

Capital Journal

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Refreshing Personality Appears

Not too often in American public affairs are the news columns brightened by the appearance of some new and refreshing personality. Such a one is George Lehleiner who is sparkling statehood for Alaska and, in doing so, using a chapter out of Oregon history.

Whether you approve Alaska statehood or not you must, as Life magazine said a few weeks ago, take your hat off to Lehleiner.

There are two strange things about his work for the cause. One is that he draws no salary. His interest is simply that of a private citizen. The other is that he lives at a very remote distance from Alaska. His home is in New Orleans where he is a refrigerator merchant.

In World War II Lehleiner was stationed in Hawaii as a troopship commander. As he saw it the people of Hawaii were being governed like the colonists in pre-Revolutionary days. He didn't like it. So, as soon as he got out of the Navy, he began working for Hawaiian statehood. Then he visited Alaska and took that territory on too. It had become a hobby with him.

Being a scholarly man, he did some research, and uncovered something that most people had forgotten—the method of seven earlier territories had used to acquire statehood. They were Tennessee, Michigan, Oregon, California, Minnesota, Iowa and Kansas.

Since Tennessee had been the first to use it Lehleiner called it "the Tennessee plan." Briefly, as Life said, the plan "consists of acting like a state before becoming one." Part of the act is to elect two senators and a representative and send them to the national Capitol to lobby for statehood until they get it. The election is preceded by a state constitutional convention. Normal and less aggressive procedure is to wait for statehood and then elect a congressional delegation.

Lehleiner found that this plan was not only legal, but that it brought speedy results. Tennessee got statehood within two months after its delegation, one of whom was Andrew Jackson, reached Washington. For Oregon, third territory to try the plan, it took longer, but comparatively a short time.

Oregon's constitutional convention met in August and September of 1857. The constitution was ratified by the people November 9 of the same year. It called for an election of state, county and federal officers in June, 1858, and provided for a session of the state Legislature a month later so that body might choose two United States senators.

Lafayette Grover was elected as Representative in Congress, and the Legislature chose Delazon Smith and Joseph Lane as U. S. senators. Lane was serving at the time as the territory's delegate to Congress. The three worked hard for statehood, and Oregon was admitted February 14, 1859. This date is, of course, known to most Oregonians, but the importance of this bit of Oregon history to the cause of Alaskan statehood isn't general knowledge.

Lehleiner points out that Oregon's neighbor, Washington Territory, did not use the Tennessee plan, and was not admitted to statehood until 1889, which was 31 years after Oregon and 39 years after California had been admitted to the family of states.

Discord Over Big Budget

The huge size and cost of President Eisenhower's budget has shocked many of his top supporters and some fiscal officials, among them Treasury Secretary Humphrey, who is quoted as saying in a Washington interview: "The increasing cost of government should promptly be stopped. If it isn't stopped, I predict we'll have a depression that will curl your hair." He supports the budget but deprecates its size.

Asked by a newsmen whom he blamed for government spending and the number of government spenders, he replied, "Everybody. Congress enacts laws that start with the public. Various groups keep turning on the pressure—keep turning to the Federal Government for everything in the world to be taken care of." He continued:

"The pressure is put on Congress to enact laws to help them. Congress enacts some laws to help them and the Executive, when the laws go in, has to support the laws and work with the laws and that adds to the payrolls and it adds to the employment and it adds to the cost of Government and that adds to the taxes, it is just everybody—"

"I criticize everybody from the public right straight through to myself. We have not been firm enough. We have to be firmer than we have been and we have to get our expenses in better control than they now are."

Mr. Humphrey denies any clash with the President, but the differences are obvious, for while he was calling for government to do less for the people, Ike was calling for more spending for the "everyday well being of our people by helping improve their economic opportunities, helping to provide safeguards against economic and physical hazards, and helping to build needed public assets."

In the Senate debate following reading of the message, there was a reversal of attitudes—the Republicans favoring big spending, and the Democrats opposing it—but in the showdown both will probably vote for it because "the people want it"—G.P.

Passing of Jack Bladine

Jack B. Bladine, publisher of the McMinnville News-Register, who died Friday at the age of 52, was an important figure in Oregon journalism, for he had developed a weekly newspaper, which itself had national recognition, into one of the best small dailies in the state. Also he and his brother Philip built and operated Radio Station KMCB.

Bladine had his earlier newspaper training in Iowa with various papers, including the Des Moines Register and Tribune, and held positions on both regional and editorial staffs. As a student reporter at the University of Iowa he uncovered scandals that brought changes in the administration and jarred the politics of Iowa. His later years were equally aggressive.

He and his father, the late Lars Bladine, bought the weekly Telephone-Register at McMinnville in 1928. The weekly three times won top honors among Oregon papers, and in 1939, mainly under his direction, it was selected for national top place among weekly newspapers.

At the death of his father in 1941 Jack Bladine became publisher of the Telephone-Register. Later he bought the McMinnville News-Register and changed the name to News-Register. It became a daily in 1953.

Bobt Lars and Jack Bladine served as presidents of the Oregon Press Conference and the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association. He was active in other enterprises and in the politics of the state.

The News-Register remains in good hands with a brother, Philip N. Bladine as editor. The Bladines are a successful newspaper family.—S. S.

The Daily Highlander, published at Lake Wales, Fla., really believes in covering the news. It's going to print the names of boys who play hooky. "This is a service to parents," says the Highlander's editor. "The courageous publisher isn't going to deprive the community of any valuable information."

We are just as disgusted as our neighboring editorial writers with Elvis Presley's show acts. But we are not going to say anything about it to Presley. A truck driver did and so did a husky service station attendant. He whipped both of them. Since then we've had a kind of respect for the guy.

NATIONAL WHIRLIGIG

Some Angles Overlooked in Knowland Decision to Quit

By RAY TUCKER

Every Saturday, Ray Tucker answers readers' questions of general interest on national and international policies and personalities. Questions may be sent to him at 7088 Hillcrest Place, Chevy Chase, Md.

WASHINGTON— "What do you make of Senator Knowland's plan to quit the Senate in 1957?" asks L. K. of Berkeley, Calif. "Is he running for President against Vice President Nixon, or what? How can he keep in the political limelight from 1958 to 1960, when the Republicans must seek a new candidate for the Presidency, if he is only a private citizen?"

Answer: The Knowland-Nixon question has been discussed in the press and on Capitol Hill to a turn, but I think that there are a few angles that have been overlooked and a few misrepresentations of Knowland's attitude.

No Nixon-Knowland Feud
 In the first place, there is no feud between Vice President Nixon and Senator Knowland, although they are not close friends. If President Eisenhower should indicate toward the close of his second term that he prefers Nixon as his successor, I imagine that Senator Knowland would abide by that decision. He would not precipitate a dangerous row in national or California politics in the face of Ike's mandate.

And it should be kept in mind that assuming that Eisenhower retains his present hold on the affection of the American electorate, it will be difficult for any man who bucks him to be elected in 1960.

From Speculative Standpoint
 So, from a purely speculative standpoint, why would it not be smart for Knowland to combine with Nixon to dump Knight, help to place Nixon in the White House from 1960 to 1968, assuming that the Republicans can win in 1960 and 1964, and then rely on the Vice President to return the compliment?

Of course, there are dangers in this kind of strategy. If this Alphonse-and-Gaston game becomes too obvious to the politicians and the people, with California seeking to nail down the White House as its private precinct for half a generation, there could be a nationwide revolt against a Pacific Coast dynasty.

Election Schedule in Britain
 "In view of the disension within the Conservative Party in England, and the enforced dropping of Anthony Eden for Harold Macmillan," asks T.H. of Boston, Mass., "why do they not hold a general election, and find out whether the British people are in a mood to support the present government?" If Eden has been such a failure, why let his party continue in power?

Answer: England holds a general election only under definite conditions. First, they hold them normally every five years. The party in control must go to the people if it is defeated in Commons on a matter of great significance, but not on a minor or routine division. Finally, if the party in control thinks that it can increase its Commons majority by a political polling, it can decide to schedule a general election at any time.

The shift from Eden to Macmillan was a matter of internal party strategy, and did not involve a serious Conservative-Labor clash on the floor. Moreover, there is a question whether the Conservatives could win in a popular test at this particular moment. So, they hope to survive the current crisis by merely changing the crew and commander of the Ship of State.

FOR ALL OF US
 Thomas Jefferson
 The earth is given as a common stock for man to labor and live on.—Thomas Jefferson.

EUROPEAN TROUBLES
 George Washington
 Europe has a set of primary interests, which to us have none, or a very remote relation. Hence, she must be engaged in frequent controversies the causes of which are essentially foreign to our concerns.

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Senator Knowland's Strategy
 In the opinion of most political experts, the man who will lose out from the Knowland strategy is Governor Goodwin J. Knight. He has become unpopular with California Republicans because, although regarded as a conservative when he was Lieutenant Governor (he used to criticize Earl Warren's progressive Administration), Knight has now become relatively radical, especially on labor question.

Gov. Knight Might Be Target
 If there is to be ganging up against anybody, I imagine that it will be against Knight, who faces reelection in 1958, rather than against Vice President Nixon, as Senator Knowland seeks and win the Governorship in 1958, he would become the political boss of California. But there is no assurance that he would throw his influence against Nixon.

Senator Knowland does not have to run for President in 1960, or even in 1964. He could step aside to permit Nixon to win in both these years, if he can do so, and wait around until 1968. Knowland is only 49 now, and he would not be too old in 1968 to be President.

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Relay



Coffee With Amacher

Port Umpqua Courier
 In Portland the other morning, we bumped into John Amacher who has represented Douglas county in the Legislature several sessions. No regrets for his defeat... more time to enjoy the Umpqua fishing near his home at Winchester... more time to get better acquainted with his many friends on the coast. Swiss-born, John says you have to be from another land to appreciate the opportunities America offers.

Talk turned to schools and John recalled his boyhood in the Alps... the tiny country school... 40 kids to a room... the strict, God fearing teacher who made an indelible impression on the future American... a teacher to be remembered... an idea to think over.

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FIRESIDE PULPIT

Rector Cites Summary of Teachings for Inquirer

By REV. GEORGE H. SWIFT
 Rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church

A friend who was in to see me recently asked me where one could find a brief summary of Christ's teachings. I, of course, suggested he read the 5th, 6th and 7th chapters of the Gospel according to Saint Matthew, and Saint Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians.

The 5th, 6th and 7th chapters of Saint Matthew embrace the famous Sermon on the Mount delivered by our Lord, setting forth the very core of His divine teaching. As for the Epistle of Saint Paul to the Ephesians, Coleridge described this Epistle as the "Divinest Composition of Man" and noted that it embraced the doctrine of Christianity as well as those precepts common to revealed and natural religion.

Anyone searching for fundamental Christian teaching should familiarize himself with Christ's Sermon on the Mount and Saint Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians. The Apostles' and Nicene Creeds of course, were set forth by the early Church to summarize what the Church believed about the person of Christ Himself and His relationship to God.

Christ's teachings about life and living have been summarized and boiled down into various series under certain heads, as for instance "The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy," and "The Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy," and "The Sevenfold Gifts of Grace."

If we would study diligently Christ's Sermon on the Mount and the incomparable Epistle of Saint Paul to the Ephesians, and carry out the works of mercy as set forth by the church, strengthened by the seven-fold gifts of the Holy Spirit, we would go a long way toward becoming genuine practicing Christians, making the world a little better, and hastening the time for which we all pray—a peaceful world based on those elements which make for peace, not only in our time, but in the centuries ahead.

Kicking the Lion A Smile or Two
 "Sir, do you have an opening in this office for a smart young man like me?" asked the job applicant.

"Yes, we do," said the office manager, "and please don't stam it on your way out."—Chicago Daily News.

Checking details at the last minute for her daughter's wedding, the mother asked a helper. "And did you arrange for the pianist at the reception?"

"Oh, yes," the friend replied. "I obtained a famous virtuoso."

"Don't worry about his morals!" the mother retorted. "Just make sure he can play the piano."—The Furrow.

A blushing young woman handed the clerk a telegram form containing only a name, address and the word "Yes."

"You know," said the clerk, "you can send 10 words for the same price."

"I know," she said, "but wouldn't I look eager if I said it 10 times?"—Catholic Digest.

The joke they're telling all around New York is about the Texan who came up to the George Washington Bridge there and found he didn't have the change to pay his toll.

"I don't have the change," he said. "How much for the bridge?"

Up there, they think that's a joke.—Dallas (Tex.) Morning News.

Gil Mottla, a University of Massachusetts College of Agriculture public relations man, tells this one:

"Two caterpillars were crawling along a dusty road when a butterfly fluttered past. One caterpillar said to the other: 'This is rough going, but you'll never get me up in one of those things.'"—Boston Globe.

TIME TO SPARE
 Sherman County Journal
 If the Almighty was only called on to help those who help themselves He would have a snap.

TO DIE UNASHAMED
 Horace Mann
 Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity.—Horace Mann.

DOCTRINE LIMITED
 R. A. Piddington
 The doctrine of equality seldom embraces those who are worse off than their exponents.

COURAGE
 Mark Twain
 Courage is resistance to fear; mastery of fear—not absence of fear.

Plight of Egyptians May Soon Call for U.S. Help

By DAVID LAWRENCE

WASHINGTON— The beginning of the end of the Nasser regime in Egypt is in sight. The fact is that within a year or so the United States may be seriously considering aid to the Egyptian people due to the plight in which they may find themselves because of the misguided policies of Nasser.

This is the emerging picture of the Middle East. It may explain why the Eisenhower administration is declining to say at this time just which countries it will eventually help with the economic measures being considered by Congress.

Secretary of State Dulles, in the testimony he gave in closed session to the House Foreign Affairs committee this week, a portion of which now has been released, said that several Middle East countries are faced with economic chaos as a result of the closing of the Suez Canal and the blowing up in Syria of the oil pipeline from Iraq. Mr. Dulles declared that there are no immediate plans to use any funds to aid Egypt financially but that he hoped Egypt would be free of Communist influence in "a year or two" and then would become eligible for help.

He added:

"I do not think the fact that they once perhaps made a reckless transaction and mortgaged much of their crops to finance arms should bar them from help at all times."

This is but another way of saying that Nasser's mistakes will not be held against the Egyptian people, who presumably will take care of the Nasser blunders themselves with a new government of their own choosing. This country is not concerned with Egypt's internal affairs, but the handwriting on the wall is plain—Nasser has

Also, larger and larger tankers are being ordered which in a few years will carry more and more oil around the Cape of Good Hope and avoid passage through the Suez altogether. The large-sized tankers can transport more oil and do it more economically than the smaller ones that go through the Suez Canal. It takes a little longer voyage, but the expense is about the same. Already the tanker construction business everywhere is in one of its biggest booms, and Nasser is really the man these builders of giant tankers have to thank.

For many weeks there have been two fallacies widely published and widely believed. One is that Nasser was provoked by the withdrawal of American funds for the Aswan dam and hence seized the canal as a reprisal. This isn't true. The American government has evidence that the Egyptian dictator intended to seize the canal long before the offer of money to help build the big dam was withdrawn. Another fallacy is that Nasser's prestige has been enhanced by the American policy of siding against the British and French when they resorted to military action in and around the Suez.

Actually, it has worked the other way. From the day the British and French took the initiative and used force, the Nasser regime was doomed. For it means that businesses of all kinds in western Europe would be wary of Egypt. Any country that goes in