

Capital Journal

An Independent Newspaper—Established 1888

BERNARD MAINWARING, Editor and Publisher
GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor EmeritusPublished every afternoon except Sunday at 280 North
Church St. Phone 22441.Full Length Wire Service of the Associated Press and The United Press.
The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to the use for publication of
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also news published therein.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

By Carrier: Monthly, \$1.35; Six Months, \$7.50; One Year, \$13.00 By Mail In
Oregon: Monthly, 50c; Six Months, \$4.50; One Year, \$7.50 By Mail Outside Oregon:
Monthly \$1.35; Six Months, \$7.50; One Year, \$13.00

RHEE-RIGHT IN FREEING POW

The Communists never have shown good faith in anything connected with Korea, and their present attitude on the release of war prisoners is to delay their release indefinitely.

The Reds demand that they be given a full 90 days of actual talking in which to convince Anti-Red prisoners that they should return to the Communists. Yet in the 90 days of talks ending Dec. 28, they conducted prisoner interviews only 10 days, and on their past record their interviews would take at least two years to complete.

The same tactics have been applied to the proposed Korean peace conference and practiced throughout the long and bitter negotiations up to the present time. New attempts now being made will probably meet a similar fate.

India's position as a neutral guardian of the POW continues to encourage Red stalling. Now that the Allies have announced that they will stick by their original agreement to release 23,000 war prisoners to civilian status, on January 23, the Indians have balked, voted against it and announced they will have a plan of their own, another essay on Red appeasement.

This Indian plan would return the POW to the side which held them originally, sidestepping controversial issues and virtually admitting that the neutral commission had failed in its task, but it would permit India to escape Communist censure for prisoners released.

Both the United States and Britain have repeatedly rejected such Communist proposals and the prisoners will regain their freedom on January 23.

United Nations Commander Gen. John E. Hull is completing arrangements in Taipei for the release of 14,000 anti-Red Chinese to Formosa. Approximately 8,000 anti-Red Korean prisoners will remain in South Korea and presumably will join the South Korean Army. He has announced there absolutely will be no more negotiations on the subject.

All this was foreseen by President Rhee of South Korea, who freed many thousands last summer and would have freed all had not the United Nations interfered, stopped release and reprimanded and threatened him for it. The whole senseless mess could have been avoided and Korean peace been nearer if the Allies had let him complete liberation as the Communists would have done if the conditions had been reversed.—G. P.

TROUBLE FOR FARM PROGRAM

Congressional reaction to President Eisenhower's proposal that the government follow a policy of flexible price supports instead of firm, high supports is generally unfavorable, even among Republicans.

Prevailing sentiment appears to be for the high supports, and it is politically slanted. The average senator and congressman from a farm state or district believes the high supports will make votes while the flexible supports will lose them. Simple as that. If a man wants to remain in office he'd better vote in such a way as to attract support in the coming elections.

The dangers of the high support policy are obvious. They lead to high production and mounting surpluses unless there is a limitation of acreage. If acreage is a selected basic crop like wheat is limited there will be a shift to other products and surpluses will accumulate there.

From this flows an increasing federal control over agriculture, warehouses bulging with surpluses, the government committed to spend more and more money maintaining agriculture prices at an artificial level. And sometimes as in the case of butter, diverting the consumer's dollar into lower priced competitive products while the government buys and stores what the people ought to be eating.

Nobody has a complete answer to the problem, but Eisenhower and Benson are at least willing to face up to it with a constructive program to relieve the farmer of danger of disaster without guaranteeing him a profit regardless of how much he raises.

What congress seems likely to do may win re-election for members and may keep the Republicans in control, but the present feeling indicates that little thought will be given to a workable long range solution.

However maybe this is just too much to expect in an election year.

IT WASN'T NEEDED

It will be remembered that President Eisenhower and the federal treasury's officials urgently called upon congress to raise the \$275,000,000 limit on the national debt before congress adjourned last summer.

Although the Capital Journal has been a pretty consistent supporter of the administration we bucked the administration on this issue and sided with those in congress and out who insisted that the government could scrape along until January without going over the present limit.

Further, it was argued that if the limit is lifted there will be less incentive to hold government spending down than if the debt ceiling is just above the current level and may not be exceeded. Admittedly this involved some risk, but congress could always be called back if necessary. It seemed a risk worth taking.

January is here now and congress is back in session. The government did get along all right under the old debt ceiling. The debt got within a few hundred millions of the ceiling, but didn't quite touch it and the government was never without funds to pay its current bills.

There is little doubt that spending was less in the past six months than if congress had taken a complacent attitude toward freer spending and the debt increase this would have involved.

Sometimes it pays to hold tight.

Fantani Gets Party Support

ROME (U) — Premier Designate Amintore Fanfani Wednesday continued his second round of consultations aimed at forming an Italian government.

The 46-year-old Christian Democrat, who was given the mandate Tuesday by President Luigi Einaudi, met first of all with parliamentary leaders of his own party.

Tuesday night, the central committee of the Christian Democrat

Party, whose secretary is former Premier Alcide De Gasperi, issued a communique in which it stated that the party stood solidly behind Fanfani.

Bishop W. C. Martin Returns From Korea

SAN FRANCISCO (U) — Bishop William C. Martin, president of the National Council of Churches, arrived from Korea Tuesday night and said "the army is doing all that could be asked" to satisfy the spiritual needs of American troops.

Martin was reporting on his just-completed tour of the Korean front.

YOU CAN COME OUT NOW!



WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

'Biggest Liar of the Year,' Rayburn Calls Fellow Solon

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON — It didn't get in the papers, but ex-Speaker Sam Rayburn of Texas recently called a colleague a liar.

Democratic Congressman Tom Steed of Oklahoma, a friend of Rayburn's, was explaining how he had got on the "wrong road" while driving to Washington and almost arrived late for the opening of congress.

"It happened like this," said Steed. "I had left Alabama and was driving through Georgia when I came to a fork in the road. The north fork led to Washington, and the south fork led to Florida. It was late at night, and somehow or other I took the south fork by mistake."

"Well, sir, the next thing I knew I was headed down through Florida and wasn't able to turn around until I reached Miami. There I was stranded in Miami on New Year's day, with nothing to do, when I learned by pure coincidence that the Oklahoma Sooners were playing Maryland university in the Orange Bowl football game."

"Under the circumstances," continued the Oklahomaan, "there was no alternative for me but to go see that football game."

"Tom, that qualifies you as the biggest liar of the year," retorted Rayburn. "I won't embarrass you by asking how you managed to get tickets for the game at the last minute, because I happen to know they were sold out days in advance."

MOUNTAINS OF SPUDS
Most controversial part of the farm price support operation under Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brannan was support of potatoes. It caused him more headaches than any other part of the complex farm program.

Because potatoes can't be shipped long distances, and rot or swell when sent abroad, virtual mountains of spuds piled up in Maine and New Jersey. Pictures of them were featured in the newspapers — alongside photos of the perplexed and perspiring secretary of agriculture.

Finally Brannan got rid of price supports for potatoes.

In his farm message to congress this week, however, President Eisenhower recommended that price supports for potatoes be restored again.

Note — Though Ike proposes reversing Brannan on potatoes, he recommended the Brannan plan for wool. Quoth the Wall Street Journal: "It's the Brannan plan in sheep's clothing."

EX-PRESIDENTS
Sen. Warren Magnuson, Washington democrat and one of the few bachelors left in the senate, has introduced a bill that would make Harry Truman and Herbert Hoover members of the National Security Council.

Under Eisenhower, this council has been given extremely wide powers, can fix the size of the armed services, has taken over many decisions hitherto made by the commander-in-chief himself. Not long ago, for instance, Eisenhower informed Secretary of the Army Stevens, when the latter protested against cutting down the size of the army, that his protest would be considered and decided by the National Security Council.

Some Eisenhower advisers originally considered the idea of asking ex-President Truman to serve on the council as an adviser only, in order to get the benefit of his rich background of information regard-

ing previous decisions. Now Senator Magnuson has gone one step further and proposes that both living ex-presidents serve as advisers on the council.

WASHINGTON WHIRL
Senate Interior Chairman Hugh Butler wrote to friends in Nebraska that he heard about Louisiana Senator Russ Long's switch in favor of Hawaiian statehood — in advance — from the sugar companies. (It is no secret that the sugar companies supported Long for the senate in Louisiana).

Georgia's astute Senator Dick Russell, most powerful man in the senate since Taft's death, has warned privately that he'll block Hawaiian statehood, unless the republicans take Alaska along with it.

Secretary of the Interior McKay, himself a General Motors dealer, told republican women at a luncheon the other day that some people are going to be hurt by the transfer from a wartime to a peacetime economy. He cited the automobile industry as an example, then snorted: "But so what? They're making too much anyway."

The automobile recession has Senator Homer Ferguson, Michigan republican, worried sick. He's afraid he will be swamped this November by the disgruntled Detroit vote.

WASHINGTON PIPELINE
Private comments on Ike's state of the union message: Gardner Withrow, Wisconsin republican: "In general, a fine speech. But the voters of my district want to know what the administration plans to do about falling farm prices. That's the issue I'm interested in."

Wayne Aspinall, Colorado democrat: "Congress applauded the president, but we didn't have much enthusiasm for his message."

Noah Mason, Illinois republican: "It was too new dealish."

John Dingell, Michigan democrat: The press insulted our intelligence. All the tax cuts he talked about were passed by the democrats, and he's taking credit for them."

Salem Consolidation
Hillsboro Argus
Consolidation of the mechanical and business departments of the Oregon Statesman and Capital Journal at Salem is a sign of the times, which has brought many similar consolidations and mergers in the last 20 years.

The pattern is one that has been brought about by high cost of newspaper publishing. It has been adopted in most cities throughout the country, outside the largest cities, for this very reason.

The Statesman's new building, occupied for the first time this year, will be used in the consolidated operation. News and editorial departments of the two papers will continue separately, each under the control of its own publisher. Ownership will be evenly divided between the two corporations now publishing the two papers.

Both publishers, Charles A. Sprague of the Statesman and Bernard Mainwaring of the Capital Journal, have been successful and outstanding newspapermen, leaders in their area and the state. That they will continue to give Salem and the mid-Willamette valley the best in newspaper service is certain. Consolidation of operations should enable them to do an even better job.

OPEN FORUM

Scio Sunday School 'Caught in Middle'

To the Editor:

In May of 1948 the American Sunday School Union organized a Sunday school in the Providence community. Permission was granted this organization to hold its services in the Providence church which had been a part of the community for nearly 100 years.

For many years no regular services had been held in the old church with the exception of Sunday schools that had been started at various times by the people of the community and disbanded each time because not enough people attended to make them successful for a very long period.

Now the Sunday school seems to be caught in the middle between the ones who held the deed to the property, the ones to whom the deed was given and members of the Providence community in which it has stood for so many years.

The views of these different factions have been given to the public through the newspapers in the past few months and adverse criticism of the Sunday school by those who do not understand the situation, has resulted. The Sunday school as a Sunday school has had no part in the controversy but is going about its business of serving the community through its regular religious services each Sunday, its monthly missionary meetings and the weekly club meetings for the children, besides the extras such as Christmas programs, Social gatherings and programs featuring various missionary movements.

An article carried in several of the newspapers last week stated that it was feared that the Sunday school would have to disband. The Sunday school has no such intention but expects to keep right on with its work here at Providence.

The fear that the old church will be moved from its present location is unfounded since the avowed intention is to keep it as a Baptist Memorial forever.

The Sunday school has done much for the upkeep of the building during the more than five years of its occupancy. The foundation has been repaired; the building repainted, inside and outside; the roof, reshingled and new cement steps placed both front and rear entrances. The insurance policy has been raised from \$1,000 to \$6,000.

LETTIE L. CRANE,
Scio, Oregon.

OREGON TEACHERS SALARIES

Pendleton East Oregonian
The average Oregon classroom teacher's salary in the 1953-54 school year is \$3,988. That places Oregon in 12th place among all the states. Of more importance, however, are salary schedules in states to the north and south of us. California is in first place with a salary average of \$4,800 and Washington in third with \$4,247. That will make it more difficult for Oregon to maintain a teacher supply.

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POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Tenors Almost as Scarce as Larks at the North Pole

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (U) — Tenors are getting almost as scarce as larks at the North Pole.

Not bathroom tenors. Too many of them. But real tenors, opera tenors, are in short supply. It's got some of them worried.

"In the entire world today there are only 10 tenors who can sing major dramatic roles with authority," said Ramon Vinay, a former baritone who became a tenor by accident rather than intent.

"As a result we have to travel like mad, and we are getting tired."

Likes 1 Way Grid

Astorian-Budget

Salem citizens have been voting, in an unofficial poll conducted by the Salem Statesman, on whether they like the one-way grid system there or not, and the result so far, out of 401 votes, is 226 against and 175 for the system.

Evidently there is a good deal of grumbling about the Salem grid, for the city council authorized some major modifications.

All this reminds us that there seems to be less grumbling about the Astoria one-way grid than there was at first, although we still hear citizens say now and then that they don't think much of it. But the complaints have never reached such a volume as to suggest taking a straw vote.

There is one thing about such a poll as the Statesman is conducting—the "antis" are more prone to vote in a test than the "pros." Most people mildly accept such a change as the one-way system and don't bother to take part in a poll. But those with a grievance are anxious to express it, and a far higher percentage of them will ballot.

Here in Astoria there was a report some months ago that merchants opposing the one-way system planned to circulate petitions against it. Nothing has been done along that line yet, as the sponsors decided to wait until the system had been in operation at least six months.

We suspect that as the months go on, opposition to the system will grow less and that within a year of its installation we will all take it for granted as the natural thing.

Oregon Country

Albany Democrat-Herald
The 100th anniversary of the creation of Wasco county, celebrated a few days ago, reminds students of Northwest history of the time when Wasco was 30 per cent larger than all Oregon is now.

When created it stretched from the crest of the Cascades to the summit of the Rockies, which was the eastern limit of the old Oregon territory.

Wasco's 130,000 square miles included parts of the present states of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming as well as a big chunk of Oregon. The new country's area equalled the area of all New England plus New York, New Jersey and Delaware with enough left over to make several Rhode Islands.

The "permanent white" population of that vast expanse when it was made into a county, with The Dalles as county seat, was 35. Travel through the region on the way to the Willamette valley was building up business, however, and the county was not far in advance of the real need. The first officers of the county were three commissioners, a sheriff and a judge.

The present area of Wasco county, 2387 square miles, barely more than one-sixtieth of its 1854 area, makes it fourteenth in size in Oregon, while its population, 15,552, is 44,000 per cent more than at the time of its formation. That may be some kind of a record.

And some of us are showing voice strain."

This may not appear much of a tragedy to the average man, who ordinarily doesn't list tenors among the earth's major blessings, but when a few top tenors go hoarse it is a real blow to the world of serious music. Some fellow has to hit all those high notes and keep the dying soprano, or how can the opera go on?

"Before a new production we rehearse for about three weeks," said Vinay, who keeps in shape by weight lifting. "And believe me, five hours on the stage of the Metropolitan Opera is like 12 hours on the docks. It's like pushing a street car 20 blocks. You come home and drop dead."

All tenors are unusual but even among his fellow tenors Vinay is a standout. He is a big bear-like man who looks like Luis Firpo, the former South American heavy-weight boxer.

Vinay was born in Chile, raised in France, and started his career pushing a broom in a Mexico City department store. He also worked as a traveling salesman and a medicine box manufacturer before he settled down as a baritone in a small Mexican touring opera company.

One night the regular tenor refused to go on. Vinay cleared his throat, sang the role—and learned he was a natural tenor.

"I like it better," he said, smiling. "The baritone is always the villain and never gets to kiss the soprano. The tenor does. He is the hero—and the sopranos are getting pleasant to kiss every year."

"But the audience require more now than in the old days. They not only expect you to be able to sing. You must also act and look the part."

Vinay, who starred in the Wagnerian festival at Bayreuth, Germany, now travels up to 50,000 miles a year in America and Europe. He keeps apartments here and in Milan, but lives most of the year in hotel rooms.

"Many people don't know how to feel at home in a hotel room," he said. "But home is a state of mind. You just have to know how to make yourself comfortable."

Vinay makes himself comfortable by totting along a medicine ball which he blithely bounces against the wall when he needs exercise. He sometimes also packs a five-foot telescope—astronomy is one of his hobbies—and if he becomes bored he sets it up by the hotel window and scans the stars.

"It is very easy in this world to lose your sense of proportion," he said. "But when you look at the heavens through a telescope it reduces your personal problems of success or failure. It will give you a better perspective on his own importance—yes, even a tenor."

All successful people have private fears, but Vinay grinned when I asked him what he was most afraid of.

"A cold," he said.

Tenors are not to be sneezed at—particularly when they are six feet tall and weigh 220 pounds.

CLEVERNESS PAYS OFF
ST. LOUIS, Mo. (UPI)—Robert Moore, a repairman, shouted and beat his fists in vain on the six-inch walls of a tavern refrigerator after accidentally locking himself in.

After 30 minutes futile effort Moore got a brilliant idea. He shut off the supply of beer to the bar upstairs. Seconds later the bartender came down to investigate and the shivering Moore was released.

WE DIDN'T DO IT
Bend Bulletin

Appearance of a seemingly limitless number of two dollar bills in Bend has nothing to do with the fact that \$30,000 worth of the currency which recently disappeared from the U.S. Treasury has not yet been accounted for. The Treasury's shortage was in twenty dollar notes.

Salem 37 Years Ago

By BEN MAXWELL
January 13, 1917

Col. William F. Cody (Buffalo Bill) had died and was to be buried upon Lookout mountain commanding a view over the plains where he had experienced his youthful adventures.

Salem's Grand theater had billed "Intolerance," D. W. Griffith's colossal, \$2,000,000 spectacle depicting "love's struggle through the ages."

Miss Ruth Paxon of Pittsburgh, Pa., had been chosen successor to Miss Flora M. Case, school librarian. The position carried a salary of \$1000 and one month of vacation with pay.

D. H. Mosher, tailor to men and women, had advertised "No better clothes made—No clothes made better. Our price is \$25 and up."

Explosions in New Jersey munition plants within the past few months had caused \$33,250,000 in damages.

Passage of the 640-acre homestead law had caused one of the big land rushes in Oregon history. The government land office at Burns saw many standing in line for hours who had lately arrived by wagon, on horse back and by automobile.

Humbolt bay section of California, "graveyard of ships," had seen the liner Bear, the submarine H-3 and the cruiser Milwaukee lost in that treacherous area within six months.

Fishing Season On Columbia

PORTLAND (U) — The lower and middle stretches of the Columbia River will be open to commercial fishing from April 30 to May 27, the Oregon Fish Commission and Washington State Fisheries Bureau decided Tuesday.

Last year the river below Bonneville Dam was opened April 30 and the upriver opening was delayed until May 15. State biologists had recommended the same for this year in an attempt to increase the number of fish which reach spawning grounds.

Upriver fishermen complained, however, that the late season wasn't profitable for them, and the uniform dates were set for both above and below the dam.

S. P. to Construct Bridge in Clackamas

OREGON CITY (U) — Plans for a \$300,000 construction project in Clackamas County were announced Tuesday by the Southern Pacific Co.

Included are the elimination of four curves in the main line track and construction of a new bridge across the Clackamas River. SP officials said they didn't know when the work would begin.

According to the Bowling Magazine Yearbook, there were 481 bowlers who averaged 200 or better during the 1952-53 season.

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OPEN LETTER TO YOU

from

CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR A REASONABLE 1-WAY GRID SYSTEM

We, of the committee for a reasonable one-way system, welcome the public opinion poll initiated by the Oregon Statesman.

We wish to make it clear that we favor the one-way system for the highway route but oppose the recent expansion of the grid system because our unusually wide Salem streets make it unnecessary.

If Salem had narrow streets like Portland, or Eugene, we would accept the expanded grid as being necessary. Since the system is an unreasonable restriction on the use of our wide streets we are opposed to it.

It is our belief that the expanded one-way grid system discourages customers in the downtown area because of the inconvenience and confusion which it creates.

We thank you for your interest in reading this letter and in closing we wish to make one request:

1. Whether you are with us or against us BE SURE TO CAST YOUR BALLOT.

Poll ends Friday 15th.

Sincerely yours,
A. R. Mefford, Chairman