

Capital Journal

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An Unusually Wise Youth

An unusual decision in an unusual case has just been rendered in New York, when a Yale University senior, who says he has "two hands and a head of his own," won the right to reject \$400,000 left to him by his father.

Surrogate William T. Collins, in a final ruling, upheld the decision of Eugene F. Suter, Jr., 22, of New York, to renounce the fortune. Trustees of the fund had opposed his action on grounds it would destroy the trust.

The young man, son of a millionaire inventor and machinery manufacturer who died in 1943, has no other source of income. But he told the trustees of the estate acceptance of the fund would violate his "moral and political" principles.

He received about \$36,000 income from the trust on his 21st birthday but immediately gave it away \$11,000 to the American Friends Service Committee; \$5,000 to the Socialist Party; \$1,500 to the U.S. Grant School for Negroes at Yale; and most of the rest to his mother.

Judge Collins, declaring he made his ruling "reluctantly," said the law was not concerned with the wisdom or motive of Suter's renunciation, but only with its legality. He said the law supports Suter's "insistence that as a member of a free society, with a freedom of choice, he cannot be yoked by this inheritance."

"The young disdainer of wealth worked on a Vermont farm last summer. He has said he has no specific plans for the future except to "go West someplace."

Young Suter evidently realizes the handicap of wealth to a young man. He has but to look around him to realize the disadvantage it imposes and the temptation so many sons of the wealthy succumb to lead a playboy's useless and wasteful life for lack of incentive and ambition and its inevitably stultifying effect.

Suter evidently realizes that while the accumulation of a surplus fortune is at best a poor inspiration, it is the struggle to attain it honestly that develops the individual, not its attainment. And he proceeds to give it away for charity neglected in the process of accumulation.

Young Suter will probably progress as most of us do, through adversity which to overcome is a great mental development, for one only learns wisdom from failure by analysis of its causes and the ensuing correction. Adversity is the best of teachers, and the Yale student is courting it. Unearned wealth is usually a demoralizer, especially to youth—while poverty assures vicissitudes. As Lord Byron put it:

"And these vicissitudes come best in youth
For when they happen at a ripper age
People are apt to blame the Fates, forsooth,
And wonder Providence is not more sage,
Adversity is the front path to truth:
He who has proved war, storm, or woman's rage,
Whether his winters be eighteen or eighty,
Has won the experience which is deemed so weighty."
—G. P.

The School Election

Voters of the Salem school district approved a \$1,166,809 levy beyond the six percent limitation Friday and also approved consolidation with the Brush College district in Polk county.

The vote on the tax was 1344 to 891, so it is evident there was a considerable opposition and if a large number of local residents who wanted the school program to go forward hadn't bothered to go to the polls it would have been lost. Nearly twice as many voted in this election this year, which is evidence of rising concern over rising education costs. This though a large majority are still willing to go along, recognizing the need.

Brush College district approved union with Salem by a vote of 97 to 69, fairly close considering that there was no apparent widespread objection. But it is not surprising, for many regret the disappearance of the small independent districts, seeing it as part of the trend of the times toward consolidation of little units into big ones, with what ultimate effect they do not know.

What is surprising is the large negative vote in Salem where there was no apparent reason for opposition. We interpret it thus: This vote came from those who went to the polls to register their disapproval of the school administration by voting against the tax. So they made it more emphatic by voting against the consolidation, too. We cannot conceive of 40 percent of the people of the Salem district opposing union with Brush College.

The school board and school administration will doubtless interpret this election as a vindication, but also as a warning. The people are worried about rising school costs. Unfortunately they aren't going to be able to halt them, for the babies that necessitate this are already born.

The Postal Pay Veto

There is little danger that the postal workers will lose their overdue salary increase by reason of President Eisenhower's veto of the bill Thursday. There is no question about the need between the administration and its opposition. The president placed a limit of 7.6 percent on the hike, so the Democratic majority in congress passed an 8.6 percent increase in order to put Eisenhower on the spot, either force him to back up and agree to what he'd said he wouldn't, or write an unpopular veto. They were pretty sure which it would be and didn't disappoint them.

Now they have the pleasure of "trying" to pass the bill over his veto, and probably hope they don't. If they fail it will be up to them to pass a 7.6 percent increase which the president will promptly sign. The difference of one percentage point isn't much. The question is one of who gets political credit and who can cast some political discredit on his opponents, rather than one of honest difference over which of the two figures is the correct one. Obviously no one can know and few would pretend to know.

People who are pushing for socialism, or members of organizations whose leaders are, ought to note how long it takes government employees to get increases and the difficult "camel through the eye of the needle" course their increases so often have to follow, in contrast with private industry. English workers soon made the surprising discovery that their position was more difficult in dealing with a government enterprise, and American workers should before it's too late.

It's Goodbye, Swede

Oregon has evidently seen the last of Wade "Swede" Halbrook in a basketball suit. He has flown to Wichita, Kansas, to sign with a professional team, where he can play his favorite game and not be bothered by professors. He won't have to study.

Oregon State, which will long remember him as the most famous athlete it has ever had, has charged him off. He was dropped from school for failure to attend classes, knowing this was probably "it." He had been given every opportunity and had refused to respond.

Halbrook wasn't interested in college and never would have been there except to play basketball. Every college has men with a similar lack of academic purpose. Sometimes they can be induced to change their ways and get something out of college except athletic fame. But when they can't, after every effort has been put forth, a regretful parting of the ways is in order.

But Halbrook's place in Oregon athletic history is certainly secure. There may never be another like him.

KEEPER OF THE PEACE



Leaders Think Annual Wage Guarantee Is Not Feasible

By GEORGE GALLUP

(Director, American Institute of Public Opinion)

PRINCETON, N. J., May 20—How do the nation's most prominent citizens, those whose achievements have been great enough to get them listed in Who's Who in America, view the controversial issue of the guaranteed annual wage?

A special poll among this group of citizen-leaders, just completed by the American Institute of Public Opinion, finds sentiment running about 3-to-2 that it is not feasible for the automobile industry to reorganize its production schedules to give most workers a guaranteed annual wage.

But, opinion among the group splits sharply along two lines. Whereas the overwhelming majority of the leaders in business and industry contend that it would not be feasible, leaders in the fields of education and religion are of the opinion that it would be.

Another factor is party affiliation. A substantial majority of those in the poll who said they were Republicans are opposed, while the weight of sentiment among those who classified themselves as Democrats is in favor.

President Walter P. Reuther of the CIO United Auto Workers union is to present his demands for a guaranteed annual wage to General Motors and to the Ford Motor Company within the next two weeks. To college presidents, educators, engineers, lawyers, labor leaders, industrialists, to scientists, writers, government officials, leading physicians, economists, the clergy and other outstanding professional people included in the sample, the Institute put this question:

"Do you think it would be feasible for the automobile industry to reorganize its production schedules to give what would amount to a guaranteed annual wage to most of its workers?"

Yes, feasible 29%
No, not feasible 47%
Undecided, no answer 24%

Some of those in favor of the proposal, in principle, qualified their answers: "I'm in favor, with reservations as to timing," "It must be introduced on a gradual basis," "At least the goal could be approached," and "Some protection would be needed against the day of depression."

Here is the vote by professions and by party affiliation:

Who's Who in:	Yes	No	Know Don't
Business—			
Industry	15%	71%	14%
Journalism	22	49	29
Law	26	44	30
Medicine	29	46	25
Science	24	43	33
Educators	40	36	24
Clergy			
Who's Who:			
Republicans	21%	62%	17%
Democrats	43	30	27
Independents	34	42	24

One other interesting aspect of the survey results is that proportionately twice as many of the leaders under 55 years of age think the guaranteed annual wage is feasible as do leaders who are 70 years of age and older.

Typical comments of those in favor of the plan:
"Why not? When it claims such great efficiency in other matters and aims to pay regular dividends" (Connecticut clergyman).
"Many of us work on an annual wage basis, with some slack periods. Why not the auto worker?" (Nebraska educator).
"Motor manufacturers should put their production on a 12-month steady output basis, forget their annual fever and substitute a year-long sales effort, staggering production of new models." (Colorado newspaper editor).

Typical comments of those opposed:
"It would be an economic Frankenstein." (California business executive).
"There is no place in a free

Oregon Senators Split

Bend Bulletin

To the apparent amazement of a number of Washington observers, Senators Wayne L. Morse and Richard Neuberger of Oregon split on an issue before the Senate recently.

The issue was the gigantic Upper Colorado River project, up for vote in the Senate.

It had cleared the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs committee, following a favorable recommendation from a subcommittee of which Neuberger is a member. In voting the bill out of committee, however, Neuberger said he would oppose one feature of it.

That feature was the inclusion of Echo Park dam in the proposal. Neuberger opposed it because the dam would flood large portions of the Dinosaur National Monument. He was afraid, he told the Senate, that the construction of the dam in the monument would open the way for the desecration of other national monuments and parks.

Neuberger's motion to take Echo Park out of the proposal was turned down by the full Senate after three hectic days of debate and maneuvering. On the final vote had 29 other members of the Senate on his side, but not Morse.

On this split we agree with Neuberger. Although Dinosaur is the most remote of the national monuments and has extremely few visitors, the precedent established constitutes a danger to other monuments and national parks throughout the country.

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NATIONAL WHIRLIGIG

Tucker Tells How Congress Pension System Operates

By RAY TUCKER

Every Saturday, Mr. Tucker answers readers' questions of general interest on national and international policies and personalities. Questions may be sent to him at 7008 Hillcrest Place, Chevy Chase, Md.

WASHINGTON, May 21—"Are pensions paid to congressmen," asks C. H. R. of Mankato, Minn., "based on their earnings? If so, how much will the recent substantial boost in pay amount to, pension-wise, for a congressman? How much would it cost the taxpayers, over a 10-year period, for all members of Congress?"

Answer: Yes, pensions to members of congress are based on their earnings—or salaries—on a percentage formula. Questions two and three cannot be answered because the pensions depend upon the number of years which a man has spent in House or Senate. The system can be explained best by telling how it works.

PENSIONS FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: A member contributes 6 per cent of his salary to the fund, with Uncle Sam providing the larger sum. Upon his retirement, he receives 2½ per cent of his average salary (since August 3, 1946), multiplied by the number of years he has served on Capitol Hill. A minimum of six years' service is required before any member may qualify for a pension.

Let me give an example of how it operates: Suppose that a Representative or Senator served eight years at a salary of \$12,500 a year, and six years at a salary of \$22,500, the present figure. If my arithmetic is correct, that represents a total payment of \$235,000. Divided by fourteen, his years of service, his average salary was \$16,785.

NICE NEST EGG: His pension would total about \$5,600 a year. Assuming that he arrived on Capitol Hill, as many do, in his early thirties, that would provide a nice nest egg. And, of course, many members carry on their private business or professions during their public life.

"A Washington columnist who doubles in radio," writes D. L. B. of Oroville, Calif., "tells each week of some incident that made the President 'furious.' What sort of a man is Eisenhower? Is he subject to fits of anger, a hot-headed man?"

Answer: I have known Eisenhower, although not intimately, since he was an aide to General Douglas MacArthur, then Chief of Staff, in the early thirties. Once, when I was interviewing MacArthur for a magazine article, and needed charts and statistical documents, "Major" Eisenhower served as our errand boy in digging them up. That was 1934.

THE VOCAL EXPLOSIONS: Normally, Ike is a mild, easy-going, delightful individual. But, like most Army or private executives, he can "blow up" over inefficiency or stupidity. He does not become "furious." His face grows grim, his eyes become slits, and he explodes vocally. But he is over it in a minute, and, unlike two predecessors I shall not mention, he holds no grudges.

I think that his generous but firm treatment of the late General George Patton, after the latter had committed the unpardonable offense of slapping a shell-happy best private, furnishes the best tip-off on the Eisenhower temper.

STASSEN'S ACTION AT 1952 CONVENTION: A veteran political expert and editor in Shreveport, La., corrects me on an answer to a question concerning Harold E. Stassen's contribution to the Eisenhower nomination at the 1952 convention. I said that the Minnesota opportunist jumped on Ike's bandwagon belatedly.

When the first and only roll was called, the Minnesota delegation voted for Stassen. But

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Salem 19 Years Ago

By BEN MAXWELL

May 21, 1936

At the request of the chairman of the Champeo park commission highway heads had committed themselves to completion of an improved road to Champeo park.

A bill in congress had allowed 4,000 Oregon Spanish war veterans beyond 60 years of age \$400 each for travel pay from the Philippines, a sum due them since 1898.

New Pittsburgh paint store, 254 North Commercial street, had set its formal opening date for May 22.

Carey Martin, Salem attorney had complained that a letter went from Salem to Boston and back in four days. But it took exactly the same time to get a return on a service summons sent to Corvallis.

A step toward construction of the proposed Wilsonville cutoff road between Salem and Portland had been taken when application was made for a hearing relative to an overhead railway crossing for the secondary highway between Aurora and Hubbard.

Designs for Oregon's new Capitol building were to be opened by Justice J. O. Bailey on Saturday.

THE SILVER LINING
Sherman County Journal
Well, there's one nice thing about eliminating profits; taxes would be eliminated also.

THE FIRESIDE PULPIT

Many Fine Things Cannot Be Seen with the Mortal Eyes

By REV. GEORGE H. SWIFT

Editor, St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Last Thursday we celebrated Ascension Day. I once had a friend who was unhappy about the Apostles' Creed where it says of Christ "He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God." He says we know perfectly well that heaven is not necessarily up.

As a matter of fact we have to remind ourselves that Jesus did not leave the "real" world at His Ascension, no more than an airplane leaves this world when it slips from sight on a foggy morning. But to convince His followers that He was to be no more seen with their physical eyes, He rose and disappeared like a plane which we know very well is not leaving the earth. When Christ was on earth, three-dimensional space separated Him, physically speaking, from His Disciples. When He had "ascended" He was closer than ever. He now was everywhere.

The world is full of things we cannot see, but which we are certain do exist all about us; ideas, friendship, love, good will, even radio waves, and gravitational power, to mention a few.

In the Bible we read, "And the angel of the Lord called upon him out of heaven and said, 'Abraham, Abraham.'" I believe that on many occasions you and I could just as truthfully have said that the angel of the Lord spoke to us. While we might see nothing with our physical eyes, the decision we made was pointed out to us as clearly as though someone took us by the hand and showed us the course we should

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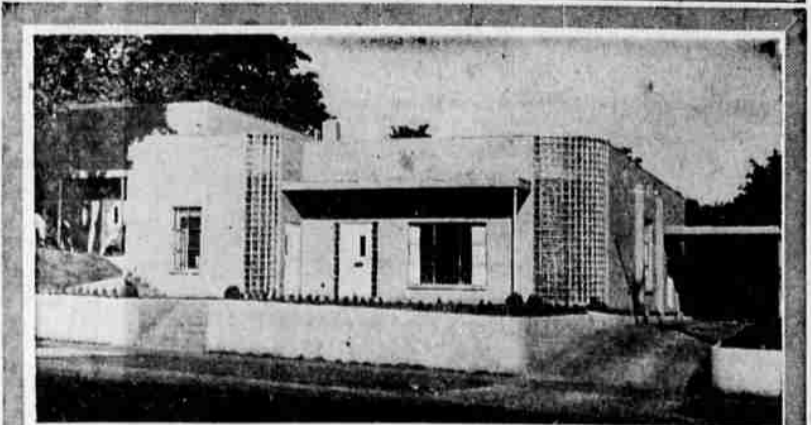
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