to make an intelligent decision.

I know how difficult it is for the honest open-minded voter to get enough facts about a man to cast a vote. Therefore it is the duty of these candidates to provide the voter with these facts. Mr. Thornton won't debate or fight, but Walter Pearson will, and he will continue to show the differences between himself and Thornton.

Senator Pearson is presenting the facts to the voters in the finest political tradition of John Kennedy and Adlai Stevenson. Can we ask for more?

EUGENE R. KISER Executive Secretary, Walter Pearson for Governor 881 Oak St.

Medical Case

EUGENE (To the Editor)—Approximately 10 per cent only of older people eligible for medical assistance under the Kerr-Mills Act in Oregon are taking advantage of this program. In my judgment, the fact that the figure is so low proves the basic defects of the Kerr-Mills Bill. To take advantage of this aid, people must place themselves on the welfare rolls and sign a "prior lien" claim which, in effect, places a mortgage on their small estate.

Older people are proud. They have been self-supporting all their lives; they have paid their taxes; they have sent their children through school; and they don't like to spend their last few years relying on welfare or mortgaging their home.

The King-Anderson Bill, putting medical care under Social Security where it belongs and approaching this basic social problem from an insurance point rather than welfare, is the only adequate and decent solution, in my opinion.

For approximately \$1 a month a worker can insure his future medical care needs and can, at the same time, provide for the medical care of his parents. This relieves him of two heavy responsibilities.

The administration of the Social Security program has proved extremely efficient and, after 25 years of change and improvement, offers the most economical way to administer this vast health care program. It is estimated that only 2 per cent of the benefits disbursed would be consumed in administrative costs through this efficient system.

ROBERT W. STRAUB Rt. 4, Box 111

Study Proposal

EUGENE (To the Editor)—On Monday, April 16, you reprinted a portion of an editorial from The Oregon Statesman in Salem, pertaining to my suggestion to Governor Mark Hatfield, that a non-partisan fact finding group be appointed by him, to make a thorough study of the economic implications of daylight versus standard time. Because the Statesman seems a little hazy in regard to the details of my proposal, I am enclosing to you a copy of my original press release. My suggestion was that such a time study conference work during the spring and summer and report back to the people of Oregon their findings in September, 1962, for purposes of voter information in November elections affecting the time question in Oregon.

In talking with many voters, I find that few of them are happy with the current time hodge-podge. They feel that their instructions and vote has been somewhat cynically disregarded by the past legislature. There has been very little effort to inform the voter, pro and con, on the real economic implications of a time change. Thus, a climate of emotional resentment has had an opportunity to build up.

I am of the opinion that Oregon citizens are objective and fair-minded enough to evaluate constructively any information that a study group could bring back to them.

I think that the facetious comment of the Oregon Statesman, that the governor could also call a conference on fluoridation and other controversial questions, and that "if there were survivors another conference could be called to debate modern art," really underestimates the objectivity with which the average voter can be brought to view an issue when it is presented in a non-emotional climate.

Besides, such matters as fluoridation and modern art are not bread and butter issues in the state of Oregon at the present time. The question of daylight versus standard time is not only economic in its impact, but will be on the November, 1962, ballot as well.

JO KITTEDGE Republican Candidate for Oregon State Senate 2145 Fairway Loop

David Lawrence

President 'Scrapes Off The Butter'

WASHINGTON — President Kennedy tried in his Wednesday press conference to "butter up" American business, including the steel companies. He said there was no ill will toward anybody and that there was no room on either side for "any feelings of hostility or vindictiveness."



But, unfortunately, the President nullified much of Lawrence what he said when he refused to answer a reporter's question as to how he would treat labor unions if they do the same thing the steel companies did—namely, if they make demands for wage increases that go beyond the administration's formula for a "hold the line" or stabilization program.

The reporter's question was as follows: "Assuming that a price increase in steel would eventually be necessary and justified, do you have any thoughts as to how this price increase should be reached? And, secondly, if some major labor union made excessive demands for wage increases, would you move as sharply against that union as you did last week against steel?"

The exact record of what the President said in reply was as follows: "Well, to take the second part first, we had worked very closely with the steel union in an attempt to persuade them that it was in their interest and the country's interest to meet the standards set by the council of economic advisers, and it was done. And that is why this matter came into particularly sharp focus last week."

Seemed to Sidestep Kennedy's avoidance of an answer is regarded as particularly significant, because it means that the administration intends to continue to put pressure on business and threaten it with lawsuits and the withdrawal of orders by the Defense Department, but will exercise no analogous pressure on labor.

Kennedy pleaded that he doesn't really have the "power" to restrain wage increases. Actually, he has no legal power to restrain price rises either. Kennedy seemed to sidestep the point made by one of the reporters that, by holding the line, he was actually fixing prices. Kennedy argued that "everybody is quite aware of what the powers are of the government, and the limitation on those powers." He then added: "But I have not suggested that—our power—that we have powers to set, or that those powers would be desirable, to set prices or to set wages."

The President insisted that he had merely attempted to put before the parties on both sides the importance of the public interest, and he did say that the interrelationship of various factors makes the public interest "mandatory" in these matters. He put it this way: "Public interest is very definitely involved, but in asserting the public interest we have always recognized the proper limitations of that—of the power of the government to enforce any collective bargaining agreement. We do not have that power. That power has not been given to us."

Kennedy nevertheless did not hesitate last week to use all the pressure and power of the United States government to force the steel companies to recede from their announcement of a price increase. There is no power to do this under the law, but he applied it nevertheless. The Defense Department withheld orders promptly and ignored the principle of competitive bids by simply shifting contracts without requiring formal submission. Coincidentally, a federal grand jury investigation of certain steel companies was ordered.

The Realistic Experts Kennedy's remarks were particularly unsettling, however, when he discussed future profits and productivity. He gave the impression that shareholders should be content with a record of high returns on their investment during the last ten years. He said nothing about the current situation, in which the value of the stock held by U. S. Steel shareholders is approximately \$63, compared to \$108 two years ago.

Kennedy also seems to think that the steel industry would get a \$500 million increase in profits when steel production goes up to 85 or 90 per cent of capacity. But nobody in the steel business expects any such result as this for a long time to come. In fact, the realistic experts among them say that what's important is not the total amount of profits, but the return per shareholder. They also say that a better way to measure progress is by the rate of return on sales which the steel companies receive. The industry figures show that in the last four or five years these percentages have been steadily going downhill.

In the Editor's Mailbag

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Boat Parade

VIDA (To the Editor)—Now that another White Water Boat Parade has passed into history it seems to me to be a good time to do some evaluating. This parade was a far cry from the original one many years ago that I was fortunate enough to be a guest at. This original parade was just for the guides and their wives, and it was a full day trip from Belknap Springs to Blue River, with a noon stop-over at what is now the McKenzie Bridge Recreation Area. I like to think that it was the guides' (and incidentally husbands') way of saying "thank you" to their wives (and incidentally — car drivers) for the many hours they would spend during the fishing season, waiting at some of the take-out places for the boats with their fishermen to come in.

After it became a public affair, we saw the advent of many local folks who had boats. This soon included anyone from Eugene or the surrounding area that had a boat and the courage to run the White Water, and I might add that many tried it in boats that were no more suitable to this water than, than they are today.

We have watched this same parade grow from year to year — to include first kayaks, then canoes, rubber boats, skin divers, inner tubes, prams, and then this year a raft and pigeons!

There were two things about this year's parade that bothered me especially, and they were the big cumbersome raft, and the four boats with banners flying, urging everyone to sign the petitions to make steelhead a game fish. To me, neither has any place in a parade of this sort that is held for fun, in anticipation of the opening of fishing season.

RAFTS such as the one I mentioned are a definite hazard to the other boats, but especially to the youngsters that ride the rubber boats, and the skin divers who are always bobbing up in unexpected places. I am sure that no one wants to see this annual event turn into a free-for-all for any group who may have an axe to grind, and can't pass up the chance to air it in front of the crowds that line the river.

To date, the guides' record for no fatal accidents during a parade has been perfect, but the law of averages says that it can't continue that way indefinitely. It seems to me that it behooves this group to make some regulations about the type of craft that will be allowed — and whether they are going to allow cheap advertising to fly from the crafts. As an added safety feature, the ski divers and those rugged individuals riding inner tubes that are menacing their own safety by the very real risk of being conked on the head with an oar — should be made to come down as a group — and not in among all the boats. If a parade should go sour with a bad accident, it will be the guides that will bear the brunt of the criticism, and not the luckless person who might have been responsible.

ELIZABETH McMULLIN

Assessment Figures

EUGENE (To the Editor)—On Wednesday evening, April 18, on one of the local radio stations, the county assessor stated that during his administration, \$28 million a year in values have been added to the tax rolls.

In one of the policy making committee meetings, the assessor also stated that one of the qualifications of a candidate should be strong convictions! Then let's stick to the truth!

From the "summary of Assessment and Tax Rolls" for the years 1959, 1960 and 1961 I quote the facts: When the previous administrator vacated the office of county assessor the total assessed valuation for Lane County was \$185,000,000. This included a total of \$89,000,000 in building values.

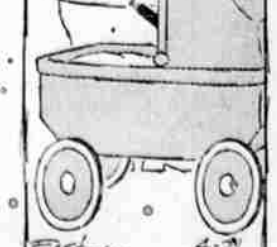
When the current assessor began his term of office on January 1, 1959, he immediately increased the \$89,000,000 by 10 per cent or \$8,900,000 from behind the desk without any physical inspections or exercising judgment of the taxpayers' properties as evidence of value (\$8,900,000 plus \$185,000,000 is \$193,900,000).

The total assessed valuation in 1960-1961 was \$195,700,000 for Lane County. Again all Lane County properties were increased 10 per cent in the same manner as before.

Let us further analyze the \$28 million a year in values added of which the assessor speaks! The State Tax Commission added \$2,000,000 in timber values in 1961-1962. \$1,000,000 from Public Utilities (neither under the jurisdiction of the county assessor's office) adding this \$3,000,000 to \$195,700,000 is \$22,570,000 in artificial and state tax commission value, which indicates that the assessor added only \$3,400,000 in new construction, omitting \$8,000,000 a year.

Yet there are 22 appraisers on the payroll of the Lane County assessor's office and the office budget has increased \$40,000, which does not include capital outlay.

Is this efficiency and economy, or equalization? JOHN SCHEIDT Republican Candidate for County Assessor 610 Park Ave.



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