

Capital Journal

An Independent Newspaper—Established 1888

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Published every afternoon except Sunday at 444 Chermeketa St., Salem. Phones: Business, Newsroom, Want-Ads, 2-2406; Society Editor, 2-2409.

Full Second Wire Service of the Associated Press and The United Press. The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to the use for publication of all news dispatches credited to it or otherwise credited in this paper and also news published therein.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

By Carrier: Monthly, \$1.25; Six Months, \$7.50; One Year, \$12.00. By Mail in Oregon, Polk, Linn, Benton, Clackamas Counties: Monthly, \$1.00; Six Months, \$6.00; One Year, \$9.00. By Mail Elsewhere in Oregon: Monthly, \$1.00; Six Months, \$6.00; One Year, \$9.00. By Mail Outside Oregon: Monthly, \$1.25; Six Months, \$7.50; One Year, \$12.00.

HELLS CANYON TO DATE

The first phase of the Hells Canyon hearing before the Federal Power commission is over. The Idaho Power company has completed its evidence designed to show that its proposed three low dams will better serve the public interest than one high dam to be built by the federal government.

After an extended recess the forces promoting the high dam will be heard at length, after which government agencies will present such information as they have, which should be considerable, and various intervenors will also be heard. After that the commission will take several weeks, or months, to study the mountain of testimony and argument, then make a finding that will either permit or deny the company to proceed with its plans.

No final conclusion on the facts should be drawn after hearing one side, though there was plenty of cross examination, and one important witness for the public power people, the engineer Cotton who issued a report favoring the federal project.

But it is only right to state that the public power people have a job cut out for them, and their attorney, Mrs. Cooper, clearly realizes it. Apparently competent engineering testimony—we were especially impressed with two retired officers of the Army Engineers—was offered which purported to show that the government dam will be uneconomic and unwise.

The government project will cost more than half a billion. How much more nobody knows. It will develop more power than the Idaho Power company's three dams. The difference is not known to a certainty as it involves future flow of the river, which no one can know, but apparently not more than 200,000 more kilowatts, a ratio of about four to three. Yet the cost ratio is more than three to one. A Portland engineer said the difference could be developed by steam plants at a small fraction of the added investment. Testimony also indicated that the additional power from the government dam would be dependent upon building other dams downstream, which would add further investment.

A former Army Engineers chief in the Northwest, with long, intimate knowledge of the river, said several other sites of equal or greater desirability are available to the government if Hells Canyon is turned over to Idaho Power development.

Another factor that ought to be carefully explored by the coming witnesses is whether the future flow of the river will be sufficient to operate such a plant as the government would build to capacity. Approximately 30,000 acres of new land are being irrigated in South Idaho upstream from Hells Canyon annually. Watering these lands reduces the amount of water that will remain in the river at Hells Canyon. This flow will apparently decrease from year to year. The suggestion is that the high dam could become a big reinforced concrete white elephant. If this is not true, testimony the F.P.C. and congress will believe had better be produced, for there is testimony of apparent competency on the other side to be overcome.

Many persons are for Hells Canyon regardless of its cost just because it is a public project whose construction will prevent the expansion of private power, possibly hastening the day when there will be no private power.

Others are against Hells Canyon even if the strongest showing could be made in its behalf, because they are against the expansion of government business operations which they regard as leading to socialization of everything.

Neither of these groups is likely to be convinced by the evidence presented and to be presented. But there is every indication that two very important groups will be influenced by the weight of the testimony: First, the Federal Power commission, a new deal agency created for just such jobs as this, and second, the balance of power in congress which may vote for a feasible government project but certainly won't vote for one that can't be shown to be feasible.

RUSSIAN H-BOMB?

Premier Malenkov, the Mr. Fat Boy of the Soviet hierarchy, possibly speaking in an attempt effectively to deny increasing rumors of his liquidation, told his parliament Saturday that Russia now has the hydrogen bomb.

Malenkov was obviously aiming his announcement at American ears. The U.S. no longer has a "monopoly" on this highly destructive explosive, he asserted, passing over the fact that the U.S. had never claimed to have one and had never claimed its manufacture beyond the capacity of Russia's captive German scientists.

The announcement is, as Horace Greeley once said of a predicted early end of the world, extremely important "if true." Whether it is true probably can't be known here and certainly isn't known by the American public. But it may be true and if not yet true probably will be.

Why did Malenkov make the announcement at this time? Apparently to restore shattered moral in his own government and army, and to lower our's. His manner of speaking strongly suggests this. He had a defensive rather than a confident attitude.

But the "H" or "Hell" bomb as it is often called has the capacity to blow millions of Americans to smithereens either now or when Russia does master its mysteries, as she is almost sure to do.

So though we may doubt Malenkov's story, there is no denying its grim possibilities. In case of war our hopes would be to deliver our's first, which is not the most comfortable fix to be in.

COMMERCIAL T-V FOR BRITAIN

Here in America the radio commercial is one of the facts of life. Be it ever so corny it sounds—or smells—like home.

Over in Britain this form of entertainment (?) is unknown. Radio is a government monopoly, highminded, cultural and all that, but sometimes a bit dull, don't you know?

The Churchill government wants to pep things up a bit with a limited amount of commercial television, but it is meeting a cool reception. The newspapers don't like it, for advertising will be sold. Neither do the politicians, or the church leaders, probably because they've heard how it works over here.

So it looks like old John Bull will have to worry along with his strictly proper but none too interesting government T-V as he has government radio.

OVER HEARTBREAK RIDGE



WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Congressman Barred From 'A' Tests Denies Being Red

By DREW PEARSON

Washington — The case of Rep. Robert L. Condon of Walnut Creek, Calif., the Democratic congressman who was barred from the Nevada A-bomb tests, has come in for further investigation by this column. Among other things, a naval intelligence report has come to light stating that Condon was reported to have been a member of the Communist party between 1930 and 1935.

The congressman, when questioned about this and other reports, admitted that he had been affiliated with a law firm which represented the Communist party, but denied he had ever been a member of the Communist party.

He indicated that the charges against him were being raised for political purposes. "I don't intend to let Pat Hillings," he said, referring to the Republican congressman from California who aspires to the senate, "climb to fame over my dead political body."

The U. S. naval intelligence report was "distributed to all naval commandants" after the congressman began probing the disposition of surplus naval property. It reads as follows:

Naval Record
"Subject: Robert Likens Condon.
"1.—The office of naval intelligence has received a summary report dated 13 March 1953 from the FBI on Robert Likens Condon who is congressional representative of the 6th congressional district of California. The FBI report indicates that Congressman Condon has been actively associated with the Communist movement in the United States.

"2.—According to this report, Congressman Condon was reported to have been a member of the Communist party between 1930 and 1935. As late as 1949 and 1951 he was described as a member of the Communist party by two prominent California Communists. He attended a Communist party meeting as a party member in late 1948 with a California Communist party trade union representative and others at Martinez, Calif.

"He was identified as the author of an article which appeared in the 5-16-47 edition of the Daily Peoples World, the official west coast newspaper of the Communist party. Between 1947 and 1949 he was a member of an Oakland, Calif., law firm which represented the Communist party in the Alameda-Contra Costa counties.

"Condon stated in 1943 that the 'might of the Red army' was about all the colored races had on their side in the creation of a decent post-war world and that he gave thanks that the USSR was one of our allies who would sit at the peace table.

"3.—The FBI report states further that Condon has been a member of, has contributed funds to, and has associated with approximately 20 Communist party 'fronts' and infiltrated organizations from 1938 to the present time. He reportedly stated in the 1930s that he was going into politics 'so he could do both himself and the Communist party some good.' Condon has a criminal record involving a number of arrests, which is carried under

FBI file number 1350860. "4.—The information set forth above is being made available to all navy commandants via the district intelligence officer. It is forwarded in view of Congressman Condon's reported interest in investigating the disposition of navy surplus property.

Admiral Carl Espe, Director, Naval Intelligence

CONDON'S EXPLANATION

Congressman Condon was interviewed by this column regarding the points raised in the naval intelligence report, and was willing to answer all questions.

He said he had entered the University of California in 1931 with \$2,000 he had earned plus the financial backing of a father who was fairly well off, hence had devoted himself to fraternity life, frivolous matters, taking no interest in politics until he got out of law school. This does not entirely jibe with his own biography in the congressional directory which states he was first in his class in law school and was editor of the California Law Review.

Told that he had been seen at a communist party meeting in late 1948 at Martinez, Calif., the congressman said he had attended frequent meetings at Martinez, since he represented the oil workers then on strike, and that communists might have been at the meetings.

Condon claimed, however, he had attended no meetings that he knew were communist.

Asked about contributing an article to the Daily Peoples World, the west coast Daily Worker, the congressman said that reporters from the paper had talked to him occasionally and might have published an interview. He had no recollection of writing an article.

Admitting that two of his law associates might have been communists, the congressman also acknowledged that his law firm had represented the communist party on minor matters in the San Francisco area.

"When did you find out that your law associates were communists?" Condon was asked. "Did you know that before you joined the firm?" "I didn't know they were communists," he replied. "But I had a good idea they were Reds."

"Then why did you join?" "I didn't know then that I would be going into politics," he replied.

It was a good offer, he also explained, and gave him a chance to get back into his field of labor law. He said he remained with the firm from 1947 to the end of 1948, when the associates split. A split in the ranks of labor also took place in that area at the time and Condon indicated that he sided with the more conservative unions.

TRIED ONE RED CASE

Asked whether he had ever tried any cases for the communists while a member of the firm, he said that he had handled one minor case.

Congressman Condon had no recollection of the alleged quote from a 1953 speech

POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Future Dark for Those Few GIs Who Chose to Stay With Reds

By HAL BOYLE

New York (AP)—An open letter to any of the few American prisoners in Korea who chose to remain behind the Bamboo Curtain:
Dear ex-G.I. Joe:
So you don't want to come home, kid? You've picked the Red over the Red, White and Blue.

Why? Is it because your former buddies in the prison camps knew you had turned informer and ratted on them to get better treatment? And you were afraid to come back because you'd have to face the day of reckoning?

In every war there is a handful like you. Thousands of your fellow American prisoners died rather than yield their beliefs. Other thousands clung stubbornly to their faith through months or even years of sickness and bare-boned hunger.

The dead lie in unmarked graves but live in honored memory. The living will return to a hero's welcome.

And you, the handful who tried to sell them out for an extra mouthful of wheat, who peddled your birthright for less than a mess of pottage, who will remember you? Only the families you have dishonored. And it were better if even they never know your guilt.

Maybe you weren't actually the stoolpigeon the other soldiers thought you. Maybe you became what they jeeringly called a "progressive, a Red sympathizer" because your captors actually sold you Communism on principle. Either way, kid, you've made one of the world's worst buys. By refusing to be repatriated you become a deserter, and that is the way your Army will list you, even if it never can try you as a traitor.

You have traded an old and tried freedom for a new will-of-the-wisp "freedom," the false marsh light of the world. You have abandoned the Statue of Liberty and the Stars and Stripes for the blood-red symbol of the hammer and sickle.

Your fellow prisoners say that, when they started the long, joyous journey home, you were having a cozy party among yourselves. What could you be celebrating? And when they had departed, and you had filled your belly with meat and drunk all the liquor you wanted, what did you think?

Did you get a little sick inside as you looked around the empty camp? Did you realize that now you will never have a home again in your life, and you might as well drop the word from your vocabulary?

It had been determined that Governor Pierce would keep Johnson Smith as state penitentiary warden.

About half of Willamette valley's estimated 8000-ton crop of loganberries had gone unpicked due to a low market price of four cents a pound.

A five-day test of the 28-hour transcontinental air mail service between New York and San Francisco had been arranged for, beginning August 21.

General Motors corporation had declared a 30c dividend on its no par common stock.

Professor and Mrs. Robert Gatke, who had been married here last week, returned from Cannon Beach to remain in Salem briefly and then proceed to Washington, D. C., where Prof. Gatke will attend American university to obtain his doctor's degree in history.

One year ago a Salem linotype operator had undergone an operation in San Francisco. At a local hospital he had again been operated upon and the surgeon removed a rubber glove that had been left from the first operation.

A short memorial service honoring the late President Harding had followed the Salem evening band concert. Services were led by Rev. Ward Willis Long.

Fruit buyers had pronounced the 1953 prune crop the best seen in years.

Thomas A. Edison, in attendance at funeral services for Warren G. Harding had said: "I have not found it possible to demonstrate existence beyond the grave and cannot say that men, including the beloved President Harding, live after death."

Return to Hope

Boise Statesman

What did we gain by making a truce in Korea? One thing we gained is hope for 3313 Americans who are now being liberated from North Korean prisoner-of-war camps.

These men have been living under conditions of indescribable hardship, brutality and sometimes deliberate torture. They are the ones who lived through it. There are 8300 others, by American count, who were missing in action and presumably were captured by the enemy, but who didn't live to be liberated.

Suffering is not yet ended for those who are now being repatriated. Many are wounded or ill, and face months or years of convalescence. All must recover from the effect of malnutrition. But at least they are still alive, and now can be given the kind of care which gives them a chance. Every day of delay in liberating them increases the suffering and decreases the likelihood of survival.

Now, best of all, they can be reunited with wives, children, parents, brothers and sisters and sweethearts. And they can breathe the air of freedom again.

That much has been gained.

POVERTY, CADILLAC STYLE

Pendleton East Oregonian

The ex-wife of movie star John Wayne has told a court she can't live on \$1100 a month; she must have \$3350 a month. One of her biggest problems, she said, was lack of funds to operate her Cadillac. Poor girl! If the court won't alleviate her suffering perhaps a relief agency will.

NEW CAN OPENER USE

New York (AP)—Police said today they had arrested two men who used a beer can opener to break into more than 100 locked automobiles and loot them.

William Rivera, 26, and Rafael Castijon, 24, were charged with grand larceny for the auto burglaries in which the loot ranged from an outboard motor expensive furs and jewelry.

SUCH IS PROGRESS

Bend Bulletin

And now the police in Salem are catching speeders with a palindrome. Such is progress.

HE'D BETTER BE CAREFUL

Pacoima, Calif. (AP)—James A. Lasley, Burbank, Calif., said he hoped the thief who stole his private plane was not planning a long trip.

He said the single-engine craft was carrying enough gas for one hour's flying when it was stolen from Whitman Air Park.

ARRESTED 60 TIMES

New York (AP)—Joseph Conte, 60, has been arrested for the 60th time. He appeared in court yesterday on grand larceny charges for the theft of \$60 from a subway passenger.

Penalizing Working Mothers

Corvallis Gazette-Times
One thing that has always concerned us is the tax bite taken out of the checks of mothers who are working and yet paying for baby sitters at home.

We have always had one or more here at the Gazette-Times and there are many others employed all over town.

According to the U. S. Women's Bureau, about 5 1/2 million mothers are now employed. Of these, some 2 million have children under six years of age. And the Bureau reports, "All trends evident in the foreseeable future point toward the continuance of a large and probably growing women labor force, including married as well as single."

Just a little simple arithmetic shows the injustices these women are now suffering. At the present tax rates the amount a mother adds to the family income by working is eaten up by proportionate-

ly increased taxes and the cost of services she might otherwise perform at home.

Take the case of a mother with a small child whose husband earns \$4500 a year, with no other dependents and no other source of income. The husband takes the standard deduction and pays income tax of \$504 a year.

Then the wife takes a job at \$50 a week. That raises the family income tax to \$1033 a year or by \$529. That reduces the gain to the family income from the wife's job from \$2600 a year to \$2071. If she pays a baby sitter \$20 a week to look after her child, that reduces the gain to the family income to \$1031. She is, in effect, working for less than \$20 a week.

It would seem to us that deductions for her baby sitter would be just as legal as a salesman's deduction for gasoline. Both are essential to permit them to work.

A bit of this-n-that

—By—

GEORGE HUGGINS **SID BOISE**

We announced last week that we would attempt to obtain opinions on the following subject: "What do you consider to be the most important type of insurance coverage in a family insurance program?"

We will tabulate and publish the results in this space August 17th, so you still have time to let us know what you think. And just to make it easy, you can complete the coupon below, enclose it in an envelope or paste it on a post card. We would like to hear from YOU!

To: HUGGINS INSURANCE AGENCY
P. O. Box 279 - Salem, Oregon

I consider _____ to be the most important type of insurance coverage in a family insurance program.

And, while we're making a survey, please check ONE of the following:

If all insurance agents were laid end to end:
1.—The line would reach from Salem to Kalamazoo, Michigan.
2.—They would be a lot more comfortable.
3.—It would be a darn good thing!
(We'll give you the results of this, too!)

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