

Capital Journal

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The Vice Expose Gains "Warmth"

Portland Democratic politicians can't be blamed too much if they mutter "what a h--- of a time for a vice expose," for at least two of them have already been put in most awkward positions, which we do not believe was the object. For the Oregonian, like the umpire, "calls 'em as it goes 'em."

First to be embarrassed was Multnomah Sheriff Terry Schruck, who has been a popular officer in Portland. He has received the political support of the interests that were trying to take over law enforcement in the city for their own ends. He had issued a permit to carry firearms to Clyde Crosby and did not immediately revoke it when it developed later that Crosby was an ex-convict. Crosby had signed a certification that he had never been convicted of a felony. Schruck claims Crosby's past was not immediately revealed to him when it became known to his office. This seems improbable in view of Crosby's political importance, but it may have been true. It does not in that event suggest a very efficient office.

This morning the Oregonian revealed that District Attorney William Langley has been an "intimate" of the Seattle gangsters and key Teamsters union officials who sought to take over Portland. The Oregonian charges that Langley "conferred often" with the group that was plotting to "open the town." Conversations of one meeting in the King Towers apartment August 15, 1955 were reproduced, apparently involving a payoff to some "Chinamen."

This is explosive stuff in a city like Portland which doesn't expect its officials to be in secret league with the underworld. It will be extremely interesting to see what Langley has to say about this revelation. The Oregonian had better be sure of its ground, and knowing the Oregonian as we do, we are quite sure it is in a position to prove what it says.

The Portland city and county election are sure to be affected, and they certainly should be by these sensational revelations, of which there are probably more to come. Meanwhile, how can District Attorney Langley be looked to for the official investigation that must be made? This must be conducted by officials not in any way involved in the charges if the public is to have confidence in the findings.

Soil Bank Progress

Democratic leaders in congress stepped into the farm bill trap they set for Eisenhower and the first move was the quick House committee's okay of a \$1.2 billion soil bank asked by the President by a vote of 36 to 7.

They admit he masterstroked in the way he put them in a hole in his veto message. The Democrats should be convinced by this time that like is a five-star politician as well as a five-star general when it comes to strategy—though he makes no such claims.

As a matter of fact, the Democrats pulled a boner in even trying to override the veto, for anyone could see it would be futile. But they are planning another scheme to put like in the hole by adding the Soil Bank handouts the difference between price pros and 90 percent crop parity—the old Brennan plan, to put \$150 million more in dolars to farmers.

Democrats claim that the administration has authority to put the Soil Bank into effect under the present law if congress provides the funds. Secretary of Agriculture Benson however, asserts that "the heart of the administration's soil bank" long term contracts for retiring acreage and authority to pay farmers for underplanting acreage allotments is not provided by the present law.

House Democrats privately conceded what they called "minor legislation" might be necessary to put the soil bank on a permanent basis, but said action isn't needed this year. The appropriations bill would provide \$1.2 billion for the Agriculture Department to use between now and December 31, 1956, to initiate an acreage reserve and soil conservation program.

While the committee overwhelmingly endorsed the appropriation, it split on party lines in voting on a report to accompany the appropriation. The report was approved by Democratic members, but the ranking minority member, Rep. Taber (R, N.Y.) said the report was "full of all sorts of political language" and there would be a minority report filed on behalf of the Republican members of the committee.

There is said to be a growing support for the soil bank program in the senate.—G. P.

There'll Be Minor Parties Again

Most voters think of only the two major political parties when they contemplate the current presidential campaign, but there'll be minor or "splinter" party candidates in many states, depending on local filing laws and the existence or nonexistence of supporters of such candidates in the states.

The Prohibition party, oldest of the minor parties, will be in there pitching again with Dr. Enoch A. Holtwick, 74-year-old retired professor of Greenville, Ind., as candidate for president and retired Gen. Herbert C. Holdridge for vice president. This party polled 72,769 votes in the entire nation in 1952.

North Dakota Senator William Langer, nominally a Republican, whose Non-Partisan League is to change to Democratic this year, will be the presidential candidate of a new party to be called the Pioneer party which held a convention in Chicago recently. It is for a free health service and opposes war and corruption. Probably death and taxes, too.

Fred C. Proehl, an Edmunds, Wash., grocer, will be the candidate of the Greenback party, which elected 15 congressmen in 1878 but hasn't done much in this century. He doesn't plan a very aggressive campaign, though all of us would like to have more greenbacks.

The Socialist party, which polled 900,000 votes in 1912, declined to 20,000 in 1952, will hold its convention in June in Chicago. Curiously, it has gone down as its principles have gained force. Perhaps because it is no longer needed by the Socialists.

There are also the Texas Constitution party and the Vegetarian party. Possibly there'll be others before closing dates for filing in the various states.

Yes, Harder to Vote Twice

Senator Robert Holmes, the lone Democratic candidate for governor, is finding that he has to have issues and if no real ones are available they ones must be blown up.

He is quoted as saying in Portland last night that the Republicans "deliberately" changed the election laws to make it more difficult for people to vote. He is referring to the proviso that the voter must sign his name at the voting place and his signature can be checked against the signature on his absentee ballot.

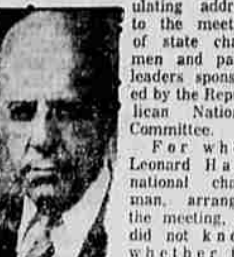
This won't make it more difficult for persons to vote, but it will make it more difficult for them to vote more than once. Sure this can't be why it has come into so much fire from Democratic politicians of late.

We prefer to feel that they're just feverishly searching for a reason that the absence of real ones is reducing them to such trivialities as this.

Like in Fighting, Crumming Mood; Not Assuming Victory

By DAVID LAWRENCE

WASHINGTON, April 21—President Eisenhower is in a fighting mood, a crumming mood. He is not taking for granted victory in the November election. That's why he delivered such a stimulating address to the meeting of state chairmen and party leaders sponsored by the Republican National Committee.



For when Leonard Hall, national chairman of the Democratic Party, at the meeting, he did not know whether the president would do more than greet those present. To the surprise of Mr. Hall, the president asked for time in which to deliver an address.

This speech, coming as it did immediately after the president's veto message on the farm bill, conveyed to the public a strength which had seemed to some observers a weakness on the farm issue. Mr. Eisenhower focused attention on "principles," he said.

"The campaign is concerned with principles because they provide the only sound base for policies and practices. Policies not based on principle retreat to expediency. They become—as we have seen them become in the past—surrenders to pressure, bribes for support, escapes from responsibility because expediency is a betrayal of America's trust, the Republican party in this campaign must be vigorous and dedicated and inspired by principles, by political integrity."

The president undoubtedly was thinking of the pressure upon him recently to sign a farm bill that he felt was unsound and thus to give way to expediency. Many people are saying now that the president's act of courage will win him votes even in the farm states. Certainly many of the Republican members of the House Representatives who originally voted for the bill switched when it came to a vote on overriding the veto. Only 20 Republicans who had previously voted for the bill did so again.

Unquestionably the farm bill has been one of the biggest hurdles the president has had to face. Today some of the Democrats are criticizing their own leadership for forcing a vote to attempt to override the veto because it appears now that the house, though controlled by the Democratic party, supported the veto message. It certainly means that the House will have to do something soon about the president's request for a "soil bank" bill.

FIRESIDE PULPIT

No, Religion's Not an Escape Device for Real Christians

By REV. GEORGE H. SWIFT

In the course of a conversation, which drifted into religion, I was asked if it were not true that religion is just an escape mechanism. The implication seemed to be that an "escape mechanism" is some sort of an undesirable, or even an evil thing. Far from being an evil thing, an "escape mechanism" or an "escape hatch," or a parachute, or a panic lock on a basement door, are all most desirable to have nearby under certain circumstances.

It is certainly true that many people use religion just as an "escape." As is evidenced by their almost complete ignoring of religion until they become panic-stricken over some impending doom, such as an apparently fatal disease, or an incarceration in an institution. After all, what a blessing it is to be able to grasp for religion at a time when one ordinarily would grasp for a straw only to find religion to be not a straw at all, but a sturdy rope to pull one up to safety!

Notwithstanding all this, the great exponents of the Jewish and Christian religions, were anything but escapist, as is noted in the Biblical accounts of the lives of such men as Moses and Michael and Jeremiah, or the lives of the followers of Jesus Christ, who suffered untold agonies for their faith. Certainly Christianity was not an escape mechanism for Saint Paul, who tells us in one of his epistles, about his agonizing experiences while trying to spread the Christian gospel. Saint Paul finally was killed because he would not renounce Christianity.

Far from being a sanctuary for the neurotics, the fearful or the cowards, true religion is a way of life, hard at times, that must be traversed, whatever the cost. The martyrs looked upon their religion as something so priceless that when a choice had to be made between life itself or their confession of faith, they chose the latter with its cross, its arena, or its burning stake.

On the other hand, the arm of religion is outstretched at all times to save those who are drifting helplessly about; it tosses a rope to the shipwrecked lives; or lights a beacon to guide the lost ones home!

With His Chin

Eugene Register-Guard

President Eisenhower demonstrated courage of his convictions Monday when he led with his chin and vetoed the crazy-quit farm bill that Congress had loaded to the brim with sop for just about everybody. The immediate result of the veto, we dare say, will be that the President lost support in places where support cannot be spared. Political rail-birds will be dragging up 1948, the year that President Truman scored the surprise victory that was attributed to farmers who were hoping mad about the farm record of the Republican 80th Congress.

OPEN FORUM

Sales Tax Would Help Only Political Bosses

To the Editor:
It looks like Oregon will have a sales tax after all the years of storming fighting against it. Its taxpayers are fed up with the 45 percent surtax as well as a few other existing taxes and have to reduce them by voting in a sales tax. Poor sumps! They can't realize that a sales tax would more than double the money they are paying by the end of the year. Just think what they would have to pay on the cars they buy, and they kick about the gas tax. The only ones who will profit from a sales tax will be the political bosses who run the state's affairs. Not the little people.

O.K. Let's have a sales tax and listen to the squawks that will follow. Oregon's decisions were made by some people in the good old days. Why can't this continue? Al Hughes, 930 Broadway.

Praises Clerk, Press Registration Efforts

To the Editor:
County Clerk Henry C. Mattson and his staff deserve commendation for the wonderful job they performed in registering voters this year. In few counties in the state has the public been served so well.

Both the Capital Journal and the Statesman also performed fine public services in widely publicizing the registration program. I am sure their efforts were appreciated by candidates and voters of both parties.

THOMAS C. ENRIGHT
101 Court St.

HARDER TO RETRACE

Sherman County Journal
Teenagers feel that it's a long, hard pull to get to be an adult. It's a longer road back.

It Could Happen Anywhere



Reds Seek Peacemaker Role In Middle Eastern Crisis

By JAMES MARLOW
AP News Analyst

WASHINGTON, April 20—There are good reasons for the Russians to step into the Middle East crisis as peacemakers and to agree to go along with a world agency to develop atomic energy for peace.

They have deliberately presented themselves in a new and friendly role, and they must seem to live up to it by deeds if they want to be taken seriously.

What they want—and Communist party boss Khrushchev has said so, is world communism. That hasn't changed. Their tactics have. Khrushchev said they should try to take over peacefully where they can and by force only where they have to.

To sound convincing they had to take a first, drastic step. This meant disowning Stalin, who had come to personify communism as violence, murder and revolution.

Stalin, set in his ways, relied on force alone. In his lifetime communism never advanced an inch without force. But reliance on force alone has become increasingly dangerous for the Soviet Union.

Since the United States and Russia both have atomic weapons neither can attempt force without the risk of destruction itself. With something besides force now necessary, Russia's new peaceful line emerged.

Winning peacefully takes time. The Russians seem willing to take it. They have a lot of time. They have made tremendous progress in science and production. They will make far more if they stay out of war.

They are the Middle East's next-door neighbor. They can't take it by force without facing war with the United States. And at the moment they are not in a position to take it from within, either peacefully or by revolution.

In every Arab country of the Middle East, including Egypt to whom Russia recently sent arms through Czechoslovakia, the Communist party is illegal. There are Communist undergrounds.

If there were upheavals in the Middle East tomorrow—according to information here—the Communists in the area are not strong enough to take over.

So it will take time, and plenty of evidence of good will from Russia, before the Communists in the Middle East get legal recognition as a political party and therefore have a chance to move into the governments.

Meanwhile, Britain would almost certainly move into the area with force if fighting between Arabs and Israelis threatened to shut off Britain's Middle Eastern oil supplies. France and the United States would probably back her up.

Once in, it would be likely they'd retain control of the area for some time to maintain peace. Russia couldn't oust them except by going to war. Why should she chance that?

She can hope to dominate the Middle East since the British and French are widely hated there.

As for the Russian agreement to join the atoms-for-peace agency: the Soviets would have left the United States walk off with the lead in this field if they didn't join.

Under the pushing of President Eisenhower, this international agency would have gone on making friends for the West without Russia.

Corvallis Views Political Differences of Salem Papers

Corvallis Gazette-Times

The very pleasant city of Salem has two excellent newspapers. One is the venerable "Oregon Statesman" with ex-Governor of Oregon Charles A. Sprague as its editor and publisher. The other is the "Capital Journal," with capable Bernard Mainwaring as its editor and publisher.

The unusual thing about these two newspapers is that they are completely tied together in a business sense. All classified and national advertising is run in both papers. Local advertisers have their choice of publication but usually go in both. The circulation department is headed by one man acting in that capacity for both papers. One overworked building, and a new one at that, houses both staffs. One press runs both papers and the mechanical crew work on either or both.

Here, however, the similarity ends. Both have completely independent news staffs and editorial policies. The case in point comes with the Statesman taking the side of Phil Hitchcock in his bid for Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate, and the Journal favoring Douglas McKay.

NATIONAL WHIRLWIND

General Quitting at Age 57 Causes Legitimate Criticism

By BAY TUCKER

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

WASHINGTON, April 21—Why is General Gruenther permitted to quit NATO and the Army at the age of 57? asks G. J. of Richmond, Va. "Since the taxpayers have financed his education and his career, why should he not be required to serve until the age of retirement, which is 64?"

Answer: I do not care to discuss the Gruenther problem alone, for I have known him and his family for many years. But G. J.'s complaint is one frequently raised by members of congress and I think it is a legitimate criticism.

Military Retirement
I do not have the exact count, but I know that scores of high-ranking Army, Navy, and Air officers have been let out years before the official retiring age, only to show up immediately in corporation jobs paying from \$25,000 to \$100,000 a year. In fact, almost the only exception is General George C. Marshall, who lives on his pension and income in nearby Virginia.

It seems to Capitol Hill critics that these men should repay Uncle Sam by serving out their full term, especially as the steady stream of resignations will deprive the military establishment of seasoned veterans and strategists. The unofficial explanation is that having fought in one or two global wars and the cold war, they merit special consideration.

What is your opinion of the proposed change in the Social Security law? inquires Mrs. C. J. J., of Berkeley, Calif. "I would benefit from the change, but I would not want it to pass, if it is economically unsound, or shows a bad political trend."

Answer: There are strong arguments pro and con on this question which my mail shows to have aroused great and widespread interest. The Administration believes that it would prove too costly. With heavier Social Security taxes needed to finance the expansion, and with the number of aged people growing so rapidly, it is argued that it would place too heavy a financial burden on young and middle-aged families. That is true.

Courageous Veto
Station Mail
The people, we think, will accept the president's veto of the farm bill as the only logical step that he could honestly have taken.

The Democratic congress was so intent upon hanging a political noose around the president's neck that it wrote more politics into the farm bill than economics. It is our opinion that the onus for the bill's defeat will rest more upon the congress than on the president.

Eisenhower, in his veto, displays courage, a trait that sets well with the American people.

HERO WORSHIP A VICE?
Herbert Spencer
Hero worship is strongest where there is least regard for human freedom.

HOW CHRISTIAN SCIENCE HEALS

Station Sundays 10:15
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