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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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Leadership Efforts Fit the Pattern

The mayors of Eugene and Springfield "laid it on the line" this week as they presented annual reports to the people of their cities. Speaking at the first city council session of the new year, Eugene's Mayor Ed Cone made it clear that this city must improve downtown parking arrangements and either repeal or substantially revise its restrictions on the construction of limited access freeways. At a similar session in Springfield, Mayor B. J. Rogers called for municipal acquisition of remaining Pacific Power & Light Co. facilities in that city and urged a number of expensive, but necessary, civic improvement projects.

Thus, in our opinion, both mayors lived up to what is one of the greatest responsibilities of the elected executive in our democratic form of government. At every level of government, it is important that heads of government pinpoint problems they deem of pressing consequence. President Kennedy did this Monday in his annual state of the union message; Gov. Mark Hatfield did it in addressing the opening session of the 52nd Oregon Legislature. Mayors Cone and Rogers made the pattern complete in commendable fashion.

To be sure, it is prudent and proper that executive counsel to the people and their elected lawmakers be recognized as only the expression of a point of view. Such counsel has no binding force, nor should it ever have such force. It is also true that prudence usually calls for the sandwicheing of executive counsel between topings of praise and crusts of expressed satisfaction with certain things as they are and are developing.

Yet, the meaty portions of such executive pronouncements must be challenges for progressive action. Especially in these times, when the nation, the states and local communities are all beset with problems demanding immediate attention, it is incumbent upon the executive to prod. He is not fulfilling his

obligation if a president, governor or mayor seeks simply to appease and/or assuage his listeners.

Mayor Cone's direction of Eugene's attention to its parking and trafficway problems will serve the city well, regardless of the particulars of eventual solutions of these problems. As Eugene continues to grow at the rate of 9 persons per day, obviously these problems are going to get worse before they can be even effectively attacked. But the mayor has put it plainly that these problems won't solve themselves. Action by the people of Eugene and their council representatives will be necessary.

Mayor Rogers' leadership, like that of Mayor Cone, will require the backing of council members and voting citizens. The history of the "Springfield power fight" makes it impossible to predict how closely his lead will be followed in this particular, but the important thing is that he has put a vital public issue back in the spotlight—where it should remain until it has been settled in the best long-range interest of that city. Similarly, his suggestions for drainage improvements, expansion of the Springfield City Hall, construction of a second fire department substation and studies of traffic, water supply and sewer construction programs will lend important impetus to the overall progress of Lane's second largest city.

Whether they agree or do not agree with their mayors' opinions about local problems, residents of Eugene and Springfield should at least appreciate what it is these men are attempting to insure. It is a vital thing: the continuity of communal progress through the stimulation of community awareness to problems which, however politically thorny they may be, must be dealt with before they are made more difficult to solve, financially, politically, or, perhaps merely because of by-passed opportunities.

participate as much and as often as their schedules permit.

As the 52nd Legislature proceeds with its work, its deliberations and decisions will be shaped, a little here and a little there, as the result of these weekly meetings between the Lane County delegation and their local backers and/or opponents. And final results of the session, certainly, will be much better understood by Lane voters who attend these weekly luncheon conferences.

Shorter Campaigns

A bill in Legislature would shorten Oregon's lengthy political campaigns. Rep. J. E. Bennett, Portland Democrat, suggests moving the primary election day from the third Friday in May to the second Tuesday in September. This will be welcomed by politicians who now spend at least eight months in their campaigns, and by citizens who must listen twice—once in the spring and again, after a quiet summer, in the fall. But it has a large drawback.

Oregon chooses its delegates to the political conventions by popular vote and at the May primary election. Convention now meet in July. If we were to continue the popular election of delegates, we'd have to pick them at a special election.

Some have advocated that we do away with popular election of delegates. They point to the long lists of names that must be sifted through. Other states, they note, do very well by selecting delegates through a convention system. Oregon voters one day might relinquish selecting delegates. But it is doubtful if they would give up their preference primary, the vote in which the people themselves instruct their delegations how to vote on early ballots. Is a special election worth-while?

Here again, as in so many legislative matters, we do not have a situation in which the whites are all white, the blacks all black. This measure, like so many others, is really a shade of grey.

Sic 'em, Wayne

Wayne Morse is 100 per cent right in his campaign to restrict somewhat the drinking practices of his colleagues in the Capitol Bldg. He isn't trying to dry up the Capitol or to say that a congressman can't pour a friendly drink for a constituent. But he does want an end to wild parties of the kind Sen. Vance Hartke, the Indiana Democrat, threw in the Capitol the other evening.

Reports are that Senator Hartke's party could be heard 100 yards away. He used a police whistle to quiet the mob long enough for the introduction of distinguished guests. It was said to be the loudest, wildest, wettest brawl ever thrown in that venerable structure.

To many Americans, even those who have never visited Washington, the Capitol Bldg. is something like a cathedral. It is in bad taste, to say the least, to use it like the public rooms of a hotel. Also, it shows bad judgment, considering the number of visitors who come there every day. It's degrading.

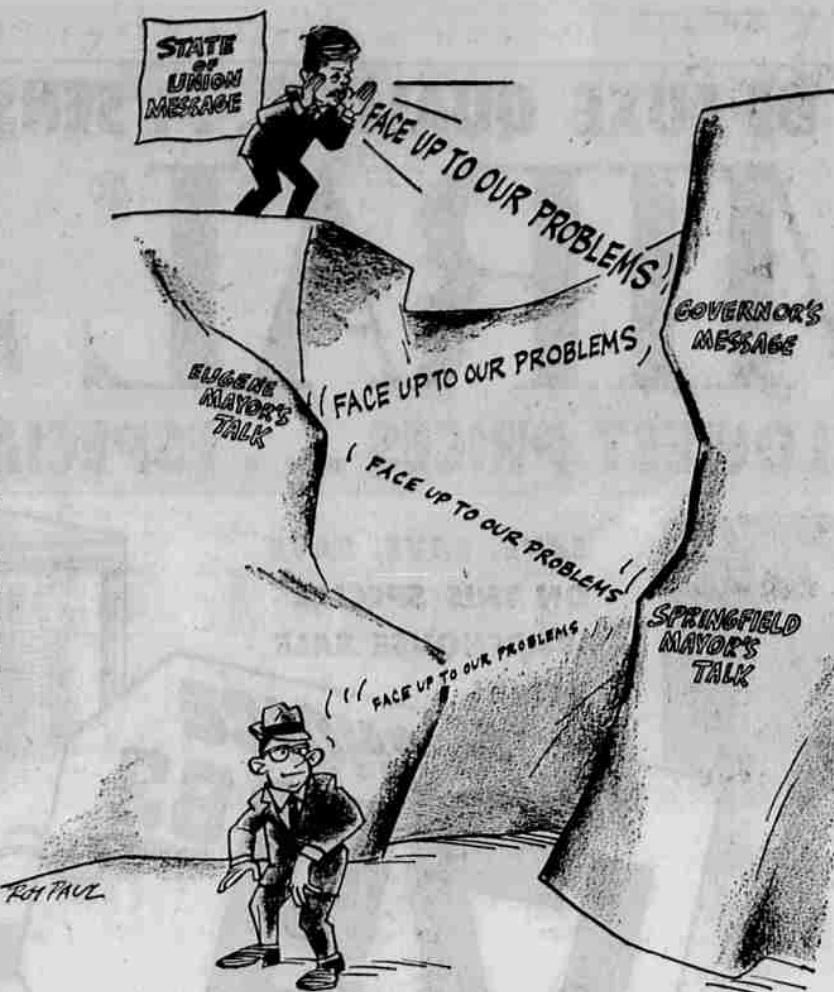
Congressmen and senators, of course, are jealous of their privileges. They don't like to be pushed around. Only somebody like Wayne Morse has the crust to irritate his fellow dignitaries, many of whom, in this instance, are sorely in need of irritating.

Give and Take

Something unique in this state, Saturday noon forum luncheons at which Lane County legislators report to and confer with interested constituents, will be resumed this week.

Heretofore, these sessions at the Eugene Hotel have been sponsored by the Eugene Chamber of Commerce. This fifth series of legislative report forums will, however, be jointly sponsored by the Springfield Chamber of Commerce.

The affairs, where everyone is welcome providing he pays for his own lunch, are conducted on a strictly non-partisan basis. And all current Lane County legislators have agreed to par-



David Lawrence

U.S. Needs South Viet Nam Explanation

WASHINGTON — For what cause have 53 Americans given their lives in South Viet Nam?

What is the government here telling the unfortunate parents and relatives? It would seem that not only is a persuasive explanation due the families of the men killed, but it is due the American people as well. For other Americans in uniform—about 1,000,000 of them—now are stationed in 41 different lands and may any day be asked to make similar sacrifices.

An official explanation as to why the United States is risking the lives of its youth in South Viet Nam has not been forthcoming. Yet Congress alone, under the Constitution, has the right to declare war. A president who finds our national safety threatened need not wait for Congress, but may in an emergency order our armed services into action because there isn't time to consult Congress. At the earliest practicable moment, nevertheless, a president is morally obligated to ask for a resolution of both Houses of Congress to authorize the continued use of American troops. There has been plenty of time for Congress to tackle the problem of supply-

ing military aid to South Viet Nam.

When President Wilson suddenly ordered Marines to land in Veracruz in 1914, to intercept a shipment of arms from Germany, a request for a joint resolution of authorization was made only a few days later. The request was promptly granted. In 1950, when President Truman overnight ordered our armed forces to help the United Nations to repel the invasion of South Korea, he called it a "police action," though it turned into a major war. Congress never authorized it explicitly but later gave the military operation validity by passing the necessary appropriations.

There have been a few cases in which Marines have been landed for brief periods in foreign countries by the United States to protect American lives and property and no resolutions have been sought from Congress. But in no case have such forces been used to carry on any operations involving military action against another country.

Today American troops and equipment—at a cost to American taxpayers of \$1,000,000 a day—are in South Viet Nam, and the official word is that all this is solely to help in defensive operations at the request of the local government. Lately it appears that the local commanders don't want to fight the Communist forces and are ignoring the advice of American

military officers, one of whom was killed as he pleaded with the native army commanders to fight.

American troops usually do not engage in any foreign war without the authorization of the people's representatives—the Congress of the United States. It is recognized, of course, that a president may take measures of instant retaliation if an attack is made against this country, but it is assumed Congress would even then be asked to authorize any continued warfare. Under the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the United States is pledged to regard an attack on any of the member states as being just the same as an attack on the United States. But after the initial steps have been taken, the Congress is supposed to furnish the necessary authority to carry on the war.

Just why the administration has not presented the facts about the situation in South Viet Nam to the American people is a mystery. Informal and confidential talks with members of the foreign relations committees of Congress have been held by the Department of State, but these are by no means a substitute for the requirements of the Constitution. American boys have already been killed in action in South Viet Nam, and many more of them may be sacrificed in the Congo or other parts of the world to quell local disturbances.

The United States government today has taken the position that, under the assumed authority of the United Nations, American advisers and equipment can be used in The Congo to settle by force an internal war in a state which covers a considerable area in Central Africa. Great Britain and France and other U.N. members disapprove of such intervention, which, though carried on ostensibly by the U.N., is really supported, encouraged and financed largely by the United States. Not a single step has been taken by Congress to authorize American military support of the U.N. in the Congo.

President Eisenhower found himself in a tough spot in the Far East when an attack on Quemoy and Matsu, the islands off the shore of Red China, was threatened in 1954 and 1955. He asked Congress for authority to

Bidding Practices

EUGENE (To the Editor)—If Mr. Thornton wants to save Oregon money, as he recently declared in his gubernatorial campaign, he might begin not with a state conducted investigation of private firms' bidding practices, but with a Thornton-conducted investigation of a few standard economics texts of any vintage from Adam Smith's to Lord Keynes's. He might even investigate a couple of Marxist-Leninist approved texts (I would permit it) and still, I wager, not find any authority to support his implied contention that for a specific commodity and specific services to be delivered and performed in a particular place at a particular time there ought to be more than one market price.

Mr. Thornton's concern over similar or identical bids would be legitimate if it were directed toward a single instance of identical bids for dissimilar or special-order products or services. Instances of this Pap Dentrifice (a toothpaste) versus Kazam Dental Enamel Polisher (a tooth powder) to be delivered to state hospitals, or identical bids for 1,835 specially fabricated anchor bolts required to meet certain engineering tests but not required to be of a specified design nor to be made of specified materials. Then he would have reason to suspect behind-the-scenes, pre-bid, consultations.

As it is, he wonders why Firm A should not bid less than Firm B when both are to oper-

ate under identical conditions, i.e., with identical purchasing powers, identical marketing costs. The reason, Mr. Thornton, is that if A should bid lower than B, presumably A would soon go bankrupt, leaving B to charge what it pleased in the future.

But this would at least save us the cost of one kind of investigation in that rosy future, wouldn't it?

DAVID IBBOTSON
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Jeannace

EUGENE (To the Editor)—Congratulations on your splendid editorial urging clemency for Jeannace Freeman. The fearless journalistic tradition you have thus maintained is bolstered by the fact that this is the first time you have appealed to a governor to use his commutation powers—and that it was for a despised, friendless waif such as she when you did.

The phrase you coined to describe capital punishment—"cyanide roulette"—should burn itself into the minds of the populace, for quick recall when the people of this and other capital-punishment states next have the opportunity to strike this barbarian practice from the statute books.

Your constant emphasis of the fact that Miss Freeman is indeed yet a girl instead of a mature woman brings into focus perhaps the most pitiful aspect of her tragedy-bent young life: besides the fact that she was never allowed to "grow up," she was the victim of savage and, to her, inexplicable forces beyond her control—the victim of circumstances, as you put it. If her execution is allowed to take place, we will in truth be strapping a child into the gas-chamber chair.

After dismissing each of the arguments, singularly, for commutation of her sentence, your combination of them all to make a valid case for the exercise of executive clemency is most effective. Indeed, these events in her formative years led her into the company of Mrs. Nunez to begin with. That the mother was the only one to support the charge of premeditation—which sent Miss Freeman to Death Row—is not generally realized. But as you point out, Mrs. Nunez actually was the only witness against Miss Freeman.

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James Marlow

Three Messages Show How Kennedy Mood Has Varied

WASHINGTON — In two years President Kennedy's mood—about things at home and abroad—has changed from that of dark worry and gritty crisis to one of much confidence and a feeling the tide is running right.

The change shows in the three State of the Union messages he has delivered to Congress: the first in 1961, right after he took office; the second in 1962; the third Monday.

Kennedy's first message sounded like a call for the ambulance. The one last year considered the American patient much improved. The one this week said the patient was doing fine but could still stand some vitamins.

Less Rhetoric
Monday's message had less rhetoric than the one in 1961. But that wasn't the reason it sounded flat by comparison. It was just less urgent. It mentioned fewer needs, suggested fewer remedies.

In the past few weeks in one unusual way or another—on television or in conferences with newsmen—he pretty generally laid down not only his view of the world at this time but what programs he would propose to Congress.

The three messages side by side tell the story. The first group is on problems at home: 1961—"I speak today in an hour of national peril . . . The outcome is by no means certain . . . The American economy is in trouble." 1962—" . . . We completed 1961 on the high road to recovery and growth." Now he was thinking no longer almost entirely in terms of recovery but in terms of controlling inflation.

so the recovery already taking place wouldn't be hurt.

1963—"I can report to you that the state of this old but youthful Union, in the 175th year of its life, is good . . . The recession is behind us . . . Both at home and abroad there may now be a temptation to relax . . . But we cannot be satisfied to rest here."

Foreign Problems
Here are the same three messages, side by side, on foreign problems:

1961—" . . . All our domestic problems pale when placed beside those which confront us around the world . . . Each day the crises multiply. Each day their solutions grow more difficult."

"Each day we draw nearer the hour of maximum danger, as weapons spread and hostile forces grow stronger . . . the tide of events has been running out and time has not been our friend . . ."

1962—"It was not so much what he said in 1962 as what he left unsaid that showed Kennedy felt more confident about dilemmas overseas."

He no longer dwelt on the hour of peril or the approach of danger. Instead, he gave a brief lecture on the difference between the West and communism—the difference between free choice and coercion.

Lecture Repeated
It was a lecture he was to repeat almost in the same words in his 1963 message. Still, he turned on the amber light. He warned that "every apparent blessing contains the seed of danger."

1963—"In the world beyond our borders steady progress has been made in building a world of order . . . Only a few years ago . . . communism sought to convey the image of a unified, confident and expanding empire, closing in on a sluggish America."

"In these past months we have reaffirmed the scientific and military superiority of freedom . . . We have every reason to believe our tide is running strong."

While the world looked brighter to Kennedy in 1963 he did again what he did in 1962: He took out a little insurance against too much optimism by warning about "the storms beyond the horizon."

Carmichael



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