

Capital Journal

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NASH-HUDSON CONSOLIDATION

For the second time within recent months two well known American automobile companies have joined forces. Nash-Kelvinator and Hudson will be merged into a new corporation to be named the American Motor company if the stockholders of the two companies ratify at meetings to be held in March.

Earlier Kaiser and Willys-Overland merged. Kaiser is the only newcomer to the automobile field in many years. It has enjoyed large sales but has had a rough time financially. Willys was at one time second only to Ford, had a bad time of it for years, but finally found a place to strengthen both for the terrific competition with the big three, General Motors, Ford and Chrysler.

The Hudson-Nash consolidation is for the same purpose. It will create a company with assets of more than \$350,000,000, combined sales for the year ending September 30, 1953 of \$680,000,000 and liquid assets of \$100,000,000.

All the older people can remember when the much smaller car market of an earlier day was served by a score or more of makes. Now the field has narrowed down to the big three, which have captured the lion's share of the business, plus the Nash-Hudson combination, the Willys-Kaiser group and Packard and Studebaker as unmerged independents, operating as they have since the early days of the industry. We may next hear of a merger between them, which if it happens will probably complete the job.

We doubt that the public has anything to worry about in all this, for the industry remains fiercely competitive in a literal sense. It has become impossible for any but strong, efficient units to survive. The recent changes are aimed at securing strength in finance, research, dealer organization, etc., and they will do it.

The public hopes none of its present cars will pass out of the picture, but this is for the public itself to decide through its buying preferences. The automobile business is literally a "survival of the fittest" struggle and will continue to be. But we think those who are still left will be found fit to survive.

CORRECTING AN INJUSTICE

President Eisenhower in his Social Security program expansion message to congress urged boosting of social security benefits quickly for America's older citizens and to give 10 million more people protection from "the fear of destitution." He urged that the amount of income taxed for pension purposes be raised from \$3600 to \$4200, and that retired persons be allowed to earn more at part-time jobs without losing social security benefits.

The president used the occasion to rap the compulsory retirement acts now in force compelling loss of jobs at the age of 63, when many persons, especially those in professions, are at their prime of achievement and power to utilize the wisdom gained by experience. He voiced a truth when he said:

"Retired persons should be encouraged to continue their contributions to the productive needs of the nation. I am convinced that the great majority of our able-bodied older citizens are happier and better off when they continue in some productive work."

No two persons are exactly alike and what applies to one does not apply to another and it is vicious to attempt to standardize capacity by age limits. It destroys initiative, incentive and enterprise and hampers production and is neither biological or logical, and spoils many a person's life by discouragement.

Compulsory retirement also hampers industry by removing key men who are most valuable, whose life has been devoted to creative enterprise, as well as those in public life. One man may be driftwood at 45 and another still functioning at 100 per cent efficiency at 80 or over.

The president himself is 63, the present compulsory retirement age, and hasn't shown the least sign of loss of vision, industry or efficiency and state legislators as well as congressmen should heed his recommendations and modify the present old age laws because of their injustice—regardless of pensions.—G. P.

JOE MAKES A HEADLINE AGAIN

We rejoice with old Joe DiMaggio, who has made the headlines again, after all but his most loyal retainers had given up hope that he ever would. He has married gorgeous film star Marilyn Monroe.

For years the DiMaggio name was sport page magic, in the big type daily during the baseball season. Even if he only popped out that was news, too—the unusual, you know. Then, at about 35, Joe was too old and he gracefully bowed out before he was kicked out. Quite a comedown and nothing but an old age filled with memories to look forward to.

But Joe wasn't through and now he has burst forth again, this time as a lover de luxe. And for celebrities their marital record isn't so bad. It was only the second trip to the altar for each one.

THE CHEST CHANGES LEADERS

It was generally agreed here that the 1953 Community Chest campaign was one of the best organized and vigorously pushed that anyone could remember here or elsewhere. It was certainly this writer's conclusion, comparing with numerous efforts he had witnessed in other cities.

Now the man who headed it, Otto Wilson, becomes president of the Chest, succeeding Ed Majek, who has done an outstanding job and will continue his active interest in this fine organization. Wilson will put his zeal and organizing ability behind its future efforts.

Salem's Community Chest enjoys good leadership, which has kept its income increasing, though less rapidly than the needs of the community increase.

Ike's T-H Plan Criticized

PORTLAND (AP)—President Eisenhower's proposal to give states more jurisdiction in labor legislation is tantamount to a "union-busting license," the president of the CIO Woodworkers said here Thursday.

The proposal was one of the President's recommended changes in the Taft-Hartley Law. A. F. Hartung, president of the union, said in a prepared statement that too many state governments no longer are representative of the people. He asserted 13 Southern states have restrictions on Negro voting, eight states have not reappointed their legislators since 1908 and 20 have not reappointed them in the past 20 years.

Hartung said the state situation "is much worse than the representation in our national Congress. . . . Most workers are urban residents. . . . Our cities are growing, our rural areas are shrinking. . . ."



WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND Ike Regime Almost Scared Shirt Off Big Business

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON — The Eisenhower administration almost scored the shirt off big business the other day. It did so when the Justice Department showed its teeth on anti-trust prosecutions in a more glowering manner than Thurman Arnold and Franklin D. Roosevelt. What it did was bring suit against Pan American Airways, long considered the sacred cow of both Republicans and Democrats.

A few weeks ago Sam Pryor, vice president of Pan American in charge of Washington lobbying, spoke with confidence about the Eisenhower administration.

"Things have changed in Washington," he said happily. "We don't have to take all that guff we used to take. And we're not going to tolerate it."

Sam had reason to be happy and confident. In the first place, he was long a member of the Republican National Committee from Connecticut, a top manager of Wendell Willkie, and a generous money-raiser for the Republicans. So even though his friend and wire-puller for Pan American, Sen. Owen Brewster of Maine, had been defeated, Sam had every reason to expect well of the Eisenhowerites.

He knew that, back in the Hoover administration, Pan American had been able to get Postmaster General Brown to send an amazing and unprecedented instruction to the State Department asking that all practical assistance be given to the Pan American-Grace Airways in preference to any other American company. This was in violation of the age-old ruling that the U. S. government does not favor any one company abroad at the expense of another.

FDR Loved Pan Am
Even under Democratic administrations, Pan American continued to get just as many favors. Ed Stettinius, brother-in-law of Juan Trippe, Pan American president, was long in the Roosevelt administration and for a time a member of the cabinet. FDR liked both Ed and Juan Trippe and he also liked Pan Am. The latter got the heaviest mail subsidies—and still does. And, when trust-busting Thurman Arnold, assistant attorney general, proposed prosecuting Pan American for violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act, he was stopped dead in his tracks.

"If you insist on this," warned Attorney General Robert Jackson, "you'll have to resign." Arnold backed away for a time, but still made noises about going after Pan American. Shortly thereafter and much to his own surprise, he was abruptly promoted to the U. S. Court of Appeals.

Imagine the surprise of the aviation world, therefore, and particularly Sam Pryor, when the Eisenhower administration this week slapped exactly the same antitrust suit on Pan American that Roosevelt had vetoed. Pan Am with the Grace Steamship Lines and their subsidiary, Panagra, were charged with monopolizing air transportation between the United States and Latin America.

Ironically, the suit came shortly after Robert C. Hill, vice president of Grace, was rewarded by the Eisenhower administration by being made U. S. ambassador to Costa Rica.

Note — Late last week crack among Washington lawyers: "How soon will Assistant Attorney General Stanley Barnes be promoted to the Supreme Court?" (In addition to Arnold's promotion to the Court of Appeals when he tried to sue Pan Am, Harlan F. Stone, then attorney general, was appointed to the Supreme Court by Calvin Coolidge when he insisted on prosecuting Andy Mellon's Aluminum Corporation of America. Mellon was then secretary of the treasury and a cabinet colleague of Stone's.)

150,000 Auto Thefts
Senate investigators are calling on the automobile industry to supply the answer to the nation's most common juvenile crime—auto thefts. The Hendrickson committee, investigating juvenile delinquency, has found that nearly 150,000 autos are stolen each year, mostly by teen-age kids. If cars could be made tamper-proof, it would help curb this flagrant contribution to delinquency.

As a result, the committee will invite industry spokesmen to explain what is being done to protect automobiles from juvenile "hot wire" specialists. This is the name given to auto thieves who pick the ignition lock, cross certain wires and start the car without a key. Committee investigators have found that thieves usually break into a car by forcing the side window-vent or picking the outside lock. What is needed, they say, is a side window that can't be smashed or forced, an outside lock that can't be picked, and an inside lock on the ignition.

Prime Minister Churchill has sent a diplomatic though pointed warning to President Eisenhower that Britain wants to be kept fully informed during the secret Russian-American talks on atomic energy.

Salem 11 Years Ago By BEN MAXWELL

January 15, 1943
U. S. Ambassador Carlton J. H. Hayes had told high Spanish officials there could be no negotiated peace between the United States and her enemies.

E. J. Page, Polk county war bond chairman, had received word from the battleship Oregon for distribution to bond buyers.

Albany had eliminated stop signs on 15 local street intersections as a gas and rubber saving measure.

A tin can salvage drive had taken place at Leslie Junior high school. Cans delivered had been washed, labels removed, bottoms and tops cut out and the cans flattened.

OPA had reduced coffee rations for new hotels and restaurants to one cup for each 100 meals.

Senator McNary had learned that the War Production Board had no interest in the Salem Honeywood distillery as an alcohol-synthetic rubber plant.

Sugar stamp No. 11, valid February 1, would be good for three pounds of sugar. OPA had announced.

Holders of gasoline ration books who had used their allotments before the expiration of the period of validity would get no relief, state officers of price administration had announced.

Senate military committee had moved to return Jap internment camps to the army to halt reported pampering of these enemy aliens within our shores.

DEMOCRATIC DOUBTS
Pendleton East Oregonian
Les Jossin, secretary to the late governor Charles Martin and long active in democratic politics in the state of Oregon, has announced he may be a candidate for governor.

We rather doubt that a strong candidate will come out of the democratic ranks unless Earl Newberry should win the republican nomination. Then a top democrat might make the race as an independent.



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Taft Would Have Liked Ike Stand

By RAYMOND MOLEY

It is always risky to assert that a dead man would or would not have said this or that, but it is possible without much chance of contradiction to say that Senator Taft would have heartily endorsed the Eisenhower labor message. It bears little or no resemblance to the abortive draft that popped up during the last days of Durkin. It certainly shows little imprint of the advice of the New Deal Republicans in the palace guard. And it is so reasonably stated that it has blunted the attack of the irreconcilable radicals in Congress. Even the torrential eloquence of Senator Morse was reduced to the trickle of two words, "unfortunately unsubstantial."

I admired especially the President's use of the expression "emotional maturity" in describing the nation's progress in dealing with the contentious issue of labor-management relations. That describes exactly what has happened in the seven years since Taft took over the Senate Labor Committee and proceeded to draft the legislation that bears his name. The Truman tirades and the union chiefs' outcries seem in retrospect ridiculous abuses of the truth. Only the colossal daring of John L. Lewis makes it possible to speak at this time of a "slave law."

The outstanding features of the amendments seem to me to be the recognition of states' rights and the suggestion of a secret government-conducted strike vote. The latter will be the subject of most comment, but the former is more fundamental and in the long run more important.

It will be pointed out with some justification that the idea of a strike vote conducted in the highly emotional atmosphere that accompanies the breakdown of negotiations before a strike is somewhat visionary. When, as in such cases, reason is pushed aside and people take sides, it is hardly to be expected that card-carrying members will vote against their elected leaders.

That is why the proposal of Senator Smith, chairman of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, to take a vote after a strike has been in progress a while, is more practical. Perhaps a secret vote ought to be taken at both times, but the result is more likely to be reasoned after the people on strike have had some time while out of work to think and calculate.

In any event, this idea of a supervised vote is a natural extension of the old provision for a supervised vote on determining the proper bargaining unit.

It is likely that the most authentic Eisenhower touch in the message is what is said about state legislation in the field of labor. He said: "The Act should make clear that the several state and territories, when confronted with emergencies endangering the health or safety of their citizens, are not through any conflict with the Federal Law, actual or implied, deprived of the right to deal with such emergencies."

His comment on that point is followed by the statement that he is preparing further recommendations for clarifying legislation.

This is one of those fields in which the great Federalizing movement of the past 20 years has advanced far beyond common sense and constitutional principle. There was never any justification for the imposition upon a state of the rule of a Federal Labor Board in matters in which the state has legislative and policies of its own.

In this, the President is again showing his deep conviction that the role of local and state government should be stressed once more. Occasionally, in the practical application of his conviction on this subject he has been diverted by some of his advisers. But this message shows how deeply rooted that conviction really is. (Released by The Associated Newspapers)

POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER Eisenhower at His Best in Recent Press Conference

By HAL BOYLE

WASHINGTON (AP)—This isn't a town where they keep live men on pedestals. They start looking for the clay in the feet. President Eisenhower has met this fate. The military hero that everybody knew has become after a year in office the man in the White House that nobody seems quite sure about.

What do they say about Ike now in America's leading whispering gallery? He has both supporters and opponents puzzled. Here is a sampling of the kind of remarks you hear about him: "He's a fine man," commented a veteran democratic legislator, "but he's in the wrong field."

"The old politicians here are still jealous of him because they don't like to see someone they think of as an amateur hit the jackpot," remarked another. "Eisenhower still has the people behind him," said a republican supporter, "but he hasn't used his strength. Most of the republicans here rode back into office on his coattails, and they know it. It is time to let them know he is aware of that fact, too, and start knocking their heads together instead of making concessions."

But it isn't easy to knock together the heads of senators or congressmen. And no president who has done it ever managed to make them like it. Eisenhower, the military leader,

Courageous Stand

Medford Mail-Tribune
The farm and labor measures proposed by President Eisenhower were two items in his state-of-the-union message that pleased this department.

For both of them were clearly the result of careful, conscientious study, and both took courage. On general principles, moreover, we agree with the belief that pegging farm prices so high that over-production results, and an UNmarketable surplus is created, is poor business—not only for the country but, in the final analysis, for the farmer.

A middle and flexible ground reasonably fair to all, including the innocent bystander—allies the consumer—should be possible of attainment, and that we believe was and is, the administration's basic aim.

The Taft-Hartley law has been, for so long, a matter of bitter and heated partisan controversy, that any agreement entirely satisfactory to either side, just isn't in the cards. The only hope of a workable truce appears to be a compromise, with both labor and management making some concessions.

The problem is such a complicated one that a clear understanding of the Eisenhower proposal must wait for more time so the best qualified experts can tell the same "innocent bystander" just what the measure stands for and doesn't. What is it all about.

Meanwhile as to the provision that a major strike in any important industry should not be called without the ok of the union members—at least a majority of them—appears to this paper as both reasonable and desirable.

On the other hand no reasonable person would expect John L. Lewis, or any other labor leader of his violent type, to agree with this verdict, or fail to do everything in their power to repudiate and overrule it.

HEADS REPUBLICANS

OREGON CITY (UP) — Winston Bradshaw, Clackamas county district attorney, last night was elected president of the Clackamas county chapter of the Oregon Republican Club.

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