

Capital Journal

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BERNARD MAINWARING, Editor and Publisher
GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor Emeritus

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McKAY'S EPOCHAL ANNOUNCEMENT

A Salem man, Douglas McKay, secretary of the interior, made what is quite possibly the most important Eisenhower administration domestic policy announcement to date Tuesday when he said the government is withdrawing its objection to the construction of a dam at Oxbow on the Snake river opposite Baker county.

This reversed a 20-year non-deal-fair deal policy of seeking to socialize the electric power industry by battling private power expansion and seeking to foist taxpayer subsidized competition upon it. This policy has effectively thwarted many contemplated private power developments in the Northwest, particularly along the Snake river between Idaho and Oregon.

The McKay announcement does not necessarily mean that Idaho Power's proposed dam will be built. Its application will be heard in July by the Federal Power Commission, which may still deny it. It will do so if reason to believe this project is not in the public interest develops at the hearing.

But the announcement does mean that the government is through fighting private power development and that it is through attempting to socialize the power industry. McKay plainly says that he wants the matter heard on its merits, meaning on the facts. His department will furnish whatever facts it possesses, and it possesses many, but it will no longer be a party to the case.

The new policy will be to consider each case on its merits, to ask whether private enterprise can do the job; if it can to favor it generally; if it can't to seek government funds. Government dams will continue to be built, though not so many, and more private dams will be built.

Our own belief is that the public interest will be promoted if Idaho Power is given a green light for its Oxbow dam and for the other two it proposes, as these are needed by the steadily growing demand for electric current in the Northwest. The Idaho Power will build at once, where as McKay points out, a budgeting balancing Republican congress is unlikely to vote the more than half a billion required for Hells Canyon dam within the foreseeable future. It must be remembered that the free spending new deal congress that preceded this one were never willing to embark on this huge spending project in which the government's cost estimates might prove to be as unreliable as they have in previous projects.

If the government does later wish to build a big dam on the Snake river it will find another excellent site at Mountain Sheep below Hells Canyon, which will not be affected by the Oxbow dam. And there are other sites on both the Snake and Columbia. The government is by no means limited to this one, whose feasibility is so widely questioned.

Basically what McKay has decided, presumably with the full approval of President Eisenhower, is that private enterprise is to be encouraged rather than discouraged, in the power field and elsewhere. The public should not overlook the implications of a continued federal push for socialized power. For if government operation of power is superior to private operation, it must follow that government operation of industry is generally superior.

If this is true its benefits should not be limited, nor will they be limited to power. Rather they will tend to spread, to engulf all private enterprise until the government controls everything and everybody. This we know as totalitarianism and there is no reason to hope American totalitarianism would be any better than the foreign kind against which we are now striving.

That the United States government has set its face in the opposite direction should be tremendously encouraging to those who believe in the traditional American principles. And it should be a matter for no small pride here that one of our own citizens made the epochal announcement.

A CANDID RED ADMISSION

Vienna dispatches state that a Czechoslovakia communist weekly magazine, the "Literarri Noviny," a weekly publication for Czech communist writers and artists, claims that the talk of a Russian "peace offensive" is a lot of western nonsense and that there is no change in Soviet policy, thus confirming the widespread western belief that the Kremlin's peace drive is only Red propaganda. The magazine editorially says:

"In the last six weeks, the press of the capitalist world and particularly the American press has been full of news that a change has taken place in Soviet foreign policy. There has been much written and spoken about a Soviet peace offensive and the busy, small-town journalists have drawn far-reaching and frantic conclusions that the Soviet regime has embarked on a new course, completely different than previously.

"This campaign reached its high point in the speech of President Eisenhower in which he demanded proof through deeds. This entire matter is only wishful thinking of the authors of this fantasy—the Soviet Union has never changed its foreign policy and has no need to change it."

That is what most Americans, including President Eisenhower and the negotiators of the stalled Korean truce negotiations apparently think, confirmed by the new unprovoked Red Chinese aggression in Southeast Asia.

The magazine's assertion is another roundabout restatement of the oft-proclaimed communist line that the Soviet Union and its satellites have always sought peace (along Kremlin lines) and are the only nations with a consistent record as peace lovers and peace seekers, as testified to by their prolonged faked peace drives.

Fishing Case Gets Decree

Commercial fishermen were granted the right today to fish the upper Columbia river above Bonneville dam following denial of a temporary restraining order asked by the state fish commission.

Marion County Circuit Judge Rex Kimmell yesterday denied the commission's request for an order closing the upper Columbia. Representatives of the commission said its order was in the interest of conserving the spring run of Chinook salmon.

The order was challenged by commercial fishermen Clifford J. Eberhart and George Bachman and Cello Indian fisherman John Whiz.

Kimmell set May 18, at 10:30 a.m. for arguments on a demurrer filed by the commission to the fishermen's complaint.

The accepted method of building an Eskimo Igloo is to finish the job from inside before the door is made, the workman having to chop his way out.

NOT EVEN CLOSE



WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Pearson Says Dulles Had White House Deny His Story

BY DREW PEARSON

Washington—The gyrations of the President's secretary of state continue to amaze the president's personal staff.

It now develops that the famous denial issue by the White House, cracking John Foster Dulles over the knuckles, was issued at the behest of John Foster Dulles himself.

What happened was this: After Dulles gave a small group of newsmen certain ideas about Formosa and peace in Korea for background use only, these ideas appeared in the New York Times and other papers attributed to authoritative sources. This is the usual news-tag placed on background information.

When Dulles read these in the morning paper, he personally phoned White House Press Secretary Jim Hagerly and asked him to issue a denial. But Dulles did not tell Hagerly that he, Dulles, was the source of the news stories.

Hagerly complied with the request and issued the denial. He prepared an official White House statement that there was no truth in the stories. Immediately following this amazing by-play, the State Department held a policy meeting of high-level officials at which there was considerable speculation as to who at the White House had issued the denial slapping down the Secretary of State.

"I'll bet remarked assistant Secretary of State Carl McCardle, "that it was that—C. D. Jackson."

He referred to Ike's advisor on psychological warfare, the former publisher of Fortune Magazine.

Dulles himself said nothing. He did not reveal the fact that it was he who asked the White House to issue the denial. But Undersecretary of State "Beetle" Smith did say something.

"I wouldn't talk like that," he cautioned McCardle. "My experience in government is that remarks like that always leak back to the man you're talking about."

IKE ON CIVIL SERVICE
The brother of the former head of the Republican National Committee called on President Eisenhower the other day to urge that Civil Service employees not be fired.

Ira Gabrielson, brother of Ex-chairman Guy Gabrielson, served for years under the Democrats as Chief of Fish and Wildlife. And he, together with spokesmen for 19 organizations, called on the President not only to urge that Civil Servants be protected but that public lands not be turned over to private interests.

They didn't get very far. "Nobody believes in Civil Service more than I do," remarked the President. "I'm a passionate advocate of the career system. However, a new administration must have control of policy-making positions if we are to maintain the two-party system of representatives of the natural government."

Ike's callers include Resources council, soil conservation association, Isaac Walton League, Public Affairs Institute, CIO, and other groups.

Gabrielson, their spokesman, argued that top career jobs below Cabinet rank are in most cases held by "qualified men, never before have been considered on the basis of politics." He pointed out that Cabinet Ministers in Canada are replaced by a new administration, but their top assistants, career men, remain on.

However, Eisenhower repeated that the Republicans couldn't control government policy unless there was a turnover of strategic jobs, regardless of career officials.

CATTLE ON PUBLIC LAND
The former administration created an excessive number of policymaking posts, something like 870, obviously for the purpose of raising salaries," continued Ike, when asked where he would draw the line in firing career men. His callers took this to mean—though the President didn't say so—that all 870 are eligible for replacement.

Ike was equally unmoved by charges that a "giveaway" of our public lands to cattle and timber interests might follow the Tideland Oil "giveaway." While not endorsing, or rejecting, legislation before Congress to increase the grazing rights of stockmen on Public Lands, the President said that stockmen had to be protected from "unjust" grazing prices.

The president pointed out that the forest service, which is under the Agriculture Department, and the Grazing Service, which is under the Interior Department, charge different grazing rentals. Then he asserted: "There's no justification for a man being charged one rental by one agency and higher rental by another."

The White House visitors readily agreed. But William Voight of the Isaac Walton League emphasized that the problem was much bigger. It involved, he said, a threat by livestock interests eventually to take control of Public Lands away from the Forest Service.

"Public Lands should remain Public Lands," contended Voight. "Any effort by Congress to give stockmen, or any other special group, a vested interest in Public Lands is not good public policy. Government supervision of this public domain should be strengthened, not weakened."

"I'm as much concerned about the safeguarding of the public interest and the protection of the little fellow as any of you, returned the president with an ingratiating smile, but he made no further commitment.

His callers left somewhat puzzled and definitely unhappy.

ON THE ROAD TO MANDALAY
A band of American adventures are smuggling arms through Gherilla country to

WRONG ON TWO COUNTS

(Albany Democrat-Herald)
There are two reasons why our negotiators should not have rejected India as a "neutral" country where prisoners of war could be lodged pending final disposition. One is, that India is about as genuine a neutral as we can find in Asia; another, if we're going to be as stiff-necked as that there is no chance of getting anywhere with negotiations. The "unconstitutional surrender" attitude cost us dearly in World War II. This policy on the part of the other side broke down the negotiations for an armistice in Korea last year. There is no reason to believe it will work any better now.

OREGON'S "OTHER SENATOR"

(Eugene Register-Guard)
Oregon's two senators present a sharp contrast in personalities and working methods. Few people outside of Oregon know Guy Cordon, but his name has become one of the most powerful in Washington. A word from Cordon opens almost any door. Like his predecessor, the late Charles L. McNary, Cordon seems to be almost as influential with Democrats as with Republicans.

Indeed, Cordon seems to have taken over most of McNary's working methods. He seldom makes a speech and when he does it is brief and to the point. But he is now one of the ranking members of the Senate's Appropriations Committee and a leader in the Republican caucus.

Cordon is a tremendous worker. Any man who does his job on Appropriations has to be. Cordon's office is humming with activity from early morning till late at night. His executive secretary Bob Parkman is rated one of the ablest in Washington, and he relieves the Senator of most of the routine "chores" and departmental errands.

Cordon's prestige derives from his skill in working with other men, his vast personal acquaintance in Washington and his unqualified loyalty to his party and its cause.

So far Cordon has not given the slightest inkling as to whether or not he will run again in 1954. To all inquiries he merely says:

"That's a bridge we will cross when we come to it."

It is a pretty safe bet that Cordon will run, just as it is a moral certainty that Morse will seek vindication at the Oregon polls in 1958.

EXPENSIVE WORDS

(Wall Street Journal)
This week Senator Morse used up 31 pages of the Congressional Record just to insert telegrams he'd received in response to his record-breaking 22-hour speech last week-end. At \$84 per page, that's \$2,604. Printing the speech itself cost \$7,476.

She Took Pets to Bed, He Seeks Decree

Los Angeles (AP)—Walter Reed Sprinkel, 58, owner of a paving company, said in a divorce suit today that too much petting ruined his marriage.

Sprinkel said his wife, Clara, insisted on taking her pets to bed with her and gave them all her attention.

Ran Lights 70 M.P.H., Carried Moron Book

San Francisco (AP)—Harold Whiting was arrested for hit-run driving after going through a red light at 70 miles per hour and crashing into another vehicle.

In his pocket police found a psychology lecture note reading: "Morons must all have bravery."

POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

British Collegians Find U. S. Restrictions Baffling

By HAL BOYLE

New York (AP)—Well, rawther, old boy, we just don't go for a dry campus along the Thames.

"You can drink anything you want, if you can afford it, which you ordinarily can't," said one of Cambridge university's top debaters.

The British university exports two of its brighter, more vocal spirits every other year to America to make a debating tour.

The current duo, winding up a successful 30-debate tour, Alastair Sampson, 24, and Peter Mansfield, 24, found many things about America hard to understand, and particularly college drinking rules.

"Take your theory of a dry campus," said Peter. "You know, that wouldn't go at all in England. Wine and spirits are for sale on the campus. Most of our students—Alastair and I are typical—spent two years in service.

"It is difficult to tell a veteran what he should and shouldn't do."

The two British lads were a bit shocked at American university restrictions during their tour, and the need for them.

They are accustomed to a system under which students are permitted more latitude. They can serve liquor in their rooms if they choose, and a man is free to entertain a woman student in his chambers without chaperon until midnight, but—

"I wouldn't say the same system would work at all in your country," said Peter. "You see, in England there are so few universities that the people who go there go, at least partly, to work."

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"Oh, I wouldn't say that," protested Alastair. "I would," said Peter.

47 Frat Boys Must Have 16 Addresses

Palo Alto, Calif. (AP)—A classified ad in the Stanford University Daily advertised for a "large house for 47 young men, must have 16 different addresses."

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