

# Capital Journal

An Independent Newspaper—Established 1888

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

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## LABOR UNION UNITY; IS IT DESIRABLE?

Surface indications of late have been that unity of American labor is becoming a distinct possibility, with the two biggest organizations under new leadership more or less free from the antagonisms engendered by past conflicts.

Now this goal is indefinitely postponed with the departure of the large and powerful carpenters union from the A.F.L. and the A.F.L. board recommendation for expulsion of the east coast longshoremen's union.

Working against one big union are the rivalries of leaders and union groups. Neither the leaders nor their organizations want to be subordinate to rivals. It is the same factor that works against church union and success in the U.N.

Most labor leaders appear to think union of all labor would be a desirable end if it could be achieved, but we are inclined to doubt this, assuming we want to maintain our present form of government.

What would one big labor union accomplish that cannot be accomplished now? It could call one big strike as they do in France, paralyzing the country. But the country can be paralyzed now. A railroad strike would do it and so would a coal strike after a longer period. There are other strikes perfectly legal under existing law that could bring the nation to its knees.

The purpose of most strikes is higher wages or charges in working conditions more favorable to the workers and more costly to the operator. If the intensity of the pressure for these changes could be increased by stronger labor organizations and larger increases won, one of two things would happen.

The first and most likely would be an increase in the selling prices of the goods or services provided by the concerns that are to pay the increases. Working people buy these goods and services and are therefore soon paying for their own wage increases through higher living costs.

The second possibility, and the ideal one from the standpoint of labor, is that the employer absorbs it himself and makes less profit. This sometimes happens and sometimes can reasonably happen when profits are too high. We always see this condition in a time of shortages, such as a war creates.

But usually competition regulates prices down. If this does not restore black ink entries he closes down, maybe goes out of business altogether. Workers know only too well how this affects them. We are seeing it happen right now in the lumber industry.

Unless there is a reward for the saving and investment of capital it won't be saved and invested—by individuals. Capital will have to be invested. If we make it impossible for individuals to do this the government will have to, taking the money away from the workers—there'll be no employers left to tax. This is a socialistic society which in its ultimate, extreme form is called communism.

If this is the goal of labor leadership the one big union would help bring it about by increasing the pressure to a point where private industry could not operate. If it is not the purpose it would appear that the present unions, divided though they are, are doing about all that can be done, and without menacing the democratic system.

## PERIOD OF POLITICAL TENSION

When Canada overwhelmingly endorsed her Liberal government a few days ago she set herself off from the rest of the world as almost the only country in which there is near unanimity on major political issues. In many countries there is the sharpest political division in their histories and in a great many the forces of the right and left are in such a state of balance that neither can govern effectively.

Take the free countries first. Here in the United States the death of Senator Taft will give the opposition party a majority in the senate. The house is virtually a 50-50 split. In Britain the Churchill government did not win a majority of the popular votes at the last election, though it won a majority of the parliamentary seats.

In Japan a pro-American government hangs on by the skin of its teeth. France and Italy are unable at this time to govern themselves due to inability of any party or grouping to maintain a reliable majority. In Germany Chancellor Adenauer is hard pressed and may be overthrown at the forthcoming election.

Now the dictatorships. Russia's internal troubles have been publicized. There hasn't been so much dissatisfaction since the czar was overthrown in 1917. In Argentina Peron's seat gets hotter and hotter. The Cuban dictator Batista is bracing himself for a revolutionary outbreak. Another one is predicted for Brazil. The military dictator of Egypt is hanging grimly on, in constant danger of forcible overthrow. Old Mossadegh beats down his opposition in Iran, but many of his people would tear him apart if they could.

These political tensions, which are less bitter but deep-seated in the free countries, violent in the dictator countries, reflect a widespread dissatisfaction with life as it is in most areas of the world. It is not altogether economic, because it affects rich countries as well as poor, rich people as well as poor. Nor is a remedy to be seen in any action likely to be taken in the foreseeable future in any country.

## Widows' Security

Pendleton East Oregonian

The House Ways and Means committee is examining the whole social security set-up, to prepare for the widespread revision of the social security system contemplated next year. Particularly under scrutiny are the present provisions for widows.

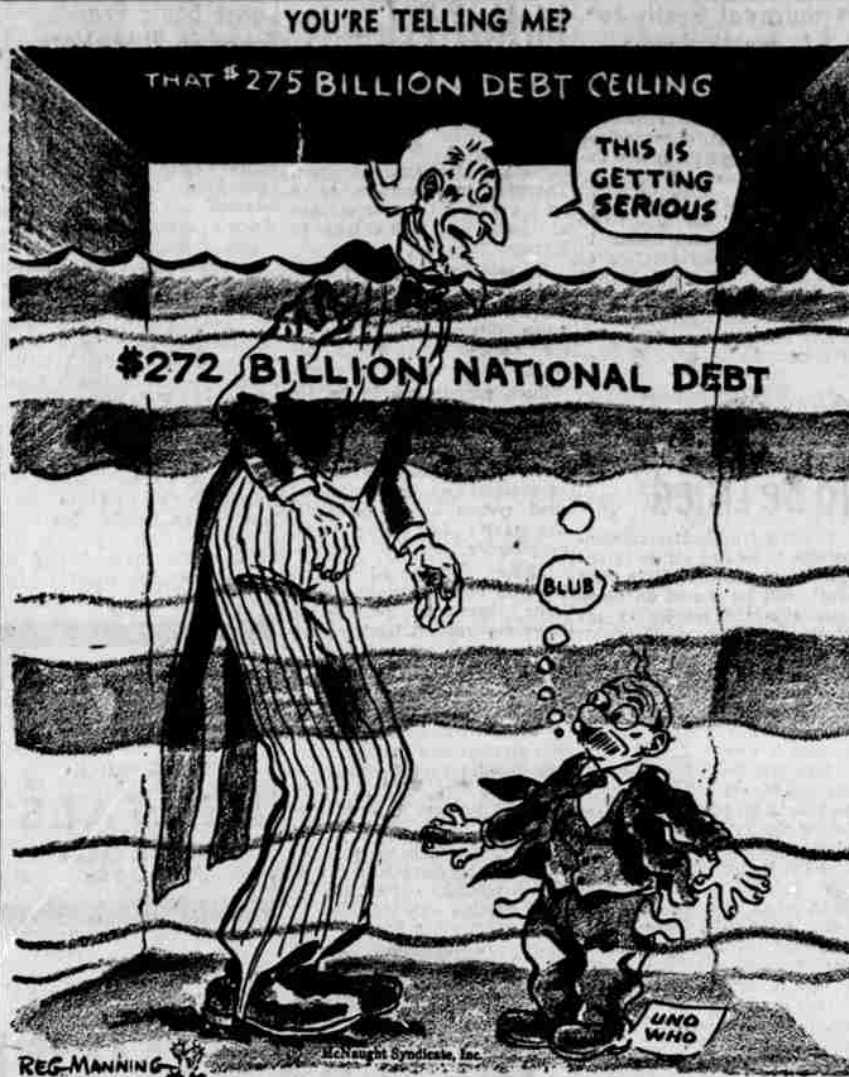
Widows of workers who have been covered by social security get social security payments, whatever their age, as long as they have dependent children under 18 with a sum for each child. If no such children, or after the youngest reaches 18, the widow must wait until she reaches 65.

The old Social Security Administration under Dr. Aitken had long urged lowering the eligibility age for widows to 60. It was pointed out that the average wife is younger than her husband, so that, for an example, a widow who was 61

when her husband died at 65 or older would have to wait four years before herself becoming eligible for an annuity (three-fourths of what he would have been entitled to).

The average social security stipend for widows is at present (May-1953) only a little over \$40 a month. The actual amounts vary, of course, by how much the husband had been earning in wages and by how long he had been covered. Many widows are included in the 16 per cent of all social security annuitants whose annuities are eked out by relief checks.

The same limitation on outside income applies to widows as to male wage-earners retiring after reaching 65. That is, until they reach 75 they are ineligible as long as they have earnings (not investment or other income) of more than \$75 a month. Much sentiment is being shown in Congress for raising this limitation to \$100 a month for everybody.



## WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

### U. S. Scientists Confident Russia Doesn't Have H Bomb

By DREW PEARSON

Washington—One week after Premier Malenkov's surprise announcement that Russia has the hydrogen bomb, U. S. scientists and intelligence experts have come to the flat conclusion that this is not the case. Russia, they conclude, simply does not have the H-bomb. Nor is there a scintilla of evidence to prove that an explosion faintly resembling a hydrogen blast has been touched off.

Reason for that is this: impossible to set off either a hydrogen or an atomic blast without filling the air with radiation. These particles drift great distances. Regardless of distance, however, Allied planes, policing the atmosphere around the Soviet Union, scoop up samples of the air which tell the complete story of how big the explosion is, when it took place, and its general location.

The height of the radiation tells the size of the explosion. The wind drift gives its location. The texture of the particles tells what kind of explosion it was—whether accidental, an A-bomb, or a hydrogen blast.

**RUSSIAN EXPLOSIONS**  
At it now stands, we have conclusive evidence that four atomic explosions have taken place inside the Soviet Union. And we know pretty well their nature.

On the other hand, and drawing a line between the explosion of an H-bomb and possessions of a hydrogen device, our scientific agencies pretty well accept the fact that Russia probably has some kind of a hydrogen device which could be exploded. However, we are equally convinced that the Russians do not have a hydrogen bomb which could be put in a plane and carried to an enemy country.

Reason for this conclusion is that the hydrogen explosion which we touched off in the mid-Pacific last year and which blew up an entire island, was not a bomb. It was called a hydrogen house, and though it contained all the ingredients of A bomb, it was exploded from the land, not the air.

So far we have never dropped a hydrogen bomb, and probably won't even put one together until shortly before it is to be dropped.

Even if the Russians have been able to squeeze the right ingredients into an actual H-bomb, however, they don't have the planes to carry it. Our H-bomb, when finally completed, will be so large it will require certain changes even of our biggest long-range bombers; and the Red air force has no planes, so far as we know, as big as our B-36.

**Award to Italian**  
The assumption that Russia is almost certain to have a hydrogen device is based on the fact that Bruno Pontecorvo, an Italian expert on the H-bomb, disappeared behind the Iron curtain three years ago and undoubtedly is working for the Russians.

Pontecorvo was one of seven Italian scientists who were so much in the lead of other scientists in splitting the atom that the atomic energy com-

## Red Debated Fails

New York Times

Forced to yield to the pressure of their hungry millions, the Russians and their East German puppets are apparently lifting the travel restrictions or Soviet zone inhabitants trying to get American food packages from West Berlin, and the second Berlin blockade appears to have been broken by the Germans themselves. Despite continued communist attempts to sabotage the food relief program and to "persuade" the East Germans to spurn the "beggar parcels," or to return them voluntarily, hundreds of thousands are again flocking to the food distribution centers and the give-away project is heading for the 2,000,000-parcel mark in the first twelve days.

This means that 2,000,000 hungry East German families have been fed, and against that fact neither communist propaganda nor communist discipline could stand up. Soldiers, police and railway men cooperated with the populace in violating the orders of their communist chiefs, and the East Germans themselves found ways of getting to West Berlin on bicycles and buses, by hitchhiking or on foot. Though some 50,000 parcels are believed to have been confiscated, these confiscations are also decreasing as more and more policemen rebel against snatching food from their hungry compatriots, and desertions, amounting to 2,000 so far this year, are reaching record proportions.

The communists, who dubbed the Americans "Amis" and used to tell them to "go home," now try to tell the Germans that "Amis packages" are an insult to their honor. But the Germans have learned that in the literal meaning of that word, "Amis" means friend, and that in the Americans they have, indeed, friends in need. The communist puppets in East Germany have thus suffered another blow, and though they may still try to continue their rule by the aid of Russian bayonets, even they cannot hope to do so forever.

Frankly, I don't know why this impresses people. But it does seem to spread a sense of awe. Perhaps it's the cross-sectional view of the big old stump, all the hardened rings of age in the wood, the suggestion of mighty nature at work at these thousands of years, and here is puny man trying to undo a piece of it. Of course, there is the hyp-

It was a big mess. Big Bulletin

All sorts of writing and talking goes on these days on how well Eisenhower did in the first six months of his administration. Some say that a good job has been done and others insist that he has made a signal failure.

How about applying a simple test suggested by Tom Humphrey, of the Oregon Journal, a year ago. Has he "cleaned up the mess in Washington?" Certainly the answer is yes. Not all the mess yet. There was too much of it but he has made a good beginning.

the airline people, feel a little sad.

**NOTE**—Democrats will tell you the reason Ike did favor for the airlines was because the controversy didn't get into the papers. The movie tax, they claim, was too much publicized by debate in congress. But republicans will tell you that the reason Eisenhower vetoed the movie-theater tax was because of the strong and persuasive personality of Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey, who needed the tax money.

## POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

### Burning Out of Stump Provides Escape From Work

By SAUL PETT  
For Hal Boyle

New York (AP)—If a man will only keep his head, he can escape a lot of work around the house. The secret is to appear to be working on something important. And to meet the requirements of the perfect labor-escaping device, you couldn't find anything better than burning out an old tree stump.

It seems important, seems like work and somehow seems like a job in which a husband and father shouldn't be disturbed. Above all, it is pleasant relaxing and serene. Staring at the blue and white and yellow fingers of flame makes you feel like a philosopher. But you don't actually think much. You only think you're thinking.

As a way of getting rid of a big, unsightly stump, it is the slowest method possible. If you play your cards right, you won't burn out your raw materials for months.

I have gotten away with it for three week-ends running, and the end is nowhere in sight. I begin every Saturday morning with an impressive show of force—with kerosene, ax, shovel, crowbar, pickaxe, rake and garden hose.

Most of these things, I don't use at all. The others get only a minimum workout. The hose, of course is for putting the fire out if it gets unruly. You can use the shovel to make a shallow trench around the stump, you can use the ax to make a few grand cuts in the wood so that the fire will have something to burn through.

After making as much noise with the tool as possible, I ignite the thing and pull up a lawn chair. The rest is called watching the fire. Obviously, fires have to be watched. Occasionally, if you are gets suspicious, you can poke fresh kerosene, shoot impressive black smoke and flames into the air. That takes care of the skeptics.

For three week-ends now, my wife has failed to mention the warped screen door which needs planing. For three week-ends now, the kids have forgotten the playhouse I was supposed to build. Occasionally, a warm sense of satisfaction, responsibility and importance courses through my body when I hear someone whisper:

"Don't bother daddy. He's burning the stump."

Frankly, I don't know why this impresses people. But it does seem to spread a sense of awe. Perhaps it's the cross-sectional view of the big old stump, all the hardened rings of age in the wood, the suggestion of mighty nature at work at these thousands of years, and here is puny man trying to undo a piece of it. Of course, there is the hyp-

notice effect of the fire itself. It makes men pause and look grave and take the long view. With unseen hands, it holds a tight rein on conversation, and there is no room for anything complicated. It also makes busy people envious.

The first day I started, the man across the street, who was busy painting the outside trim, came over. He stared a while into the fire and said: "Burning it out, eh?" "Sure am." "Long stare, long pause." "There's something about a fire—"

"There sure is." "Long stare, long pause." "Cigarette?" "Thanks." "Long stare, long pause." "Finally, he shook himself loose, almost wistfully. "I better get back to the painting, I guess. Tell you what. I'll drop by later. Give you a hand again."

You will notice that this man quickly assumed that work was involved, even that he was helping. Ordinarily, I don't like other people moving in on my racket. But stump burning is such a good thing, I don't mind sharing a little.

## Sectional Alignment On the Refugee Bill

Pendleton East Oregonian

Temper east high in Congress as it debated, before passing, the bill to admit 214,000 refugees over three years. Sen McCarran (D., Nev.) called the legislation the product of "a new type of bureaucrat whose purpose in life is to listen to foreign voices, observe foreign reactions, assess overseas anger and overseas jubilation... a sort of emotion philosophy of a alien emotion obsessed with the necessity of taboring every American act and statement to a favorable reaction abroad."

In the House Rep. Smith (D., Va.) declared that "what this bill fixes to do" is to "turn over the country" to "the kind of people we are going to get out of Russia and her satellites." Rep. Wilson (D., Tex.) predicted that "at least 50 per cent of those coming in will be Communist agents."

Rep. Burdick (R., N. D.) retorted: "Here the members from the South are thicker than wood ticks on a starving dog, all shouting, 'Down with this bill.' I wonder what it is that seals you against all human sympathy."

In the 63 to 30 vote by which the Senate passed the bill on July 29, only three Senators from the ten states of the "Solid South" voted "Yea." 17 voted "Nay." When the House passed the bill on July 28 by 221 to 185, the Representatives from the ten Southern states were thus recorded: Yes, 4; Nay, 92. All the 17 Senators from the

## Salem 36 Years Ago

By BEN MAXWELL  
August 14, 1917  
Rainbow Division, 19,000 strong and representing the flower of National Guard troops, had been picked for service in France.

Specific and concrete conditions which Pope Benedict believed might form the basis for world peace had been forwarded to the rulers of all nations.

Conscription of wealth to pay for the war, earnings of the nation's workers excepted, had been urged in a report to the senate.

Sumpter in Baker county, roaring lining camp in 1900, had largely been destroyed by fire causing a property loss of \$400,000 and leaving 600 persons homeless.

The president had sent to the senate the names of 37 new major generals and 141 brigadiers.

Sparks from a threshing engine on Howell prairie had ignited straw stacks and had also burned William Roth's separator.

Rev. A. J. Hunsacker, 84, Oregon's oldest ordained Baptist minister, had visited Salem. He had crossed the plains in 1847 as a boy of 14.

Wheat had a government fixed price of \$2 a bushel in Salem.

A single daily store delivery of dry goods had been proposed by Oregon council of defense.

A forest fire that had endangered holdings of Spaulding Logging company at Black Rock had been brought under control.

## WASTED EFFORT

Pittsburgh (AP)—Crowds tramped through debris at a city dump here yesterday filling shopping bags, dishes and buckets with money. The eager scavengers found bills ranging from \$1 to \$100.

Then the Federal Reserve Bank threw a wet blanket on the party. The bills, it was announced, had been marked as worthless and sent to a city incinerator for burning. Many of them apparently escaped the flames.

## RETRIEVES MARILYN

San Francisco (AP)—Theater Manager Hanson got a call from police that Marilyn Monroe had been picked up and would be placed come down and claim her. Hanson went to retrieve the nine-foot cardboard photograph of the blonde actress which had been stolen from in front of his theater.

New England and Middle Atlantic states voted for the bill. So did the two from Maryland, with both from Delaware voted against it. All 14 Senators from the seven Middle West states west of the Mississippi were for the bill. So the alignment was geographic, not political.

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