

Capital Journal

ESTABLISHED 1888
SALEM, OREGONAn Independent Newspaper Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday
at 444 Chemsick St. Phone—Business Office 3571 News Room 3572
Society Editor 3573.

GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor and Publisher

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

BY CARRIER: WEEKLY, \$2.00; Monthly, \$5.75; One Year, \$59.00.
BY MAIL IN OREGON: Monthly, \$5.00; 6 Months, \$28.00; One Year, \$56.00.
United States Outside Oregon: Monthly, \$5.50; 6 Months, \$33.00; One Year, \$66.00.

Reading the Tea Leaves

Comes now that season of the year when congress, the end of its labors in sight and bulging fence gaps looming large back home, putting its stethoscopic ear to the ground, raises a wetted finger in the political breeze and starts reading the signs of the time. Into the results of every election large or small the boys read the portent of things to come. For them every primary balloting casts a significant shadow.

After this week, except for what medicine making goes on in the activities of such scandal factories as the Mead investigating committee—which may continue its expose of wartime profiteering and political corruption—the spotlight will shift away from Washington and center on certain strategic states. Prominent among them is President Truman's home congressional district out in Missouri, where the chief executive has interested himself in the defeat of the democratic incumbent, Rep. Roger C. Slaughter. This contest attracts attention not because of any trend it may signify, but solely because it casts the president in the light of a political crusader who is aiming his guns on a personal opponent.

Not in one of the 30 odd state primaries so far this year has there been any issue involved which was wide enough in its scope to take on a nationwide significance. The nearest thing to an election which might signify a real trend were the nominating contests in Minnesota and Montana. Even there, the issues were not clearly defined. In the republican primary in Minnesota where Governor Edward G. Thye was pitted against Senator Henrik Shipstead, a prewar isolationist, Thye's victory was construed in some quarters as a feather in the hat of former Governor Harold E. Stassen, to whom the liberal wing of the republican party looks for presidential timber in 1948. If anything can be read into the result, it is repudiation of the isolation attitude of Shipstead.

The defeat of Senator Burton K. Wheeler, who for 20 years has been an outspoken isolationist, is indicative not so much of Wheeler's waning popularity as of the growing stature of Senator Murray who directed the fight on behalf of Leif Erickson, staunch internationalist. The real issue and the thing that beat Wheeler was the active opposition of the railroad unions.

So far there has been no development to bear out the republican contention that they will gain control of the house, and possibly the senate in November's balloting, for which they need to capture only 28 seats. In the contests slated for the next 30 days there is greater popular significance in the outcome, and from them more reliable trends may emerge. These include the McKeller-Carmack fight in Tennessee which is being staged today, the senatorial battle in Kentucky set for Saturday; the Missouri primary involving Truman's personal intervention on August 6, and the Wisconsin republican primary on August 13, when Senator La Follette will ask the republicans for their official endorsement.

End of the Gravy Train

The United States, Britain and Canada, the agency's big backers, recommend ending the activities of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration within the next nine months and oppose the creation of any elaborate international organization to replace it. The three countries have provided 93.8 percent of UNRRA's funds. They have reached an agreement on the following principles:

1. That a new refugee organization will have to be established to care for displaced persons, probably under the United Nations.
2. That the health activities of UNRRA should be taken over by the new World Health Organization, also under the United Nations.
3. That some of the rehabilitation functions of UNRRA may be taken over by the World Bank; but
4. That the major UNRRA tasks of delivering supplies for relief and delivering supplies for the rehabilitation of devastated areas will have to be dealt with on a national basis, with those who need the relief and rehabilitation seeking aid wherever they think they can get it.

"The gravy train is going round the last time," Assistant Secretary of State William M. Clayton is quoted as saying. But attempts will be made at the final meeting this month in Geneva to create an international organization to carry on the work of the UNRRA in Europe after the end of this year and in Asia after March 1 next.

The reason given is that the relief and rehabilitation job should be placed on a national basis as soon as possible for as long as an international organization exists some countries will use it instead of aiding themselves. The high administration costs is another reason, but perhaps the main factor is the attitude of Russia which refuses to co-operate and demands relief for the Soviet bloc of nations it controls. While a considerable quantity of relief goods went into the Soviet zone and the USSR had \$4 million in gold available, it contributed nothing to the cost of supplies that went into its zone.

Congress Ends Its Labors

Congress, which has been in almost continuous session since the war started in 1939, is set to adjourn August 2 giving a five months moratorium on legislation unless President Truman calls a special session. In the interval bureaucracy will have a chance for another era of regulation and control, as the president still retains his war powers and will exercise them against inflation by rationing and price fixing, control of inventories and allocation of materials under supervision of the new decontrol board.

While the 79th congress failed to pass many important measures, some of which were lost in the confusion of adjournment, it deserves credit for enacting such vital legislation as authorizing participation with the United Nations and a united front on foreign policy. It finally passed the British loan agreement and cooperated on international post-war economic plans.

Pressure groups were unusually active in both passing and killing legislation and much time was lost in postwar investigations of alleged war scandals. Politics was played throughout as this is an election year. Congress attempted to curb the usurpations of power drunk organized labor leaders but its efforts were nullified by the president's veto, and equality before the law remains a mockery.

Henceforth the tendency will be to hold the president responsible for the soaring cost of living and labor turmoil and for price gyrations, a responsibility he has cheerfully accepted when he could have shared it with congress.

Keen Johnson Under Secretary of Labor

Washington, Aug. 1 (AP)—President Truman announced today he is appointing Keen Johnson, former governor of

Kentucky, as under-secretary of labor. The president also told his news conference he is naming William L. Clayton undersecretary of state in charge of economic affairs under new legislation he is prepared to sign.

Popular People

By Beck



Novelties In the News

(By the Associated Press)

Yip-EE

St. Augustine, Fla. — This city, which claims the honor of being the country's oldest, has hired a part-time cowboy.

His job will be to round-up stampeding cattle which, the police say have been storming out of nearby woods and causing damage.

The cowboy, Pete Braddock, has been equipped with horse, whip and lariat and told to herd into city pound every stray cow he can lay a rope on.

Shame on You

Olympia, Aug. 1 (AP) — Police Chief Roy Kelly blushed when he learned he was violating the law.

So he called back all the newly printed tickets to the policemen's ball and had the entertainment taxes printed on them, to make the ducats legal.

Two Winners

Rochelle, Ill., Aug. 1 (AP) — When a new hospital was opened here last Saturday officials announced that the first baby born in the institution would be a "guest" of the staff—everything free.

The stork arrived Sunday morning—with twin girls. The stork paid a second visit three days later—with twin boys.

Truman Signs Atom Measure

Washington, Aug. 1 (AP)—President Truman today signed the atomic control bill, thus vesting in a still-to-be-appointed civilian commission almost complete authority over domestic development of atomic energy.

The measure became law just four days short of the first anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima—the event which proved the fearful power of atomic fission and plunged the world into a new era.

The five-man civilian board which Mr. Truman now must appoint will be responsible for channeling atomic force into peacetime uses for benefit of the United States and mankind as a whole. It also will be empowered to manufacture atomic bombs whenever the president orders and turn them over to the armed forces.

The civilian commission automatically becomes heir to the laboratories and production facilities of the army's Manhattan engineer district, the network of secret installations in which the power unleashed by nuclear fission first was harnessed by man and fashioned into the atomic bomb.

Expect Jackson Back on Bench

Washington, Aug. 1 (AP)—President Truman said today he expects Associate Justice Robert H. Jackson to resume his duties on the supreme court upon his return to the United States.

Jackson, chief U.S. prosecutor at German war crimes trial in Nuremberg, is due back in Washington tomorrow.

Mr. Truman was asked at a news conference whether he expected to talk with Jackson about differences on the supreme court, including Jackson's disagreements with Justice Hugo Black. The president replied he expects to talk with Jackson about his duties in Germany.

"Is he returning?" a reporter asked.

Mr. Truman broke in, "of course; he is returning, to his duties here." Why else, the president asked, would Jackson be coming home?

Monitor Fire Election Set

County Clerk Harland Judd announced Thursday that a special election for the selection of directors of the newly-formed Monitor rural fire protection district will be held Friday, August 23, and the voting place will be the IOOF hall at Monitor. The date was fixed by the county court and, although district area is both in Clackamas and Marion counties, the election will be conducted by the Marion county clerk for the reason that the greater area is in this county.

Formation of the district was approved simultaneously by the courts of the two counties on July 16. Certified for the ballot as candidates for director are:

For director at large, I. Edland of Monitor; for Marion county director, F. F. Ballweber and R. J. Bering; director for Clackamas county, E. T. Tweed and Ernest Schneider.

The new district will cover the territory between the Hubbard and the Woodburn fire protection districts and will practically complete organization of the north end of Marion county for rural fire protection. Among districts embraced in the district are the Union school district in Marion county and the Whiskey hill district in Clackamas county.

Recommended for the special election board are: Judges, H. H. Bonney, route 2, Woodburn; Coral M. Conyne and Wanda Edland, Monitor. Clerks, Bert Sergeant of Monitor, Hazel Brantner and Florence Berg, both of route 2, Woodburn.

Harvesting Peaches
Grand Island—Harvesting of 20 acres of several varieties of peaches is in progress at the Louis Will farm.

MACKENZIE'S Column

By Preston Grover
(Chief of the Associated Press staff in India, now home on leave, writing for Dewitt MacKenzie)

India is striding steadily toward another crisis in her relations with Britain, with an extremely bad situation in prospect unless at least a partial solution is found.

Mohammed Ali Jinnah and his Moslem league have withdrawn from participation in the constitutional assembly which is scheduled to meet during August or early September to start building a constitution for an independent India. Coupled with that, the league has threatened to start "direct action" to achieve Moslem independence both from the British and from what Jinnah calls "Hindu domination."

At a press conference, Jinnah declined to outline what "direct action" might mean, and also added that the league had not given up thought of further negotiation either with the British or with Gandhi's Indian national congress.

For the Moslems it was a new tone of voice. They have not shared very largely in demonstrations against the British. In the bitter wartime demonstration of 1942 they stood completely aloof. Nevertheless Jinnah has repeatedly emphasized that there is no "non-violence" creed to hamper them if they do decide to cut loose.

Moslem leaders have called for a one-day "hartal" on August 16. This means closing of shops and general suspension of activity other than political. On that day, Moslem league leaders are expected to detail what they want in the way of "direct action." They are in an angry mood, for they feel, rightly or wrongly, that the British cabinet mission double-crossed them in order to appease the national congress.

The congress, back in June, was on the point of bolting both the constitutional assembly and the temporary government to be set up while the new constitution was shaped. The Moslems had agreed to both. The cabinet mission labored to reconcile the differences and avoid a complete failure.

The congress balked on the temporary government issue due to differences on the proportion of Moslem representation. It finally agreed to share in the framing of the constitution but only, reliable sources said, on condition that the British sidestep the Moslem league, which was willing to go ahead with forming a central government.

It was a critical decision for the cabinet mission, but it decided in favor of the congress, indicating clearly that it was convinced it must work with the congress.

Now the British must decide whether they will work alone with the congress, find a means of appealing the league, or scuttle the whole affair.

During all these shuffles there has been no real central government. The machinery is there but its highest officials concede that it is stalled awaiting a settlement. It was always hard to get Indian officials to take a decisive course of action because they felt the controlling hand of British associates in the government. Now English officials also hesitate to function for fear of inviting later criticism if and when a new government comes into power.

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Find Body of Missing Girl

Onset, Mass., Aug. 1 (AP) — Ruth McGurk, pretty 23-year-old Cambridge summer visitor whose body was found in a lonely cranberry bog reservoir today, was murdered, state police said.

A hunt was still under way for a man named "Frank" with whom she left a dance hall at this beach resort Saturday night—the last she was seen.

The body was clad in a pink dress, but Medical Examiner E. Vincent Smith said undergarments were missing. Shoes also were missing and the backs of the victim's stockings were stained with a black substance which residents said was foreign to the area.

Investigators were considering the possibility that if the girl was slain, the crime was committed elsewhere and the body brought to the secluded pond, known as Green Lodge reservoir.

Dr. Smith said the condition of the body prevented an immediate decision as to whether the victim suffered external violence.

Jewelry, which served as partial identification, included a diamond engagement ring, an amethyst birthstone ring and a wrist watch. Miss McGurk had been wearing a \$700 engagement ring given her by a sailor now absent on the Bikini bomb test.

A Wareham resident, John J. Lane, called the police to the reservoir by telephone after discovering the object, which he described as a woman's body.

Two girl friends of the young woman had informed police all three had gone to a dance on Saturday night and that Miss McGurk—after dancing with a man whom she spoke of as "Frank,"—had left the hall with him.

A search was made of large and small craft in Buzzards Bay and of the entire countryside and a chartered plane flew over uninhabited areas not accessible by highway.

Both Wareham Police Chief

That 60 Million Jobs Goal Is Rapidly Being Approached

New York, Aug. 1 (AP)—The much publicized goal of 60,000,000 jobs is rapidly being approached, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York reported today, and an actual labor shortage is a possibility by fall.

In its monthly review the bank cited census bureau estimates that civilian employment in the first week of June totaled 56,700,000 persons, highest in the nation's history and an increase of a million and a half over May. It noted that if the 3,000,000 in the armed forces are included, the 60,000,000 level is closely approached.

Pointing out that industry has not yet attained capacity peace-time production, the review added that as hiring in manufacturing, construction and trade continues, shortages of workers may become definite by fall.

It called attention to U. S. employment service estimates that the eventual demand for workers may be sufficient to absorb the currently unemployed plus the returning veterans, and necessitate recall of more than half the 4,000,000 employees who left the labor force after V-J day.

Chester A. Churchill and Assistant District Attorney Clark expressed concern for the girl's safety when days passed and the man known as "Frank" did not come forward to identify himself.

Oregon Police Arrest 2208

State police during June arrested 2,208 persons and warned 4,173 others for violating motor vehicle laws, State Police Superintendent H. G. Maison said today.

Fines and sentences for these offenses totaled \$16,943 and 2,196 days in jail. Maison reported an increase in drunken driving, with 51 persons arrested. They paid \$4,983 in fines and got 1,550 days in jail.

The officers made 264 arrests for violations of general laws, fines and sentences totaling \$2,209 and 109 years in prison. The 104 persons arrested for violating game laws paid \$3,229 in fines, while the 22 persons arrested for violating commercial fishing laws paid \$560.

Maison said his department now has 314,395 fingerprint cards and 67,039 photographs in its files.

The state police crime detection laboratory made 48 investigations in June, including 16 alcohol and 10 blood identification tests.

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