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ATTORNEY GENERAL ON PUBLIC POLICY
Lacking the full text of the opinion from the Attorney General's office questioning the right of the legislature to enact H.B. 160 it is impossible to discuss it on a fully informed basis. Nevertheless we may assume that the principal features of the opinion have been reported in the news and these, we venture to assert, do nothing but sustain the conclusions.
Enactment of the bill, says the assistant attorney general, "would be against the declared public policy of the state." This declaration of policy, he says, is found in the commercial fisheries code and the state game code. If this statement expresses the meat of the opinion it can have no weight. It does, however, make clear the degree of autocracy with which the Fish and the Game commissions feel they are clothed. What this attorney says, in effect, is that the code provisions may not be amended. The law now on the books, he asserts, is THE law and the only law. Period.

We have not tried to search out in those codes the policy that is thus regarded as sacrosanct. There is no need of doing so. What the legislature has done by way of declaring a policy it can undo or do over. What is proposed in H.B. 160 is a doing over. It is amazing that partisanship should lead an attorney to deny the fact.

In the news of the opinion there was quoted a paragraph from a supreme court opinion. In the face of that paragraph we wonder how the opinion could have been rendered. According to the court fish and power are on even terms in the matter of public policy. Under the Hydroelectric law, however, that is not the fact. There the situation is controlled by fish and the purpose of H.B. 160 is to take away that control, not to give it to power but to make it possible for the Hydroelectric commission to weigh fish and power and all other public interests and, in each case, to give the decision to that which has the greatest over-all importance.
Should not that be Oregon public policy?

MAN BITES DOG

In the effort to explain what is news and what is not there is usually a reference to the classic example of dog bites man and man bites dog, the latter being news and the former not. Remembering that we have taken pleasure in a story in the Oregon Statesman from which we quote,

A Salem motorist was sporting either a black eye or a flattened nose Monday because an irate pedestrian apparently thought his rights had been violated.

John Kinney of 3344 Neef Ave., unfolded this story to city police Monday of what he saw while walking across High and Court Streets Sunday night.

A man carrying a small child and accompanied by his wife were walking across the intersection when an unknown motorist pulled up to a stop with his car bumper hanging over the cross walk.

The man suddenly kicked the car bumper. Then, without a word, he handed his child to his wife, walked around to the car door, opened it, punched the driver in the face, closed the door and walked on.

The startled motorist was forced to drive on as traffic was piling up.

Over the story was this head

Motorist Struck
By Pedestrian
(Not Vice Versa)

and that, like the pedestrian's act, seems to us inspired.

THE LONGVIEW BRIDGE

On Wednesday we discussed the question of tolls on the Vancouver bridges, old and proposed. There is another Oregon-Washington bridge business that calls for comment. This is the proposal that Oregon buy a half interest in the Longview bridge. Of course it should not do so.

When that bridge was proposed more than 25 years ago there was every evidence that one of the ideas back of the plan was that it would make river traffic to Portland difficult and thus give aid in Longview development. Portland had to put on a hard fight to secure a bridge high enough to avoid interference with shipping. None who remember that battle would ever be willing to have Oregon take any part of the bridge.

After shaping one's thought on the basis of statements of fact from high authority it is disconcerting to discover that the "facts" are not facts at all. In the beginning it was stated categorically that the British plane shot down by Russians had not been over the line. Now Churchill admits that the plane "strayed" momentarily into the Soviet occupation zone." As to the American plane fired on by a Russian plane in the Aleutians Senator Flanders says it had no business being where it was. Where do these later reports leave one in his judgment of happenings and those who report them?

Other Editors Say

SLOT MACHINE VOTERS RESPONSIBILITY

(Oregon City Enterprise-Courier)
The words of the new state attorney general, Robert V. Thornton, were echoed this week by Clackamas county's district attorney, Winston Bradshaw.

They both said they were in favor of uniform gambling laws and would enforce the ban against slot machines, regardless of who operates or owns them.

That's just fine.

But it's no lasting answer. Ultimately, the answer must come from the people.

And the people have yet to demonstrate at the ballot that they are against the gambling as an amusement.

All of which leaves the initiative up to law enforcement officers who can organize a dramatic raid, confiscate the evidence and then have months of planning fall flat in the courts.

Other states who have demonstrated that they don't want gambling got just that. Laws were enacted which not only kept the competing machines out of public places, but also kept them out of private clubs.

We can't blame our police officers for turning their eyes away from the spinning wheels of the payoff pinball machine when it is extremely difficult to get a conviction in our courts after an arrest is made.

It all gets right back to the source of all justice and all social

conduct. The voters and the people themselves must demonstrate what they want their law enforcement officers to do.

That's the only source of a stable, uniform, slot-machine prohibition if such a thing is desirable.

DAILY PAPER FOR MEMINVILLE

(Albany Democrat-Herald)
The McMinnville News Register, product of the merger of the Telephone Register and the News-Reporter, announces it will go daily in April. This will be only the third daily to be started in this state in 15 years. Both of the others went under; but this does not surprise the enterprising and optimistic Bladines, who are now publishing one of the largest, most readable and most successful weekly newspapers in the United States.

The Grants Press Courier ran successfully as a daily for many years while its territory was smaller and, perhaps, less promising than Yamhill county is today. The McMinnville weekly often publishes more pages in its one issue than some small dailies do in a week. The Bladines may not make any more money with the daily than they're making with the weekly, at least, not for some years—but they'll have more fun.

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Precarious Perch



Northwest History

By DR. DAN E. CLARK
(Professor Emeritus of History,
University of Oregon)

Today's Question: When was the Hudson's Bay Company established in the Pacific Northwest?

After the merger with the North West Company in 1821 four years elapsed before it can be said that the Hudson's Bay Company was definitely established and ready for operation in the Pacific Northwest. Under the North West Company the region west of the Rocky Mountains had been divided into two districts—the Columbia and New Caledonia. The former embraced the drainage basin of the Columbia River, and thus included the greater part of what are now Oregon, Washington, Idaho and small portions of Montana and British Columbia.

New Caledonia consisted of the region to the northward and this was regarded as the more important and profitable of the two. For a short time the abandonment of the Columbia District was considered.

The man responsible for the decision to retain the Columbia District was George Simpson (later knighted) who was appointed governor of the Northern Department, which included both the Columbia District and New Caledonia. At first he agreed that the Columbia District should be retained, even if it meant a loss, as a means of protection for the more lucrative northern trade by keeping American traders out. However, in 1824 he undertook the long overland journey from Hudson Bay to the Columbia. On the way he overtook John McLoughlin, who had been appointed Chief Factor for the Columbia District. The two men traveled together the rest of the way to Fort George (Astoria) at the mouth of the Columbia, where they arrived in November, 1824. Simpson now became quite enthusiastic about the prospects of a lucrative trade in the region. It was decided that the headquarters should be moved from Fort George to a location on the north bank of the Columbia, since the British had no hope of gaining exclusive jurisdiction south of that river.

Thus, during the winter of 1824-25 a trading post was built about a mile from the Columbia nearly opposite the mouth of the Willamette. This post was named Fort Vancouver, in honor of the British explorer, and in March, 1825, Simpson set out on his long eastward journey. The Hudson's Bay Company was now well established and ready for operation in the Pacific Northwest.

Clip and paste in your history scrapbook. If you have a question you would like answered about Oregon or Northwest history, mail it to Dan E. Clark, care of this newspaper.

Next Question: Who was in charge of the Hudson's Bay Company in the Pacific Northwest?

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Washington Column

By PETER EDSON
(SEA Washington Correspondent)

WASHINGTON (NEA)—A complete overhaul of the U. S. tax system won't come before next year, it then.

The hard-headed new team at the U. S. Treasury, under Secretary George M. Humphrey, has become fully aware in its less than two months in office that it is much easier for politicians in a campaign to make promises to cut taxes than it is to carry them out.

One of the most important legacies bequeathed to this new team by former Secretary of the Treasury John W. Snyder was a looseleaf binder about two inches thick. It analyzes every tax reform proposed or considered in recent years. They are 42 in number.

Before the Republican tax team took office, its members had done some research of their own. They had asked all the tax associations and private research groups to recommend the dozen reforms they considered most important.

The first half-dozen recommendations came easily. Everyone wanted the excess-profits tax killed. A more rapid depreciation schedule high on the list. So was the demand for removal of double taxation of dividends. Greater "tax incentives"—meaning, of course, lower taxes—were requested to encourage private investment in new enterprises.

There were many requests from specific industries on revision of federal excise tax schedules. Jewelry, luggage and theater admissions are now taxed 20 per cent. Electric, gas and oil appliances, 10 per cent. Television, radio, phonographs, rubber goods and sporting goods, 10 per cent. Automobiles, 7 per cent. Trucks, 5 per cent. Electric energy, 3 1/2 per cent. And so on.

The point to this is another research project being conducted for the Congress. Last year Colin E. Starn, counsel for the Joint Congressional Committee on Taxation, sent out a long questionnaire to get public suggestions on possible tax reform. These answers are now being analyzed.

The Starn report, plus whatever recommendations Secretary Humphrey finally comes up with, will be the basis for congressional hearings later this year. There is now no thought of being able to effect complete tax reform all at one time. But if a dozen of the most important tax law revisions could be made next year, that would be considered a start in the right direction.

One other factor bearing on this situation is President Eisenhower's proposal for a commission to study the relationship between federal and state government. Elimination of duplicate taxation is one of the primary goals of this project.

But this field raises some little-understood problems. One proposal is to get the federal government out of the grant-in-aid program to the states for highway construction. This would be done by killing all federal taxes on gasoline and leaving that field of taxation to the states.

New York, with a large number of automobiles and big gas sales, would gain by this change. But states like Nevada would lose.

Similarly, it has been proposed that the states abandon income taxes, leaving this field exclusively to the federal government. Here New York would lose heavily. To states which do not levy an income tax it would make no difference.

The point is that for every tax levy that is cut or abandoned, a substitute source of revenue must be found.

The substitutes may prove just as popular as the present taxes. This fact lends many practical politicians to the somewhat pessimistic conclusion that general tax reforms never will be accomplished.

Bend's Yesterdays

(From The Bulletin Files)

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

(Thursday, March 21, 1918)
Steve Steidl has written to his father, John Steidl, Bend, to report that he recently received a promotion. Steve is in the navy electrical school at Mare Island.

Aerial warfare on the western front has reached a new high, according to reports from Paris. In the past month, 100 enemy planes were downed in daylight fighting. R. A. Ward, county agent, is arranging for the second of a series of war horse inspections in Deschutes county. The horses will be purchased for cavalry use.

Heavy winds yesterday shattered windows in the Sphier block.

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Russia Offers To Aid Release Of 10 Internees

LONDON, March 21 (AP)—The Foreign Office revealed today that Russia has promised to help obtain the release of nine British civilians and an Irish missionary interned in Korea since 1950.

The promise, backed personally by Soviet Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov, was the latest in a series of unexpectedly friendly gestures the Russians have made toward Britain since the death of Josef Stalin.

The interned Britons include Capt. Vyvyan Holt, former British Minister to Seoul, two other diplomats, a London news correspondent and five missionaries.

The Answer Was Yes
Molotov's assurance that "necessary steps" will be taken to obtain their release was received in a note delivered Wednesday by the Soviet Charge D'Affaires here, the Foreign Office said.

Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden asked Soviet Ambassador Andrei Gromyko last month whether the Russian government, as a gesture of good will, would use its influence with the North Korean government to free the internees.

The Russian reply said: "In accordance with personal instructions I have received from Mr. V. M. Molotov, the Soviet Foreign Minister, I ask you to tell Mr. Eden that his request was given favorable consideration and that the Soviet Foreign Ministry will take up the matter immediately with the Foreign Ministry of the Korean Peoples Democratic Republic, and will also take the necessary steps in order that this question may find an affirmative solution."

Too Soon to Tell
The note was signed by the Soviet Charge D'Affaires, acting in Gromyko's absence.

Sources close to the Foreign Office said that while the Soviet action was welcome, it was too soon to conclude that it marked a favorable shift in the Kremlin's foreign policy.

In other recent gestures of apparent good will, the Russians have:

1. Offered to meet with the Western Allies at Berlin to try to smooth out plane traffic problems in the air corridors between Berlin and West Germany.

2. Ordered faster clearance of Allied trucks along the main highway running from Berlin to the West.

3. Announced that a vital canal lock linking the Rhine and Elbe rivers will be reopened late this month. The Communists closed it last summer.

Pay Collected Despite Strike

CINCINNATI, March 21 (AP)—Striking employees at the General Electric Co. jet engine plant in nearby Evendale opened their picket lines Friday to enter the plant and collect a week's pay owed them prior to their walk-out.

The 1,100 AFL machinists and 4,500 CIO auto workers received an estimated \$350,000 as their strike marked the end of its first week with no change in sight.

Another 7,000 non-union employees, who have been crossing picket lines unhindered, were granted the six to eight-cent hourly wage boost rejected by the unions, effective last Monday.

If milk powder is stored in a cool dry place, preferably not warmer than 75 degrees Fahrenheit, it should keep for several months.

Arab-British Bond Strong In This Area

(Editor's note — Arabia's Southern coastline stretches from Aden at the gateway to the Red Sea to the island of Masirah in the Indian Ocean, about as far as from New York to Palm Beach, Fla. Britain's hold on this vital "underbelly" depends on the friendship of Arab rulers. Harold Guard, veteran United Press correspondent who is touring nations on the perimeter of the Iron Curtain, has found the Arab-British bond of friendship exceptionally strong.)

By HAROLD GUARD

MASIRAH ISLAND, March 21 (AP)—Arab rulers who control the 1,200-mile South Arabian coast are making it clear there is no place for Communism here.

I have just finished a trip that took me from Aden at the entrance to the Red Sea to this island off the south Arabian coast which once was a haunt of the legendary Captain Kidd.

Along the way I talked with sultans, sheiks and other Arab rulers who look to Britain for military protection and economic guidance.

From these conversations I learned that these leaders, who run their nations as they see fit, are satisfied with Democracy and want no part of Communism.

Sharif Hussein of Beihan, in Aden's western protectorate, invited me to a dinner of boiled sheep and rice and told me: "We have no room in our hearts

for Communism. We believe in freedom."

Hussein, the regent for Prince Saleh, who reigned over one of Aden's most prosperous and romantic states, said the hearts of his people were with the British because "they help us keep the peace."

After-dinner conversation eventually turned to the death of Russian Premier Josef Stalin. Hussein thought it would make little difference in the cold war.

Malenkov is another Communist, that's all," he said.

EXPECTED HOME

PRINEVILLE, March 20—Two Prineville soldiers are expected home by their families this week end from army service in the far east. The two men on leave are Pfc. Oliver C. Davis and Pfc. Henry D. Lassiter, who reached San Francisco Wednesday aboard the transport, General M. C. Meigs.

After the age of 20 has been reached, small blood vessels in the body begin growing more fragile.



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