

# Capital Journal

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## CAPRICIOUS SENATORS

Two incidents of recent days should focus public attention on some of the characters we have in the lower echelons of what was once termed "the greatest deliberative body on earth," the U. S. senate.

Many must have been puzzled at the delay in confirming Earl Warren as chief justice of the supreme court, to which he was appointed last fall and on which he has since been serving. Day after day went by without the nomination being reported out of committee for what was expected to be a unanimous confirmation. But nothing happened.

A closer look showed the chairman of the judiciary committee to be one of the most injudicious men in the senate, Langer of North Dakota. Committee chairmen get their positions by seniority. Qualifications have nothing whatever to do with their advancement. This suggested the reason for the delay.

Now Langer has caused an F. B. I. investigation to be made of Warren, at the request, it appears, of political enemies in California who seek one parting shot at a man they hate but whose advancement they have been unable to prevent. It is inconceivable that the F. B. I. will turn up any information the senate and public do not already have. Warren has operated in a goldfish bowl of constant public attention for the past 30 years. The investigation is a ridiculous personal affront, and is, we understand, without precedent in connection with such an office.

Then Senator McCarran, who made a violent scene at a banquet for the president of Turkey down in Las Vegas, forcing himself into a seat next to the visiting dignitary instead of the mayor who had been scheduled to sit there. "Since when is a mayor above a United States senator?" McCarran snorted. It could be answered that the mayor or dog catcher of the smallest pond in Nevada might well exceed that state's senior senator in courtesy.

The senate is a curious reflection of American life, including some of the best men in the country, some of the worst, and a great number of in-betweens.

## COMBATting THE 'PROPHETS OF DOOM'

The United States Chamber of Commerce has issued an optimistic outlook for the nation's economy in reply to the political "prophets of doom" such as CIO chief Walter Reuther and Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois who are doing their best psychologically to create a depression. It remarks that "it is difficult to see any reason why this country should ever again experience an old-fashioned depression."

The Chamber said in its statement for the House-Senate Economic committee that so far the "inevitable readjustment" which it said was "bound to follow the end of fighting in Korea" has been "surprisingly easy." The committee is making its annual study of the president's economic report.

"Business in 1954 will be good by any standard established before 1950," says the Chamber, but it will probably not be as "bouyant" as in the record year of 1953. It points to these good signs:

"Strong sources of investment and consumer demand remain. Consumer income is still very high. Business intentions to invest in new plants and equipment indicate high level of capital investment this year. The Census Bureau reported that unemployment in January totaled 3.8 per cent of the civilian labor force. This is in no sense an alarming amount."

However, the Commerce Department announced after the Chamber statement had been prepared that a new method of collecting statistics indicates that the number of unemployed early last month was 3,087,000 — about 728,000 more than reported previously. This works out to 4.9 per cent of the civilian labor force.

Nothing to be alarmed about with winter delaying farm, lumber and other seasonal occupations and the curtailment of readjustment from the war stimulated inflation. But politicians eager for office, hasten to capitalize to foment and make depression an actuality to recapture the spoils of office.—G. P.

## A VICTORY FOR DECENCY

For many years it appears that Klamath Falls has been more than tolerating prostitution, gambling, illegal liquor sales, etc. It has been in partnership with them, levying fines which were actually protection money. All this with the knowledge and consent of the mayor, council, police and many of the citizenry.

Doubtless there were many who knew this was wrong and demoralizing, a terrible example to set before the oncoming generation of how American government operates at the municipal level. But wasn't Klamath a "ruff logger" type of town where this was the accepted pattern, where nothing could be done?

Until an energetic district attorney, Frank Alderson came on the scene with a blazing demand for a cleanup. Nor did he pipe down when the mayor lamely explained that the money was going for public improvements; as if this excused the breaking of laws.

Considerable public sentiment must have come to the support of the prosecutor, for the city administration now says vice is out and that unless the houses of prostitution remain closed abatement proceedings will be brought against them.

How long the cleanup will last and whether political or personal reprisals will be made against the prosecutor, as happened when complaints were voiced over in Lincoln county remains to be seen. In the long run we fear people will get no better government than they insist upon. But District Attorney Alderson has shown what one courageous man can do. It is to be hoped that others in and out of public office will take note when they see conditions that need correcting.

## COMMISSION FOR LINDBERGH

Most of us had well nigh forgotten that Charles A. Lindbergh used to be a reserve colonel in the Air Force, which he resigned 13 years ago after a blast from President Roosevelt that virtually branded Lindbergh as a traitor to his country.

Most of us were exasperated with Lindbergh's isolation and near pro-Germanism at the time. He took an extreme position, declaring that even the United States could not prevent a German victory in the war. He had previously inspected Germany's air forces and considered them invincible. He was wrong, it subsequently developed, but the balance might easily have tipped the other way.

But Lindbergh never was disloyal. He was politically blind, or so it seemed to those of us who differed with him. But who has not been politically blind in the view of those who differed with him?

The U.S. government can well end its feud with Lindbergh, who rendered great service to the government as an advisor in aviation. He has outstanding talents of a technical character, quite apart from his great feat in flying across the Atlantic solo and he has given them freely. To return his commission will be a generous gesture that can harm no one and should make everybody feel better.

## IF SOME 'BIRD' SQUAWKS 'CHICKEN!'

—YOU BE A "WISE OL' OWL," SON,  
AND HOOT BACK AT HIM.



## WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

### Justice Department Played No Politics in This Case

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON — The inside story of how Congressman Ernest Bramblett of California was tried and convicted can now be told. His prosecutor caused the firing of five democratic lawyers who didn't want to prosecute this republican congressman.

They were overruled by a new Justice Department executive who happens to be a republican and who ordered the case to trial.

Though Attorney General Brownell has been charged with playing politics in certain cases, his associates certainly did not play politics in this one.

Here is how the backstage story unfolds:

In December, 1952, as the Truman administration was about to leave office, the Democratic Central Committee of Santa Barbara, Calif., which is part of Bramblett's district, sent a telegram to Attorney General James McGranery, a dem-rat, which read in part:

"Drew Pearson has filed with the Justice Department his published charge that Congressman Ernest Bramblett obtained salary kickbacks from his employees. We see that you prosecute before new administration comes in and whitewash this."

The telegram went in due course to Charles Murray, then assistant attorney general in charge of the Justice Department's criminal division, who forwarded it on to his chief assistant, Andrew Oehmann, with this note:

"Andy—Let's not assume justice will miscarry when our successors take over. Give this the usual treatment."

Murray's confidence in the ensuing republican administration was not misplaced. The proved more anxious to prosecute a fellow republican than did certain democrats.

Democrats Say No  
The kickback charges against Bramblett were processed in due course, and on January 14, Attorney General McGranery, the outgoing attorney general, ordered prosecution in a letter which he himself signed.

Since only six days remained before Eisenhower was to be inaugurated and Attorney General Brownell took over, it was obviously impossible to prosecute and the matter was delayed. It did not come before the new republican chief of the criminal division, Warren Olney for several weeks.

At that time there passed across his desk a routine recommendation that the criminal charges against Congressman Bramblett be dismissed. Ordinarily, Olney might have O.K.'d the recommendation, since it was signed by men familiar with his case. But being new in office and being from California, as is Bramblett, he took a second look.

The five subordinate attorneys who found no ground for prosecuting the republican congressman were all appointed by democrats. Despite this unanimous recommendation, the more Olney looked at the case the more skeptical he became that either one kind of a fix had been put in to save Bramblett or else a trap had been laid to embarrass him as the new chief of the criminal division.

So he asked for the entire Bramblett file and turned it over to an independent attorney of his own choosing.

New Documents Discovered  
This attorney turned up several interesting and extremely

important documents which had been held out of the abbreviated file which had come across the desk of the new assistant attorney general.

One of them was the signed order by Attorney General McGranery for criminal prosecution. His letter listed several laws which Bramblett had violated. It was emphatic and unequivocal.

Another was a notation that Edward B. Williams, Bramblett's attorney, had called at the justice department on Jan. 9, 1953, stating that he was acquainted with Mr. Olney, the new republican who was about to take over the criminal division. The memo stated that Williams mentioned this friendship and asked for favorable consideration in the Bramblett case.

Later it developed in court testimony that Bramblett had phoned his campaign manager, John Hardaway, at about this time, telling him not to worry, that "everything was being fixed."

The omission of these two documents from the file handed to Olney was significant. The McGranery letter, categorically recommending prosecution, showed that the outgoing democrats were all set to throw the book at Bramblett. The second document, stating that Williams, a reputed friend of Olney's, asked for favorable consideration, might have led to the conclusion that Olney, the new republican chief, was fixing a case for a friend.

So Olney called in the five democratic attorneys and fired them. He also ordered the prosecution of Bramblett.

Reason for firing the five attorneys was not that they made a mistake in recommending dismissal of the Bramblett case, but because they withheld pertinent information. The deliberate omission of Attorney General McGranery's letter from the files appeared either calculated to carry out a fix for Bramblett or else to entrap the new republican chief into dismissing charges against a fellow Republican.

Olney is not a man who disguises cases haphazardly — regardless of politics. He was appointed by Governor Earl Warren, now chief justice, as chief counsel of the California crime commission where he did a bang-up job of cleaning up the gambling racket and the underworld bosses which for a time dominated parts of that state.

So Olney insisted that the Bramblett case go before a grand jury. The California congressman has now been indicted, tried and found guilty.

## 'Twas Worse in '49

Albany Democrat-Herald  
The secretary of labor directs attention to the fact that unemployment now stands at about half the percentage recorded in 1949, when between four and five million American workers were idle out of a total working force of a million smaller than the present.

Politicians who have been moaning about an "Eisenhower recession" and clamoring for a big "public works" program to save our people from starvation were less vocal about it in those days. The situation was worse in 1949. Nineteen forty-nine, however, was not an election year.

## Salem 29 Years Ago

By BEN MAXWELL

February 17, 1925  
Funeral services for Floyd Collins, who had become wedged in a sand cave and perished there, were conducted and the cave sealed with cement.

Rin-Tin-Tin, the wonder dog, had an appearance in "The Light-House by the Sea," an Oregon theater presentation.

Frank Minto, chief of police, had received a membership in the "Keep Growing Wiser Order of Hoot Owls."

Little Alma Marie Beutell, three year old Silverton child, had swallowed a watch wheel about the size of a dime. A local physician removed it with a bronchoscope.

Disposal of prison sewage into Mill creek had evoked a denunciation from a Salem council committee.

Shipley's had ladies spring hoisery in shades of mauve, amber, marquette, freckles, rugby, sable, pecan, clare, parchment, fallow palm beach, grison, rosewood, atmosphere and sunburn.

Capital Journal had opposed kindergarten schools, then under consideration by the legislature, and had stated editorially: "The state has enough to do educating children old enough to go to school, let alone keeping them amused during infancy."

## U.S. in Indo-china

Engene Register-Guard  
The dispatch of some 200 air force technicians, to assist the French and the Vietnam forces in the servicing of American equipment which is being used in the war with the Vietnam Communists in Indo-china, has caused considerable concern in Congress. Mississippi's Senator Stennis, in particular, has raised the cry that we may be involved in another Korea.

President Eisenhower has given assurance that the assistance is being limited to the necessary servicing of our routine military aid to our Allies. The technicians will not participate in combat nor will any combat troops be sent to Indo-china. Nevertheless, the question is raised:

"Suppose Red China adopts this as a pretext for intervention in Indo-china by sending volunteers, as it did when MacArthur was given what seemed to be a green light to push beyond the 38th parallel in Korea?"

That danger comes under the heading of calculated risk. There seems to be no doubt that the Russians and the Chinese are supplying the Communists in Indo-china, just as they supplied the Communists in North Korea, and in supplying our friends, we are only matching them. It would not make sense to send complicated equipment to the area without sending people to teach the use and maintenance of it.

The problems of Indo-china run much deeper than this little incident. The war there is a guerrilla struggle in swamps and jungles. It is complicated by French colonialism and by the deep desire of the Indochinese for independence to fight their own wars and to solve their own problems in their own way and by their obvious unreadiness for such responsibilities.

KREMLIN SENSES DANGER  
Secretary of State Dulles  
They (Russia's rulers) may be dimly perceiving a basic fact—that is, that there are limits to the power of any rulers indefinitely to suppress the human spirit.

## Marsh Is Needed

McMinnville News-Register  
Approach of the filing deadline for the 1954 election has found little concrete evidence from Senate President Eugene E. Marsh on his political intentions. And, most people of the county apparently are sitting back, waiting for him to announce without thinking of the consequences if he should decide not to run this year.

"We have become so used to having Gene Marsh represent our county in the councils of Oregon government that most of us never pause to realize the long hours of hard work, the heavy financial sacrifice that he and other legislators must make to go to Salem. It isn't just the months of legislative session, for example, in Marsh's case. His legislative position places him on the most important committees, which meet regularly to study state problems. He spends countless hours and countless dollars between sessions helping to look after state business. This is a dividend for the people—for the individual it is a real and expensive responsibility.

Oregon and Yamhill county need Gene Marsh back in the legislature this year. Tragically, the death of Dean Walker has taken a heavy toll on senate leadership. Marsh is wanted in the senate even though he personally may think it anti-climactic to return after his term as senate president. Many other presidents have returned to office. In the present situation, Marsh should as well.

## McCarren Again

Albany Democrat-Herald  
Wonder what the Honorable Senator Patrick McCarran had to say to the president of Turkey after forcing the mayor of Las Vegas, host city, to give up the place alongside the honor guest at a dinner given for the visitor. "Since when does the mayor of a city come before a United States senator?"

There was an obvious answer which the committee in charge was too polite to give. This fits into the general picture people are forming of McCarran. The

## POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

### Bootleggers Enjoying Boom Times Again in Big Cities

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK, (AP)—The bootlegger is enjoying boom times in American again.

He's getting to be a big operator. Just as he was in prohibition days, he is able to put up \$25,000 to \$65,000 for a still that will turn out a thousand gallons of alcohol a day.

He has new lists of suckers eager to buy his cas-s of "smuggled" scotch or Canadian whisky at cut-rate prices. He is again using counterfeit labels and tax stamps on a big scale.

Maybe no one has offered you a bargain basement buy in moonshine lately, but the liquor industry says moonshine is being sold in parking lots, candy stores, gas stations, cigar stores, and by telephone. It says the bootleggers have henchmen working in hotels, apartment houses, business buildings and industrial plants all over the United States.

The post-war rise of the bootlegger has the regular liquor industry more than annoyed. It is so angry that it is considering hiring its own agents and lawyers to track down bootleggers and help the government convict them.

Ralph Heysfeld, 42, president of Schenley's and a spokesman for the industry, feels the government isn't doing enough to wipe out bootlegging.

"Bootlegging is the major lawless industry in America today," he said, "but the average citizen just doesn't care a hoot about the problem."

"Moonshine has a romantic history. The hillbilly moonshiner is part of our folklore. We're not worried about him.

But we are concerned about the big operators who have moved into the cities. No one can say for sure how much illegal whisky is being sold. But I say you can go anywhere in New York—or any other major city—and buy bootleg whisky within 10 minutes. Anybody who wants it can get it. The supply equals the demand."

Heysfeld said that the distilled spirits industry paid \$1,840,850,650 in federal and state taxes in 1953, roughly \$13.25 a gallon, but that the government spent less than six-tenths of one per cent of this revenue to enforce the liquor laws.

"Most bootleggers get suspended sentences," he added. "Only a third are sent to jail. The courts simply aren't doing the job."

"Curiously," the government concentrates its campaign against bootlegging in the Southern states, but the bootleg industry actually is flourishing in every section of the country.

"They seize 20,000 stills a year, but the amount of bootlegging isn't going down. We say it's increasing."

Heysfeld thinks bootlegging could be cut down if the taxes on legal liquor were lowered, thus permitting it to be sold more cheaply. But he doesn't believe there is much real prospect of getting the taxes lowered.

"The only way left to meet the moonshine menace is by stricter enforcement," he said. "We are considering setting up a number of pilot operations in which, in cooperation with government officials, the liquor industry can protect itself against bootleggers, just as banks hire Pinkerton guards to protect themselves."

He wouldn't go into the details of his program, but he was hopping mad. He left no doubt that the legal liquor industry is tired of paying all the taxes and taking all the worries, while the bootlegger ducks the taxes and reaps big profits.

## OPEN FORUM

### Appreciates Prompt Job by Sheriff Young

To the Editor:

We wish to express publicly our appreciation of the splendid work done by Sheriff Denver Young and the FBI in securing the arrest of a fake minister, as reported in the paper, in Wheaton, Ill., within five weeks of the return of the bogus check which we endorsed. The authorities here immediately notified the Christian Booksellers association of Chicago, which sent out a warning to all member bookstores throughout the U.S.A.

This man is wanted in Portland, Albany and Eugene, Ore., as well as in Seattle and Spokane, Wash., Denver and in many California cities. He also did an elderly couple in Portland out of \$1000 of their hard earned savings.

BIBLE BOOK HOUSE  
J. R. Turnbull.

## CITIES WON'T OPPOSE FARMERS

C.I.O. Pres. Walter Reuther

We do not believe the 140 million Americans who do not live on farms are now or are likely to become opposed to "all direct aid to agriculture."

people of Nevada have a chance to do something about this in two years.

## THE WORLD TODAY

### Berlin Might Be Last Hope For Peaceful Settlement

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON — Two tigers moved up close to examine each other again, and again they withdrew to watch and wait and sharpen their claws.

That may be the historians' description of the Berlin meeting, which began Jan. 25 and ends this week, between the Big Four foreign ministers.

Three of them from the West—United States' Dulles, Britain's Eden, France's Bidault—have talked four weeks with Russia's Molotov. Neither side was expected to yield anything. Neither did. In that sense the meeting was not a disappointment.

But history may consider it a tragic disappointment if it turns out this was the last chance the Big Four had to settle their differences peacefully before World War III.

At Berlin the stumbling blocks were peace treaties for Germany and Austria, as they had been in one meeting after another since 1946.

This was only the latest in a series. The previous one was in September, 1949. There may be others in the years to come.

If that's so, then this one, in spite of the attention it attracted now, may wind up as only a tiny footnote in history.

At the time of the first breakdown over Germany and Austria this country and the rest of the West were practically unarmed; Russia was an arsenal.

Still, there was a balance between them: this country was no match for Russia in number of men under arms but this country had the atom bomb, which Russia didn't. The bomb was enough to discourage Russian attack in Europe.

In the years since 1946 both sides have built up their muscle, sharpened their claws, pushed and pulled and tested each other without locking in a full death struggle. Communism—

Russia clinched her hold on the satellites, grabbed Czechoslovakia (1948), rushed development of the atom and hydrogen bombs, achieving her first atomic explosion in 1949, her first hydrogen one in 1953. And the Chinese Communists took over all of China (1949).

At war's end the Communists, in Russia alone, ruled 200 million people. Now Communism, Russian and Chinese, rules 800 million under a solid Red military alliance that stretches from central Europe and across Asia to the Pacific.

The vast—

Under the threat of Russia the United States moved on from the

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