

Capital Journal

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ONE GRID BENEFIT REALIZED

The first snowfall of the winter season gave both motorists and pedestrians cause to appreciate the one-way grid street system. The motorists were not handicapped by churning through the snow to avoid sliding into oncoming autos, trucks and buses beating a path through the snow for others to follow.

Pedestrians could easily get out of the way of oncoming vehicles and avoid being plastered with slush or struck from behind. It was safer for both drivers and walkers, for the grid system is an accident as well as a congestion avoider.

Mayor Al Loucks at a meeting of those opposing the grid system called attention to the fact many of the opponents have overlooked. He warned those present not to confuse the one-way grid with highway couplets on the state highway located within city limits.

The city, Loucks said, has no jurisdiction over state highways and in presenting their arguments at a public hearing before the city council on one-way traffic January 25, Loucks told the group they should speak on the grid and not the entire one-way setup in Salem.

The one-way grid system has been universally accepted and installed in nearly every city in the nation because experience has proved that it provides large volumes of traffic and reduces accident rates. It is the only remedy for congestion. The increased capacity has ranged from 30 to 50 per cent and accident reduction varied from 12 to 44 per cent.

Under the two-way system in effect before the grid system was established a couple of months ago, the congestion in the capital business district was becoming intolerable and was a handicap to business. As State Engineer R. H. Baldock has stated:

"At the present time, Salem is making a drive to gain industries which, if successful, will augment Salem's population and wealth. Increased population will bring increased traffic, and it appears necessary to adopt the most modern methods in order to minimize traffic congestion and, incidentally, to preserve property values in the central business district, as, otherwise, the fringe shopping districts will grow up to the detriment of the property values in the central business district."

It is easy to understand why the fringe shopping districts oppose the grid system, for the greater congestion in the central business district, the greater inconvenience to shoppers, and more customers are created for the fringe centers. But it is hard to understand why merchants or property owners or citizens in the central business district should be so short-sighted as to oppose the one-way grid designed to benefit them.—G. P.

SENATOR MORSE'S LETTER TO US

We publish today on this page a communication from Senator Wayne Morse, taking issue with a recent Capital Journal editorial on the new 20-year Bonneville contract policy.

Like most of the senator's communications, it is lengthy but it is published as a matter of fairness and in line with the policy of most newspapers to lean over backwards and give newspaper critics more space than they would otherwise merit.

The senator's point is that the new contracts give "private utilities" an advantage over future needs of the aluminum industry and thus strangle Northwest development.

The senator ignores and hopes the public will overlook the fact that the "private utilities" do not eat or sit on this power but sell it to their customers who are the people of the Northwest. So what the senator is really criticizing is a policy that gives the people a break in future power needs instead of giving the aluminum industry all the advantage. And the customers of those terrible "private utilities" will themselves develop new industries for the benefit of the region if their power needs are met.

We repeat: The "private utilities" rates are regulated by public commissions. The public does get the benefit of savings from their purchases of tax exempt government power. So it is no crime against the people but a very real benefit to the people when their future power needs are given a tardy recognition in the new Bonneville contracts.

And the senator is mistaken when he says "municipalities, co-ops and PUDs are effectively frozen out and the preference clause in the law reduced to a hollow formality." The contracts entered into between BPA and the private companies in no way alter the preference heretofore given to public power distributors. Continued preference is assured despite the Senator's statement to the contrary.

NEW COMMUNIST WEAPON, DOPE

The Saturday Evening Post reports a new Communist blow at the free world, more grim and terrifying than those struck with bullets, propaganda or even assassination. The new weapon is narcotics.

South Korea, Japan and other countries in East Asia outside the iron curtain are being cleverly flooded with dope. Our armed forces in Korea are among the intended targets. The article does not say whether any of them have succumbed.

The stuff is being worked into the countries through professional dope rings. This traffic has always existed but it is now being pushed with increased vigor, the Post says, based on reports from various far eastern points.

Two things are accomplished, from the Communist viewpoint. First, a large amount of money is secured for the support of the Communist movement, particularly in Japan. Second, and much more important, the people of countries marked for conquest are demoralized and devalitized, making them easy prey. Japan used the same tactics on the Chinese before and during World War II.

Here is something for any dupes who think Moscow's aims have changed because they are not being quite as belligerently voiced to consider.

Witness to Be on Stand

WASHINGTON (AP)—Reclamation Bureau engineers who prepared designs and cost estimates for the proposed Federal Hells Canyon dam will be cross-examined at a Power Commission hearing next week.

Louis G. Pais, Denver, is slated to be questioned Monday at the hearing on Idaho Power Co.'s applications to build three dams in the Hells Canyon reach of the Snake River between Idaho and Oregon. He designed the proposed federal project.

Pais will be followed to the witness chair by Cecil Hosington, Denver, and Ed Koessner, Boise, Idaho, who made cost estimates for the proposal. The three gave direct testimony last week.

Cross-examination of Lynn Crandall, U. S. geological survey engineer, was completed Friday. He testified on a Snake River depletion survey he made for the Interior Department.

COMMUNIST "FREE" TRADE



OPEN FORUM

Morse Takes Issue With Recent Journal Editorial

To the Editor:

On December 17, 1953, you ran an editorial entitled "20-Year Contracts Help the Public." The editorial just reached my office. Had you published this moderate editorial while I was home in November, an earlier reply would have been forthcoming.

If the editorial merely attacked me I would not dignify it with an answer. Inasmuch as it is grossly misleading, the record must be corrected so that your readers will have an opportunity to judge whether the public in Oregon and the nation are indeed helped.

In December the Joint Congressional Committee on Defense Production released a report that was printed a few weeks earlier. The committee has been concerned for several years about the inadequacy of domestic aluminum production for defense use and a defense stockpile. The Pacific Northwest produces 40 percent of the nation's aluminum. U. S. production of this and other important defense materials has been inadequate. The committee points out the direct relationship between the availability of low-cost power in our area and the production of these vital commodities. Your editorial brushes off the unfortunate impact of the 20-year McKay Bonneville contracts upon this production.

The joint committee reports that it and the Office of Defense Mobilization were so apprehensive about the 20-year contracts that when it became known that the agreements were under consideration, they made their fears known to McKay and urged him, at least, to insist upon a defense clause allowing diversion of the private utility contract power to defense purposes. This was last May, at least four months before the contracts were signed and approved by McKay. McKay did not insert such clauses. He told the committee that if diversion could be enacted to accomplish the change, this is a dubious position and represents an unnecessary gamble with the defense program.

The contracts, by limiting the amounts of power available to industry, definitely injures industrial expansion in the Pacific Northwest. The 10,000 kw limitation applies to private utilities only as to power received from Bonneville under the contracts. But, the limitation does not apply to any new generating capacity the utilities may acquire or develop.

The contracts stipulate priorities for new blocs of Bonneville power which effectively insure that over the next several years at least the private utilities will receive the lion's share of any new public power. The municipalities, co-ops and PUDs are effectively frozen out and the preference clause in the law reduced to a hollow formality.

You state: "Moreover, any factor that benefits the private power companies is evaluated by the public utility commissioner in rate-making and long-term contracts could well bring about, in time, lower electrical rates to the consumer, at least should prevent any increase in such rates."

You should be aware that the Bonneville act empowers the administrator to terminate power to any contracting party whose rates are discriminatory or un-

reasonable. But the contracts state that if the administrator finds the utility's rates are both "discriminatory and unreasonable," he will negotiate with the utility. If no adjustment is reached, the administrator can terminate service on four years' notice, subject to court review. Had a new deal administrator rewritten the law in that manner, your editorials would have been printed as asbestos.

Your statement can hardly be squared with the utility commission's action on surcharges. Or consider the fact that Copco no sooner received the advantages of participating in the Klamath transmission line last year than it applied for and received a rate increase.

The secretary of interior and the Republican administration are not only discriminating in favor of the private utilities and against Oregon consumers, but by hampering the full development of Hells Canyon and failure to undertake new starts on Columbia river power projects, they are also denying to the Pacific Northwest and Oregon in particular the kind of industrial development which would create new profits and jobs so sorely needed. Indeed, there is the threat that the scheduled completion of The Dalles and McNary dams will be delayed.

Public power has been a great boon to private enterprise in our part of the country. We should strengthen, expand and develop Oregon's private enterprise by insuring adequate supplies of low-rate public power. In the past this has been the sole effective means of stimulating the private utilities to provide service at decent rates.

I have advocated contracts of reasonable duration for the private utilities and suggested that such agreements be for no longer than 10 years. But I oppose 20-year monopolistic grants which provide them with a stranglehold on rates and industrial development in our State.

WAYNE MORSE.

Salem 45 Years Ago

By BEN MAXWELL
January 16, 1909

Early reports stated that 80 persons had been killed in a wreck on the Denver & Rio Grande railroad near Dotsero, Colorado. The Rio Grande, a narrow gauge line with three feet between rails, was promoted in the 1870s by Gen. William Jackson Palmer, anxious to tap a rich mining area around Leadville. As late as 1950 the line was operating with a little parlor lounge running between Alamosa and Durango. Ex-President Grant's special was chuffed over Denver & Rio Grande iron to reach Leadville early one morning in the mid-1870s. Rowdy night life had not yet retired and the former president was greeted by a crowd of hussies, panderers and madames. Lieutenant Governor Haw Taber, a little tighter than customary, escorted Grant to the hotel in his fancy carriage.

Mrs. T. H. Hubbard had proposed to build a first class, five-story hotel at the southwest corner of State and High streets, site of the Senate saloon, if the job could be accomplished for under \$50,000.

Capital Journal had offered to receive contributions for an electric cross, costing between \$175 and \$200 and to be erected on the cupola of Sacred Heart Academy.

Salem Elks were advertising the fraternity's show, "A Night in Bohemia," featuring many new song hits.

L. U. Josse, 471 Court street, had ranges on sale and offered a good, six hole stove with a high closet for \$25.

A case of absolute destitution had come to the attention of Salem authorities. A family with several small children were entirely without food or clothing.

At Salem restaurant, 339 Court street, meals could be had for 15c, board by the week for \$2.75.

L. F. Savage, 247 Commercial street, had mandolins for sale that possessed the warmth of sunny Spain and banjos with all the laughter and mirth of the sunny South.

THE FIRESIDE PULPIT

Civilization Supplies Prod To Keep Us in the Rat Race

By REV. GEORGE H. SWIFT
Rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church

In one of our papers this week is reference to a new laboratory device about which the author of the article said, "has been patented to bring the benefits of modern civilization to rats as well as people." The new gadget to which he refers keeps a rat moving at a steady pace around a track by following him with a device that gives him an electric shock if he starts to slow down.

Isn't the truth? Civilization drives us around the race track relentlessly. The man with a family to feed, clothes, and educate, with interest to pay on household equipment or a home, or debts accumulated while getting a start, can appreciate the predicament of the poor rat in the laboratory.

The rat is fearful of the shock that a moment's let-down on his part will bring him. The business man, the salesman, the workman, the professional man, must keep up a furious pace these days of modern civilization, or lose his job, his business, or his profession to others who can keep ahead.

of the constant threat of an invisible gadget that follows him continuously with a knock-out punch.

The poor rat doesn't have to think of "keeping up with the Joneses," or educating and clothing a family, or meeting the monthly deadline of bills, he has just himself to think about. But we can, even at that, feel very sorry for the poor animal that suffers only to bring more civilization to an already overburdened humanity.

Mankind has an advantage over the rat in that he has religion if he will avail himself of it to give him courage, and strength, and endurance, to keep up the pace ahead of the creditors, the deadlines, and other gadgets which have shocking potentialities. Civilization without religion is surely only a treadmill as relentless and as terrifying as a machine that pursues one until death. But religion deadens the shocks of every day living and makes the final summons a tolerable experience.

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Gen. Bradley Approached to Run for Senate in California

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON — Gen. Omar Bradley, former chairman of the joint chiefs of staff and one of the great military men of modern times, has been approached by California admirers to run for the U. S. senate, as a democrat.

His reactions to the senate approach are extremely interesting. In the first place, Bradley is worried about money—which is understandable, since he has lived on a meagre military salary all his life, and if he goes back on the Federal payroll as a senator he would forfeit his retired army pension.

But more important, Uncle Omar is worried about the principle of military men mixing in politics. He regards this principle as most important.

The trend started by MacArthur and Eisenhower is dangerous and should not be continued, he told California friends, for the military profession and politics don't mix.

A general, for instance, must be trained to insist upon military needs entirely apart from any political considerations. The politician, on the other hand, must be willing to compromise. As long as military men don't have political ambitions, Bradley explained, they will perform their jobs fearlessly and without compromise. But once a political career lurks in the mind of a general, his military actions are bound to be influenced by politics.

Therefore, concluded Bradley, military men must stay out of the political arena.

It so happens that Uncle Omar gave exactly the same advice to his close friend, Ike Eisenhower, back in 1948, and this was one reason Ike refused to run for president at that time.

Bradley is intrigued at the idea of being a senator, however feels that he might make some contribution. But the negative factors outweigh the positive, at least for the moment.

Note 1—Adm. Thomas Hart, a Republican military man, was appointed to the U. S. senate after the war and served with honor and distinction. He filled the unexpired term of Connecticut's Sen. Francis Maloney and did not run for re-election.

Note 2—Bradley was born in Missouri as a Democrat, but has never been identified with politics one way or the other, though he was appointed by Truman to be veterans administrator and later to the joint chiefs of staff. In each case he did an excellent job.

Ike Modifies Red Stain
President Eisenhower had a frank chat on loyalty probes with a non-yearling Democratic congressman the other day in which Ike conceded that some people may have misunderstood his recent statement that disloyal Americans be deprived of citizenship.

Ike told Congressman Harley Staggers of West Virginia that he referred (in his state of the union message) to those who committed treasonable acts to undermine the government. He did not mean former communists who had been duped into joining the communist party, but later renounced communism.

"I do not have the power, as

president, to give citizenship to anyone, but I do have the right to restore citizenship to a felon who has paid the penalty for his crime," Eisenhower said. "If a convicted felon can come back and be a free man in a free world, then certainly those who espoused communism, but later repudiated it, should not be stigmatized by their fellow citizens for the rest of their lives. That's not the American way."

"I'm glad to hear you clear that up, Mr. President," said the West Virginia Democrat. "because I was a little confused myself by what you said in the state of the union message." Staggers then read to the president an editorial in the Wall Street Journal, stating in effect that the newspaper hoped Eisenhower did not mean what its editors thought he implied.

Ike repeated his statement quoted above, then added: "I also did not mean to imply any partisanship in what I said."

"Listen, Mr. President," replied Staggers, "this question is bigger than the congress, the administration, or any one man. It's the most important problem that the nation faces today, and it will take our best brains to solve it. It is far more important than the jobs the Hoover commission is doing to reorganize the government."

"If the current investigations of disloyalty by various committees of congress, competing for publicity, are allowed to continue, in two or three years there will be so much confusion in the public mind that political oppor-

POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Surplus of 131,000 Tons Of Butter Worries Solons

By HAL BOYLE

know what to do with 131,000 tons of butter?

Some of the best brains in government are trying to figure out a lend-grease program to get rid of it, but no one has come up with the right answer.

The present administration is plagued with the problem of surpluses—surplus debts, surplus taxes, surplus unemployment, surplus leftover Democratic officeholders.

It also has its shortages, of course, including a shortage of republican senators. But to a visiting taxpayer the most striking shortage is the shortage of ideas on how to get rid of that 131,000 tons of surplus butter. Meanwhile, under Uncle Sam's farm price support program the supply is being added at the rate of 1,000 tons a day.

The butter costs the government about 66 cents a pound

but sells on the world market for only 46 cents.

The government's problem is that there seems to be no way to get rid of the butter without making somebody mad.

It might be given away to the British, but for the lingering resentment they still hold against us for the dried eggs we forced them to accept after the last war. You can't safely insist a stout ally twice in one generation.

It might be sold to the Soviet government, which is reported to be yearning for 100,000 tons, if it would make for real friendship. But the statesmen here figure

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