

Capital Journal

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THE DOUGLAS FIR CONTROVERSY

The U.S. Forest Service has changed the name of Douglas fir, but Oregon state foresters will ignore the change. The alteration is on the scientific level. Douglas fir has been called by botanists for 150 years or so, "pseudotsuga taxifolia." That gives a brief description of foliage. The new scientific name, but not in Oregon where the legislature has spoken, is "menziesii," in recognition of the claim of Scottish naturalist Archibald Menzies to having discovered it. Even that is disputed by botanists who say his branches were not those of Douglas fir at all. There are those, though, who say David Douglas, also a Scottish botanist, made the discovery. Along with the scientific name change, there's a move afoot to put a hyphen in the common name and make it Douglas-fir. Homer C. Lyon, Jr., the state forestry department's publicity man, says it will take an act of the legislature to change the botanical name in Oregon, where a 1939 law made pseudotsuga taxifolia the state tree.

House concurrent resolution No. 5 of the 1939 session of the Oregon legislature reads as follows:

Whereas, at a meeting of the state board of directors of the Daughters of the American Revolution held on January 14, 1939, a motion was adopted that the 40th legislature assembly of the state of Oregon declare by resolution that the Douglas fir be designated as the official state tree; and

Whereas, the Daughters of the American Revolution have entered into a contract with the United States Forest Service to undertake a substantial reforestation project, and project calling for a strip of land one hundred or more feet in width on each side of the Larch Mountain highway to be planted with Douglas fir trees; and Whereas, if the Douglas fir is officially designated as the Oregon state tree, the Daughters of the American Revolution will furnish a sufficient amount of Douglas fir trees to complete said reforestation project, said trees will be planted by the civilian conservation corps under the direction of the United States forest service; now therefore, Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Oregon, the Senate concurring therein:

That the Douglas fir (pseudotsuga taxifolia) be and the same hereby is designated officially as the Oregon state tree. Filed in the office of the secretary of state March 7, 1939.

The publication, "Knowing Your Trees" of the American Forestry Association also classifies the Douglas fir as pseudotsuga taxifolia, which it says is frequently called "Red fir, Oregon pine, Douglas spruce, Douglas yew, but Douglas fir is generally accepted." It continues:

"The tree is in the nature of a botanical puzzle, for it bears strong resemblance to spruce and fir as well as to the hemlock and yew. Accordingly the botanists went to the Greek to describe it as a 'false hemlock with a yew-like leaf.'"

"It was first discovered by Dr. Archibald Menzies in 1791, on the west coast of Vancouver Island; it was rediscovered by the Scottish traveler David Douglas, who introduced it to England in 1827. Since then it has been widely planted in the British Isles."

It is typical of bureaucracy, for the U.S. Forest Service, which has its hands full of vital forestry problems, to butt-in on inconsequential controversial things like this, which are none of its business.

Moreover, it is in violation of the Eisenhower policy of seeking state cooperation on conservation issues, including forestry problems.

It is an attempt to upset a century-old tradition and practice to make confusion more confounding without any real objective. And it is the more surprising that Secretary McKay, a well-versed Oregonian, would stand for it—for neither the Oregon timbermen nor lumbermen will pay the slightest attention to this trivial tinkering with our greatest natural resource—the Douglas fir.—G. P.

BONNEVILLE'S NEW BUILDING

Idaho's capable Congressman Hamer Budge charges that the will of congress has been flouted and the interests of the taxpayers disregarded in the palatial new Bonneville Power Administration building under construction in Portland.

Budge claims this project was never authorized by congress, but that congress was bypassed and circumvented by a leasing deal made by B.P.A. when Raver was its head man with the Lloyd Corporation, a Portland investment company, under terms that will repay that company its entire capital investment in about eight years.

The government is obligated to pay a rental of \$620,126 a year for 287,790 square feet of space. However, only about 25,000 of the increase in space to be used by Bonneville will go to actual offices. The rest will be for an auditorium, underground parking, conference rooms and other adjuncts to comfortable living. Budge claims that the project was entered into at a time when there was plenty of office space available in Portland.

This writer has wondered why an agency serving only a few scores of customers needed such a palace, and it now appears that the branch of the government charged with spending the people's money was never given an opportunity to pass on it.

Budge is an extremely responsible person. His questions deserve a prompt and frank answer from the Bonneville Power Administration. For the people have a right to know where their money goes and why.

NEITHER FISH NOR FOWL

There is a grim note of irony in the situation of those 21 pro-Red American P.W.'s who've refused to return to the U.N. lines because they want to join the Communists, but whom the Communists refuse to accept.

The 21 told reporters they were asking the Communists to take them as "free men," which could be a reason why the Communies do not want them. For of course, there are no free men on that side of the iron curtain, as our deluded 21 will find very soon after they do join the comrades.

We imagine the Reds will take up the group as soon as they have made some sort of a propaganda play out of them. For they must need soldiers for their armies and laborers for their mines, and these birds are young and healthy.

Meanwhile the one consolation for our side is that finally there were only 21 turncoats out of all the thousands of Americans the enemy captured, while thousands of Chinese and North Koreans were ready to die rather than be returned to their enslaved homelands.

Overall, the propaganda advantage throughout the world must be ours.

Legislation Group To Meet Thursday

SALEM — The legislative committee is trying to de-committee on revision of the state constitution will meet here Thursday to discuss the constitution sections on the governor, administrative departments, education, school lands, finance and state printing.

IF WE COULD ONLY BE SURE—



WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Ike Furious About Navy's News Leak on the Nautilus

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON — President Eisenhower picked up the early morning newspaper shortly before the launching of the atomic submarine Nautilus last week, and almost spilled his breakfast coffee.

What he read was a news report that the Nautilus was not battle-worthy, was merely a test, and in effect was not an important naval vessel at all.

The president was furious. In the first place, he considered the story false. Second, his wife Mamie was going to launch the Nautilus. Third, being experienced in the battle of Pentagon politics, he smelled a navy inspired news leak.

So he telephoned Secretary of Defense Wilson.

Charlie Wilson is not the early riser that his boss in the White House is, and the president routed him out of bed. Summoning him to the phone, Ike made it clear to his secretary of defense that he didn't like the navy belittling its own submarine at a time when the administration was building up confidence in the new weapons of the armed forces. Also he seriously doubted that the navy's story had been cleared with the atomic energy commission.

And as an afterthought, the president snorted: "Why the navy even asked Mamie to christen her."

Wilson Lectures

Admiral Lewis Strauss, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission also saw the news story and was fit to be tied. He is required to pass on all statements by any branch of the government pertaining to atomic energy, and he, too, phoned Secretary Wilson.

With two phone calls under his belt, one even before breakfast, the secretary of defense arrived at his office in a bad humor. Immediately he asked Undersecretary of the Navy Thomas Gates to have lunch with him—Secretary of the Navy Anderson then being out of town. Undersecretary of Defense Roger Kyes was also present, and after lunch a roomful of admirals and assistant secretaries were called in, including Admiral Lewis Parks, chief of navy press relations.

The meeting, including the luncheon, lasted more than three hours. Wilson first wanted to know why the news story had not been cleared with the Atomic Energy Commission. The admirals had no explanation. Furthermore, none of them admitted leaking the story.

What Wilson did not know was that the story had been leaked verbally by a junior navy press officer.

The allegations that the Nautilus isn't battle-worthy; that her torpedo tubes were added only as an afterthought; and that her delicate equipment would not work at high speeds, was prepared first by Commander Slade Cutter. Later it was put in a memorandum signed by Admiral Parks.

The memo was supposed to be confidential, but Wilson suspected it had been shown to the press. For he kept reading from it about and pointing to quotations in the press which were almost identical.

"It's a strange coincidence," he said, "that the language is so much alike."

At another point he asked: "Why belittle the Nautilus?" There was no explanation.

Revolutionizing the Navy

What the secretary of defense knew, of course, was that the Nautilus is so fast it is likely to put surface vessels completely out of commission. She can cruise round the world under water without coming up for air. She can run circles round a battleship and can

surpass the speed of many destroyers. In other words she can probably catch up with and sink the vessels that are supposed to sink her.

This affronts the admirals with the possibility of junking all non-atomic-powered surface ships tin the future. In fact, 50 vessels are being mothballed immediately.

Wilson also knew that the proposed airplane carrier powered by atomic energy would have been so fast that no protecting vessels could keep up with her. A carrier is not supposed to move without a convoy of destroyers and light cruisers, but since the convoy could not possibly keep up with an atomic-powered carrier, the proposed atomic power for the new carrier has been temporarily scrapped.

This revolutionary development in naval warfare is why Wilson and Kyes have switched their emphasis to so-called push-button warfare, with emphasis on long-range rockets, A-bombs and bombers. Naturally some navy and army men are opposed.

Navy Discrimination

At the secret conference, Secretary Wilson kept reading aloud from the Parks-Cutter memo. He read it over perhaps a half dozen times.

At one point in the discussion, the name of Admiral Hyman Rickover came up. Rickover is the father of the atomic sub and was blacklisted for promotion by the navy selection board, until this column published the fact that he was being discriminated against because of his religion.

However, the entire group of officers summoned before Wilson expressed nothing but praise for Rickover.

The meeting broke up with no decisive conclusions. But it's a safe prediction there will be no more navy leaks—at least in the near future.

Statehood Jockeying

Albany Democrat-Herald

This jockeying around on the question of statehood for Hawaii and Alaska reminds one of those pre-Civil War days, when we had to have one "slave" state admitted for every "free" state, to preserve the precarious balance in congress.

It doesn't seem as if there's as much at stake now as there used to be then. It is a pity that the question of statehood for these territories cannot be resolved on some other basis than the mere question of two more Republican or two more Democratic senators.

If there is any other reason for tying Alaska statehood to Hawaii's, it isn't obvious here. The purely political play on this issue makes one slightly weary. The next result may well be the defeat of Hawaii's excellent claim to statehood at this time. Alaska is hardly ready.

PIPE LINE IS PLASTIC

POLAR, Mont. (AP)—The first cross-country pipe line entirely of plastic is delivering crude oil from a producing field in the Williston Basin to a shipping point on the Great Northern Railway in Montana. Reported to be longest of its kind, the 9-mile line, 3 inches in diameter has a capacity of 4,000 barrels a day.

DISHES NOT HIS DISH

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—A divorce was granted when a man told the court his wife made him wash the dishes or take her out to dinner.

"It was very expensive," he added.

POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Boyle Makes Debut as Lord In Richard II on Television

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (AP)—Have you been invited to be a television actor yet?

No? Well, don't give up hope. In video everybody is getting into the act. If they get around to me, they'll get around to you.

I made my first professional TV debut last Sunday, and if I didn't immediately become a bright living legend in the theater it's not my fault. They switched roles on me. I was nosed out by a bronze bust of Hamlet.

The play was "King Richard II," written by William Shakespeare, or, as we in that enchanted world behind the footlights prefer to call him, "The Bard."

It starred Maurice Evans and Sarah Churchill and was presented over the NBC network on the Hallmark Hall of Fame program at a cost of \$175,000—more cash than Shakespeare saw in his whole lifetime.

When I was first asked to join the cast, I was careful to inquire what part I would play.

"You play the corpse of King Richard in the final death scene," the agent said. "You just lie there in a coffin with a mask over your face, lit by four candles, until they carry you off. It's a tremendous exit."

It did sound good. And playing a corpse with a mask over your face would bring out the Barrymore in any actor.

But when I went to the rehearsal I found the plans had been changed.

"When Evans played Hamlet on television last year, the corpse fluttered his eyelids and the camera caught it," a director said.

I promised on my honor not to breathe for five minutes before the last scene until five minutes after it was over, but the director said:

"We can't take a chance. We've given the corpse role to a bronze bust of Maurice playing Hamlet. The bust has been made up with greasepaint and hair to look like King Richard, and we feel pretty sure it won't flutter its eyes."

When I asked where that left me, he said:

"Most actors start their careers as offstage noises. We'll start you as an onstage silence. You'll be a lord at the court. You will follow three other newcomers to the theater, two Barzob hounds named Nicholas and Liza, a brother and sister act, and a horse called Southern Comfort."

Lisa was so nervous she had a stomach upset just before her entrance. But then she straightened up like the game little trouper she is.

"Good luck, kids," I whispered. They trotted out and came back a few minutes later, wagging their tails like veteran actors.

Southern Comfort also did about as fine a job of acting as any horse I can remember off-hand, but when his groom led him back he said:

"Look at that horse's knees. He is still shaking like a leaf." Southern Comfort reached over and tried to bite him.

I was on during the first and last scene. I stood so still that after the first scene ended one

name "brains trust" was applied, those of us who were directly involved felt the cold, clammy kiss of death. Professors were not popular with the boys in the clubhouses, and only the patronage of Roosevelt saved them from a fate worse than Jonah's.

Four years ago I was present at a meeting of a group of conservative people who had under consideration the creation of a group which might counteract the influence of the A.D.A. Those who favored such a formal group called their idea a "right-wing A. D. A."

The consensus of that meeting was that the creation of such a formal group with a name and an office and periodical statements of principle would do more harm than good to the Republican Party. It would become a target for the opposition to shoot at, just as was the Liberty League 18 years ago.

The members of the group decided to work independently in any way they could, within or without the Republican Party. In the south they helped the more conservative of two Democrats. In the north they generally helped Republican candidates for congress.

The conservative swing in the primaries and elections of 1950 was not necessarily the result of their labor. But they helped, and they brought no embarrassment to the people whom they supported.

Moreover, the egregious gall of some of the members of the A.D.A. has not helped the Democratic cause. Consider how this would be received by a life-long Democrat. It is a statement by Professor Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.: "For a generation, of course, the Republicans have more or less controlled the private communications of this country. . . . But their control has never been total. It has been limited and offset by the fact that the Liberals (not the Democratic party) controlled the Government."

And so farewell to the A.D.A. and better judgment next time.

Do People Want Municipal Parking

Astorian-Budget

The question of whether it is up to municipal government or to private property owners to provide extra parking facilities, beyond what the streets provide, in a downtown business district is a moot one in many communities.

In Eugene the other day the citizens gave some indication of what public opinion might be on the question when they turned out in surprising numbers to reject by an overwhelming 4479 to 709 vote a proposal for issuance of \$750,000 in municipal bonds to furnish off street parking facilities in Eugene's badly-congested business district.

The election perhaps was not a true test of whether citizens wanted their municipal government to try to solve the downtown parking problem. No doubt many would be pleased to have the city government do so, if it cost nothing. The \$750,000 cost was probably the biggest factor in producing the measure's overwhelming defeat.

But the vote does indicate that the citizens don't feel it is up to the taxpayer to pay for solving the downtown parking problem. And it seems likely that citizens in most other Oregon communities would vote just about as did those of Eugene on this question.

Disowning A.D.A.

By RAYMOND MOLEY

Ever since the Americans for Democratic Action "assisted" at the tragic disaster that befell Adlai Stevenson in 1952, traditional Democrats have been growling in private about that group. They regard that lot of doubtful allies much as the mariners regarded Jonah. They have been saying, as did those frightened sailors:

"What is this occupation? Whence cometh thou? What is thy country? And of what people art thou?"

Perhaps the Lord will not prepare a great fish to rescue the A.D.A., but it is pretty certain that it will be heaved overboard. For the mutterings have now become audible, and the Democratic national chairman has expressed public doubts about the value of Adlai's late attendants.

The radical program of the A.D.A., especially its view on Federal civil rights legislation, has thoroughly incensed Southern Democrats. Northern Democrats realize that they cannot win without the south, and they learned in 1952 that there were issues more dear to southerners than even the name "Democrat."

But the unpopularity of the A.D.A. is rooted in something even more serious than fear of radicalism. Americans simply do not like people who call themselves "intellectuals." It smacks of cobblestones. It assumes that college degrees and professorships are necessarily marks of superior intelligence and authority. It reeks of elitism. And the A.D.A. has from the beginning been heavily loaded with professors.

An answer may be made by some of the brethren who will not agree with this that the professors in the original Roosevelt brains trust were useful and permanent parts of his administration. I can with some right answer that in two ways. Those professors 20 years ago were associated in a great victory, not a great defeat. Even then, when the

OPEN FORUM

Salem Made Hit With This English Visitor

To the Editor:

It was with great pleasure that I read the report in your paper of my three-day stay with Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Dowd during a trip to Salem while on leave from Victoria, V.I.

To say I was impressed with Salem is putting it mildly. Even now I can see in my mind's eye the beautiful Capitol buildings, and I still treasure at home here in England the State Seal which I was given while being shown around by Mrs. J. F. Glennie of 1327 Marion street, who, by the way, sent me the copy of your paper.

The people with whom I came in contact were really wonderful and I shall never forget the lovely time and hospitality which was so freely given. What a treat it would be to see all the people again.

Having met so many friends it is hard to thank each one individually, so perhaps, through the medium of your paper, it will be possible to do so, even after such a long lapse of time. Wishing you and the staff of your paper, not forgetting the people of Salem, a very happy and, I hope, prosperous New Year.

THOMAS MITCHELL,
Bucks, England

A CRABBY CUSTOMER
Albany Democrat-Herald

Even an election to basehall's Hall of Fame failed to draw a statement to the press from Bill Terry, crabby former ex-manager of the New York Giants. Bill will never draw any medals for his handling of public relations. The public, for its part, is gradually forgetting about Bill.

Governor Charles A. Sprague had appointed David Eccles his executive secretary and budget director to coordinate wartime industrial production for Oregon.

Loyal A. Warner had a return assignment as manager of the local J. C. Penney store.

Major General Charles H. Martin, former governor of Oregon, had asserted regarding our war with the Japanese: "We've got a hell of a job on our hands."

A special committee investigating the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor had accused the commander-in-chief of the fleets, Admiral Husband E. Kimmel, and commanding general of the Hawaiian department, Lieutenant General Walter C. Short, of "dereliction of duty."

Plans had been announced for launching the Victory Food Production plan.

Marion county has set up a wood cutting project to supply county buildings with fuel. Cutters were offered \$2.50 a cord.

Bishop's had a sale on Florsheim shoes for \$8.95 and \$9.85 a pair.

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