

Capital Journal

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The PAC Eyes Oregon

With the idea of breaking the strangle hold which the republican party has on all major political offices in Oregon, the Citizens Political Action Committee—successor to the CIO-PAC—is laying its plans for an all-out assault against the entrenched GOP at this year's elections.

Evidence of such a program is developing every day. Pieced together they are beginning to take on definite form and reveal the outlines of a definite picture, in which the PAC is portrayed to be riding on the coattails of the public power machine, backing its program and pitching for its candidates. With this in view they are combing the woods for democrats friendly to organized labor and with records as advocates of out-and-out public ownership to serve as color bearers.

They are the inspiration for reports of pressure being applied to induce Walter M. Pierce, former governor and congressman to come out of retirement and head the ticket as a candidate for representative from the first district in opposition to Rep. Walter Norblad in November. Pierce is the granddaddy of all the free-power advocates and, although crowding hard on the age of 85 years, is still vigorous and active and fond of making speeches. The idea is not so much that of persuading him to make a fight for election as it is to decorate their ticket with the prestige he carries with farmers and other groups interested in government power ownership. Walter, if he can be tempted back into public life, would sing the lead role for the chorus of power songsters lined up behind him.

For governor they are angling for Sheldon Sackett, Coos Bay editor and publisher who first became actively affiliated with the PAC during the Roosevelt fourth-term campaign. The move to draft Sackett for the primary race has taken on renewed activity during the past week to discourage old-line democrats in their efforts to draft E. J. Griffith for the governorship. Griffith is too generally recognized as a Martin democrat to be acceptable to the PAC or the power crowd.

Carrying their idea further down the ballot, Oregon's followers of Sidney Hillman and his political ideology have been dangling the nomination for secretary of state before Richard W. Neuberger, whose reputation as a public power advocate and champion of the proposed Columbia valley authority is nationwide.

Another democratic office seeker of the perpetual type who meets PAC's specifications is State Senator Tom Mahoney, who first tried to sell the idea of running for congress from the third district but who is now being groomed as a candidate for district attorney in Multnomah county. Mahoney, who is a hold-over senator, would have that office to fall back on if defeated for prosecutor, is said to be sold on the PAC idea.

Interlocked with its plans of filling the democratic ticket with free-power advocates, the PAC boys are showing particular interest in the ownership of weekly newspapers throughout the state as apparent mouthpieces of their propaganda. Two sales of weeklies to publishers known to be friendly with the PAC have recently been reported, the Molalla Pioneer to Monroe Sweetland and the Mill City weekly to Dave Eps. The PACs are also reported to view the efforts of Dewey Rand to acquire controlling ownership of the Hollywood Press in Salem with approval.

An Eye for An Eye

While there is nothing new or revolutionary about the process of optical surgery wherein human eyes are transplanted from one person to another, the possibilities in that practice of medical skill have been multiplied many times over by a recent case in which the transplanted eye was shipped from Miami, Florida, to New York City. The airplane was the transportation vehicle which made the feat possible.

It all began when Mrs. Henry Breckinridge, director of the year-old eye bank, received a telephone call from an ophthalmologist in Miami one Monday morning. The doctor said he had just completed an operation on a patient, removing the eye.

"Do you want the eye?" he asked Mrs. Breckinridge.

"Take the eye to the manager of the Eastern Air Lines in Miami and the air lines will deliver it here without any cost," she advised. "All the air lines of the country have agreed to fly the eyes as a special service."

The eye was placed in a small bottle filled with saline solution and the bottle in a sealed thermos jug kept at a temperature of 40 degrees above one of the line's planes that left Miami at 3:53 p.m., Monday. It arrived in the north in the care of Capt. Henry Osmer, the pilot, who flew in at 11:51 o'clock Monday night at Newark Airport.

From there it was rushed by the American Red Cross Motor Corps to the eye bank, where the laboratory had been kept open so that the eye could be examined. It was found to be in condition to be transplanted.

The eye was used Tuesday morning in a cornea operation on a patient in a hospital in New York City.

Will It Do The Job?

Like the 25 or more owners and agents having houses, rooms and apartments to rent, who have banded together to form the nucleus of a voluntary rent control organization here, the Capital Journal dislikes the prospect of federal rent control by the OPA in Salem. To this newspaper the idea of such arbitrary government regulation of private business is abhorrent, unless there is no other feasible means of preventing tenants from being exploited.

To the Capital Journal the idea of penalizing the 95 percent of the landlords who are honest and fair with their tenants in order to keep the five percent who are gouging profiteers in line, is repulsive. But experience, here and elsewhere, has proven that the unscrupulous minority will rob their renters every chance they get.

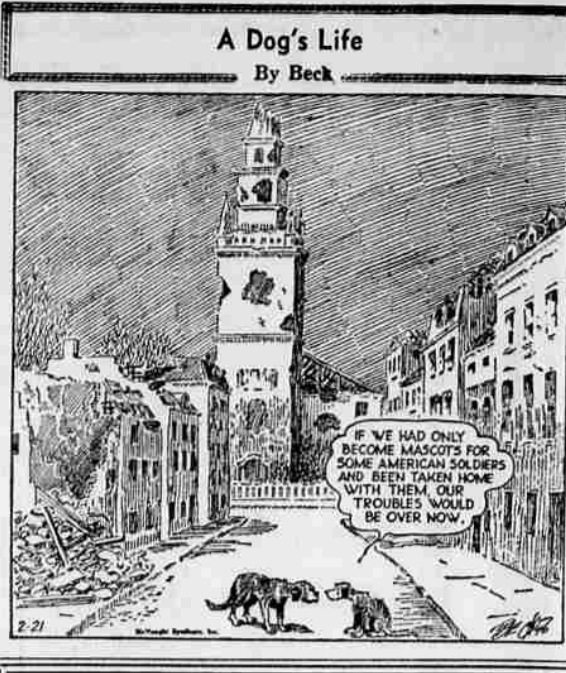
With the prospects of an acute shortage of living quarters to continue for another year or more, renters seeking living quarters in and around Salem are helpless victims of greedy landlords. The plan proposed by the owners and agents embraces the idea of rentals fixed on the basis of appraisals of quarters listed for rent. So far we have been informed, public opinion is the only weapon of enforcement in the hands of the voluntary authority. That is not sufficient to keep chiseling landlords from preying on tenants who must take what is available at the prices asked.

Chemawa to Observe 66th Anniversary

The 66th anniversary of the establishment of the Salem Indian school at Chemawa will be observed next Monday with a birthday party in the school gymnasium. The school was founded February 25, 1880, at Forest Grove and moved five miles north of Salem five years later.

Myrthus Evans, superintendent of the school, will give the principal talk at the party with Coquette Thompson, boys' advisor, master of ceremonies. A feature will be a birthday cake with 66 candles, made in the school bakery and five layers thick. It will be sufficiently large to provide a piece for each of the 530 students, school staff and guests.

Identity of the birthday queen will not be disclosed until just before the coronation ceremonies. Other features will be tribal dances and a dance for the student body.



Sips for Supper

By Don Upjohn

Tomorrow is another legal holiday when a lot of stenographers, etc., in the female denomination will take a holiday. A lot of the same ones took a partial holiday today when a local store put on a brief but effective nylon sale.

Women can hardly wait for the time to come when there are enough nylons to go around. In some cases the nylons will have to be pretty much oversized to go around.

Biggest local news of the week is that Ed Brasher and Charley Miller, courthouse attaches, started the expected and

Novelties In the News

(By the Associated Press)

Realistic
Alhambra, Calif.—Police here can personally vouch for the effectiveness of their tear gas.

During a tear gas demonstration in the police station, the trigger jammed and the operator quickly turned the sprayer toward an open window.

But the wind was wrong and the tear gas blew back in, routing every policeman in the building.

Botanist
Seattle — Don't, the coast guard begs, try to reconvert a sea mine.

One of the lethal globes floated up on the Washington shore and just as an unidentified man was loading his find onto a truck, authorities intervened, probably saving his life.

The coast guard reported the man said he planned to take it home and convert it into a flower pot.

Douglas Not to Succeed Ickes

Washington, Feb. 21 (AP)—President Truman said today he has not yet chosen a successor to Harold L. Ickes as interior secretary.

At the same time, he indicated at a news conference that Associate Justice William O. Douglas of the supreme court would not get the nomination.

He also spiked rumors of a cabinet shift by saying Secretaries Schwelienbach and Anderson will remain at their posts in labor and agriculture, respectively, as long as they care to do so.

Mr. Truman said he did not believe he should appoint two men from the same state to the cabinet when asked whether Gov. Mon C. Wallgren of Washington might be given the interior post. Schwelienbach is from Washington.

Reporters asked him whether that ruled out Justice Douglas. The president replied by saying Douglas was a resident of Walla Walla, Wash.

When one newsman suggested that Douglas used Connecticut as his legal residence, Mr. Truman reiterated that Douglas was a resident of Washington state.

Lyons Church Unit Plans Silver Tea

Lyons—The WSCS met at the home of Mrs. Albert Julian in Fox Valley. The meeting was called to order by the president, Mrs. George Huffman, and the devotions were led by Rev. Cookingham. It was voted to hold a silver tea some time in March. At the close of the meeting Mrs. Julian served refreshments to Mrs. Daisy Johnston, Mrs. Glen Julian, Mrs. Wallace Power, Mrs. J. L. Chamberlain, Mrs. Katherine Julian, Mrs. George Huffman, Mrs. Albert Ring, Mrs. Clyde Bressler, Miss Fannie Wilson, Mrs. Roy Huber, Mrs. May Swank and Rev. Cookingham.

MACKENZIE'S Column

Herford, Germany, Feb. 21—When you get a close view of the rehabilitation and the democratization of Germany under allied supervision, you wonder whether on the whole this task doesn't present even greater problems than the smashing of the mighty Hitlerian military machine.

Here in the British zone we find the problem being attacked along two main lines. One has as its objective the raising of the standard of living to the level laid down by allied agreement—a long term job. The other is the re-education of the German people, and this is the bigger of the two for it is to instill democracy.

The administration bears the hall-mark of Field Marshal Montgomery, who only recently relinquished supervision here to become chief of the imperial general staff.

It is noticeable that there is not coddling of the Germans. The toughest spot in the vital educational program is the group of people between the ages of 14 and about 35, for they are the Hitlerized element. The older folk are less of a problem, and of course it is upon the children that lasting peace largely must be built.

So the British are setting up democratic institutions. These include universities and schools. The creation of trade unions on craft basis is being encouraged and while there will be federation among them, they will retain their sovereignty.

New textbooks are being provided throughout the zone. The old arithmetic books instead of presenting problems in the form of how many apples are two and three, substituted SS soldiers, or maybe tanks, for apples.

The British are doing daily broadcasts with a peace theme to the schools. The radio also is telling the student about their countries. There are over two million children in the schools of the British zone but they are short of teachers.

More than incidentally, the scholars are given midday meals with calories daily beyond the normal ration, of 1550, with added calories for heavy workers.

Another important phase of the democratization is the fostering of youth movements, and there are now some 1600 youth clubs with a membership of about 75,000.

Phone Meeting Held

St. Paul—The St. Paul Cooperative Telephone association held a meeting in the community hall. Officers were elected for the coming year and suggestions were made for the betterment of the service.

A-Bomb Blasts Scheduled For 'Hell-Hole' of Pacific

Kwajalein, Feb. 21 (AP)—Commodore Ben Wyatt isn't worried about what will happen to the Marshall islands when the atomic bomb explodes in the Bikini atoll tests this spring. If any of his men mention the possibility of a tidal wave sweeping the islands, he snorts derisively:

"Hell, we're right in the middle of one of the greatest experiments of our times. Let's look at the good that might result from this experiment, and then think we are lucky to be part of it."

Commodore Wyatt, Williamsburg, Ky., is having a big chuckle at his friends who felt sorry for him when he was assigned to command the Kwajalein base. He now has one of the navy's choice assignments—handling preliminaries for the historic tests.

There are supply problems innumerable; there's the task of moving the entire population of Bikini atoll—168 Marshallese—to Dongerik, 135 miles away; there are countless army-navy preliminaries and research tasks before the big day comes.

Kwajalein, known as "The Hellhole of the Pacific" when Wyatt took command in June, is vastly changed today. Some 4000 sailors, soldiers and airmen are stationed here. Top-ranking officers come and go almost daily as preparations for the vital test move forward.

Wyatt had a small, private war of his own when he took over command. There were some 30,000 to 40,000 Japanese still in the Marshalls, even though the main fighting had moved on.

When the surrender came, Wyatt was busy accepting surrenders throughout the atolls. Serious warfare had turned into comic opera stuff, but accepting the surrenders was a chore that had to be done.

"For a time it looked like we could relax," Wyatt chuckled. "But then came the 'Crossroads operation,' (code name for the atomic bomb test), dumped at his doorstep.

Friends of the commodore are getting superstitious about him. They believe that if anyone wants to be where things are going to happen, then it's a good idea to stick with "Battling Ben."

Forum

Contributions to this column must be confined to 300 words and signed by writer.

To the Editor: All of us can well afford to cramp the old rubber tired rig of the "horse-and-buggy days" again and set forth from such sustaining assurances as Washington gave this nation, contingent upon his sobriety, his wisdom, his judgment and his unimpeachable loyalty to the founding fathers of government instituted for a free people amenable to the creator.

Nothing enunciated by modern statesmanship at home or abroad, we think, has exceeded or even matched the calm, considered and applicable judgment of the father of his country, whose one triumphant directive was always, "My Country 'Tis of Thee!"

He still remains a challenge to all wealth and position in the responsibility and self imposed discipline he felt as leader of a democratic people, of the noblest example to emulate, and it is for us the richer for such knowledge and example to defeat at every turn the scoffers of all our past traditions and greatness which he fostered and the inexcusable belittling in various quarters of all things American as if the mere fact of late arrival carried with it a superiority above all the past.

Virtue and truth are ageless as the creator, and the latter's mandates espoused in such key men as George Washington can carry the epithets of "horse-and-buggy days" or all the con-

From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

Bird's-Eye View of America

A fellow took an aerial photograph of our town, and it makes the place look like Utopia.

Folks argued that the new firehouse would never look well beside the old Town Hall. But they harmonize perfectly from the air. One side of the railroad tracks looks as good as the other. All the different landmarks blend in nicely with surroundings.

From where I sit, there's a lesson in that photograph. A community's made up of different elements—people as well as landmarks. Some

vote one way, some another; some enjoy a glass of beer and others don't. You might think there was a lot of reason for friction.

But it's all in your point of view. Get up high enough—see the community as a whole—and those little discords blend together into what we call America—a free, harmonious land. The differences only look big to people who see them from too close!

Joe Marsh

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