

Capital Journal

An Independent Newspaper—Established 1888

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Published every afternoon except Sunday at 280 North Church St. Phone 2-2406.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

By Carrier: Monthly, \$1.25; Six Months, \$7.00; One Year, \$15.00. By Mail in Oregon: Monthly, 80c; Six Months, \$4.50; One Year, \$9.00. By Mail Outside Oregon: Monthly, \$1.25; Six Months, \$7.50; One Year, \$15.00.

BRICKER ON THE DEFENSIVE

Ohio Republican Senator Bricker, who was riding high, wide and handsome with his controversial amendment to the federal constitution until congress reassembled and heard from the president, is now on the defensive, riding for a fall which we think he deserves.

Bricker expected to push his amendment through congress. The senate traditionally takes the lead in foreign affairs, and 56 senators had agreed to support his original amendment, now changed somewhat, which probably releases them.

Able lawyers disagree about what the amendment means, which is in itself a good reason for not passing it. On the face of it, the amendment seems innocent. It is designed to prevent treaties which are in conflict with the U.S. constitution. No right thinking person wants any such treaties.

But it is not always clear what the constitution means or what might conflict with it. For the constitution is now not just the original document plus the amendments, but a vast body of constitutional law and this is "what the judges say it means." And the new deal judges of the past two decades have said it meant some queer things.

Constitutional requirement that the senate ratify treaties has proved a satisfactory safeguard for nearly two centuries. True, there was and is justifiable resentment as some of the secret agreements President Roosevelt made during World War II, which the senate never ratified. No amendment could prevent some future president exceeding his authority, but we have present means to curtail abuse of executive authority.

The danger in the Bricker amendment is that it will impair the ability of the president and secretary of state to conduct foreign affairs. With the Bricker amendment in force foreign countries will doubt the capacity of our national leaders to make binding agreements, and it might well prove that they did lack it.

Bricker may be right when he cries out that the president is "misinformed" when he says the Bricker amendment would take the U.S. clear back to the impotent Articles of Confederation, when we almost fell apart. Possibly it would not be that bad.

But it seems to us that Eisenhower and Dulles are quite competent to conduct our affairs, and as respectful of the constitution as they could possibly be. The senate respects the constitution too and will reject any treaty that seems to infringe upon it. There is no need to take a chance on paralyzing our government in its conduct of affairs and reducing it to such a position as France too often occupies.

CHANGE IN TROUT SEASON

Oregon's state game commission has done a sensible thing in opening the general trout season this year on May 1, and closing it on October 10, and closing the winter steelhead season on March 1, over numerous protests. The order changes the present staggered trout season and shortens the coastal steelhead season two weeks.

The action should have taken years ago, for it permitted the taking of gravid trout and steelhead in the midst of the spawning season and speeded extermination. In many states the opening season is set at a still later date.

Western trout seasons were originally based on those in eastern states. The eastern brook trout spawn in the late autumn or early winter. The western trout, rainbow, cutthroat and steelhead (a sea-going rainbow) in the spring, and in the cold mountain streams, sometimes in early summer. The floods in eastern streams come in the spring with the melting snow and those in coastal streams in the fall and winter usually and nature has adjusted the spawning period to meet the situation.

The trout and salmon in Oregon streams have been sadly depleted by pollution, overfishing and fish hogs, by high power dams and obsolete old logging dams no longer utilized, by unscreened penstocks at dams and unscreened irrigation ditches which uselessly slaughter more fish than hatcheries can turn out, and by senseless fish "derbies" in seasons closed for commercial fishermen to permit fish to reach spawning beds but not for so-called sportsmen.

Moreover, fishing gear, designed not for sport but for the creel, is yearly becoming deadlier for the poor fish. If a ban on the use of salmon eggs as fish bait was established, as it has been in some places, and only fly fishing permitted, with the gradual elimination of stream pollution, the enforced screening of penstocks and conduits, elimination of obstructions and the output of hatcheries increased, closed season enforced on all fishing and poachers properly punished, Oregon streams may again furnish good trout angling. That restoration is possible has been proven in some eastern states. The change in open seasons is but one step in the program of preserving a recreation attraction.—G. P.

A Foe John L. Couldn't Conquer

A few years ago John L. Lewis was the envy of every other labor leader in the world. He had pushed the wage scales of his men up to a point beyond their wildest dreams—and probably his—of a few years before. To cap it all off he had tapped the industry for enough royalties on coal mined to provide a \$100 a month retirement pension, on top of federal social security, a \$1000 death payment, and other benefits.

John L. Lewis had taken shrewd advantage of the fact that coal was a public necessity and that he had won complete dominance over nearly all the men engaged in mining it. Further, he was ruthless enough to crowd his advantage to the limit. You might dislike old John intensely but you had to admit that his tactics worked.

That was only a few years ago. Since then a thing called economic law has been working. Industry, plagued by constantly mounting coal prices and the threat of having supplies cut off by strikes, sought other fuels, as did harried householders. Railroads converted to diesel engines. John L. became known as the world's greatest salesman of oil and gas. Mines were mechanized to reduce labor usage. Some mines went non-union, so now 22 per cent of all coal comes from non-union mines.

As a result of all this the production of coal steadily shrunk, even during the greatest boom in American history. Miners were forced to change occupations or work fewer hours a week, often at a lower take home wage than they had received before.

And now Lewis, who only the other day had money to loan to an outlaw longshoremen's union in New York, has cut his miners' retirement pensions from \$100 to \$50, death benefits from \$1000 to \$500, along with other reductions.

We somehow doubt that John L. seems quite as great a leader to the miners as he did a few short years ago. He was great all right, but not quite as great as economic law.



WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Uncle Dan Ramming Tax Changes Thru Committee

By DREW PEARSON

Washington — Uncle Dan Reed of New York, venerable chairman of the tax-writing ways and means committee, may have high-batted President Eisenhower but he's being deliberately highbanded with the Democratic members of his own committee.

"In the past we have always voted tentatively on tax amendments until we have had an opportunity to fully analyze them," a Democrat recently complained to Reed. "Do you mean to say that committee members can no longer change our votes as we used to do?"

"We will proceed under the parliamentary rules," crisply replied the congressman from Dunkirk, N.Y. SENATOR MORSE HAS FUN

Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon, the independent who was kicked off his important committee assignments with the connivance of GO Senate Leader Knowland and Democratic Leader Lyndon Johnson, has several ace cards up his sleeve. And a lot of Democrats who appreciated Morse's help in the Stevenson-Eisenhower election campaign are goading him from the sidelines.

Among other things, Morse can demand a separate dining room for his independent party. At present both the Democrats and the Republicans have separate dining rooms, and as a regular, constituted party, he can demand the same right.

Morse can also demand a separate cloakroom. The Republicans have their cloakroom where senators can read the newspapers, catnap and discuss political gossip when they aren't on the senate floor. The Democrats likewise have their own cloakroom. So Morse can demand a cloakroom for his independent party.

But most important of all Morse has the power to prolong senate debates almost indefinitely. Under senate rules, it takes unanimous consent to limit a debate unless the senators want to make a major fight and vote on involving cloture. Southern senators do not and will not do this. They zealously guard the right to talk indefinitely.

Therefore, Senator Lyndon Johnson and the southern senators, many of whom voted against Morse, cannot complain when he objects to limiting debate. One vote by him can keep the entire senate in session for several days extra.

Furthermore, southern senators who are strong states-rights can't object when Morse talks about the state of Oregon—as he so frequently does. Oregon has not had so much advertising in Washington since it was admitted to the union. Morse has a right to talk, and he's certainly exercising the right. Furthermore, he's having a lot of fun doing it.

The chief people who aren't having fun are Senators Knowland and Johnson who kicked him off his committee posts.

SKUNK BEATS RAP
ALBUQUERQUE skunk is beating the rap.

The skunk bit a young girl, and under the city ordinance would have to be quarantined for 14 days. Police say that won't be necessary this time.

The skunk — deodorized, of course — bit the girl at his home — the city zoo.

TOO MUCH OF IT
GLEN BURNIE, Md. — The annual "Snow Ball" at Glen Burnie High School was called off last night. The reason: five inches of snow.

What Standard for Public Officials?

By RAYMOND MOLEY

It is rather unusual to find Governor Dewey and Senator McCarthy in the same category, but the former, by a proposal to the New York Legislature, and the latter, by the course which his investigations probably will take, are raising the same question. What, after all, are to be the standards of honesty which should be observed in government?

Both of them will find the going hard when they come to the critical issue of what is right and what is wrong in public life. But that critical issue involves one of the fundamental questions which have concerned philosophers and statesmen from the beginning of time. One reason why it has not and probably cannot be finally and definitely resolved is that moral standards are, we hope and believe, in a state of evolution. The march of civilization implies that we learn constantly of newer and better ways of living together. Conduct tolerated in a senator of the United States when Webster and Clay were in office would not meet the standards of a Taft or a George. No Tammany leader would talk about "honest graft," as did Plunkett half a century ago.

Another reason why it is difficult to fix standards is the fact that forms of wrongdoing change with alterations in economic patterns and social evolution. Before the eighteenth amendment the corrupt pay-off between the underworld and the underbelly of politics came from the profits of rather small-time gambling and prostitution. In the 1920's it came from liquor. Now it comes, at least in New York, from big-time gambling. In Washington corruption grew in proportion to the size of government spending. Only the iron hand of the Jesse Joneses held back the grafters' rush in war days.

Senator McCarthy will find, as he gets into the "mess," about which so little has been done in the first year of Republican control, that he will be confronted with the eternal question, "What is right?" That cannot be decided by headlines or oratory. It must be thought out.

Governor Dewey proposes a special committee of the legislature to develop a code of public morals and to propose legislation to implement such a code. This is a formidable undertaking. Some help can come from a position taken by Franklin D. Roosevelt when he was trying Sheriff Tom Farley in the "tin box" days of the early 30's. He held in substance that the burden of proof should be shifted to the officeholder when his standard of living and expenditures exceeded what he got in the public job to which he was elected or appointed. This was a notable advance in the building of standards of public morality.

Governor Dewey has pointed the way to a real contribution to public morality. Senator McCarthy can make a similar contribution if, in ferreting out unsavory activities under the Truman regime, he also will give some attention to the constructive issue of what is right.

WHAT NERVE!
OKLAHOMA CITY — Bozo Anderson, operator of a coffee shop, has been keeping a close watch on his change making.

Someone passed a counterfeit dime to Anderson yesterday. Anderson operates his business on the fifth floor of the city police station.

POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Boyle's Visit to Furniture Mart Reveals Most Unusual Business

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK — You think you have problems, dear reader? Listen to a man with a real problem:

After 20 years of reporting wars, club meetings and other small brush fires, I went to a national furniture display this week. I came back with a story about a new furniture item of interest in millions of young Americans. Frankly, it's about a new kind of baby potty.

With this preamble, let me take you behind the scenes of a giant industry and show you a newspaperman's problems they don't prepare you for in journalism school—or portray in Hollywood. Let's do it in dialog:

Editor: "And where have you been all day—if I'm not too bold?"
Boyle: "Down at the furniture mart in the armory."

Editor: "Find any comfortable sofas to loaf on?"
Boyle saluting: "Please, sir, I have saluting. It is a story that has everything—inventive genius, a struggle against odds, money and success, motherhood and millions upon millions of little children."

Editor yawning: "What, no dogs in it? I like human interest stories about dogs—particularly small dogs."
Boyle: "Yes, sir. I know that. I looked for a small dog, but you know how touchy the furniture display people are about admitting animals. But this story has a lot of baby psychology in it."

Editor cautiously in press: "Ed: 'Hmmm. What's this big front page story all about?'"
Boyle drawing deep breath: "Sir, it is the heart-warming drama of a former high school coach who yearned to find the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow and the... here's the switcheroo... he did find it, in a baby potty."

Editor: "Come here. Let me smell your breath."
Boyle: "I'm not kidding. Baby potties have stood still for decades. This guy came up with a new revolutionary baby potty."
Editor: "Oh, no... a baby potty story?... Oh, no, no, no!"
Boyle: "This guy's name is Paul La Hue, aged 40, of Indianapolis. He used to coach basketball and baseball and teach science at a high school in Union City, Ohio. Then he went into the navy. He went to work for a drug firm. He got the idea for this new baby potty while sitting in pediatric offices listening to mothers complain about the problems of housebreaking their babies."

Editor: "And so?"
Boyle: "So he worked four years to perfect the better potty. It cost \$50,000 to get three patents and tool up and produce his first potty. Now he is selling them all over the world, and expects to overturn the whole baby potty industry with it."

Editor: "Not that I'm at all interested, but what is new about this product?"
Boyle: "It is a lightweight, rubberized plastic job, but the main thing about it is that it is a dual purpose trainer, suitable for both little men and little women."

Editor belligerently: "Why, the regular old-fashioned potty is, too. What's so new about that?"
Boyle: "I'm glad you asked that question, sir. Little boys are sometimes harder to train than little girls. Mr. LaHue has a theory that this is because they regard the standard, or sit-down potty, as not altogether satisfactory. He says they regard it asissy and may even by psychology scared if the situation isn't corrected. His solution is a small vertical plastic shield which can be attached to the backs of the potty and provide more... uh... masculine atmosphere."

Editor: "Are you making this all up?"
Boyle: "No, the American Medical Association was not found wanting. It has been commended by Parents' Magazine. Mr. La Hue has sold \$100,000 worth of them in a few months, and—"

Editor: "But potties... potties. Won't people find a story about potties... un... uh... objectionable?"
Boyle: "What people, sir? A baby potty isn't un-American. It is as much a fact of life as babies are. Both are found in the happiest homes. I know one sentimental couple who, after their children were raised, painted the baby potty red and grew flowers in it."

Editor crossly: "Cut the nonsense, and go write your story. But do me a favor, will you? The next time I send you down to the furniture mart, just stick to the sofa department and take a nice long nap."

"Well, dear reader, that's my problem. If you read this story, and write a letter to the editor saying you don't like this story—well, his old uncle will erupt like Vesuvius."

And you know what will happen to me? I'll be sent to Alaska and have to spend the rest of the winter wading through wilderness snowdrifts hunting up human interest stories about small lost sled dogs, abandoned infant polar bears, and wee baby walrus that can't find their way home.

THE FIRESIDE PULPIT

Vision of These Pioneers Pays Continuing Dividend

By REV. GEORGE H. SWIFT

A group of pioneers settled in a certain township in Minnesota. They were poor, but they had vision and determination. There were no roads, no schools, and no churches within reasonable distance. Scantly clothed, poorly housed, large families; it would seem to the practical man that their first consideration should have been to have improved their living conditions.

These Minnesota farmers were men of vision and determination. They realized that while they did need better housing, more draft horses and farm machinery, that there were other factors to be considered and their children were something that must go along with the day by day effort they put forth to establish themselves in their new environment.

A modest little church was built by the men themselves, and they secured the services of an itinerant missionary.

How far-reaching will be the results of their vision we shall never know. Several generations of church men and church women have come out of that community. Other communities throughout the length and breadth of our country doubtless are being enriched by the descendants of these people. The pioneers themselves, being dead, yet speak to an ever-widening circle. While they enjoyed comfortable circumstances later, they

had the vision to see in the beginning of their career, that the bringing up of their children in the admonition of the Lord, was at least as great an importance as adding another draft horse, or buying a few more pigs. We read in the Scriptures, "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

The committees feel that "the pioneer" has been overdone—but isn't there more than one pioneer? I believe that the ordinary citizens of our state want its colorful history memorialized with art that smacks of reality. What say you?

RUTH DEMPSEY

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Salem 59 Years Ago

By BEN MAXWELL

January 23, 1895
Hofer Brothers, publishers of the Capital Journal, were advertising their "One Cent Daily," 25c in silver for a month and \$1.00 for 121 days (Do Not Send Stamps).

Little steamer Alice A. had a regular run between Salem and Independence.

Heavy snows in the Siskiyou had stalled mainline overland trains and none were likely to pass through Salem for several days. Ticket agents were not selling tickets to points southward beyond Ashland.

Jack Harkins, the Chemeketa street artist with a blacksmith shop back of Keller's Furniture store, had forged the first aluminum horseshoes ever made in Oregon.

Lee Steiner, Salem manufacturing druggist (long superintendent of Oregon State hospital), had advertised: "Hades wouldn't be a bad place if they's only furnish ice water and Steiner's Carbolic Salve."

Joseph G. Anderson of Mehma had an advertisement saying he would pay a reward of \$1500 for the party or parties who burned his barn and horses on the night of December 12, 1892.

Chatwin house on Church street, third door southward from the Methodist church, had advertised itself as a first-class house that would appeal to legislators in Salem with its rate of from \$1 to \$2.50 a day.

OPEN FORUM

Why Not Memorialize Steamboat Captain?

To the Editor:
Visitors to our State Capitol always speak most favorably of the bas-relief panels on either side of the Capitol steps. They add much to the beauty of the building and convey the message of courage and hope so characteristic of the pioneers.

Who has wandered about the park and down to the dock at Champeog without picturing "in his mind's eye" the sturdy river boats of yesteryear plying up and down the river? Was not Salem quite a river port? Were not those river boat captains "pioneers"? The waters of the Willamette have played quite a role in Oregon history.

Can't you just see a bas-relief panel of an old time river boat and her captain, stalwart and sure, as he steps ashore? I can.

I am sure that Carroll Moores meant for his request to purchase something that would be a graphic illustration of a part of the thrilling history of Oregon.

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