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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.

6B EUGENE, OREGON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1962

Politics, Prudence and Pumping Costs

Last May Charlie Porter was defeated in a bid for his party's backing as a candidate for Congress, where he had served briefly and flamboyantly once before.

This fall Porter filed as a candidate in the non-partisan Eugene Water & Electric Board elections. And he has since been attempting to make political hay by arguing, and greatly over-simplifying, a contention that EWEB erred in agreeing, last year, to pay \$535,000 of the costs involved in pumping an underground river out of a big diversion tunnel on the Carmen-Smith power project.

Porter, an attorney, has been arguing his case thus far in the court of public opinion. He says he is considering actually taking it into a court of law—but he hasn't done so yet, and other lawyers think he would have a lot of legal problems to overcome before he could do so.

Impartial experts consulted by the Register-Guard also say that it is naive to argue that a contract is a contract—and that's all there is to it. This seems to have been Porter's key point as he has maintained that EWEB had Carmen-Smith contractors over a contractual barrel for any and all costs resulting from tunnel-blocking water flows.

Other attorneys and experienced heavy construction industry authorities have advised the Register-Guard that this is an absurd over-simplification of the issue. Contract law, they point out, is complex, and its provisions underlie every contract. They believe it would have been impossible for EWEB to "stick" the Carmen-Smith contractors for costs which were never anticipated in either the planning or the bidding on the power project. Where other such cases have been carried through the courts, contractors have almost always won claims for costs resulting from mistakes made mutually in the letting and acceptance of construction tasks.

Porter may have raised doubts in the minds of some Eugene residents—and probably has embarrassed present members of EWEB, one of whom he would like to defeat in the Nov. 6 elections—but he hasn't even attempted to explain why, if his legal theories are so good, they haven't been used as standard practice by high-powered career attorneys representing private power corporations and other contract-letting organizations.

The fact is that standard practice in the heavy construction industry is the

modification of contracts when horse sense and fair play indicate they should be modified. The fact is that well-tested principles of law uphold this standard practice; indeed, they enforce it.

So do well-tested business principles. Obviously, if contractors were to be "stuck" for totally unforeseeable risks, they would pad bid prices accordingly. All project costs then would include built-in insurance for contractors, whether they actually needed it or not.

The present directors of EWEB are a bunch of hard-headed businessmen. Not one of them has not had extensive business experience. The judgment they have exercised in directing all Carmen-Smith progress has been backed by that of a competent EWEB staff, plus advice from an internationally eminent firm of consulting engineers and attorneys.

It is important, we think, for the people of Eugene to understand that not one cent of profit will go to the Carmen-Smith contractors because of the unforeseen water problems in the diversion tunnel. The contractors have been required to pay the costs of pumping away the maximum flow anyone anticipated in the tunnel; EWEB has paid nothing more than actual costs for pumping beyond that which careful inquiry indicated was the contractor's sole obligation.

It is also important that the people of Eugene understand that Porter's latest gambit—his threat-edged suggestion that EWEB seek a declaratory judgment concerning the pumping cost obligations—is as deceptively simple as his stated opinion about the Carmen-Smith contract. In view of the backlog of cases already on file in circuit court, it probably would be six months before the court could issue such a judgment. In three weeks, Porter will have won or lost his case in the court of public opinion. That is, he will either have been elected or defeated in the November elections.

This is an attempt by Porter to put the present EWEB directors in an escape-proof box long enough to carry out his campaign. If the directors do not accept his challenge, it may appear that they fear to seek declaratory judgment. If they do seek the judgment, it may appear to some voters that the directors have been "set straight" by Porter. The way Charlie's playing it, this is a game of "heads I win, tails you lose."

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Different Cases

In Akron, Ohio, and in Drain, Ore., parents are citing their religious beliefs as reason their children should not be required to conform to school regulations. The cases are different as can be.

The Akron case involves a 16-year-old girl whose father belongs to a religious sect which frowns upon the wearing of gym shorts. The girl wants to wear pedal-pushers to gym class. School authorities say she must wear shorts or face expulsion.

The Drain case involves a 14-year-old youth who lives in nearby Curtin. His father doesn't want the boy to go to school at all, because the sect to which the father subscribes believes in taking all its instructions from the Bible.

The Akron case is silly. What harm can be done to the girl or to society if she wears pedal-pushers to gym class? The conformity school authorities ask seems to be a conformity for conformity's sake. The important thing is to keep her in school.

The Drain case is more important. Here a youth could be handicapped for life if his father is permitted to deny him the education he must have to get along in an ever more complicated society. And school attendance laws, be it remembered, were enacted for society's good, recognizing that we need educated people. Many a parent has been enjoined from religious practices that are harmful to society or to children.

Lottery

Harry Truman, speaking to the American Legion's national convention in Las Vegas, suggested a national lottery as a means of paying off the federal debt. It's a great idea until it is examined.

The federal public debt, just short of \$300 billion, figures out to almost \$1,600 per person. The lottery would pay off the debt in 10 years if, on the average, each person invested \$160 in it every year. A family of four, on the average, would gamble \$640 in this way every year. Not everybody has that much venture capital lying around.

Moreover, as a means of solving a problem, a lottery is illusory. It's like these charity gambling devices that are favored by some fraternal organizations. They don't really add a thing to the ability of the community to contribute to worthy causes. They serve only as an expedient device for separating the citizen from his money. And, because they dangle what looks like a large fish on the end of the line, they separate the money from the ignorant, the reckless and, often, from the impoverished who gamble desperately on a long shot. They do not appeal to the prudent investor or to the person with that kind of money to spend.

One of the features of a lottery is that everybody can't win. Some who don't win would end up on the relief rolls, thus pushing the national debt in the wrong direction.

Why Not TV?

EUGENE (To the Editor)—A Eugene TV station as part of its public service extended to the candidates for county commissioner the privilege of appearing on a forum program to discuss county issues and problems.

I think the voters are entitled to know that the Republican candidates refused to participate.

I welcomed the opportunity to appear because it affords the viewer a chance to make comparisons. This, to me, is the democratic process.

You may well ask, as I have, why the Republican incumbent candidates are unwilling to participate in a TV forum. Do they refuse to appear because they are afraid of comparisons? Are their past actions indefensible? Have they no positive programs for the future?

I want you to know that I am ready and willing at all times to discuss my views and candidacy. I regret that this program failed to materialize because, apparently, the Republican candidates did not wish to face their opponents in a give and take discussion.

OLGA FREEMAN
Democratic candidate for county commissioner

Opposes No. 9

EUGENE (To the Editor)—The Declaration of Independence states, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." This we all agree is one of the cherished ideals of our democratic society. That all men are entitled to equal representation in the Oregon Legislature has been a part of our Oregon Constitution since Oregon was admitted to statehood over 100 years ago.

Ballot Measure No. 9 proposes to change the historic method of apportioning the Oregon Legislature by diluting the voting power of rural and urban residents of Lane County, and other western Oregon counties. Oregon is now recognized as having the most fairly apportioned state legislature in the nation. Why? Because the present apportionment provides for representation on the basis of one man, one vote.

Lane County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state and yet under Measure 9 Lane County's representation in the Legislature would be reduced from 6 of 60 members in the House to 5 of 65, and from 3 of 30 in the Senate to 3 of 35. Measure 9 reduces Lane County's representation at the Legislature, while increasing the tax dollars Lane County citizens will be paying to operate the Legislature. During the 1961 session the cost of operating the Legislature was \$150,000 per member. Measure 9 increases the size of the Legislature from 90 to 100.

Measure 9 under-represents people and over-represents sagebrush, alkali flats, lava beds, and juniper forests. It should be soundly rejected on Nov. 6.

RICHARD J. KENNEDY
Democratic candidate for state representative, Lane County

Prods Opponents

EUGENE (To the Editor)—When I decided to run for election to the Oregon State Senate from Lane County, I asked advice about how a candidate should present his or her views on important issues facing the state in the 1963 Legislature.

I was advised to meet with all the voters that I could, tell the news media of my opinions, and do a great deal of study and research. They then said, "Your opponents will do the same, and the people can make their choice."

After spending eight months in research, meeting with hundreds of voters, and taking every opportunity to make known my views on issues, I feel like a prize-fighter who has trained for the big bout, and finds there is no contest.

I have not and do not now expect to engage in any personal controversy with my opponents, except on the issues of the campaign. However, to date one of them has said he is for seat belts in cars... the National Safety Council and I are too! Another of my opponents says, "Vote for the person of your choice"... I, too, think this is dandy. My other opponents don't say anything.

The Eugene Register-Guard has challenged candidates to present publicly their ideas on issues. I second this, and ask my opponents to present, as I have, programs involving a study of the financial needs of the state, a discussion of the needs of education, ideas on public welfare and natural resources, views on tax relief for individuals, business, for the aged, and the single person who is the sole support of other persons, etc.

The only valid judgment of a candidate's qualifications to serve in the Oregon Legislature should be on the basis of a suitable background of service, research, responsibility and responsiveness to the will of the people.

I know the voters want to know where we stand, and why.

Candidates' Forum

In the words of the childhood game of hide-and-seek, "Come out, come out, wherever you are," and let's stop this shadow-boxing.

JO KITTREDGE
Republican candidate for State Senate
Lane County

Party Tests

EUGENE (To the Editor)—The image of the smoke-filled room is a political myth in Oregon's Democratic party. Questions of policy and program are decided in open conventions by elected delegates and the platform is printed so he who votes may read. The party presents definite described goals which candidates endorse. Democrats believe better living can be attained in part by better laws.

It isn't possible for each voter to know all candidates personally; yet to study the program is to know the candidate in a sense, and further acquaintance is achieved through the Voters' Pamphlet, political meetings and mass media.

Some Republican candidates are reluctant to indicate their political party. Is this because the party has no program or because the program doesn't have popular appeal?

Those who "vote for the man" regardless of political affiliation should remember the measure of the incumbent is his voting record. If a candidate has no voting record, what does his party stand for? True party members vote as a bloc when the chips are down. This is especially true in organization of the legislature.

There are definite differences between the parties. If this were not so there would be no need for political parties. If it were not so, the many dedicated people who give so many hours and dollars to help their party prevail would be spinning their wheels...

We progress by solving problems, not by ignoring or denying them. Traditionally, Democrats vote GO; Republicans, NO. We must keep up in this moving world.

GLENN HAMMAKER
Democratic candidate for state representative, Lane County

Corrects Misquote

PORTLAND (To the Editor)—I entered the race for the United States Senate determined that I would at no time engage in personalities, but would confine my campaign to the issues and to the record of my opponent in office. I have not deviated from that determination.

In a talk in Eugene last week, I made a statement that the record of Senator Morse was shoddy and ineffective. In the same talk, I commented that he was a man of personal charm and many talents.

In a news story, and in the headline over it, I was quoted inaccurately as saying that Morse was shoddy and ineffective. This would have been a personal reference, and I did not make it. My statement referred specifically to his record in the Senate and not to the man personally.

I realize how easily errors can be made in reporting oral talks, but I would like to keep the record straight as to the integrity of my campaign.

SIG UNANDER
Candidate for U.S. senator

Seeking Reelection

EUGENE (To the Editor)—I appreciate the opportunity to give you a statement as to why I am a candidate to succeed myself on the Eugene Water & Electric Board.

The City of Eugene has the reputation nationally as having one of the finest utility operations in the country and I am proud to have had an active part during the past eight years in helping to direct EWEB toward the basic objective which has always been to render the highest standard of water and electric service at the lowest possible rates consistent with sound business principles. Every citizen of Eugene has a direct interest in efficient Water Board management.

Water service rates have been historically low compared to rates in other Oregon cities. Our electric rates, .0092 per KWH as reported by the Federal Power Commission for 1961, show Eugene as the lowest in the United States for all cities over 2,500 population for the base of 500 KWH per month of residential service.

The water and electric utilities have a very favorable debt ratio. This, along with the long history of successful management, has enabled EWEB to finance its major improvements at low interest rates.

We are now providing underground service for the downtown area. We budgeted five years ago \$1,500,000 for this improvement and have spent \$900,000 to date. All new establishments are connected to this underground system and we hope in the near future that the overhead lines can be removed from the streets and alleys.

I believe we should keep our

citizens properly informed of our activities and that we should provide an adequate program for additional business to continually improve the efficiency of our utilities. Our budget this year is .06 per cent for sales promotion.

Another outstanding contribution to the community is the annual payment to the general fund of the City of Eugene and to the four school districts in which we serve. This is budgeted this year to equal \$464,000, or about 8 per cent of our gross electric revenues. This acts as a major offset to your property taxes.

Eugene has been good to me during the past 17 years as manager of the J. C. Penney Co. store and now, since my retirement in 1960, I am in a position to devote much of my time and all of my 35 years of business experience to public service. I desire to continue to render this service as a member of the Eugene Water & Electric Board.

CALVIN R. SMITH
2075 Villard Street
Candidate for re-election for Eugene Water & Electric Board, at-large position

Mental Health Clinic

EUGENE (To the Editor)—Do the citizens of Lane County know that we are among the first to support a mental health clinic as a division of the County Public Health Dept., and that we have reason to be proud of this service?

As a result of support by both the executive and legislative branches of the Oregon government, the Division of Mental Health was created by the 1961-62 Legislature. For the biennium the state appropriated \$200,000 for its share of cooperating county programs.

A pilot program for children was established in 1956 within the Lane County Health Dept.—financed by a \$13,000 grant from the U.S. Children's Bureau. This pilot program ended July, 1961. However, public support by informed Lane County lay citizens and by the medical profession had created a climate for continuation of work by the county in the field of mental health. The Lane County commissioners decided to cooperate in setting up the Lane County Mental Health Clinic.

Since July 1, 1961, the clinic has been financed by a county appropriation of \$35,000 and \$19,000 a year from the state appropriations. No federal funds have been involved. These funds provide for a full time professional staff of three, and, in addition, two local consulting psychiatrists are employed to provide one and a half days of service a week.

All areas of the county have used the clinic. The highest per capita use has been from the Florence and Creswell areas, and the lowest per capita use from the Eugene and Lowell areas. From October, 1961, to March, 1962, 9 per cent of the service has been for the mentally retarded, 49 per cent for child guidance, 27 per cent has been for the emotionally disturbed adult, and 16 per cent has been for marital counseling.

This is not a free service. The scale of payment is based on the family's or individual's financial situation. Income of those using the service has ranged from zero to \$25,000 a year.

The Oregon Division of Mental Health is committed to lessening the number of patients under institutional care. The Lane County program is keyed to preventive treatment at the local level. There is a long road ahead, a road which can come to a dead end unless the county government and the State Legislature continue support for this locally controlled program.

VEOLA WILMOT
Democratic candidate for state representative from Lane County

Criticizes Board

EUGENE (To the Editor)—Can the elected members of the Eugene Water and Electric Board refuse to reveal the basis on which they acted in committing an additional half million dollars on the Carmen-Smith project? If the board members uphold their lawyer's position in that respect, and I hope they will not, they are telling the public that it has no right to know why the board made this expensive concession to Peter Kiewit Sons Co.

The Carmen-Smith contract clearly provides that Peter Kiewit would pump out all the water encountered in the diversion tunnels. The Oregon law clearly says unanticipated difficulties are no excuse for non-performance of a contract, yet this is the very basis the board set out in its letter authorizing additional payments.

The board's attorney says that it isn't "proper" to make public their "precise legal reasoning," and that "technical matters shouldn't be debated in public." Where, I wonder, else should a public body make known its reasons, however "technical," for spending public money?

and, if it turns out mistakes have been made because of bad advice, every effort will be made, not to cover up and forget, but to correct the mistakes and retrieve the money.

The cost of the Carmen-Smith project has already increased from the \$18 million previously estimated to almost \$30 million. The Water Board is a public body. Its business is public business. Its members are responsible to the public for the conduct of that business. Secrecy as to why important decisions are made has no place in the affairs of the Eugene Water and Electric Board.

CHARLES O. PORTER
Candidate for the at-large position, Eugene Water & Electric Board

Deer Tags

SPRINGFIELD (To the Editor)—Each year when the deer hunting season opens there is always many hunters end up in court. By far the large majority of these cases are charged with improper tagging of deer.

Most of these hunters in court with this charge do not violate the statutes intentionally. They are just Mr. Average Citizen who did not take the time to read the instructions on their deer tags. How to properly punch out the date of the kill and to sign the tag and attach the tag to the carcass of the deer.

It is surprising to find how many ways a hunter can find to improperly tag a deer.

Now all of this could easily be avoided if the hunter would just take a few minutes of time to read the instructions and get them firmly in mind before going hunting.

CARL M. LEWIS
Justice of the Peace
Springfield District

Quotes 'Voter'

EUGENE (To the Editor)—Lane County voters are busy this month becoming informed on candidates and issues so they can cast intelligent ballots on Nov. 6. Candidate for one of three senate positions from Lane County is Jo Kittredge. The "Oregon Voter," public affairs review of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest, presented her qualifications in its columns recently as follows:

"Jo (Josephine) Kittredge, Republican, is widely known in Oregon, both east and west of the mountains but in recent years has made Eugene her home. She has been long active in the party and is an authority on taxation whom Oregon Voter respects highly. She knows business and public affairs as few women do. A native of Roseburg (Jan. 5, 1907), lived in Klamath Falls later, extensively educated including music, voice and piano, but entered business as secretary and insurance writer; in interim with husband operated cattle ranch from management to marketing; served as clerk of school board; active in promoting legislation for Lake County; helped develop Surprise Valley Rural Electrification project; worked with Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Game Commission on range control, water rights; returned to KF to educate her children in university (two sons) and daughter a graduate of Brownmoor, Phoenix, Ariz.

Mrs. Kittredge was a strong reed in getting Oregon Technical Institute and won an award for leadership in education; has been chairman of tax committee Klamath Falls C of C and similarly active in Eugene C of C; in 1958 prime mover in ten-county Non Partisan Tax League and has attended many meetings of legislative interim tax committees and is an informed, fluent speaker on taxes; has had high responsibilities in American Red Cross and extensive experience in war work; Protestant (Episcopal); Eastern Star, Daughters of Nile; active in Farm Bureau, Blanch Markham Hospital Child Guild. With all her 'women's work' is highly respected for business acumen; capable of making her mark if elected to senate."

MEL PRICE
Chairman, Kittredge for Senate committee

How about a horn that won't honk unless the car is moving? This would eliminate people who honk in traffic jams, people who honk the semi-detached that the light turns and lovers who honk in front of their girl's house.

These are just a few ideas, but enough, I should think, to exhibit the shortsightedness of a mighty industry.

So They Say—

It's not a case of whether we need them, but can we keep them out. Women are storming the battlements of space. We men might as well quit struggling and let them in.
—Rep. James Fulton, R-Pa.

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1963 Autos Lack Vital Features

I haven't checked the specifications closely, but it is safe to assume that 1963 model cars have once again failed to build in a lot of the most-needed features.

What I want, for example, is an automobile that makes clear, decisive, understandable noises when something is wrong with it. It's ridiculous, in these days of scientific progress on all fronts, that you have to go to the garage and say, "There's something down under there that makes a funny noise."

"Funny?" says Art, a small, mustached man with the name Frank embroidered over his overall pocket. "Well, not funny exactly, but odd, disturbing."

"What does it sound like?" "My wife says it sounds like thrunk-ah-chunk. But then she thinks robins say 'What cheer,' you reply."

"I know what you mean," Art (or Frank) says sympathetically. "I got a wife who was telling the dishwasher repair man that it was going, 'Ah-narf.' What does it sound like to you?"

"Frankly," you say. "It's only my wife who hears the noise. What I get mostly is an ominous silence."

'Positive Info-Flo'

Well, what we need is a mechanism that goes bang for certain disorders and ding-dong for others so that you can go into a garage and tell them exactly what it sounds like without having to hack around about it.

A car with a system like that could advertise Positive Info-Flo.

Is it too much to expect that we could have a loudspeaker attachment which would blare out, "Watch where you're driving, you stupid idiot. Watch where you're driving, you stupid idiot. This is a recording. Watch where—"

Think of the wear and tear it would save on the delicate vocal system. Also it would have to be safer, the way it would enable you to devote full attention to driving instead of thinking up and hurling insults at other drivers.

Fuel From Junk

Another feature that might be beyond our technical know-how at the moment, but certainly is within the boundaries of possibility, is an attachment that would convert all that junk on the rear window ledge into fuel.

Automotive engineers say they can build engines that will run on almost anything from vinegar to lighter fluid. So doesn't it seem reasonable that we could grind up all those power-packed ingredients that accumulate in the family sedan?

Powerful petroleum interests, obviously, are keeping this process off the market.

Who will be the first to design a car with a back seat divided by a thick brick wall to keep the children from punching each other as the carefree family tour unfolds?

How about a horn that won't honk unless the car is moving? This would eliminate people who honk in traffic jams, people who honk the semi-detached that the light turns and lovers who honk in front of their girl's house.

These are just a few ideas, but enough, I should think, to exhibit the shortsightedness of a mighty industry.

Carmichael

