

Capital Journal

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FINANCIAL WEAKNESS OF THE CHAMBER

Chamber of Commerce directors are doing some soul searching in the wake of a frank report on the local organization by Ben Lawsche of San Francisco, a veteran U.S. Chamber man who made a survey of it a few weeks ago.

This report, barring a number of admitted and some other alleged weaknesses, reached the board members along with a financial report that shows the Chamber running steadily behind and virtually without a cash balance. Not all its bills are paid either.

Retiring President Russel Pratt left recommendations that the Chamber slash expenses drastically by reducing the four member staff to two in order to pay off indebtedness and build a cash balance. He said that if an assistant manager is retained his duties should be to solicit new members and push collections of pledges.

What is the matter with the Chamber's finances? Not that it spends too much. The budget is a modest one, much smaller in proportion to the size of this city than was spent in the Idaho town from which this writer came to Salem less than a year ago. A breakdown shows that not enough is being spent on some vital projects, such as agriculture, tourist promotion and conventions, to name only three.

Why isn't enough money coming in to finance an adequate program? Is it lack of members? No, the Chamber has a bigger membership than most such organizations, in proportion to local population.

The trouble is that the members do not pay enough. Of 834 members, 594 pay \$25 or less and only 20 pay more than \$100. This is an unusually large number for the low brackets and an unusually low one for the higher. The majority of Salem firms pay about half as much to the Chamber of Commerce as they would if they were located in many another town.

It should be added that Salem business concerns are also supporting another agency, the Salem Industrial Development Council, which does a job undertaken by the Chamber in most towns. Even so, the Chamber's support is inadequate. Salem's business community will suffer unless it is substantially increased, especially projects like the three we mentioned above, which will definitely bring additional dollars into local business channels.

MCCARTHY SOME PUMPKINS

The late Senator Harry Lane of Oregon, during his first visit to the capital made the comment that "a United States senator is some pumpkins in Washington," to express his surprise at the deference shown and the power accorded to the office. In comparison little attention is paid to a representative.

The effect of this power, in many instances develops a megalomania of grand illusions and exalted egotism—and sometimes a messianic complex. There have been many examples of this among our senators as well as other public officials, especially the "self-made man who worships his creator." The senate always has them. Their chief resource is a self righteous demagoguery. The late Huey Long, who aimed at the presidency on a platform of "every man a king," was the only one of many thus afflicted. They all have their fanatical followers, chiefly morons.

Senator McCarthy of Wisconsin evidently imagines himself the biggest pumpkin in the senate, hence his campaign for the presidency on an anti-Red spy mania of largely unproven accusations known as "McCarthyism."

While disavowing any idea of challenging President Eisenhower's leadership he has issued a call for a nationwide "write the president" campaign designed to reverse one phase of the administration's foreign policy. In other words, he invokes an unprecedented unofficial plebiscite against the president and congress for not antagonizing our friendly allies in the United Nations by cutting off foreign aid unless they cut off all trade with nations behind the iron and bamboo curtains.

Dulles stated the administration policy and Ike approved that "U.S. dollar aid to friendly nations does not give us the right to dictate their foreign trade policies," although most have agreed to ban strategic war exports. And the president declared that "unity among free nations is our only hope for survival."

The asked for barrage of recall telegrams will have a boomerang effect on the blatant Wisconsinite, though spy scared fanatics will respond. It will probably prove that McCarthy has grown too big for his breeches and not as big a pumpkin in national and international affairs as he imagined. It will probably be his "come-uppance." —G. P.

FALL GUY IN THE CAN STRIKE

When the principal tin can factories of the country were tied up this week by a strike we made a mental note that if it had to come there couldn't be a better time from the standpoint of public inconvenience.

The 1953 crop must be nearly all packed by now. In any event the canneries would surely have their supply of cans on hand. A strike that might prove disastrous in summer or early fall could be left to the participants to settle at their leisure at this time of the year.

But now it develops that there is a "fall guy" after all. The citrus growers of California, Texas and Florida harvest their fruit during the winter and must have millions of cans for the portion of the crop that goes into cans. If the strike isn't settled pretty soon they face a major disaster.

In our closely integrated society you can't pinch a dog's tail in Chicago or Pittsburgh without hearing a lusty yelp from the far reaches of the country. We're all in the boat together, to ride, sink or swim.

DEMPSEY 'COMES CLEAN'

Jack Dempsey, quizzed by reporters regarding a report that he and a wealthy Florida widow are to wed, admits that they are "talking about it," but adds "we are not yet engaged."

Here is revealed one of the penalties of fame—or notoriety if you prefer to think of it that way. The ordinary Joe Doaks can do all the "negotiating" the object of his affections will permit without ever once being put on the spot by the press and forced to issue a statement.

Dempsey retired from professional boxing before most of the present day boxers were born, but fame still pursues him and takes its toll in public curiosity even in such extremely personal matters as pitching the woo.

Those who've never had celebrity status often long for it, we imagine, but we also suspect that many of those who've had it wished upon them long for the blessings of obscurity they once had.

WHICH CAME FIRST?



WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Ike Shocked at Reports of McCarthy Reaction Abroad

By DREW PEARSON

Washington—Secretary John Foster Dulles' blast at Senator McCarthy was made only after the most careful consideration and after the state department had asked American ambassadors all over the world to cable reaction to the McCarthy-Harry Dexter White-Truman controversy.

When a summary of these cables was placed before the president he was so shocked that he instructed the national security council to make a study of what could be done abroad to counteract the unfavorable publicity.

Without exception, every ambassador cabled that American prestige had hit a new level by the combined attack on ex-President Truman by the Eisenhower administration and the subsequent attack on the Eisenhower administration by McCarthy.

Some presidential advisers such as Gen. Wilton Persons, didn't want the administration to tangle with McCarthy, thought he should be ignored, not answered. Others, however, sided with Dulles and the state department, felt that a blunt statement must be made showing the American foreign policy was being dictated by the administration, not by the senator from Wisconsin. Hence the Dulles statement.

Note—A last year's Pearson prediction, Dec. 28, 1952, read as follows: "McCarthy's appetite for publicity will be stronger than his loyalty to the republican party, and his eventual target will be Secretary of State Dulles."

Some of the White House staff have been trying to figure ways of curbing the president's pleasant "off-the-cuff" remarks. They're particularly unhappy about his agricultural ads.

Earlier this week, for example, President Eisenhower inspected an agriculture department exhibit showing the erosion to farm land when conservation is not followed. Ike studied the ruts and gullies worn by unchecked water, then, turning to Secretary Benson and newsmen, he said:

"I'd like to see the whole appropriation for this (soil conservation) work go up." He added that he didn't know just how much more money should be spent, but he knew that the funds should be increased.

It was a natural offhand remark, and obviously Ike meant it. But it's going to cause some political embarrassment for the reason that it doesn't jibe with the administration's program.

Last January, outgoing President Truman asked congress to appropriate \$15,566,000 for upstream water conservation. President Eisenhower, however, cut this figure by more than one-half—to \$7,000,000. In addition, Ike's budget knocked \$6,000,000 from the amount to be spent next year by the agricultural conservation program.

Words vs. Deeds
Personally, Ike has always been a strong champion of soil-conservation methods. Last year, for example, he said that "the only trouble with this kind of conservation work is that it is moving too slowly." But his budget spells out a

OPEN FORUM

Water Fluoridation Delayed by Politics

To the Editor:

It is with heartfelt gratitude that I write to congratulate you on your fine editorial on fluoridation. So many influential persons here in Salem say they personally favor fluoridation, however, for political or business reasons cannot take a definite stand.

I am just a housewife and mother and I certainly do not know all about politics and business, but I do know and understand about what fluoridation can do to help our children's dental health.

It does seem too bad that while adults wait and quibble our children are left waiting and wanting when we actually have a proven benefit for them—fluoridated water.

BETTY LOU CROGHAN

Commends Governor On Milk Price Boost

To the Editor:

Governor Patterson is to be complimented on his "let the public be heard" policy, enunciated by him in the milk case when an attempt was made to step up the milk price one cent per quart at an unannounced meeting of the Milk Control Board.

Too bad that policy was not followed with respect to the 20 per cent surcharge attached to our electric bills. A one cent per quart increase on the milk is only a drop in the bucket as compared with 20 percent increase in the electric bills. A public hearing might not have changed the results, but certainly it would have resulted in a better understanding of the factors involved—after all, that is the American way.

ALF. O. NELSON
Silverton

This Woman Would Befriend Mrs. Tabor

To the Editor:

I read Terry Rush's letter. It speaks for a lot of people.

According to the news we read, Mrs. Tabor was released in Portland on her own recognizance. Fine and dandy! But what does this mean, except this worried mother is on her own again. To become just as tired, distraught and destitute as before.

This mother needs to be with her children. They need her! I believe this is what Terry Rush meant.

I should like to be a friend to her. If she or someone else would phone me or send me her address I would appreciate it.

PEARL V. McVEY
1343 6th Street
West Salem, Ph. 38082

WHO DOES HE MEAN?

Moro Journal
Perhaps the most tiresome person in the world is a politician who thinks that he is the only one in the whole world who speaks for the people.

USED TO HARD BUMPS
Silverton Appeal-Tribune
Having survived two decades of hard knocks we GOPers shouldn't worry about a few recent election bumps.

We Must Plan

In a little more than two years — from April, 1950, to July 1, 1952, to be exact—the population of the western states increased by nearly seven per cent. Or roughly double the national average.

Now, for Washington state, a population of 3,020,000 is forecast for 1960—a scant 6 years away. This would be an increase of 641,037 beyond the 1950 count.

The old-fashioned inclination has been to think of such increases in terms of neighbors and customers, and that is correct—so far as it goes.

But we must also note that the labor force of the state will increase from 857,611 to 1,208,000 in the present decade.

In other words, these new people must be considered not simply as customers and neighbors. For nearly every one of them—certainly every one of the so-called "labor force"—has himself something to sell to us, and moreover it will be something we must buy.

He must, in short, sell his skill or talent or time.

Said G. J. Ticoulat in Seattle recently: "Today business and industry have two functions. The first is to manufacture and sell products. The second function, and equally important, is to purchase labor."

And who is Mr. Ticoulat? A dreamer? A labor leader? No. Mr. Ticoulat is a vice president of Crown-Zellerbach Corporation. And his conception of future population as labor to be hired, before they can be viewed as customers, is sound thinking shared by the best type of business leaders today.

This conception not only could have great effect on how this region meets its new population problem in the next five to ten years—it very positively must have such effect on that situation.

This newspaper has been urging a resurgence of studied interest in coordinated regional, state, county and municipal planning. As one step toward that we have recommended study and approval of the proposal for a Puget Sound planning body.

Now we have a second specific suggestion. It is that study be given to some practical method whereby Seattle and county planning commissions might be merged at such points where joint study and action is appropriate.

These new people will not be customers unless they can sell their own product, which is labor.

It is a big problem, far more complex potentially than was the similar problem in advance of the region's growth during and since the war. It is a problem worthy of the best thought and effort Seattle and the Pacific Northwest can offer.

We had better set up the machinery for our physical planning as quickly as we can—and at the same time begin to think of our future in terms of people we shall see and touch and know, instead of thinking only in comfortable words like "population" and "growth."

POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Comedian Suggests 'Court Jester' to Aid Diplomats

By MAL BOYLE

New York (AP)—Politics always has produced some of the nation's greatest unconscious comedians.

But Henny Youngman, "the comic's comic," has a new idea. On the theory that a good pro can always beat an amateur, he thinks it's time to bring a few conscious career comedians into government.

"The people can't help but benefit," he said. "And they'll at least get something new to laugh at."

"What I have in mind is that these comedians will be something like the king's jester in the old days. When the regular government jokers—or the appointed diplomats—get their skulls all heated up in debate, you call a 15-minute break and bring in a professional comic to cool both sides off."

"Any comic who can't make a crowd laugh in 15 minutes is in the wrong business—or maybe needs a couple of new writers. Anyway, the diplomats get a few laughs while they are resting their brains during this time out, and maybe when they start arguing again they'll make more sense because they've got less steam in their heads."

Youngman, who has originated so many jokes that even Milton Berle can't remember them all, feels that staff government comedians would be particularly useful right now in the United Nations and to settle major labor disputes.

"Look how many strikes you may prevent," he said, "if the guys barking at each other across a table would stop and share a belly laugh."

Henny, who says he hasn't bothered to copyright his idea, offered to guinea pig the experiment himself and become the first U.S. federal government comedian, "provided the pay is right, and naturally I get a free hand in picking my staff, and top billing, of course."

"I even got a few hundred jokes ready. No, I won't give you any samples. I don't want to tip my mitt."

Like most professional comedians today, Youngman, Brooklyn's gift to the world of jasper, feels the nation has let a lot of moss cover its funnyness in recent years.

"People are hungry for a chance to laugh," he said, "but now they feel they have to have a reason. That's why practical jokes are coming back. People got so they resented them. Now they enjoy a practical joke again, as long as it is really funny, and not cruel."

Are practical jokes ever anything but cruel?
"Why, sure," said Henny. "If you want to cobweb a guy, really mix him up, you just

send him a telegram saying 'Ignore first wire.'

"Or, take another example. Suppose you go through a toll bridge. Well, you pay for the guy in the car behind you. He'll drive 50 miles trying to find out who you are and why you paid for him."

Henny said that in his vaudeville days a prank was to sneak into another performer's room, fill his bathtub with hot water and pour in several packages of jello.

"It'd take him days to get all that jello out of the tub," recalled Henny, and added reflectively:

"If times were tough, he might even decide to eat it."

Henny's other favorite gag was to have a friend at a nearby restaurant table summoned to the phone and then put by his plate a printed card saying, "The management requests that you please leave quietly."

Well, fellow voters, it's up to you. If you want a paid practical joker in government, just wire your congressman. But will he want any professional competition?

Salem 18 Years Ago

By BEN MAXWELL
December 4, 1935

J. A. McLean, Eugene hotelman, had been elected chairman of the recently appointed state capital construction committee. Dr. H. H. Olinger, Salem, had been named vice chairman.

Press dispatches were saying that the New Deal was remodeling the face of America with its \$4,000,000,000 work program. Needed to the number of 3,500,000 were employed on almost every type of project from generating power by trapping the tides in Maine to farm to market roads in the Ozarks.

China Clipper had left Midway island for Honolulu on its pioneering mail flight between California and Manila.

Secretary Ickes had declared that economic security must be assured the average citizen if democracy in the United States is not to be supplanted by fascism.

At Portland dressed turkeys for the holiday trade were bringing 23c to 25c a pound.

Yvonne Dionne had proved best actress when she and her four quintuplet sisters had made their debut before the sound camera.

Best beef, pork and lamb in several years had appeared in northwest markets for the holiday season and at low prices.

Mary Schultz of Salem and Sylvia Margulis were to be featured playing the Bach D minor concerto for two violins at a matinee concert of Portland Symphony orchestra.

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