

Capital Journal

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GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor and Publisher
ROBERT LETTS JONES, Assistant Publisher

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4—Salem, Oregon, Thursday, January 29, 1948

Abusing the Emergency

Like all other legislative bodies the Salem city council is leaning strongly in the direction of using the emergency clause on legislative proposals to protect them from attacks by the people through invoking the referendum. So common has become the practice of seeking to immunize ordinance bills of questionable nature both as to intent and unwitting effects that only a small percentage of such proposals received for first reading are not so designated as being of an emergency nature.

If a bill is not designed to raise revenue, it is a safe bet that it carries the emergency clause and becomes a law the minute the mayor attaches his signature to it.

Ordinarily one views a governmental emergency as being a state of affairs requiring the enactment of certain legislation as being necessary to the establishment or perpetuation of a condition of the public health, safety and morals. The question of what constitutes proper use of the emergency clause bobbed up again at Monday night's council meeting when Judge L. H. McMahan, attacking the validity of a proposed ordinance to grant the Oregon Electric Railway a 20-year franchise for an industrial spur track to serve a private shipper, charged that the ordinance was invalid for several reasons, including the fact that it carried the emergency clause, precluding the possibility of applying the referendum to it. McMahan said:

"There can be an emergency clause only when an emergency exists. That isn't an emergency clause. It is a piece of rank hypocrisy. This bill is not intended to protect or insure the health, peace and safety of the public. It makes the public less safe."

Stripped of the emergency clause an ordinance bill is open to referendum attack for ten days. If the referendum succeeds, the ordinance is held automatically in abeyance until the people have passed judgment upon the merits of the proposal at the next regular election or at a special election called by the council, if that body deems the matter of sufficient community interest and importance.

Without attempting to pass judgment upon the rights of the city council to permit such use of the public streets which have been fought out at great length in the courts of the state and the nation, in this instance, it is still mystifying to see the friends of the ordinance attempt to qualify it as coming within the scope of any of the three types of legislation recognized as constituting an emergency.

Ever since the initiative and referendum were written into the fundamental law of the state as methods of direct popular legislation, legislative bodies from the lowliest town council to the state legislature itself have been busy devising ways and means of evading and defeating, rather than promoting and facilitating these instruments of government. Until our public officials show greater respect and give evidence of co-operation in upholding the spirit as well as the letter of the constitution, their actions in such instances as this are bound to be suspect.

Taft Tails the List

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, who has since withdrawn himself as a possibility for nomination, is announced as winner of a poll by Fortune magazine to determine popular standing of leading presidential candidates.

The poll was taken just before Henry Wallace announced his third party candidacy as well as before General Ike issued his "I won't run" statement, both of which have materially altered the situation regarding both major parties.

Behind Ike came President Truman, with Governor Dewey next in a virtual tie for third place with General Douglas MacArthur and Harold E. Stassen. Next came Governor Earl Warren of California and last of all came Senator Robert A. Taft, senate republican leader. Fortune thus analyzes the pulling power of Truman to his possible opponents:

Truman vs. Eisenhower—34 percent for Truman, 48 for Eisenhower.

Truman vs. Dewey—43 percent for Truman, 40 for Dewey.

Truman vs. MacArthur—42 percent for Truman, 38 for MacArthur.

Truman vs. Stassen—40 percent for Truman, 36 for Stassen.

Truman vs. Warren—42 percent for Truman, 31 for Warren.

Truman vs. Taft—52 percent for Truman, 27 for Taft.

In response to a question as to what they would most like to see the federal government try to do, a majority of 53 percent answered "lower the cost of living." Next two choices in this category (23 percent in each case) were "strengthen our army, navy and air forces," and "fight communism here and abroad."

The Fortune poll again reveals, as other polls have, the unpopularity of Senator Taft, due mainly to his isolation tendencies and his opposition to the Marshall plan which has offset whatever he might have gained by labor control legislation.

The poll also revealed that most people polled wanted tax reduction, but showed a lack of enthusiasm for the job being done both by congress and the administration: only 2 percent rated congress as doing an "excellent" job as compared with 47 percent who said congress has been "only fair." Three percent thought the administration "excellent" and 45 percent "only fair."

The popularity of ERP was demonstrated by the "Friendship Trains" and in blocking the Marshall plan Senator Taft is not only injuring his chances for the presidency but those of the republican party for winning it.

Skip Bomp Proves It Can Skip

Sunnyside, Wash. (AP)—A 50-pound navy skip bomb which had been rolled down a steep hill, loaded into a truck, placed on a dining room table and then moved outside, finally exploded yesterday—but with a navy bomb expert on hand to supervise the detonation.

Deputy Sheriff Ralph Kuhns said the bomb, dropped intact on the Zillah bombing range during the war, was found by two boys, Warren Everett and Lloyd Kollwitz.

Lost Present

Somerville, Mass. (AP)—On her Christmas tree in 1946, Mrs. Anne Gigli found a diamond sapphire bracelet.

She immediately lost it.

While trimming her Christmas tree in 1947, she found her missing bracelet. It was entangled in a rope of tinsel which had been packed away the previous Yuletide.

Gunning

Philadelphia, (AP)—Detective Benjamin Simon had a personal interest in his assignment to track down a thief who stole three pistols from a gun shop. When Simon arrived at the shop yesterday he discovered one of the guns missing was his own—a .38 caliber police special one left for re-bulging.

BY BECK

Boyhood Hazards



SIPS FOR SUPPER

The Ghosts Walk Again

BY DON UPJOHN

Eddie Payne of the post office here, nationally known as probably the best authority there is on old Oregon post offices, has brought a lot of ghosts to life in an interesting exhibit he's putting on in a display case in the lobby of the First National bank. It's in the shape of showing a series of covers carrying postmarks of defunct towns.

While Ed is showing only a few here he states there were over 1400 post offices in the state which have passed into the limbo of forgotten things and about 500 of these are ghost towns. Many of them were thriving places and now only such things as these ancient envelopes survive in many cases as visual evidence there ever were such places. For instance, maybe the most prized of these is an envelope carrying the postmark of Champoeg. This post office was established in 1851. In 1884 its name was changed to Newellville for Robert Newell, first postmaster there, and in 1880 changed to Champoeg again. The post office died in 1905 but the town had been defunct long since.

Another is a Fairfield postmark, marking what was once a thriving community 15 miles north of here, now a schoolhouse, a few homes and some rotting timbers. Others include such names as Hoover and Niagara, Belle Passi and Butteville, all of them playing a pretty important part in things at one time. There's also Lincoln in Polk county. Ed is showing many more and he has a host of them not on display. He has done a monumental bit of research in this phase of Oregon history and his collection is of inestimable value from a historical standpoint alone.

That cracking sound heard early this a.m., was not part of an earthquake, but just the backbone of the 17 day cold and dry spell being broken. We felt quite sure it would rain again in these parts some day, it always has.

Little drops of water
As a change are very nice,
Unless they metamorphose
Into little chunks of ice.

Doubling the Family Income
Boston (AP)—State Rep. Clarence A. Wood of Hopkinton says a Cambridge woman admitted she purposely feeds whisky to her husband and turns him over to police each time he is

Double Trouble
Pennsauken, N. J. (AP)—A police judge decided that two men can be guilty of drunken driving in the same automobile and at the same place.

Witnesses told Recorder George E. Yost that Robert Burns, 30, of Philadelphia, drove his automobile onto the sidewalk of John W. Mortimer. Mortimer telephoned police—who said they arrived to find Clarence Trotter, 35, also of Philadelphia, struggling to drive the vehicle off the sidewalk.

Yost fined each \$200 and suspended their driving privileges for two years.

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WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Army Is Favored Over Navy at the White House

BY DREW PEARSON

Washington—For 13 long years under Franklin Roosevelt, the navy had the inner track at the White House. Now, under Ex-Captain Harry Truman, former commander of Battery D, 129th field artillery, the situation is reversed.

Political reports from various parts of the country indicate that Truman's loyalty to his personal

doctor, Brig. Gen. Wallace Graham, will cost him perhaps a million votes.

The public seems to resent the fact that Graham, sitting at the right hand of the president, speculated in the grain market, even more than they resent the speculation of Ed Pauley, who wasn't so close to the president. Nevertheless, Truman remains loyal to the army doctor.

Meanwhile, almost unnoticed by the public is the fact that Rear Adm. James Fosskett has left the White House for "sea duty." Admiral Fosskett is the president's former naval aide. Actually the reason for his exit is not necessary for going to sea, but the fact that he had a row with the army—the army in this case represented by Maj. Gen. Harry Vaughan.

General Vaughan, a former manufacturer's representative in St. Louis who used to train with Truman in the Missouri National Guard, has got the president into all sorts of personal pickles. But despite that fact, he continues to be one of the most influential White House hangers-on.

EX-CONGRESSMAN JONES
It looks as if ex-Congressman Jones of Ohio wanted to have his cake and eat it, too. Though now a member of the highly important federal communications commission, Jones went back to

congress last week to help lobby through a piece of legislation which is God's gift to the power companies and also strikes a body blow at western reclamation.

When Jones was first appointed to the FCC last summer, he continued to sit in congress in order to finish his work on the appropriations committee where he did his best to meat-ax appropriations for western irrigation, power and reclamation.

One of Jones' pet schemes was to juggle interest repayments on western reclamation so as to help the private power companies. Last week this same issue came up for debate in the house of representatives after a compromise had been worked out by GOP Congressman Dick Welch of San Francisco and unanimously approved by the public lands and surveys committee.

But old guard republicans, backed by a powerful private-utilities lobby, opposed the compromise. For some time the debate sawsawed back and forth. On every vote the power lobby lost. Finally, Congressman Charlie Halleck of Indiana, sympathetic to the power lobby, moved adjournment.

That night, the power-lobby boys look advantage of the lull. They rallied their forces and had all their congressmen on deck when debate opened next day. Also on deck was ex-Congressman Robert Jones of Ohio who for years had fought the power-lobby battle on the appropriations committee, but now is supposed to be spending all his time on the federal communications commission.

Jones appeared on the floor of the house and held whispered consultations with key congressmen. In the end, he got his way. The power lobby, defeated the day before, rallied enough votes to send the compromise reclamation bill back to congress.

Jones and his power-lobby friends were so strong that the reclamation program was set back even to the year 1902, at which time Teddy Roosevelt first started in earnest the water development of the west.

COMMUNISTS GET MAD
The communist newspaper in Paris, Humanite, recently published a violent diatribe against this columnist and the Friendship Train, among other things accusing the people of Strasbourg of spending more money on Friendship Train posters than the cost of Friendship food. Here is the reason why the communists were sore:

When several floods hit eastern France, the Friendship Train committee in Paris rushed several truckloads of flour to Strasbourg and the surrounding area. This flour was made into small loaves of white bread and distributed to the homeless with a (Concluded on Page 3, Column 3)

Pirate Gold!
West Palm Beach, Fla. (AP)—The widow of a once-wealthy Tammany Hall leader said today she has two maps showing the location of \$76,000,000 in pirate gold and is seeking a contractor to recover the treasure.

Mrs. Bula Edmundson Croker, 64, widow of Richard C. Croker, said she owns the land where the maps show the gold was buried in the years 1781-1783 about 40 miles from Pensacola.

She said the maps place gold and other valuables in 25 feet of water in a bayou and she believes the treasure is resting on rock bottom about 38 feet below the surface.

A man could go there with a pocketful of cotton seeds and a hatful of silkworms and keep his lady in style forever.

(5) Washington—"The refreshing look"—Here the business girl proves it is possible to dress well on a budget when one plans carefully.

(6) Philadelphia—"The pert look"—The quiet smartness of their city reflected in the unerring choice of beautiful, wearable clothes.

(7) Dallas—"The piquant look"—Beautiful girls and beautiful clothes in a beautiful city.

Well boys, there's where the best-dressed clothes-horses dwell—according to Mrs. Dengel and her poll pals. But they name no community where a man with a slim pocketbook can find a lass and keep her in the finery she wants to become accustomed to.

I can help out there — although you need a passport.

Off Java, in the Dutch East Indies, there is a small island called Bali. On it dwell oodles of simple barefoot girls with a sweet backward look.

They are beautiful, they weave their own clothes from silk or cotton, and they're in the height of fashion with only a half-sarong that stretches from the waist to the ankle. This gives them half of the "new look"—and the rest is all outdoors. The only hat they wear is a water jar.

A man could go there with a pocketful of cotton seeds and a hatful of silkworms and keep his lady in style forever.

Salem Has Rat Trouble, Too

New York (AP)—The United States may send an expeditionary force of tough alley cats to kill rats pilfering Europe's food reserves.

That, at least, is the proposal of the American Feline Society which, heeding a plea from the London Daily Mirror, suggested yesterday that an army of 1,000,000 healthy and vigorous work cats be mobilized here for rat extermination duties in Europe.

Society President Robert L. Kendall, who conceded that the operation still is in the planning stage, suggested that a token task force of some 5,000 felines be packed off as soon as possible. They would be released in dock areas and near food distribution centers.

Kendall said only back alley brawlers would be "drafted" for the rodent hunting junket. Pedigreed cats aren't wanted—just the "toughies."

OPEN FORUM

Asks Better Suburban Bus Service

(Editor's Note: Contributions to this column must be confined to 300 words and signed by writer.)

To the Editor: As an interested party in the suburban bus controversy, I would like to say a few things concerning it.

When the Oregon Motors sent their buses out on the other fellow's territory last October, they

were running every half hour, but as soon as Wyatt suspended service, they immediately cut down to one-hour service. Why?

If the Oregon Motors are losing money, the best thing they can do is to get out of town and let some good company come and serve the people.

A. N. Dawson
Liberty Road

MacKENZIE'S COLUMN

Nations Asleep While Reds Made Pact With Germany

By DeWITT MacKENZIE

(AP Foreign Affairs Analyst)

The U. S. state department's disclosure of details of the pre-war Russo-German negotiations, resulting in the non-aggression pact that precipitated the world conflict, has brought this column an inquiry as to what the Anglo-French allies were doing while Hitler was achieving this coup and had Moscow offering to join him against the western allies—for a price so high that he wouldn't pay it.

Well, the short but exact answer is that Britain and France missed the boat. Actually they had a mission in Moscow trying to make a treaty when Stalin signed with the Fuehrer.

The tragic Munich agreement of September, 1938, under which the western allies sold Czechoslovakia down the river to Hitler, was the beginning of the end of appeasement by London and Paris. Then in the following March when the nazi dictator marched troops into Czechoslovakia, England was shocked into a realization of the dangers facing Europe.

It has been said that Poland refused to accept Russian military aid, that the Russian military aid would in fact prove to be a liability, that the allies could not join Russia in domination of that Baltic states, and finally that Russia had no desire to help the allies.

England and France have equal concern for their individual welfare, but were pursuing the policy of defending the rights of small nations against the technique of "white war."

Again, Russia had been excluded in the negotiations at Munich and the Soviet statesmen suspected the sincerity of British and French proposals for either diplomatic or military agreements.

And that would have happened if Russia and the western allies had come to terms? You tell me that, and I'll tell you what would have happened if Eve hadn't eaten the apple in the Garden of Eden.

However, there's plenty of ground for speculation. First off, it is a safe bet that no agreement of any description would have altered Moscow's policy of waging world revolution for the establishment of communism. That's an immutable policy, and we should have had to come up against it in due course.

Moreover, Hitler was bent on conquest and would have struck sooner or later, no matter what sort of Russo-British-French pact threatened him. Still, an agreement between Moscow and western allies might well have delayed the global war, thereby giving them a chance to arm for the show-down.

A corollary is that chaos was precisely what communism needed for revolution and expansion. This being so, we might not be involved in a "cold war" with the Soviet Union now.

Anyway, there are two great lessons to be learned from the events just prior to the war: Don't practice appeasement, and always be prepared for eventualities.

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Listen to
OVER THE TOP
ON KOCO
8:45 A.M. - Mon. thru Fri.
Ladies! WIN AN
ORCHID from Broadway's DINNER #2
at Nollman's - MOVIE TICKETS - Yellow
Cab Service, and an OGDEN Glamourizing.

Leave Your Name and Address on
A Slip in the Elevator in the
R. L. Elfstrom Co.
340 Court St. Phone 9221

Just one of the very smart modes
chosen from our January collection
of Studio Hats.

This fluffy, ruffled hat will accent
the ballerina type suit, and will guar-
antee "that new look."

Miller's
Hat Department Second Floor