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TRIALS MUST BE PUBLIC

When a young New York society punk was being tried on a vice charge last year and the judge shut the public out of the courtroom so the New York newspapers couldn't pander the filth to a morbid public we well recall that this newspaper was about the only one in the country to say a good word for the judge. Wrong in principle, we admitted, but justifiable under the circumstances.

Jelke was convicted on plenty of evidence, and now the appellate court in New York has reversed the conviction because the constitutional guarantee of "a speedy and public trial" was not given the defendant. So it will all have to be endured again, with ample publicity.

However, more than an abstraction was involved in the public trial principle, a point the layman, including this editor, overlooked at the time. The majority opinion in the three to two decision said in part:

"Any person acquainted with the prosecution of crime knows that many a witness who may testify glibly and falsely in the secrecy of a grand jury room will invariably refuse or be reluctant to give the same untrue testimony upon the trial in open court. When such testimony is publicly given, the witness well knows there may be persons who can and will come forward to testify to the true facts."

The point is that evidence heard in public and reported to the public is more likely to be true than evidence offered in a private hearing, so there is some reason to suspect the justice of a private trial, such as Jelke was given.

The decision was three to two, so it is evident that there is a difference of opinion among the judiciary as well as among the laymen. But the effect of this decision will be to discourage private sessions of courts at all levels from coast to coast. And this will be generally good, despite an occasional filthy case that ought in the interests of public decency to be private. But who is to decide and how are we to avoid worse abuses that secrecy in government activity always invites?

VOTING THE TEEN-AGERS

Senator Richard B. Russell of Georgia, unofficial spokesman of a bloc of Southern Democrats and one of the ablest of our senators, is leading the fight against President Eisenhower's proposed constitutional amendment to lower the voting age from 21 years to 18 on the ground that it is "the most inexcusable infringement of the rights of the state that I can think of."

"Georgia is the only state which now permits 18-year-olds to vote," Russell says, "it has worked well" there, but he added that the voting age is a matter for individual states to determine under the Constitution and should remain so.

He said the constitutional amendment proposal "is a direct reflection on almost every governor and state legislature" because "it asserts they are not capable of fixing the regulations for their own voters."

The proposed amendment would bar any state from denying or abridging the right to vote to citizens otherwise qualified who are 18 or older. It was approved by the senate judiciary committee by a vote of 7 to 3 March 15. Its principal champion in the committee was Senator Langer (R-N.D.).

The state's rights advocates are not the only opponents of the proposed amendment. Others oppose it on the ground that the average 18-year-old is not mentally matured enough to vote intelligently and ignorant voters who do not know what it is all about are easily influenced and swayed by emotional, prejudicial, unprincipled demagogues intent only on the spoils of office. These are all for voting the bobby-soxers and teen-agers.—G. P.

'OLD DEV' LOSES IN IRELAND

Irish voters this week ousted from national leadership Prime Minister Eamon De Valera, the most colorful Irishman of this century, probably for the last time, for "old Dev" is now 74 and nearly blind. His opponent, John A. Costello will head the next government in Dublin.

De Valera, New York born and bearing the name of a Spanish father, was one of the heroes of Ireland's struggle for independence. This made him the natural leader of the Irish government back in the twenties, but he was able to remain in control nearly all the time until now through his Finna Fail (men of destiny) party.

Some past Irish election fights have been dillies, but press reports do not indicate that this one was, or that any great issue was decided. Violently anti-British in speech through past years, De Valera seems to have gotten along rather amicably in recent years with his neighbors across the Irish sea, and anyway the British devil couldn't remain indefinitely as a winning election issue after he had departed from all but those six northern counties.

One suspects that the deciding factor in De Valera's fall was his age, his infirmities, a feeling that it was time to turn to younger leadership. It would be interesting to know what another famous politician, name of Churchill, thinks of this election, and what he will write to "old Dev." For undoubtedly he will write a friendly personal note and anticipate before too long a return message in similar vein. Both men have stayed longer than was good for them and possibly longer than was best for their countries.

PUBLIC POWER VOTE TODAY

One of the most significant matters being decided in today's election is a public power fight in Union County where a PUD is seeking authority from the voters to purchase the local facilities of the California-Pacific Utilities Company for \$4,500,000.

An interesting angle, which may decide the result, is that the PUD is going to have to pay about twice as much as the property is presently valued at for rate making purposes. This means that the patrons are going to have to pay interest on twice as big an investment as they are being required to pay interest on now.

The PUD will gain important tax advantages, of course, which are probably not sufficient to offset the price, which was fixed after court hearing. The vote will be interesting to watch for evidence of public thinking on public power.

Postoffice Foolishness

(Stayton Mail)

Condon, Gilliam county's seat of government, broke into the nation's headlines last week because of its protest against a proposal from Washington that would allow \$215,000 for erection of a new postoffice at Condon.

We, in Stayton, know how foolish was this federal proposal. Our new postoffice serving 1800 new patrons cost less than ten per cent of the sum mentioned for Condon, population 1200. It would be interesting to learn why these colossal estimates are released in Washington. Our readers will recall how a similar release some years ago listed Stayton, among other Willamette valley towns, as eligible for an \$85,000 structure. That was preposterous, too, only we are not so ruggedly individual as the Condonites and said nothing.

So far as we've observed, Washington—including our senators and congressmen—have not come up with an explanation of such foolishness, which we thought would end with the New Deal's demise.

THE OLD FIREHORSE



WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

H.S.T. Tells How He Handled Wartime Investigation Job

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON — Ex-President Truman was breakfasting in Washington last week when democratic chairman Steve Mitchell brought him over to a table occupied by democrats Lee Metcalf of Montana, Don Mitchell of Iowa, Jay Turner of the District of Columbia, and Ward Clark of South Dakota.

The conversation turned to the McCarthy hearings and the question of whether investigating senators should get confidential information from President Eisenhower.

"There is always a tendency on the part of congressional committees to try to get information from the executive branch of the government," commented the ex-president and ex-senator. "When I was in congress I guess we tried to do the same thing."

"But this fellow," he continued, referring to McCarthy, "is not only trying to get information. He's trying to embarrass his own party."

"I was chairman of that same committee during the war," said Truman. "In fact, I started the committee which he now heads. What we were trying to do was keep people from stealing money by the shovelful."

"And what I did was go to the White House every week or so to see President Roosevelt. I'd call attention to certain people who were doing something improper, and Roosevelt would make a note of the whole thing. Then in a week or so I'd go back to check on what he had found out."

"Sometimes Roosevelt was able to report that things were straightened out. But sometimes he would say: 'Well, Harry, I haven't been able to do a thing. You'll just have to take care of the S.O.B.'"

After the ex-president left the breakfast table, Jay Turner remarked: "And Truman went on to the White House while McCarthy has gone to the doghouse."

Senators who read the lengthy memo sent them by Attorney General Brownell showing why the high-level justice department conference could not be published did not know that most of the republican memo was actually written by the democrats.

"All Brownell had to do was reach into the files and dust off that memorandum," commented former Attorney General Howard McGrath, who served under Truman. "We had that memo in the files for years. All Brownell had to do was change a few words and bring it up to date."

Note—"The memo went back to the days of George Washington in showing why presidents of the United States did not have to reveal confidential matters to congress."

Vice President for McCarthy Most democrats will agree, at least privately, that President Eisenhower has the right to ban testimony about the high-level justice department conference on Joe McCarthy. Furthermore, few republicans, except for the ardent McCarthy rooters, will privately disagree.

For every President must reserve the right to have advisers confer confidentially, and the fact is that various extremely important conferences have been held both at the justice department and the White House regarding the biggest political pain-in-the-neck Eisenhower has developed—the irreverent, uncontrollable, unpredictable senator from Wisconsin.

The man who officiated at many of these conferences was deputy Attorney General William Rogers, likable, able, but an appeaser as far as McCarthy is concerned.

Talmadge Itches To Get at Court

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON — When it comes time to step into the ring with the United States Supreme Court, Herman Talmadge, dark-haired governor of Georgia, may find he's overmatched.

He's itching, he says, for a knock-down-drag-out fight with the court which on Monday outlawed segregation in public schools. He says Georgia will defy the decision if it's the only Southern state which does.

Georgia defied the court in President Andrew Jackson's time. Jackson winked and let Georgia get away with it. No president nowadays is likely to follow suit.

Defiance would put Talmadge in the position of defying the nation and even undermining it since there can be no democratic society unless its members abide by the lawful processes, including the court, which they created.

Talmadge's determination to fight the court may be in direct proportion to the willingness of other Southern states to go along with him when the showdown comes. That's still months away.

On Monday the court said only segregation must end. It invited the attorneys general from the states with segregation to argue here in October on terms of a decree which will fix a deadline.

What the government can do to make Georgia comply, if Talmadge balks, would depend on how he tried to frustrate the court order. What the government might do is neither clear nor predictable. A few steps, however, appear obvious.

Talmadge could say the ruling did not apply to Georgia because Georgia was not one of the states involved in the cases on which the court ruled, although its ruling does apply to all states.

If Talmadge took this stand, nothing would happen until some Negro parents in Georgia asked a federal court to make Talmadge end segregation.

Told by a federal court, as he would be, that the Supreme Court decision applied to Georgia, Talmadge could be jailed for contempt if he then disobeyed. He could be jailed indefinitely, or until he ordered segregation in Georgia ended. This would take months.

If, then, individual school superintendents in Georgia refused to follow the decision, they could be brought into federal court on contempt charges. More time. Or Georgia's disobedience might take some other turn.

In President Jackson's day the federal government, because of treaties with the Cherokee Indians, claimed exclusive jurisdiction over territory they occupied. Then Georgia claimed it.

When a Cherokee Indian named Corn Tassel killed another Indian, inside Cherokee territory, a Georgia state court, claiming jurisdiction, tried him and sentenced him to be hanged.

On an appeal, the Supreme Court ordered the execution stopped and told Georgia to explain why it had infringed on Cherokee territory. The Georgia State Legislature ordered local officers to ignore the Supreme Court.

Corn Tassel was hanged. Then Georgia ordered two New England missionaries, living in the Indian territory, to swear allegiance to Georgia. The missionaries refused on the grounds they were in Cherokee territory, not in Georgia.

Salem 33 Years Ago

By BEN MAXWELL
May 21, 1921

Seven committees have been appointed by King Bing Knowland of the Cherrians to make calls each evening at the auto camp grounds for the purpose of interesting tourists in Marion County.

Boy Scouts had asked permission to appropriate water from Glenn creek for use in a swimming pool at the scout camp being prepared in the Eola hills of Polk County.

Salem police were searching for a man alleged to have stolen a plow from a farmer near Albany.

Thomas Blackbird, a full blooded Sioux Indian, and a veteran of the World War, had the distinction of being the first full blooded Indian to be admitted to citizenship in the United States.

Attorney General Van Winkle had ruled that police officers engaged in enforcement of prohibition laws of Oregon had no authority to search any person without a specific search warrant.

Salem Automobile Co. had advertised the 490 model of Chevrolet as being available in Salem for \$809.

Otto J. Wilson on North Commercial street also advertised a better gasoline with a gravity of 56 1/2 for 29 1/2 c a gallon.

POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

War Rages Between Office Gang and Vending Machines

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (AP) — There is a new kind of class warfare going on in America today. It is a war between the white collar class and the coin vending machines in the office locker rooms where millions of white collar workers now consume the lunches they carry to work.

In some offices the locker rooms resemble supermarkets, crowded with automatic dispensing gadgets that peddle everything from mystery novels to stockings.

The locker room in my firm, however, is making no attempt to run the A&P out of business. We have only 7 of these coin-operated mechanical salesmen, which yield two kinds of milk, several flavors of ice cream, 7 brands of cigarettes, 4 varieties of soft drinks, and about 20 kinds of candy bars.

But even these 7 machines have turned our placid locker room into an exciting battleground, where men and metal monsters grapple in mortal combat.

I have practically given up going to the theater or watching television. When I want to study human nature in the raw, I go to the locker room, where I am sure I can find more soul-searing drama than in "Uncle Tom's Cabin," more suspense than in "Dragnet," more comedy than a Broadway musical offers.

Who will win—man or machine? This is the crucial issue every time an employe approaches one of the machines with a coin. Nine out of 10 times there is a happy ending. The machine hesitates, grumbles, then reluctantly coughs up the desired merchandise.

The 10th time—maybe the machine doesn't like the feel of the coin or the color of the necktie the employe is wearing—nothing happens. Then anything can happen—from a renewal of the siege of Vicksburg to another Battle of the Bulge.

Usually the engagement ends, after a flurry of wild blows and kicks, a series of high-pitched human yells and low stubborn mechanical growls, with the employe nursing bruised fists and sore toes — and the machine sneering the natural superiority it feels toward any white collar worker.

Since the profits from our machines go into an office welfare fund, we have an umpire who settles most of these disputes by returning the lost coin—a truce that really appeases neither the man nor the machine involved.

But in another office locker room I know of — I collect these tidbits of machine age folklore—a really interesting dispute arose. An employe claimed he pushed down the button of the vending machine for a bar of plain chocolate. But he asserts he got instead a chocolate almond bar, which he detests, and after chewing up the first bite he detected half a worm waving in wild protest at him from a bitten-through almond.

This man demands he wants more than his nickel back. He wants to sue the machine. The machine, on the other hand, claims the man is a known liar and a fraud, and insists it will fight the case clear up to the U.S. Supreme Court if necessary. The third party in the dispute, the worm, is in no condition to testify for either side.

It is clear that more and more of these difficult issues will arise in time. In a world where there is already too much ill will, the Nobel Peace Prize certainly ought to go to the first man who can find a way to curb the growing hostility between the white-collar class and the locker room automatic vending machines.

There are almost 95 million cotton on U.S. farms, the result of five consecutive years of increase.

NATIONAL WHIRLIGIG

Unemployment Behind Labor Leaders' Joining Forces

By RAY TUCKER

WASHINGTON — Growing unemployment and possible loss of bargaining power in new contract negotiations lie behind the tight alliance which the labor rulers of the steel, coal and trucking industries have organized in defiance of the old and major unions—the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

Although the three leaders condemned the Eisenhower Administration for not inaugurating an emergency reconstruction program, their difficulties are economic rather than political. Their members are being laid off by the hundreds, and the flow of dues into union treasuries is slowing down.

These conditions have reduced their organizations to their weakest state since the mid-thirties, when F.D.R. sponsored legislation that gave them a dominant position in politics and the nation's economy.

UNEMPLOYED UNION WORKERS According to their own records, there are almost 500,000 unemployed in their three unions, which have a total membership of about 3,000,000.

More than 100,000 of John L. Lewis' coal miners are jobless, and 300,000 are working only part time. David J. McDonald's CIO steel workers report 190,000 out of work and 250,000 working only part time. Dave Beck's AFL truckers cannot find employment for about 150,000. Both the state and union benefit payments will soon be unable to feed and finance them.

The coal operators are so concerned over the industry's decline that they are holding an emergency meeting in Chicago today. They will probably resort to the unusual step of asking government action to check rival competition from oil and gas interests, especially imports. So far the State Department has refused to accede to this plea.

CONTRACT REPUDIATION SUGGESTED BY COMPANIES Indeed, some mine owners suggest that the only remedy is to repudiate their contracts with Lewis, which call for wages of \$19.60 a day. It is doubtful if the larger firms, which fix the pay-scale pattern, will adopt such a drastic course, for it would revive the anarchy and wars that existed 20 and 30 years ago.

But several companies have served notice of contract termination. In order to maintain employment, some union leaders have agreed to accept less pay than stipulated in their agreements. Lewis' premonitory fears over these developments account for labor's lone wolf's willingness to ally himself with McDonald and Beck, despite his hostility toward Walter P. Reuther, CIO president, and George L. Meany, head of the AFL.

If layoffs continue as a result of sagging production, the pact involving such major industries as coal, steel and transportation will strengthen them in negotiations for new arrangements.

STEEL UNION'S AIMS McDonald's contracts with "big steel" expires on June 30. His policy committee has served notice that it wants more money, a guaranteed annual wage and more liberal pensions.

As an enemy of Reuther, who won an automatic productivity increase from Defense Secretary Charles E. Wilson when he headed General Motors, McDonald would like to be the first union chieftain to obtain an annual wage guarantee.

So far, there has been no angry talk or bickering. Neither the owners nor the unions, with their industries ailing, are in a mood for labor wars or strikes. Administration experts in this field are hopeful that both sides will settle for a package increase of about ten cents, mostly in non-inflationary "fringe benefits."

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