

ALTON F. BAKER JR.  
Editor and Publisher  
EDWIN M. BAKER  
General Manager  
RICHARD A. BAKER  
Managing Editor  
ROBERT B. FRAZIER  
Associate Editor  
A. H. CUREY  
Associate Editor

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.

6A EUGENE, OREGON, SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1963

## This Protection is not a License

Adam Clayton Powell, the wandering congressman, has just lost a big libel suit. For saying that a New York woman was a "bag woman" (graff collector) for the police, he must pay \$211,500. At least that's what the New York court held. Now the case undoubtedly will go to the U.S. Supreme Court, where the congressman proposes to test a vital constitutional question. The high court's ruling could have far-reaching effect on the future activities of legislators, state and national.

In question is the idea of congressional privilege. The U.S. Constitution says that "for any speech or debate in either house, they (the senators and representatives) shall not be questioned in any other place." This means that you can't sue a congressman for something he says about you in Congress. The Oregon Constitution uses almost exactly the same language in extending this immunity to Oregon legislators. This is an important and necessary protection of the legislator.

Mr. Powell's contention, however, is that as a congressman he possesses a broader privilege than this. His attorneys argued (Mr. Powell didn't show up at the trial) that the privilege extends to remarks made by a congressman off the floor of the House, too. The remarks for which he was sued were made in a television broadcast. They contended that a congressman has a duty to keep his constituents informed of his congressional activities. If this includes re-

peating otherwise libelous remarks off the floor, that's just tough.

This was very important in the McCarthy era. Senator Joe McCarthy said some pretty rough things about a lot of people—on the Senate floor. A political ditty sung by a guitar player of the age had the lines, "He's smeared this and smeared that, and libeled dozens more, but he'll never, ever, ever say it off the Senate floor."

Mr. Powell's attorneys were right in saying that a legislator should keep his constituents informed of his activities. This he can do in many ways. A newspaper report or a television broadcast of something said in Congress carries with it the congressman's congressional privilege. So does the material in the Congressional Record. Many are the opportunities for a congressman to keep his constituents informed. He doesn't need to walk around repeating his statements off the floor—as Joe McCarthy well knew.

To extend the idea of privilege as far as Mr. Powell wants the Supreme Court to extend it would be to create a new class of citizens. These people (legislators) could say anything they wanted at any time about anybody, just so long as they could hook it some way to their work. Such an interpretation would be an invitation to irresponsibility. It would be unthinkable for the court to fail to draw a firm line between necessary freedom of debate and the kind of license Mr. Powell seeks.

## School Names

Salem is seeking a name for its new high school, on the north fringe of town. North Salem seems logical, except that Salem already has a school of that name. The present North Salem is nearer the middle of town. Could that be renamed Central? Or would that be confusing? Then how about a name like Capital for one of the two north schools?

Eugene went through a similar discussion when a new high school was located on the north side of town. We didn't have quite that much of a problem, however, because North Eugene High is even farther north than the new school, which we called Sheldon. But suppose we eventually build one out by Spencer Butte, far south of the present South?

We now have three high schools, North, South and Sheldon. Will Salem have three, North, South and Capital? That's like a family's naming its children Eenie, Meenie, Miney and George, or Tom, Dick and Melvin.

The point is that these geographic designations serve a growing community for only so long. After a while, the towns outgrow such names. But, please, no more names of presidents. What's wrong with naming some after governors of Oregon?

## Big Investigation

Jack Anderson is a Washington reporter who wrote a magazine article a month ago charging that a number of congressmen pad payrolls, misuse public funds and peddle influence. He said he got his information from a certain congressman, whom he preferred not to name.

The Administration Committee of the House of Representatives was most upset, and sought to quiz Mr. Anderson about this anonymous congressman. The committee wanted his name. Mr. Anderson said he'd be glad to talk to the committee—if he could list the names of a dozen or so congressmen who cheat.

The committee didn't like that idea so well. It was obviously less interested in exposing the dozen cheaters than in exposing the one squealer. Mr. Anderson and the committee sparred around a while. The committee didn't get the one name it wanted, and Mr. Anderson didn't get to mention the dozen names he had in mind. And so the meeting adjourned, with a fishy air hanging over the Capitol dome that afternoon.

## Worth Cultivating

One of the surest signs of spring in this state is the budding of renewed enthusiasm for promoting tourist trade.

This year, with no world's fair in Seattle to lure extra tourists through Oregon, this trade may be expected to fall off a bit. But, the gross profits from tourism—the state's third largest industry—could hold up close to 1962's record level if each touring individual or family is induced to stay one extra day in Oregon.

Tourists—out-of-state vacationists, if you prefer—spent a total of \$217 million while they were in Oregon last year. If each of these 9,255,000 visitors had spent one more day with us, their gross expenditures would have been \$55 million dollars greater. And, if train, bus and plane travelers had been induced to stop over an extra day on their way through Oregon, another \$15 million would have been added to the total.

Courtesy—good old-fashioned western hospitality—is being stressed this year by the Travel Information Division of the State Highway Dept., the agency charged with official drum-beating for Oregon's tourist industry. And, the division's expanded promotion program for '63 will provide for the conspicuous placement of more color posters, restaurant table cards and booklets—all designed to entice out-of-state visitors to see more of the natural wonders of this state.

News media, chambers of commerce and other associations are already being stirred into action, a full two months in advance of "Oregon Welcome Week," a period in which the '63 tourist season will be launched with special promotions all around the state.

Nothing, it seems, proves the arrival of spring more conclusively than this sowing of seeds intended to produce a bumper crop of folding long green. Nor, might we add, does Oregon have a crop which can be more profitably tended so easily.

## More Money

Members of the British House of Commons won't get a pay raise this year. They will continue to make British law for \$4,900 a year, although some perhaps will come to America, take out citizenship papers, and run for the Oregon Legislature.

## At Easter Time

# 4 Reasons Congress Not Responsive to JFK

## Lagging Congress Focuses on Tax Bill

WASHINGTON—As Congress takes off for its Easter recess, it is evident that President Kennedy's legislative program is thus far moving ahead on no front.

Some of his agenda probably, including a tax cut, will become law, but the outlook is that the White House will get a rather low percentage of what it is asking. This 88th Congress, with more Democrats than its predecessor, seems even less responsive to the President.

Why? Why does Mr. Kennedy find himself up against something near to a legislative stone wall manned overwhelmingly by members of his own party? Why does a President, so obviously popular with the country, find his domestic program so unpopular with the Congress?

The reasons, I think, are these:

• Most of the Democratic members of Congress least sympathetic to the President's views are in the posts of greatest power because of the seniority method of selecting committee chairmen.

• The congressional machinery for transacting the public business is fantastically out-of-date and disorganized. Congress would have a very hard time passing a legislative program of its own proposing, let alone the President's.

• When the government feels it must spend \$60 billion a year on defense and space, this priority puts a serious damper on new domestic programs.

• Kennedy's personal popularity does not mean that his domestic legislative program has corresponding popularity. In changing and resisting much that the White House is seeking, Congress may well be reflecting voter opinion more faithfully than the President.

While approximately the same voters elect both the President and the Congress, the majority may well have preferred Kennedy over Nixon not because Kennedy was somewhat to the left of center but despite that fact. The voters could prefer Kennedy as President but simultaneously wish to choose a Congress—as they now have twice done—more conservative than Kennedy.

I raise this point to call into question the frequently made assumption that Congress is not being responsive to public opinion when it goes against the White House. There is a good deal of evidence to suggest that the present Congress is a rather faithful mirror of the country.

It needs to be borne in mind that when the country narrowly chose Kennedy over Nixon in 1960, it elected a Congress more Republican and more conservative than it did two years earlier. Most elected presidents carry into office with them a dividend of 30 to 40 additional members of their own party.

Kennedy failed to do so. The Democrats lost 22 seats in the House that year.

It is true that the Democrats resplendently held their own in congressional seats in the off-year voting last fall. But this achievement obscured the fact that the Democratic Party's share of the popular vote for Congress fell off 3½ per cent from the previous off-year vote. It simply did not happen to be reflected in a corresponding loss of congressional seats.

Thus the 1962 election produced no special mandate for the President's legislative program and, if anything, tended to show that the go-slow mood of Congress was also the mood of the nation.

Congress loiters and lopes along for about two-thirds of the session and then frantically rushes to get down to business. The President will begin to face somewhat better, a little later. Congress is going to be discriminating and, at times, recalcitrant. But there is no reason to assume that in dissenting from the President Congress is going against the wishes of the country.

The critical issue is the state of the economy and the need to increase the pace of economic growth by removing the brake of excessively high tax rates. On this issue it seems to me Kennedy is profoundly right and there is a better than even chance that Congress will agree.

© 1963, New York Herald Tribune Inc.

## Bill Vaughan

### Life's Little Things Count Too Dad-Blamed Much

The trouble is that a man gets known for one particular thing and ever after why that's what people expect from him. They would yell, "Hey Napoleon, put your hat on sideways," and Winston Churchill has to make the V sign with his fingers whether he wants to or not.

The late Gellert Burgess, who wrote "The Purple Cow" also wrote how weary he became of being asked to recite it. Raymond Massey had to turn himself into Doctor Gillespie to get away from the hordes who expected him to do Lincoln whenever he went and peppered him with such remarks in doubtful taste as "If you go to the theater tonight, don't sit in a box."

Harry Truman is generally acknowledged to have become fed up with "The Missouri Waltz," which was always clamored for when he sat down to the piano.

And so it goes. A man can accomplish many things in his life but some little facet of his career sticks in the public mind and he's typed forever.

Even more cruelly, it doesn't even have to be something a man does well that follows him all his life. It may be some small error, like running the wrong way in football or failing to touch third base or taking the day's receipts home with him from the store.

That's all anybody wants to talk about when they meet this man. Chances are he would about a hundred times rather change the subject.

Or like once in his life a man mistakes the dog food in the icebox for the leftover hash. For the next 30 years his friends are going "bow wow" at him or if he encounters strangers his wife says, "Sam, tell the Hendersons about, you know, the time with the dog food—"

Wives don't say, "Sam, tell the Hendersons about the time you rescued the little boy from drowning, or would have if the lifeguard hadn't got there first." No it's always the dog food, and the Hendersons are therefore entitled to be in the vast circle of acquaintances who go, "bow wow."

Another angle on this, there may be something that you are kind of proud of and that while you may not be the best at it you are among the Top Ten. Let's say you can crack your knuckles to the tune of "Yan-



Vaughan



Porter

## Sylvia Porter

### Advertising Fires Back at Its Critics

In its first recommendations since its creation in 1962, the President's Consumer Advisory Council last month urged federal legislation to stiffen controls over packaging, labeling and the disclosure of interest charges on installment loans.

Before Congress right now are "truth in lending" and "truth in packaging" bills. California's Governor Brown has just handed the state legislature 25 separate, tough "consumer protection" bills and dozens of states have formal or informal consumer protection programs. And with mounting fervor the various federal regulatory agencies are handing down "pro-consumer" rulings guaranteed to raise howls of protest from businessmen.

The target of much of this activity is the \$12-billion-a-year U.S. advertising industry—which has come in for some severe criticism in recent years. How does the advertising industry itself react to the blasts about its ethics and quality? Here, from Charles H. Brower, president of Madison Avenue's giant Batten, Barton, Durstine & Osborn, Inc., are some "reverse twist" views on what's going on which are at the very least refreshing.

PORTER: What's your reaction to the stepped-up drives to protect the consumer?

BROWER: What we really need in Washington is a cabinet level department to protect the manufacturer from the consumer! The consumer is not nearly as defenseless as committees may dream. She may be a sweetheart to her husband and a loving mother to her children, but she's a tough shopper in the market place.

PORTER: You're not concerned about more government regulation?

BROWER: I don't have any great worry about it and a certain amount of government regulation is necessary. However, I do wish the government would decide whether it wants to put its foot on the accelerator or the brake where business is concerned.

PORTER: What's your view of the quality of advertising today?

BROWER: I'm as proud of the bulk of it as lawyers are of the bulk of law practice or physicians are of medicine. There are quacks, of course. There always will be, but on the whole advertising is doing a great job.

Unfortunately, if you were to ask the average person what he thought the advertising man thought of him he probably would say, "He thinks I'm stupid." Actually, I don't think advertisers are shooting at a 12-year-old level, but there is

added wryly, "we begin to get some bills to the floor and some are defeated and then there are those stories about presidential leadership."

There is some indication the White House itself has played a part in setting the "rhythm" for the new Congress. The pace of early session messages has seemed to fall short of the urgent tempo of 1961 and 1962. In fact, "nothing ventured, nothing lost" might describe the legislative strategy being employed for some of the President's more controversial proposals.

He has yet to submit messages or draft legislation for creation of an Urban Affairs Department, broadening of the minimum wage law and an overhaul of the unemployment compensation program. The latter would provide stricter federal standards and, in some states, higher taxes on employers. All of these were mentioned in Kennedy's general messages at the opening of the session but have not been heard from since.

All are opposed by a coalition of Republicans and Southern Democrats, and one theory ex-

tant is that the White House is not anxious to load down its boxscore of 1963 requests and accomplishments with detailed proposals it has little hope of seeing enacted.

### Tax Bill Emphasized

Perhaps more to the point is the President's apparent desire to preserve tranquility on congressional seas while his tax program is being navigated through.

Once that is passed, Capitol Hill and the White House can go back to more traditional battles, with plenty of lively issues held in reserve as the 1964 elections draw closer.

To date, the 88th Congress has delivered five public laws to the President's desk. Several other bills have seen action in one chamber or the other, but a number have not yet reached the hearings stage.

A congressional clampdown on members' "junketing" and a Senate investigation of the Pentagon's award of the TFX fighter plane contract to General Dynamics Corp. have caused more stir than much of the legislative activity so far.

## Easter Boxscore on 88th Congress

(As of April 8)

Enacted: Draft law extension; Winston Churchill citizenship; and a minor supplemental farm appropriation bill.

Passed by Senate only: Mass transit; Wilderness, Youth Employment bills scheduled.

Passed by House only: Defense procurement authorization; Interior Department appropriation; supplemental appropriation scheduled, including accelerated public works funds.

Committee action: Foreign aid; military pay increases; tax reduction and reform; debt ceiling; area redevelopment expansion; Mexican farm labor regulation; cotton, feed grains, dairy programs; medical schools; aid to education; equal pay for women; packaging and labeling regulation; drug regulation; mental health aid; land conservation fund; air pollution research.

No action: Civil defense; stock market regulation; unemployment compensation overhaul; minimum wage revisions; migrant labor aids; Social Security medical care; civil rights legislation; transportation policy changes; aid to airports; billboard control; congressional, executive salary increases; Urban Affairs Department; wiretap laws; District of Columbia home rule.

Copyright, 1963, Congressional Quarterly Inc.

## Ralph McGill

### This April's Lilacs Have Bitter Smell in Greenwood

WASHINGTON NOTES: Poets have interpreted spring in many moods. Don Marquis, in his celebrated poem "Methuselah," had the Old Testament coddler lift his voice in a paean to a spring in which the big bull oyster rode the flood of the tide and bellowed for his mate. "Fill me with juniper juice, nurse, and then turn me loose," exulted the Biblical ancient, in an ecstasy of spring.

This goatish urge of the month of renewal usually produces panty raids on college campuses, and other exuberant evidences that the elfin music of Pan is heard in the ears and felt in the blood.

But in this April, though the redbud, dogwood, tulips and flowering trees are as wondrously beautiful as ever, the mood of it seems to me more in keeping with T. S. Eliot's opening lines in "The Waste Land":

"April is the cruelest month, breeding  
Lilacs out of the dead land,  
mixing  
Memory and desire, stirring  
Dull roots with rain."

It is quite true that the dull roots of old wrongs, inequities and injustices are being stirred by the rains of change. The pale-purple lilacs, symbolizing life rising out of the darkness of death, are being bred out of the land.

The April mood was of Mississippi and perhaps half a dozen other Southern communities struggling with memory and desire. They were performing once again the preposterous charade in which the actors wear mask-like faces like those

in old Japanese dances representing hate, passion, vacuity, cruelty, and greed. There was the same old choreography. In it the police strike, pull, shove or throw colored people into patrol wagons or buses because they have committed the offense of seeking to vote, eat at a lunch counter or attend a movie without going up an alley and climbing backstairs to a balcony.

The spoken lines are always the same . . . and have been for more than a century. In many places the cruellest month bred the funeral lilacs out of the dead land, mixing memory and desire. And on the stage in Greenwood the mummies went through their maneuvers of arrest and jail. Those with spoken lines said, their faces strained with pent-up fury, that if only the outside agitators would go away things would be all right. . . . if only persons like the night club performer, Dick Gregory ("just look at him in that Italian suit, he thinks he's something"), would get out of town and quit stirring up our good colored people who know their place and are happy in it, all would be well. "If only—if only" . . . the words have a long echo. They come out of the skeletal flutes of men who died at the hands of the abolitionist mobs; out of those dead on the bitter battlefields of the Civil War. . . . "If only . . . if only . . ."

It is not only lilacs that are bred out of the dead land.

Excesses breed excesses. Dick Gregory would not be in Greenwood, Mississippi—the outsider-ministers would not be there—if the registrars of Greenwood and other Southern areas had not coldly and callously denied registration of qualified voters for a span of almost a century.