

Capital Journal

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MORE PUBLICITY FOR MORSE

The senate by a vote of 59 to 26 has again refused to return Senator Wayne Morse, elected as a republican but who repudiated his party and declared himself an Independent for the labor and armed services committees from which he was dropped a year ago. This time he did not have the support of Oregon's senior Senator Guy Cordon as he then had. Instead Cordon warned the senator that to do otherwise might lead to "splinter" party futility.

Morse has been serving on the public works and District of Columbia committees, minor posts, since the senate organization last January. Morse then refused to accept committee assignments from either republican or democratic party conferences but demanded the full vote of the senate and so lost the seats he had previously held—a measure of his influence and popularity in the senate.

In the reorganization caused by reshuffling of committee assignments to maintain republican majority in each committee, Morse revived the issue and 19 senators offered an amendment to restore Morse to his old committees. All of these senators were democrats except Senator William Langer, republican maverick.

Morse followed up with a fiery indictment of the senate for having given him "a political horsewhipping" last year, claiming they had an obligation to the history of the senate—"not Wayne Morse" to erase the precedent in demoting him. He claimed he had a right in law based on his eight years seniority and that it was an act of discrimination against the 1,500,000 citizens of Oregon who were entitled to equal representation. He said nothing about his obligation to the republicans of Oregon who nominated and elected him.

Cordon in explaining the switching of his vote from a year ago backing Morse's bid for committee, concluded

"If we were to increase the membership of these two committees at this time by adding a member who does not belong to either of those parties, and who although elected as a Republican has repudiated the party, we would promote the beginning of what in my judgment might well lead in the end to the type of splinter party futility which has plagued the governments of Europe. I cannot, in good conscience vote to create such a condition."

No pity should be wasted on Morse for the senator's action will only stimulate and inflate his martyr complex and Messianic mission that secures him more publicity than all the other 95 senators combined get in the press, radio and television.—G. P.

LET'S FREE THE ENEMY P.W.'s

Decision of Indian Lt. Gen. K. S. Thimayya to return to their captors the 22,000 anti-Communist Chinese and North Korean and 325 allied war prisoners who refused repatriation throws this troublesome issue back into the laps of the contending parties.

According to the armistice provisions these prisoners become civilians at midnight, January 22, and must be released as such if they have continued to refuse to return to their homelands. India is dodging its responsibility to do this by riding itself of the prisoners three days in advance of the deadline date.

Thimayya warns both sides that they are obligated to hold the prisoners until an agreement is reached for their disposition, which as we understand it is contrary to the terms of the armistice.

The U.N. forces, which means the United States will be confronted with a decision as to whether to hold these 22,000 men indefinitely while the Communists continue to stall off an agreement or to release them January 23. From this distance it looks as if we should free them and let the Communists fume. They will anyway.

The Indian decision means that the 21 Americans will be turned over to the Communists next Wednesday unless they claim release sooner and that their fate will then rest solely with our enemies. But they have received every opportunity to reverse a tragic decision and they can be charged off by the United States with regret but with the comforting knowledge that we did all we reasonably could to save them.

We cannot feel the same satisfaction in the case of Americans still held unwilling captives by Russia and China, whom we have not been able to release and may never be without the threat of grim reprisals which would lead to war if threatened and refused.

Altogether Korea represents a frustrating, disgusting situation for which there is no prospect of a satisfactory solution, even if we fought an all-out war for one, which most of us agree wouldn't be worth a fraction of what it would cost.

TO RUN OR NOT TO RUN

Back in an earlier, simpler day the question was "to be or not to be." Now it has become with a good many Oregonians "to run or not to run," as the filing deadline for the May primaries begins to loom on the not too distant horizon.

We have many potential statesmen communing with themselves these days, the most prominent of which are Senator Guy Cordon who has admitted doubts as to whether he will seek re-election, and State Senator Dick Neuberger who reportedly has his eyes fixed on either Cordon's senatorship, or the governorship. He has been widely discussed in connection with both offices.

We are particularly interested in one angle of Neuberger's "to run or not to run" dilemma. The Portland solon is in politics as an avocation or at most a part time job. He makes his living as a writer, a field in which he is possibly Oregon's top man. He brackets into national magazines repeatedly.

Neuberger makes politics pay an indirect but none the less lucrative dividend. He makes his experiences the subject of interesting, presumably well recompensed articles in the magazines. They have without a doubt added to his stature as a magazine writer.

Now it is revealed that Neuberger has contracted to write a book on any campaign he may make this year for senator or governor, but he insists it does not commit him to make the campaign. This is still optional.

But if a man must write to live and must campaign in order to have material for his forthcoming book, doesn't this virtually commit him to campaign? And in order to have time to write the book and do a decent job with it, he must be unsuccessful in his campaign. It would be terrible if he had to write a book following election as governor, for instance. And a new senator probably doesn't have much time on his hands either.



WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Ike Really Kept His Recent Legislative Talk Secret

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—What goes on at a White House meeting is always supposed to be a secret, unless the president himself decides to make it public. However, except during tense-up wartime, no White House sessions have been cloaked in such secrecy as Ike's recent meetings with cabinet and Capitol leaders on his legislative program.

The president has personally insured against leaks to the press by pointedly pledging everyone present to keep their lips buttoned. This is necessary, he explains, because discussion at the meetings is "off the cuff," with a free and frank exchange of opinions on sometimes controversial subjects that might be misinterpreted if appearing in the press.

Naturally there will be differences in opinion regarding the legislative docket for congress, the president points out, adding that he wants to be free to speak his mind with complete candor and that others at the meetings were entitled to the same privilege.

At one session, right after Eisenhower had finished his little speech on secrecy, GOP Congressman Charley Halleck of Indiana caused gasps of laughter.

"You know," he said, "I never have any trouble keeping a secret. It's the people I tell it to who can't keep their mouths shut."

King Cotton Debate
Mother Nature has had most to do with knocking congressional heads together regarding the biggest farm battle between the east and west—cotton quotas.

Last summer, California and the come-lately cotton areas of Arizona and New Mexico were at loggerheads with old plantation states of Mississippi, Georgia, and the southeast. The latter were to have their cotton acreage cut only 25 per cent, while the far west was in for a 52 per cent cotton reduction.

This meant a loss of about \$160,000,000 to the great central valley of California and was almost sure to bring economic setbacks. For the west started to become a really big cotton-producing area only recently, and the cotton-acreage quotas are based on the years 1947-49 and 1951-52. Thus the older cotton states get the preference.

Last summer, senators tried to work out a compromise readjustment of these quotas—without success. Congress adjourned. Still no agreement.

But with the opening of congress last week, revised cotton quotas were made the No. 1 item of discussion, and there's now a good prospect of agreement.

Reason: The planting season starts soon. If quotas aren't fixed soon, farmers can't curtail. Nature won't wait.

NOTE—The new cotton bill will increase quotas about 1,000,000 acres. Actually, the motive is politics and nothing else. The increase will ease the political situation all right, especially in the far west, where California farmers are raging mad. But with a carryover of 5,064,000 bales from the 1952 crop, and an additional 2,714,000 bales of the 1953 crop probably unmarketed, this increase may cause trouble later. Experts believe we will have cotton running out of our ears at the end of 1954.

British Comet
A significant, sometimes acrid argument has been taking place between the British and U. S. aeronautic authorities over British Comet jet airliners, which unfor-

No Good Reason To Cut Vote Age

By RAYMOND MOLEY

The President's proposal to lower the voting age to 18 got a good many headlines, but it apparently failed to excite the congressmen who were listening to the message. Perhaps most of those gentlemen and ladies were thinking about how they had enough to worry about this fall, what with all the votes above 21 that they must entice. They are not eager to enlarge the territory of their campaigning.

A rough estimate of the number who would be newly eligible under the change is about all that the census figures permit, and that is 6,000,000. By the 1960's, however, the relative proportion will be much larger because of the fact that the second World War babies will be arriving at what the President believes to be political maturity.

The increase in eligible voters now by such a change would be something like six per cent. That percentage will rise to ten or more in a decade or two.

While we are on this matter of percentage and without wishing to prejudice the issue of responsibility, the "World Almanac" indicates that, while at this time these people within the 18-20 inclusive range would constitute only six per cent of the eligible voters, they aggregate nine per cent of the drivers involved in fatal motor vehicle accidents.

A lot of other standards might have to be revised. Or would they? For example, in 41 states it is necessary for men, or shall we say boys, to be 21 to get married without the consent of parents. Girls, or shall we say women, are legislatively regarded as more responsible in matters of marriage, for in 39 states they can marry, without consent of parents, at 18. In Minnesota, the figure for boys is 18; for girls, 16.

There are a number of other statutory provisions which use the traditional age of 21 as a borderline. Thousands of wills are drawn with 21 as the age at which people are to be allowed to have their inheritance.

It can hardly be said that the fact that boys of 18 can be drafted and exposed to the danger of death is sufficient reason for changing the voting age. If I accurately remember the testimony of the military men who argued for lowering the draft age, the reason was that boys of that age were proven to be competent soldiers. They are, so the general and admirals say, easy to train. That was apparently decided on the basis of their capacity to perform a specific duty or office in their country's service.

Voting is also an office. It is not a reward or a right. The voter performs a specific function in the process of government, just as a justice of the peace, a sheriff, or a dog-pound keeper performs a statutory office. When we fix the qualifications for an office we consider the probability of faithful fulfillment of the duties of that office. We should do that when we extend the age of voting. I was never impressed by the claims of women before the coming of the woman's suffrage that they had a right to vote. I favored their admission because I be-

THE WORLD TODAY

Note Exchange Shows U. S. And Russia Still Far Apart

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON — Nothing shows better than events of the past three days the gap between the United States and Russia and how dim is the chance for agreement on their biggest problems.

After many speeches here and in Moscow about getting together, exchanges of notes extending over months, and much maneuvering the two powers reached the point of sitting down in the same room to talk.

Not talk about what they wanted to talk about. Just talk about ar-

ranging the time and place for the real talks.

The three allies—United States, Britain, France—have exchanged notes with Russia since last summer, trying to set up a meeting of their foreign ministers.

Agreement at last. They'd meet in Berlin, Jan. 25. But where in Berlin? In East Berlin, controlled by Russia or in West Berlin, controlled by the Western Allies?

Representatives of the four powers in Berlin met to settle the details. All this week they talked. The Russians held out for half the talks to be in East Berlin. This country wanted more than half in West Berlin.

Last night the four representatives gave up, dumped their disagreement back in the laps of higher officials.

But even if the preliminaries are settled, the United States and Russia are in complete disagreement on their major European problem: Germany.

The United States wants East and West Germany united, no doubt in the belief that the East Germans, after eight years under the Russians, would rejoice in lining up with the West Germans as United States allies.

What would this mean to the United States? Secretary of State Dulles made clear in a speech Monday night what he hopes this country has for Germany.

He outlined America's new military strategy, based on West European defense against Russian attack, backed up by this country's potential for "massive" retaliation.

He said Europe cannot be defended unless Germany is allowed to rearm. He said it can't do so under the present armistice agreements, although it could join a unified European army if France agreed to go along.

But the last thing Russia wants is a rearméd Germany. It spent the past year, by many devices, trying to avoid just that.

Dulles could hardly settle with the Russians at Berlin for a disarmed Germany. And Russia could hardly yield to him.

President Eisenhower and Russia's Premier Malenkov made speeches during 1953 on relations between the two countries. In December Eisenhower suggested: They sit down and talk about pooling some of their atomic materials for peace. If that succeeds, he indicated, maybe they could go on to talk about getting rid of the atom bomb.

Russia responded with the complaint that banning the bomb should come first, and reserved the right to talk about that if the two powers sit down to discuss peaceful use of the atom.

This week Dulles and the Russian ambassador began talks on arranging American-Russian talks on the atom, as Eisenhower suggested.

But in his Monday night talk on this country's new military strategy, Dulles said this country no longer will depend on huge armed forces, matching man for man with the Communists in the field, but will try to prevent any attack this way.

Standing ready to blast the attacker with "means of its own choosing." What means? Dulles didn't say. There's no doubt he meant atomic weapons.

Dulles, therefore, couldn't very well agree on banning the bomb.

HE FIXED 'EM
MILWAUKEE, UP—Elmer Conforti, executive secretary of the Wisconsin Restaurant Association, said today the best way to meet rising coffee prices was to stop drinking coffee.

Picking a Building

Boise Statesman

Nowhere has the low ebb to which relations between Russia and the western powers have fallen been revealed more clearly than in the preliminary meetings to make housekeeping arrangements for the scheduled conference of the Big Four foreign ministers in Berlin late this month. A second meeting on Saturday was described as "sounding cordial," but when it was over the choice of a building in which to hold the conference had not yet been made.

The problem is not to find a physically suitable building. The problem is to get the four powers to agree as to whose soil will be selected as the exact site.

The relations among the four leading nations of the world have reached a sorry state when each is so distrustful of the others that after a city and date have been chosen for a conference the selection of the building is so delicate a matter that the whole conference conceivably might be wrecked on it. In the historical perspective of a future era, this deep and serious debate as to whose house the foreign ministers shall gather in is bound to look downright silly.

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Salem 12 Years Ago

By BEN MAXWELL

January 14, 1942

Donald M. Nelson, new war production boss had told Army, Navy and OPB that he was ready to shake up the entire defense set-up if necessary to lick Hitler and the Japs.

Japanese were claiming a score of two successful torpedos hits upon the United States aircraft carrier Lexington.

T. J. Armetrou, Portland automobile dealer who had been selling cars for 25 years, had started selling bicycles from his display room.

Motor vehicle use stamps were to be placed on sale January 15. A tax stamp payable not later than February 1, was \$2.00 for five months.

A new type of siren that had consideration for city blackout warnings and was to be installed on the Reinhold & Lewis building on South Commercial street.

Men who had hopes of obtaining occupational deferment from the draft were required to prove their jobs as being absolutely necessary in the civilian economy or necessary in the war production program.

About 1000 Japanese fishing boats impounded in the waters of British Columbia were to be hereafter operated by white crews.

Headquarters for the Oregon National Guard had been moved to Portland.

Chinese were claiming that Japanese had dropped burbionic plague germs on Changteh.

O. E. (Mose) Palmateer had been elected president of Salem Federated Patriotic orders.

CARELESS HUNTERS
ATLANTA, Ga. (UP)—State wildlife officials said today they have closed the alligator hunting season in Southern Georgia because the hunters were killing more deer than alligators.

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