

# Capital Journal

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## ADMINISTRATION POWER POLICY

What is billed as the new Department of the Interior power policy, which means the administration's power policy, was spelled out to the public Tuesday in a statement by Ralph A. Tudor, the undersecretary.

The basic principle of it is that the provision of electric power facilities is primarily the responsibility of the region affected, but that the federal government will help, particularly in the Pacific Northwest where it is recognized a particularly urgent situation exists due to rapid growth of population and industry.

Thus the government will complete present projects and start new ones, as many as congress will authorize, but it does not seek a federal power monopoly in this or any other region. Nor does it limit its thinking on power to federal and private corporations. Local cooperatives, called PUDs in this region, and municipalities also have a perfect right to develop and sell current if they desire and will be encouraged in their efforts.

Another important point is that the department expects to place the demands of residential and rural consumers higher than that of industries when there is not enough power to go round, which suggests that there may be no occasion for future surcharges to be paid by such customers due to cutting off government current in favor of industrial users.

There is nothing spectacular about this policy, but we submit that it makes good, solid common sense and is essentially fair. There is no reason for Northwest people to assume that the federal government must build tax exempt power plants whenever they run out of power, when it does not do this for other sections except the Tennessee valley. If we insist on this sort of discriminatory treatment we are likely to antagonize congress and lose all future appropriations. For congress includes many representatives of states whose industries we seek to entice out here with cheaper, tax subsidized power. It's a wonder they have treated us as generously as they have.

All power plants congress is willing to authorize will be built on our streams, but congress is vitally concerned with balancing the budget, so it is unlikely that congress will be willing to build them as rapidly as the need develops.

Hence the need to have both horses, public and private, pulling. Neither can do it all.

## 'PROGRESSIVES' AND 'REACTIONARIES'

We imagine American leftists must be writhing with agony over this new definition of a "progressive" that has come out of the Korean prison camps.

The term was applied by the Chinese to such few Americans as succumbed to their blandishments and went over to communism, either wholeheartedly or to get rice and other favors. Probably the latter in most cases. They dubbed the stubborn majority who held out as "reactionaries."

The Reds of all lands have always been clever in the use of words. "Reactionary" has been applied by them to anti-Communists for years. But "progressive" which has long been a good word in America, and is today except insofar as it has been given a bad political odor by some extreme leftists is now applied to Communist dupes, and by the Communists themselves.

What a break for American "progressive" political groups. American P.W.s come home proud to be reactionaries, first time in history any Americans have been recorded that way.

Words are what they are caused to mean by use. Remember the kaiser's reference to the "contemptible little army" of Britain and 1914 and British pride ever after in the "old contemptibles" who soon halted the kaiser's march toward the English channel?

The word "reactionary" has been given a shot in the arm now by the Chinese Reds, but we hope it doesn't thereby become a badge of honor except in this very limited sense. For "reactionary" isn't a good word or a good attitude, unless you're in an enemy prison camp presented with a brain washing. Then a simple, pigheaded negative attitude is in order.

## WHY OUR STOCK IS LOW

Norman Thomas, several times Socialist candidate for president of the United States, is a wise and helpful observer of the national and world scene, whose comments are often more frank than those of politicians of other parties who still have hopes of being elected to something.

He has just returned to the United States from Europe with the gloomy report that American prestige in Europe was never so low as now. Reason? Two of them. No. 1, McCarthyism, which Europeans seem to have blown up into a "menace" comparable with the spell the villain in the old fashioned dime novel used to cast upon his intended victims. No. 2, reduced U.S. appropriations for the support of Europeans in the manner to which we've enabled them to become accustomed.

The cynics will promptly dub the second item as the one that ought to be No. 1 in importance, and little as we normally like to agree with cynics we've an uneasy suspicion that in this instance they are right.

## Woodburn

Woodburn — Three more home extension units, North Howell, Union and Aumaville, have signified their intentions of entering booths in the North Marion County fair in Woodburn, Sept. 24, 25 and 26, announced by J. F. Lacey, fair board chairman. Word has also been received that both the Woodburn Grange and Woodburn Farmers Union will enter displays in the community exhibit division of the fair.

Guests at the home of Mrs. A. E. Austin during the weekend were Mr. and Mrs. Eiton Jones, Ray Bester and Miss Laura Austin of Portland, Mr. and Mrs. John Kallak of Albany, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice

## Hubbard

Hubbard — Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Van Liew of Los Angeles, Calif., and Mrs. Louise Adams of Warrensburg, Mo. were guests of the James Van Liew last week. James and his youngest daughter, Jane, accompanied the guests to Los Angeles for a visit.

Mr. and Mrs. Rheinhold Hildebrand returned home the first part of last week after a short vacation trip to northern California and the Oregon coast. At Powers they visited their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Myers.

Gardner and daughters Molly and Joan of Richland, Wash. The two little girls are great-granddaughters of Mrs. Austin.

## THE "SABOTEUR"



## WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

### Doctor Warns Fruit Sprays May Be Poisoning People

By DREW PEARSON

Washington — One of the many things vitally affecting the public which didn't leak out during the late lamented congress, was a hassle over fruit sprays, which one prominent doctor warned may be slowly poisoning the American people. These poisons, inhaled while spraying or eaten as residue on fruits and vegetables, accumulate in the system and may take as much as ten years off a person's life, it was testified.

The warning was given by Dr. Robert Mobbs of Aberdeen, N.C., who told how he had spent five years intensely studying the problem after a child in his home town had died of what he was convinced was pesticide poisoning. He cited one chemical spray, benzene hexachloride, which was found in tests to produce abnormal, cancerlike cell growth. Yet it is used to spray on crops, to dust troops in Korea, and in vaporizing devices, to air out homes and restaurants.

He declared that doctors and chemists have prepared reports on "insecticide toxicity," but added ominously: "I think that these reports have been largely ignored, minimized, and suppressed."

Testifying before the house interstate and foreign commerce committee, Dr. Mobbs appealed to the congressmen to put teeth in the laws regulating pesticides and insecticides.

Instead of doing so, the committee boosted a bill, introduced by GOP Congressman A. L. Miller of Nebraska and endorsed by the insecticide companies, that would leave it up to the manufacturers to test their own pest killers and submit their findings to the government. Following this, the food and drug administration would be given 60 days to decide, on the basis of the manufacturers' own report, how strong a dose could be sold to the public.

**Food and Drug Objection**  
This bill brought this warning from food and drug commissioner Charles Crawford: "Irresponsible operators might submit the sketchiest and most inadequate toxicological data." Yet the government would be forced to fix the dosage, Crawford said, and issue it "within the rather brief time limit prescribed."

"We believe it essential to public health and highly advantageous to the industry, that tests, deemed adequate by a competent and unbiased scientific body, be required of all new pesticides," the food and drug chief urged.

The real danger, he pointed out, was that "you might find yourself with a meal that contained 20 different poisons, none of which by itself would hurt you, but all of which put together might be getting into the critical zone."

Most startling testimony, however, came from Dr. Mobbs. **Perforated Stomachs**

"We now know," he declared, "that many foods are contaminated by these insecticides and that human tissue itself now contains DDT and probably other insecticides and yet no one knows what the ultimate effect will be."

"One baby food company has tried to get away from having insecticides in those foods they

are preparing for babies," he added, "yet today they are about ready to abandon that search. They just can't find foods in sufficient quantity that do not contain some insecticides, yet they do not know what the result, the ultimate result, will be."

Dr. Mobbs told how he began his investigation five years ago after an insecticide plant in his community started mixing a dust for boll weevil spraying.

"The air was constantly permeated with insecticides. Many people became ill, and virus-like illness was rampant throughout the town," he related. "There was a child living in a home adjacent to this insecticide mixing plant, who died suddenly of a virus-like infection, died in convulsions. This substance was released for widespread use where it contaminated the air we had to breathe, and yet it had been untested in that medium."

"I found," he continued, "that if you fed it to an animal, it would kill the animal in convulsions. This child that died had also suffered a perforation of the stomach. Later it was found in experiments that animals suffered perforation of the stomach. So I felt that this child's death was probably due to this chemical."

The Aberdeen, N.C., physician told of another patient who "tried to use himself as a guinea pig to see what the effects of the insecticide would be. He had a coronary heart disease that seemed to be definitely aggravated by exposure to the dust, and on his death, we found DDT in his tissues."

**May Produce Cancer**  
Dr. Mobbs was probably most "shocked," however, by the fact that "the American Cancer society not too long ago gave a grant to the professor of biochemistry at Columbia, in which he used benzene hexachloride to produce abnormal cell formation or cancerlike changes. Yet at the same time," Dr. Mobbs warned, "we are using benzene hexachloride or lindane in a fashion in which it contaminates crops, gets into the milk supply. It is now used in many restaurants and in home vaporizing devices. It is used to dust troops and prisoners in Korea . . ."

"I feel," Dr. Mobbs added, "that attempts have been made to minimize the toxicity of these things."

Note—in fairness to the insecticide manufacturers, it should be pointed out that most of them scrupulously test and label their products to safeguard the public. Without these poisonous sprays, insects and rodents would literally spoil most of the country's food supply. For example, apples alone must be protected from over 200 insects. Yet insects develop an immunity to sprays, and it constantly takes more poison to kill them. Insects which once died at a whiff of DDT now are immune to it.

### SOCIABLE BURGLARS

Kingsport, Tenn. (AP)—Restaurant owner Cardwell Houchell told police burglars drank his orangeade and ate his ice cream, then used his tools to break open a safe and steal his cash.

## POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

### Photographer Noel's Story of Life in Red Prison Fascinating

By RELMAN MORIN  
For Hal Boyle

New York (AP)—In reading one of Frank Noel's stories of life in a Chinese prison camp the other day, I was struck by a particular line. He had written—"I went down to Hamhung to get some film, but I was in a hurry to get back to the front because the best pictures were there."

Frank, or "Pappy" as we called him, is a news photographer. The Chinese grabbed him in that bleak and anxious winter of 1950 when the dam went bust in Korea. Now 32 months and several lifetimes later, he has been sprung. His memoirs make fascinating reading.

As you may know, there is an eternal debate in this ink-stained trade of ours over the question: Are photographers people?

Personally, I think they are, although there are many points that have to be conceded to the opposite side of the argument. The important fact is, I suppose, that a news photographer sees the world exclusively through that square wire finder on his camera.

And this, for him, is the only true and valid world. He lives there. Few things that happen outside are likely to merit his serious attention.

Moreover, he is a harassed man. A reporter can come along, after the story has happened, and pick up the details from someone else who saw it. But a photographer has to be there with his hand on the trigger at the precise split second—or else.

Hence, you can understand when "Pappy" wrote that he was in a hurry to get back where the pictures were.

This was up around the Changjin reservoir, and Pappy had been tagging along with the Marines for some six weeks or more. It is easy for a war correspondent, news or photo, to fall in love with a Marine unit in the field, and Pappy apparently had a bad case.

Once, when we were able to reach him on the telephone, we asked if he didn't want to come out of the snow and mountains for a little relief.

"Nope," he said. And that was all. He hung up. Writing wasn't his job, but he used to scribble a few hundred electric store. "No dirt, soot, grease, ashes or use of oil."

A trotting match had been staged at the fairgrounds between a horse belonging to Arthur Glover and one owned by A. J. Anderson.

J. W. Shafer and Roy Bohannon had returned from an auto trip into the Siletz country after traveling over some of the worst roads ever seen in Oregon. Several cars were passed laid up for repairs because the roads were, in places, a sheet of mud.

Fifty-first state fair opening September 2, 1953, had a premium list of \$18,000 for livestock, poultry, agricultural and other products.

## Salem 41 Years Ago

By BEN MAXWELL

August 19, 1912  
Governor West had declared that nothing but giving the people of Redmond a clean bunch of city officials would be pleasing to him.

A proprietor of a local theater in Portland had been arrested for showing a moving picture of the Johnson-Flynn fight.

G. F. Rogers, Salem's temporary chairman of the Roosevelt state committee, had gone to Portland hopeful of making arrangements for Roosevelt's visit to Salem September 11, 1912.

Oregon Blacksmith's association had met at Albany with about 100 delegates in attendance.

Oregon artillerymen were scheduled to go to Fort Stevens to get familiar with handling big guns.

The senate had debated a resolution proposing a constitutional amendment making the presidential term a six-year office and providing that no president shall be eligible for re-election.

Coperman's automatic electric range demonstration had been arranged for Pettingill's

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## Becoming a Veteran

Astorian-Budget  
Walter Norblad, Astoria's contribution to congress, mentioned during a visit Monday that he is beginning his eighth year as a representative from Oregon.

We in Astoria are accustomed to think of Rep. Norblad as a hometown boy—the way most of us remember him—and tend to forget that he has acquired years of experience in the affairs of government and is by way of becoming a veteran member of congress.

There are plenty of congressmen who have served more than eight years—but there are many who have served far less. Rep. Norblad is getting into the senior brackets.

The Astorian's record is a good one. He still maintains youthful energy and he still works hard for his constituents.

In national affairs he is acquiring knowledge, experience and mature judgment.

His political strength is evident—he hasn't had serious opposition since he went to Washington.

With a Republican administration in power, Rep. Norblad is well situated to give even better service to his constituents and to the nation.

**GOT COAL INSTEAD**  
Bannock, O. (AP)—Twelve-year-old Jimmy Huml went to buy an ice cream cone yesterday and got seven tons of coal instead. Jimmy ran toward a "Good Humor" ice cream wagon in front of his home with a dime in his hand. At the same moment, a runaway coal truck careened into the curb and dumped its load of fuel almost on top of the boy. "I didn't get my ice cream and I lost my dime," Jimmy complained.

just to keep from missing a picture." That's the way they are, those characters.

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