

Capital Journal

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BERNARD MAINWARING, Editor and Publisher
GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor Emeritus

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DURKIN'S RESIGNATION

We are rather relieved at Secretary of Labor Durkin's resignation from the Eisenhower cabinet, although we entertain the highest regard for Durkin, whom we believe did an excellent job during the eight months he held office.

The trouble was and is that Durkin as a Democrat supported Stevenson and the Democratic program against the Eisenhower and Republican program. It developed that as labor secretary he sought to bring about changes in the Taft-Hartley act which Stevenson would probably have approved had he been president, but which Eisenhower could not approve, once he understood their implications.

Had Stevenson been elected, with a Democratic congress, it is extremely doubtful the Durkin changes would have become law, for nearly all Republicans and many Democrats would have opposed them. With a Republican administration the Durkin changes could not possibly have gotten through congress, even had Eisenhower supported them, which he apparently refused to do once he had heard the other side.

The only way Durkin could have remained in the cabinet would have been to have accepted in good faith the will of the people that restrictions on the power of labor leaders be retained as a national policy. This will was reflected in the original vote in congress in 1947, in which a majority of the Democrats voting in each house were recorded for the bill. It was reflected again in Taft's sensational re-election in Ohio in 1950 with the Taft-Hartley act as the principal issue. It was reflected still again in the Eisenhower victory in 1952.

Had Durkin been willing to abide by a national policy of restricting somewhat the overgrown power of labor leadership he could have continued as an effective, respected member of the Eisenhower cabinet. This he was evidently unwilling to do, but continuously sought changes, some of which would have been against the public interest and which the Eisenhower administration could not possibly accept.

Such being Durkin's attitude, and we do not for a moment doubt his sincerity, it is best that he and the administration part company. He may some day return to the labor secretaryship in a Democratic administration, but he does not belong in a Republican administration.

This is what we have political parties and programs for. And the ruling program has to be the one the people voted for, not that of the defeated opposition.

AUTO INSURANCE RATES REVISED

The revised automobile liability insurance rates which have been agreed upon by the 218 companies affiliated with the National Bureau of Casualty Underwriters and the Mutual Insurance Rating Bureau cut some costs on adult pleasure car drivers but increased rates upon the cars used to commute to work and upon young drivers under 25 years of age.

A slightly higher rate is fixed for cars driven less than 10 miles on a one-way trip to work; still higher rates apply for vehicles driven more than 10 miles to work. Previously there was no distinction for both pleasure driving and for traveling to work. The graduated scale recognizes the hazards incurred in daily use of the family auto in peak traffic rush hours and charges accordingly.

The extent to which policyholders may misrepresent their customary use of the cars to receive lower rates can only be determined by experience. An alternative would have been to correlate speedometer mileage with insurance premium to guard against evasion but would not relate to premiums to rush hour driving.

Stimulation to the use of mass transportation instead of congestion breeding expansion of private car commuting should be encouraged.

Because most of the traffic accidents are caused by young drivers who have uncontrolled use of the car, as the records prove, these will be reaping the harvest of the tragedies they have caused for they will be paying twice as much for insurance as the best-risk drivers.

The revision in rates for many car owners will be the first reduction since World War II, as against seven previous increases. The intent aims at greater fairness in apportioning the cost of accidents and is therefore sound policy. Trial will determine whether the aims are achieved.—G. P.

HARD LINE ON RED CHINA

Senator William Knowland took a hard and fast position on the admission of Red China to the U.N. the other day from the Far East where he is making a tour of inspection.

Knowland said flatly that if the U.N. admits Red China the U.S. should withdraw from the U.N. The administration has not put it as bluntly as this and Knowland has no authority to bind Eisenhower and Dulles, but his position as Republican leader in the senate gives his words plenty of significance.

Knowland, in addition to party leadership, is regarded as something of an expert on the Far East and his position will have great influence in the senate, which has to ratify treaties and is jealous of its place in foreign affairs.

Knowland's position has been ours ever since Red China came into the U.N. picture. If the U.N. is the kind of an organization in which an outlaw setup like Red China should have a place it is not the kind of an organization in which we belong.

This of course raises the question: What about Soviet Russia? Does it belong in the U.N.? Obviously it doesn't, in the light of its conduct since the U.N. was established. But the U.S. does not have the power to expel Russia. We certainly wouldn't vote to admit Russia, if the question were still open. We made a mistake on Russia, which we are powerless presently to correct. We need not make another on Red China.

The determining issue as we see it is not that China and Russia are Communist. It is that they flout all international responsibilities and even make war on the U.N. Their agreements are worthless. They are in fact outlaws. Once we were convinced that Red China had seen the error of her way we'd have no objection to her in the U.N. But there is no sign whatever of this.

A NEW KIND OF "LEAF RAKING"



WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Vinson Prevented Giving Atomic Secret to Russia

By DREW PEARSON

Washington—Here are some fleeting glimpses in the life of a very great man who died this week.

I was on a camping trip in the Adirondacks with Chief Justice Vinson about a month ago. The woods around us were dry. We were seated on pine-needles eating lunch one day, and the chief justice was smoking a cigarette. He smoked it down to a stub, crushed the stub on a rock, then went over to the water bucket and threw water on the burnt-out stub.

I couldn't help but think that this was typical of Fred Vinson's life—thoughtful, considerate, careful even about the most minute detail. One evening he told about a historic cabinet meeting dealing with the atom bomb. The meeting is history now and there's no reason why it can't be described. It took place in 1945. Truman was president, Vinson was secretary of the treasury, Henry L. Stimson was secretary of war. Stimson came into the cabinet meeting to propose that Russia be given the atom bomb.

He argued that Russia was certain to get the secret anyway, and our chances of world peace would be far better if we showed our good will and sincerity by offering to share our secret with the soviet. Our relations with Russia, incidentally, were far better at that time than a year or so later.

CABINET DEBATE
The Stimson proposal touched off a heated debate. President Truman went round the cabinet table, asked the opinions of all present. Jimmie Byrnes, secretary of state, sided with Stimson. So did Miss Perkins, secretary of labor. But Vinson led the opposition. He argued that the secret of the A-bomb was something the American people had paid for, worked for, had a right to keep. Under no circumstances should it be given away.

Tom Clark, then attorney general, backed him up. He argued, Vinson said, from the point of view of the people of Texas and how they would feel if the A-bomb secret were given away.

Secretary Stimson obviously had given great thought to the matter, Vinson said. He spoke with the utmost sincerity. Furthermore he spoke as a former secretary of state. President Truman postponed decision, but in the end ruled that the atom secrets should be kept.

CLEANED-OUT COMMUNIST
One of the most memorable talks I ever had with Vinson was a few weeks after he became secretary of the treasury. I had been working on one of the most important news stories I ever broke, the Soviet spy ring in Canada, and told Vinson that I thought he had either a communist or a pro-communist working for him as assistant secretary of the treasury, Harry D. White.

I told Vinson I had no evidence that would stand up in court, but that I was certain one of the men the Russians used as their contact in Washington was White. Vinson

didn't say much. But in the next week or two I noted that White left the treasury. Some years later his part in the Soviet spy ring was substantiated.

MISSION TO MOSCOW
The story of Vinson's proposed trip to Moscow in the fall of 1948 has been written a good many times, but some of the most important angles were never told.

It is known, of course, that President Truman wanted the chief justice to make a personal face-to-face appeal to the two nations. Truman felt that a man with the warm, contagious personality of Fred Vinson, plus his down-to-earth directness and homey philosophy, would be able to melt even the stony heart of Joe Stalin.

trouble to help him get a reservation on the 7:55.

Finally I switched his reservation, following which there was the problem of baggage. American Airlines refused to carry the baggage from one plane to the other, and no porter was available. So the chief justice of the United States carried his two huge suitcases, uncomplaining, out to the airplane and virtually loaded them aboard himself.

A terrific thunderstorm caught us between Baltimore and Washington and for one hour the plane circled the Washington airport, waiting for a chance to come down. It was hot, humid, ventilation was poor. Sweating passengers were packed closely together, many of them complaining. But not the chief justice. The second most important official in the nation was aboard that plane but, characteristically, he was so quiet that not one of the crew or passengers knew he was with them.

Salem 38 Years Ago

By BEN MAXWELL

September 11, 1915

German Ambassador Von Bernstorff had stated war with America would follow in a few days after a break of diplomatic relations between Germany and America.

A report from El Paso had said General Francisco Villa was killed attacking a plantation of an erstwhile partisan.

Liquor dealers in other states, particularly in California, were preparing to reap a rich harvest in Oregon when the state goes "dry" January 1, 1916.

Margaret Mason, writing about New York fashions for the Capital Journal, had reported: "With the exception of the prevalence of Russian coats, turbaned and with a full skirt a la Cossack, and a gleaming gold tassel or so of a Belgian officer, little or no militarism has been allowed to gain headway against the lines of allied a la mode."

For Sunday and Monday Oregon theater had Theda Bara in "Lady Audley's Secret" and Charlie Chaplin in "The Mix-up."

T. A. Livesley had suffered a hopyard fire that caused a loss of \$50,000 when hop kilns and baled hops in storage were destroyed.

Forest fires a mile west of Pratum had gotten out of control and were whipping toward the village at an alarming rate.

Steamer Oregon had struck a sandbar about four miles below Salem and remained fast until pulled off by the U. S. engineers' boat Mathloms.

Salem's municipal bathing beach had been doing a fair business under direction of Arthur Wilson and the scow would be kept in operation so long as patronage continued.

For ladies' fall wear the U. G. Shipley company had Paddock chin-chin fur trimmed coats and the new Vogue models in plush Furtex, prices ranging between \$7.50 and \$65.

Flour mills at Jefferson had resumed operations following installation of new machinery costing thousands of dollars.

Film Code Sticks

By RAYMOND MOLEY

Los Angeles—Two headlines in "Daily Variety," published here, mark the beginning and end of a story which has important artistic, moral, and political significance. The first, in the issue of March 4, 1953, was "Pix Prod'n Code On Way Out." The second, on August 13, 1953, was "Prod'n Code Will Stick As Is." This specific issue arose over a play and picture called "The Moon Is Blue."

A producer first submitted the successful Broadway play of that name two years ago to the Production Code Administration, variously known as the Hays, Johnston, or Breen office. The Administration said that it was in violation of the Code, a standard of propriety adopted by the Motion Picture Association of America long ago as a guide by and to all major companies. The producer of "The Moon Is Blue," who was not a member of the Association, despite this opinion, had a script made and submitted it some months later. Again, the Code Administration refused to approve it—in part, because of some of the dialogue, but fundamentally because it was said to violate sections of the Code which say that "pictures shall not infer that 'low forms of sex relationship are the accepted or common thing' and that seduction shall never be the proper subject for comedy."

The producer held that his script did not violate the Code and proceeded to make the picture, which he submitted to the Administration. The Administration refused its seal of approval, and the producer took an appeal to the board of directors of the Association, which upheld the Code Administration. The picture was then exhibited in such theatres as were available to a picture thus banned, with advertising saying that it is an "adult" film, or "for adults only."

At this point I wish to state that I am not discussing the specific moral or artistic issues involved. I am concerned with the wisdom of private business regulating itself as an alternative to regulation by the heavy hands of the state. On that point I wrote a book some years ago called "The Hays Office," which I may say, met the approval of the trade press in the motion-picture industry as a fair and authentic portrayal of the problem.

In the present case of "The Moon Is Blue," left-wing writers proceeded to go far beyond criticism of the specific decision of the Code Administration and raised a hue and cry for the abolition of the whole system of self-regulation. This demand was slapped down by the directors of the Association on August 12. Through their president, Eric Johnston, it was made clear that the Code and its administration would continue.

It has taken many years for

POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Tightwads Springing Up In N.Y., Among Children

By HAL BOYLE

New York, (AP)—Everyone knows New York City is inhabited by a bunch of fast-living grasshoppers who toss away their money with no thought of the morrow. Yep, that's us, fellows. If we can't spend our dough quick enough with both hands, we kick it away with our feet.

As the old Broadway saying goes, "Who wants to be the richest guy in the cemetery?" A guy who isn't living beyond his means just isn't living.

But guess what's happening—right here in the neon-lit midst of the world's greatest one-way primrose path. Why, a herd of thrifty young ants is springing up, a generation infected by the old squirrely idea that it pays to put away a few acorns for a rainy day.

Who are these young codgers? Well, they turned up in a survey of 3,820 children between 6 and 11 years old, and it turned out that one out of five already had somehow or other picked up the old-fashioned habit of saving part of his pocket money each week. Most averaged between 25 and 50 cents.

The survey, made by the Gilbert youth research organization for the Washington Heights Federal Savings & Loan association, estimated that the city's one million sub-teens are stashing up to \$150,000 a week in their piggy banks. This, of course, includes emergency withdrawals to help their parents out of a tight spot.

The bankers thought this showed a mighty healthy attitude on the part of the young

heads of the motion-picture industry to build the faith they now have in their Code. But it is now a mighty conviction, a conviction based upon the two propositions which went into the making and adoption of the Code 25 years ago. The first of those propositions is that, unless there is self-regulation, the pressure of religious bodies, parent groups, and other sectors of American opinion will have recourse to the government for the protection of the morals of those who make up the immense mass audience of motion pictures. The other proposition is that in a highly competitive industry the individual cannot exercise self-censorship alone. To be frank, the members of a competitive industry cannot trust each other and must, if there is to be regulation, resort to joint action.

It is true that there will be differences of opinion as to whether this or that picture should be shown. But some authority must exercise the prudential decision, and in this case it was the Code Administration.

When asked what they or their parents could buy for a penny, 841 of the 3,820 kids said flatly, "Nothing." And 53 said the same thing about a nickel.

Kind of makes you feel sad and old doesn't it—to hear of even one kid who no longer can buy a dream with a nickel?

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