

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

By Carrier: Weekly, 25c; Monthly, \$1.00; One Year, \$12.00. By
Mail in Oregon: Monthly, 25c; 6 Mos., \$4.00; One Year, \$8.00.
U. S. Outside Oregon: Monthly, \$1.00; 6 Mos., \$6.00; Year, \$12.

4— Salem, Oregon, Friday, September 16, 1949

BY BECK

Boyhood Hazards



SIPS FOR SUPPER

Here's Proof

By DON UPJOHN

Maybe our climate is changing after all, as several of the ex-
perts have been hinting. As a hunk of proof toward backing up
that theory there's a story just come in from Aurora which tells
of how Elmer Pugh of Canby, working in his garden the other
day, discovered a Texas-type toad, one of the ugliest critters



Don Upjohn

known to the
zoologists. After
examination Mr.
Pugh found it
wasn't a local
toad, in fact it
was a lizard and
known as one of
the Iguanadae
with no business
whatever to be
in an Oregon
garden. Getting
down to brass
tacks it was a horned toad whose
natural habitat sure enough is
not around these parts. A little
inquiry developed that last June
one of Mr. Pugh's neighbors got
a package from relatives in Tex-
as in which was the horned toad.
The neighbor fixed him up com-
fortably in the back yard and
hoped to make friends with him
but during the summer he dis-
appeared. It seems he wandered
over to the Pugh place and has
been doing all right for him-
self. Maybe it's only a question
of a little time when alligators
and crocodiles will begin to
show up on Mill Creek.

A statement made in a story
in our favorite paper last eve-
ning that the replica of the
courthouse shown by Miss Ren-
ska Swart last week at the state
fair in connection with her cam-
paign to save the old structure,
which credited the late C. P.
Bishop with donating the model
courthouse was in error. The
funds were provided by Roy
Bishop, as a memorial tribute to
a classic landmark of his old
home town.

MacKENZIE'S COLUMN

British Socialists Gain Confidence From Talks

By DeWITT MacKENZIE

(L.P. FOREIGN AFFAIRS ANALYST)

The easement devised for England's economic crisis by the
American-Canadian-British conference in Washington also has
lessened the political anxiety of John Bull's first socialist govern-
ment, as this column predicted a week ago might happen.

Prior to the conference the economic situation had become so
grave that it looked as though
the government might be forced
to call a general election forth-
with instead of waiting until
next mid-summer when it
normally would be due.
The point, of course, was that
if the government waited, and
the crisis further deteriorated,
it might lose the election on the
grounds that it had failed to
cope with the situation.

Now London reports that the
conference decision may permit
the government to hang on
and avoid a snap election.
This would give the party an
opportunity to complete fulfill-
ing its election pledges.

Two important items remain
to be dealt with—nationaliza-
tion of the huge steel industry,
and reform of the House of
Lords by limiting the veto power
on measures passed by Com-
mons.

Indications are that the So-
cialists really are confident of
winning the coming election.
Naturally, the economic situa-
tion is a cause of deep worry,
but they can claim that they in-
herited it when they took over in
1945.

As an offset, they can point
to a large measure of national-
ization of industry, and to the
inauguration of a huge welfare
program—wholesale medical
treatment, old-age pensions and
so on—running to the staggering
sum of more than two and a
half billion dollars per year.
This personal security program
undoubtedly is the ace in the
hole for the general election.

The small-income folk of Bri-

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Senator Thomas of Okla. Found Speculating Again

By DREW PEARSON

Washington—Something is rotten in the egg market. And Elmer
Thomas, the speculating senator from Oklahoma, could tell a lot
about it if he wished, though he probably won't.

Elmer Thomas (not to be confused with Senator Elbert Thomas
of Utah, a pious Mormon ex-missionary) is the man who was
exposed in this column three
years ago for simultaneously
speculating in cotton and using
his influence in the senate to
affect the price of
cotton.



Drew Pearson

At that time, Thomas
vigorously denied he
was speculating. The
columnist a liar, said
all the cotton he owned was
on his back. But two years later
when a Republican congress
required the secretary of agricul-
ture to make public the names
of those speculating in cotton,
Senator Thomas's name was on
the list.

So also was the name of his
wife, his secretary, Miss Beth
Gage, and his bosom friend,
Dyke Cullum. Furthermore,
Thomas admitted in a public
statement that Cullum had han-
dled his commodity trading for
him.

In addition, another of Sen-
ator Thomas's speculator friends,
Ralph Moore, was indicted un-
der the lobbying act for trying
to influence the fats and oils
market by issuing fake govern-
ment reports.

There is nothing illegal about
a senator speculating on the
commodity market—though his
ethics are something else again.
However, it is almost unbelieve-
able that a senator—especially
the chairman of the senate agricul-
ture committee—should use
his prestige and high office to
influence prices on the commodi-
ty market at the same time he
is speculating.

Therefore, Senator Homer
Ferguson of Michigan, the
chairman of a senate investiga-
ting sub-committee, was author-
ized to probe the operations of
his colleague from Oklahoma.

But Senator Thomas did some
quick investigating of his own—
of Senator Ferguson. Follow-
ing which he wrote Ferguson a
letter in longhand, later pub-
lished in this column, threaten-
ing to expose certain connections
between the Ferguson family
and the Chrysler Motor com-
pany.

Confronted with this letter,
the senator from Michigan
promptly dropped his investiga-
tion of the senator from Okla-
homa.

Eighteen months have passed,
and Senator Thomas is now up
to his old tricks.

Since the Democratic victory
last November, he has been re-
stored as chairman of the power-
ful agriculture committee. But
not even waiting for the elec-
tion, the senator got back into
the cotton market last Septem-
ber.

Then, about two weeks ago,
Senator Thomas let loose a sig-
nificant public statement. He
took a sudden, surprising inter-
est in eggs, publicly com-
plained about the price of eggs,
and blasted the agriculture de-
partment's egg-price support
program every time the senate
agriculture committee met.

Now every housewife would
like to see the price of eggs
come down. But what every
housewife does not have is ten
railroad carloads of eggs. And
what very few people in the
United States knew was that
Thomas's intimate friend, Dyke
Cullum, had just purchased ten
freight carloads of egg futures.
Therefore, he was vitally in-
terested in the future price of
eggs.

And Dyke Cullum is the man
who, Thomas admits, has han-
dled a trading account for him.

The senator from Oklahoma
has been quite brazen in lend-
ing his name to Cullum's at-
tempt to influence the egg mar-

ket. Not only was one letter
written to the agriculture de-
partment with Thomas's name
signed to it regarding the de-
partment's egg-price support
program, but Thomas started an
official senate investigation of
eggs.

In doing so, Thomas wrote a
letter to Senator Clinton Ander-
son of New Mexico, whom he
placed in charge of the investi-
gation, asking that he call cer-
tain people as witnesses. And
in listing them, he scrupulously
avoided the name of W. D.
Termohlen, agriculture depart-
ment poultry chief, because
Dyke Cullum had told him that
Termohlen was not cooperative.

Cullum had so heckled the
poultry division with letters,
phone calls and personal visits
in which he claimed to repre-
sent the senate agriculture com-
mittee that Termohlen finally
challenged him—bluntly asked
whether he was paid by the senate
committee.

"I'm one of those who don't
get paid," Cullum retorted.

"Do you work for the agricul-
ture committee?"

"I represent Senator Thomas
personally," Cullum declared.

Cullum also wrote, both un-
der his own name and that of
Senator Thomas, asking about
and criticizing the egg program.
He did not at any time reveal,
of course, that he had purchased
ten carloads of egg futures.

Finally Ralph Trigg, agricul-
ture production and marketing
chief, wrote back opposing Cul-
lum's ideas. He then received
an insulting letter suggesting
that Trigg didn't understand
eggs, and that perhaps a special
assistant secretary should be
appointed to relieve Trigg of his
responsibilities.

BY GUILD

Wizard of Odds



POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Dig Some Diamonds And Avoid an Ulcer

By HAL BOYLE

New York (AP)—Men who buy and sell diamonds may get ulcers
—but the lads who dig them don't.

The gems are whacked out of the good earth of Africa by black-
hued native boys.

"Cancer is extremely rare among them, and ulcers are absolutely
unknown," said

Mrs. Gladys Babson Hannaford, who has made a career
lecturing on diamonds.

Mrs. Hannaford returned
recently from a trip through the
glitter mines of the dark contin-
ent. She is one of the first women to in-
spect the coastal diamond fields
north of the Orange river in
Southwest Africa.

Rumors have spread around
the world that these fields are
so fabulously rich that a man
can slip ashore at night from a
motor boat, scoop up a gallon
of rough diamonds—and speed
away a millionaire. Owners
even are reported to have hired
camel patrols to guard the
beaches at night against noc-
turnal raiders.

Mrs. Hannaford says this is
all utterly ridiculous.

"They couldn't have a camel
patrol because camels get rheu-
matism that close to the sea,"
she said.

"The fields are rich, but the
native diggers would feel lucky
if they collected a gallon of
diamonds in a year. And it's an
expensive operation requiring
much equipment.

The native boys are fond of
Hollywood movies, particularly
cartoon comedies and western
pictures.

"They have terrible swear
words in their own language,"
said Mrs. Hannaford. "When-
ever the villain appears they
curse him as long as he is on
the screen."

This Must Have Sounded Fishy

Seattle (AP)—Sheriff's car 160 sped to a house near Seattle
on the report of a neighbor that lights were flashing and the
house was being burglarized.

The deputies, guns drawn, closed in on the house.
As they cautiously peered over the window sill, they saw a
dozen sleepily, fat tropical fish inside enjoying their aquarium
heated by a thermostatically-controlled off-and-on light.

STARTING
TODAY
On Page 13

AND
EVERY
FRIDAY

EXCLUSIVE
IN SALEM
IN THE

EXCLUSIVE
IN SALEM
IN THE

Capital Journal

Capital Journal

FRANK LEAHY

FAMOUS COACH OF NOTRE DAME

Gives His Last Minute

Football Predictions

EACH FRIDAY EVENING

IN THE SPORT SECTION

AND

AFTER-THE-GAME COMMENTS

STARTING NEXT WEEK

Capital Journal

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