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Salem, Oregon, Friday, January 20, 1950

Federal Tax on Oleo Lifted

The senate by a vote of 56 to 16 has joined the house in voting for repeal of federal taxes on oleomargarine which has been in effect for 64 years. Conferees are whipping the legislation into final form for speedy passage, as the senate measure differs in some respects from that of the house.

The legislation eliminates present taxes of 10-cents-a-pound on yellow oleomargarine and of one-quarter cent a pound on the uncolored variety. Also repealed would be license fees on manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers of colored and uncolored oleomargarine.

The taxes on oleo, originating back in 1886, were pushed through and kept in the statutes by farm interests, principally by dairymen who feared its competition with butter. But in the last few years, oleomargarine makers have used an increasing quantity of vegetable fats, such as cottonseed, soy beans and other farm products which has brought agricultural support for oleo.

Margarine spokesmen predicted confidently that housewives will benefit by price cuts on yellow oleo of at least 10 cents a pound—the amount of the present tax. Prices of uncolored oleo, now taxed at one-fourth-cent a pound, will remain about the same, they said. Butter interests argued that in the long run, all margarine prices will climb toward the level consumers now are paying for butter. Butter prices now are nearly double those of oleo.

In any case residents of Oregon and 13 other states will be unable to buy yellow oleo, its sale being prohibited by state laws. Two other states ban its sale in restaurants. Six states have their own taxes on oleo.

Persons who eat in hotels and restaurants will know whether oleo or butter is served with their meals when the law becomes effective. Each pat of oleo must be identified, by triangular shape or some other way, and menus or wall posters will announce that margarine is served. The senate bill has this restriction, the house bill does not.

Margarine interests contend that keen competition between the 29 manufacturers who produce nearly 100 brands of oleo is sure to pass full benefits of tax repeal on to consumers. They say oleo prices will rise and fall with the price of ingredient oils. Dairy interests charge, however, that an oleo "monopoly" controls the industry and will keep margarine prices as close to butter levels "as the traffic will bear."

Two Votes Help Kill War's Efforts

Truman's do-nothing policy in the Far East has now started to come back to haunt him.

By only two votes, congress went against the president's suggestion when he decided to try to help South Korea with some financial aid. The little republic, bounded by the Russian satellite of North Korea, is now given but a few months to live. Congress gave notice it had abandoned it. It is anticipated that the Moscow-trained communist hordes will now sweep down from the north and kill off the little spark of democracy left in that part of Asia.

Why did congress help the Russians in this way? If Moscow could have had its wish, it would have asked congress to do just what it did do.

For years President Truman has fumbled and stuttered on a possible policy toward the Far East. In contrast, however, he came through with a policy in Europe which, at times, was brilliant. His Truman doctrine and the Berlin airlift were strokes of a man who grasped the tactics of the cold war. But when he looked at the Orient, he apparently looked away again to forget the mess. He forgot that it was not in Europe that World War II hit the United States. It was in the Pacific—at Pearl Harbor. The aggressor was an Asiatic.

Apparently because congress was so disgusted with the series of mistakes the administration has made in the Orient, the house tried to chastise him. This was short-sighted. The person to be hurt will be Uncle Sam. And it might be near disastrous eventually to a nation that still doesn't have a policy that is clear to the public or the world. How can Acheson say the United States is interested in the future of democracy in Asia when congress kills an offer of help to one of the few sparks of democracy in that part of the world?

What will Congress say—and do—when the North Korean Reds sweep into now-abandoned South Korea?

If Truman and Congress continue to botch Far East policy, what little "face" the United States has left in the Orient will be gone. And all that the soldiers, sailors and marines fought for in the Pacific will be lost.

Scrapping Diplomatic Boycott on Spain

Secretary Acheson has announced that the United States has resumed its policy toward Spain and will support the United Nations proposed repeal of the ban under which most member governments have withdrawn ambassadors or top-flight ministers from that country. A big majority of the 59 countries, it is reported, favor such action at the next general assembly.

Acheson's position would not affect a resolution of the first UN assembly in London barring Franco from membership in the United Nations. Spain never has applied to the UN and any application from Franco is certain to run into the Soviet Russian veto in the security council.

If Britain and the British Commonwealth countries can recognize communist China and other Red countries, there is no reason why they should not recognize anti-communist Spain which has one of the most stable governments in Europe. And if Russia and her satellites, intent on communizing the world by aggression, can belong to the United Nations to hamstring it, there is no sense in barring Spain, that would be cooperating against the Soviet's cold war.

The Russian bloc in the UN is certain also to protest at length in the next assembly against the move to take down the bars against sending envoys to Franco. It has resisted every effort to that end. Latin-American countries have led moves to ease restrictions against Spain in the United Nations. In the 1949 stormy session, Poland placed a proposal calling on all member nations to stop exporting war and strategic materials to Spain which was defeated. A South American resolution permitting members full freedom to send envoys to Spain failed to get a two-thirds majority, the vote being 26 in favor, 15 against, 16 abstentions, including Britain and the United States.

BY BECK  
Popular People



POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Getting Ready to Play The Last Curtain on Earth

By HAL BOYLE

New York, (AP)—Mankind has been trying to play God for a long time. Soon it will have the chance to play the role out to the last curtain fall.

The new hydrogen bomb—the latest demon in our long cosmic comedy—is already muttering on the horizon like an off-stage actor waiting to rush on and bring the action to a final climax.

This climax is the downfall of man, self-betrayed into ultimate ruin by his own ambitious nonsense. Jokes have a way of coming true. And the hydrogen bomb provides mankind an opportunity of fulfilling a 1945 joke that seemed wryly funny at the time.



Hal Boyle

It arose after the uranium atom bombs, now old-fashioned, were dropped on Japan. The joke:

A third world war came in which the nations tossed atom bombs around like baseballs. When the radio-active clouds finally lifted, all life had been destroyed on earth except two dazed apes hanging from a tree in Africa.

And the papa ape, after glancing at the boundless devastation, turned to the mama ape and said sadly:

"Well, honey, now I guess we will have to start the whole damned business all over again."

Boy, wasn't that good for a laugh way back in 1945?

The uranium bomb of that day was just a horse-and-buggy bomb. It could devastate an area of only ten square miles or less—and kill only 100,000 people under pretty ideal conditions.

But it compares to the new hydrogen bomb, now on the drawing boards, as a dynamite cap compares to a stick of dynamite. It is just the booster shot.

The hydrogen bomb itself may be 1,000 times as powerful as the uranium bomb. It will devastate 50 square miles—perhaps 100—and could theoretically easily kill 1,000,000 people or more in large cities.

Quite an argument for a place in the country, isn't it? But what country?

There will be great argument over whether the hydrogen bomb should ever be built. But since science knows no boundaries anymore than does the wind, the technique of making one will be no secret. And since any large country could make one, each will begin making them as a protection against each other.

Self-defense has become a 20th century tower of Babel and panic. The decision to build the hydrogen bomb was made long ago. It was made when the first man thrust a spear in anger through his neighbor—and the neighbor's boy went out and began making himself a spear. And the spears became bow-and-arrows, and they became guns.

OPEN FORUM

Feeding of Migratory Waterfowl

To the Editor: In recent issues of the Capital Journal I see that Izaak Walton league has published an appeal for contributions from individuals to supplement their funds which are to be used in a feeding program for the migratory waterfowl in the Salem area.

What about the other areas over the state? Are the people in those areas being called upon to feed the local wildlife?

I assume they are, since the game commission cannot support the feeding program in its own "back yard."

Now, understand, I am not a "sorehead," but it seems the increase set by the commission on hunting and fishing licenses should be sufficient to adequately

and men put wings on the guns and called them airplanes.

Yes, the hydrogen bomb is pretty sure to be made.

And if it is made the chances are 10,000-to-1 it will be dropped—sometime.

For it is unlikely mankind will give up its long passion for playing God. God—or the gods—set up a system which can both create life or cause death. So far man has preferred to imitate God chiefly in his death-dealing power.

If the nations do start hurling hydrogen bombs in the earth's green valley, then in all honesty they should open the doors of all mental hospitals and let the inmates out.

For the only reason we shut up people with sick minds is on the excuse that they might harm themselves or others—or that they can't adjust to life. But our own actions justify us in judging them?

The day of the hydrogen bomb bursts, every sick mind should be free to adjust to death.

Former Iowa School Teacher Human Star of Puppet Show

New York (AP)—The Alice in Wonderland of our times is a former Iowa schoolteacher named Fran Allison. She is the human star of an NBC-TV puppet show called "Kukla, Fran and Ollie," and it has rather taken the television world by storm.

It began as a children's show but now it is also a rage among adults—from truckdrivers to literary sophisticates—in some 54 cities. Kids from 8 to 80 have schoolboy crushes on Fran.

She jokes and sings with the two major puppets—Kukla, a red-nosed, balding, good-hearted little warty war, and Ollie, a one-toothed sentimental dragon who wants to be a big shot.

Other puppets include Beulah Witch, Ophelia Ooglepuss, a retired opera singer and Clara Coo Coo, a flighty cuckoo who used to be timekeeper in Santa Claus' north pole factory but flew to Chicago and developed a southern accent.

Unseen behind the small stage is the puppet manipulator, Burr Tillstrom, a 32-year-old genius of fantasy. So far he has sung and talked for eight puppet characters. He expects to create more if he doesn't run out of voices.

Through his puppets he and Fran have created a make-believe world of their own, a world of gentle humor and small predicaments. Most of the troubles come from Ollie's wild spendthrift gestures and his mad courtship of Clara Coo Coo. Fran and Kukla usually manage to bail him out.

Ollie doesn't mind if the others kid him because he can't breathe flame through his nostrils. He explains his family fire was put out when his dragon grandfather swam the Hellespont.

But the thing that puts the program across is the way Fran treats the puppets as real people. They come alive.

I talked to her the other day during her recent trip to New York—on the train from Chicago—and found that to her Kukla, Ollie and the others are really people. She never talks of them as puppets, and never goes backstage. She doesn't like to see them hanging lifeless from a hook.

"I couldn't work with them if I didn't feel that way," she said. Puppets, like people, wear out. Whenever Tillstrom has to build a new Kukla—Russian for "doll"—or Ollie, she is nervous for a few performances.

"It's hard for me to get used to a new character," she said. "I'm sensitive to the change. We have so much fun together. I hate to think we can't go on all ways. I know that may sound silly, but that's how it is."

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND  
Gambling Rackets Undermine Law Enforcement in Big Cities

(Ed. Note—Another of Drew Pearson's columns on gambling racketeers and how they affect city governments.)

By DREW PEARSON

Washington—Earlier in this series I expressed the opinion that President Truman knew nothing about the links which some of his henchmen have with Costelloism and the gambling racketeers. I base this opinion on the fact that, at this moment, federal grand juries are probing the racketeers in Los Angeles, Miami and in Truman's home town, Kansas City.



Drew Pearson

This investigation includes the new democratic boss of Kansas City, Charles Binaggio, who has carried the town for Truman by resounding majorities, but who, nevertheless, was hauled before a grand jury by the justice department at the very same time Truman was in Kansas City for the Bill Boyle testimonial dinner.

Actually, these grand juries cannot clean up gambling, which comes under local enforcement agencies but they can crack down on narcotics, income-tax evasions and illegal immigration, which go hand in hand with gambling. In fact, Frankie Costello, an Italian immigrant, could be deported to Italy tomorrow if the justice department wanted to.

The important thing about the gambling rackets, whether they be in Miami, Kansas City, or Fresno, Cal., is the manner in which they undermine law enforcement.

Most people probably see nothing wrong with a \$2 bet or with slot machines in a beer tavern. But along with the \$2 bet and the slot machines go pay-offs to the police. These pay-offs may be only \$30 a week. But when a cop will take \$30 a week to protect a gambling joint, he will also take \$1,000 to fix a murder case. Once the pattern of a dishonest police force is fixed there is no boundary line where it can be stopped.

Today in Kansas City only two out of 13 gangland murders have been solved by the police in the last two years. And as a result of the current justice department probe in Kansas City, one witness before the grand jury, Daniel W. Robinson, was murdered recently. Another witness, Sam Butler, after being

badgered by the gang, committed suicide.

The invasion of Costelloism is always slow, almost imperceptible. At first it can scarcely be detected.

Nearly always it gets a foot in the door through heavy political contributions to a candidate for public office. He may be completely honest, but he needs the money and doesn't think twice about the obligations he must fulfill after he takes office.

In Kansas City, for instance, it was Democrat Forrest Smith, running for governor of Missouri in 1948, who accepted the backing of the Binaggio gang. Now that he's in the governor's chair, Smith has no love for the gamblers or what they stand for; nevertheless Binaggio's political power is an inescapable fact. Binaggio has even been admitted, since Smith's election, to the secret democratic caucus of the Missouri legislature, while two Binaggio friends have been named by Governor Smith to the Kansas City police board.

In Louisiana, Huey Long got started through exactly the same process. Frankie Costello arrived with a \$100,000 cash contribution to Huey's campaign, in return for which Huey opened up the state to slot machines.

This looked harmless at the time, and was the most painless way for Huey to raise money to fight the big oil companies and utilities then bent on defeating him. But it paved the way for the most ruthless state dictatorship this country has ever seen.

Or take another town which is pretty much "average city—U.S.A."—namely, Fresno, California.

Here the gambling fraternity used exactly the same technique to put a friend in office, and would have succeeded had they not picked the wrong friend. In Fresno, a shrewd and likable public relations counsel, Robert Franklin, with manifold connections, became the campaign manager for republican candidate Gordon Dunn, a newcomer in politics.

And it was only a couple of weeks after Dunn's election that he was approached by the man who had helped to elect him to "open up" the city to gambling and houses of prostitution.

Dunn, naive but courageous, refused. However, the pressure has continued, with the approaches being almost identical to those made in Kansas City.

Among other things, Lieut. Ed Ellis, a friend of the city's gambling boss, Joe Cannon, was proposed as police chief of Fresno.

Ellis had been so close to Cannon that the gambler used to sit in his office and send members of the police force out for coffee with such an air of authority that rookie cops thought Cannon was a member of the staff. Lieutenant Ellis took the civil service exam, along with the others, and flunked.

But despite this he was still urged on Mayor Dunn as police chief.

Instead the naive newcomer to politics sent one of his best men, Lieut. Henry Morton, to Washington to train at J. Edgar Hoover's National Police Academy and study exactly the opposite law enforcement methods from those the gambling fraternity wanted.

Some members of the Fresno police force, however, continued to be pals-walsh with the gamblers. Only recently, gambling chief Joe Cannon walked into Tony's restaurant at 6 a.m. waving a loaded revolver.

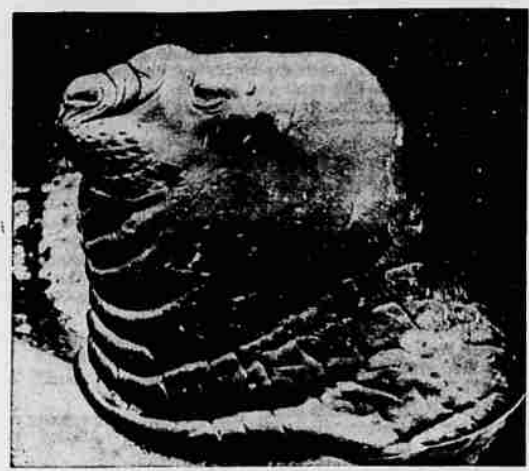
A waitress calmed him down, and unloaded the revolver until the police could arrive. But when a patrolman did arrive he failed to arrest Cannon because of the technicality that the revolver, at the time of his arrival, was not loaded. Other citizens do not get such lenient treatment.

In Fresno, as in Kansas City, the rackets have also been curbed by alert newspapers. The watchful Fresno Bee has crusaded against Costelloism, while in Missouri, the Kansas City Star has cracked down on every move Binaggio has made. Nevertheless, the Kansas City police force which became a model of efficiency after Boss Pendergast went to jail, is now in a state of jitters.

Binaggio has demanded the reinstatement of a former police chief, previously demoted, together with a new chief of detectives, Thomas J. Higgins, despite the fact that Higgins was once indicted for perjury in connection with the Kansas City Union Station killings.

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BY CLARE BARNES, JR.  
White Collar Zoo



Head of Shipping Department

MacKENZIE'S COLUMN

British Parties Aim Strategy For Bulk of Women's Vote

By ALVIN STEINKOPF

(For DeWitt MacKenzie, AP Foreign Affairs Analyst)

London—More than half the 34,400,000 persons qualified to vote in Great Britain's general election February 23 are women, and if they stuck together they could swing the whole thing.

Searching for clues as to how Mrs. Britannia will use her vote, political canvassers have been listening attentively in the shopping queues where they can hear such complaints as these:

"Why don't we get more dried fruit?" "Must so much of the sugar go to the restaurants?" "They last only a fortnight."

Shrewd speakers at the political meetings of all parties have generally agreed their oratory has to come down to earth and that it had better not be vague. Women's interests in austere Britain lie close to the home and family.

A minority may be impressed by a candidate's scholarly approach to relations with China, but in bidding for the women's vote he soon gets around to kitchen China.

The British are great hecklers, and the candidate who doesn't come to grips with everyday realities soon hears a shrill voice demanding:

"When do we get some of that meat that's tied up in the refrigerator ships?" (The government stores a lot of imported meat on ships in harbor when there's not enough space ashore.)

Queues, shortages and the drab life seem to be a handicap to the ruling labor government, which after five years is still thinking in terms of control and restrictions. The labor party has an answer, but how effective it is won't be known until the votes are counted.

"Yes, you have your queues," it says, "but they are getting shorter. You have some money to buy something. You also have security and there are jobs for your men. You needn't worry they'll be coming home with dismissal slips. There are no queues at employment offices and no one is lining up for a dole."

Living Up to Publicity Motto

Seattle, Jan. 20 (AP)—In an effort to live up to the Chamber of Commerce publicity motto "Enjoy Seattle's Golf Courses the Year-Around," Park Supt. Paul V. Brown has asked the park board to approve the purchase of two portable ski tows for use on the greens.

Capital Journal

WANT-AD WONDERS

Ad Brings Scores To Claim False Teeth Found By Dog!

FOUND—Lower false teeth, perfect condition, found in Pleasant Ridge, Phone 6200.

When her dog found a set of lower false teeth, Mrs. Walter Baugham of Pleasant Ridge, Mich., ordered a Classified ad to notify the owner. Scores of hopeful persons had recently lost false teeth answered. Many who came in person insisted on trying the teeth.

Want Ads are direct-action ads.



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