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CRITICISM OF BENSON COLLAPSING

The fight against Secretary of Agriculture Benson's reorganization of the Soil Conservation Service shows signs of collapsing just as a congressional committee prepared to open hearings on the proposal. Instead of public airing of complaints, the committee may try to find out how the bitter controversy ever started.

Walter S. David, Jr., of League City, Texas, president of the National Association of Soil Conservation districts, a leading critic of the proposed reorganization, which sparked the campaign, has announced that he is willing and ready to help Benson make the revamped department work. Evidently no one had found out what it is all about, and few of Benson's critics have.

Davis and his association, which includes as members more than 2,000 local soil conservation districts, centered their criticism on changes affecting the department's Soil Conservation Service, particularly the abolition of seven regional offices. Benson said he wished to strengthen state offices.

Davis carried his opposition to members of congress and was instrumental in getting a house government operations subcommittee to schedule hearings on December 3-4 on the department reorganization.

In a letter to members of his organization, Davis said he had wired Benson congratulations on the latter's statement of November 18 giving public assurance that "soil and water conservation is one of the basic necessities of American agriculture."

In a weekly news letter to members, Davis said it is "our big job now" to "help the secretary and his staff make good on their promises of a 'stronger, more dynamic' technical agency . . ."

He also said he has invited Benson to be the chief speaker at the NASCD national convention in February. Benson's reorganization plans, generally seem devised to decentralize federal agriculture services by eliminating bureaucratic red tape and surplus employees and strengthen cooperative local and state participation. The hullabaloo against him is largely political. A successful farmer himself he should be given a chance to make good on his program for efficiency and economy.—G. P.

DULLES ANSWERS MCCARTHY

Secretary of State Dulles' pointed remarks Tuesday obviously aimed at none other than Wisconsin's well known junior senator, indicate that the administration has decided to stand up and fight McCarthy's attacks upon it. And most administration supporters will agree that it's about time.

It sounds fantastic, but there are repeated rumors that McCarthy, well financed by wealthy admirers, is out to win the Republican presidential nomination in 1956. Certainly McCarthy's tactics lend color to the suspicion. He is out to harass and undermine the administration in every way he can. He is a lone wolf on whom any sense of party loyalty rests lightly indeed.

If this is a fair size-up we think the administration has much to gain and little to lose by meeting McCarthy head on whenever he gets off key, which is repeatedly. President Eisenhower has suffered in the eyes of many thoughtful people by such tolerance as he has extended to McCarthy and others of his ilk in the interests of party harmony.

But there will be no party harmony except on McCarthy's own terms, which are unacceptable to Eisenhower and other moderates. So McCarthy's attacks must be answered and his meddlings with administration policy resisted. This done the administration will gain stature in the eyes of good people of all parties and gain much more strength than is lost, in and out of congress.

N. E. DODD FOR SENATOR

Democratic kingmakers are doing neither their party nor N. E. Dodd of Baker county any good by trying to boom him for a senatorial candidacy against Guy Cor-
don next year.

Dodd is a very capable man whom this writer has known personally since 1925. Formerly a leading farmer in his locality, he has risen in the federal service, apparently on merit. Formerly undersecretary of agriculture, he is soon to retire as director general of the U.N. food and agriculture organization.

All this is highly creditable, but Dodd has had no experience as a vote seeker. He was not a politician before he left Baker county. We cannot recall that he ever sought any office there. He has been away from Oregon many years and is now in Europe. He is 75 years of age.

It is unlikely that Dodd could muster the oomph and sizzle a Democrat must have to become the first of his party to win a U.S. senator's toga in Oregon since 1914. He would be a very creditable candidate, but almost certainly a loser.

THE BIG BANK WINS A REPRIEVE

The Federal Reserve Board's sortie into trust busting received a probable fatal setback Monday when the U.S. Supreme Court refused to review a lower court decision freeing Transamerica Corporation from antitrust charges.

Trans-America is the investment branch of the Bank of America, the world's largest, once known as the Bank of Italy, which became the financial colossus of California. The government agency sought to compel it to dispose of its holdings in 47 west coast banks. It claimed that Trans-America was creating a banking monopoly.

The court of appeals in Philadelphia reversed this order on the ground that the charge was not proved and the ruling of the highest court probably closes the case. And it is significant that all but one member of the present supreme court was appointed by either President Roosevelt or by President Truman.

School Executives Will Convene Here

School principals and administrators, including the elementary, junior and senior high levels and county organizations will meet in Salem December 28 for an all-day conference.

The sessions will be held at Parrish Junior High School where Milo Cameron, Oregon City junior high principal and president of the Oregon Association of School Administra-

tors, will preside. Personnel policies will be discussed by the educators.

The following day, December 29, the Oregon State School Board association will convene at Parrish. However, it is expected a number of board members will sit in with the administrators during a portion of the latter's deliberations.

S. E. Brogotti of Helix is president of the school board association. This group will discuss problems peculiar to the operation of schools from the directors viewpoint.

EARLY BIRDS

THEY JUST CAN'T WAIT TO OPEN THEIR CHAMPAGNE



WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Life's No Bed of Roses For Americans in Moscow

By DREW PEARSON

Washington — Life in the American embassy in Moscow is no bed of roses for our diplomatic and military personnel stationed there. Here's a capsule picture of some of their problems:

Prices—A dessert ice-cream cake for six people costs \$10. A five-pound roast of beef is \$15. Oranges, pears, and melons are usually well above \$1 apiece, and even then are hard to get. . . . As a result of shortages and high prices, 90 per cent of the food consumed by Americans in Moscow comes out of U. S. tin cans. The embassy even drinks powdered milk to avoid Moscow's unpasteurized milk and unspiced cows. . . . Russian citizens working around the embassy plead for small quantities of powdered milk. Russian maids employed by U. S. diplomats receive \$200 per month. But a pair of Russian-made shoes costs the maids \$175.

Personalities — Ambassador Chip Bohlen is as popular with the embassy staff as he is unpopular with the Russians. "The commies are scared to death of Chip," says one embassy staff member. "He knows them so well they actually think he can read their minds." . . . One of Bohlen's chief headaches is keeping peace between the diplomatic and military personnel stationed in Moscow. There's constant friction between the two groups. The U. S. military clique complains that the diplomats "hog" everything and look down their state department noses at military colleagues. Diplomats counter by claiming the boys in uniform "don't have any idea what the score is."

"Protection"—All the men at the embassy are under 24-hour surveillance by the Russian secret police. But the embassy wives usually travel around Moscow "unattended." As a result, most of the women folk have a better idea than their husbands of what the average Russian in the street is thinking. . . . All Russian servants employed at the embassy work for the secret police. One of the maids, Dora, has been employed at the embassy so long that she first met Ambassador Bohlen when he was a lowly third secretary. Dora reports regularly to the secret police but she's kept on at the embassy because any replacement would also be required to report to the police. . . . Recently one Russian maid asked her U. S. employer for permission to leave the house for a half hour. "I'll be right back," she explained. "I just have to go down to the police station to report on you." . . . The Russians have planted secret microphones in the homes of all embassy personnel. They're usually referred to as either "George" or "Junior." A visitor leaving Russia with a copy of a Soviet encyclopedia is always halted at the border by customs officers who seize the book, tear out the three pages devoted to praise of Marshal Beria, then return it as OK to leave Soviet Russia.

Note — Vishinsky's denunciation of the United States over the price of South African gold almost matched his denunciation of Premier Malap of South Africa for his suppression of South African Negroes.

BRITISH BEBOP Selwyn Lloyd, British state minister at the United Nations, is getting quite a reputation as an expert on American bebop. And he deserves it.

Newspapermen noted some time ago, after Vishinsky had delivered one of his usual diatribes at the United Nations. State Minister Lloyd rose and said:

"In the language of American bebop, 'Dig that broken record.'"

"It will be interesting," added Minister Lloyd, "to see how the interpreters translate that."

At a U. N. reception some time later, Minister Lloyd was asked where he had learned American bebop.

"I heard some G.I.s talking about Christine," he replied, "you know, that girl who changed her sex. One of them had a picture of her, and he said: 'Dig that convertible!'"

CAPITAL CAPSULES Word has leaked through the iron curtain that the Kremlin is organizing its own world labor movement to compete with the international labor organization. This means the communists will be waging a new drive to woo workers away from the free unions of the democracies. . . . Air Force Chief of Staff Gen-

eral "Nate" Twining, just back from a European inspection tour, reports that his most hair-raising experience was watching an Italian air alert. When the alarm sounded, Italian jets scrambled into the air from every direction, as many as four taking off at the same time. Miraculously, there were no crashes in the mad-dash alert. . . . Another warning sign has appeared on the economic horizon. Latest figures show the nation's money supply has not been growing the way it should in a healthy economy. Since mid-year, the money supply has swelled only enough to take care of seasonal market demands. Bank loans have dropped off alarmingly.

While there are fewer newspapers, and rivalry exists only in the larger cities, there actually is no lack of competition in the gathering of news nor in free expression of editorial opinion. More people today are reading more newspapers than ever before. People also are reading more magazines; magazines devoting space to interpretative articles and editorial opinion. Never before in our history have people had more access to news, information and opinion. Nor, unfortunately, have we ever before been bombarded with so much propaganda.

World Shrinking in Size Only a few years ago nearly every community had its own newspaper. A town of only a few hundred people could support a weekly paper. Small towns had rival dailies, usually political organs.

But we didn't have fast transportation in those days. A metropolitan newspaper was usually a couple of days old by the time it came through the mail. We were bound together by rail lines. People

OPEN FORUM

Does Money Go to Those of Most Need?

To the Editor: I read in the paper where a woman tried to rob a bank. She had four children, no job, and no money.

I also have heard it cried to high heaven "Give to the Community Chest, the Red Feather, the Red Cross, and several other setups but I have my first time to see or hear of any one trying to find out who needs assistance.

I read an article in the Readers Digest, the heading of which went something like this: "Do you know where your money goes that you give to charitable organizations?" I wonder.

TERRY RUSH, 935 Oak St.

JUDGE SPEEDS

Rumford, Me. (AP) — Superior Judge Albert Beliveau was fined \$10 and costs yesterday for speeding 70 miles an hour in a 45 mile an hour zone.

Papers Combine

CHARLES V. STANTON in Roseburg News-Review

Salem newspapers, the Oregon Statesman and Capital Journal, announce consolidation of mechanical and business departments. Charles A. Sprague, publisher of The Statesman, and Bernard Mainwaring, who recently purchased The Journal, report that the two papers will continue to be published as at present. The Statesman, morning and Sunday, and the Capital Journal, evenings except Sunday. Separate news and editorial departments will be maintained, but a joint mechanical plant will be located in The Statesman's new building.

The economies of consolidated mechanical operation should benefit both newspapers, while preserving competition in news and editorial fields.

The Salem situation is unusual in that Salem reportedly is the smallest city in the United States with two rival daily newspapers. In many other cities of like size, costs of publication forced consolidation or suspension of one of the other competitive papers many years ago. The trend toward consolidation started immediately after the first World War.

No Lack of Competition

In late years the newspaper casualty list has grown steadily. This condition has been brought about by a rise in costs out of proportion to ability to raise advertising and subscription prices. The low of diminishing returns has forced out of business those papers unable to make necessary adjustments. More and more papers have been sold to chain operators, able through ownership of several properties, to effect economies not possible for independent publishers.

Many people profess to see a dangerous situation in this trend toward fewer newspapers. Politicians harp on the theme that the public is denied competitive news coverage and editorial opinion.

Exhaustive studies show that with but few exceptions newspapers in noncompetitive fields are more thorough in their news reports and more responsible in editorial expression than in localities where rivalry exists. Non-competitive newspapers, these reports aver, are more appreciative of their responsibility to the public.

But while there are fewer newspapers, and rivalry exists only in the larger cities, there actually is no lack of competition in the gathering of news nor in free expression of editorial opinion. More people today are reading more newspapers than ever before. People also are reading more magazines; magazines devoting space to interpretative articles and editorial opinion. Never before in our history have people had more access to news, information and opinion. Nor, unfortunately, have we ever before been bombarded with so much propaganda.

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POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Boyle Reaches Into Oddity Almanac for Interesting Items

By MAL BOYLE

New York (AP) — Notes from the Oddity Almanac, designed to educate your baby sitter and put the kids to sleep.

Has your wife been badgering you to buy her an air conditioning machine? . . . Why not surprise her with an old-fashioned hand-woven fan this Christmas? . . . The fan has been a sign of exalted rank among women since the 14th century B.C. in Egypt, when it was considered an emblem of happiness or repose. . . . In ancient India the fan was a sacred symbol, in old Japan a symbol of eternity. Fans have accented the Christmas gift problems. . . . Industry-Marches-On Dept: It is said that the quill used by Thomas Jefferson to write the Declaration of Independence came from one of his own geese at Monticello. . . . America's goose quill pen tycoon today is Lewis Glaser of New Haven, Conn., and some 1,000 tourists a month buy his pens at President Jefferson's old home. . . . The quill was one of the first pens to write successfully above water, but it has been found to be equally legible under water — that is, when employed aboard a dry submarine.

Almanac Health Hints: There are cases on record of children found to be allergic to cosmetics used by their mothers. . . . Don't let your son remain a juvenile delinquent, lady, if by changing your face powder you can get his little schoolmates to vote him "the boy most likely to succeed."

Salem 27 Years Ago

By BEN MAXWELL

December 2, 1926

No provision had been made in the county budget for a county agent. Marion county court had decided to place the question of an agent upon the ballot for public voting.

Warfare had again flared between pupils of Eugene high school and Principal J. G. Swan. When he appeared before the student body and the entire faculty Principal Swan had been doused with white-wash concealed in a bucket over the stage.

Farmers in the Sidney-Talbot region had shown but little interest in growing sugar beets at prices offered by the Utah-Idaho Sugar Co.

Salem Longfellow club had decided to reorganize, said Dr. Ansley G. Bates, president. The club had as its objective the making of an easier life for over-length people, more comfortable theater seats, higher tables and longer bath tubs.

Rhodes Furnishings for Men, new men's store in the Bligh block, had a formal opening.

Methodist Sunday school of Amity had prepared a cantata, "Hope of Christmas Day" for presentation the day before Christmas.

Total tax for Marion county for 1927 had been determined at \$1,182,647 by the county levying board. (Now: \$6,436,929.79).

A 90-mile gale had swooshed along the Oregon coast breaking power poles and creating general havoc.

Merry Go Round club had been entertained by Mr. and Mrs. John H. McNary at their North Summer street home.

lived near railroads. The automobile freed us from dependence upon rail lines. Motor vehicles forced highway systems and permitted faster transportation. As newspapers were forced into consolidation by rising costs, they improved their distribution systems, using automobiles, trucks and, more recently, airplanes.

Thus the newspaper reader today has available his weekly newspaper, the small town daily, and a metropolitan paper, all within a few hours of publication. He also receives various magazines, listens to radio and watches television.

People who profess to see a dangerous lack of competition in the field of news and editorial opinion either are blind or are closing their eyes to the evidence.

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