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Smoothing the Way

Because of clerical carelessness and parliamentary bungling on the part of the council when amending and revising the special committee's charter revision measure, it will be necessary, or at least advisable to have the courts construe and interpret some of the ambiguous and conflicting provisions of the instrument for changing Salem's form of city government. As approved by the voters last Friday, the charter amendment is in some respects clear as mud.

While it is not believed that singly or collectively the errors are sufficiently serious to invalidate the amendment, they are sufficiently numerous and in seeming conflict to make it desirable to take the matter into the courts so that the amendments may be construed officially and the procedure for setting up the new form of government be legally established.

The most flagrant errors so far discovered have to do with filling the elective offices in the new setup—the mayor, members of the council, treasurer and municipal judge. In one section the amendment calls for the election of seven councilmen, one from each ward, all to be nominated by petition and elected next November to take office immediately after their election. It provides that the mayor shall also be elected, but does not specify when or by what procedure.

In order to remove any doubt concerning his right to the office it will probably be advisable for R. L. Elfstrom, elected mayor last Friday under the old charter, to go through the procedure of being elected again in November.

Most serious of the errors uncovered is that concerning the office of municipal judge. Under the present system the city recorder, an elected official, also acts as judge. Under the new charter these two offices are separated, that of recorder being made appointive by the city administrator, the judge elected by the people. There is, however, no machinery provided for his election. While it is probable that the courts would hold that all the elected officers are to be chosen in the same manner and at the same time as members of the council, it is imperative that the procedure be legally determined in advance.

In the original draft of the charter amendment as prepared by the special committee it was provided that there should be six councilmen and a mayor elected at large. In revising this setup the council stipulated that there should be an alderman elected from each of the seven wards who, with the mayor, should constitute the legislative branch of the city government. In one section this correction was made, but another section of the printed amendment neglected to note the change and still calls for the election of only six aldermen.

All of these errors and deficiencies must be corrected and supplied before the new system can start to function. To guard against further bungling we suggest that the mayor appoint a committee of at least five members, including two competent attorneys, to determine what must be done and how it is to be done to legally establish the new form of government next January 1.

No End to Labor Turmoil

Perhaps by June 15 the railroad and coal strikes will have been settled, just in time for the nation to face the strike voted by the left wing maritime workers to paralyze the shipping industry of the country. Under the leadership of Harry Bridges, president of the West Coast International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's union and Joseph Curran, president of the National Maritime union of the east coast, both CIO, a "unity convention" was held May 13 at San Francisco, with representatives of five other unions. A merger was engineered for the establishment of a single union embracing 214,000 waterfront and maritime workers and the strike program adopted.

All of these unions have either communists or fellow travelers in their leadership and communists supporters of the strike proclaim it as much political as economic in purpose. Many of them were attempting to sabotage American defense efforts and picketing the president until Germany attacked Russia. The strike call must be ratified by the seven unions involved but their verdict is not in doubt.

The Sunday Worker, official organ of the communist party, printed in New York, had this to say concerning the strike program on May 19:

"The convention emphasized the character of the coming struggle as one not merely for economic demands but as directed against imperialism itself. For shipowners are imperialists, linked not only with monopoly capital in the United States but also with foreign shipping companies and foreign monopoly capital. . . . The imperialists, hell bent to get World War III started, know that the unions stand in the way."

And this despite the fact that the only imperialistic power sabotaging the United Nations and stymying world peace is Soviet Russia which under the smoke screen of "security" is grabbing the Balkans and Baltics, after the Dardanelles and North Africa as well as vast areas in the near and far East. Probably this is not the only strike Moscow has had a hand in.

On the day the maritime strike call was issued, which stipulated that all ships would be struck with the exception of troopships and relief ships provided agreement is reached either with the government or private owners for operation "under fair and equitable conditions," a presidential fact-finding board awarded Bridges' union a 22 cents an hour basic wage increase. The union had demanded 35 cents increase. Even if accepted the longshoremen have bound themselves to strike unless the other partner unions get wage increases.

Yet the labor strike policy of demoralization and sabotage seems to have administration approval for last Friday Secretary of Labor Schwelienbach speaking at Atlantic City at the CIO Steelworkers convention urged the CIO group to expand its political activities as "a duty and responsibility" despite the economic anarchy threatening the nation. There will be no end to strikes as long as the political alliance of the administration with special privilege groups continues.

Linn County Fire Now Under Control

The fire destroyed about 1,000,000 feet of felled and bucked timber. It was fought by 200 loggers from the Roaring River and Snow Peak logging companies. The fire, largest in the state this year, is seven miles west of Seio. Rogers said the fire is the only one in the state, and that the break in the weather greatly lessened fire danger.

A Dog's Life

By Beck



Sips for Supper

By Don Upjohn

Fears are now being expressed that the shortage of flour will cut down the shortcake in strawberry shortcake during the season now just about to come through the front door and that a shortage of money to pay the price for strawberries will cut down on the strawberries, or those that are left by the robins. Then there is also the matter of sugar.

Today is the birthday of County Commissioner Roy J. Rice but we don't know which one. If he has as many years as he has hairs on his head he's still got quite a ways to live to a ripe old age. By coincidence today is also Mrs. Rice's birthday which makes it easy to swap gifts.

The Last Stand
(Press Dispatch)
"Hammond, Ind. (AP)—A republican . . ."

Novelties In the News

Scared Pair
Auburn, N. Y., May 21 (AP)—An Auburn-Watertown border baseball league game wasn't delayed long when a frightened dog ran across the diamond.

Twelve hundred fans sat goggle-eyed as they watched the poach being chased by a rabbit, also frightened.

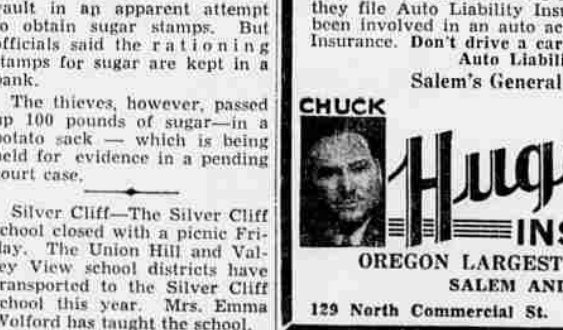
Double Exposure
Tacoma, May 21 (AP)—This is Bob Fitch's fish story: He saw two catfish thrashing about in shallow water. He dipped his hook beneath one; snagged it by the jaw, and when he jerked the line: The other fish came out, too; caught in the mouth of the first.

Thieves Miss Sugar
Springfield, Ill., May 21 (AP)—Burglars broke into the OPA office and drilled the combination locks off two steel doors to the vault in an apparent attempt to obtain sugar stamps. But officials said the rationing stamps for sugar are kept in a bank.

The thieves, however, passed up 100 pounds of sugar—in a potato sack—which is being held for evidence in a pending court case.

Silver Cliff—The Silver Cliff school closed with a picnic Friday. The Union Hill and Valley View school districts have transported to the Silver Cliff school this year. Mrs. Emma Wolford has taught the school.

NEVER A WEEK GOES BY!
But one or two persons come in our office with a letter from the State Financial Responsibility Department saying they will lose their drivers license and auto plates, unless they file Auto Liability Insurance right now. They have been involved in an auto accident without Auto Liability Insurance. Don't drive a car in Oregon without Auto Liability Insurance.
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MACKENZIE'S Column

The Russo-Iranian kettle of trouble suddenly has got hot again, giving cause for grave worry that it may boil over.

With the United Nations security council due to take up again Wednesday the question of whether Moscow has fulfilled its pledge to withdraw Soviet troops from the Iranian province of Azerbaijan by May 6, the Iranian ambassador to the United States, Hussein Ala, has rendered the council this highly disturbing report:

"Such information as is available to me . . . is to the effect that as a consequence of the interferences previously complained of, the Iranian government is still being prevented from exercising any effective authority in the province of Azerbaijan and that Soviet interference in the internal affairs of Iran has not ceased."

That's bad enough, but it's not all. The mystery of the moment—and it's a highly important mystery—is whether civil war is raging in the Iranian "separatist" province of Azerbaijan, which lines up against the southern frontiers of the Soviet Union republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

You wouldn't think a war could be concealed these days—and maybe it can't. The fact remains, however, that the self-designated autonomous government of Azerbaijan at Tabriz has reported that Iranian central government troops have attacked the Azerbaijan town of Sainkalan. The central government at Tehran at first denied reports of fighting, and then admitted there had been clashes but that they were unimportant.

The question of just what is happening is a matter of moment to the world at large, for a civil war in Azerbaijan could be the spark to set off a mighty explosion. This province is the territory in which the Russians had the troops about which the Iranian central government protested to the security council. Ambassador Hussein Ala has had this to say to the council regarding the situation:

"If the reports of armed conflict in this strategically critical area are true, obviously the danger to the international peace is both serious and imminent."

Ala said the Tehran government hadn't been able to investigate reports that Soviet soldiers have been left in the province of Azerbaijan in civilian clothes and that military equipment has been placed at the disposal of the provincial government. This separatist government was formed last November while Russian troops were in the province, and Premier Jafar Pishevari said Monday:

"We want to do away with federal rule and the poverty yoked on us. We seized the opportunity to strike for freedom while the Red army was here. Now we have it and we will not give it up."

That's the unhappy situation the security council faces. To add fuel to the fire, the Soviet delegate to the council, Andrei A. Gromyko, has indicated that he intends to boycott the discussion again Wednesday.

Bike License Penalty Killed

The city council Monday night enacted an ordinance amending the bicycle license by repealing the penalty provision whereby the regular fee of 50 cents was doubled after January 10 of each year.

From the Albany Timber carnival came a petition for permission to drop advertising leaflets on Salem by airplane the afternoon of June 29. It was referred for a later recommendation.

Letters came from the Salem Culinary Alliance and the mechanics' union asking that salaries of fire and policemen be increased and were referred to the salary sub-committee of the city budget committee.

City Recorder Alfred Mundt was directed to write the state highway commission to route heavy bus traffic via South 12th street instead of South Commercial, and a study of routes for logging trucks was ordered.

City Engineer J. H. Davis was authorized to have yellow lines painted on each side of the Oregon Electric tracks on Front street to prevent automobiles parking dangerously near the tracks.

On recommendation of the utilities committee, the Portland General Electric company was advised to bring private suit against Salem Electric cooperative to contest its right to make extensions without authority from the city. The basis of the recommendation was that the city has no authority to grant an exclusive franchise.

The report of Walter E. Nickels recommending improvements in fire control by installation of a fire alarm system, added personnel to the fire department, firemen training program and more hydrants was received and filed. Much of the report has been embodied in the fire committee's estimates in the city budget.

On motion of Alderman Tom Armstrong a study will be made of traffic conditions on 17th, 18th and Ferry streets where, he said, congestion has created hazards.

A resolution was adopted to replace head-in parking with parallel parking on both sides

SALEM RESTAURANT MEN TO ORGANIZE

So that a more effective front may be made in dealings with the OPA, Salem restaurant operators will meet Tuesday night at the Chamber of Commerce for an organization meeting.

The organization is sponsored by the state association of restaurant owners. The meeting is called for 8 o'clock.

of Center street between Front and Church, and another resolution will prohibit parking entirely on the east side of Front from a point 100 feet north of South street to the Oregon Electric tracks, which is in the area of the Producers' Cooperative cannery.

An ordinance bill was introduced for adoption of the building code of the Pacific Coast Building Officials' conference.

The council authorized City Recorder Mundt to add to his office force on account of increased work, due among other things, to the coming annexation elections.

As late as 1880, two-thirds of U.S. homes were heated with wood.

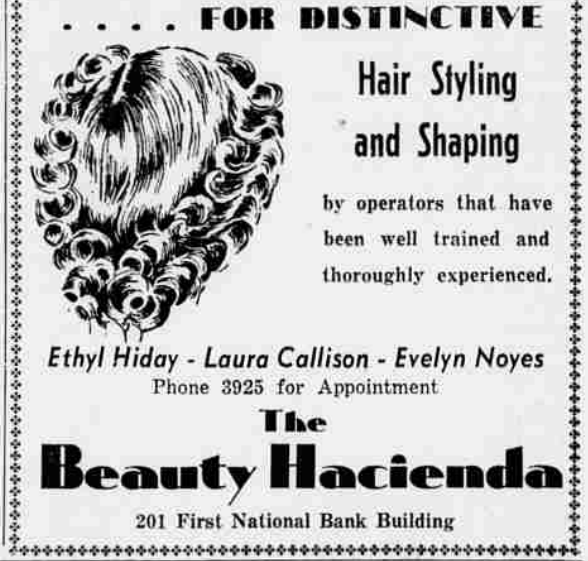
Mrs. Booth Is School Speaker

Mrs. Agnes C. Booth, county school superintendent, will speak at graduation exercises for the Butteville school Thursday evening. The program includes selections by the upper grade choruses accompanied by Patricia Beard; salutory, Lawrence Weinert; valedictory, Charles Burgess and Richard Johnson; readings, Carol Carr and Charles Burgess; piano solo, Clarence Kuns; trumpet solo, Charles Burgess; class will and song by eighth grade. Diplomas and awards will be presented by William Gooding, board chairman.

Members of the graduating class are Clarence Kuns, Thomas Watson, Hugh Sterling, Irene Munson, Richard Johnson, Lawrence Weinert and Charles Burgess.

The seventh grade entertained the eighth grade with a party at the schoolhouse Saturday evening. A community basket lunch will be served Friday in connection with picnic day at the school grounds. Butteville and Aurora grade schools will meet in a softball game.

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