

Capital Journal

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C.I.O. MAKES LABOR POLICY

The annual meeting of a major labor union unusually exceeds in importance that of the largest business or industrial group, and this year's C.I.O. gathering just closed at Cleveland was no exception.

Walter Reuther, who had a tough battle over the presidency a year ago, was renamed by acclamation. No sign of opposition appeared. Reuther is firmly in the saddle, probably has the leadership of America's second largest labor group as long as he wants it.

The C.I.O. appears to believe the national economy is headed downward and it came up with several plans for throwing all the loss of this onto employers, through (1) a guaranteed annual wage, and (2) a year's full pay by employers, to workers who have been laid off. This of course in addition to the usual pay increases and "fringe benefits."

Employers who may be tempted to laugh at these proposals had better not, for they are no laughing matter. The guaranteed annual wage will be vigorously pushed in the auto, steel and other C.I.O. organized industries as contracts expire. For employment uncertainty is one of the chief hazards of the workers. No matter how high their hourly rates they cannot be sure of continuous employment.

On the other hand, if the employer must guarantee to employ them whether he can sell the products or not he faces bankruptcy the first time there is a major business setback, so he will vigorously resist a commitment he will feel sure will eventually ruin him.

The C.I.O. will argue that given assured employment there will be no business setbacks, and there is a point to this, if the guaranteed annual wage were adopted for all workers at the same time. But this is impossible.

C.I.O. and industry are actually both seeking the same thing, elimination of the downswing in the business cycle. If either finds it, both and everyone else will benefit, but we doubt that it will ever be found by picking out a "fall guy" and forcing him to underwrite the losses. He'll soon run out of money and then there'll be the very devil to pay, with bankrupt industries unable even to pay employed workers, let alone unemployed ones. Moscow might pick up the pieces.

We fear the business cycle will be around quite a while in spite of anything, C.I.O., N.A.M., the government, or anyone else can do about it. We distinctly recall that it was abolished back in 1928-29, but not for very long.

MOST OF THE MISSING DEAD

The Pentagon has just announced that the U.S. battle death toll in the Korean war will pass 30,000 when next January the books are closed on American casualties.

The death figures stood at 25,604 and the missing at 7,953 after the truce and completion of POW exchanges.

This week the army confirmed 400 more deaths among those listed as missing and announced that in January it will consider the 4000 listed as missing for over a year as "presumed dead." Those remaining missing, unless found, will be declared dead by the army a year after their disappearance.

The air force, with 671 listed missing, will declare 170 presumed dead next month. The marine corps, with 493 missing and the navy with 78 missing, has no plans to declare any of them dead in the near future.

The U.S. casualty total in Korea, 142,277 killed, wounded or missing, remains the same. It is a preliminary figure, however, and is being checked and rechecked as new information gets to the Pentagon. Most of the missing must eventually be presumed dead.

The Missing Persons Act requires the declaration of presumptive death. This law expires next January 21, but an extension will be asked of congress so survivors of the missing and probably dead may receive the benefits to which they are entitled.

The army has set forth information needed for the families and beneficiaries of men who have been or will be declared dead. The regulations, which also apply to such survivors of all servicemen, include:

1. When a survivor is notified that a serviceman has died as the result of combat, the beneficiary will be furnished an application form for the payment of a gratuity. This gratuity is equal to six months pay at the rate prevailing when the man was declared dead.

2. Survivors are entitled to whatever portion of a missing man's pay that accumulates while he is missing and which has not been previously allocated, such as for allotments or savings bonds.

Immediately after a serviceman is declared dead, the Veterans Administration will be notified. The VA will then help survivors collect whatever government life insurance is due them.—G. P.

LAST OBSTACLE REMOVED

Completion of the deal between the government and the Harvey interests giving them a virtually free hand to experiment with the processing of alumina from clay at the long idle plant here ought to mean early payrolls for Salem.

The Harveys have "hung fire" all this time due to opposition to clauses in the contract forcing them to continue experimentation over a period of years, where a relatively short period might show these to be unjustified. They have won their point and there is no reason now why they should not proceed.

Who's the Driest?

Eugene Register-Guard
 It now seems fairly certain that the "liquor-by-the-glass" issue must come to a vote in Benton county in November, 1954, as provided by law.

Our interest in this situation is more or less "academic" (no pun intended). From the beginning it has looked to us as if the "drys" in Corvallis might be trying to avoid an election, so when we were in Corvallis the other day we looked up the voting records on liquor issues in Corvallis over the last 15 years. Here they are:

Liquor Measures Voted on in Corvallis
 November 4, 1952 — "Liquor by the individual glass." Yes—3077 No—3130
 June 9, 1949 (Advisory Election) — "Shall a State Operated Liquor Store Be Established in Corvallis?" Yes—742 No—1367
 November 7, 1950 — "Mak-

ing Sale of Promotively Ad-

vertised Alcoholic Liquor Un-

lawful." Yes—1159 No—3338
 November 2, 1948 — "Ore-

gon Liquor Dispensing Act." Yes—2337 No—3330
 November 7, 1944 — Burke's

Bill — "Only State Selling Liquor Over 14/100 Alcohol." Yes—1844 No—1003
 November 5, 1940 — "To

Further Regulate Sale & Use of Alcoholic Liquor." Yes—1432 No—1533
 It will be seen that at the

last general election, the Corvallis vote on the state-wide "saloon" amendment was "slightly" close — a margin of only 53 votes for the "drys." The vote in Lane county was: Yes, 26,623; No, 26,810, a margin of only 13 votes. In Eugene the vote was: Yes, 8,771; No, 8,729 — a margin of 42. In Springfield the vote was: Yes, 2,361; No, 2,129 — a margin of 232 "wets." It occurred to us readers might be interested in comparative statistics on "how dry we are."



WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Vinson Held White Innocent Till Proved to Be Guilty

By DREW PEARSON

Washington—Some readers have suggested that I put the late chief justice of the United States in the position of being pro-communist or a Red when I reported earlier this week that Fred Vinson, when secretary of the treasury, transferred Harry D. White to the international monetary fund and advised President Truman to keep him in that job, under surveillance.

Since Fred Vinson is dead and cannot defend himself and since the last thing I wish to do is reflect on a great man and a very dear friend, I should like to set forth further the views of the late chief justice on communism. I had occasion to discuss this general subject with him on a camping trip in the Adirondacks not long before he died.

It is a fact that in the summer of 1945, shortly after he became secretary of the treasury, I warned Vinson that Harry White was not a good man to have in the treasury. I did this because I thought it was a service to Vinson and to the country, but I told Vinson that I could not fully substantiate the evidence against White.

It is a fact that Fred Vinson recommended the transfer of White from the treasury to the monetary fund. Mr. Truman obviously knew little about personnel matters inside the treasury; furthermore had great confidence in Vinson, and the last thing he would do would be to tell him how to run the treasury. Vinson had been a leader of congress, a judge on the U.S. court of appeals; economic stabilizer; defense mobilizer; and head of the RFC. After 30 years in government, he knew far more about government administration than Truman, and the brand new president leaned heavily on him.

Careless Harry Vaughan Furthermore, the president was justified in leaning on him.

On the other hand, the president was not justified in leaning on Maj. Gen. Harry Vaughan, a genial dilettante who exercised terrible judgment in picking such friends as John Maragon and got Truman into all sorts of trouble. Despite repeated exposures in this column showing up Vaughan for what he was, Mr. Truman continued to trust him with handling highly sensitive FBI reports. It was Vaughan who either failed to deliver or else failed to emphasize the importance of the first two November and December, 1945, FBI reports on White.

Fred Vinson, however, considered an "old reliable" in government, took the position that White had a right to face the FBI informant who charged him with being part of a spy ring. Hoover in turn refused to reveal the informant, causing Vinson to recommend that White was innocent until proved guilty.

This may seem old fashioned in view of current public opinion. But at that time

public opinion was different. Ike and Stalin

At that time, the public had seen General Eisenhower receive from Stalin the highest decoration given by the Soviet. They had seen pictures of Eisenhower and Marshal Zhukov sitting together in Berlin night clubs. They knew that Eisenhower had stood at Lenin's tomb with Stalin in paying joint tribute to Soviet troops. And they read Ike's statement about a partnership between the two nations.

This was about the time Vinson was recommending that Harry White be transferred to the monetary fund—a period only six months after the end of the war with Japan. It was also about the time General Eisenhower was writing in his book: "Overshadowing all goals for us Americans was the contribution we locally might make toward establishing a working partnership between the United States and Russia."

So perhaps in this atmosphere it's understandable that Fred Vinson, then secretary of the treasury, might well conclude that the suspected Harry White could merely have been overzealous in promoting the Russian-American partnership Eisenhower talked about, and wanted more time to watch White and review the facts.

At any rate, I do not hesitate to review these facts in defense of one who is now dead and cannot defend himself.

THE FIRESIDE PULPIT

Too Much Taking Husbands, Wives for Granted by Other

By REV. GEORGE H. SWIFT

A good deal of unhappiness in modern family life is generated by one or the other or both husband and wife taking too much for granted. The withholding of any evidence of genuine appreciation and thankfulness can create very dull and drab situations about a home. He is indeed a thoughtless and ungrateful husband who does not thank his wife for anything, on the assumption that "surely she ought to know she is appreciated" without having to mention it from time to time.

What can be said about the husband's thoughtlessness can also be said about all too many wives. I am told that husbands crave a little attention as well as wives do. Both apparently like to be told how good they are. Anyway the home would be a happier place for the whole family if each of its members would give audible expression to that inner feeling of genuine love and appreciation.

Expressing thankfulness not only warms the heart, lightens

the burden, and gives the wife (or husband) the courage and inspiration to go on. But it also transforms the life of the person who, in this way, pours out his soul.

On Thanksgiving day, the national day for giving thanks to God, many people neglect to take part in a corporate service of thanksgiving. Just the same old story — "I don't have to say I am thankful, God knows anyway." So instead of recognizing the number one purpose for having a day for thanksgiving set forth, all too many people think only of their physical appetites, which is a secondary reason for celebrating the day, however important that may be. It all goes back to this: having no desire to thank the wife whom he has seen, how can the husband desire to thank God whom he has not seen?

Anyway, expressing thanks to God, to a wife, to a husband, to a friend, reacts on the thanks-giver himself and makes him a better person. It makes for better homes, it makes for nobler lives.

White Case Politics

By RAYMOND MOLEY

Those who can keep their passions under control in such a controversy as that which is associated with the name of the late Harry Dexter White can learn a great deal about the principles of politics.

One of the primary roles of politics is to accuse your adversary of playing politics. That is as elementary as the custom in the manly art of base-running of "inadvertently" knocking the ball out of the fielder's hand.

And so Democratic Chairman Mitchell brings grave charges of politics in answer to the Republican attack on Mr. Truman.

There is a bit of subtle humor in this, because after what we have seen of the political acumen of some members of the Administration, it passes comprehension that they know enough about politics to practice it at all.

We are witnessing a game of politics played by both parties. It is in the public interest that this matter be made a political issue. For only by the political process, which is free government at work, can the public ever get the truth and thus have the means of making a clear judgment.

This is the only realistic and healthful point of view with which a citizen can approach this matter. And delusion that the quality of government can be ascertained in any other way is merely to blink at the facts of human nature and at the Anglo-Saxon tradition of jurisprudence.

That tradition is to have two prejudiced, partial, interested advocates argue the case before a jury of so-called peers. They are peers in the nobility of ignorance.

Politics in a free nation applies the same principle on a larger scale and with more confusion, and with no balliff to keep order.

In the first place, the Republicans in office have learned, just as they learned in the middle of the campaign in 1952, that millions of people in this country are interested in two matters of great importance — communism and corruption. Somehow, the lessons of the 1952 campaign seemed to be lost for some months on the President and his Cabinet and his Palace Guard. They dawdled along, enjoying their shiny new offices, their perquisites, and their vacations.

Suddenly, and this preceded the recent election by several weeks, really practical politicians like Chairman Hall, who knew the grass roots, got over to the Attorney-General and others that the new administration was slipping in popularity. Rude jokes were current, like the crack attributed to a Presidential subordinate: "Why should they be mad at us? We haven't done anything."

They were further reminded by the wise, battle-bitten veterans that their goddess, Economy—Oeconomy it used to be spelled—is a pale virgin but sharp-eyed. She sees too well in all directions—those who get the jobs as well as those who get fired. She is not endeared to those who lurk about the clubhouses. But Justice is a lusty Amazon. She sees not at all. She is blindfolded. But she swings a massive sword.

And so the minister of Justice, Brownell, made the first of what will be many thrusts at the party out of power.

Thomas Burrows, the grocer at 226 Commercial street, had received a new line of the latest style of hanging lamps (Kerosene).

Ellis & Whitney were proprietors of the Favorite Livery stable at Trade and Commercial streets.

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POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

This Fellow's Biggest Asset's a Hole in Ground

By HAL BOYLE

New York (AP) — Lester B. Dill's biggest asset is a hole in the ground.

"I guess you'd be safe in saying I am the most successful private cave operator in America," admitted Lester, who is the Phineas T. Barnum of underground showmanship.

As a barefoot farm boy Lester used to love to explore the giant Meramath caverns, 55 miles southwest of St. Louis, where legend held that outlaw Jesse James and his gang hid and buried their loot.

In 1933 Dill achieved his boyhood dream and bought the cave, which he says is exceeded in size only by Kentucky's Mammoth Cave and New Mexico's Carlsbad Caverns. It is 26 miles of passageways, an underground river, and according to Dill "is celebrating its hundred millionth birthday this year." Nobody baked it a cake. The cave cost \$30,000, and Lester, who saw the business possibilities in it that Jesse James overlooked, now would not sell it for a million dollars.

"We've had 1,600,000 visitors since 1933," he said. "But

FEW SEE WELFARE ROLLS

Pendleton East Oregonian

As generally predicted when the measure was passed by the 1950 Oregon legislature, few people are availing themselves of the opportunity to look at public welfare rolls. According to an AP story, no one has asked to see the records in Clatsop or Umatilla counties, and we suspect the same report could be had from other counties.

The purpose of the law is to get "moochers" off the welfare rolls. We shall be interested in learning whether there has been any headway made in that direction.

OPPORTUNITY OVERLOOKED

Pendleton East Oregonian

Tommy Manville's ninth wife is suing for divorce and asks \$30,000 for her attorney. If some lawyer had opened an office a few years ago to handle only the business of Manville's wives he'd be a very rich man.

Of course, there have been mistakes on both sides. Brownell was not altogether precise in his language. Velde was clearly off side, not so much in summoning august personage but because he was running in opposition to the Jenner committee. The seasoned political opinion among Republicans is that Jenner is smarter and more effective.

But a series of political exchanges has been set off which will, in the long run, be very valuable to every right-thinking American citizen. He must be reminded from time to time that enemies of his republic can get into subordinate jobs and that careless work at the top permits them to stay and to accomplish their malignant purposes. And he must be reminded that the two-party system is the best means he can have of fighting such evils unless he wants to adopt some other form of government. There will be great noise, but there will be some light. And for that he can be thankful.

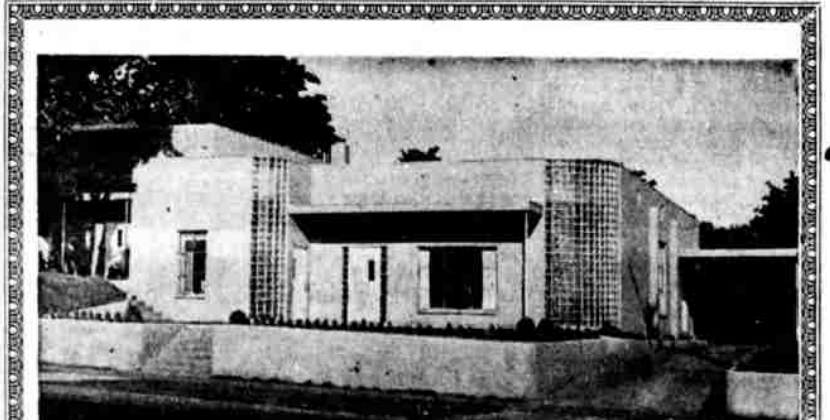
"Most folks, though, dream about owning an island, and I can't see why," said Lester. I feel hemmed in on an island."

The first thing Lester did on his arrival in Manhattan was to visit the subway — and he promptly got lost. He has a very low opinion of the subway.

"If it weren't for the ride. I doubt if anybody would pay their way in to see it," he observed.

The subway charges 15 cents, and the customers come out scowling. Lester charges groupups \$1.50 to walk through his subway, and they emerge humming "God Bless America."

"The only difference is in showmanship," said Lester, modestly.



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