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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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Will the Watchdog Eat the Chickens?

Legislators are, first of all, state employees. They also make a great point of their role as watchdog of the public purse. But now, in considering salary increases for themselves, some of them are demonstrating that they want the position next to the gravy boat, no matter where other state employees are expected to stand. The recommendation is that legislators be paid at least \$8,000 for the two-year session, and the figure could well go as high as \$9,000.

A special committee on salary suggests an annual salary of \$3,000. For the biennium that's \$6,000. Then it asks for an expense allowance of \$20 a day. If a session lasts 100 days, that's \$2,000 on top of the \$6,000. However, there aren't going to be many more 100-day sessions in Oregon. A better guess, especially if it isn't too costly to the legislator to stay in Salem a while, is that they'll be running nearer 140 or even 150 days. That could bring the total tab, per legislator, up to \$9,000. Then, if the expense allowance were to be paid also for days the legislators were on interim committee business, the bill could run even higher.

Let's look at this expense figure. How much does it cost to live away from home? The state, with the blessing of the legislative watchdogs, thinks it costs \$11.50. That's what other state employees get when they must be out of town. They get \$6.50 a day for a room and \$5 for meals. And that is all. How come a legislator has to live so much higher off the hog than any other state employee? If \$11.50 is reasonable for one, it's reasonable for the other. Perhaps \$11.50 is not reasonable. But, then, would the legislators agree to raising the general expense account limit

to \$20? Figure, too, that a number of legislators live either in Salem or in nearby towns from which they can commute. And legislators are able to make long-term arrangements on living quarters, thus getting them cheaper than the other employees who must find overnight accommodations for \$6.50.

Even if the \$8,000 or \$9,000 stipend were approved, Oregon still would not be at the top in legislative pay. California leads with \$6,000 a year, plus \$19 a day during sessions. New York pays \$7,500 a year. But the increase would put Oregon well up on the list. We want to be fairly well up. We want to treat our legislators fairly. But the legislators themselves are telling us that we can't afford to have the services of many richer states.

Also, politically speaking, this huge increase in pay, which once was \$1,200 for the session, could backfire. The people, who granted the legislators the right to set their own pay, could withdraw that authority. Legislators should be ever mindful of that possibility. This year's salary grab could be mighty expensive for them, as well as for the treasury.

The Register-Guard, consistently over the years, has argued for adequate pay for legislators. Legislative service should not be a hardship. Neither, however, should it be a quick route to the gravy boat. This suggested pay scale is disappointing to many who have sought a fair shake for the men and women who make our laws. It leads to the suspicion that economy in government is a fine thing when somebody else or his department is involved, but not when the victims of economy are the men who write the checks.

Mutually Good

Charles A. Sprague, who by all counts stands today as the great editor of the West, Tuesday received the E. B. MacNaughton Civil Liberties Award. The award was made by the Oregon unit of the American Civil Liberties Union. It was a good award, good for the Salem editor and good for the ACLU.

Certainly Mr. Sprague is most deserving. He has long been a staunch defender of the things the ACLU believes in—fair play, freedom, protection of individual rights.

The award was good for the ACLU because it may help to correct a recurrent misconception about the organization. Often, the ACLU has appeared to be on the side of pinks. Thus, even among those who are usually more careful, it has been incorrectly identified as a left wing outfit. Nothing is further from the truth.

The ACLU has acted not in defense of pinks because they were pinks, but in defense of people because they were people, people with rights. It has also defended numerous right-wingers and stands ready to do so again, if their civil rights are under attack.

Mr. Sprague, a former Republican governor of Oregon, is certainly a conservative by most standards. And so was E. B. MacNaughton, the Republican banker and publisher for whom the award was named. They represent the finest kind of conservatism, the kind that is ever watchful, lest precious American rights be eroded away. And that's the kind of conservatism the ACLU represents, too.

Strange Story

The more the Mountain Home mystery unfolds, the more of a mystery it becomes. Who did kill the airman's wife last spring, one of the fellows who says he did or one of the fellows who says he didn't? Now, if we're up to date on the developments, the story goes like this:

Girl killed. Neighbor airman arrested. Airman grilled by Air Force. Airman confesses. Airman turned over to civil authority. Airman retracts confession.

Another girl killed. Civilian arrested. Admits that murder. Also admits killing that airman is charged with. Airman released by civil authority. Airman re-arrested by Air Force. Airman says he was forced to make earlier confession. Big hearing called. Airman sticks to story. Civilian refuses to testify. Air Force officer says civilian told him he made up story of murder, saying airman did it after all. Civilian says he made up story he told Air Force officer, adding that he (civilian) really did kill first girl. Airman still in jail. So is civilian. Air Force allows it might decide in about a month whether to hold airman longer.

This is a strange story, and a very serious one. Certainly it casts more doubt upon the "confession" as a reliable indicator of guilt, and shows it up for what it may often be, a forced self-incrimination. It also makes one wonder about the standard of Air Force justice, especially now that, after the hearing, the Air Force will wait another month before deciding whether or not to hold the airman. In a civilian proceeding, the fellow would be either charged and tried or let go.

This is the sort of affair, messy and sensational though it be, that deserves the close attention of every American.

Lining Up for Trouble

Traffic safety experts report that 15 per cent of all accidents result from one driver following too closely behind another. From recent freeway observations, we'd say this is a remarkably low percentage, considering that the usual practice is for one driver to be closely tail-ended by another, and another, and another, and...

Cost of Loving

The cost of loving, like the cost of living, keeps going up. New York City has just raised the marriage license fee from \$3 to \$4.

And that's only the beginning. As the late Clint Haight, sage of the John Day and Baker country, used to say, "A wife is like a car. It's not the initial investment that hurts; it's the upkeep and repairs."

In the Editor's Mailbag

Aesthetic Vigilance

EUGENE (To the Editor)—I believe the city of Eugene needs a cleanup committee of volunteer citizens to go around the city periodically and clear out all the refuse and tin cans—from Willamette Street and Broadway at least. What must visitors to our fair city think of our aesthetic sense when we let such stuff go unnoticed? Why, just last Saturday, less than three weeks before Christmas (when we ought to want everything in our fair city ship shape), I saw a huge tin can on a pole in front of the handsome new Equitable Savings and Loan Building.

JUANITA LESCH
732 E. 18th Ave.

Confused Tale

EUGENE (To the Editor)—The trouble with the Register-Guard being an evening paper is that I usually try to read it while my wife is reading the children their bedtime story, and sometimes the two get all mixed up together. This evening (Dec. 18), I was trying to read something about higher education, but with Snow-white and Rose-red mixed in with it, just didn't seem to make sense.

"The state system of higher education might be able to take a closer look at its method for arriving at budget requests, Oregon lawmakers were told Monday."

"In spite of the little man's temper, the girls did all in their power to set him free."

"Kenneth Bragg, legislative fiscal officer, said the Board of Higher Education's operating budget requests were based on maintaining the existing student-teacher ratio. That assumption is not necessarily correct..."

"Idiot!" screeched the dwarf, "Why go and fetch more dunderbushes? Here are two too many already! Can't you think of anything better?"

"He said the explosion of knowledge and the boom in enrollments makes it necessary to adapt to new techniques in education."

"Don't be so impatient," said Snow-white. And taking out her scissors, she snipped the end off the dwarf's beard, thus setting him free at once. But for all that did he say thank you?

"Drat you ninny, for cutting my beautiful beard," he cried.

"There is simply an insufficient supply of qualified teachers," he said... Bragg also subjected the higher education building fund requests to a searching criticism.

"And seizing a bag full of gold which was hidden among the roots of the tree, he made off into the woods without even so much as a backward glance at the children who had helped him."

I guess it is really necessary

Washington Notebook

'McGeorge' Some Handle

WASHINGTON (NEA)—McGeorge Bundy, President Kennedy's special assistant on foreign affairs, has a good deal of trouble with his first name. The story is told that former Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter, asked to do a story on Henry Stimson, World War II secretary of war, said he couldn't improve on the excellent autobiography on which "George McBundy" collaborated.

Bundy states that the name McGeorge is given only in alternate generations of the Bundy family. He says: "No wife who has had to pay bills variously addressed has let any son of hers be named McGeorge."

Recent reports of the White House using a tape recording of a frightened starling's cry to keep the pesky birds away sparked interest as far away as Copenhagen, Denmark.

There, Peter Heering—maker of a cherry liqueur—wrote President Kennedy a letter saying



they saw eye to eye in battling the starling problem. It seems that for years starlings have been a threat to the Danish cherry orchards.

Like the President, Heering also uses a starling's recorded cry to keep the birds away. For added shock effect, he uses stuffed hawks mounted on balloons to guard orchards.

Heering found that the axiom of "a woman always has the last word" is equally true in the bird world. He says that a female starling's cry scares the birds more than a male's.

There are a host of stories circulating these days about Gen. Maxwell Davenport Taylor, the new and controversial chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. One story is that he can't keep his eyebrows still when under any mental strain.

Those eyebrows evidently are as necessary to him while explaining some intricate subjects

to read about great affairs of state in a quiet place for them to make much sense.

DAVID WRENCH
1857 E. 17th Ave.

Not 'Socialistic'

EUGENE (To the Editor)—Mr. James Whetstone's letter Dec. 13 is quite critical of Medicare, even to the point of calling it socialistic.

Since the bill provides for the recipient to pay for the medical treatment he will receive upon retirement while he is gainfully employed, it is hard for me to go along with this definition.

True, the King-Anderson Bill is not perfect in many respects, but it is at least a step in the right direction.

Medicare can be classed in the same category as Social Security, Rural Electrification and the National Recovery Act—certainly not socialism, as conservative Republicans cry, but as acts of social responsibility.

Eisenhower said that rather than try to shun the label of "the party of big business," the Republicans should be proud of it, since businessmen are the leaders of our country.

The Republican party has sponsored many tax breaks and favorable bits of legislation for American business. Yet at the same time they call the same kind of legislation, benefiting the public at large, socialism.

The Democratic party seems to realize that business is important, but that not all people can be captains of industry or even own their own small business. Most people, they find,

are happy being workers at the various trades, respected by their families and friends, and most concerned with preserving a small bit of security and independence for themselves. That is why they support unions, social legislation protecting them from special interests, and the Democratic party.

When the Republicans start initiating better and more balanced measures of this type instead of bellyaching about them, only then will they get more public support.

Mr. Whetstone, a fellow railroader, may vote Republican and read the Readers Digest if he chooses, but he must realize how many times his vote is canceled out by his fellow employees.

ROBERT W. LAMBIE
218 Kinney Loop

Urges Support

EUGENE (To the Editor)—Letters need to be sent to Mr. Leroy Collins, National Assn. of Broadcasters, 1771 N. Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C. Mr. Collins' job is threatened because of his stand in urging restrictions on tobacco advertising in his Portland speech.

Tobacco is proven to be the number one cause of cancer and circulatory deaths. Britain has already officially gone against tobacco use and advertising. How many parents care to see their children wooed into smoking, its cough and its physical impairments?

Let us support this self-enforced restriction of tobacco advertising by the broadcasters.

LOUIS MASON
2548 Potter St.

Bruce Bioassat

Prosperity and Crowding Indicted for Crime Wave

WASHINGTON (NEA)—There are some U. S. cities where the chances are 1 in 13 that any citizen will be the victim of a serious crime within the next 12 months.

Within zones of high crime incidence in these and other cities, the chances of being victimized are considerably greater.

The citizen's prospects naturally improve when wider circles are drawn. In the United States the ratio is 1 in 100. But in the Pacific states as a group it drops to 1 in 60 and in certain states it is 1 in 45.

This is just one way the FBI measures the impact on the average citizen of today's great and continuing rise in major crime.

The Long-Range Look

The periodic evidence of that upward spiral is duly recorded by the FBI. The latest report shows U. S. crime for nine months of 1962 is 5 per cent higher than the same period in 1961.

Yet the long-range look tells better what is happening. From 1940 through 1961, the climb in serious U. S. crime was 170 per cent, though population in the same span was rising just 38 per cent.

Much has long been made of the enlarging role youthful offenders play in these increases. Individuals under 18 commit two of every five serious crimes. Most staggering is the fact that last year children under 15 committed 32,000 burglaries and 62,000 larcenies. The latter total was nearly four times that in the 25-29 age bracket.

Two Big Changes

Some students of crime, law enforcement specialists and psychologists argue that the well remarked increases are more apparent than real. A point frequently stressed is that reporting and tabulation of crime is far more complete and accurate than it used to be.

While conceding the point, FBI authorities question whether it goes very far toward explaining the crime rise.

They put a finger on two big historical changes—the steady growth of urban centers, with resulting heightened population density, and the social instability arising from the constant movements of people from farm to city, city to city and state to state.

In the view of government criminal experts, these changes are creating conditions for crime which never existed in similar measure before.

Opportunities Being Seized
An important element in these conditions is opportunity, and present-day U. S. urban life vastly magnifies opportunity.

There are more people tightly packed together today, and they can be victimized in crimes against the person. The rise in street assaults and robberies shows this opportunity is being seized.

Likewise, in this affluent country, material standards are still going up. Consequently there is more money and more jewelry, furs, cars, television sets, cameras and other goods to offer temptation.

This abundance, spread from city centers out to swelling suburbs, is too great for any police force to keep close watch upon. FBI men say, too, that many of these tempting prizes are carelessly guarded by their citizen owners.

Social Instability Blamed

The agency notes, for example, sharp increases in thefts from parked cars, from residences left unlocked, from shops which know the peril of "lifting." If big banks today are hard to crack, the swiftly multiplying suburban branch banks and savings and loan offices are vulnerable targets. Their safeguards are limited.

Even if these attractions were not steadily proliferating, FBI officials suggest crime rates would be sharply up. Here they turn to the cited social instability: lax parental discipline, weakened neighborhood controls, interracial conflict, the city-ward rush of rural folk ill-equipped to live and hold jobs in the complex urban centers.

The net of all this, it is argued, is to heighten the urge to crime at a period in history when the prospect of acting upon the urge is maximized by the nation's unparalleled growth.

Below Olympus



GREENWOOD, LOS ANGELES TIMES

"I don't mind the crowds, the lines or going in hock every year... what bothers me is, come Christmas morning, you get all the credit!"

David Lawrence

JFK's Speech on Economy Didn't Give Whole Story

WASHINGTON—President Kennedy didn't tell all of the story to the American people last Friday night when he claimed in his speech before the Economic Club in New York City that "the economic health of this nation has been and is now fundamentally sound."

Even in the same speech later on Kennedy said exactly the opposite as follows:



Lawrence

"Surely the lesson of the last decade is that budget deficits are not caused by wild-eyed spenders but by slow economic growth and periodic recessions—and any new recession would break all deficit records."

The President endeavored, moreover, to give the impression that the rises in government expenditures which have unbalanced his budget have been due entirely to national defense and space projects or "to fight the recession we found in industry and agriculture."

Rep. Clarence Cannon of Missouri, Democrat, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, however, in a courageous speech on the day Congress adjourned in October, gave a different version. Unfortunately it didn't get the publicity a presidential address does.

'Proof' of Point

Cannon said: "This year we added another year to the long string of years of living beyond national revenues—in 28 of the last 32 years we haven't balanced the budget. Not even in times of unprecedented national prosperity have we been willing to pay as we go along. We have yet to demonstrate any determination to do so."

Cannon emphasized that "it is rising non-defense expenditures that have unbalanced the budgets and expanded the national debt." He proved his point as follows: "In the eight years, fiscal 1954 through 1961, the level of national defense expenditures remained virtually unchanged but the non-defense budget in that time increased \$13,470,000,000—and that does not include the highway program, erroneously labeled as a 'trust fund' and therefore no longer counted in general 'budget' totals."

Who Holds Purse Strings?

"Again when fiscal year 1962 closed on June 30 last, budget expenditures had risen \$6,153,000,000 above 1961—\$3,575,000,000 for national defense and \$2,578,000,000 for non-defense."

And who has been in power in Congress for practically all of the last 32 years? Who has been in the majority in Congress in the last eight years? In both cases it is the Democratic party. And, who holds the purse strings? Not the president, but the Congress.

The President tried to shift the blame for the big deficits to the preceding administration, but Cannon's speech tells why this can't be so. Kennedy now promises—as he has done in many speeches before—to hold down the expenses of government. He said last Friday night:

"I can tell you now that the total of all other expenditures combined (besides defense) will

be held at approximately its current level."

But the trouble with that promise is that current expenses are not to be reduced and the tax revenues, of course, will not overcome the deficits. The promise of a "top to bottom" tax reduction makes the headlines, but business cannot expand and the tax receipts will not grow if there is a lack of confidence on the part of business in the economic outlook. For labor is getting ready to demand that business pay higher and higher wages, which, of course, would absorb most of the benefits of tax reduction.

The newspaper strikes in New York and Cleveland are significant examples of the system of extortion practiced by the labor-union monopoly in industries generally. The administration refuses to curb these excesses, though it does interfere with the making of proper prices and profits, as happened in the steel industry earlier this year.

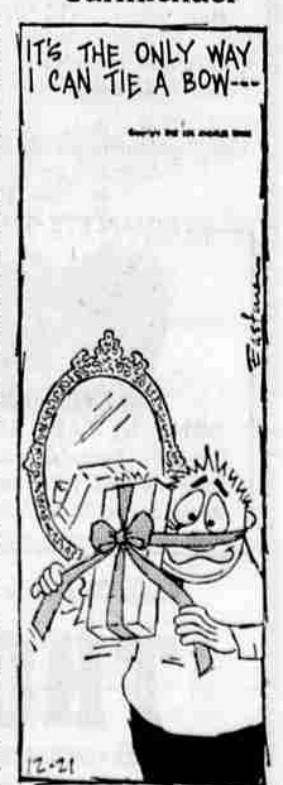
Politics Rules the Day

The President expects the tax reduction to produce a boom in consumer spending. In his speech he revealed that "consumers are still spending between 92 and 94 per cent of their after-tax income, as they have every year since 1950." But he declares that the "after-tax income could and should be greater." This is the erroneous philosophy of New Deal days, and it never solved the problem of big unemployment.

The illness of the American economy has been due largely to the failure of business to expand its plant and equipment. The main reason is the "profit squeeze." There cannot be any substantial expansion or stability of prices unless the government stops tampering with the law of supply and demand in price-making and opens its eyes to the labor-union monopoly that is choking the free-enterprise economy on the cost side.

Politics really rules the day and, as long as the administration in power accepts big campaign funds from labor unions, special privilege will persist. The American businessman will see his tax reductions eaten up by higher wage costs while at the same time the government persecutes and prosecutes industry when it seeks to get a fair price and a fair profit. This ailment will not be cured by government spending and perennial deficits. All this can only bring inflation and a drop in the purchasing power of the dollar.

Carmichael



IT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN TIE A BOW--